

Messiah United Methodist Church

Taneytown, Maryland

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# MESSIAH'S Saddle Bags

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AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2009

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## PASTOR'S PAGE

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AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2009

Dear friends,

I hope all of you have been having a pleasant summer. I have missed many of you at church due to these vacations. I have not taken any summer vacation as yet, but I did get away in May to attend the graduation of my nephew from Asbury Theological Seminary (Methodist) in Wilmore, Kentucky. While down there I managed to visit the Cane Ridge Meeting House, the scene of the beginnings of the First Great Awakening about 1799, to be present for a retreat at Gethsemane Abbey in Bardstown, and to go to Louisville to see a long time friend. My nephew received a degree in Christian counseling and will begin his Ph.D. in psychology and counseling from Virginia Commonwealth University. I also attended a retreat led by Eileen Quinn at Bon Secours Spiritual Center in Marriottsville for three days in May. Al Patterson, our Lay Member to the Annual Conference, and I represented Messiah Church at the Baltimore-Washington Conference in Baltimore this June.

Please remember to keep up those pledges to our church during the summer months. Bills still need to be paid, and the offerings historically go down during this season of the year. Most importantly, we hope to see your smiling faces in church when you are not away.

Kevin Koeppen, our missionary with Campus Crusade for Christ at the University of Wisconsin at Stevens Point, preached at our church on Sunday, July 12. Kevin gave a fabulous and heart-moving sermon on evangelism that touched the hearts of many. We are proud to be sponsoring such a dedicated and gifted young man. He wanted to thank the church for its support last year, and he is working on raising support for this coming school year. I am hopeful that we can continue with additional donations. The Missions Com-

mittee is proposing to the Church Council that our congregation take up a special offering for Kevin's missionary work on the fifth Sunday in August. We hope to have Kevin back some time to hold a workshop on evangelism. Kevin is the nephew of Steve and Tess Koeppen. Checks should be made out to Messiah Church with the designation on them that this is for the support of Kevin Koeppen.

We are starting to make plans for the fall. So far I have compiled a list of activities, but all future events for September have not been set as yet.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Vacation Bible School**, August 3-7, sponsored by Caring and Sharing Ministries at Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, 6:30 to 8:30 PM. For more information contact Kelly Stitely.
- **Church Council**, August 10, 7:15 PM
- **Missions Committee**, Tuesday, August 25 at 6:30 PM at church.
- **United Methodist Men's Meeting**, Tuesday, September 8, 7:30 PM. All men are invited to come.
- **Rally Day Breakfast and Program**, Sunday, September 13 at 9:00 AM.
- **On September 13 our morning worship service will change** from 9:30 to 10:15 AM until mid-June next year. Our Christian Education officers and teachers will be installed at this Rally Day program.
- **Church Picnic**, Sunday, September 13 after church at the Taneytown Memorial Park. Please bring a dish to share. For more information contact Marilyn Stonesifer, Bob Rock, or Diane Kicas.
- **Church Council**, Monday, September 14, 7:15 PM
- **United Methodist Women's Meeting**, Tuesday, September 15, 7:30 PM downstairs in the Youth Room. All women are invited to attend and join.

(continued on page 2)

## UPCOMING EVENTS, *continued*

- **Church Council's Strategic Design Planning Session with the Rev. William Chaney** on Saturday, September 26 at the church from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. All Church Council members, chairs of committees and/or a representative from these committees and organizations, and church staff are expected to be present. Hopefully God will give us some new direction for the new year. Many of you heard William Chaney, our discipler guide for the Baltimore-Washington Conference, at the United Methodist Men's retreat in March at the home of Joe and Dottie Watkins. He is an excellent speaker. All who attended spoke highly of him.

- **The Wednesday Night Bible Study taught by Beth Shank** is scheduled to resume Wednesday, August 5, at 7:00 PM at church, and continue on through the Fall. All are welcome to attend. Beth will conclude her studies on the Parables of Christ.

- **Worldwide Communion Sunday**, October 3, 10:15 AM. Please come dressed in costumes from around the world and attend an international dinner downstairs afterwards.

- **The United Methodist Women** invite any interested women in going with them to **Pennsylvania for a tea**. Come and enjoy scones, sandwiches, soup, cakes, salads, and various kinds of tea. This is open to the first forty women who pay and register. The exact date has not been set as yet, but it will be some time this fall.

- **The United Methodist Women will be selling soup and sandwiches** to all who pre-order them. This will take place on Saturday, November 14.

- **The Missions Committee met under the leadership of Valerie Thompson**. Plans are underway to have a missionary speaker, a new emphasis on the Heifer Project, and Minute for Missions in our worship service. **The committee commended Bill and Marilyn Stonesifer** for representing our church on the Poolesville Church's Volunteers in Mission trip this July. Hopefully others can serve on missions trips next year.

- **The Pastor hopes to begin a prayer group and or/spiritual formation group** some time this fall. Watch for future details.

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## Messiah United Methodist Blood Donors

BY MARILYN STONESIFER

The following people donated blood during our last Blood Drive in May:

Gary Dupel, Bill Hoy, Wilson Speak, Bill Stonesifer, Marilyn Stonesifer, Wes Stonesifer, and Nancy Weller.  
Many thanks!!!



### Coming Blood Drive

There will be another Community Blood Drive on Wednesday, August 19, 1009, 1:00-7:00 at the Fireman's Activities Bldg., Memorial Dr., Taneytown. Please call Marilyn, 410-756-5640 to schedule an appointment.

ing as many church activities and committee meetings on one night as possible).

Matt and I will be dinosaur hunting across the U.S.A this summer, so I hope to grab up some more ideas from the churches we attend. If you have seen or heard of some idea, please list it in the newsletter or tell the chairperson of the committee that could use it. We could piggy-back on the idea or shape it to fit our congregation. Thanks!

## Member of the Nomination Committee

BY CHRISTIE PIAVIS

I have enjoyed all of the various committees for which I have volunteered at Messiah, except Nursery with the crying babies. As a member of the nomination committee, I worry that I might be overlooking someone during nominations. Please pray about your gifts and how you could use them for God's Kingdom, and then volunteer. Working on a project for church keeps my focus on God and keeps me connected to my church family. Please get connected by volunteering for 2010. Let any nominating committee member know of your interest!



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## Something to Think About

BY CHRISTIE PIAVIS

I always check out what other churches are doing – hoping to get some ideas for Messiah. Why re-invent the wheel? Here are two ideas from my moms church – a tailgate party and an all church family night ministry (stack-

## Chancel Choir News

Chancel Choir rehearsals will resume on Thursday, Aug. 27<sup>th</sup> at 7:15 p.m. On our first evening, we will have a 30 minute anthem rehearsal and then have a reading session for our new Christmas cantata. Please bring a cold drink as the weather is unpredictable in August and it may be very hot in the sanctuary.

I hope to start each Thursday evening with a short warm up and hop right into the Christmas cantata until 8:00 p.m. We will work on anthems for the upcoming Sundays from 8:00 p.m. until 8:45 p.m. I could use a hand setting up chairs in preparation for choir rehearsal, distributing music and folders and collecting music, folders and replacing chairs at the end of the rehearsal. I suggest that we arrive close to 7:00 p.m. just to catch up on things so we can be ready to sing at 7:15 sharp.

I ask that anyone wishing to join the Chancel Choir should contact Leslie (410) 876-9181 before the rehearsals begin so that I may have a folder of music ready in advance. If my phone number is long distance, just see me after church on Sunday.

## Music Program Notes

Yes! The Christmas cantata has already been picked. This year, the Chancel Choir will be presenting “Hope Has

Hands”, graciously donated by Tess and Steve Koeppen in memory of Gerry Robinson. There are many styles of music with a wonderful message of hope. I’m sure Gerry would be thrilled.

I also have a new musical/drama in the works to welcome the Advent season. This program includes music and comedy and a chance for almost anyone to be a part of the show if you would like. Contact Leslie for more details.

The children and Joyful Noise Choir will be participating in a musical called “Hark, the Angel Sang Off Key” this year. If you would like to join the chorus, please let me know. Everyone is welcome.

Special thanks to all who have provided special music during the summer months. Thanks to the Joyful Noise Choir for being good sports and rehearsing thru the summer.

Start planning now for World Communion Sunday, Oct. 4<sup>th</sup>.

Costumes are available for anyone that would like to participate. I can’t wait until the International luncheon. (I love food—what can I say?)

More news & specifics will follow in the next newsletter.

—LESLIE GABLER



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## What Does A Church Council Do?

(Taken from the *Church Council Guidelines 2009-2012*, available from Cokesbury)

The church council is the primary group responsible for the overall ministry of the local church. It exists to create and supervise the strategic plan for the local congregation so that the congregation fulfills its mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ. That mission is the same for every congregation. What that mission looks like and how it is fulfilled depends on each congregation's context. When we talk about what mission “looks like,” we are talking about vision. Mission is global; vision is local. Vision is a complex and wonderful way to help people find their place in the community of faith and the work of God.

What is our vision for Messiah? How are we to fulfill the mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ?

Vision needs to be shared. Vision is not the equivalent of someone's favorite program or activity. Vision is not the result of majority rule or domineering personalities. Vision comes from God through the voices of God's people. As a team of congregational leaders, the church

council provides leadership for the congregation by working with the pastor to build a shared vision for discipleship and ministry. You build a shared vision by listening to God, to one another, and to people in the congregation and community. Through deep listening you begin to notice the recurring themes in what people are saying. These themes are crucial for identifying God's call in our midst.

Vision is a picture we carry in our mind (both individual and corporate) of what Messiah looks like in the future. What is God saying to you about Messiah? What have you heard about Messiah from the Taneytown community? Have you shared any of this with a council member?

The strategic plan for discipleship through our congregation serves as a road map for mission and ministry.

On Saturday, September 26, Messiah's council will get together for an all day strategic planning session. Between now and then please talk with members of the council about your thoughts and responses to the above questions.

—MARY BUZBY, Chair, Church Council

## Conference celebrates 225th session

*“And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.”*

*– Acts 2:42-47*

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With an oven, a little cookie dough, and an open mind, a small church in western Maryland turned a problem into an opportunity.

Last October, the Rev. Melissa Rudolph of Christ-Ballinger Creek UMC in Frederick had to find a way to prevent students from a middle school next door from congregating – and occasionally fighting – in the church parking lot. The principal of the school suggested putting up a “No Loitering” sign that would potentially force students to go straight home.

But Rudolph and her laity had a better idea: Instead of asking the students to stay off of the church property, they saw it as an opportunity to share Christ with area youth in a way that was not threatening or “in-your-face” evangelism.

Their idea? They baked cookies.

What started off as 10 students receiving cookies after school at the church has now swelled to more than 200 12-to-14-year-olds. The popular weekly event is now known as *The Wednesday Cookie Connection*.

“We asked ourselves what we as a church could do to make the students feel welcomed,” Rudolph said. “Many of the students had never seen the inside of the church before. Now they come to the church to have cookies, play ping-pong, foos ball and participate in various workshops that are facilitated by our laity.

“We want the students to see our church as a part of their community. We want them to feel welcomed. We did that with chocolate chip cookies,” she said.

Rudolph and the members of Christ-Ballinger Creek are just one of the many churches radically living out the theme of the 225th annual session of the Baltimore-Washington Conference: “Extravagant Grace, Share Your Faith.” It is their Pentecost Mission.

In his state of the church address at the 2009 Annual Conference, Bishop John Schol urged the conference churches to live a Pentecost experience and to become “an unbound and outbound church.”

“These are unbound, outbound congregations – Pentecost mission churches,” Schol said. “Walking through their doors is an act of courage. Maybe your congregation is on its way or trying to get started to be unbound and outbound. We commit to walk with every church that wants to become a church of 1000 doors, a church that is a verb, a church that is about Monday through Saturday.”

Bishop Schol added that many of the conference churches, like

Christ-Ballinger Creek, are already living a Pentecost Mission. He said that 300 churches have already achieved Acts 2 church status, halfway to the conference goal of 600 in 2012.

“I also believe through the power of the Holy Spirit and your giftedness, we will see at least 600 of our congregations grow new disciples, increase worship attendance, engage worshippers in community mission and give 100 percent of their apportionments,” he said. “This will be a sign and wonder of the movement of God throughout the Baltimore-Washington Conference.

“I am also glad we are not working alone on this, but other conferences throughout the connection are committed to the same fruit. Your bishops and general secretaries have agreed that making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world is our number one priority,” he said.

Bishop Schol’s State of the Church was preceded by an opening worship service that included a sermon from the Rev. Robert Allan Hill, dean of Marshall Chapel and the chaplain at Boston University. Hill encouraged conference members to “stand with your people in the face of daily anxiety,” which he defined as “fear seeking a cause.”

Thinking of Hill’s theme, Rudolph realizes that she and the church could have given into anxiety and just kept the students from loitering in the church parking lot. Instead, she chose to lead a church that is unbound and outbound.

“We asked ourselves what we can do as a church to minister to these young people,” Rudolph said. “We try to understand and speak to their struggles. We want them to see church in a new and different way.”

Schol said that as more churches follow a similar model of reaching out to the community in bold and new ways, he is confident that the conference and the denomination can reverse the 40-year trend of declining membership.

“Some wanted to go back to Egypt, while others wanted to melt down the Gospel’s radical call to seek justice, love kindness and walk humbly with our God for more palatable golden images of success and prosperity,” Schol said, referring to two differing groups that have struggled with declining membership.

“But today there are signs that we are entering a Pentecost mission season in which we are Spirit-filled and mission-focused. In this season we will be anchored by tradition and freed to innovate, create and take risks – a time in which the church will be unbound and outbound.”

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Amidst the praise and worship celebrations during the three-day session, the conference members voted on various motions and lifted up several milestones:

- As part of an ongoing partnership with the Baltimore-

Washington Conference, Bishop Young Tai Park and nine pastors from the South Conference of the Korean Methodist Church attended this session of annual conference. The Korean Partnership began in 2002, and has gained momentum with cultural exchanges and meetings between conference pastors and laity. Bishop Park, leader of the Nambu (South) Conference, preached at the Service of Remembrance and the Koreans shared their culture at a reception.

- Bishop John R. Schol ordained 12 women and men as Elders and one woman as a Deacon at the Ordination Service. Seven others were commissioned as provisional members.

- The conference recognized 26 retirees, representing 638 years of service.

- Members voted on, and passed by a two-thirds margin, 31 denominational Constitutional Amendments, one of which formalized two churches in Bermuda becoming official members of the Baltimore-Washington Conference. Many of the other amendments addressed the global nature of the church, changing the words “Central Conference” to “Regional Conference.” Amendment 1, which would have changed the constitution to read “we are in ministry to all,” (without regard to race, color, national origin, status or economic condition) did not pass.

- Conference members adopted recommendations from the Task Force on Appointment Policies, Compensation Expectations and Practices that outline policies and requirements for pastoral appointments. The Rev. Vivian McCarthy, chair of the task force, said the goal of the committee and their recommendations is to ensure clarity of conference policies toward building and sustaining healthy congregations and to be clear in compensation and appointment guidelines. It is not, she said, an attempt to target small churches. One of the notable recommendations brought forth by the task force that will help to decide whether a church receives a full-time or part-time pastor is that tithes and offerings must comprise at least 75 percent of the church’s income.

- Members also approved a 2010 conference budget of \$17,733,032, which represents an increase of 3 percent over 2009, and adopted a benevolence factor of 19.5 percent.

- During the stewardship report, members heard that as of Jan. 1, 2010, a church’s share of the medical billing for a pastor’s coverage will be identical regardless of the tier level, with single coverage costing the same as single and spouse or family coverage.

- Members approved a statement on human sexuality, recognizing that “faithful, thoughtful people who have grappled with this issue deeply disagree with one another; yet all seek a faithful witness,” and asking the church to “refrain from judgment regarding homosexual persons.”

- Thirteen conference Advance Specials were adopted for churches and individuals to support with “second-mile giving.”

- The conference explored the idea of “extravagant grace,” with panel discussions featuring the Rev. Jessicah Duckworth of Wesley Theological Seminary who spoke on ministry to young adults; and Erin Hawkins, General Secretary of the Commission on Religion and Race, who talked about building a culture of meaningful inclusiveness.

- Recognizing the participation of the Baltimore-Washington Conference during the inauguration weekend of President Barack Obama, Paul Monteiro – religious liaison in the White House’s Office of Public Liaison – said the new administration appreciates the work done by United Methodists across the country. “We will count on you to be that prophetic voice and deal with the many moral issues facing us today,” he said.

- More than \$87,657 was collected in a special offering for the HOPE Fund to benefit ministries in Africa.

- Local pastors met together in their newly formed Fellowship of Local Pastors and Associate Members.

- Marcel Jagne-Shaw, a member of Good Hope Union UMC, was introduced as the representative of the Black College Fund, which the conference supports with its apportionments.

- The proceeds from the sale of the Annapolis District parsonage were designated for the development of a new faith community and to support Hispanic ministries in the district.

- Conference members honored the lives of 32 clergy and their spouses and 11 lay members during a Service of Remembrance.

- The conference also thanked the Rev. Albert Clipp, who has served as conference secretary since July 2004, and welcomed the Rev. Mary Jo Sims as the new conference secretary.

- Joel Brown was introduced as the interim director of the Stewardship Center and Foundation. William Isberg, the conference chief operating officer, was elected to be the conference treasurer.

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—SUBMITTED BY AL PATERSON

## What do you see?

Take a look at this line of type:

GODISNOWHERE

Did you read it as “God is nowhere”? Or are you an optimist who read it as “God is now here”?



## Worship Matters

BY CHRISTIE PIAVIS

I have not yet enjoyed any sweet corn this summer, and here I am writing about upcoming fall Sunday events. But I don't want anyone to miss out on these important worship opportunities, nor my missing out on your feedback to inspire them.

Soon our worship committee will be planning for World Wide Communion Sunday, All Saints Sunday, and Veterans Sunday. World Wide Communion Sunday will feature our congregation wearing clothes that represent various nationalities and preparing dishes for a luncheon smorgasbord of delicious foods of the world.

Some folks wear lively, elaborate outfits which make the day exciting to view. To join in the fun too, I dress up in either my authentic Hawaiian shirt, straight off the back of a Hawaiian delegate during a national teachers conference, or an Irish/English rugby shirt straight from a rugby tournament in England. I encourage everyone to dress up, which is why I am giving early notice to start looking.

Our two other services are bittersweet. All Saints Day is a lovely service when we remember our saints who departed us during the previous year. The service gives us a chance to reflect on our loved one's life and to honor their fruitful living. Please give names of saints who you wish to remember during their service to Pastor Art or Leslie Gabler.

For Veterans Day, Leslie has developed a beautiful memorial presentation with pictures of our veterans – those who were/are members of Messiah or those who were/are relatives or friends of church members. Please give any new pictures to Leslie to make this memorial significant to everyone. All pictures are returned.

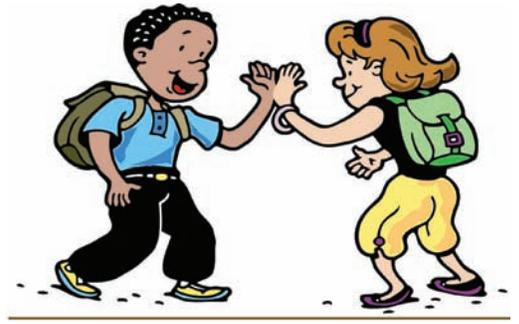
Other special services for this fall are Rally Day, Stewardship Sunday, Pastor Appreciation Day, and Thanksgiving Sunday. The educational Committee has sponsored

Rally Day, while the Finance Committee with Sharon Lookingbill, the church treasurer, have sponsored Stewardship Sunday in the past. Tess Koeppen blesses our sanctuary with an awe-inspiring harvest display for Thanksgiving Sunday.

If you have any ideas for these upcoming events, please see Pastor Art, a worship committee member, or me.

If you would like to help with or adopt any of these special events, please, we need you!

Pastor Art will perform a new activity to celebrate the new school year called The Blessing of the Bookbags. It will be a children's sermon to lift up all students and adults who work with kids. It will connect Sunday and God to the rest of our regular week by lifting up our gifts and vocations and dedicating our children to God's glory as they march



off to school with their bookbags. Please bring bookbags or lunch boxes to church on that special Sunday.

Of course, every Sunday is special because it is God's day. I hope you can join us every Sunday!!!

## Coffee Hour

BY CHRISTIE PIAVIS

The church council decided that when the church is sponsoring a special event, there would be no coffee hour that month. The church picnic, the rally day meet and greet, World Wide Communion Day luncheon, and the Christmas Cantata fill all fall months, only November is free.

To me, it seems like a long fall without grabbing a drink, chatting, and catching up on family news, so I might sneak in an unofficial Coffee Hour with drinks and treats if requested or suggested.

Brenda Miller suggested that we have a coffee hour on the Sunday we celebrated our graduates. I was glad that Brenda called me because it was a very meaningful time for all who come down to Fellowship Hall after the worship service. I know my son Matt was overjoyed with C.H. that day, so please give me suggestions.



## Church Picnic!

BY MARILYN STONESIFER

Our church picnic will be held this year on Sunday, Sept. 13, in the hopes that we will have a better attendance. It will be held at Taneytown Memorial Park at 12:00 noon. The church will provide the meat, drinks, and place settings. Everyone is asked to bring a dish (with something in it!), and sign-up sheets will be at the church closer to the date. Games are being planned, along with fellowship & fun. Please plan to attend & get to know each other outside of church and meetings! See you there....



*"If my people who are called by my name  
humble themselves, pray, seek my face,  
and turn from their wicked ways,  
then I will ... forgive their sin ...."*

2 Chronicles 7:14, NRSV

## United Methodist Men

BY ED MILLER

Our annual Father's Day Breakfast was held on Sunday, June 21, featuring delicious food and good fellowship. Thanks to all men and women who participated in the preparation and cleanup. This event was a big success.

Except for the summer, UMM normally meets on the first Monday of the month. Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, September 8 at 7:30 pm, as the first Monday in September is a holiday. All men are invited to attend.

## Displaying Faith in the Display Case

BY CHRISTIE PIAVIS

For July, Matt, Meg, and I used our national colors to honor our country, and we placed various crosses to represent our freedom of religion and our freedoms to express our uniqueness and our individualism. The cross is our loudest statement that we have a God who loves us, and so many of us have a personal cross that reflects our personal need for a savior. We thought it would be interesting to view, so we hope you are willing to share your cross and why it is important to you.

For August, we will use the "Footsteps in the Sand" poem and sea shells to express how God is always with us. "I will never leave you nor forsake you."

September will be back to school month, and our display will celebrate education, one of John Wesley's passions. Our founding fathers believed that education was the key to democracy.

October's theme will be harvest, in that we reap what we sow.

November will add thankfulness to our harvest display. If you have any items that you would like to share or any ideas for the display case, please connect with me.

## Christmas Cantata Reception

BY CHRISTIE PIAVIS

It's never too early to think about Christmas. We always have a joyous time in Fellowship Hall after receiving the Chancel Choir's powerful testimony in song. Is there anyone in the congregation who would enjoy setting up and organizing the dessert reception that follows the cantata? Please see Christie for this ministry opportunity.

### CHRISTIAN SYMBOLS—Bronze Serpent

The Bronze Serpent or Brazen Serpent on a Cross is a symbol for Jesus. In John 3:14-15 (NRSV), Jesus said, "And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life."

Jesus was referring to an Old Testament story, when God sent poisonous serpents because the Israelites grumbled impatiently in the desert. "And the Lord said to Moses, 'Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.' So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live" (Numbers 21:8-9, NRSV).



## Child logic (for Grandparents & Parents...)

1. She was in the bathroom, putting on her makeup, under the watchful eyes of her young granddaughter, as she'd done many times before. After she applied her lipstick and started to leave, the little one said, "But Grandma, you forgot to kiss the toilet paper good-bye!" I will probably never put lipstick on again without thinking about kissing the toilet paper good-bye....

2. My young grandson called the other day to wish me Happy Birthday. He asked me how old I was, and I told him, 62. My grandson was quiet for a moment, and then he asked, "Did you start at 1?"

3. After putting her grandchildren to bed, a grandmother changed into old slacks and a droopy blouse and proceeded to wash her hair. As she heard the children getting more and more rambunctious, her patience grew thin. Finally, she threw a towel around her head and stormed into their room, putting them back to bed with stern warnings. As she left the room, she heard the three-year-old say with a trembling voice, "Who was THAT?"

4. A grandmother was telling her little granddaughter what her own childhood was like: "We used to skate outside on a pond; I had a swing made from a tire; it hung from a tree in our front yard. We rode our pony. We picked wild raspberries in the woods." The little girl was wide-eyed, taking this all in. At last she said, "I sure wish I'd gotten to know you sooner!"

5. My grandson was visiting one day when he asked, "Grandma, do you know how you and God are alike?" I mentally polished my halo and I said, "No, how are we alike?" "You're both old," he replied.

6. A little girl was diligently pounding away on her grandfather's word processor. She told him she was writing a story. "What's it about?" he asked. "I don't know," she replied. "I can't read."

7. I didn't know if my granddaughter had learned her colors yet, so I decided to test her. I would point out something and ask what color it was. She would tell me and was always correct. It was fun for me, so I continued. At last, she headed for the door, saying, "Grandma, I think you should try to figure out some of these, yourself!"

8. When my grandson Billy and I entered our vacation cabin, we kept the lights off until we were inside to keep from attracting pesky insects. Still, a few fireflies followed us in. Noticing them before I did, Billy whispered, "It's no use Grandpa. Now the mosquitoes are coming after us with flashlights."

9. When my grandson asked me how old I was, I teasingly replied, "I'm not sure." "Look in your underwear, Grandpa," he advised, "mine says I'm 4 to 6."

10. A second grader came home from school and said to her grandmother, "Grandma, guess what? We learned how to make babies today." The grandmother, more than a little surprised, tried to keep her cool. "That's interesting," she said, "how do you make babies?" "It's simple," replied the girl. "You just change 'y' to 'i' and add 'es'."



### TRAVEL BY DAY OR NIGHT

The way people travel has changed over time, but one thing has not changed — God was with people in biblical times just as He is with you and your family as you travel during your summer vacations.

Count the number of letters for each name, and then write the name in the spaces next to the verse that matches. (Hint: Besides counting the number of letters in the name, also pay attention to whether the person is from the Old Testament or New Testament.)

#### NAMES

Paul Moses Joseph The Israelites Abram crowds  
Samaritan Jesus Naaman Angel of God

#### VERSES

"The \_\_\_\_\_ had been traveling in front of Israel's army ...." Exodus 14:19

"And \_\_\_\_\_ went out from Pharaoh's presence and traveled throughout Egypt." Genesis 41:46

"Go in peace," said Elisha. After \_\_\_\_\_ had traveled some distance ...." 2 Kings 5:19

"\_\_\_\_\_ traveled through the land as far as the site of the great tree of Moreh at Shechem." Genesis 12:6

"\_\_\_\_\_ traveled through that area, speaking many words of encouragement to the people, and finally arrived in Greece." Acts 20:2

"\_\_\_\_\_ traveled about from one town and village to another, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God." Luke 8:1

"Large \_\_\_\_\_ were traveling with Jesus." Luke 14:25

"\_\_\_\_\_ traveled to the plains of Moab and camped along the Jordan across from Jericho." Numbers 22:1

"\_\_\_\_\_ led Israel from the Red Sea .... For three days they traveled in the desert ...." Exodus 15:22

"But a \_\_\_\_\_, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him." Luke 10:33

Answers: Angel of God; Joseph; Naaman; Abram; Paul; Jesus; crowds; Samaritan; Moses; Israelites; The Israelites

# I JUST WANT YOU TO KNOW

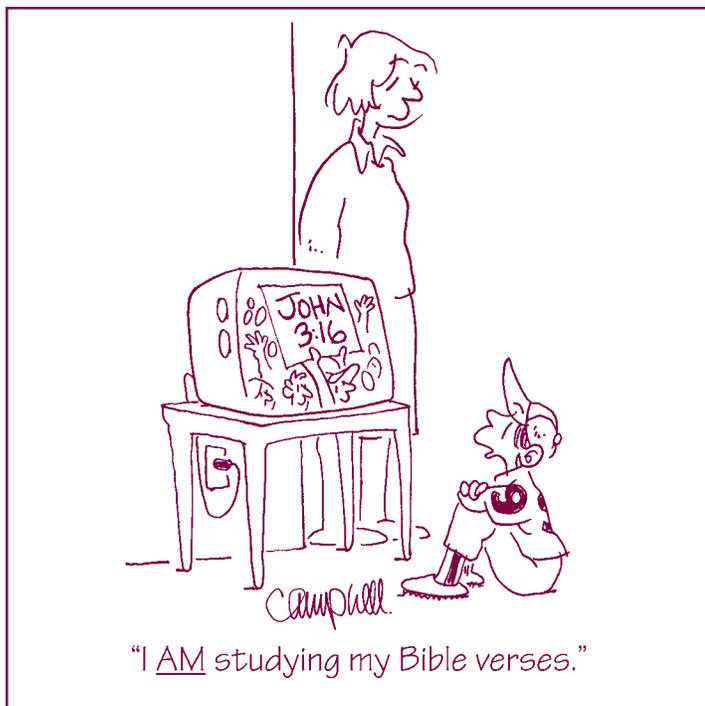
## BY RELIENT K

Oh but human being We all need to quit Being inhu-  
mane / You probably learned the golden rule as a child:  
“Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.”  
So often we take that verse and reword to say, “Do unto  
others / as they do/ unto you.” We justify our actions  
because others treated us badly first. But God wants us  
to treat others the way we want to be treated/ before/  
they do anything to us. He also wants us to treat others  
the way we want to be treated/ after /others treat us  
unkindly. As we strive to be more like Jesus, we need  
to make the traits and characteristics that he taught us  
more a part of our everyday lives. Jesus was kind, gra-  
cious, understanding, and patient. But how often do we  
treat those around us with those qualities? Today, make  
a list of the ways you wish others would treat you, and  
then strive to do the same.

—1 Peter 3:9

Don't repay evil for evil. Don't retaliate with insults  
when people insult you. Instead, pay them back with a  
blessing. That is what God has called you to do, and he  
will bless you for it.

—AL PATTERSON



# ROCK 2010

Registration for ROCK 2010 opens one week  
after the week of Labor Day, 2009.

ROCK 2010 dates are January 22, 23, and 24th  
in Ocean City Maryland.

—AL PATTERSON

## GROWING UP FAST!

In September, Monarch butterflies migrate to warmer climates. In God's wonderful design, these butterflies have gone through an amazing transformation. This craft will remind you of the ongoing transformation that God has planned for you, too.

### What you need:

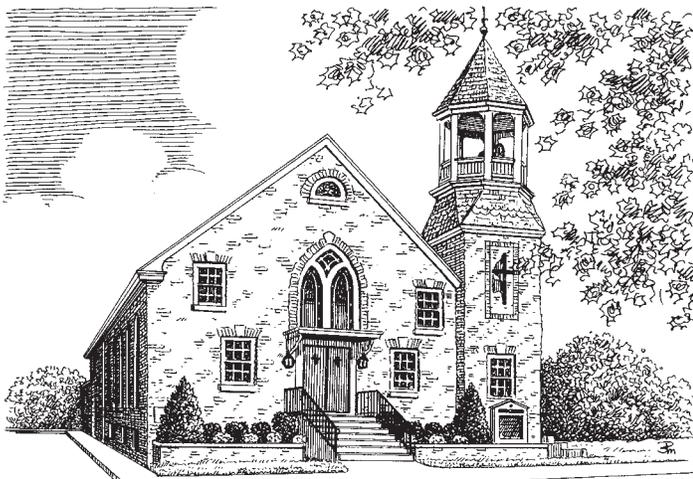
- Clear, one-gallon zipper baggie (with no writing)
- Colored tissue paper
- Scissors
- Wooden, one-piece clothespin
- Pipe cleaner
- Black permanent marker
- Glue and wiggly eyes (optional)
- Magnet tape

### What you do:

1. Turn the baggie inside out and rub it on your head to create static cling. Then turn the baggie right-side-out again.
2. Cut tissue paper into 2" x 2" squares.
3. Fill the baggie with tissue squares.
4. Press excess air out of the bag and zip it. Lay the baggie on its side (this will form the butterfly's wings) so the zipper is at the top.
5. Pinch the baggie with the clothespin so it divides the baggie into two equal parts to create the butterfly's head and body.
6. Thread the pipe cleaner through the hole atop the clothespin to form the antennae.
7. With a permanent marker, write "Romans 12:2" on the bottom half of the clothespin.
8. Draw on eyes (or glue on wiggly eyes).
9. Attach a strip of magnet tape to the back of the clothespin. Then display the butterfly on your refrigerator.

**MESSIAH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
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Messiah United Methodist Church

Taneytown, Maryland

**MESSIAH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

Office Phone: 410-756-6085  
Pastor's Study: 410-756-6092

REGULAR SCHEDULE

Sunday School for All Ages

9:00 A.M.

Worship at 10:15 A.M

SUMMER SCHEDULE

(in effect through September 5)

Worship at 9:30 A.M

No Sunday School



Visit us on the web at:  
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IN REMEMBRANCE OF  
**SEPTEMBER 11**