



# Kemble Connection Newsletter

*Kemble Church is a welcoming, caring, and faithful Christian community offering hope and support to make a difference in the world through God's Word and our deeds.*

**February, 2015**

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## **Pastor's Page**

**"By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be my disciples." (John 15:8).**

Over the past few weeks, millions of people have been evaluating their lives and making resolutions for the New Year. Have you given serious thought to the year ahead? What do you want to see happen in your life? How do you want to grow? When you consider your spiritual life, what would you like to see change? At the end of this year, I want to be able to say my year was remarkably fruitful. What sort of "fruit" are you aiming for?

As citizens of one of the most productive nations in the world, Americans have always been interested in productivity. We hold just 7% of the land, and 4.4% of the world's population, but we manufacture 20% of the world's goods. In the Bible, productivity is referred to as fruitfulness. The Bible teaches us that God wants to see fruit in our lives and in the work we do for Him.

God says it is to his glory that we bear fruit; it is the proof of our discipleship, the proof of genuine Christianity. Bearing fruit is evidence that we are Christ's disciples. God did not call us as his children just so we could be PIPs - Parishioners in the Pews. He called us so we can bear fruit.

God has made an eternal investment in our lives: the death and resurrection of his Son. By being fruitful, we "make good" on that investment.

At our Annual Church Conference in November, Kemble Church committed to having a fruitful year by setting five specific goals:

- 1 - Increase Profession of Faith 50% over 2014.
- 2 - Increase worship attendance by 10% over 2014.

3 - Increase the number of men participating in the Men's Ministry Discipleship Group by 5%.

4 - Increase participation in District and Conference events by 10%.

5 - Remit 100% Shared Ministry Funds to the Greater NJ Annual Conference of the UMC.

"The only way for a [church] ... to maximize its output is to ensure that everyone is focused on the same priorities - rowing in the same direction," wrote Patrick Lencioni in his influential book, The Advantage. These five goals will not only help Kemble Church focus on the same priorities, but also will help us row in the same direction, and make more disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Jesus told his disciples, "*I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should last.*" (John 15:16). At the end of 2015, Kemble Church will look back on the year and measure our fruitfulness in light of our accomplishments. The only measure of a fruitful life or church is whether it accomplishes what it was led by God to accomplish.

God knows exactly what He has entrusted to each of us, and He absolutely knows we each have the ability to grow. Let's see what we can accomplish together through Christ this year; and remember, only what we do for Christ will last.

Many Blessings,  
Pastor Mike

### Pastoral Leave

Pastor Harriott has announced to the congregation that he will be away on a continuing education and spiritual growth leave of absence during the month of February. If there are any pastoral care needs in the congregation during this time, please call the church office (856-845-1627) during offices hours, 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., or call Carol DeLucas at 856-906-8374, and a clergy person will be in touch with you.

### Looking Back at Thanksgiving and Christmas Projects –



Kemble's Dr. Holdcraft along with many volunteers from several area churches helped to set up and run the 'flash' grocery at the Neighborhood Center just before Thanksgiving.

\* \* \* \* \*

The Mission Committee placed Clara's Mitten Tree, an annual Christmas offering, in the Fellowship Room at Kemble again this year. Church members generously decorated the tree with 75 pairs of mittens, 25 hats, several sets of hats, gloves and scarves and 3 pairs of socks! The gifts were delivered to the Child Development Center in Woodbury and received with much gratitude! Thanks to all who helped make some children a little warmer this year.

\* \* \* \* \*



Grace Holdcraft and Barbara Kimmel are shown with fruit baskets and poinsettias ready for the team to deliver to

shut-ins, a project of UMW and Altar Guild.

\* \* \* \* \*

On Saturday, December 6, 2014, Lisa Lattanzi, Matt McQuade, Bob Aigner and Krista Aigner volunteered with A Future with Hope in Pleasantville, New Jersey. On this trip, we ripped out and disposed of old, damaged insulation and reinsulated the crawl space under a house. We were excited to have one of our youth, Krista, with us. She helped dispose of the old insulation, and then went into the crawl space to install the new insulation. It was dark in there, so no pictures!

\* \* \* \* \*



When Laura Carroll proposed 'Project Linus', making blankets for the children at the Alfred I. DuPont Children's Hospital, she was wonderfully surprised by the response she received. Members made over 60 fleece blankets for her to deliver to the hospital. Pictured with their handiwork are some of the blanket-makers. First row: Alison Martin, Pat Martin, Mary Jane Warfle, Linda Haigh. Second row: Sue Carroll, Laura Carroll, Grace Holdcraft. Contributors not pictured: Andrea Giedosh, Lisa Clark, Margie Green.

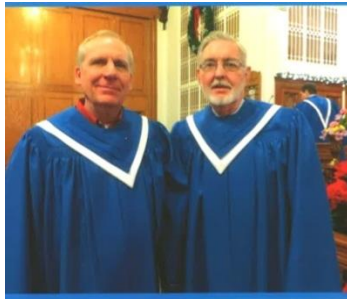


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Coordinator Joy Wagner thanks all who purchased gifts for the prisoners' children through the Angel Tree ministry, and the church families who delivered the gifts - about 50 in all! The children and their families were most appreciative of our help in making Christmas a little more special for them.

\* \* \* \* \*

Visiting singers joined the Senior Choir to form a "Festival Choir" for the Advent Lessons and Carols service on December 14. Their voices helped swell the sound of



*Pictured: Bob Duffield and Doug Fuller; Tricia Hutcherson; Sanctuary and Chancel choirs.*

our praise to God for the gift of His son, our Savior. Members of the Sanctuary and Chancel Choirs also participated in these special services.



## **SUNDAY SCHOOL NATIVITY PLAY ►**

Kemble's yearly Sunday School nativity pageant was presented on Christmas Eve, as well as during the 10:45am Sunday School hour on December 21, 2014. Mr. Herbert Lancaster coordinated the entire production, including casting, costuming, and narration of the entire performance. It was an informal, relaxed and fun start to Christmas week for students and teachers alike.



On Friday, December 12, 2014, twenty-one children came together for Kemble Sunday School's annual Christmas party. All in attendance enjoyed a reading of the book Humphrey's First Christmas followed by related crafts, games, and refreshments. Humphrey is a tired old camel who begrudgingly takes on the task of carrying the gifts of the wise men to Bethlehem, where he comes to realize the importance of the child in the manger before him.





## Sunday School 'Stamp Stampede' Mission Project Concludes

On Sunday, January 25<sup>th</sup>, Sunday school personnel presented a Junior Sermon on the culmination of our year-long Stamp Stampede Mission Project. Our children undertook this mission to raise funds to provide Spanish-language Sunday school supplies and Bibles to churches in South America through the Alliance Stamp Ministry.

During the sermon, the children listened to Sunday School volunteer, Rebecca Martin, read The Lord's Prayer in Spanish, illustrating the importance of having instructional material in a language you can understand. Our church's impact on the mission was further illustrated when Mrs. Lancaster presented a large bowl containing the thousands of stamps that were collected over the course of the year. The weight of the collected stamps was too heavy for many of our students to hold. The Alliance Stamp Ministry tells us that their goal of raising \$35,000 will provide enough funds to purchase Sunday school materials for students of nearly 40 denominations in almost 20 countries.



Left to right: Rebecca Martin, Haddon DeCant, April Avila, Aubrie Hingley

## Youth News



Youth Group, pictured here with Adult Leader Ryan Thomas at right, has begun to assemble personal care kits to be delivered to the homeless in Camden on March 22.

**\*\*To complete the personal care kits, youth are asking for donations of small-sized personal care items as well as small bottles of water, granola/energy bars, stretch gloves, knit hats and socks. \*\***

## 30-Hour Famine Project Underway

Youth Group members have begun collecting donations to the 30-Hour Famine Project and will continue collecting until the end of February. The project concludes February 27-28 with the 30-Hour Famine event, hosted this year by the Presbyterian Church at Woodbury. Over 100 youth will be in attendance for the 30-hour long fast.

### **\*\* Chili Cook-Off February 15 \*\***

To supplement donations to the 30-Hour Famine Project, on Sunday, February 15, Youth Group will hold its first annual chili cook-off from 3 to 5 p.m. Admission to the tasting event is \$3.00, payable at the door.

**Attention Chili Chefs:** There is no cost to enter the contest, but cooks must pre-register by contacting Dawn Durkee [ddurkee@eastern.edu or 609-221-4105].



## UMW Soup and Sandwich Fundraiser

Eat well while doing good!

*When:* Sunday, March 1, immediately following the 10:45 a.m. service

*Where:* Raver Hall to dine in, or to pick up pre-ordered take-out.

*Cost:* \$6.00 for adults and \$3.00 for children. Tickets may be purchased or take-out orders placed in the Fellowship Hall after services beginning February 15, or in the church office. Dine-in tickets are limited to 100.

Proceeds from the luncheon help to fund the UMW missions.



### ... and a bit of history:

Did you know? The United Methodist Women of Kemble have been making soup for over fifty years. It began as a fund raising event by a group of young women who called themselves the Mother's Club. It has gone through various transitions over the years: at one time the men even got into the act!

Making the Kemble soup is a united effort with the help of many hands, from the planners to those who clean up. On Friday, with the help of our custodian, Jose, tables and chairs are set up, soup pots are cleaned and made ready. The shoppers bring in the ingredients for Saturday's soup making activities. On Saturday morning, the "choppers" start on the vegetables, beef and chicken; broths are brought to a boil; soup ingredients are added and simmered all day. Salads for the sandwiches are prepared. In Raver Hall,

tables are set with cloths and centerpieces. Sunday morning, sandwiches are made, desserts donated by UMW members are made ready, beverages are prepared and the soup is reheated. The aroma of the soup rises to the Sanctuary and invites the congregation to join in the fellowship of sharing a meal.

The Soup and Sandwich fund raising event also provides a wonderful opportunity for members of different UMW Circles to work together and learn to know each other. Thanks to all who lend their helping hands.

## UMW Sunday

On January 25, the women of Kemble held their annual UMW Sunday Service. The guest speaker was Ellen Cusak, Gateway District Lay Leader, who gave a heartfelt message centered on the scripture passage John 11:17-44, the story of Lazarus, Jesus' friend who died and was resurrected. Norma Warren was honored as "Woman of the Year" in recognition of her long service to the organization. She is currently co-president of UMW with Lisa Lattanzi McQuade.

UMW has 88 active members who belong to eight different Circles. Members range in age from early 20s to late 80s. Its mission is to develop a creative, supportive fellowship, and expand the mission of the church. Through its fund raising projects, many non-profit groups are helped.

## Men's Discipleship

On the first Monday of each month, the Men's Ministry Discipleship Group meets for a time of support and fellowship. Through Bible Study and discussion, the men's ministry is designed to train and equip men to be followers – disciples – of Jesus Christ; to discover each one's God-given spiritual gifts; to build ourselves up in the faith; to build up our families spiritually; to build up our church and community for the transformation of the world.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 9, at 7 p.m. The main topic of discussion will be the sixth mark of a Disciple: Giving. As our text, *Power Surge*, indicates, we hope that all Kemble (continued on next page)

members will pray for and with each other, share insights into Scripture, help one another reflect on the ways God is present, and encourage each other.

All male members of our congregation are invited to attend the meetings, and are encouraged to bring a friend(s).

### **Join the "Festival Choir" in March!**

We received much positive feedback in response to the Christmas lessons and carols program presented to the glory of God during services on December 14. As a result of this, we have named the choir which was formed for that occasion the "Festival Choir" and will continue to offer those who love to sing, but are unable to commit to the weekly demands of a choir, the opportunity to raise their voices to worship in song at the festive music programs throughout the year.

The Festival Choir will form again during Lent. To join, please put these dates on your calendar: Sunday, March 8: stay for a light lunch and rehearsal after second service.

Sunday, March 15: present the cantata, *Journey to Easter*, at both services.

**\* Be sure to tell Christine Laquintano you wish to join, so we will have enough copies of the music.\***

This experience will add to your enjoyment of the season, as you sing about the events of Jesus' life, beginning with His entry into Jerusalem, and ending with the joy of His resurrection. For many people, music is another form of prayer: you pray once with the words and again with the music. We are excited about the contribution of the Festival Choir, and are looking forward to singing together during the Lenten season.

– Christine Laquintano, Music Director

### **Handbell Ringers Wanted**

If you are interested in playing handbells in the *Journey to Easter* cantata on March 15, please speak to Jill Magill or Christine Laquintano. Bell ringers must have a basic knowledge of reading music.

### **Food Pantry Donations Needed**

The holidays are over, but the need for nourishing food for hungry people at the Greater Woodbury Cooperative Ministry Food Pantry is greater than ever. As you shop for your family, think of adding some extras for families helped by the Pantry.

Items especially needed are infant formula, canned vegetables, fruits and soups; canned fish and meats; shelf-stable milk, boxed dinner kits (such as macaroni and cheese); peanut butter, jelly, crackers, pancake mix (complete), syrup, instant oatmeal, breakfast cereals, coffee, creamer, sugar, pasta and sauces. Of course, monetary donations are always welcome, to help purchase perishable items (checks payable to Kemble Church, noting 'GWCM Food Pantry' in the memo line). Donations may be brought to the church any time during office hours or when you attend Sunday services. Your thoughtfulness is appreciated.

### **Useful Things to Collect –**

There is a continuing need for stamps, can tabs, box tops and Campbell's Soup labels for education and coupons. These items are given to organizations which redeem them for cash or services.

-- *Stamps* – for Spanish Bibles;

-- *Box tops for Education* – to schools to help buy educational materials;

-- *Can tabs* – to Camden Ronald McDonald House to help maintain and provide food for families who stay there during a child's stay in a local hospital;

-- *Campbell's soup labels* – to the Gateway South District of the United Methodist Church to purchase educational materials;

-- *Coupons* – to Pitman Manor Shoppers. Coupons for dental hygiene, skin care, cookies, candy, facial tissues, laundry detergent, cereal and orange juice are among the most useful.

All collected items may be left in designated boxes on the counter in the rear of the Fellowship Hall.

## **“Keeping It Real: What Makes Vital Congregations”**

### **Focus for District Day of Learning, March 7**

The Gateway South District of the United Methodist Church, of which Kemble is a member, will focus on what makes a “Vital Congregation” in its upcoming Day of Learning. All members of Kemble are welcome, and Chairpersons in particular are encouraged to attend. This event begins at 9 a.m. (arrive to sign in at 8:30) at Hope United Methodist Church, 700 Cooper Road, Voorhees, NJ.

There is no charge to attend, but attendees must call Dee in the Kemble Church office (856-845-1627) so that we have a count to give to the organizers. Tell Dee if you would like to carpool.

## **Sunday School for Nursery through 6<sup>th</sup> Grade at 10:45 a.m. Every Sunday**

Sunday School Superintendent Juliet Lancaster Avila reminds all members that an age-appropriate Sunday School experience is offered every Sunday at 10:45 a.m. for children from nursery through 6<sup>th</sup> grade.

Children begin the hour with parents or friends in the worship service, then leave for their classes after the Children's Sermon. The Sunday School program brings the worship experience and the stories of the Bible to the children. Classes celebrate special days in the Christian year and participate in mission projects.

For more information, please find Juliet or her assistant, Jan Lancaster, in the Sunday School building before or after the 10:45 a.m. service, or during the Sunday School session. She is also available by phone at 856-853-8036 or by email at [jlancaster2@comcast.net](mailto:jlancaster2@comcast.net).

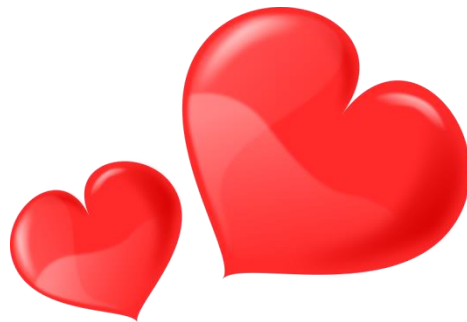
The fellowship hour following the second service on Sundays has several vacancies on the calendar. If your group or family would like to sponsor a week or month, please call Dee in the church office. Sponsors usually provide cookies and juice, and police the area afterward.

## **Welcome to Church Family -**

Hayden Walker Kern and Lahayla Joelle Kern, children of Sawyer Kern of West Deptford, were baptized on January 11, as was Lola Isabelle Kern, daughter of Virginia Morales and Donovan Kern of Mantua. The Kern children are the grandchildren of Sandra Backensto.

Isabella Marie Phelps, daughter of Heather and Daniel Phelps of Westville, was baptized on January 18. The Phelps were sponsored by Dee Ballistreri.

Also baptized on that date was John William Danenhowe, son of Nicole Clark and Walter Danenhowe of Wenonah. Sponsors were Johnny DeBlasio and Stephanie Danenhowe.



## **Calendar of Events**

February 15 – Chili Cook-off Fundraiser  
February 20-22 - Youth Mid-Winter Advance

March 1 – Soup and Sandwich Lunch fundraiser  
March 7 – Gateway South District Day of Learning  
March 8 – Festival Choir Lunch and Rehearsal  
March 8 – Youth Progressive Dinner

March 15 – Festival Choir Cantata, both services

March 28 – Sunday School Walk to Golgotha and Easter Egg Hunt

April 2 – Holy Thursday service  
April 3 – GWCM Good Friday service at Kemble  
April 5 - Easter Sunday



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**Sunday Service Times**

8:30 & 10:45 a.m.

**Sunday School**

Nursery through 6<sup>th</sup> Grade - 10:45 a.m.

*Senior Minister: Michael Harriott*

*Editors: Grace Holdcraft and Joan Zumoff*

*Photographer: Virginia Steward*

**Address Service Requested**