



The KEY

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The United Methodist Church of Cranbury

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From the pastor's desk...

Wow! We are entering a new year, 2010. A new year filled with new opportunities and new challenges. A new year that will bring us joyous moments and unfortunately difficult and sad times.

I always look forward to a new year because it's like having a nice, clean slate. Whatever mistakes or failures I experienced in 2009, well that's in past. I don't mean to be so dismissive about my mistakes; but I know forgiveness is available, and our faith keeps us committed to striving after ideals.

A new year provides an opportunity for resolutions. To live more fully, to love more generously, and to be all God created us to be. John Wesley himself said that we are to strive after perfection, not that we will attain it, but that it is a worthy goal to strive for.

Some people will say they are not going to make any resolutions because they can't keep them anyway. Shouldn't we at least make an effort to eat better, exercise more, to love and care for our neighbor, to make up for missed opportunities, to forgive when we haven't, to bury the hatchet instead of carrying it, to right our wrongs when we can, and to continue to grow so that we might become more effective as disciples with a passion to transform the world.

One way to help you succeed in your resolution keeping is to seek out two or three friends with whom you can be open and honest. Make sure they will be open and honest with you as well. Also, find friends who will tell you what you need to hear, not what you want to hear. With that kind of support and accountability, you have a greater chance of succeeding. Have your friends check your progress weekly.

Good luck with your resolutions, and remember it is better to have tried and failed than to not try at all and succeed at doing nothing.

Happy New Year!

Pastor Ron



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

Prayer List

Please remember our members and friends in prayer.

The Red Bird Mission	Thelma Alm
Martin Collins	Peg Harris
Ruth Hemlin	Noah Larkin
Raul Martinez	Kay Milo
Eileen Mortimer	Steve Pierce
Kathy Roman	Joyce Schanck
Olga Shen	Barbara Smatusek
Chris Stahl	Bette Thielman
Marcella Woodward	
Emma & Dick Ziegler	

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

Baptism

On Saturday, December 12, Blake Patrick Kearney was baptized by Pastor Ron. Blake is the son of Sandra and Todd Kearney.

"Too Much" at Movie Night

Make a resolution to start the new year by joining the fun of Movie Night. On Friday, January 15, at 7:30 PM in the Barclay Room, we will be watching the Hitchcock 1934 classic "The Man Who Knew Too Much." Don't miss the intrigue.

Snow Will Be Falling at KIDS' Club!

Be prepared for blizzard conditions when you arrive at KIDS' Club on Thursday, January 21. Once again, it's time for our annual snow events. You are invited to take part in the fun, food, and craft on that date. The time is 5:00-7:00 PM. Be sure to sign up on the sheet so we know how many snow people will be coming. See you there!

Another Successful Clothing Drive

We received a letter from the Rescue Mission of Trenton thanking us for our donation of clothing. The total weight of the clothes was 1,200 pounds. That's a lot of clothes!

Calendar of Events for January 2010

January 1: Church office closed

January 3: No Sunday School
Worship Service, 10:00 AM

January 6: Bible Study, 7:30 PM (change in day)

January 7: Chancel Choir rehearsal, 7:30 PM

January 10: Sunday School, 9:00 AM
Worship Services, 9:00 & 11:00 AM

January 13: Administrative Council, 7:30 PM

January 14: Deadline for February newsletter
Chancel Choir rehearsal, 7:30 PM

January 15: Movie Night featuring
"The Man Who Knew Too Much," 7:30 PM

January 17: Sunday School, 9:00 AM
Worship Services, 9:00 & 11:00 AM

January 18: Church office closed

January 19: Bible Study, 7:30 PM

January 20: Women's Circle, 12:00 noon

January 21: KIDS' Club, 5:00-7:00 PM
Chancel Choir rehearsal, 7:30 PM

January 24: Sunday School, 9:00 AM
Worship Services, 9:00 & 11:00 AM
Men's Club, 10:00 AM

January 28: Chancel Choir rehearsal, 7:30 PM

January 31: Sunday School, 9:00 AM
Worship Services, 9:00 & 11:00 AM

More Men's Club News

Watch for more information on these other events that the Men's Club already has scheduled or hopes to sponsor in the New Year:

Princeton Women's Hockey outing –
Saturday February 20,
Princeton vs. Yale
Admission: FREE!!

Mother/Daughter Banquet – April 24, 2010

This is a new event that we are considering for 2010. It could be a great fundraiser for the church as we are looking to open it up to members of the community. We are looking for volunteers who could help to plan the event. Specifically, we need assistance with planning the menu and the program. Please look forward to announcements that will be made during the church services in January. For further information, please contact Bob Warznak at (609) 737-1041 or rwarznak@gmail.com or any member of the Men's Club.

Church Family Game Night
Community Easter Breakfast
Church Talent Show
Annual Church Picnic
Trenton Thunder Baseball Game

All are invited and welcome to join the men for their regular meetings on the 4th Sunday of each month at 10:00 (between services) and help make these fellowship events even better with your ideas and support.



Please remember to treat our church home like you would your own home. When you are leaving (especially if you are the last one out), please check to make sure the stove pilot lights are on, the oven is off, the thermostats are turned down, the lights are off, and the doors are closed and locked. All of us are responsible for keeping our church home safe. Thank you!



Thank You

The Christmas Shoppe was a success once again (over \$2,000). All the work the elves did to help make it a success was greatly appreciated. Work for the 14th Christmas Shoppe will begin in February. If you would like to be part of the work team, let Gerry McClure know. You do not have to be creative to be a part of the team. Help is needed in areas other than creativity.

Please save shoe boxes (with removable lids), jewelry boxes, large paper shopping bags (with handles), and Christmas tags (with sticky backs). Thank you once again!



In 46 B.C., Roman emperor Julius Caesar first chose January 1 as the date of the new year. Six hundred years later, the Roman church proclaimed that the new year would henceforth be March 25, the date of the Feast of the Annunciation (when the angel spoke to Mary).

March 25 was the accepted New Year's Day for almost 1,000 years. In 1582, Pope Gregory XIII moved it back to January 1.