

# 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...

The great philosopher, Yogi Berra, once said, "If you don't know where you're going, you could end up someplace else." How true! Of course, the someplace else could turn out to be better than that which we might have thought of had we known where we were going. Sound confusing? By that I mean that life is often a series of unknown destinies. Not just geographically speaking but metaphorically speaking as well.

Have you ever had the experience of suddenly realizing that you were in a place in your life that you could never have predicted? I have, and it is sometimes joyfully amazing and sometimes not so joyfully amazing. It's the nature of life to keep us moving whether we want to or not. Time does not stand still for anyone. One day we're 10 years old playing with friends, very few responsibilities, just looking at life as time to have fun. Then suddenly we're looking for a job and getting married and having children and thinking about the economy and worrying about the future for our children.

But as patterned as the social world is, it remains unpredictable. There's not one single so-called expert who can tell us what the future holds. It's all pure speculation. And as planned out as our lives may be, there are always surprises that come our way—either for good or for ill.

I suppose that's what led Jesus to say, "Don't give any thought to tomorrow. Tomorrow will take care of itself." He was encouraging people to think

in the present moment—to live one day at a time. Of course that's easier said than done.

Several years ago I took a workshop with Jon Kabat Zinn on mindfulness. He is the founder and former Executive Director of the Center for Mindfulness in Medicine, Health Care, and Society at the University of Massachusetts Medical School. He is also the founder (1979) and former director of its renowned Stress Reduction Clinic and Professor of Medicine emeritus at the University of Massachusetts Medical School. In the workshop, he shared with us the impact of stress on our health and was emphasizing the importance of present moment consciousness. We did a lot of meditation exercises to help us focus on where we were in our lives at the moment. At first it was a lot of hard work. The human mind wants to jump ahead immediately to what we're going to do next or to replay the past—thinking about what we should have done yesterday or done differently.

I think one of the things that comes to my mind right now is that whatever our reality is at the moment it is where life has led us. We may have planned very well for our future or not, and Yogi Berra's whimsical outlook may have some kind of quirky truth to it. But this moment is where life is happening. No less than Jesus himself has said that.

*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
Audrey Stahl's family	

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

## BAPTISMS

On Sunday, January 18, Rev. Foster baptized **Kaitlyn Ashley Batista**, daughter of Mario and Amy Batista.

On Sunday, February 15, Rev. Foster baptized Daniel Michael Byrne, son of Brandi Rakes, and grandson of Nancy Hylemon.

## Movie Night Spoofs Detectives

You won't want to miss *Movie Night* on Friday, March 20, at 7:30 PM. We will be watching "Murder by Death" which is a spoof of murder mysteries. The hilarious all-star cast of Truman Capote, Peter Falk, James Coco, Elsa Lanchester, David Niven, Peter Sellers, Maggie Smith, and Eileen Brennan portray the world's greatest detectives. Please join us!

## Sunday Coffee Fellowship

Tamara and Rich Kretschmann are the new hosts of the 10:00 AM Sunday Coffee Hour between worship services. Each week they need donations of baked goods, creamer, and juice. A sign-up sheet is available on the bulletin board, or you can speak to Tamara at the next coffee hour. We also need alternate hosts to fill in during vacations and absences. So, if you need to learn your way around our beautiful kitchen, see Dorothy Robasser or call 609-448-4058.

## Calendar of Events for March 2009

**March 1:** Sunday School, 9:00 AM  
Worship Services, 9:00 & 11:00 AM  
Unity Lunch following 11:00 worship

**March 3:** Bible Study, 7:30 PM

**March 5:** Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 PM

**March 8:** Sunday School, 9:00 AM  
Worship Services, 9:00 & 11:00 AM

**March 11:** Administrative Council, 8:30 PM

**March 12:** Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 PM

**March 15:** Sunday School, 9:00 AM  
Worship Services, 9:00 & 11:00 AM

**March 16:** Key articles are due in church office

**March 17:** Bible Study, 7:30 PM

**March 18:** Women's Circle, 12:00 noon

**March 19:** KIDS' Club, 5:00-7:00 PM  
Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 PM

**March 20:** Movie Night featuring  
"Murder by Death" 7:30 PM

**March 22:** Sunday School, 9:00 AM  
Worship Services, 9:00 & 11:00 AM  
Men's Club, 10:00 AM

**March 26:** Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 PM

**March 27:** Game Night w/Potluck, 6:00 PM

**March 29:** Sunday School, 9:00 AM  
Worship Services, 9:00 & 11:00 AM



## Easter Breakfast

(It'll be here before you know it!)

Easter morning is the time to join in the celebratory services. It's also the time to enjoy the good food and fellowship that has become a tradition for our church: Easter morning breakfast. And now's the time for you to make plans to be a part of this special event. The men of the church will again provide a menu of scrambled eggs, hash browns, bacon, cinnamon buns and rolls, orange juice, milk and coffee. Breakfast service will begin 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. All are invited to this special time of fellowship and celebration. Hope to see you there.

**How can you help?** As always, we are seeking donations to cover the breakfast expenses. And men of the church can volunteer to prepare, serve, or clean up. Preparation begins at 6:00 AM, and those serving should arrive by 7:15 AM. Please see Don Robasser or Tim Norland to contribute toward expenses or volunteer to help Easter morning.

## It's the Return of Game Night! Friday, March 27 at 6:00 PM

The Men's Club is again sponsoring a Game Night for all ages, families, and groups who are looking for a fun evening and a chance to play their favorite board, card, and other games.


It's also a time to share in a great meal. Potluck is the name of this game, so bring a main dish, salad, soup, sandwiches, or dessert to share. We anticipate enough quantity and variety to satisfy all!

Bring your favorite games along with family and friends for a fun night. Expect a few surprises. Look for further announcements in the coming Sunday bulletins. See you on the 27<sup>th</sup>!

## Bible Study

Our new Adult Bible Study Group got off to a great start on the snowy night of February 4. The series, "What's in the Bible, and Why Should I Care?" guides the participants through selected passages from the Old and New Testaments, guided questions, prayer, first person stories, and sharing of insights and opinions. You may order the first book in the series, "What's in the Bible about God?" from Abington Press or ask Marcia Young or Dorothy Robasser to provide one for you.

We will meet in the library at 7:30 PM on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays of each month. Anyone of confirmation age or older, from our congregation or not, is urged to participate in this enlightening study of the scriptures. We expect this study to be a blessing to you, allowing you to be a blessing to our group and to the world. See you March 3<sup>rd</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>.



*save the date*

Saturday, June 13, 2009  
3 - 7 p.m.

*Join us for an Open House  
celebrating Jack Foster's Retirement*

United Methodist Church of Cranbury  
21 North Main Street • Cranbury, NJ