

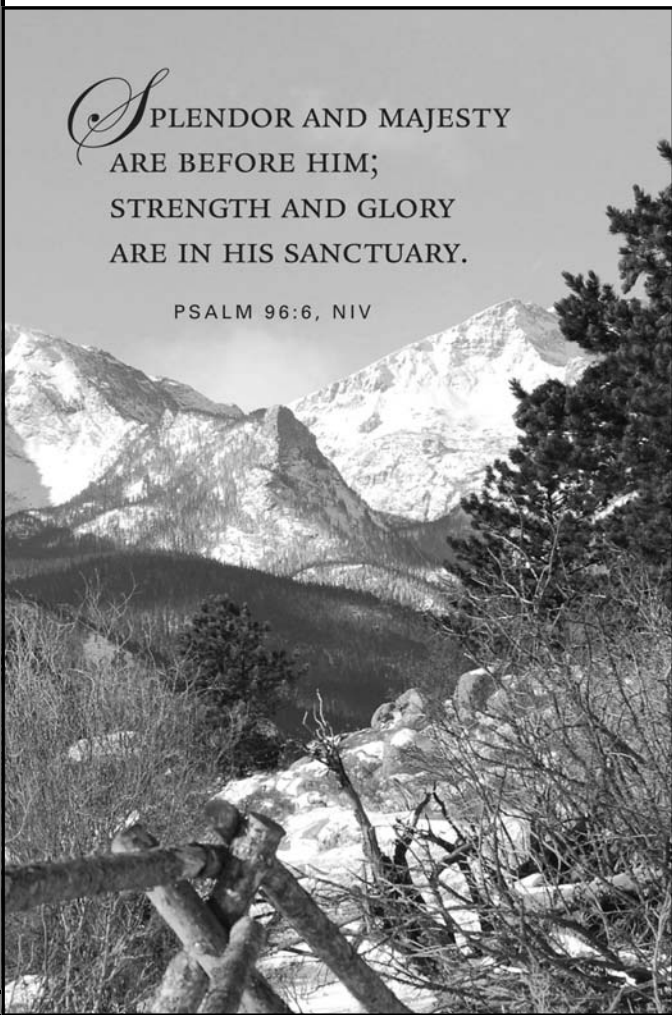
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February  
2015

*S*PLENDOR AND MAJESTY  
ARE BEFORE HIM;  
STRENGTH AND GLORY  
ARE IN HIS SANCTUARY.

PSALM 96:6, NIV



# Worship the Lord with Us!

## Sunday Worship

Traditional Worship Service: 8:30 am

Sunday School for all ages: 9:40 am

Contemporary Worship Service: 10:45 am

*Listen to our service online at*

*[www.fumccollingswood.org](http://www.fumccollingswood.org).*

**FIRST CHURCH WINDOWS** is published by:

The First United Methodist Church

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Tuesday - Friday: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

(Closed for lunch 12:30 pm - 1:30 pm)

***FIRST CHURCH WINDOWS*** is online at  
*[www.fumccollingswood.org](http://www.fumccollingswood.org)* and is available via  
e-mail. Send an e-mail to  
*[ewindows@fumccollingswood.org](mailto:ewindows@fumccollingswood.org)* to subscribe.

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The submission deadline for the *March* issue of Windows is February 10<sup>th</sup>.

***THANK YOU FOR  
SUPPORTING WINDOWS!***



# From The Pastor's Heart

**TRUST IN THE LORD WITH  
ALL YOUR HEART AND LEAN  
NOT ON YOUR OWN  
UNDERSTANDING;  
IN ALL YOUR WAYS  
ACKNOWLEDGE HIM,  
AND HE WILL MAKE  
YOUR PATHS STRAIGHT.**

**Proverbs 3:5-6**

As we continue our focus on trusting God this year, I think every one of us has moments when we can ask some very simple questions: “Do I really trust God?” “Do I trust God with my life, family, job, health and possessions?” “Do I trust God with my future?” Or go a bit deeper... “What is God’s will for my life?” “What does God want me to do?” “Am I going in the right direction?” “Am I making the right decision?” The good news is God has a path for each of us to follow. Likewise, God has promised to never leave us or forsake us. He promises to guide us in the right paths of life. Trusting is the key; last week Pastor Leon shared a story that speaks to this challenge during our morning service; its original source is unknown. I hope it is an encouragement to you.

*At first I saw God as my observer, my judge, keeping track of the things that I did wrong so as to know whether I merited heaven or hell when I die. He was out there sort of like a president. I recognized His picture when I saw it, but I really didn't know Him. But later on, when I met Christ, it seemed as though life were rather like a bike ride, but it was a tandem bike. And Christ was in the back helping me pedal. I don't know just when it was that He*

*suggested that we change places, but life has never been the same since.*

*When I had control, I knew the way. It was rather boring, but it was predictable. It was the shortest distance between two points. But when He took the lead, He knew delightful long cuts. Up mountains and through rocky places at breakneck speeds. It was all that I could do to hang on. And even though it looked like madness, He said, "Pedal." I worried and was anxious, and I asked, "Where are you taking me?" He laughed and didn't answer. And that's when I learned that I was going to have to trust Him.*

*I forgot my boring life and entered into every adventure. And when I'd say, "I'm scared," He'd lean back and just touch my hand. He took me to people with gifts that I needed. Gifts of healing, acceptance, and joy. He gave me gifts to take on my journey and off we went again. And he would say, "Give the gifts away. They're extra baggage, too much weight." So I did, to people we met, and I found that in giving, I received. The journey continued and our burden was light. I did not trust Him at first to take control of my life. I thought He'd wreck it, but He knows bike secrets. He knows how to make those sharp corners and how to jump clear off high rocks and do things I could've never done if I were in control. And I am learning to shut up and pedal in the strangest places. I'm beginning to enjoy the view and the cool breeze on my face with my delightful Companion, Jesus Christ. And when I'm not sure I can do it any more, He smiles and, says, "Just pedal."*

What a great picture of how God desires to guide us in the big and little things of life if we only hand over the steering part to Him. I think David, writer of the Psalms, had it right when he came to this conclusion..."my times are in your hands my life is in your keeping!" Psalm 31:1 Let's make David's prayer our prayer for this new year. Lord, my times are in your hands my life is in your keeping and using for whatever and to encourage who ever in your name and for your glory. Amen.

In His Love and Grace,  
Pastor Sam



In case of inclement weather, you can find updated service and event information at the following locations:



◆ Call the church at 856-858-1186



◆ Visit our website at [www.fumccollingswood.org](http://www.fumccollingswood.org)



◆ Visit the Collingswood FUMC Facebook page



**Wee Soccer (Grades K-3)**  
Saturdays, February 7, 14, 21 and 28.  
Times assigned to each team.



**Wednesday Night Dinner and Bible Studies Schedule:**

5:45 pm            Wednesday Night Dinner  
(reservations necessary by 10:00 am Tues.)

6:15 pm            Senior High

6:45 pm            Kids Bible Studies

7:00 pm            Book of Colossians – Pastor Leon (Parlor)

Master’s Men (Boardroom)

Falling in Love with Jesus – Doug & Ellen Wagner  
(Stokes Ave. Dining Room)

(NO WNL Dinner or Adult Classes on  
Ash Wednesday, February 18<sup>th</sup>)

## February Sermons and Scriptures

February 1	Super Sunday - Luis Centeno, Missionary	
February 8	Mission Sunday - <i>Loving God, Loving People, Connecting With Our Neighbors</i>	
	Communion	Luke 10:25-37
February 15	<i>Trusting God Completely</i>	Philippians 4:10-13
February 22	<i>Trusting God with the Future</i>	Matthew 25:14-30

### Super Sunday, Feb. 1, 2015



Plan now to be a part of this special day. Pastor Luis Centeno, Chaplain/Missionary in the heart of Philadelphia, will be bringing the message. After the 2<sup>nd</sup> service at noon, come visit with Luis Centeno and each other in the Sunday School Temple and enjoy some light food and desserts as we “Supersize” the day. This could be better and will definitely be shorter than the big game and...unfortunately for some of you, no commercials.

### JOURNEY OF FAITH MEMBERSHIP CLASS:

Feb. 8th, 3:00-6:30 pm in the Parlor. Contact Pastor Sam, Pastor Leon or Ellen Wagner or the church office if you are interested.



### **HOW ABOUT TRYING THIS IN 2015?**

47 of our members/friends are using Online Giving and combined give over \$140,000 annually to First Church. It is easy. It is accurate. Excellent for your IRS tax records. No more cash. No more envelope smiling. And you are faithfully supporting your church during snow storms and vacation travel. This program was begun almost three years ago and those who use it really like it. Why not try it? Just go to [www.fumccollingswood.org](http://www.fumccollingswood.org) and click on “Online Giving.” Questions? Contact Stan Sheaffer.

## **Seeking God's Face Week - February 15 - February 22**

We are putting aside this week for a special time of prayer, meditation and fasting to God so we might know God's mind intimately, know His will for our lives and our church, and for the future. We'll seek Him through...

- Daily prayer – challenging each to devote 30 minutes a day to prayer for God's will.
- Wednesday evening prayer – meet in the sanctuary from 6:00 - 7:00 pm to pray (Holy Wednesday.)
- Friday and Saturday - for 24 hours of prayer (sign up in the church office.)



**Ladies and gentlemen, it's back!!! The FUMC Chili Cook-Off is back and better than ever!** February 28<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm, we will be hosting the Chili Cook-Off, and it will be followed by a Lip Sync contest. More details to come, but we have some amazing prizes lined up! So make sure to save the date, and we'll keep you posted. In the meantime:

### *What do we need?*

We need contestants! If you think your chili can stand up to the challenge, or if you think you can lip sync better than your peers, then we want you to join us on February 28<sup>th</sup>!

Everyone gets to participate! Even if you don't make chili, we'll be asking you to sign up to bring salad, bread, cornbread, or dessert.



# Opportunities for Serving Others in 2015

Looking for a resolution to make for the new year?  
How about serving in one of our behind-the-scenes ministries?



We are always looking for volunteers to expand our Technical Ministries team (including the laptop team.) Each Sunday, we are responsible for the lights and sound for our services, recording and editing the service for streaming from our website and for running the projection system in the Sanctuary. We serve the Lord by enabling His message to be seen and heard by others. You don't need any experience - just a willingness to learn. If you are interested in helping us out, you may contact Phil Boswell or you are also welcome to drop by the sound booth or control room and talk to any of our operators.

We are also looking for new faces for our Nursery teams. Each week we staff the nurseries at both the 8:30 and 10:45 am services. No experience is necessary, just a love of children. Please contact Kathy Boswell if you are interested in helping in this vital ministry.



## Can YOU Help?

The Collingswood Food Pantry is in a continuous need for donations.



Please bring your nonperishable items to the church and place them in the baskets in the parlor and/or the boardroom. Thank you.





... loving God,  
loving people,  
connecting with  
our neighbors

This is a youth ministry for people in grades 6-12, and everyone is welcome! There are a few regular times we meet each week (as follows), as well as other extra special events throughout the month (see below.) But one thing is certain – we are never stagnant, because God is always moving!!

**the ryver (Grades 6-8 meet Sunday; Grades 9-12 meet Wednesday – both 6:00 - 8:00 pm)**

The perfect place to get started! Designed to help people connect with God and each other through games, music, and conversations about God, the Bible, and life.

**the ryver deep (Sunday morning, 9:30 - 10:30 am)**

Essential for those who really want to grow in their faith! Grades 6-12 are together as we dig deeper in the Bible and learn how to live it.

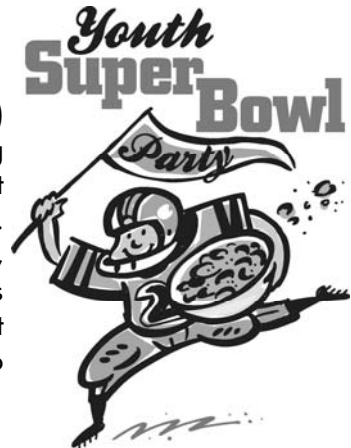
Don't forget to check us out on **facebook:**  
"The Ryver Youth Ministry"

## COMING EVENTS

### Super Bowl Party

Sunday 2/1, 6:00 pm

Great food! Great game (hopefully!) Great commercials! Or just hang out and play games with great people! Open to grades 6-12. Cost: No charge, but if you want, we will accept monetary donations for the food or talk to Shawn about your favorite food you'd like to bring!



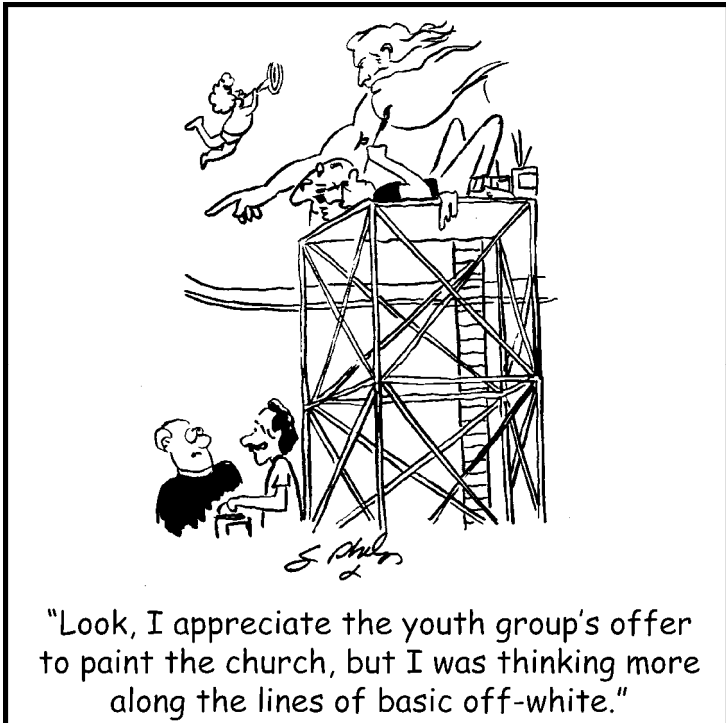
February 20-22

Please pray for our junior high group at Keswick this weekend. God is doing great things!



### Chili Cookoff – Saturday 2/28, 5:30 pm

The cook off is back and better than ever! We will be hosting the Chili Cook off, and it will be followed by a Lip Sync contest. More details to come, but we have some amazing prizes lined up! Everyone gets to participate! Even if you don't make chili, we'll be asking you to sign up to bring salad, bread, cornbread, or dessert. See Shawn to sign up.



# FEBRUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
<b>1</b> <b>Pastor Luis Centeno preaching</b> <b>8:30 AM</b> Traditional Worship Service <b>9:40 AM</b> Contemporary Sunday School <b>10:45 AM</b> Worship Service <b>6:00 PM</b> Super Bowl Party	<b>2</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> Church Council	<b>3</b> <b>9:15 AM</b> Smooth Stones Bible Study <b>10:00 AM</b> Followers Bible Study	<b>4</b> <b>6:00 PM</b> Senior Youth Group <b>6:00 PM</b> WNL <b>6:45 PM</b> Mas <b>7:00 PM</b> Bible
<b>8</b> <b>8:30 AM</b> Traditional Worship Service <b>9:40 AM</b> Sunday School <b>10:45 AM</b> Contemporary Worship Service <b>3:00 PM</b> Journey of Faith Membership Class <b>6:00 PM</b> Junior High Youth Group	<b>9</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> Discipleship Meeting <b>7:00 PM</b> Missions - Evangelism <b>7:00 PM</b> Nurture Committee Mtg.	<b>10</b> <b>9:15 AM</b> Smooth Stones Bible Study <b>10:00 AM</b> Followers Bible Study <b>7:00 PM</b> Children's Ministry Team	<b>11</b> <b>6:00 PM</b> Senior Youth Group <b>6:00 PM</b> WNL <b>6:45 PM</b> Mas <b>7:00 PM</b> Bible
<b>15</b> <b>Week of Prayer</b> <b>8:30 AM</b> Traditional Worship Service <b>9:40 AM</b> Sunday School <b>10:45 AM</b> Contemporary Worship Service <b>6:00 PM</b> Junior High Youth Group	<b>16</b> <b>Week of Prayer</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> Trustees Meeting  <i>President's Day</i>	<b>17</b> <b>Week of Prayer</b> <b>9:15 AM</b> Smooth Stones Bible Study <b>10:00 AM</b> Followers Bible Study	<b>18</b> <b>Week of Prayer</b> <b>6:00 PM</b> Ash Prayer Service <b>7:00 PM</b> Kids  <i>Ash We</i>
<b>22</b> <b>Week of Prayer</b> <b>JH MWA</b> <b>8:30 AM</b> Traditional Worship Service <b>9:40 AM</b> Sunday School <b>10:45 AM</b> Contemporary Worship Service <b>6:00 PM</b> Junior High Youth Group	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> <b>9:15 AM</b> Smooth Stones Bible Study <b>10:00 AM</b> Followers Bible Study	<b>25</b> <b>6:00 PM</b> Senior Youth Group <b>6:00 PM</b> WNL <b>6:45 PM</b> Mas <b>7:00 PM</b> Bible

# RY 2015

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
or High  L Dinner ter's Men e Studies	<b>5</b> 6:45 PM Praise Team Practice	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
or High  L Dinner ter's Men e Studies	<b>12</b> Handi*Vangelism Support Group 6:45 PM Praise Team Practice	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>   <i>Valentine's Day</i>
<b>Prayer</b> Wednesday e Programs  <i>Wednesday</i>	<b>19</b> Week of Prayer 6:45 PM Praise Team Practice	<b>20</b> Week of Prayer JH MWA	<b>21</b> Week of Prayer JH MWA
or High  L Dinner ter's Men e Studies	<b>26</b> 6:45 PM Praise Team Practice	<b>27</b> Youth All Night Party	<b>28</b> 5:30 PM Chili Cook-off

# MISSIONARY MESSAGES



**Bob and Barbara Alber**

## **Our Growing Family**

In October we welcomed 17-year-old Shani Findlay into our home. Shani graduated last year from high school in Jamaica and desired to continue her education to become a chef. God reminded us of His sovereignty when she landed a job as an assistant chef for a local camp just one week after arriving in the US!

Shani is involved with our church choir and both our church and MK youth groups. In March, our whole family (minus Ryne) will be traveling with our church youth group to Memphis to work with *Street Reach* urban ministry. Next summer, we will be serving for two weeks in Jamaica, first with our church youth group and then with the MKs. It has been wonderful to have a “daughter” and we are blessed to be able to provide her with the opportunities to help her mature into a lovely, godly young woman.

## **We Need Your Prayers!**



**"I DO NOT CEASE TO GIVE THANKS FOR YOU  
WHEN I REMEMBER YOU IN MY PRAYERS."**

**EPHESIANS 1:16**

It is difficult to express in words just how grateful we are for your many years of continued encouragement, love, and support. You have affirmed our calling through your words and actions. Your sacrificial giving and faithful prayers have made our support of Bible translation possible for the past almost thirteen years. There have been many hardships over these years, and you have been there each time helping to meet our needs spiritually, emotionally, and financially. Through each difficult period, God has been faithful and we have learned to trust Him no matter what the circumstance. *Thank you for teaching and encouraging us to continue in the faith.*

We have come to a critical point in our ministry where decisions must be made. We ask you to please pray for us for the Lord's direction and discernment of His will. Our financial status since April, 2013 has been nearly \$2,000 a month on average below our needed income. Your response to this information has been to supply us with one-time gifts that have encouraged us to "keep hanging in there!" However, without a sustainable increase in our monthly support, we cannot continue in our present roles with Wycliffe. We have commitments to Shani and to Wycliffe that extend into June, 2015. *Beyond that looms a giant question mark!*

When Jesus said, "Follow me," He never promised that the road would be easy. However, He DID promise that we would never have to travel it alone. You have been our partners in this journey and we need to know by your responses whether we are to continue on this road or not. Bob and I both love our ministries here in Dallas and see God using us in many unique ways within the lives of our MKs and in the realm of publishing.

It is difficult to consider leaving the Wycliffe family, but is this what God is trying to tell us He wants for us? Our prayer is that we will listen and obey WHEREVER the Lord leads. If God IS telling us it's time to move on, please pray that there will be responsible leaders available to fill our positions.

*Unless we are at 100% of our required support level by the end of June, 2015, we will need to step out of our roles with Wycliffe to pursue partners on a fulltime basis. Please pray about how the Lord wants you to respond. We are eternally grateful for you, our partners in Bible Translation.*

### **Fred and Julia Wentz**

Dear Friends at First United Methodist,

Christmas greetings from the Wentzes to those whom we remember fondly all year long, but choose this time of year when we especially celebrate the coming of God's Son to tell you so. It seems each year passes by more quickly as this year Julia entered the 8th decade of her life, joining Fred as an octogenarian. After being melanoma free for the past 6 years, Fred in June had the 4<sup>th</sup> surgery on his face in 18 years and his 3<sup>rd</sup> trip to Pittsburgh to have the surgery there. The surgeon who specializes in melanoma surgery said he has done 1000's of melanoma surgeries, but he had never known melanoma to reoccur in the same area as this has done.

*(Continued on page 16)*

*(Missionary Messages - Continued from page 15)*

Guess that makes Fred special. Although the reconstructive surgery was somewhat extensive, they did get all the cancer; and people say his face looks good.

Fred continues to bring the devotions at our church's monthly senior luncheons and is involved with the church's outreach ministry to area nursing homes. He also serves occasionally as a reader at the chapel in the continuing health care community where he and Julia reside. Fred produced and directed 40 plus independent-living residents and another show for the other residents. He said that would be his last show, but Julia isn't so sure; she heard him say that before.

This has been another year in which we have sensed God's presence with us and his rich blessings, and we sincerely thank you for your faithful support and pray that Park E. F. will continue to be a lighthouse around the world for the one whose birth we observe at this time of year.

### **Michael T Landis, Neighborhood Center**

About six months ago, a stranger asked me, "What is your vision?" I gave him my standard line: a two-generational approach to poverty in the context of the greatest commandment. "No," he said, "what is your vision?" I was getting impatient with the man, so I offered further details from social science. Still he kept asking, "but what does that mean?" Finally, I responded, "to love abundantly."

We abundantly love all who are part of the Neighborhood Center; which means wisely using your gifts for their intended purpose. This is the meaning of Christmas: the abundant love found in that manger so many years ago. With your financial support, we will continue to abundantly love our neighbors by building a stronger Neighborhood Center that never stops roving and giving in the present.

### **Lowell and Claudia Wertz**

Next month will mark our 35<sup>th</sup> year in Africa. When my mother passed away six weeks ago, we were on opposite sides of the world. She was used by God, more than any other person, to help me become a missionary.

My mother found the Lord, just before I was born. I was raised in a Christian family. I found the Lord as a young child,



kneeling at the foot of my mother's kitchen chair, as she led me to Christ.

When I felt that God wanted me to make a trip to Africa at the age of 19, our family didn't have the money, but she remained positive. My Dad couldn't get his mind around the idea. In the end, they took out a bank loan to send me. God used that first trip to call me to become a missionary, but He had used my mother and father to prepare me to receive His direction for my life.

I found Christ at Mom's feet. I was guided by her Christian values and love. She gave me a vision beyond myself - for the world. She helped our mission work in every possible way and was a permanent encourager. This past September, when I saw her for the last time, she said, "If I'm not here, see you in heaven." Yes, Mom, see you in heaven. And I will bring as many as I can with me - and they will all want to meet you.

### **HVMI - NJ Area Compassion Ministries Conference**

Friday, Mar 13, 2015 - 6:00 pm

Sat, Mar 14, 2015 - 4:00pm

Held here at FUMC

Two day seminar series designed to minister to people dealing with or wanting to minister to people dealing with abuse, grief, disability or mental health issues. Gain practical insights to help you personally or to enhance your ministry in reaching out to others facing life challenges. Attend all or part of the conference.

- ◆ Session 1 options: Understanding and Helping People with Mental Illness OR Reaching Out to People Touched by Disability.
- ◆ Session 2: Help For People In Pain - Dealing with Grief in a Hurting World.
- ◆ Session 3 options: Understanding the Hurting Person - Dealing with Abuse OR A Child's Grief - Supporting Grieving Children and Teens.

Cost of seminar: \$15/session OR \$40 to attend all three sessions. Register [online](#) OR call 717.859.4777



# Wings of Prayer

“This then is how  
you should  
pray...”  
(Matthew 6:9)

by  
Carol Heim



*(Mary Emily has graciously allowed me the opportunity to write the prayer columns for February and March. The March column on “The Lord’s Prayer” will continue other aspects of The Lord’s Prayer.)*



Hi Dad,

This is a list of the things I need this week: \$100 for food - after all, you realize I really can't eat this college food (You do know that they only have four dining halls on campus and you know how many foods I just don't like), money added to my checking account for my car repair, help studying on Thursday night before my exams, a tutor for my bio class, a phone call to the school about my lousy dorm conditions, more textbooks for my economics class, a care package of Mom's chocolate chip cookies, and my laundry. ASAP.

Love,  
Me

Fortunately, this is only a fictitious letter from a college student to his/her parent. We know our sons or daughters would never write such a letter. (Okay, they'd never *write* any letter; better we say they would never text it.) But what if it were real? What does it say about the relationship with his/her parents? What can we safely assume about the dynamics of the family?

But isn't this what some people's prayers (certainly not our own) sound like. It's the McPrayer School of Getting from God: give me, Give Me, GIVE ME. I'd like a number 1 prayer request, a number 7, three number 8s, and a blessing on the side. I want good

health, healing, my financial needs covered, a better job, perfect spouse/kids, and world peace. Amen.

Are we wrong to ask God for what we want? Doesn't the Bible say to "ask and it shall be given"? (Matthew 7:7) So what's the problem?

Let's compare this attitude with Jesus' command and lesson on communicating with His Father. In the Lord's Prayer we read in Matthew 6:9-13 [New King James Version (NKJV)]: "9. *In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. 10. Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. 11. Give us this day our daily bread. 12. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. 13. And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.*"

Jesus has given us a short prayer that encompasses a great deal. He covers "six petitions, divided equally. The first three (verses 9-10) concern God's holiness and purposes; the second group (verses 11-13) contain three personal requests. Both types are valid requests, but God's honor and kingdom must come first." (*The New International Disciple's Study Bible* commentary) One format for personalizing prayer using Jesus' words as our example is A.C.T.S., not the book, but an acronym which can lead the Christian from praise through petition in a prayer of four parts. The following is a description of this guide taken from the Christian website "Prayercentral" with my additional comments:



**Adoration** – [refers to verse 9: "*Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name.*" and verse 13b: "*For Yours is the kingdom and the power and glory forever.*" (which is not in all versions of the Bible) Tell God how much you appreciate Him. Express your love for Him. Praise His power and majesty. This is a great way to begin your prayer time. You should never run out of praise. "*How awesome are your deeds!*" - *Psalms 66:3*



**Confession** – [refers to verse 12: "*And forgive us our debts (trespasses) as we forgive our debtors.*"] "*If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just, and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.*" - *1 John 1:9*. Tell Him where you have fallen short. Be specific. Not only are we to tell God what we have done wrong, we are also to forgive others for the hurt they have done to us. Matthew 6:14 & 15 state: "*But if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.*" Is my unwillingness to forgive anyone worth

(Continued on page 20)

God's condemnation of me?

**T** **Thanksgiving** – (not specifically referred to in the Lord's prayer; however, the word *thanksgiving* is mentioned 32 times in 31 verses in the New King James Version and the word *thanks* occurs 75 times in 72 verses in the same version.) You have plenty of reasons to be thankful. Thank God for His love, His faithfulness, His patience and a million other things. Express gratitude for what He's doing in your life. Thank Jesus for dying on the cross for you. Thank the Holy Spirit for indwelling you, and never leaving. Thank Him for being your conscience, your counselor and that "still small voice."

**S** **Supplication** – (refers to verse 11: "*Give us this day our daily bread.*") Bread was a necessity in Bible times. We should ask God to provide for our needs. Nothing is said about our wants: bigger house, more money, new car, better job. Nope. Jesus uses the word *bread*. He also uses the word *today*. He wants us to trust Him a day at a time. That means we need to pray each day. And while we are asking God to help us, we are instructed to "*present [our] requests to God*" (Philippians 4:6). Tell God what you want, no matter how small or large it seems to you. Do you really think any of our requests are too big or too little for God the Creator? God is interested in YOU. He waits to hear you. Hebrews 4:16 says, "*Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.*" God also wants us to ask for His help with others: their physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual needs. This is called intercessory prayer. Just as we desire communication with those we love, so, too, does God want to be close to us—and what better way than through prayer. (<http://prayercentral.net/engage-me/ways-to-pray/pray-with-acts.>)

Through God's ultimate sacrifice of sending His Son, Jesus, to come to earth as a person, to leave the glory of Heaven for the problems and pain of earth, to die for our sins, and to be raised from the dead, we can have direct communication with Him through Jesus Christ. It is our privilege and responsibility as Christians to pray. This month we have the opportunity to go to God for the following people: *Jim Hart, Cheryl Averell, Harry Miller, Margie Hughes, Bea Williams, Betty Strike, Matt Robb, Lew & Mildred Smith, Florence Keller, Jim & Ruth Doherty, Connie Zabel, Tom Costello, Virginia Armitage, Rich Snyder, Nancy Marino.* God knows what their needs are; He wants us to be a part of His will by caring enough to bring them to His throne.



If you have not already done so, please give your dates (birth dates and anniversary dates) to the church office in writing or by e-mail: maria@fumccollingswood.org.

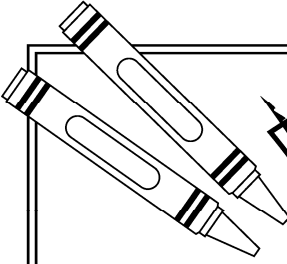
- |         |                        |         |                          |
|---------|------------------------|---------|--------------------------|
| Feb. 2  | Sandra Wright          | Feb. 17 | Tom Thompson             |
| Feb. 6  | Jim Doyle              |         | Louis VanPelt, Jr.       |
|         | Marilyn Ellis          | Feb. 18 | Marva Wallace            |
| Feb. 7  | Stan Sheaffer          | Feb. 20 | Jennifer Schwehm         |
| Feb. 9  | Ruthmarie Weinberg     | Feb. 22 | Cheryl (Van Pelt) Aversa |
| Feb. 10 | Carol Vernon Grant     | Feb. 23 | Barb Oliver              |
|         | Will Jungclaus         | Feb. 24 | Barbara Edelman          |
|         | Ruth Smith             |         | George Hemphill          |
| Feb. 11 | Julie (MacNamara) Ross | Feb. 26 | Jane Doyle               |
| Feb. 12 | Dan Wallace            | Feb. 27 | Megan Bickel             |
| Feb. 16 | Jadon Hamilton         |         | Jennifer Kennedy         |
|         | Rose Hamilton          |         | Jennifer Miller          |



### **Deaths at First Church**

Ada Miller – January 7, 2015

Sympathy is extended to Joy Evans and family following the passing of her Dad, Tom Christensen, in November of 2014.

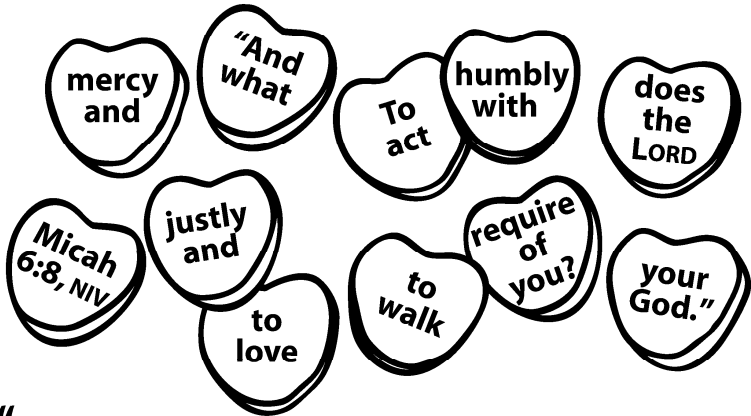


# PUZZLE

## Conversation hearts

The world encourages people to look out for themselves and seek success, but in Micah 6:8, God tells us to live differently.

*Directions: Put the conversation hearts in the correct order by writing the words on the lines below. Hint: Capitalization and quotation marks are included.*



“

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ ?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

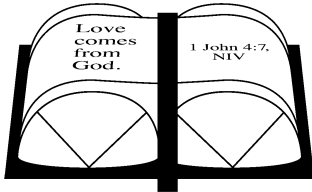
\_\_\_\_\_”

\_\_\_\_\_ . \_\_\_\_\_ 6:8 \_\_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_\_

Answer: “And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.” Micah 6:8, NIV

GOD'S  
**SWEET  
WORD**

Share this Bible treat — and God's love — with a special valentine.



**What you need:**

- Black card stock or construction paper (2" x 1.5")
- Double-sided tape
- 2 wrapped Hershey's Nuggets candy bars (silver or gold)
- Pen or marker
- White paper (2.75" x 1")
- Thin sliver of red paper or ribbon
- Scissors

**What you do:**

1. In the center of the black paper, tape down the candy bars side by side.
2. On the white paper, write a short Bible verse about love. Then wrap it around the candy bars horizontally and tape it down.
3. Place the red paper or ribbon between the two candy bars, and tape the top of this "bookmark" to the Bible.
4. Give away this fun, sweet message of God's love!

# Bible Quiz

Which Jericho woman hid the two Israelite spies, and where did she hide them?

- A. Joanna, in her stable
- B. Bathsheba, at her neighbor's house
- C. Milkah, under a pile of blankets
- D. Rahab, on her roof

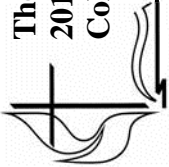


### Providing Proof

If we are to accept the teaching of Jesus at all, then the only test of the reality of a man's religion is his attitude to his fellow men. The only possible proof that a man loves God is the demonstrated fact that he loves his fellow men.

—William Barclay

Answer: D (See Joshua 2:3, 6.)



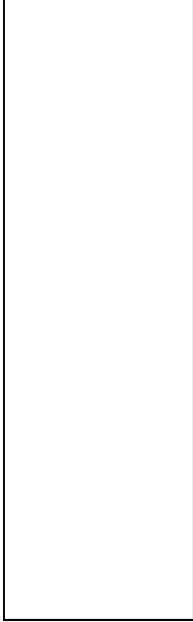
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**Happy  
Valentine's  
Day!**



**Presidents Day**

*Loving God...Loving People...Connecting With Our Neighbors*