

DEUTERONOMY 30:16, ESV

IF YOU
OBEY THE
COMMANDMENTS
OF THE LORD YOUR
GOD ... (HE) WILL BLESS
YOU IN THE LAND THAT
YOU ARE ENTERING.



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
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e-mail. Send an e-mail to
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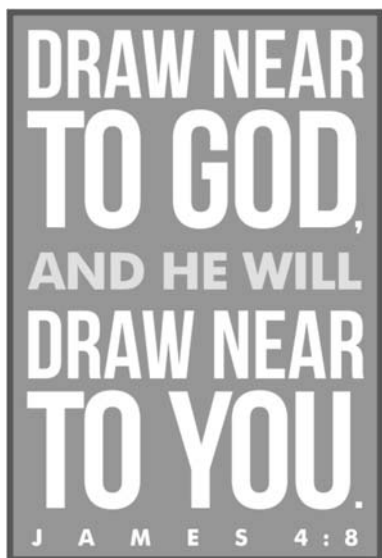


The submission deadline for the
October issue of Windows is
September 10th.

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



From The Pastor's Heart



The year is moving along so rapidly, it's hard to believe we are in the month of September already. The summer of 2019 is quickly coming to a close and the fall season will be here before we know it. Many of us are wrapping up vacations, preparing for school, college and moving to a different schedule to say the least. Change and the unexpected are sometimes welcomed. However, what happens when change is not expected or desired, and life becomes more difficult? Where do we go?

This summer, your staff and I have felt drawn to do one thing together more than anything else and that is pray and seek the heart of the Lord together. In that process we have felt a special drawing in by God's spirit to a powerful statement found in James letter "***Draw near to God and he will draw near to you.***" (James 4:8) The world and spaces and places and people around us can pull us even briefly at times away from the things that draws us close to the heart and purposes of the Lord. As the hymn says, "Turn your eyes upon Jesus, look full into His wonderful face, and the things of this earth will grow strangely dim in the light of his glory and grace."

This fall our theme for everything we do is "Draw Near." Draw near to God, to each other, to God's Kingdom purposes for your lives and our church (Worship * Connect * Mission). This will happen in worship times, Sunday School and discipleship times and life group and Wednesday nights and in our leadership meetings too! We know this summer with the cultural stresses of the world, praying for the Greater United Methodist Church for renewal and revival that we might carry the Kingdom vision of Jesus together

with His love, we must draw near. We also need to continue to pray for our local mission here in Collingswood and the challenges we have faced with the school lease process and other challenges we face as God's people in the days we live and carry out our Lord's mission, we must draw near.

I was gently reminded this week that most things we do requires two things, patience and endurance. This past week was our annual preparation for the outdoor church baptism on the church property. This is always a journey of endless unexpected surprises as we prepare the property and pool. This year proved to provide the yearly challenges. As we had more water on the outside of the pool when the hose jumped out and made a mess. We know to provide opportunities for our church community to experience baptism outside with the church family each year is a blessing for everyone. So, **enduring** the unexpected surprises with patience is worth the challenges that come our way. This reminded me of something I read that challenged me this week that I would like to share with you as I close my thoughts of how we need to live our lives daily drawing near to Jesus:

Let us run with endurance the race that is set before us. – Hebrews 12:1 *How do we react when we encounter problems that don't seem to have solutions? When we feel confused or uncertain what to do? When answers do not come easily? When the answers we have tried don't seem to work?*

Like other experiences in life, we must operate in faith, following the example Jesus provided as “the author and finisher of our faith” (v. 2). He set an example of endurance.

He endured when a disciple betrayed Him, His closest followers denied even knowing Him, He was falsely accused, and He was humiliated, tried, and crucified. But, having endured, Jesus emerged in triumph.

It is not always easy to endure. This means not giving in to doubt or impatience. It means persevering when we feel like giving up. We must keep our eyes on the goal. This means “looking unto Jesus” (v. 2) and remembering that He endured. Because He endured, we can endure. We need to remember the example Jesus set for us if we get discouraged or weary. We must endure when we face disappointment and discouragement. We must endure when we experience delays. We must endure situations we do not understand

(Continued on page 19)



A Season of Listening to God

We're heading into the fall: a new school year, a new season, and all the excitement that comes with it! We believe God is leading us into a new season as a church, too, and that is also exciting! Because of that, we want to seek God all the more over the next few months. More details will be coming about that, but we look forward to connecting with Him deeper in everything we do from Sunday mornings to Wednesday nights to committee meetings. It's no surprise that much has been happening about which we need to be praying, but more importantly, we believe as we realign ourselves with God, listening for what He wants to say to us, that He will reveal His heart and direction for our church. We, as a pastoral staff, are working right now to create some spaces for that to happen collectively as a church family, but we invite and urge you to begin that listening process personally right now this summer. Seek Him daily through prayer and His Word, listen for what He's saying to you (and then do it!), and pray for our humility for our whole church as we seek our great God. We love you all!

From the hearts of your pastoral staff,
Sam, Matt, and Shawn



MEN'S BREAKFAST
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2019
AT 8:00 AM
SPEAKER: PASTOR DON OVERTON,
LIBERTI CHURCH,
MAINLINE PHILADELPHIA

SEPTEMBER SERMONS AND SCRIPTURES



- | | | |
|--------------|--|------------------------------|
| September 1 | Missionary Speaker - Lowell Wertz | |
| September 8 | <i>God the Healer (Jehovah Rapha)</i> Communion | Exodus 15:26 Isaiah 53:15 |
| September 15 | <i>God the Almighty One (El Shaddai)</i> Rally Sunday | Genesis 17:1 |
| September 22 | <i>The God Who is There! (Jehovah Shammah)</i> | Ezekiel 48:35 |
| September 29 | GSC Celebration 45 years of ministry, Special Speaker - Dick Esher | |



LOOKING AHEAD FOR THE FALL...

- | | |
|----------------------------|---|
| September 8 th | GSC Discipleship class resumes |
| September 15 th | Rally Day - Discipleship classes resume |
| September 21 st | Men's Breakfast |
| September 24 th | Followers Bible Study |
| October 3 rd | Wednesday Night Live begins |
| October 23 rd | Church Conference |
| October 30 th | Trunk or Treat |

Save the Date!

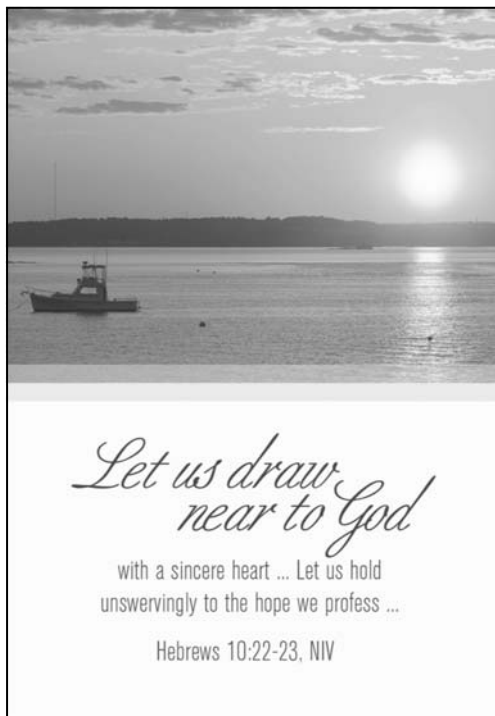
GSC (God's Special Children) will be celebrating its 45th anniversary on Sunday, September 29, 2019 at both services. Dick Esher will be the special speaker! There will also be a representative from HVM. Luncheon to follow after the 2nd service.



WEDNESDAY NIGHT Drawing Near Nights Something for Everyone!

“Draw near to God and he will draw close to you” James 4:8

This Fall, Wednesday nights will be exciting at FUMC. This will be a time of prayer, reflections and drawing near to God. In a world with so many uncertainties, we will have an opportunity to draw close to God together each week. The dates for “Drawing Near Nights” are: Wednesdays, October 2nd, 16th, (23rd - Church Conference), (30th - Trunk or Treat!), November 6th, 20th, December 4th, 18th. There will also be several exciting Wednesday night dinners throughout the fall. Look for more information coming soon!





Sunday, September 15th
Combined Service at 10:45 am

Rally Day has taken on a new look this year because we want to “Rally Around” not only the children, but the children’s workers! At 9:30 a.m. there will be a Pancake Breakfast for all children up to and including 5th grade. The place will be announced soon. There will be some special recognition to all who work so faithfully with our children and maybe even some games and prizes! Stay tuned!



Followers Bible Class will begin again September 24, 2019. Coffee time begins at 9:30 class begins at 10 - 11 throughout the fall. We have several teachers and a schedule we are finalizing for the year. Looking forward to what God has in store as we dig out his word as followers of Jesus together this fall.

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

We are forming a journey class that explores church membership. A time and a place to grow in our walk with God and to better understand what First Church is all about! This class will prepare you for church membership as you become ready to connect with us at that level. Please sign up on the tear off in your Sunday bulletin if you are interested in joining the class and becoming a member. Or call the church office at 856-858-1186 or email the church office at maria@fumccollingswood.org.





Wings of Prayer



Soon we will turn another page on the calendar, or for some, swipe to a new month on our phones. However you keep track of time, whether it be on paper or digitally, I'm fairly certain that no one will argue that the days are going by swiftly. College students have checked into their dorms and younger kids are bemoaning the fact that summer is coming to an end, along with the days of sleeping late and hanging out at the pool. Parents are more than ready for the kids to head back to school, but are also feeling wistful about the days getting shorter. And of course, the first harbinger that fall is just around the corner is beginning to make an appearance – Pumpkin Spice everything is coming back!

The change of seasons is good. Fall brings a crispness and freshness that wakes us up and help us to look forward to the future (like the holidays!) and the possibilities that lie ahead. Our lives have seasons as well. Some of the changes are delightful and we welcome them. Others, not so much. Change can be frightening or painful. Often it is something that we never wanted or envisioned. I myself have gone through several very different seasons in recent years, there were seasons of pain, seasons of growth, seasons of healing and seasons of new life. Life is about change and it will change, whether we expect it to or not.

How we deal with these changes can be impacted greatly by remembering the one guaranteed constant: God. When change is overwhelming, we can take great comfort in the fact that God doesn't change and we can rely on that firm foundation. Hebrews

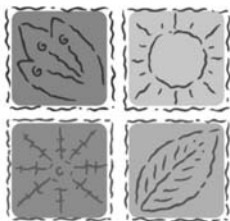
13:8 tells us: “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.”

Some changes are so painful that it can feel like God has forgotten about us. We can’t imagine why God would allow us to endure such difficulty. During these times, it can be difficult to pray or to believe that you will ever be able to overcome your trials. Stay in the word, cling to His promises. “The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; He will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.” Deuteronomy 31:8

When the changes are good and wonderful, whether it is something that we have prayed fervently for or whether it is an unexpected blessing beyond anything that we never imagined, we need to remember to praise God for His gifts. James 1:17 “Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.”

Whatever season you are currently in, look to God for guidance and remember to thank Him. He loves you and is doing things in your life that are meant for your good, even if you can’t see what He has planned. Remember, the seasons change, but God doesn’t.

Please remember to keep in prayer these friends and church family who are in a season of special need: Karen Kline, Mary Emily Cameron, Pat Sheaffer, Audrey Diehl, Carolyn Alexander, Betty Alber, Elizabeth Hollows, Bea Williams, Jantzen Aurig, Arnie Arnold, Cheryl Averell, Holly Gibbons.



**FOR EVERYTHING THERE
IS A SEASON, A TIME
FOR EVERY ACTIVITY
UNDER HEAVEN.**

ECCLESIASTES 3:1, NLT

| <div> <div>SEPTEMBER</div> </div> | | | |
|--|--|--|---|
| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday |
| 1 8:30 AM Traditional Worship Service 9:50 AM Adult Summer Sunday School 10:45 AM Contemporary Worship Service 6:00 PM NO Ryver tonight | 2 Church Office Closed LABOR DAY | 3 | 4 6:45 PM Mast |
| 8 GSC class resumes 8:30 AM Traditional Worship Service 9:50 AM Adult Summer Sunday School 10:45 AM Contemporary Worship Service 6:00 PM NO Ryver tonight | 9 Church Office Closed 7:00 PM Church Council | 10 | 11 6:45 PM Mast PATRIC |
| 15 Rally Day 9:40 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Combined Worship Service | 16 Church Office Closed 7:00 PM Finance Meeting | 17 | 18 6:45 PM Mast |
| 22 8:30 AM Traditional Worship Service 9:40 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Contemporary Worship Service FIRST DAY OF AUTUMN | 23 Church Office Closed | 24 10:00 AM Follower Bible Study | 25 6:45 PM Mast |
| 29 GSC 45th Anniversary Celebration 8:30 AM Traditional Worship Service 9:40 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Contemporary Worship Service | 30 Church Office Closed 7:00 PM Trustees Meeting | | |

ER 2019

| Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|-----------|------------------------------------|--------|-------------------------------|
| Men's Men | 5 6:30 PM Praise Team Practice | 6 | 7 |
| Men's Men | 12 6:30 PM Praise Team Practice | 13 | 14 |
| OT DAY | | | |
| Men's Men | 19 6:30 PM Praise Team Practice | 20 | 21 8:00 AM Men's Breakfast |
| Men's Men | 26 6:30 PM Praise Team Practice | 27 | 28 |
| | | | |



Bill and Brenda Antinore, Seeds of Hope, Camden, NJ

From Brenda:

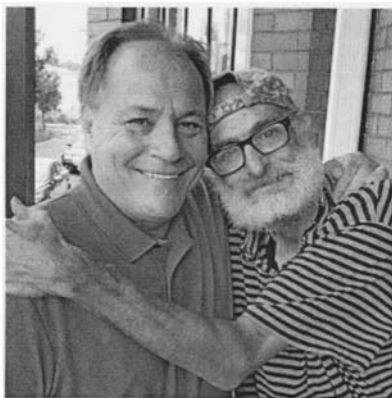
For Just A Moment...

Two Wednesdays ago, we had 23 women in our home during lunch time. If you didn't know how much suffering and misery these ladies were in when they walked through the door (did I mention the heat?), and you only had your ears to listen, the sound coming from the living room sounded like a bunch of adolescent girls giggling and laughing at their first sleepover ever. It was a priceless moment! I wish I could have recorded it. Free from reality, free from bondage, free to just be giddy joyful girls. It was something so wonderful that it's hard to describe. God truly is a refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. He is the way, the truth and the life. He sees these women. He loves them and He is their only hope just like ours. What a blessing and a joy it was to be able to take that in just for a moment.

Thank you for all you do to make this part of the ministry happen in the day to day; we could never do what we do on any given day without you. Please pray for her rescue, and her freedom; she needs your prayers.

From Bill:

Just when you thought that you have heard it all, the Lord brings another person your way with a special request. We have known Bob for about 13 years. He lives here in the city and, over the years, has helped out at the weekly Homeless/Community Outreach Breakfasts. Once in a while he will come by our office & home as we have 1 had the privilege of helping him out in various ways. About 3 weeks ago he knocked on the door and I answered. "Bill" he said, "can you do me a favor"? I gave my usual response. "It depends." That is when I got a request that I have never received before and doubt I



will again. Bob asks, “Can you take a picture of me?” I answered, “Sure...I can’t do it now because I am meeting with someone. By the way, why do you want me to take your picture?” Bob’s answer to that question left me speechless. He said, “I see these pictures of people on your front door of people from around here who have died. When I die I would like people to remember me and I know that you & Brenda will put my picture on your door when I die.” I should have taken the picture right then and there but I didn’t. A week or so later one of our SJA guys, Percy, took a picture of Bob & I on the front porch. Priceless. Any questions?

Don and Esther Parsons, LRI, Michigan

Dear Friends & Family!

The sun is rising on a new day for the Parsons family. God has unexpectedly opened a door to serve with Leadership Resources International (LRI). The leadership of LRI has asked me to join them in a ministry that fits my gifting, experiences and passion extremely well. Thank you for praying for this day with us!

We partnered with LRI in Central Asia. LRI focuses globally on training pastors to understand and teach the Word of God with the heart of God. Our partnership in Central Asia helped to create some of the most fruitful ministry of our time there; fruit that still remains today.

The focus of my new ministry will be on building networks and partnerships around the globe in order that the Word of God would flow powerfully through every church to every nation. Building these relationships will take time (and lots of coffee or tea!), but the outcome will be worth it when we see brothers and sisters taking God’s Word to the nations.

And so, I will begin with LRI on September 1st. We will remain in Michigan and I will travel extensively with LRI. I will share more details of this ministry in the future, but for now, we ask you to pray for us as we make this transition.

Don and Norma Toland, Wycliffe, Lancaster, PA

We both are very involved in the writing of the many exciting experiences that the Lord has so privileged us to have had in our lifetime. As Norma and I have been reaching back into our minds to relive the stories of the more than thirty years in Papua New Guinea, as well as the thirty plus years that it took our Lord to prepare Norma and me, we are seeing so much more of God’s loving provision — the provision that we did not always recognize

(Continued on page 16)

at the time. For example:

The Cliff Hanger

by Norma Toland

Don and I started down from our Regional Center on Nobonob mountain, a most gorgeous rain-forested area in Papua New Guinea, and we had no clue of just what dire happenings were immediately ahead of us. I was driving our car, following behind Don who was driving his Honda 125 trail bike down a very rough, uneven, ‘bush’ track, which wound its way around the edge of the Nobonob mountainside. Arthur and Doris, our dear, sixty-eight-year-old friends, were also riding along with me in the car. As we rounded the bend in the road, we saw Don’s motorbike laying catty-cornered across the road by the edge of the cliff - but saw no Don!

My heart jumped up into my throat and I just could not bring myself to even get out of the car to peer over the cliff, fearing I would see Don laying splat at the bottom of that fifty-foot cliff. In the meantime, Arthur had jumped out of the car, had run over to the cliff edge, and yelled out, “Don! Don! Are you all right?” We heard an immediate reply, “Arthur, I’m all right!” Arthur asked, “What happened?” Don replied, “I was riding my motorbike on the crown of the road and felt it slipping down to the rut where the heavy rains had eddied out the tire tracks of the road. I knew I was losing it and so put my foot down to steady the bike. However, my foot only touched space, and I knew I was headed over the edge. All I could think of ‘I can’t let this bike fall over on top of me.’ So I let go of it right away! I knew Norma would be so upset if she rounded the bend and saw only my bike there and not me. So I’ve been trying and trying to get back up before she drove around that bend, but it’s just too steep!”

As Arthur looked over that 50-foot cliff, he immediately saw where Don was located. He had fallen about fifteen feet and was lodged against the base of the only tree growing out of the cliff there. Being careful to not lose his footing at the base of the tree, Don was madly trying to reach upwards to grab Arthur’s hand, and Arthur was also trying and trying to reach down to connect with Don — but to no avail. The distance between them was just too much!

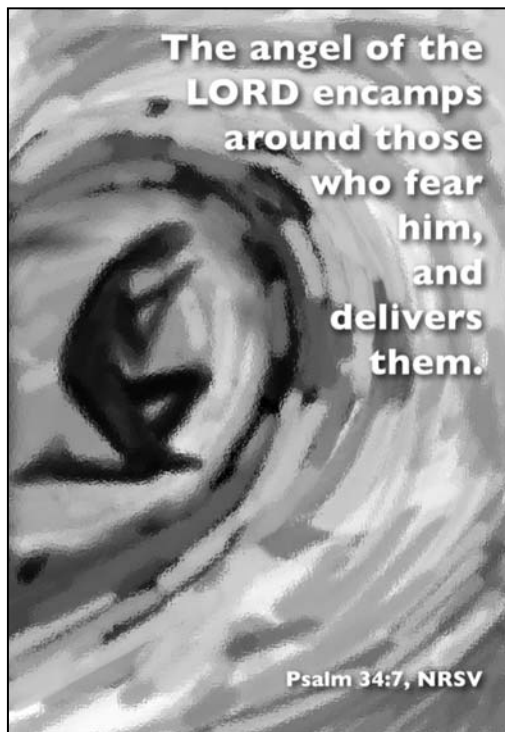
Just then a van load of young people from Australia drove up the bush track to where we were. When they learned of the problem we were having, they quickly formed a human chain, held onto Arthur’s legs, lowered him over the edge to grasp Don’s arms, and together they speedily pulled him back up to the road. And

Don, who bruises very, very easily, had not a scratch, cut, bruise, broken bone or even any soreness on his being. In fact, there was no dirt of any kind on his white shorts and light blue shirt that he was wearing. He only had two small dirty spots where his shoulder blades must have brushed against the cliff side.

There is no other earthly explanation for this other than it had to have been God's angel who had carried him safely to the base of that lone tree there on the cliff side. It was also the Lord who orchestrated the arrival of that whole van-load of strong young people, and had them arrive on that remote 'bush' track just at the exact time they were needed to help rescue Don. What a wonderful God we serve! His ways are far beyond anything that we can imagine! Praise His Holy Name!!

Isaiah 41:10 says: *"So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."*

The title of this book is, *"Instruments in God's Symphony."* Please pray with us that the Lord will cause this book to be an encouragement, a blessing and also a challenge to the readers and us to 'be tuned up and focused' on the Lord so that He, the maestro, can use us in His master plan or Symphony.





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.

| | | | |
|----------|---------------------|----------|--|
| Sept. 2 | Low Farling | Sept. 16 | Britny Molloy |
| Sept. 4 | John Mark Hamilton | Sept. 18 | Nancy Creely Joan Ferrara |
| Sept. 6 | Pat Gunning | Sept. 24 | Kyleigh Hamilton |
| Sept. 7 | Pastor Sam Mountain | Sept. 25 | Ed Detwiler |
| Sept. 11 | Barbara Rapp | Sept. 26 | Kathy McGaurn Dean Stefano |
| Sept. 12 | Rhonda Fraley | Sept. 30 | Nancy Gross Karen Kline Gary McGaurn |
| Sept. 13 | Marion Wertz | | |
| Sept. 15 | Harry Rameriz | | |



| | |
|----------|--------------------------|
| Sept. 6 | Bill and Barbara Brown |
| Sept. 10 | Steve and Michelle Latch |
| Sept. 14 | Bernard and Carol Beals |
| Sept. 15 | Armand & Jean LeBlanc |
| Sept. 21 | Ed & Ruth Detwiler |



Baptisms at First Church

August 11th
Jaxson Mick
Sabria Albano
Tina Hemphill (reaffirmation)



Deaths at First Church

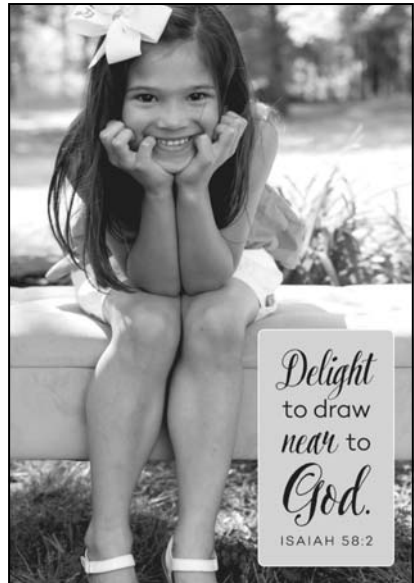
Harold Shallcross - June 29th
Barbara Edelman - August 3rd

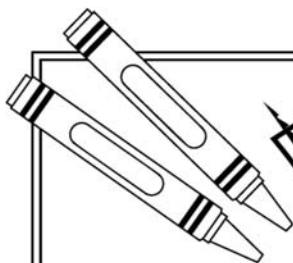
(From the Pastor's Heart - Continued from page 5)

and many types of problems.

We will endure as we stop being dominated by problems and focus on Jesus, remembering that our faith is perfected through endurance. Today, remember the importance of endurance. Don't let anything discourage you. Never stop living by faith. Never give up. DRAW NEAR!

In His Love and Grace,
Pastor Sam



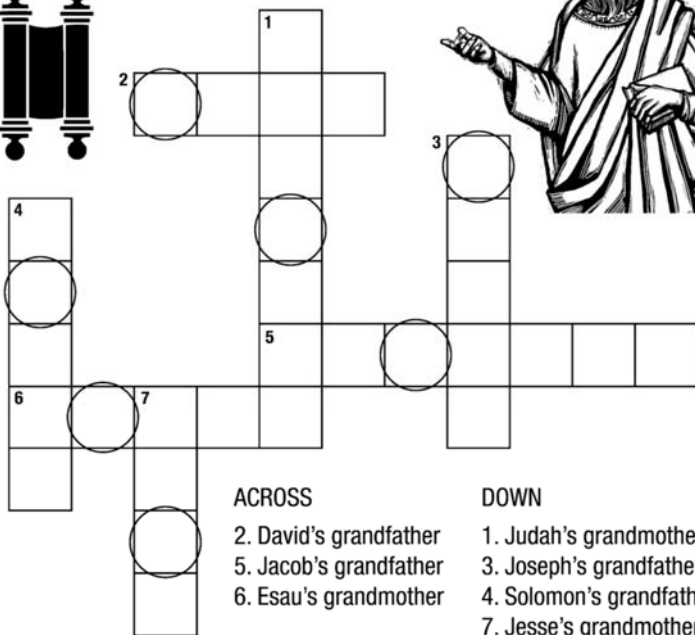
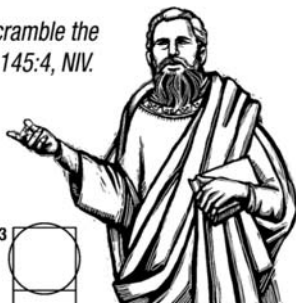


PUZZLE

Grandparents of the Old Testament

Can you name these biblical grandparents? If you get stuck, find an Old Testament family tree in your Bible or online.

Directions: After filling in the crossword, unscramble the circled letters to complete Psalm 145:4, NIV.



ACROSS

2. David's grandfather
5. Jacob's grandfather
6. Esau's grandmother

DOWN

1. Judah's grandmother
3. Joseph's grandfather
4. Solomon's grandfather
7. Jesse's grandmother

One G _ N _ _ _ _ N commends your works to another; they tell of your mighty acts. Psalm 145:4, NIV

Answers: ACROSS 2. Obed, 5. Abraham, 6. Sarah, DOWN: 1. Rebekah, 3. Isaac, 4. Jesse, 7. Ruth. Generation



GROWING generations

Honor your grandparents with a gift that all generations can enjoy.

What you need:

- Cups (various sizes)
- Pencil
- Family photos
- Scissors
- Colored paper
- Hot glue (and adult help)
- Clothespins
- A small potted tree or bush

What you do:

1. Use a cup to trace a circle around faces in the photos. Cut out the circles.
2. Cut larger circles out of paper. Glue each photo onto a paper circle.
3. Glue a clothespin to the back of each photo. Clip photos to the branches.
4. Present the gift to your grandparents, and tell them you're glad to be in their family tree.

Bible Quiz

What number fits in all the blanks to reveal God's instructions to Joshua about the city of Jericho?

Israelite warriors, led by ___ priests blowing ___ ram's-horn trumpets for ___ days, would march around the city once a day, except for the last day, when they would march around it ___ times; then the walls of Jericho would fall.

- A. one
- B. three
- C. five
- D. seven



THE PEARL

The pearl is a symbol of the surpassing value of the kingdom of God, based on Jesus' parable in Matthew 13:45-46 (ESV): "The kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it."



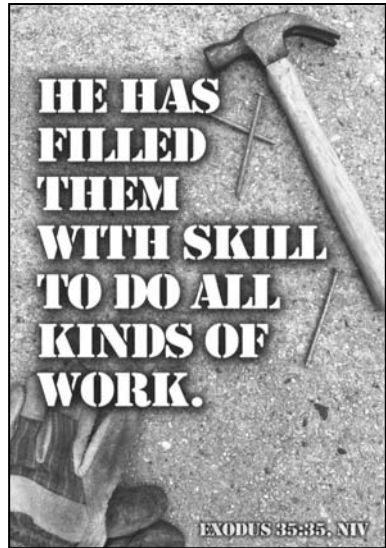
Answer: D (See Joshua 6:1-5.)

LABORS OF LOVE

Thomas Merton, an American monk, writer and social activist, said, "It is in the ordinary duties and labors of life that the Christian can and should develop his spiritual union with God." As the United States observes Labor Day, may we find meaning not simply in marking summer's end but in celebrating the ways nearly all "duties and labors of life" can empower ministry and faith.

Whether as a dentist, parent, artist, teacher, mechanic, gardener, city councilor, farmer, day laborer, attorney or anything else, a Christian can begin each workday or shift by praying for opportunities to serve whoever they'll encounter. We also can pray for and seek ways to grow in "spiritual union with God": cultivating spiritual fruits; actively loving God and neighbor; seeing Jesus in the vulnerable; practicing humility, gratitude and praise.

In Labor Day, may we find inspiration to make all our labors loving and faithful!



BACK-TO-SCHOOL HUMOR

What kind of school do you go to if you're ...

... an ice cream man? Sundae school

... a giant? High school

... a surfer? Boarding school

... King Arthur? Knight school

Teacher: What's the chemical formula for water?

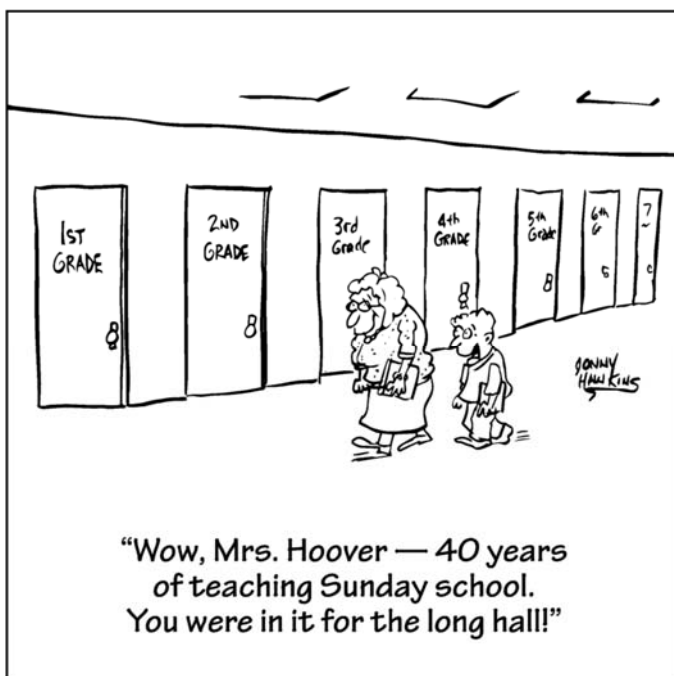
Student: H-I-J-K-L-M-N-O

Teacher: What are you talking about?

Student: Yesterday you said it was H to O.

Math teacher: A person from LA drove toward New York at 250 miles per hour as a person from New York drove toward LA at 150 miles per hour. Where did they meet?

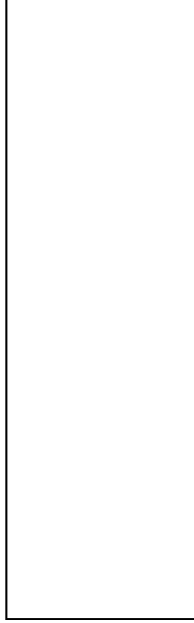
Student: In jail!



The First United Methodist Church
201 Dayton Avenue
Collingswood, NJ 08108



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BELLMAWR, NJ



***To see all people **WORSHIP** God, **CONNECT** with His people,
and join His **MISSION** in this world.***