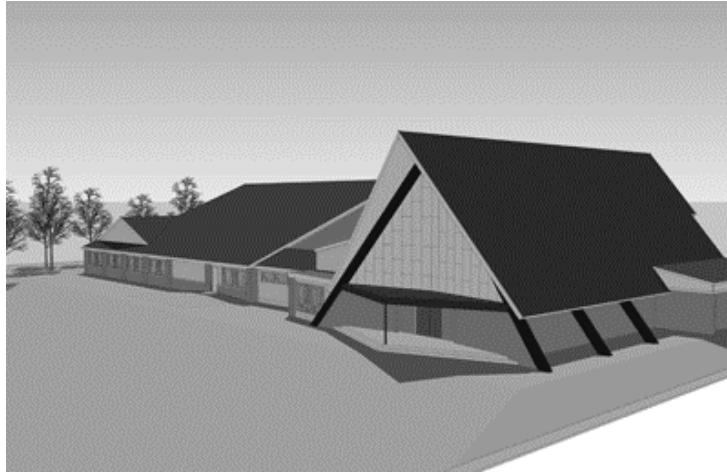


*Simpson Speaker * March 2010*



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Rev. Dr. Heasun Kim, Pastor

An Invitation to Walk in the Wilderness with Jesus

Worry-free life is what we would like to have. Yet worry-free life requires some work. In order for us to have a worry-free automobile, we need to keep up with proper maintenance; oil changes, tire rotations, etc. Everything in God’s creation requires care and upkeep in order to be all that it is meant to be. Like our technology, the human soul is not maintenance free. More than the physical need for food and shelter, one needs discipline and opportunity for growth in order to fulfill God’s purpose for that person. But how does one do maintenance work on a soul? What happens if it isn’t done? Who does this work? These questions are answered in the story of Jesus’ temptation in the wilderness. *It begins with the words, “Then Jesus, being filled with the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness” (Luke 4:1-13, NKJV). In other words, Jesus was in tune with the Spirit of God, obedient to the leading of God.*

The Lenten season is an invitation to walk in the wilderness with Jesus: six weeks set aside to prepare each of us for Calvary and the Easter that follow. It is a forty-day period of “taking time out” as our Lord did, to take stock of our relationship with God, to be disciplined by him, and to grow stronger through him. A challenge to us during Lent is to proclaim to the world that we are not maintenance-free beings. We need to go into the wilderness to fast and pray—not only because we ought to, but also because we need to do it. Through physical hunger we become more attuned to our spiritual hunger for God. We realize our total reliance on Christ for all our needs, and we find joy in knowing he satisfies our hungers. In the wilderness God’s Spirit teaches us, making us wiser in discerning good from evil so we may see temptation for what it is, and resist it.

The challenges and discipline of Lent prepare us to grapple with the crises of life, so that when real trials come, with God’s help we are strong and ready to meet them. There is no such thing as a maintenance-free soul. Jesus demonstrated that during his forty days in the wilderness. During Lent he invites us to walk with him through the time of testing, all the way to Calvary and beyond.

In Christ,

Heasun Kim, Pastor

LAY LEADER LINES

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ!

As we continue on our Lent journey, I encourage everyone to join us at the many services available during this season. Ash Wednesday services at our Church ushered us in the season in a way that touched all of our senses! We are blessed with a Pastor with such gifts and she puts wonderful thought and effort into making the season come alive for us!

This past month we have lost some more long time members and friends. Please keep the families of Marie Britton and Ann White in your prayers. Please also note the prayer list in your bulletin and offer prayer to God for these people. We know that prayer is a powerful tool of healing!

Our next date for the Ladies Luncheon is Wednesday March 24th. Please come out for our bible study Wednesday morning at 10am and join us for lunch after. All are welcome to join us! Hope to see you there. As always, please contact Karen at the Church office or myself if you need a ride. I wish God's blessings on all of you as we journey through Lent together as Christians united on the road to the Cross!

Love in Christ,
Betty Curnow, Lay Leader

7:30PM Wednesday Lenten Services

March 3rd Conklin South River
March 10th Simpson UMC
March 17th Trinity Spotswood
March 24th Aldersgate East Brunswick

Easter Services

March 28th Palm Sunday 10 AM Service
April 4th Easter Day 8AM & 10AM Services

WORDS ON WORSHIP

It has only been a few weeks back when we celebrated Advent and Christmas and here we are in the middle of the month of February, commemorating the start of the season of Lent. After the celebration of Communion Sunday on the 7th, Transfiguration Sunday and Burning of Palms occurred on the 14th. Our Ash Wednesday Service on the 17th commenced the Holy season and offered us a glimpse of what is to come in the weeks ahead as we contemplate and prepare for the HOLY WEEK. The 21st will be the first Sunday in Lent and will celebrate a baptism in the church. The following Sunday, the 28th, will be another Contemporary Sunday.

We will again participate in the collaborative Lenten Services offered by the area United Methodist Churches. All of the following are scheduled at 7:30 p.m. **February 24th at Milltown UMC in Milltown, March 3rd at Conklin UMC in South River, March 10th at Simpson UMC in Old Bridge, March 17th at Trinity UMC in Spotswood and on March 24th at Aldersgate in East Brunswick.** Please look forward to these opportunities for preparation and reflection during the coming Holy Season. Theme for this year is God in all senses.

Preparations are ongoing for the MARCH services including the last Sunday (28th) which happens to be PALM SUNDAY ushering in the Holy Week. On **Monday, March 29 at 7:00 p.m.**, there will a

SERVICE OF HEALING AND ANOINTING. As in the years past, there will be special services in APRIL: Maundy Thursday (1st) at 7:30 p.m., Good Friday (2nd) at 7:30 p.m. and Easter Services (4th) at 8:00 and 10:00 a.m.

We will be accepting the Easter Lilies orders soon and will set them up on April 3rd. If you feel the desire to help out, meet us at 10 a.m. in the sanctuary. Please try to participate in any if not all of the above-mentioned events. Let us prepare our hearts for the season, remembering what it means and being thankful for the gift of the cross. Share the blessings and invite people you know and love.

Our Lenten journeys will all be different but each transformation from brokenness to wholeness will all end with the unity with God. We pray that you will be blessed by the worship experiences in the coming weeks. Let us bring ourselves to our knees as we journey together.

In His grace and love,
Tess Camba

MARCH 10th - LENTEN SERVICE

We will be hosting March 10th Lenten Service here at Simpson. Following the service we will have refreshments please adhere to the schedule below for items to bring. Any questions please call Tess Camba.

A-D for Lenten finger sandwiches
E-K for fruit and vegetable trays
L-P for cheese and crackers
Q-Z for Lenten desserts

UMW will take care of beverages.

"Thank you UMW"

We want to thank the members of the UMW
for honoring us with the
Special Missions Recognition Awards.
We are truly grateful for the honor.

Alta Emens & Nancy Magaw

"SPRING RADICAL CLEAN UP"

Due to the condition of the basement our spring cleanup will focus on a very intensive clean up of the church basement!! The office will provide **authorized labels** to committee persons to **mark boxes** that include items that are **currently being used**. **Items needed to be kept need to be clearly marked and labeled with authorized labels. Please remove all other items as they will be removed.** Please consider the same system for other storage areas besides the basement. **In addition please refrain from dropping off items at the church that don't pertain to current activities or fundraising events.**

Please have these areas taken care of by May 1st.

Thank you in advance the Trustee/Parsonage Committee.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The new officers of the United Methodist Women were installed on Sunday, January 31st. Installed were: Dorothy Himelrick, President; Tess Camba, Vice-President; Ginny DeGraw, Secretary; Anita Fuzesi, Treasurer; Betty Curnow, Worship; Claudia Hunter, Nominations; Helen Hong and Sue DeFilippo, Co-Chair of Publicity. We are all looking forward to continuing the work of the UMW and hoping for growth in the coming year.

We were pleased to present this year's Special Mission Recognition Awards on the last Sunday of January. The recipients were Alta Emens and Nancy Magaw. The awards are given to members of our congregation who deserve extra recognition for always going above and beyond the call of duty. Also earning that special recognition was Marguerite Ruquet, President of the UMW for many, many years. Unfortunately the recognition was awarded posthumously. Marguerite was made aware that she was very deserving of the award.

On February 14th we had a very successful Bake Sale, thanks to the entire congregation for answering our call for help in baking, purchasing the goodies or just donating if you are not a baker. Our profit was \$421.00!

The women of the Aldersgate UMC are hosting a retreat on March 5-7, 2010 at Grove Hall, Ocean Grove. The focus will be on prayer. The retreat will begin Friday evening at 7:30 and conclude with worship on Sunday at noon. For information contact Nancy Cook at 732-XXXXXX or the Aldersgate Church office at 732-254-7361.

We look forward to greeting you on the second Tuesday of the month. Come when you are able to. If transportation is a concern, please call one of the officers and a ride will be provided.

Dotty Himelrick, President

OUTREACH

COMMUNION OFFERING

Our March offering will go to support Bill Cosgrove and the Bridging the World Ministries. For those who are unaware, our very own Len Cosgrove's son and family are in China spreading the word and making disciples for Jesus! They rely on the support of their brothers and sisters in Christ to continue their great work! Please help the Cosgrove's continue the mission God has put them on!

ELIJAH'S PROMISE

Our next date is Tuesday, March 2nd. As winter continues to pound us, Elijah's is the beacon in the storm! Please come out and help feed the people who come in from the cold to get what may be the only meal of their day! We usually start from 4:30pm (but whatever time you can get there is fine!) and end by 7:15pm. You can make a huge difference in someone's life in a short period of time and still have your evening free! Please see me if you have any questions, hope to see you there!

CHANGE FOR L.I.F.E.

Our jar is at the back door to collect the spare change in your pocket that will spare lives! Please continue to support our mission designed to attack the ravages of hunger and poverty!

PANTRY

Please continue to bring in items for our Pantry. We are still in the process of restocking after a very busy year in which our Pantry helped many people and families make ends meet by providing groceries to help make sure they would be able to have food on the table. Here are some of the items we need: Pasta and Sauce, Rice, Boxed Potatoes, Macaroni and Cheese, Peanut Butter and Jelly, Hot and Cold Breakfast Cereals, Tuna, canned vegetables and soups, canned meats/stew/chili and any other food items that do not need to be refrigerated. We are grateful for anything you can donate to help our community stay fed!

EASTER BASKETS

As we continue our Lent journey to the cross, it is time to prepare our baskets for the local families in need. I will be placing the sign up sheets in the hallway. Please note the family size when purchasing items you sign up for. Thank you so much for helping these families enjoy the most precious season of Easter! Wishing everyone God's blessing!

Respectfully submitted,
Debbie Anastasio, Missions/Outreach

Youth Fellowship

February was a good month for the youth at Simpson. In February we went to a Christian concert and continued to plan for the rest of this year.

March looks to be another rewarding month. As of the writing of this article, the March calendar is still being worked on but so far it looks like this:

Sun March 28- "Inside Out" plays in worship service
Sun March 28- Help prepare and deliver Easter Baskets

The youth praise band "Inside Out" will resume this month. Practices will be every Tuesday from 7:30pm-9pm.

There will also be a High School devotions class in the youth group room Sunday mornings from 9:15am-10am.

Also, please check out the music library in the youth group room and sign out a CD of your choosing.

Throughout the year the youth group participates in events focusing on missions, fun, fellowship, and fundraising, all the while growing in your faith.

The youth group is open to anyone in grades 7-12, and you don't have to be a member of Simpson UMC to be a member of the youth group. Friends are welcome as well!

If you have any questions or comments about the youth group, please feel free to contact Scott by email at RU1989@aol.com or by phone or text at XXXXXX.

Scott Hunter and Ashley Spitzer

RU Basketball Program Fundraiser

As many of you know, for the past several years, Rutgers University has given Simpson UMC the sole privilege of selling programs at all of the home basketball games for both the men's and women's teams. We arrive at the Rutgers Athletic Center 2 hours before game time and sell the programs through half time. In return for our time and efforts, Rutgers pays us 15% of the total sales from the programs.

The 2009-2010 basketball season will end in March. Here are the home games scheduled for March:

Mon Mar 1- women (game time 7:30pm; we arrive at 5:30pm)

Thurs Mar 4-men vs UCONN (game time 7:00pm; we arrive at 5:00pm)

Please see me or contact me at RU1989@aol.com or by phone at 908-705-3315 if you are interested in this exciting fundraising opportunity or if you have any questions. There are also sign-up sheets in the Church hallway.

Scott Hunter

MISSION TRIP

This year the youth group here at Simpson will be going to Indianapolis, Indiana from July 24-July 31 on our summer mission trip. We will be participating in a program called a "Week Of Hope" and will be helping out in the local community in a number of ways.

More information will be coming about this exciting trip throughout the next several months.

Please keep the youth and the local residents of Indianapolis that we will be serving in your prayers.
Scott Hunter

Perkins Fundraiser

We have started a new fundraising program at Perkins Pancake House. This program is very easy and very flexible. Simply go to either the Perkins on Rt. 18 in East Brunswick or the one in Eatontown, **at any time on any day you want**, and Perkins will contribute 10% of your check back to Simpson. Just present a coupon to the cashier as you pay your bill. That is all you have to do. The coupons can be found at either door of the sanctuary at church. This is a fundraiser where the money does not go back to Simpson. This fundraiser goes directly towards saving a young child's life. All the money raised from this Perkins fundraiser will go towards the church's sponsorship of our child Fabricio through Compassion International. So, basically, every time you eat a meal at Perkins, you are literally feeding a starving child! Please tell your friends and family members about this and pick up coupons to give to them as well.

Scott Hunter

Don't forget to stop by the chapel and purchase

SUPERMARKET GIFT CARDS!!!

Contact Person: Anita Fuzesi



Easter Lily deadline is March 14th.

Lilies are \$5.00 each.

Any questions should be directed to
Claudia Hunter or Ginny DeGraw.

Easter Lily order form

Please fill out this form and return it to Claudia Hunter by Sunday March 14, along with payment of \$5.00 per plant, in check or cash. Please make checks payable to S.U.M.C. Order forms with payment may also be placed in Claudia's mailbox in the chapel. For more information, please call Claudia 732-XXXX or Ginny DeGraw 732-XXXX

_____ Plant(s) at \$5.00 each = _____

Name: _____

Phone: _____

In Memory of:

In Honor of:

In Thanks to:

- Please donate my plant to one of our shut-ins.
- I will pick up my plant following the 10:00am Easter Service

SPEAKING OF OUR MEMBERS....

Marie Britton passed away on January 29th. The funeral was at Bronson & Guthlein Funeral Home in Milltown on February 3rd. Prayers for Mary Nenninger, Marie's sister-in-law for comfort.

Robert Curnow was made general manager of the new Olive Garden in Piscataway which opened on Feb. 1st. Congratulations!

Ginny DeGraw needs our prayers for complete healing.

Mae DiPaolo will be 80 years old on March 4th. She will celebrate this special day with her family. Congratulations Mae!!

Dottie Feldner was in Raritan Bay Medical Center Old Bridge Division and now is home. Keep Dottie in your prayers.

Alan Meeker's father Charles passed away on February 11th.

The funeral was held on Sunday February 14th in Whiting. Please keep Alan and his family in your prayers for comfort.

Rory Pako is a WEBLO Cub Scout which is the last stage of a cub scout before he goes into Boy Scouts. He has received 4 badges – Citizenship, Outdoorsman, Physical Fitness and Religious Badge, which Rev. Kim presented to him on Sunday February 7th. Congratulations Rory!!

Polly Rhodes needs our prayers for healing.

Ann White passed away on January 1st. The funeral was February 3rd. Prayers for Pam and her family for comfort and healing.

Do you have any news to share with our church family? Please submit your news to Claudia Hunter or Karen Gaunt in the church office.

Larry Springer has opened a new office in Jamesburg, NJ. As a financial planner, he helps his clients with their financial concerns, goals and retirement planning. In addition to his financial planning practice he teaches for Fairleigh Dickinson University as a member of the adjunct staff. Larry has thirty six years experience and is often asked to conduct educational workshops. Recent seminars he has conducted have been for Medco Health Services, Selective Insurance, Ashland Chemical Company, Pitney Bowes, Honeywell, NJ Natural Resources and others.

At the new office in Jamesburg Larry Springer and Michael Roberts recently started West Railroad Tax Services to provide tax preparation services and tax planning in conjunction with Larry Springer's financial planning practice. Mike is an accountant with 30 years of experience and has held a CPA license in New York since 1981.

Ph # 732-XXXX Email: ProfileCNS@aol.com

Neighborhood

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| <p style="text-align: center;">MARCH BIRTHDAYS</p> <p>Joyce Sprague 1 Steven Cornelison 1 Joan Donohue 2 Nancy Persing 2 Tony Oriento, Jr 3 Mae DiPaolo 4 Joan Leiba 6 Eulette Graham 7 Tom Hong 7 Erin Salica 10 Helen Quackenbush 12 Toni Bertucci 15 Sarah Meeker 15 Angelika Ladia 17 Victoria Veltre 17 Justine Wilmot 20 Rob DeFilippo 25 Virginia DeGraw 25 George Korley 27 Ashley Spitzer 27 Betty Vacchio 27 George Lewis 29 Noah Spitzer 30 Melanie Wilmot 31 Hannah Nsiah 31</p> <p style="text-align: center;">MARCH ANNIVERSARIES</p> <p>Charles and Joan Leiba 31</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Old Bridge Funeral Home 2350 Route 516 Old Bridge, NJ 08857 (732)-607-9500 www.oldbridgefh.com David Hernandez, JR. Manager NJ Lic. No. JP04626</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">WEICHERT, REALTORS Helen Hong, GRI, REI Broker/ Sales Representative</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1394 Rt. 9 So. Old Bridge Ph: 732-525-1550 Email: hh08859@aol.com Circle of excellence Bronze Club 1992-95, 97-02 NJAR Distinguished Sales Club Weichert Million Dollar Sales & Marketed Club</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Mary Kay</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Sue DeFilippo</p> <p style="text-align: center;">732-742-4725 suzd2@verizon.net</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">BAGEL BOY 2329 ROUTE 516 (JAKE BROWN PLAZA) 732-679-5020 FAX: 732-679-5024 CUSTOM CATERING</p> <p style="text-align: center;">RICH BEN</p> |
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