



Fall 2015

The Dove Express

The First United Methodist Church of Avalon

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The Pastor's Corner

I believe it was Yogi Berra who once said, "You've got to be very careful because if you don't know where you are going, you might not get there." Fortunately for our Church, we know where we are going and we are getting there.

Our Church each year has developed a Ministry Action Plan, which describes the steps that will move us forward to becoming a more vital congregation. Our plan helps us determine our future and what kind church we will become.

Our number one priority is to continue to develop and maintain a creative and inviting worship for everyone. We will get where we want to go by maintaining a vibrant worship experience and by creating a welcoming worship environment. For the sixth time in 7 years, we will be blessed with the music of the Cadet Chapel Choir of the United States Military Academy at West Point on Sunday, September 13th at 10 am. On this special Sunday, over 25 young men and women will sing their songs of faith in God and our country as we worship together. Please invite your friends, relatives, and neighbors to this inspiring time of worship.

On Sunday, September 20th and 27th, we will initiate two new members into our faith community through the Sacrament of Baptism. Ryan Carter Way, the son of Brian and Ashley Sykes Way and the grandson of Valerie and Jack Sykes, and Franklin Ballinger, the son of Lyndsey and Sharon Ballinger and the great-grandson of our Director of Music, Doris Walters.

As we move through the last four months of the year, I would ask God to continue to bless us as we work together to increase our Church's vitality in ministry and mission. My hope is that we will always be a church of warm hearts and active hands. See you in Church.

Grace and Peace,

Dave

Pastor Dave

The Church Conference 2015: A More Efficient Way of Doing Our Work

This Fall our District will be using a new model for Church Conference. Across the Greater New Jersey Conference the majority of congregations will be gathering for Super Saturday Church Conferences. The purpose of holding these Super Saturday Church Conferences is to:

1. Provide each congregation with separate space and a designated Elder to lead participants through the necessary discussion and decisions reflected in votes.
2. Gather 100 or more leaders and members from 10 or more congregations in worship to celebrate what God has done and is doing in our lives.
3. Provide several workshops to resource our ministries in several areas to strengthen vitality.

For our church, all of this will be accomplished in less than three hours on the morning of Saturday, October 24th at the South Seaville UMC.

Under this model, our Church will become partners with four other local churches: North Wildwood, Wildwood Crest, John Wesley in Swainton, and Asbury in Egg Harbor Township. Our Church Conference will begin with registration at 8:30 – 9 am, followed by our Church Conference beginning at 9 am and ending at 9:40. There will be a worship service from 9:40 – 10:25 and workshops from 10:35 until 11:50am at which time we will have completed all our work.

This is a model that is finding success across the United Methodist Church and building energy around mission and ministry.



Did You Know?

It all happened in Wildwood! This year's Annual Conference saw the largest number of people attending the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference in its 15 year history. More than 1,700 people attended this event at the Wildwoods Convention Center on May 28 – May 30th, 2015.

Circuit Elder Appointment

The historic role of an elder in United Methodist history included the acceptance of a shared responsibility with the superintendent to directly resource and support local churches and clergy. To this end we are going to utilize "circuit elders" to assist local congregations and support pastoral leaders.

In an effort to support local congregations more effectively, our District Superintendent, Rev. Brian Roberts has appointed our Pastor, Rev. Dr. David Montanye as one of four Circuit Elders in the Cape Atlantic District. This newly created position, which took effect on July 1, 2015, will include the following responsibilities: to work with 3 – 4 churches within the Cape Atlantic District to develop ministry action plans that interpret the work of congregational vitality, to identify congregational strengths, and to preside over special church conferences, and when needed, to provide leadership and guidance in administrative matters.

The appointment as a Circuit Elder is for one year and will involve working closely with Asbury UMC in Swainton, the North Wildwood UMC and the First UMC of Wildwood Crest and their pastors. According to Rev. Roberts, "This is truly an exciting time in the life of the Greater New Jersey Conference. There are a number of indicators that show that our shared efforts are creating positive results, stirring vitality, and moving Christ's Church forward. I am looking forward to working with turn-around spiritual leaders like Pastor Dave who can help local churches establish a pathway to greater vitality."



Church Pictorial Directory Photography Event

September 20, 2015

Sunday 11:00 – 4:00

Photography will be done at the Church. This event is open to our friends and extended family members. FREE 8x10 photo and a copy of the directory for participating. We need YOU to make the directory complete!



Youth & Young Adults Discipleship Journey

IGNITE is more than a Youth conference. It's more than bands and speakers. It's about a generation. A generation united for Jesus Christ, equipped to make a difference, and IGNITE our hearts and soul.

Register online at <http://www.ignitenj.org>

You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven. – Matthew 5:14-16

West Point Cadet Chapel Choir

The West Point Cadet Chapel Choir provides an environment for the spiritual development of cadets through the celebration of musical liturgy in the Protestant tradition and by supporting fellowship and service outside West Point. The Cadet Chapel Choir will sing during the worship service on **Sunday, September 13th at 10am.** Please come and enjoy the music and a fellowship time at the reception following worship. Be sure to bring friends, neighbors, and relatives.

Women's Circle

The Women's Circle, the women of The First United Methodist Church of Avalon meet the **3rd Tuesday of each month** for brunch/lunch at The Links Restaurant. Please join us! There is a sign-up sheet at the back table or call **Louise Baehr @ 536-2814.**



Christmas Bazaar

It's not too early to start thinking about our Christmas Bazaar on **December 5th.** Remember we will need items for Christmas decorations new & used, new gifts (with original boxes), and books. We will be having our gourmet food table, Christmas cookies, and baked goods. Start thinking about how you can help us with any of these items. For more information contact Nancy Doell.



New Members Invitation

Have you thought about joining the First United Methodist Church of Avalon? Membership in the United Methodist Church involves making a simple commitment to support this faith community with your prayers, your presence, your witness, and your gifts. You can become a full-member, an associate member or an affiliate member or if you have never been part of a faith community simply profess your faith in Jesus Christ. If you are interested, please speak with Pastor Dave.

The First United Methodist Church of Avalon



Thanks To Our Fantastic Fundraiser Workers!

This summer's fundraisers were a success and it is all because of your hard work and dedication. Thank you for your service to God and our church.

Here are the results:

Chicken BBQ Dinner raised \$3,066.00

Peach Festival raised \$1,209.00

The New Avalon Assembly Chautauqua-at the Jersey Shore

A thank you goes to all those who participated in the New Avalon Assembly this year. There was an average of 12 people that attended each of the five presentations.

Thanks goes to our Mayor Marty Pagliughi for kicking the program off and to Norman Gluckman, Director of the Avalon Free Public Library for their support.

The New Avalon Assembly is a member of the nationwide Chautauqua Trail.



Membership Recognition

In worship on August 16th, we recognized our newest members: John and Angela Chubb. John and Angela Chubb come to us by letter of transfer from Marrow Memorial UMC in Maplewood, NJ. Welcome to our church family!

Stay Connected

A new Church Family Directory was recently distributed by email. If you would like a copy, please contact the Church Office at avalonmethodist@hotmail.com. If you have had a change of address or email address, let us know. We always want to make it easier for everyone to keep in touch. Let Brenda, our Church Secretary know how others can reach you by emailing us or calling the Church Office at (609) 967 – 4204.



Church Family Member

Dr. Raymond Francis

The First United Methodist Church of Avalon

FOCUS ON MISSION

Our 2015 Communion Offerings and Mission Projects meet a variety of needs in Cape May County, in Camden, New Jersey, and in Atlantic County, and around the world. Our focus continues to be on our local children and families, and on supporting the work of the United Methodist Committee on Relief.

Communion Offerings

September 6th - Red Bird Mission



October 4th - World Communion Sunday

November 1st - UM Student Sunday

December 6th - UMCOR

Mission Projects

September:

Sneakers for Kids (Payless Shoes Gift Cards)
Glenwood Ave. Elem. School in Wildwood

October:

Caring for Kids, Inc. in Cape May County

November:

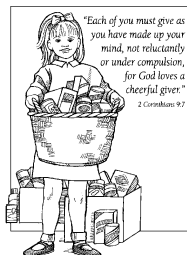
Coats, Socks, Hats, Gloves
Glenwood Ave. Elem. School in Wildwood

December:

Giving Tree: Christmas Help for CMC Families

Gleanings: Please be a part of our monthly mission in support of local Food Pantries. We help support the Food Pantry ministry at various Food Pantries in the community. Cape May County has reported a serious shortage of food for those less fortunate.

Thank you in advance for your generous gifts.



Pencil these dates on your calendar:



September

September 11th: Overholt/Haefner Wedding

September 12th: Chubb/Burke Wedding

September 13th: West Point Cadet Choir

September 20th: Ryan Carter Way Baptism

September 21st: Women's Circle 11 am

September 26th: Harrington/McGhee Wedding

September 27th: Franklin Ballinger Baptism

September 29th: SPRC Meeting - 7 pm

October

October 4th: World Communion Sunday

October 24th: Annual Church Conference
8:30 - 11:50 am

November

November 1st: All Saints Sunday

November 15th: Healing Service

November 11th: Veterans Day

November 22nd: Ecumenical Thanksgiving
Service @ First UMC of Avalon - 7:30 pm

November 26th: Thanksgiving

Looking Ahead

December 5th: Christmas Bazaar

December 13th: Greening Service

December 20th: Christmas Cantata

December 20th: Christmas Caroling 11:30 am

December 24th: Christmas Eve Worship 7pm