

# 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...

Well, this is my last article for *The Key*. It hardly seems possible, but it's true. At the moment as I'm writing this, I have five more Sundays to worship with you. Let's see how many famous phrases I can come up with about it. "Time flies when you're having fun." "Time waits for no one." "Parting is such sweet sorrow." "To everything there is a season." And finally from *The Sound of Music*, "Adieu, adieu, to you and you and you."

There are so many more ways of describing a time like this, but none of them capture the essence of what I'm feeling—they're just well-worn words and phrases that are almost too familiar to have meaning. Down deep inside of me there is a silent stirring of emotions for which I really can't find the words. But I'm going to try to express to you as best as I can what that deeper part of me wants to say to you now.

I begin with gratitude. This morning I went up into the sanctuary to sit for a while and soak up the atmosphere of that very sacred space. I could almost hear you singing and laughing. I could imagine your faces and the wonderful way that you have of being present and very alive in spirit. What came to me was how extremely fortunate I have been in these last 25 years, to not only get to know you, but to have the privilege of sharing in your lives in so many different ways. I thank you for all the joyful and meaningful moments we have had together. I thank you that you not only accepted me as your pastor but allowed me to try things that sometimes worked and sometimes didn't. I thank you for all your leadership and interest

in our work as a church—faithfully keeping our ministry alive and well with your ideas and hope. I thank you for your grace and compassion for my imperfections and inadequacies. I thank you for being what I will always consider you to be: the most generous and loving people I have ever known. And as I sat in the sanctuary, I said a prayer of thanks to God who, after all, brought us together, and who gave me one of the richest and most blessed experiences of my life!

After gratitude comes my prayer for you and for this church. I pray that each of you will be filled with peace and love and harmony within. I pray that you will be healthy and safe and sheltered from the harshness of our world. I pray that you will continue to find God in one another and in the treasured moments of your shared life as members of this church. I pray that your joy might be full, as Christ has said, and that in being together you will find strength and excitement in being God's children. And I pray that you will always know that I will be continuing to pray for each of you and for this church.

Ron Sager will become your new pastor in just a matter of weeks. I have every confidence in him that he will be just the person you're hoping for and will bring great leadership and new ideas for the ongoing ministry of the Cranbury United Methodist Church. Please give him the same support and love that you have so generously given me, as he and Nancy begin their new life among you.

God bless and keep you now and always!

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	Raul Martinez
Kay Milo	Steve Pierce
Kathy Roman	Joyce Schanck
Olga Shen	Barbara Smatusek
Chris Stahl	Bette Thielman
Marcella Woodward	The Greczyn family

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

## Bible Study Continues

We have been blessed with a consistent group of participants for Bible Study on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month. We've completed the first book in the "What's in the Bible and Why Should I Care?" series. The book focused on "What's in the Bible about God?" We had some healthy discussions around God's promises, his love and his restoring powers. The group is enjoying the fellowship with one another as we open our hearts and minds to what God's words are teaching us.

Bible Study will continue on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays at 7:30 PM. Future study topics will include the next book in the series, "What's in the Bible about Jesus?" a historic lesson on the Bible and a study on the "Fruits of the Spirit." We look forward to you joining us!

*Dorothy Robasser & Marcia Young*

## Sunday School SCHEDULE

The last day of Sunday School will be June 7 and will be during the single worship service at 9:30 AM. Hope to see everyone at class and the picnic afterwards!

Classes will resume in September.

## Fellowship Hour Hosts Needed for Summer Months

Two-person teams are requested to host Sunday morning Fellowship Hour during the summer months. Please consider hosting one of the available weeks. The sign-up sheet will be in Fellowship Hall on Sunday morning. For more information, please call Tamara and Richard Kretschmann at 609-655-3575.



## Summer Worship Schedule

Starting on June 7, we will be having one worship service at 9:30 AM with nursery care provided. Please join us as our two congregations come together in celebration.



## Church Picnic

Sunday, June 7

following 9:30 AM worship service

The Men's Club will be sponsoring this event and providing the hamburgers, hot dogs, and chicken breast for the grill. Please bring a salad, dessert, or snacks.

Activities and games are planned for all ages. Remember to bring your lawn chairs and blankets. In case of rain, we will gather in the Fellowship Hall.

## Summer Movie Nights

Plan your summer vacation around Movie Night! The fun begins at 7:30 PM each night. Since some of the movies are longer than normal, we will be dimming the lights promptly at 7:45. Our movie selections are as follows:

"The Apartment" - Friday, June 19

"Yankee Doodle Dandy" - Friday, July 17

"Rocket Gibraltar" - Friday, August 21

## From Bill Kerr's Desk...

With the new Pastor and family on the way, we need to ready the parsonage!

Some of the work we have like clean up and painting, we can do ourselves. For example, on May 23, we have an outdoor clean-up day planned. If painting is your cup of tea, Alan Strawser has posted a sign-up sheet for that work on the bulletin board.

There are also many plumbing and carpentry needs. The Trustees walked through the parsonage on March 15 and created a list of potential needs. These items were pared down to the things we absolutely need to do, and we are currently soliciting bids for that work. We are preparing a schedule for all of the work and the costs. It's clear to us that we have a sizeable expense ahead. WE are projecting expenses in the range of \$20,000.

Don Robasser and I are putting together a program to fund this expense and intend to send out a letter to church members explaining the program in the next few weeks. Some folks have already heard about our situation and have contributed some "getting started" money. To those of you who have, thank you very much because we need it!! We are going to need MORE.

The program that Don and I are preparing will layout how we will finance the work and how we will provide our church members with an opportunity to assist. Please look for a letter in the near future explaining the program.

Thanks and God Bless you!

## Congratulations 2009 Graduates!

Nicole Kerr, Melvin H. Kreps Middle School  
Janelle Van Siclen, Princeton High School  
Tim Coombs, Westminster Choir College  
Dominee Young, Masters Degree in Education

Join us for a special Coffee Hour at 10:30 AM on **Sunday, July 19**, in honor of our graduates.

Our apologies to any graduates who were inadvertently left off this list.



...and now the  
time is near...

for Jack's Farewell Celebration!

Saturday, June 13

3:00-7:00 PM

in our Fellowship Hall

Please come and join in the festivities as we say our goodbyes and wish him well!

**Remember we are gathering written messages, notes or memories for a book so now's the time.** Please send to Pat Gavenda, 25 Station Road, Cranbury, NJ 08512 or [umcfoster@gmail.com](mailto:umcfoster@gmail.com).

## Help Us Paint the Parsonage!

As we have mentioned, we are painting the inside of the parsonage before our new pastor and family arrive. We have an opportunity for you to help starting at 9:00 AM on Saturday, June 20. Bring any painting supplies you may have (i.e. brushes, rollers) and an enthusiastic attitude. We'll supply the paint!

If you are available during the weekdays, please contact Alan Strawser at 609-448-5074. He will need painters for other times during the month of June.

# Calendar of Events for June 2009

**June 2:** Bible Study, 7:30 PM

**June 7:** Worship Service, 9:30 AM  
Church Picnic in Village Park after service

**June 10:** Administrative Council, 7:30 PM

**June 13:** Farewell Celebration, 3:00-7:00 PM

**June 14:** Worship Service, 9:30 AM  
Jack's last Sunday to preach

**June 16:** Bible Study, 7:30 PM

**June 17:** Methodist Women's Circle, 12:00 PM

**June 19:** Movie Night featuring  
"The Apartment," 7:30 PM

**June 20:** Painting of the Parsonage, 9:00 AM - ?

**June 21:** Worship Service, 9:30 AM

**June 28:** Worship Service, 9:30 AM



We want to thank all of our Sunday School teachers and helpers for making this another fun year of Sunday School!

## **Calendar of Events for July 2009**

**July 3:** Church office closed

**July 5:** Worship Service, 9:30 AM

**July 7:** Bible Study, 7:30 PM

**July 12:** Worship Service, 9:30 AM

**July 17:** Movie Night featuring  
"Yankee Doodle Dandy," 7:30 PM

**July 19:** Worship Service, 9:30 AM  
Recognition of Graduates

**July 21:** Bible Study, 7:30 PM

**July 26:** Worship Service, 9:30 AM

## **Calendar of Events for August 2009**

**August 2:** Worship Service, 9:30 AM

**August 4:** Bible Study, 7:30 PM

**August 9:** Worship Service, 9:30 AM

**August 16:** Worship Service, 9:30 AM

**August 18:** Bible Study, 7:30 PM

**August 21:** Movie Night featuring,  
"Rocket Gibraltar," 7:30 PM

**August 23:** Worship Service, 9:30 AM

**August 30:** Worship Service, 9:30 AM