

# FLEMINGTON BAPTIST CHURCH

## MESSENGER – JUNE/JULY, 2014

### REED'S RENDERINGS...



I was visiting with one of our more senior couples in the congregation this past week. He is a survivor of Omaha Beach and both are veterans of many years of life experience. Although he has little memory of his more mature years, she remembers and in some ways suffers for it. It is hard to remember what you have lost.

Aging is a challenge. And just as some have gilded youth, while others claw their way out of adolescence and young adulthood, so some have gilded senior years, while others languish just awaiting a way out. There is a certain injustice in it all since most of us have done little ourselves to merit either situation. Good genes, the secure economics of our family, access to good medical care and educational opportunities feed the outcomes. Of course, there are good, better and best decisions, but in the end, our lives are the consequence of many things that go unchosen.

As I age, I find I have much more appreciation for the various stages of our lives. And of course, we all age and experience the process of aging differently. But some things hold true across the board, I think. When we are young we can barely imagine being old. But once we are old, we carry within us the memories of being young. For the elderly, it wasn't that long ago that they learned to drive, fell in love for the first time, looked forward to new adventures, saw themselves as independent and full of possibility, were busy and happy raising the little ones. They can remember what it was like to wake up in the morning and "pop" out of bed. They can remember when they could get out of the house within a half hour and have matching shoes and socks on the right feet. They remember what it was like to eat whatever they liked without worrying if it would agree with them. They remember the feel of the wind blowing through their hair as they drove down to the beach in their convertible. They remember when they could pull weeds, dig out plants, cut grass, and still have the energy to entertain in the evening.

There was a time when we all were waiting to be "old enough" to drive, to have a boyfriend/girlfriend, to have our own apartment. As we step into our later years, "old enough" leaves a bad taste in our mouths. "Old enough" we are, but it comes with many limitations. What do they say about youth being wasted on the young?

And where is God in the midst of the aging process? I've been reading a book called Winter Grace: Spirituality and Aging by Kathleen Fischer. In her writing, Fischer talks about not only the frustrations and fears that come with aging, but also the benefits and assurances of aging, particularly in regard to our relationship with God. Towards the end of it she talks about resurrection as being a more important topic for the elderly than for the youth. The prospect of life coming out of death, of second chances, of new birth is of great comfort when frailty and limitation takes its toll. Those who have seen "little resurrections" throughout life, evidence of God's presence that brings light in the darkness, have confidence that the same will hold true after death.

"The elderly know that our lives are a series of births and deaths. They know that resurrection is always a miracle of the gift of new life, however it may come. They are ready, then, to see death as a prelude to yet another birth...Resurrection is always preceded by powerlessness; it is always the miracle of being given new life."

"Not only do older people find in their present experiences of dying and rising reasons to hope in the reality of life after death. They offer hope to us all. For in the paradoxes of their lives—strength in the midst of frailty, perseverance in the midst of brokenness, love despite pain and suffering, spiritual ascent transcending physical decline, faith and life-engagement at the edge of death—they witness to the miracle of new life which is the heart of the Christian faith. Older persons are winter grace not just for themselves and for each other, but for all of us."

Each stage of life holds the possibility of learning something new about ourselves, the world we live in, and the God we serve. It's up to us to honor the teachings of each period of time, to listen to each other, and to celebrate life together as one people, beloved of our Creator who brings life to each day.

"Let him easter in us, be a dayspring to the dimness of us, be a crimson-cresseted east."  
(Gerard Manley Hopkins, "The Wreck of the Deutschland")

## WHAT'S HAPPENING...



### RECOGNITION SUNDAY – JUNE 1

We'll begin the day in the dining room honoring our Sunday school students and staff at 9:30 AM. Bring a covered dish. This is also the last Sunday our choir will sing until fall, so come on out and thank them for their hard work this year. Scholarships will be presented to our college students in worship June 1 as well.

### GAME NIGHT – JUNE 6

All Sr. Highers and adults are invited to join us for Game Night on Friday, June 6 at 7 PM in the parlor. Bring your friends! (PLEASE NOTE: No game night in July – we'll resume in August.)

### SUMMER WORSHIP BEGINS JUNE 8

On Sunday, June 8, worship moves to our summer hour of 9:30 AM. We will celebrate Founder's Day and scholarships will be handed out during worship.

**Cloister Sip** starts on June 8. The sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board now. Cloister Sip hosts are responsible for refreshments (food and beverage) following summer worship. Please volunteer to be a Cloister Sip host this summer!

### WATCHUNG SPRING RALLY – JUNE 8

The Watchung Association Spring Rally will be held at First-New Brunswick on Sunday, June 8 at 6 PM.

### SENIOR LUNCH – JUNE 21

All seniors are invited to join us for a picnic lunch at FBC on Saturday, June 21 from 12 – 2 PM. Come and invite your senior neighbors or friends to join us for this time of fellowship! (Please note: there will be no Senior Lunch in July or August.)

### ROSE AND PERENNIAL GARDENS OUTING – JUNE 22

A fellowship outing is planned to the Rudolf W. Van Der Goot Rose Garden, part of Somerset County's Colonial Park (Mettler's Lane off Amwell Rd.). We'll meet at the church at 1:30 PM to carpool. In addition to the rose garden, there is a perennial garden adjacent. Lots to see and free. Join us for a time of relaxation and fellowship. Please sign up on the bulletin board outside Fellowship Hall.

### UNDER THE STARS CONCERT – JULY 3

There will be a free "Under the Stars" Concert featuring Allentown Band plus fireworks on Thursday evening, July 3 at Deer Path Park, 120 W. Woodschurch Road in Readington Twsp. Bring your picnic supper and meet at the park at 6:00 PM for an evening of fellowship. The music starts at 7 PM.

### FAMILY FUN NIGHTS IN JULY



The Catechists will be sponsoring a series of *Family Fun Nights* on the church front lawn during the month of July, which are open to our church family and the surround community. Families with children are invited for a picnic dinner followed by fun activities and crafts each Monday evening in July from 6:30 - 8 PM.

All children must be accompanied by a responsible adult.

July 7 – Carnival Night  
July 14 – Camp Fun  
July 21 – Water Fun  
July 28 – Sports Night

We are also looking for congregational members from teens on up to help us with this endeavor. Please complete the enclosed flyer and drop it in the offering plate or by the church office if you can help out.

## **CHURCH NEWS...**

### **A.E.D. TEAM RECRUITS NEEDED**

The Trustees are investigating the purchase of an A.E.D. machine. An A.E.D. is an “Automated External Defibrillator.” This medical device is used when someone experiences *cardiac arrest*. The Trustees have been advised by the HMC not to proceed with the purchase until we have recruited a group of volunteers who are willing to complete a four-hour certification class (offered through H.M.C.) and who are actually willing to respond to such an emergency in and around our church building. If you are already certified or would be willing to earn your certification and would be willing to join our A.E.D. team, please contact **Jeff Judson** at 782-1159 or [jtjudson@embarqmail.com](mailto:jtjudson@embarqmail.com). Thank you.

### **PASTOR PAM'S SCHEDULE**

Pastor Pam will be attending the wedding of Bill Stoklosa, former seminarian, on June 28. John Stothoff will preach June 29 in his absence.

Pastor Pam will be attending the ABC, USA International Ministries Conference July 19 – 26. This is a celebration of the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our first Baptist missionaries to Burma. Donna Beardsley will preach July 20 in Pastor Pam's absence.

## **IN THE CHURCH FAMILY...**

Jim Brown is dealing with a skin irritation issue.

Joan Aro's friend, Sue, is still at HMC in an induced coma after complications from a bowel issue.

Prayer asked for Barbara Blodgett's brother-in-law, Charlie Blodgett, whose wife, Rachel, passed away.

Judy Brown's friend, Jerry, is fighting cancer.

Kelly Kendig, Tammy and Brett's dad, was a patient at Jefferson Hospital earlier this month. He has since been released and will begin a chemo/radiation regimen for treatment of a tumor.

Ruth Compton's friend, Chris, has many medical issues that need to be attended to before her back surgery can be scheduled.

Linda Krukovsky asks for prayer for her brother who was hospitalized with shortness of breath.

Sarah Williamson asks for prayers for her cousin, Larry, with reoccurring melanoma.

Sue Stothoff asks for prayer for their neighbors who suffered a tragic loss in the suicide of their son.

Joan Cornick asks prayers for Lou and herself as Lou deals again with treatment for bladder cancer.

Cheri Roth's dad has been placed on hospice.

Lois Stewart asks for continuing prayers for her friend who is still in the hospital with many issues.

Congrats to the whole McQuilken clan on the announcement that Ryan and Dorothy will be adding another member to the family come Nov. 6!

The Fleming girls are happy to announce they have a new cousin named Cassidy Isabella. Congratulations to the entire family.

Brianna Ubel is graduating from RVCC and will be heading to the U. of NC-Charlotte to study in the fall; Shannon Ubel has finished her recent projects and is now on assignment in Detroit.

Matt Rasure, former seminary intern here, will be ordained at First Baptist – Medford (MA) on June 1. His wife, Rachael, will be ordained as an Episcopal priest on May 31<sup>st</sup>. Congrats to both on this milestone.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**

<b>June</b>	1	Denise Braun
	3	Jeffrey Judson
	4	Leesing Menke
	7	Tommie Lou Judson
	9	Anna Nicolson
	10	Lou Cornick
	14	Steve Kernan
	15	Adam Rwagasore
	17	Edward Britton, Jr.
	25	Phyllis Abel
		Peter Reid
	26	Elisa Rogler
		John Reid, Jr.
		Valerie Struble
	28	Anne Smaldone
	30	Lara Macumber
<b>July</b>	1	Alexis Muhumure
		Cheryl Roth
	3	Joan Aro
	4	Preston Cody
		George Roksvaag
	5	Donald Griffin
	6	Pam Reed
		Mary Norma Roth
	7	Greyson White
	8	Molly Kernan
	9	Angela Goetz
	12	Linda Krukovsky
	13	Nancy Britton
		Keith Kelly
		Lois Stewart
	18	Faith Harper
	24	Lisa Keiderling
	30	Nancy Hollmann
	31	Whitney Stoneking

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Anniversary Date</u>	<u>Years</u>
Ryan & Dorothy McQuilken	June 2, 2007	7
William & Judith Britton	June 3, 1961	53
Don & Jane Griffin	June 5, 1955	59
Doug & Barbara Kerr	June 9, 1973	41
Bob & Nancy Hollmann	June 10, 1972	42
Bob & Barbara Herder	June 11, 1955	59
Wayne & Leesing Menke	June 19, 1983	31
Jim & Anita Bush	June 20, 1970	44
Jeff & Sue Hoffman	June 29, 1985	29
George & Janice Martin	July 5, 1981	33
Gerald & Stephanie Hoffman	July 6, 2013	1
Steve & Gloria Mann	July 7, 2013	1
Bobby & Anna Nicolson	July 8, 1978	36
Jim & Colleen Rossetti	July 13, 1980	34
Dave & Joan Aro	July 18, 1969	45
Jason & Kelly Kuster	July 25, 1998	16