

THE KEY

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Previous versions of *The Key* are available online: <http://www.cranburyumc.org/thekey.html>

From the pastor's desk...

There's a song in our hymnal that's called *Easter People, Raise Your Voices*. The third verse goes:

*Everyday to us is Easter,
with it's resurrection song.
When in trouble move the faster
to our God who rights the wrong.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
See the power of heavenly throngs.*

In addition to its official traditional place on our calendars, Easter brings us face to face with the single most phenomenal claim of the Christian faith—the promise of eternal life. It is one of our most treasured beliefs; and yet, is also one of the hardest to grasp. How can this be? How can we know that it's true?

Those of you who have been to any or many of the funerals at which I have officiated in the last 24 years are no doubt familiar with the story that I tell at virtually every service. I'm talking about *The Parable of the Butterfly*.

One day a butterfly is eating cabbages in a cabbage patch, and a friend caterpillar comes along and says to him, "You know, I had a strange dream last night. I dreamed that one day we would no longer be crawling along the ground eating cabbage leaves but would have wings and fly over the fence over there and taste the nectar of honey!"

The other caterpillar stopped eating cabbage leaves for a moment, turned and said to his friend,

"You've been working too hard. Go home and put some feet up."

With that, the other caterpillar went away as the first one went back to eating cabbage leaves. But as he ate, he suddenly began to feel very strange. What was happening? He was scared! So he began to crawl away as fast he could, hoping to leave those strange feelings behind him. But instead the feelings grew stronger.

He crawled along the ground until he came to a bush, and he thought to himself that maybe if he climbed up the bush he would be safe. He climbed as fast as he could even going out on the end of one of the branches. But still the scary feelings followed him.

Soon everything got dark, but the darkness didn't last for long. Suddenly the chrysalis broke open and out stepped a beautiful butterfly that stretched its wings in the sun. He flew over the fence and tasted the nectar of honey.

Each time I tell that story, I like to point out the fact that, if you didn't know anything about metamorphosis, and someone showed you a caterpillar and told you that someday it would have wings and fly, you'd likely find it impossible to believe. But it's science. I also would add that it's a reminder of the mysteries beyond science. We simply don't know everything, but God has given a window through which to look. As the scientist Michael Faraday has said, "Nothing is too wonderful too be true."

Much Peace and Love,

Jack

*Please remember our
members and friends in prayer.*

The Red Bird Mission	Thelma Alm
Martin Collins	Peg Harris
Ruth Hemlin	Kay Milo
Steve Pierce	Kathy Roman
Joyce Schanck	Olga Shen
Barbara Smatusek	Chris Stahl
Bette Thielman	Marcella Woodward

To add or remove a name from our Prayer list,
please contact the church office at 609-395-1737.

Welcome to our New Member

On Sunday, March 1, we were pleased to welcome Frank Vesci into our church family as an official member.

Thank You

To all my church friends,

Special thanks for all your prayers, love, gifts and many cards I have received since my return home from the hospital. Also, thank you for the many expressions of sympathy regarding the death of my daughter-in-law Audrey. *Ethel Stahl*

News from our Trustees

Our Trustees met in March to discuss the work that needs to be done on the parsonage in preparation for the arrival of our new pastor and family. Bill Kerr has accepted the job of being in charge of the parsonage renovation and plans are being made. We have already received some money towards renovations and our Trustees would be grateful for any other gifts. If you are unable to give monetarily, we will also be looking for people who are willing to share their talents near the end of June. Next month's newsletter will have more specifics as to how you can help.

If you thought that the church office and the north side of the church is a little brighter, your eyes aren't deceiving you. Ted and Gerry McClure graciously donated new lighting to these rooms in memory of Ted's son, Michael.

Calendar of Events for April 2009

April 2: Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 PM

April 5: Palm Sunday

Sunday School, 9:00 AM

Worship Services, 9:00 & 11:00 AM

Unity Lunch following 11:00 worship

April 7: Bible Study, 7:30 PM

April 8: Administrative Council, 8:30 PM

April 9: Holy Thursday Service, 7:30 PM
at the Presbyterian Church

April 10: Good Friday Service 12:15 PM

April 12: Easter Sunday

Sunday School, 9:00 AM

Worship Services, 9:00 & 11:00 AM

April 13: Church office closed

April 15: Key articles are due in church office
Women's Circle, 12:00 noon

April 16: KIDS' Club, 5:00-7:00 PM
Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 PM

April 17: Movie Night featuring
"Rear Window," 7:30 PM

April 19: Sunday School, 9:00 AM
Worship Services, 9:00 & 11:00 AM

April 21: Bible Study, 7:30 PM

April 23: Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 PM

April 25: Church Work Day, 9:00 AM - ?

April 26: Sunday School, 9:00 AM
Worship Services, 9:00 & 11:00 AM
Men's Club, 10:00 AM

April 30: Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 PM



It's almost here!

Easter morning is the time to join in the celebratory services and enjoy the fellowship as we share breakfast together. As is our tradition, the men of the church will again be preparing the breakfast, and we hope you will be there to partake! Come and bring friends and family.

Breakfast will be served in the Fellowship Hall following the community sunrise service at approximately 7:30 AM. Although there is no charge for the breakfast, donations will be accepted toward the mission programs of our church and toward the breakfast expenses. All are invited to this special time of fellowship and celebration. Hope to see you there.

If you are helping with preparation, that starts at 6:00 AM. Those serving should arrive by 7:15 AM.



We're having a Spring Clean-up Day at the church on Saturday, April 25, starting at 9:00 AM. The inside and outside will get their needed attention. It's always a couple of hours of friendship, fellowship, stewardship, and fun.

Don't Forget to Send Us Your Photos!

There's still time to send us your photos of special church events! We are looking for pictures of weddings, baptisms, confirmations, etc. The event could have taken place at our church or at another location with one of our pastors participating.

If you are willing to share your photos, please send an email to CranburyUMC@gmail.com or call Susan Danser at 609-737-1041. We promise to return them as soon as they've been scanned into the computer.

Bob & Susan

Exciting News for Mother's Day

There will be a "Mother's Shop" for our kids. It will be similar to our Christmas Shoppe. We have some very nice spa and kitchen baskets and other craft items for the kids to make their choices. Prices will range from \$2-\$10. After the kids shop, they will wrap their presents and make cards for Mom.

The date and time for this exciting adventure will be Saturday, May 2, from 10:00 AM to 12:00 noon. Feel free to leave the kids here with us for an hour that morning. We will provide snacks for them. They can also shop on Sunday, May 3, between services. On Saturday, May 9, the shop will again be open to anyone from the area that wishes to get a nice gift for Mom.

A Rear Window View of Movie Night

If you are a fan of Alfred Hitchcock or Jimmy Stewart, you won't want to miss this month's Movie Night. We will be watching "Rear Window" on Friday, March 20, at 7:30 PM. Don't forget Grace Kelly is in it too!