

TOUCHSTONE / Summer 2006
**The United Methodist Church
of Franklin Lakes**

**454 Pulis Ave.
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Rev. Elizabeth Quick, Pastor

A Future Not Our Own

A poem by the late Archbishop Oscar Romero

It helps, now and then, to step back
and take the long view.
The kingdom is not only beyond our efforts,
it is beyond our vision.

We accomplish in our lifetime only a tiny
fraction of
the magnificent enterprise that is God's
work.

Nothing we do is complete,
which is another way of saying
that the kingdom always lies beyond us.

No statement says all that could be said.
No prayer fully expresses our faith.
No confession brings perfection.
No pastoral visit brings wholeness.
No programme accomplishes the church's
mission.

No set of goals and objectives includes
everything.

This is what we are about:
We plant seeds that one day will grow.
We water seeds already planted, knowing
that they hold future promise.
We lay foundations that will need further
development.
We provide yeast that produces effects
beyond our capabilities.

We cannot do everything
and there is a sense of liberation in realizing
that.

This enables us to do something,
and to do it very well.
It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a
step along the way,
an opportunity for God's grace to enter and
do the rest.

We may never see the end results,
but that is the difference between the
master builder and the worker.
We are workers, not master builders,
ministers, not messiahs.
We are prophets of a future not our own.

Recently, members of our Administrative Council finished reading Brian McLaren's *The Secret Message of Jesus* together. The author included this poem in one of the closing chapters, and I find it deeply moving. In this life we share as a congregation, let us always remember what we are about, and what role we play in this journey of discipleship. This summer, wherever your plans may take you, I encourage you to look out for signs of the coming of the Kingdom of God among us. God is always moving among us, and God invites us to be a part of that creative process. Whatever plans unfold for you this summer, remember what we are about: we hold in our hands, in God's hands, a precious future. How will we help shape it?

Peace,
Rev. Beth

WORSHIP SCHEDULE – 8:30am Service

July 6 – Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Reflection by Rev. Beth

Prayer: The Examen

Sacrament of Holy Communion

July 13 – Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Reflection

Prayer: What Prayer Means to Me

Sacrament of Holy Communion

July 20 – Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

Reflection by Rev. Beth

Prayer: The Lord's Prayer

Sacrament of Holy Communion

July 27 – Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

Reflection by Rev. Beth

Prayer: Contemplative Prayer

Sacrament of Holy Communion

August 3 – Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Reflection

Prayer: What Prayer Means to Me

Sacrament of Holy Communion

August 10 – Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Reflection by Rev. Beth

Prayer: Prayer in the Wesleyan Tradition

Sacrament of Holy Communion

August 17 – Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Reflection by Rev. Beth

Prayer: Praying the Psalms

Sacrament of Holy Communion

August 24 – Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Reflection by Rev. Beth

Prayer: Praying for Ourselves

Sacrament of Holy Communion

August 31 – Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Reflection by Rev. Beth

Prayer: Praying for Others

Sacrament of Holy Communion

WORSHIP SCHEDULE – 10am Service

July 6 – Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Special Music

Mediation by Rev. Beth

“Seeds of Faith: Good Soil”

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23, Romans 8:1-11

Sacrament of Holy Communion

July 13 – Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Special Music

Sermon by Rev. Matt

July 20 – Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

Special Music

Sermon by Rev. Beth

“Seeds of Faith: Wheat and Weeds”

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43, Romans 8:12-25

July 27 – Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

Special Music by Rev. Beth

Sermon by Rev. Beth

“Seeds of Faith: The Kingdom of Heaven”

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52, Romans 8:26-39

August 3 – Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Special Music

Sermon by Rev. Matt

Sacrament of Holy Communion

August 10 – Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Special Music

Sermon by Rev. Beth

“Joseph: The Dreamer”

Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28, Matthew 14:22-33

August 17 – Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Special Music

Sermon by Rev. Beth

“Joseph: All in the Family”

Genesis 45:1-15

August 24 – Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Special Music

Sermon by Rev. Beth

“Out of Egypt: Moses”

Exodus 1:8-2:10

August 31 – Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Special Music

Sermon by Rev. Beth

“Out of Egypt: Holy Ground”

Exodus 3:1-15

PASTOR'S NOTES

Our Vacation/At Jurisdictional Conference

I will be away two times this summer – first, in July, I will be attending the Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference, which is a gathering of delegates from Maine to West Virginia, who, among other things, elect new bishops to serve our areas. This takes place from July 11-18. Then, from August 2nd-9th, I will be on vacation, in Central New York for a big family reunion! Please watch the bulletin for information about pastoral coverage while I am away.

Summer Meals with Rev. Beth

Now that Rev. Beth is approaching her first summer with us, she's looking forward to spending time in the more relaxing months of July and August getting to know everyone better. This summer, you'll have many opportunities to meet with Rev. Beth over a meal. If you have time during the day, Rev. Beth will have "Open Hours" at Panera Bread on Route 17 in Ramsey on Mondays from 12pm–3pm, beginning June 30. Stop by Panera any time during these hours to have a coffee, some lunch, or just a chat with Rev. Beth (no appointment needed!). Or, if you prefer, sign up for dinner with Rev. Beth. She's blocked several evenings throughout the summer to meet for dinner – either at your home, or the parsonage, or out at a restaurant. Just sign up on the schedule in Christian Passageway. If none of the listed times work for you, please let Rev. Beth know, and she'll find a time to meet with you.

Summer Worship Times and Summer Communion Service (from bulletin)

CUMAC with Rev. Beth (from Bulletin)

Summer Bible Verse of the Month – Matthew 11:28

"Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest."

OTHER NOTES

Overflow Homeless Shelter Dinner – July 11

(from bulletin)

Summer Recreation and Ice Cream Social Evenings!

Childcare Provider Position (from Bulletin)

Vacation Bible School

(I think Meg Hartwell has this info?)

Community Thrift Shop

As part of our relationship with the Community Thrift Shop in Midland Park each summer we are asked to provide volunteers to work at the thrift shop one week each summer. If you can

volunteer to work a shift from 10am–12noon or 1:00–3:00pm on July 8, 9, 10, or 11, please call Donna in the Church Office (201-891-0022).

Youth Group News

From Rose

Labels and Boxtops for Education Program

The Red Bird Mission in Kentucky serves the needs of people in the poorest parts of Appalachia with a school, a medical clinic, and other services. One way our church helps their mission work is by collecting and sending to them our labels from many Campbell's products (Campbell soups and beans, Prego spaghetti sauce, Swanson frozen dinners, Franco-American Spaghetti-O's, V-8 juices, and Pepperidge Farms products) and boxtops from General Mills products (cereals, Dunkaroos, and Yoplait yogurts). They collect these from all over the country and redeem them for school supplies, AV equipment, computers, and even vans for transportation! Put your labels and boxtops in the pink container on the Ushers Table in Voorhis Narthex, and we will send them in! This is such a small but helpful way that we can be in ministry with God's people in need.

What Is Tithing?

Tithing is the Biblical standard for returning thanks to the Lord for our blessings. As all that we have comes from God, it is only right that we should say thank you by giving back to the Lord's work in the world through the church. A tithe is 10% of one's income and is to be from "the first fruits" of what we receive. Such an amount may seem difficult, but those who have tithed have found that their blessings have multiplied all the more after doing so. Some have decided to increase 1% each year to reach the goal. Jesus said, "The measure you give will be the measure you get back" (Luke 6:38). May what we give be pleasing to God and bring happiness and blessing to our hearts.

In Search of 50-Year Members!

As part of our Anniversary Sunday Celebration in October, we will be honoring those in our church who have been members of this church, or any combination of churches, for at least 50 years. Membership begins when someone makes their profession of faith and joins a church as a youth or adult. We will honor again those who were listed last year and anyone else who is eligible. If your membership tallies over 50 years now, call the church office and let us know. We give thanks for all those who have served the Lord so faithfully through the years!

School of Christian Mission

2008-9 FLUMC Concert Series!

Following a great year, the Music Committee will be launching their eighth Concert Series in September. We're still figuring out what the concert subjects will be, but please mark your calendars now for these events:

- *September Roy Meyers Swingers, date TBA*
- *11/8 TBD*
- *12/9 A Christmas Celebration of Music*
- *2/7 TBD*
- *3/7 TBD*

We hope you can attend!

Gifts and talents Survey

Inserted in this issue of the Touchstone is a copy of our church's Volunteer Interest Survey. As we prepare for a new church year in September, this is a good time for us consider new ways we might like to serve the Lord through the church. Take a look at the list of opportunities and see if there is one or more that might be of interest to you. If you have any questions, simply call the Church Office. Then, fill it in and either send it in to the church or put it in the offering plate one Sunday.

Summer Giving

Don't forget that, just like at home, our bills at the church don't go on vacation when we do! Please do your best to keep your giving up to date throughout the summer. Thanks!

Vital Statistics

From June 15 bulletin

Creative Living Counseling Center

The Creative Living Counseling Center is a nonprofit, nonsectarian counseling center "dedicated to counseling individuals, couples, families, children, adolescents, and groups seeking greater emotional, social, and spiritual meaning." Sometimes we find we need help sorting out our feelings, our questions, or our relationships, and talking to a trained counselor can be of great benefit. CLCC has locations in Franklin Lakes, Allendale, Paramus, Glen Rock, Wyckoff, and Wayne. In Franklin Lakes, they have offices at the Presbyterian Church and Most Blessed Sacrament and can be contacted at 201-891-6478. Fees for sessions are determined on a sliding scale according to ability to pay. Rev. Beth knows several of the staff members and recommends them highly.

Congratulations to Our Graduates!

(from 6/15 – either use bulletin insert or

paste in here)

Rosebuds on the Altar

Our church has the tradition of placing a rosebud on the altar to celebrate the birth of a new baby in our church family. If you have a new baby in your family and would like to have this done, simply call the church office. Give the church secretary the information and she will order the rose from the florist and place the announcement in the bulletin. On Sunday morning, we will celebrate the news together and, afterwards, the rosebud can be taken to the parents with our best wishes and prayers for God's richest blessings.

**Please
Remember Your Church
In Your Will**

Church Office Summer Hours

The church office will be on summer schedule from June 23 to Labor Day. The hours will be Monday to Thursday mornings from 9-1. Please note the change for the summer.

Accolades!!

Accolades this month go out to:

- Bill Teevan, Anthony Masefield, Lynn Andrews, and crew, for providing a wonderful Fellowship Brunch on June 8th.
- All of Our Nursery Volunteers, for taking turns in providing child care after Rosa's last day.
- The Spirit Team, for organizing our church float in the Franklin Lakes Memorial Day parade!
- Don Meyers, for driving our float and providing his truck for the Memorial Day parade.
- Matt Labriola, for filling in preaching for Rev. Beth this summer.
- Sandy Angrisani, for making our visitors feel especially welcome.
- Our graduates, for being such a gift to the congregation, and for helping in worship on June 15.
- Rose Peligri, for leading our youth group this Spring and providing such wonderful leadership.

Congratulations and thanks to all of these and so many others who do so much for our church!
God bless you!!