

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...

Football is here! It is no secret that I am an avid Chicago Bear fan. I really am excited at this time of the year because I really love college and pro football. As I was pondering how good the Bears might be this year, I was reflecting on how there are a few similarities between football and attending church on Sunday morning.

For instance, every Sunday we huddle up at church. God is the owner of the team. Jesus Christ is the coach giving the plays. The quarterback is the minister, who is delivering the play (the sermon) every Sunday. The team is made up of baptized believers. The playbook is the Bible. The referees are the ushers who are making sure there is order on the field (in the congregation). The choir is the cheerleading section inspiring us to execute the play. A completed pass is made every time the minister is successful in communicating the play (sermon) with a receiver (church member). A touchdown is scored every time we make a disciple for the owner (God).

Fumbles occur: when we start the game (worship service) late, drop communion bread on the goal line (at the altar rail), and when the quarterback drops the ball (people are not getting anything out of the sermon) and did not execute the play successfully.

Penalties occur: when the service goes over one hour, when there is illegal motion by the quarterback (minister) moving to do something in the service that is not suppose to happen yet.

On Sunday, the church (the team) is always on offense. The defense are those who are resisting the church from executing the play (making disciples).

The defense is always trying to knock the offense (the church) down. They do this by their negativity, complaining, and their pessimistic attitude towards life.

The offense (the church) is always building each other up. How do they build up their team? By loving, helping, and encouraging each other. In football you knock each other down, in the church you build each other up!

Jesus (the coach) has only given the team (the church) two rules: to love God first and to love our neighbors as ourselves.

In football, the object of the game is to get the most points. To win the game, your team needs the biggest score. In church, the object of the game is love. Love does not keep score and God does not keep score with the people that we love, and most importantly, God does not keep score with us.

Well, the Chicago Bears lost their opener with the Green Bay Packers. Bummer!! On God's team, the saints play every Sunday and we never lose with Jesus Christ as our coach.

I look forward to seeing you in the huddle on Sunday!

Pastor Ron

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	

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

Madelyn Jean "Maddie" Messer
July 3, 2006 – August 23, 2009



Our heartfelt thank you is extended to the entire congregation of the United Methodist Church of Cranbury for the outpouring of love shown to our whole extended family during our time of grief. Holding the family visitation times, Celebration of Life Service, and luncheon all in the church was a blessing. The people to be thanked are too numerous to be named in this newsletter, but they are with us in person and in our prayers as we recover together. Please remember to share the signs of comfort that God sends to you, so we can all be strengthened during our healing process. God Bless All.

Marcie, Lia and Nathaniel Messer
Don and Dorothy Robasser

Calendar for October 2009

October 1: Cancel Choir rehearsal, 7:30 PM

October 4: Sunday School, 9:00 AM
Worship Services, 9:00 & 11:00 AM
Unity Lunch following 11:00 worship

October 6: Bible Study, 7:30 PM

October 8: Cancel Choir rehearsal, 7:30 PM

October 10: Work Day, 9:00 AM - ?

October 11: Sunday School, 9:00 AM
Worship Services, 9:00 & 11:00 AM

October 12: Church office closed

October 13: Flu Shots, 10:00-11:30 AM
Deadline for October newsletter

October 14: Administrative Council, 7:30 PM

October 15: Cancel Choir rehearsal, 7:30 PM

October 16: Movie Night featuring
"Invasion of the Body Snatchers," 7:30 PM

October 17: Sewing Group, 10:00 AM-3:00 PM
Cranbury House Tour, 10:00 AM-4:00 PM

October 18: Sunday School, 9:00 AM
Worship Services, 9:00 & 11:00 AM
CROP Walk in Mercer County Park

October 20: Bible Study, 7:30 PM

October 21: Women's Circle, 12:00 PM

October 22: Cancel Choir rehearsal, 7:30 PM

October 23: KIDS' Club, 5:00-8:30 PM

October 25: Sunday School, 9:00 AM
Worship Services, 9:00 & 11:00 AM
Men's Club, 10:00 AM

October 29: Cancel Choir rehearsal, 7:30 PM

Piano Available!

If you know anyone who would like a piano that is in good shape, please contact the church office (609) 395-1737. Thanks!

Help Wanted

It's time again for our annual inside/outside church clean-up day. All are welcome to participate on Saturday, October 10, starting at 9:00 AM. It's always fun and many hands make for a Merry Methodist Makeover. Bring a dust rag and a donut, and we'll see you there!

Seasonal Flu Shots

Tuesday, October 13

10:00-11:30 AM

\$10/vaccine per person

Those with valid Medicare card will not be charged if card is presented at time of vaccination.

Don't Be Scared by Movie Night!

Since it's October, we decided to go with a scary movie this month. Join us at Movie Night on Friday, October 16, at 7:30 PM as we watch the 1956 version of "Invasion of the Body Snatchers." You won't want to miss this classic sci-fi movie!

Cranbury House Tour

Every year our church sanctuary is on the Cranbury House Tour. This year's tour will be on Saturday, October 17, from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. We would like to have someone in the sanctuary during this time to answer any questions about the church. In the past, we have had three people sign up for two-hour increments. If you would like to help out, please contact the church office.

Men's Club Meeting

Sunday, October 18

10:00 AM in Room 4

Sew What?!

If you have a sewing machine gathering dust or have been looking for a time to learn to sew, we have an opportunity for you! Our new Sewing Group will meet on Saturday, October 17, in Room 4 from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Charity projects are available if anyone wants to get involved. If you have any questions, please contact Dorothy Robasser (609) 448-4058.

What is Stewardship?

Stewardship is not just raising funds;

It's raising Christians.

Stewardship is not a matter of budgets;

It's a matter of faith.

Join us on the CROP Walk

There's still time to sign up and get your sponsor sheet so you can participate on this year's CROP Walk. This year the walk will take place on Sunday, October 18, in the Mercer County Park. If you can't walk, you can still help by sponsoring those who are walking.

Change of Date & Time for Special KIDS' Club

Don't forget to mark your calendar for Friday, October 23! We will be having our KIDS' Club Halloween Party 5:00-8:30 PM. Tell our your friends and get your costume ready because it's going to be a fun night!

Fall/Winter Clothing Drive

Start cleaning out your closets! We are collecting fall and winter clothes for our Clothing Drive this month. Please make sure the clothes are in good condition and mark the bags (i.e. Children, Men, Women). We can't accept any clothes after October 31.