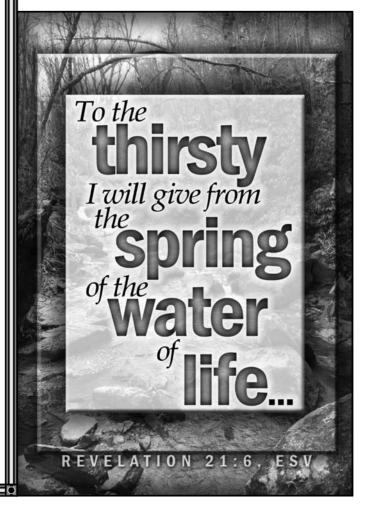


I R S T CHURCH **W-ZDOWS**



April
2018



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: The First United Methodist Church 201 Dayton Avenue, Collingswood, NJ 08108 Phone: (856)858-1186

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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 ewindows@fumccollingswood.org to subscribe.

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The submission deadline for the *May* issue of Windows is April 10th.

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING WINDOWS!

From The Pastor's Heart



After the March snows of 2018, I believe we are all ready for spring and warmer days. We are looking forward to a time when it's warm outside and we don't see snow reports or another nor'easter in the forecast (and I love snow.) Easter is also a time we can look forward to. It reminds me of a story about a little boy I read recently about.

There was a young boy born with Down syndrome who attended his third-grade Sunday School class faithfully each week. As you can expect, the other children did not readily accept the boy because he seemed different.

The Sunday after Easter, their teacher brought in small boxes--one for each child. The children were told to go outside, find some symbols of new life, and put them in their containers. So the children ran wildly throughout the property looking for something to fill their boxes.

Once they returned to the classroom, they began to share their discoveries with the class. One by one they opened their boxes to show flowers, butterflies, leaves, and more. Each time the class would "ooh" and "ahh."

Then the child with Down syndrome opened his box to reveal nothing inside. The children exclaimed, "That's crazy! It's not fair! He didn't do the assignment right!" The little boy exclaimed, "I did so do it! It's empty...because the tomb where Jesus laid was found empty!"

If Jesus had not risen from the dead, our faith would be empty and void. But He did rise from death, confirming His life and message and purpose. The resurrection of Jesus is the basis for our hope of life eternal beyond the grave. The resurrection gives us something to look forward to.

Jesus said in John 11:25-26, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" The women went to the tomb on that first Resurrection morning expecting death and experienced a life changing moment when they realized, "He is not here; He has risen just like He said." At this time of the year it is good to be reminded all over again, how amazing it is what Jesus has done for us!'

I am in awe by the life of Jesus and the power of the resurrection that is still life changing today. The same power that raised Jesus from the dead can raise the dead parts of our lives. Just as Jesus touched the hearts and lives of the men and women 2000 years ago, Jesus can touch our lives today!

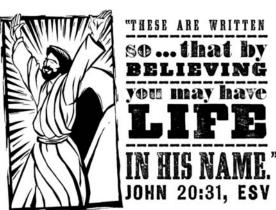
This Easter season, our focus is on celebrating simply the life of Jesus 2018. From Friday to Sunday, everything had changed. On Sunday, sin surrendered its power and Hell was conquered. On Sunday, angels proclaimed the good news and heaven celebrated. On Sunday, the guards were overcome and the stone was rolled away. On Sunday, the women rejoiced and hope was renewed. On Sunday, death was defeated and Jesus was resurrected.

Easter is so unbelievable because Jesus brings life out of death. Jesus brings hope where there was only despair. Jesus defeats the power of sin and Hell. Jesus loved you more than life itself. He would rather die than be without you. The only question that remains is: Are you ready to be amazed? Let's make this Easter a special time of reflecting on amazing Savior. I am looking forward and thank the Lord for all that He has done for me and my family

this past year, and for an amazing church family. To God be the glory great things He has done and is doing. Let's celebrate Jesus together this year!

In The Unbelievable Savior's Love,

Pastor Sam





STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS (2017 – 2018 Academic Year)

All applicants must submit a completed application and written essay.

You may download the PDF form from the FUMC website or you may pick up a printed version in the church office. Directions for completion of the application are included.

First-time applicants must submit references. Repeat applicants do not need references.

All applications and supporting information are due to the church office no later than Sunday, April 29th. They may be mailed, hand-delivered, or e-mailed to maria@fumccollingswood.org.

The April Women's brunch will be held on April 14th from 10:00 am – 12:00 pm. Our speaker will be Linda Shropshire from Options for Women in Cherry Hill. We will be collecting baby items to "shower" the women served by Options. You can sign up in your Sunday bulletin.



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THE NEXT MEN'S BREAKFAST WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAY.
MAY 19TH AT 8:00 AM.

APRIL SERMONS AND SCRIPTURES

April 1	Easter Sunday Celebrating Jesus 2 Communion	Matthew 28:1-10, Philippians 3:8-10
April 8	Celebrating Jesus 3	Peter
April 15	Celebrating Jesus 4	
April 22	Living Out Our Purpose Se	eries
April 29	5th Sunday Praise and Prayer Service	

MOTHER'S DAY

Both services: Pat Gunning will share the message, "She Only Wanted the Best for Her Son." Special service of praise honoring all our ladies and a special gift, too!





COLLINGSWOOD MANOR

Please bring in your items by Sunday, April 8, 2018

Each resident is given a bag which they may fill with any of the donated items listed below. This is a special day which they look forward to each year. Please place donated items in the marked box in the boardroom. Thank you for your generosity! - The Collingswood Manor Auxiliary

SUGGESTED ITEMS FOR DONATION

DISH CLOTHS TEA TOWELS

DISH SOAP COMBS
PAPER NAPKINS TISSUES

BARS OF SOAP SHAMPOO LIQUID HAND SOAP SPONGES

SHOWER CAPS LOTION

LAUNDRY SOAP POLY-GRIP

BODY POWDER PAPER TOWELS

TOOTH PASTE VASELINE

HAND TOWELS TOOTHBRUSHES

COTTONBALLS HANDY WIPES

DEODORANT EMERY BOARDS

AFTER SHAVE WASHCLOTHS

DENTURE TOOTHPASTE PUZZLE BOOKS

DENTAL FLOSS SANDWICH BAGS
SCOTCH TAPE DENTURE BRUSHES

ALUMINUM FOIL SAFETY PINS

SHAVING CREAM NOTE PADS

SOCKS - for men or women

FROM THE CARING COMMITTEE:

Please contact the church office if you know someone going into the hospital for a procedure or testing so that we can contact and care for them.

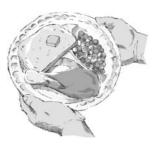


WOULD YOU LIKE TO DONATE?

Would you be willing to give \$20 for a new chair for the Stokes Dining Room? The need is for 50 chairs, so if God lays it on your heart to fill this need, it would be such a blessing. Your check should be payable to FUMC and in the memo: chairs. We donate money for flowers, the budget, missions and other projects, so please consider helping to fill this church need by Easter. Thank you in advance.

REQUEST A FREE EASTER DINNER!!

Receive a boxed Easter dinner delivered to your home on Saturday, March 31st. The following zips may participate: 08108, 08107, 08106, 08002, 08110 and 08078. Reserve a meal by March 22. Meals are limited – call today.





YARD SALE

FUMC will be taking part in the Collingswood Town Wide Yard sale for the fourth year. The date is June 2nd. Last year we made over \$1600 which benefitted special mission projects which were not part of the Missions budget. Help will be needed sorting, pricing, baking etc. Most of all, we need items to sell. As you do spring

housecleaning, remember the sale. No clothing, shoes or large electronics, please. This is also an opportunity to reach out to the community. Last year our church table team took prayer requests and prayed with people in need of prayer. So save the date! Let's make this one an even bigger success!



Bring the whole family for an amazing, home-cooked dinner at 6:00 pm, followed by gatherings for all ages at 6:45 and 7:00 pm. Reserve your spot for dinner by signing up on the tear off on Sunday mornings or call or email the church office by Tuesday.

The cost of the WNL dinner is:

\$6/person – adults (age 11 and older), \$2.50/child (10 & under), 3 and under free. (family maximum \$25)

- April 4th No WNL Easter Break
- April 11th WNL Dinner and Bible Studies. Adult study: Developing Compassion through spending time with and praying for people.
- April 18th WNL Dinner and Bible Studies. For adults: Collingswood Manor spend time, listen and pray with residents
- April 25th WNL Dinner and Bible Studies. Last night for WNL. For adults: Celebrate conversations from prayers/spending time; challenge for summer.



First UMC of Collingswood Women's Ministry Presents

Secret sizes Sisters

An exchange of love, prayer, and sisterly affection! Ladies age 18 years old plus are invited to participate. Fill out a Sister Survey, found at the Connection Points, and return to a Connection Point or Emily Davis by April 15th. Sister matches will be on a table across from the Connection Point by the Parlor on Sundays, April 22rd and 29th. The following four Sundays in May you can leave something for your Secret Sister on the table. It doesn't have to be every week. This is meant to uplift your Sister and be a blessing to another. In this spirit, we will not reveal ourselves as the focus is not on the giver, but on the needs of our Sisters.

But when you do a charitable deed, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, 4 that your charitable deed may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you openly.

Matthew 6:3-4



GAME NIGHT – held the 2nd Saturday of every month from 6:00 to 9:00 pm in Stokes Dining Room. Feel free to bring your favorite game or come and learn a new one! Also, bring your favorite snack to share. Hope to see you there. Any questions, please See Emily Davis or Susan Gibbins-Davis.

..............................

GRACE CAFÉ Open Mic Night April 27, 2018



Join us on the last Friday of each month for an evening of entertainment! Sign-up starts pm. Entertainment from 7:00 to 10:00 pm. We welcome all performers to share their love of music, poetry, comedy, etc. All generations welcomed! There is a PA system, stage lighting, amps, keyboards, drum kit and a large stage area to enhance your performance. Coffee and assorted food items will be served. If you would like to bring a tasty treat to share, that would be great! Bring your entire family! For additional information contact John Vernon or check us out on Facebook - Grace Cafe!



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VBS 2018



When? **June 25 through June 29**

9:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Where? First United Methodist Church,

Collingswood NJ

Who? Children ages 4 through entering 6th grade

What? Game On! Gearing up for life's big game!

Kids grab their megaphones, lace up their cleats, and tune up their instruments. As they fill up the offensive line, sideline, and drumline, your players, cheerleaders, and band members will realize God has given them His ultimate playbook. He wants them to join His team, train hard, celebrate salvation, and encourage one another. Get in the

spirit today with Game On!

His divine power has given us everything required for life and godliness through the knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.

2 Peter 1:3

APRIL

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wedn
1 HAPPY EASTER!!! 8:30 AM Traditional Worship Service 9:40 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Contemporary Worship Service 6:00 PM No Ryver	2 Church Office Closed	3	4
EASTER SUNDAY 8	9	10	11
8:30 AM Traditional Worship Service 9:40 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Contemporary Worship Service 6:00 PM Ryver	Church Office Closed 7:00 PM Church Council		6:00 PM WNI 6:45 PM Mas 7:00 PM WNI Studies
15 8:30 AM Traditional Worship Service 9:40 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Contemporary Worship Service 6:00 PM Ryver	16 Church Office Closed 7:00 PM Discipleship Meeting 7:00 PM Missions / Evangelism	17	18 6:00 PM WNI 6:45 PM Mas 7:00 PM WNI Studies
	TAX DAY		
22 8:30 AM Traditional Worship Service 9:40 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Contemporary Worship Service 6:00 PM Ryver	23 Church Office Closed 7:00 PM SPR 7:00 PM Trustees Meeting	24	25 6:00 PM WNI 6:45 PM Mas 7:00 PM WNI Studies
29 8:30 AM Traditional Worship Service 9:40 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Contemporary Worship Service 6:00 PM Ryver	30 Church Office Closed		

2018

esday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	5 6:30 PM Praise Team Practice	6	7
_ Dinner ter's Men _ Bible	12 6:30 PM Praise Team Practice	13	14 10:00 AM Women's Brunch 6:00 PM Game Night
_ Dinner ter's Men _ Bible	19 6:30 PM Handi*Vangelism Support Group 6:30 PM Praise Team Practice	20	21
_ Dinner ter's Men _ Bible	26 6:30 PM Praise Team Practice	27 7:00 PM Grace Cafe	28

WISSIOGUSE WESSIGES



Bill and Brenda Antinore, Seeds of Hope, Camden February 28, Brenda writes -

As we write this intro to you today, we are so blessed to be enjoying a time of relaxation and refreshment. This morning I was reflecting on the reality that 2 months ago Bill was gravely ill and we weren't sure what was happening. My heart was filled with thanksgiving to God and overwhelmed by His greatness and healing power. In addition to that we were reflecting on how many of you prayed for Bill specifically and us as a couple without ceasing. (James 5:16) I am not sure if you will ever know how grateful we are to all of you for your love, support and encouragement during that time.

To be sitting together on the beach in S. Florida together today (thank you Pat and Charlie) has taken on new meaning this year. I have been very convicted about the things I take for granted in my life and how I still so often function from a very selfish posture. God has been kind to meet me here, I am so overwhelmed by His love for me. Today take some time to read and meditate on Psalm 145, there is no one like our God, no not one.

February 7, Bill writes -

More than a couple of people have asked for an update concerning my health. I still find it hard to imagine that people are really concerned that much...but apparently they are so here goes: as most of you know I was on dialysis for most of December due to acute kidney failure. In answer to the prayers of thousands of people, the Lord sought to begin to restart my kidneys at the end of December. When we got the phone call on December 28th that I was to stop dialysis immediately as my kidneys were beginning to function on their own, we couldn't believe it. I had had dialysis the evening before and, if you've ever been on dialysis or have known someone on dialysis, it is brutal and grueling...at least it was for me. Every time I went for the four hour treatments, I felt as though the life had been sucked out of me. I was constantly asking the Lord for His strength to endure that process and for the ability to glorify Him through that rough season.

Even after the good news of no further dialysis treatment, I was still fairly weak. For some reason my feet and my legs from the



knees down were numb so that presented some difficulty in walking and especially going up and down stairs. Today, it feels as though my feet and legs are less numb but I'm not sure if that's true or I have just gotten used to them being that way. Either way, I'm good.

I began physical therapy last week (we had an insurance issue) to strengthen my legs as I had lost all of the muscles in them. That has been going well. Basically, I am going to physical therapy two times a week and I can already feel some improvement. One

thing that I did not mention early on - and I can't believe I didn't mention it - is that when we first told everyone that my kidneys were in complete failure, some people immediately stepped up to the plate and offered to be tested to see whether or not they could provide me with one of their kidneys. Just hearing those offers was overwhelming. Specifically, half the men residing in our transitional homes for ex-offenders made the offer and one of my sisters-in-law offered as well. By God's grace, I did not have to take anyone up on their offer. So, to make a rather long story short, I am doing well. Not 100%, but probably 85% and improving every day.

I know that I have done this a number of times before but I want to thank you again for praying for me and praying for Brenda when we were in the middle of a very difficult season. We needed each and every one of those prayers. It is just awesome to know that so many people were praying for us. We felt each one. Thank you again for loving on us the way that you have and continue to do.

Larry and Fay Buckman, FL and worldwide

We just want to take a quick moment for you to thank the Lord with us for His great love and his timing in our lives. Here are some recent stories to help you smile with us.

Once a year most of the MINTS deans from around the world gather to share testimonies of what God is doing in 550 training centers in 13 languages. In the last years we've added English to the BS and MS levels in 5 US prisons. Since these men

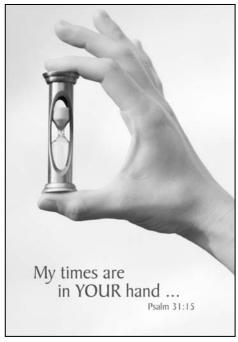
(Continued on page 18)

(Missionary Messages - Continued from page 17)

have time on their hands they can complete 4 years of seminary in 2 years. This year we have over 500 graduates worldwide in all four levels of training: Certificates; B.A.T.S. (Bachelor of Arts in Theological Studies) M.A.T.S.; M-Div.; D.Min; in 75 countries. I work in Guinea Bissau, W. Africa, Spain, Portugal, Brazil, and China.

And now I have three new holes in my belly, one below and one above my born button. Thursday, we took Dave and Janet Keener to the airport and while driving home I had this lower stomach pain. It kept getting worse, so I called the doctor. After a CT scan they told me the doctor would tell us where to go. I knew I was in trouble. Fay drove me into the ER at 7:30 and the last thing I heard the transport guy say was, "Entering at 8:30." My appendix was removed in 45 minutes. Afterwards the doctor told us that it was gangrenous. No spills, we hope. So now I can't leave town for 14 days. That means changing my teaching schedule for Peru. But then Nathan and Janelle called to say they're coming to see us right when I was planning to be teaching on the Marañon river. God's timing is perfect!!!

Now we know that God's timing is for real. Imagine if this had happened next week on the Amazon, far from a hospital. Or how about Guinea Bissau, Africa next month. Thank you Lord!!!









Wings of Prayer



I read all the time: books, Internet, street signs, billboards. I like to look for interesting quotes in what I read \sim quotes that strike a note in me and make me think. Last month I mentioned quotes from some on the Eagles football team after they won Super Bowl LII. This time, I want to talk about a quote I read that has been stuck in my mind for months. I keep mulling it over and wondering how, and if, it applies to me.

C.T. Studd was an English missionary to China, India, and Africa; he died in 1931. I think I'm going to look for a biography on this man. Why? I want to know more about a man whose life might be best summed up in his words:

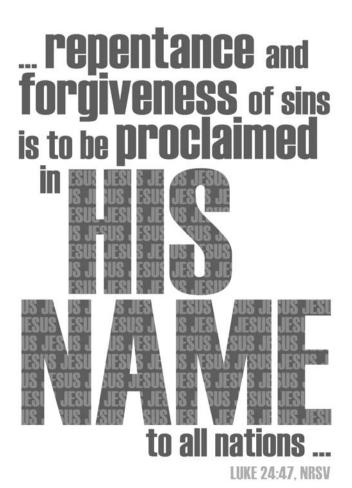
Some want to live within the sound of church or chapel bell; I want to run a rescue shop within a yard of hell.

I've been pondering these words for months. Am I content to be safe and secure in my Christian experience? Or am I diligently seeking people who need to know the joy of having Jesus as their Lord and Savior? Do I so cherish my abundant life now and eternity with the Lord that I do all I can to see others experience it, too?

God didn't call me to China, India or Africa. But He did call me to His mission where I am. He called me to live an attractive, abundant life. To share – in season and out of season –

the reason for the hope within me. And He called me to pray - to pray that God's Spirit will work in me and in this world.

As I hear the news from around the world, there is so much pain and suffering, evil and hatred – so much need. I look around my congregation, friends and family and also see great need. My prayer is that God would use me in some way to show Him and His love to others. And beginning here at home, I, like you, pray for the Earwood Family, Joan Steward, Betty Gabreck, Donna Quick, Dave Cockerham, Harry Miller, Harry Ellis, Diane McCully, Dotti Escuti, Arnie Arnold, Cheryl Averell, Matt Robb, Bill Antinore, David Shropshire, Jim Doherty, Holly Gibbons.





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.

April 13 Bob Gordon

Suzanne Hoover

Bert Stevens

April 11

			Will Walker	
April 1	Jacob Burkett	April 15	Adrianna Adams Cindy VanPelt	
April 2	Heather Chamberlain	April 18	Bill Bittle	
April 4	Lisa Santulli	April 19	Beth Stefano	
April 6	Bernard Beals	April 23	Grace Alkuino	
	Debbie Cherry Charles (Bud) Shropshire	April 24	Blessy Alkuino	
April 7	Ken Steward, Jr.	April 25	Michael D. Hoover	
April 8	Aaron Atkinson		Scott Shannon Asher Walker	
April 9	Gregory McGaurn	A ppil 27		
April 10	Marion Shallcross	April 27	Mark Burgoon Mike Tribulas	



0	
April 3	Harry and Linda Remeriz
April 5	Tom and Cheryl Averell
April 6	Frank and Susan Liberi 50 Ven and Marsia Underwood Years!
April 20	Ken and Margie Underwood Years!
April 23	Douglas and Julie Schmitt
April 25	Bill and Marion Wertz

Bayani and Grace Alkuino

April 27

A Note of Appreciation from Sherry Rappe

Our First United Methodist Church is more than just a congregation. It is a community of faith where God's love has permeated the hearts of its people leading them to carry out the Lord's work lovingly with compassion. Our church family is led by a Pastor who loves on his flock, not only with prayers, but also with his presence.

During the 9 months following Ken's traumatic accident, our compassionate church family brought meals, provided rides to the hospitals, helped take care of the house and yard, sent notes and cards of encouragement, visited Ken to lift his spirits, and faithfully prayed for us and our families. On January 15 a few of you were with me at Ken's bedside, reading scripture, praying, and singing "Because He Lives" as Ken peacefully slipped away to be with Jesus. Praise be to God, for Ken now is enjoying wholeness and perfect peace as he walks in God's light.

On January 27 we had a "Celebration of Life" at the church, just like Ken wanted. We honored him by displaying things about which he was passionate. We experienced beautiful music (Ken's favorites) and heard Pastor Sam and Pastor Ted deliver wonderful messages not only giving a personalized tribute for Ken, but also about salvation.

As I begin my new life, you continue to reach out to support me with your love. Even though this has been the worst year of my life, I have never felt so loved. I am eternally grateful that God has blessed me with such a wonderful church family.

> With heartfelt love and thanks, Sherry Rappe









Romans 6:5 reveals the hope we have because Jesus rose from the dead on Easter.

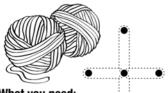


Directions: First solve the math problems. Then put the corresponding words in the blanks; for example, the word next to the answer "1" goes in the first blank, the word next to the answer "2" goes in the second blank, and so on.

2+2 = united	2x3 = death	7+6 = resurrection
3x3 = certainly	18-16 = have	4-1 = been
0+1 = if	2x4 = we	13-1 = him
2+3 = in	20-6 = like	2+5 = his
2x5 = be	$8+3 = \underline{\hspace{1cm}}$ with	
"For we	2 3	4
	a	like ,
will	als	so united
	in a	
11 12		13
14	his." Romans (6:5, NIV

certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his. Romans 6:5, NIV Answer: For it we have been united with him in a death like his, we will

Make this special cross as a reminder of Jesus' death and resurrection.

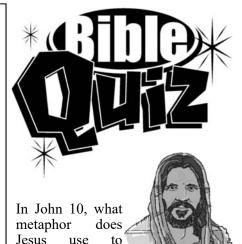


What you need:

- Adult help
- Piece of wood
- 5 nails
- Hammer
- 2 balls of yarn (blue and yellow)

What you do:

- 1. Hammer the nails into the wood to form a cross shape (see example).
- 2. Tie the blue yarn to the bottom nail. Wrap it up and around the top nail and back down to the bottom nail. Then wrap it around the middle nail and around the side nails. Repeat until the yarn is wrapped about halfway up the exposed nails.
- 3. Repeat step two with the yellow yarn. Wrap it around the nails until only the heads are visible.



A. "I am the gate ..."

B. "I am the good shepherd ..."

to

C. Both A and B

describe himself?

D. Neither A nor B

PHOFNIX

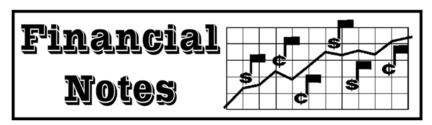
According to ancient legend, the phoenix lived for 500 to 1,400 years (depending on the version of the myth), at which time



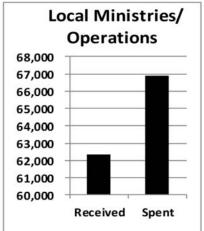
it would set its nest ablaze and be consumed in the flames. After three days the bird would be reborn and was said to repeat this cycle, "rising from the

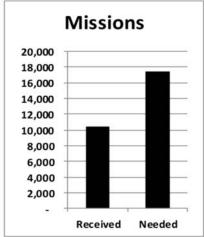
ashes" again and again. Early Christians saw in the phoenix a symbol of Jesus' resurrection and of eternal life.

Answer: C (See John 10:9, 11.)



FEBRUARY 2018 FIRST CHURCH FINANCIAL REPORT - We appreciate your consistent, generous giving as we build the kingdom together. Finances through February were as follows:







Local Ministries/Operations Account - This account supports our church's personnel, property, program and administrative expenses

and the Greater NJ Annual Conference shared ministries. The 2018 local ministries/operations budget is \$464,763. It is funded by 90% of the 90%/10% local ministries/operation-missions offerings, 100% of the local ministries/operations offerings, 90% of loose plate offerings, conference apportionment-world service offerings and miscellaneous income.

Missions Account - This account supports First Church-related missionaries, First Church-related ministries and other missionaries and ministries. The 2018 missions budget is \$104,288 or \$8,691/month. It is funded by a 10% tithe of the 90%/10% local ministries-operations/missions offerings, missions offerings, 10% of loose plate offerings and the Easter and Christmas missions offerings.

Discipleship / Sunday School Account - This account supports the Sunday School, Vacation Bible School and certain youth expenses. The 2018 Sunday School / Discipleship budget is \$17,000. It is funded by offerings given in Sunday School classes and by offerings to the church designated for Sunday School/Discipleship, Vacation Bible School and youth.

Consistent support of our Local Ministries-Operations, Missions and Sunday School / Discipleship ministries by members and friends of First Church enables us to do all we do. Thank you. We report finances to the congregation each month.

Contact local ministries-operations account treasurer, Ted Robb. for questions on the local ministries/ operations account report, missions account treasurer, Jean Robb, for questions on the missions account report and Sunday School Charles Hill. for treasurer. questions on the Discipleship/ Sunday School report.



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

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