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MAY
2015



*Be completely
humble and gentle;
be patient, bearing
with one another in love.*

EPHESIANS 4:2, 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.

FIRST CHURCH WINDOWS is published by:

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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 and is available via
e-mail. Send an e-mail to
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The submission deadline for the *June* issue of Windows is May 10th.

**THANK YOU FOR
SUPPORTING WINDOWS!**



From The Pastor's Heart

What a tremendous spring we are now having the daylight is longer, the air is warmer, the grass is growing, and flowers are blooming. Baseball has begun, even though the Phillies will not be competing for the World Series this year it is still baseball. All in all, the promise of spring and summer is here (compared to our long cold winter.)

There is nothing quite like being in the presence of something truly special! On Palm Sunday my heart was stirred by God's presence listening to the many stories of how God's love

and spirit changes and leads and is transforming lives. How moving it was for our church family to hear some of our new members share how God is leading in their lives in some significant ways. On May 24th we will be celebrating "Pentecost," the birthday of the church and remembering when some 2000 years ago while 120 people were waiting on the Holy Spirit of God. The impact was life changing as well! As Luke records in the book of Acts 1:8: "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." There was something truly amazing when the presence of the Holy Spirit infused the early disciples and followers. Their lives and journey took on a whole new adventure because the presence of God was now in them and in their midst.

The power of God's presence and our presence has been on my mind a lot lately. I recently read an article by David Graves whose sentiments I also shared.

"You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem..."



and to the ends of the earth."

Actx 1:8, NRSV

I was once again reminded of the power of presence. Presence is a noun, not a verb; it is a state of being, not doing. The state of being is not highly valued in a culture that places high priority on doing. Yet, true presence or “being with” another person carries with it a silent power—power to bear witness to a passage, to help carry an emotional burden, or to begin a healing process. In it, there is an intimate connection with another person that is perhaps felt too seldom in a society that strives for ever-faster and -broader “connectivity.”

As a pastor, I learned that just “being there,” being present, can mean the world to people, especially in their times of need. The power of one’s presence, not one’s words or wisdom, is what people will remember. The impact of being present with people not only conveys God’s love for them, but it is also a blessing to the one who is simply being present. The power of presence is not a one-way street, not just something we give to others. It always changes us, and for the better. It can positively affect our everyday living that spills out into our prayer life, our compassion for others, and our connection with people. This power of presence is not only for the people of our congregations; it is also for our families and our neighbors and those we around us. Intentionally setting aside time to be with one’s wife, children, and grandchildren to read a book, play a game, and listen to their stories communicates love. In those moments, the importance is not necessarily what we say or do, but that we are really there. We all know there are moments of action and trailblazing and preparedness that children desperately need from their father or mother. However, I believe there are just as many moments when they long for a power from us that comes primarily from our presence, humbling ourselves, like Christ, our example, and entering their world

In our culture today many of us can get so busy “doing” that we miss the power of “being present.” As we allow the Spirit of God to be present in our lives, it is surprising how that very same presence can lead us into making an eternal difference in other lives too! Let’s go make a difference!

In His Love and Grace,
Pastor Sam



Mother's Day – May 10th

Both services:

“Knowing God’s Plan - I Am the Living Water.”

Children’s choir and a special gift for ladies.

MOTHER’S DAY OFFERING

It has been a tradition at FUMC to have a special offering on Mother’s Day (this year, May 10th) for the Fellowship Fund of United Methodist Homes of New Jersey. Our conference has requested that each member give \$3.00. You will receive a letter with an enclosed envelope for this purpose. This offering will go entirely to the Fellowship Fund of all New Jersey United Methodist Homes. Please return your offering by/on Mother’s Day, Sunday, May 11, 2014. Jesus taught (Matthew 25:40) *“..inasmuch as you have done it unto the least of these, my brethren, you have done unto me.”* We pray you will be blessed as you give freely to this fund.

BABY BOTTLES

In May, starting Mother’s Day and

ending Father’s Day,

we will be having

the Baby Bottle

Boomerang for the

Pregnancy Care Center in Cherry

Hill. Our contributions will help pregnant

women make the correct choices during their

pregnancy.



Do you want to make a difference in someone else's life for eternity...but you don't know how or where to begin? Do you desire to lead a more adventurous spiritual life by God's grace? Then it's time to take a risk! Our **Faith Sharing Weekend** on May 2 and 3 will feature guest teacher Dale Glading, who began a ministry called **Risktakers for Christ**. Check out his website at risktakersforchrist.org. Many may remember Dale as the founder of the Saints Prison Ministry.

Saturday, May 2 8:30 am continental breakfast and sessions conclude by noon.

Mini sessions with interaction include:

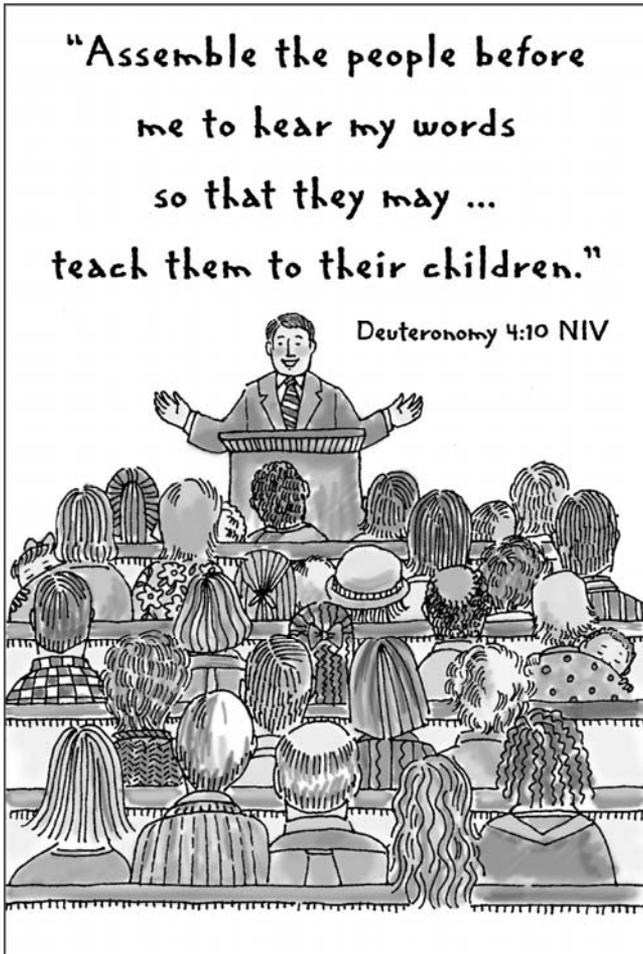
- **Is There Not a Cause?** Learn from David the importance of living for a cause greater than yourself.
- **Here am I, Lord. Send me!** Learn from Isaiah that God doesn't want your ability; He wants your availability.
- **No Looking Back.** Learn from Elisha about not turning back when called to serve God.

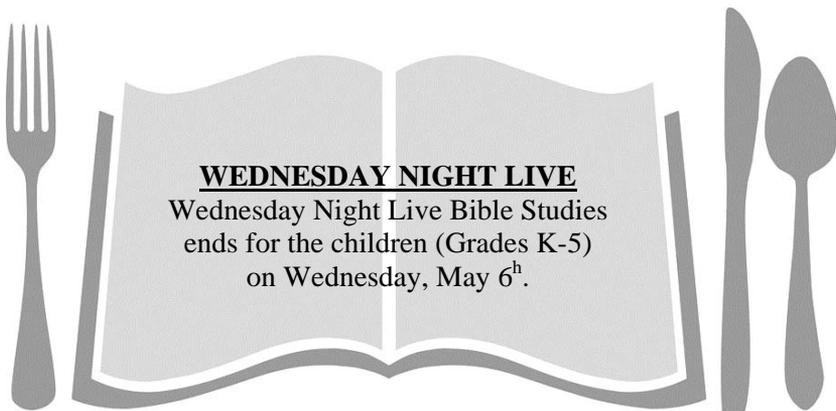
Sunday, May 3 Dale will continue the teaching during the 8:30 and 10:45 am services with the topic "**Get out of the Boat.**" Do you really want to serve God? Then get out of your comfort zone and get ready to walk on water!



May Sermons and Scriptures

- May 3rd Dale Glading – “Sharing your Faith” Weekend
(Communion)
- May 10th **Mother’s Day**
“Knowing God’s Plan - I Am the Living Water”
- May 17th “Knowing God’s Way - John 14:1-7
I am the Way, the Truth and the Life”
- May 24th “Knowing God’s Direction - John 10:7-9
I am the Door”





WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE

Wednesday Night Live Bible Studies
ends for the children (Grades K-5)
on Wednesday, May 6^h.



MEN'S BREAKFAST
SATURDAY, MAY 16TH AT 8:00 AM

ATTENTION GRADUATES

On Sunday, June 7th, we will be recognizing our 8th grade, high school, college and grad school graduates. Students or parents are asked to submit **IN WRITING** or by email (maria@fumccollingswood.org) the information about graduation. Please include the name of the graduate, middle school, high school or college and any info about future or continuing education. Please submit the information by Sunday, May 31st.



The Neighborhood Center—Annual Luncheon will be held on Saturday, May 2 at 12:00 at Haddonfield UMC. Come meet the staff and the children. Hear about what's happening and plans for the summer program. Tickets are \$25.

The Camden County Auxiliary of Ranch Hope is sponsoring a bus trip to the 911 Memorial on Friday, May 15, leaving from the Voorhees AAA. The cost is \$99.00. Please see Marjie Hammond or call AAA for more info or to sign up.



CHILDREN'S Ministry NEWS

Music Makers News!!

Don't miss hearing the Music Makers sing on Sunday, May 10th during the 10:45 AM service. They have a very special Mother's Day song prepared!!



God's Squad

A fun way for students entering grades 3 to 6 to build relationships together while participating in short Bible studies and fun events, such as roller skating, a pool party, and service projects. Students meet on Mondays and Wednesdays 10:00 am - 3:00 pm during the month of July. Begin praying how you can be a part of this rewarding ministry!! Got questions? Contact Rhonda Fraley (rhonda@FUMCcollingswood.org) for more information.



New for 2015!!!

Arts and Science Camp August 11th - 13th

Students entering 2nd - 5th grades can attend a one day event or 2 to 3 days. They will explore through science experiments and art how we can better care for our earth. 9:00 am - 12:00 pm. (Fee per child is \$10 a day or 3 days for \$25, max fee per family is \$60.)





Save the Date!!!

June 22nd - 26th

9:00 AM -
12:00 PM

Ages 3 - Grade 6

Looking for a week long adventure this summer that will not be just a normal hike? Join us as we journey off the map and discover the way to walk. Kids will enjoy visiting the tangled branch treehouse for Bible study, the shady grove for crafts, survival springs for snacks, the rushing waters for music, and the rappelling ravine for recreation. Registration begins May 15th at FUMCcollingswood.org.

How can you help support our summer children's ministries?

The trend today is for most churches to charge a fee for Vacation Bible School. Our Children's Ministry Team feels strongly that the free gift of salvation should remain free. We want to share this free gift by teaching the children in our community about God's way and how they can walk in it. That is why we need you to know about a special upcoming communion offering for Vacation Bible School and God's Squad on June 7th. Please pray about how you can support both of these ministries with your generous offering.

Journey Off the Map Vacation Bible School

June 22nd – 26th 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM

Volunteer Job Descriptions

Decorating Team: Using the Journey Off the Map decorating guide and provided resources decorate multiple VBS team centers and classrooms.

Prayer Team: Meet before and during the week of VBS to pray for all children, families, leaders, and helpers participating.

Greeter/Registration: Be a friendly face that assists parents and children in registering and locating classes/centers.

Bible Story Team: Help teach the Bible story through drama as each group of children visits the Bible Story Center.

Small Group Team: After each age group visits the Bible Story Center lead small groups of students using the Journey Off the Map life application questions to help students learn and apply the daily life point.

Recreation Team: Help gather and prepare game supplies. Lead children in playing the active Journey Off the Map games.

Craft Team: Help prepare the materials for the selected crafts. Explain and supervise the crafts as each group of children visits the Craft Center.

Snack Team: Using the Journey Off the Map Snack Center Guide lead children to create their daily snack which reteaches the daily Bible story theme.

Memory Verse Team: At the snack/memory verse center use games from the Journey Off the Map planning materials to lead students to memorize the daily Bible verse. Gather materials and prepare the daily games.

Music Team: Teach children Journey Off the Map songs and motions.

Classroom Helper 4 & 5 Year Olds: Assist classroom teacher as needed. For example, help with Bible story, crafts, & games.

Age Group Guides for Grades Kindergarten – 6th Grade: Escort a group of students to the different activity centers. Be prepared to talk to students about the daily Bible story & verse.

Nursery Team: Teach and care for children ages birth up to three years old of the VBS volunteers.

Run Laptop: Operate the laptop during the opening, the Bible Story Center sessions (if needed), and closing assemblies – playing video clips and music videos.

Run Sound System: Operate the sound system in the Sanctuary for opening and closing assemblies and also for the Bible Story Center sessions.

Photographer/Videographer: Photograph and/or video specific segments of VBS. Compile photos and/or videos for the closing program and Celebration Sunday.

Clean Up Team: After VBS concludes on Friday remove all decorations from classes/centers and prepare the building for the Sunday Celebration. After the Sunday Celebration and picnic remove all set decorations from the Sanctuary.

Sunday Celebration Picnic Team – June 28th 12:00 pm: Set-up, prepare, serve, and clean-up after the Celebration Picnic.

Help with Follow-up Mailing: Work with Children’s Director to send a “thank you” follow-up letter to all participating families.

Please pray about where you can volunteer.

Please Note: For the safety of all our children, all persons who work with VBS children **must** attend one Vacation Bible School training session and must be Safe Sanctuary background checked. Please see Rhonda Fraley for a Safe Sanctuary background check form.

VBS Training Dates:

| | | | |
|----------------------|------------------|----------------------|------------------|
| May 20 th | 10:30 – 11:30 am | June 3 rd | 10:30 – 11:30 am |
| May 20 th | 7:00 – 8:00 pm | June 3 rd | 7:00 – 8:00 pm |

Please plan on attending one session.

MAY

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday |
|---|--|--|---|
| 3 8:30 AM Traditional Worship Service 9:40 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Contemporary Worship Service 6:00 PM Junior High Youth Group | 4 | 5 9:15 AM Smooth Stones Bible Study 10:00 AM Followers Bible Study | 6 6:00 PM Senior Youth Group 6:45 PM Master Class 7:00 PM Bible |
| 10 8:30 AM Traditional Worship Service 9:40 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Contemporary Worship Service 6:00 PM Junior High Youth Group <i>Mother's Day</i> | 11 7:00 PM Discipleship Meeting 7:00 PM Missions - Evangelism 7:00 PM Nurture Committee Mtg. | 12 9:15 AM Smooth Stones Bible Study 10:00 AM Followers Bible Study | 13 6:00 PM Senior Youth Group 6:45 PM Master Class 7:00 PM Bible |
| 17 8:30 AM Traditional Worship Service 9:40 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Contemporary Worship Service 6:00 PM Junior High Youth Group | 18 | 19 9:15 AM Smooth Stones Bible Study 10:00 AM Followers Bible Study | 20 6:00 PM Senior Youth Group 6:45 PM Master Class 7:00 PM Bible |
| 24 8:30 AM Traditional Worship Service 9:40 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Contemporary Worship Service 6:00 PM Junior High Youth Group <i>Pentecost</i> | 25 <i>Memorial Day</i> | 26 9:15 AM Smooth Stones Bible Study 10:00 AM Followers Bible Study | 27 6:00 PM Senior Youth Group 6:45 PM Master Class 7:00 PM Bible |
| 31 8:30 AM Traditional Worship Service 9:40 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Contemporary Worship Service 6:00 PM Junior High Youth Group | | | |

2015

| Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|----------------------------------|---|--------|----------|
| | | 1 | 2 |
| for High ter's Men Studies | 7 6:45 PM Praise Team Practice <i>National Day of Prayer</i> | 8 | 9 |
| for High ter's Men Studies | 14 Handi*Vangelism Support Group 6:45 PM Praise Team Practice | 15 | 16 |
| for High ter's Men Studies | 21 6:45 PM Praise Team Practice | 22 | 23 |
| for High ter's Men Studies | 28 6:45 PM Praise Team Practice | 29 | 30 |
| | | | |



... 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"

SUMMER TRIP STUFF

- Overflow:**
- Registration and \$30 deposit is due Sunday 5/3
 - 1st team meeting – Sunday 5/31 – 4:00 pm – Mandatory for everyone involved; please come with all assignments completed; dinner will be provided.
- FUGE:**
- 1st team meeting – Wednesday 5/6 – 4:00 pm – Mandatory for everyone involved; please come with all assignments completed; dinner will be provided.
 - Prayer/Support letters are due – Wednesday, 5/13

COMING EVENTS

Share Your Faith Training

Saturday 5/2, 8:30 am - 12:00 Noon

Many of you have shared with us that you wish you knew how to talk about God with your friends better. Here's a great opportunity for you! FREE training! Dale Glading, founder of Saints Prison Ministry, will be here helping us grow in understanding! Talk to Shawn for more info.

Happy Mother's Day, Sunday 5/10

Have a great day to all the moms out there! Junior High will NOT be meeting tonight – don't forget to do something extra special for your mom today!



Silver Ring Thing, Friday 5/15, 5:15 pm

"Don't let others look down on you because you are young, but set an example in purity" (1 Tim 4:12). But how can we live pure in a world that is so often NOT?! Joins us tonight for SRT – high energy music, videos, skits & comedy, challenging teenagers to live pure with their minds, bodies and lives (appropriate for & targeted to grades 6 and up.) The event runs from 6:30 – 9:00 pm at Marlton Assembly of God and costs only \$6! But you must sign up by Sunday 5/10.

Coffeehouse, Friday 5/29, 7:00 - 10:30 pm

Good music, yummy food, great people! It's a nice relaxed atmosphere and great chance to hang out with your friends and even meet new people! Cost is free (although there's a donation jar you're welcome to give to for the food.)





If you think you have problems, just STOP and read this first letter...

Chuck and Bev Truxton, Nigeria

Sitting at gate B-45 at Dulles International Airport, I think is a good time to let you know that I'm (Chuck) on my way back to Nigeria. If you've been following the news, you won't be surprised to learn that we thought long and hard about this one and prayed a lot. Making this decision was just not straightforward. Yet colleagues in The ECWA AIDS Ministry and the SIM Conference Center at Miango, kept encouraging me. And then there was the fact that my re-entry permit expires on April 5th.

And I really wanted to see Greg. Ebola, Boko Haram and up-coming elections (with potential for violence) take our attention in the news, but HIV-AIDS is still a major factor in Nigeria, Africa's most populous nation. Greg was already HIV positive when I met him just one year ago. But in the email I sent you on April 14th 2014 entitled CHOOSE A CATASTROPHE I told you so much more of Greg's story. Greg 1) was living with the HIV virus 2) had his house burned down by religious fanatics 3) had suffered the loss of his son to schistosomiasis -- a treatable disease, but the treatment was beyond reach when needed -- 4) had his business burned down by religious fanatics 5) lost his wife to HIV/AIDS.

All this happened to Greg Kpopo in just a bit over two years. When I met him in April last year and heard his story, I wondered where he would score on a Stress Diagnostic Survey. Yet I met him with a smile on his face, confident that God was in control. A year ago, God's people rallied and helped Greg re-establish his barbershop in a rented building in an area that promised to be good for business. The smile on Greg's face the day we dedicated the new shop was priceless.

Then several months back we got an update from my colleague, Nuhu Yakubu, of The ECWA AIDS Ministry entitled GREG SO FAR, in which he informed us that the barbershop was thriving, Greg was now able to feed himself, pay his rent, and hold his head high in the community. It was just the report we wanted to hear! And with the right treatment for his HIV, he was much

stronger.

But the brief text message that popped up on my cell phone just a couple of weeks ago was not what we wanted to hear: “Sorry to inform you, but Greg’s business has again been burned down!”

Yes, I would really like to see Greg.

Somehow, Greg’s story makes me think of Job. When Job had lost nearly everything, he “ tore his clothes, shaved his head, fell on the ground” but he still WORSHIPPED God! (Job 1:20) He said, “Jehovah gave and Jehovah hath taken away; blessed be the name of Jehovah.” (Job 1:21).

Please pray for Greg. And thanks for your prayers for this trip, as always.



“In his hand is the life
of every living thing
and the breath of
every human being.”

Job 12:10

Lowel and Claudia Wertz, Tanzania

The construction of Radio JOY is underway. With trepidation we opened the construction permit. We had been granted the frequency 90.5 on the FM dial. The bad news was that another FM repeater was operating with 1,000 watts on 90.0 — very close to our frequency. And their tower is located only 50 yards from our site. The potential for “signal mixing” interference was great and it started a month-long scramble for a technical solution. A specialized

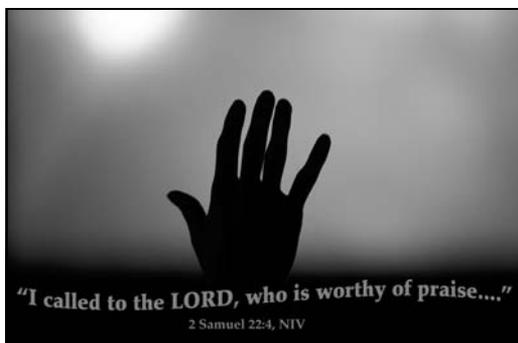
(Continued on page 20)

(Missionary Messages - Continued from page 19)

filter was manufactured in Maine and air-freighted to Dar es Salaam. Now it is full speed ahead!

Our mountain transmitting site is a construction scene with rocks, sand, and gravel everywhere. The huge tower foundation hole was dug down seven feet. Layers of thick reinforced concrete, tons of rock, and then more concrete make this the strongest foundation I have ever built. The foundation is finished and next we will try to erect the tower we made. Pray for safety as our team works 120 feet in the air.

Over one ton of donated LP records, sent by ocean freight from Illinois, have arrived safely in Kigoma. THANK YOU to all who donated music on LPs and CDs! We so appreciate these donations! Your music will be heard on the airwaves soon!



Scott and Rebekah Becker, Ireland

Two Sundays ago a representation of leaders from the Grace Brethren churches in Europe as well as Pastor Ivanildo, from our sending church in Lititz, PA, converged on Dublin at the Crossroads Centre to lay hands on me for Ordination into the Grace Brethren Fellowship. This was a very special time of celebration and commissioning. Rainer Ehmann, pastor of a Grace Brethren church in Stuttgart, Germany, preached a sermon with a challenge to me and the rest who were gathered. What a blessing it was to be encouraged in this way. Caoimhe led a time of sharing about how God has used me in people's lives. This touched and humbled me very deeply to hear what God has done. It was a full house for the event with about 100 people showing up! I was overwhelmed by the support and love that everyone shared with me. What a blessing! To God be the glory!!!

Dear praying H*VMI friends,

Once again we find ourselves extremely short of men counselors for Handi*Camp. It seems that no matter how soon we start recruiting - what colleges we visit - number of emails we send - we cannot find men who can answer the "call" to serve at Handi*Camp. At this point, if we aren't able to hire additional men counselors, we will have to notify some of the families of our male Handi*Campers, who have already registered, that we cannot take them at camp. We don't want to have to do that!

We prefer that these counselors spend six weeks with us for continuity of the program - but - we are willing for them to come for one or two or more weeks if that's all they can give. All NEW counselors are required to attend an orientation/training time the evening of May 20th - noon on May 24th.

Please ask anyone you can think of to pray for this need. Post the need on Facebook or forward this to your contacts! Please personally contact church members and others who might be potential counselors. Who do we specifically need? Men, 18 and older (and they can be "older"), who have a love for the Lord and who are willing to be His instruments of love and care to campers with disabilities.

For more information, including a Job Description, please contact Brian Robinson, Assistant Handi*Camp Director, at brobinson@hvmi.org.

Thank you for your help,
Everyone!!!

Tara Kelley
Director of Disability Ministries



MISSIONS EXTRAS

LOCAL VERY SHORT-TERM MISSIONS OPPORTUNITY SATURDAY JUNE 6:

For this past several years volunteers from our church have helped clean up and prepare Malaga campground for 4 weeks of Handi-Camp. Those who have participated have found it to be a rewarding experience. If you would like to be part of this ministry meet at Malaga on Saturday June 6 at 9:00 am. Donuts and a pizza lunch will be provided. If you have questions contact Joan Steward or email her at Mr.shrinkwrap@comcast.net. Be a volunteer missionary for a day and join the team helping to get camp ready.

MISSIONARY GOD STORY FOLLOWUP:

During the April 12th God Story update on Dr. Neil Thompson and his wife Wannee, Ted Robb mentioned a video made when Neil received the Christian Medical and Dental Society's 2010 Missionary of the Year award. Check out the video for yourself at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L8IqPittw6k>

URBANA 2015:

Urbana 15 is InterVarsity's 24th Student Missions Conference and will be held in St. Louis, MO from December 27 - 31. Urbana is a space set apart to hear from God, reflect, pray, worship, and consider your future. It is designed for college and graduate students, faculty, recent graduates, pastors, church and ministry leaders who are 17 and older. Urbana offers hundreds of seminars to help you explore how your talents, passions and calling intersect with God's mission. Speakers include, Patrick Fung, Christena Cleveland, Francis Chan, David Platt and others. Our own Dr. Neil Thompson heard the call to missionary service at Urbana.

If you are interested in attending Urbana this year to see what the Lord might have in store for you or if you are interested in helping sponsor young people in attending Urbana, call Bill Bittle at 856-428-2641, visit URBANA.ORG or goto Facebook. This is an opportunity that could change your life.



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.

- | | | | |
|--------|--------------------------------------|--------|---------------------------------------|
| May 3 | Zachary Jungclaus | May 18 | Mark Hamilton |
| May 6 | Phil Boswell | May 19 | Mary Newell |
| May 10 | William J. Alexander Joan Stecher | May 20 | Tina Hemphill Rosalie MacGlaughlin |
| May 11 | Ken Underwood | May 21 | Marjie Hammond Dana Schoch |
| May 12 | Ken Steward Ethan Zook | May 22 | Megan DeFoney |
| May 14 | Nathan Schwehm Eric Wertz | May 24 | Kathy Boswell Connie Cline |
| May 15 | Ruth A. Covintree | | |



- | | |
|--------|------------------------------|
| May 7 | Jim and Jane Doyle |
| May 8 | Harold and Marion Shallcross |
| May 15 | Dave and Marjie Hammond |
| May 20 | James and Donna Jungclaus |
| May 29 | Shawn and Nicole Zook |



Wings of Prayer



Have you ever said that, or a similar, thought or prayer? I certainly did as the deadline for submission of this column approached. The submission was due April 10th and I woke that morning, wondering what to do. Before considering that, as I try to do each day, I started the day reading that day's Scripture using *The One Year Chronological Bible* and the online video with Wendy Pope, *Reading Through the Word*.

At the bottom of Wendy's posting for that day was a link to a song written by Bill and Gloria Gaither and Bill George sung by Steve Green called "Bring Back the Glory." The lyrics were on the screen below beautiful graphics. So many messages seemed directed right at me, things I had been asking God about in my personal prayers. Was there something here to share?

Wanting all the lyrics together, I did what many of us do, I googled using "Bring Back the Glory." The result was a page with entries that were by a group I had never heard of. That was nothing new. I scrolled down until I saw something that could be lyrics. No! Absolutely not! I cannot read this filth! The gutter would only elevate what was written there. I closed my search and started over using "Bring Back the Glory Steve Green." That gave me the results I wanted.

As I was copying the lyrics, it occurred to me that by looking for a quick answer, I found myself confronting Satan. It was so easy. Wanting to understand something that was God-inspired, I went onto my computer. Someone had done the work for me and all I had to do was google what I wanted. From the youngest of school children to some of our most mature members, we are told this is the way to get answers in today's world. What was the result? The words I read were some I didn't know could be put on anything as public as Google. It did reinforce that Satan is working hard to get us to question our values. Of more concern is what is out there for our children and non-Christians that is evil and yet jumps up too often, in arenas we never anticipate. We must, yes **must**, pray that God will show us how to use technology for His glory and purposes. What we learn needs to be shared with our children and friends.

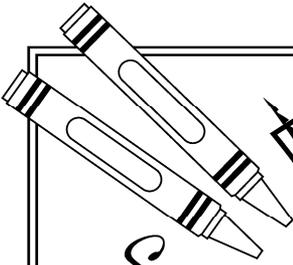
Satan is unyielding and so must our prayers be. Pray that what we teach our children is right. Pray they will know to turn off games, shows, computer searches Satan is using. Pray for the preparation now happening for the upcoming Women's Conference that will be led by Wendy Pope. Pray for those in our church we know about, including *Bonnie Ohnishi, BettyRuth Schofper, Ginny Morrow, Prin Pappas, Doris Sery, Elizabeth Boswell, Pete Carr, Bob Holmes, Arnie Arnold, Dean MacGlaughlin, Rob Kozak, Sue Trauffer, Cassie Finger, Sandra Wright, Cheryl Averell, Betty Strike, Matt Robb, Lew & Mildred Smith, Florence Keller, Jim & Ruth Doherty, Connie Zabel, Tom Costello, Virginia Armitage, Rich Snyder and Nancy Marino*, as well as those quietly suffering, all known to God. Pray with praise as we share the story of Easter morning while we still are infused with its message. Pray with adoration and humility at all God has made and given each us - corporately and individually.

Blessings and Son shine,
Mary Emily Cameron

**PRAY
for our
NATION**



**National Day
of Prayer
May 7, 2015**



PUZZLE

Spring has sprung!

God created all the seasons, and each brings unique visuals that remind us of him.

Directions: Unscramble each phrase to complete Song of Solomon 2:12, NIV. Use the pictures as hints.

earth on appear the Flowers

“ _____ ;



singing come the of has season



the _____

_____ ,



heard the land our in is of cooing doves

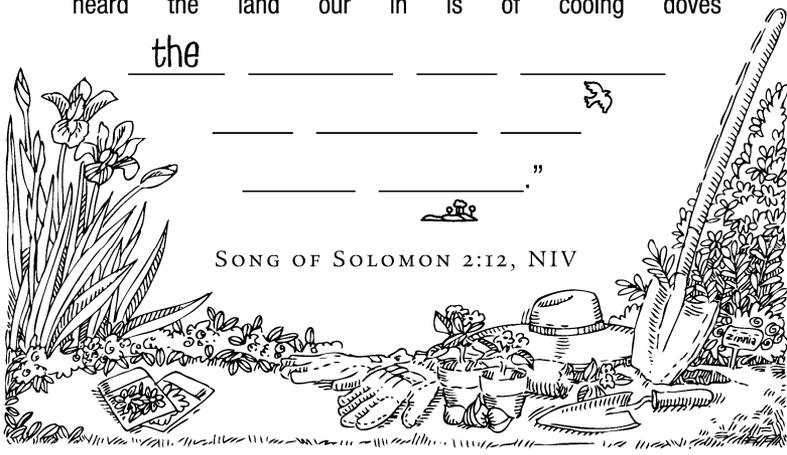
the _____



_____”



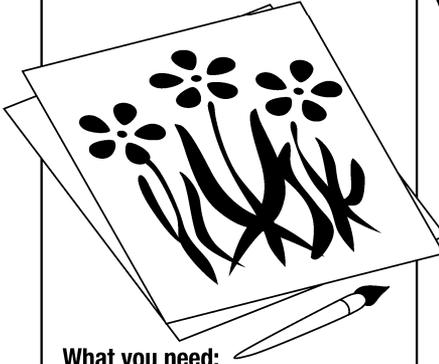
SONG OF SOLOMON 2:12, NIV



Answers: “Flowers appear on the earth; the season of singing has come, the cooing of doves is heard in our land.”

SPRING

Make this beautiful craft to remind you of God's gift of new life at springtime.



What you need:

- White 11" x 17" paper
- Acrylic paint (various spring colors, including green)
- Paintbrush
- Empty two-liter plastic bottle
- Paper plates
- Paper towels

What you do:

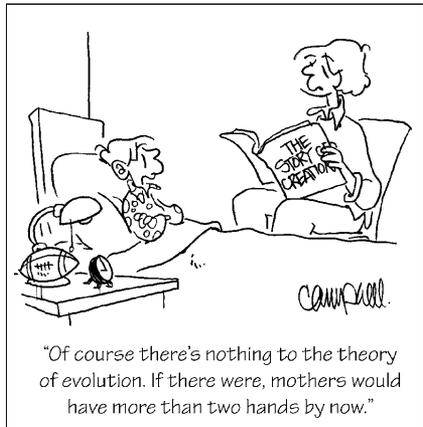
1. With the paper placed vertically, paint stems and leaves with green paint.
2. Pour a different color of paint onto a paper plate. Then place the bottom of the bottle into the paint.
3. Using the bottle as a stamp, press it onto the paper to create a flower atop a green stem.
4. Repeat with different colors on different plates, cleaning the bottle each time, to create a beautiful spring bouquet.

Bible Quiz



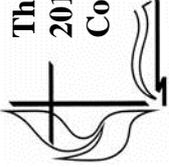
According to Acts 2, on Pentecost some people accused the disciples of being drunk. Why?

- A. Because they were still asleep at 9 in the morning.
- B. Because all the wine was gone.
- C. Because they were all speaking in foreign languages.
- D. All of the above.



"Of course there's nothing to the theory of evolution. If there were, mothers would have more than two hands by now."

Answer: C (See Acts 2:4, 13.)



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