

Are You Bearing Fruit?

John 15 is a study in gardening; a vineyard to be more exact. Jesus says he is the true vine and God is the gardner. So what are we?

John's gospel story about the vineyard is very clear: we are the branches of the true vine and we better produce! The story starts out by stating that every branch is made clean so it can bear more fruit. Cleanliness is next to Godliness and Jesus' teaching makes us clean!

We also are connected to the true vine, which is Jesus and we are expected to "be in Jesus at all times." The branch cannot bear fruit on its own. We must be connected to the Vine to have any chance of bearing fruit. Without Jesus we can do nothing.

Then Jesus issues a warning: if we do not keep ourselves in him, we become dead and we are cut off like a dry branch. Even worse: these dry branches are taken and placed into a fire! Ouch!

But then Jesus also offers a wonderful promise: "If you are in me at all times, and my words are in you, then anything for which you make a request will be done for you."

So, are you bearing fruit?

The theme this month for our upcoming sermon series is around the topic of fruit-bearing. There are many ways to bear fruit through our time, energy, talents, and finances. God's vineyard has far too many dry branches that are not bearing fruit of any kind. God needs branches that will produce fruit for the vineyard!

Stroudsburg United Methodist Church and our surrounding community is one of God's vineyards. Bearing fruit is not only expected of us, but this fruit-bearing will benefit God's church and community here in our backyard.

As a matter of fact, God is expecting a whole lot from us!

There are many exciting things happening in our church life but even more is expected of us!

God depends on us using our gifts, talents, and skills to help the church and community. Some of us are sharing quite willingly, while others of us are somewhat reluctant to share. Fruit-bearing is the litmus test--if you are bearing fruit then you are right with Jesus; if you are not bearing fruit then you need to decide to make a change or run the risk of being cut off.

These might seem like harsh words, but they are the words of Jesus, and there is something you can do about it! Bear fruit!

What fruit are you bearing today? Can you list the fruits you are bearing in God's vineyard? Now make a list of additional fruit you are willing to produce for Jesus.



Bob Shank

Daily Scripture Readings

October 1
Matthew 28

October 2
Joshua 1

October 3
Joshua 2

October 4
Joshua 3

October 5
Joshua 4

October 6
Joshua 5

October 7
Joshua 6

October 8
Joshua 7

October 9
Joshua 8

October 10
Joshua 9

October 11
Joshua 10

October 12
Joshua 11

October 13
Joshua 12

October 14
Joshua 13

October 15
Joshua 14

October 16
Joshua 15

October 17
Joshua 16

October 18
Joshua 17

October 19
Joshua 18

October 20
Joshua 19

October 21
Joshua 20

October 22
Joshua 21

October 23
Joshua 22

October 24
Joshua 23

October 25
Joshua 24

October 26
1 John 1

October 27
1 John 2

October 28
1 John 3

October 29
1 John 4

October 30
1 John 5

October 31
2 John 1

Gather! Grow! Make a Difference!



To Serve You in October

Greeters	8:30
7	Jami Lipe
14	Ray & Alice Singer
21	Kirsten Lee
28	Joe & Carole Vuchak
	11:00
7	Vivian Cobbs & Starlet Jones
14	BJ Bachman
21	Sue & Bill Weitzmann
28	Joanne Reed
Ushers	8:30
Ray Singer	
Alice Singer	
DeAnn Harris	
Brad Hildabrant	
	11:00
Dick Seip	
Kelly Edinger	
Bob Dellicker	
Sue Gouger	
Eva Knight	
Counters	
C. J. Penwell & Pam Price	
Altar Guild	
Eleanor Bentzoni & Betty Schuler	
Soup Kitchen	
7	Pen Argyl UMC
	Tom Odenwelder
14	Wooddale UMC
	Carol Hutson
21	E. Stroudsburg Baptist - Youth
	Pastor Doug
28	PMC Internal Medicine
	Nancy Fisch



OUR CHURCH STAFF

Ministers	Everyone
Pastors	Bob Shank & Ted Good
Pastor Emeritus	Tom Anderman
Church Secretary	Jackie Herrero
Choir Director	Dave Lantz
Organist	Marti Lantz
Youth Leader	Vincent Zelizo
Handbell Director	Lynn Seip
Custodian	Matt Parton

CHURCH LEADERS

Daniel's Dream Team
 Chairperson, Boyd Butz

Worship
 Chairpersons, Ralph Harrison, Pastor Bob Shank

Stewardship
 Chairperson, Carole Everitt

Property & Building
 Chairperson, Carl Karchner

Servant Resource Team
 Chairperson, Beryl Hellgren

Missions
 Chairperson, Alberta Weber

Membership & Evangelism
 Chairperson, Peggy Stewart

Lay Leader
 Beryl Hellgren

PROPERTY AND BUILDING UPDATE:

The elevator is still foremost on our agenda. It is very near completion, waiting for inspections etc. We are all waiting for the day that we can ride on it.

The following items have been completed:

The light outside over the grassy area of our neighbor, has been replaced and is nice and bright.

The sink in the upstairs ladies room has been fixed.

The carpet in the lounge has been cleaned. (Thank you C.J.)

Other things we are looking into.

More hours for Matt Parton so that he can clean the church.

Dick Seip will work on the sidewalk in the alley way from the front of the church, to make it even and easier to walk on.

The front doors will be refinished.

There is an efficiency study being done.

Dick Seip will become a member of the Dream Team.

These are just a few of the many items on the list of "to do's" but we are working to complete all of them.

SEPTEMBER NEWS FROM SOUP KITCHEN

*“for I was hungry and you fed me: I was thirsty and you gave me water”
and the Righteous replied:*

*Master, when did we ever see you hungry and feed
you? or thirsty and gave you something to drink?”*

and I, the King, will tell them, “When you did it to these my brothers, you were doing it to me.”

“Blessed are they who are persecuted for righteousness, for the Kingdom of heaven belongs to them.”

We have seen a tremendous change in the number of guests served at the four (4) different soup kitchen events at SUMC.

YES FOUR.

SUMC still serves dinner every Sunday at 4 PM. These meals are provided by many different community groups, such as church youth and adult groups, Boy and Girl Scout troops, Community organizations and individual families.

Three Tuesdays of each month (except when we gather for our Terrific Tuesday dinner) the Women of Thunder prayer group serves dinner at 6 PM.

The second Friday of the month dinner is hosted by Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox church and Holy Cross Greek Orthodox church serves a meal on the fourth Friday.

Since July there has been a significant increase in attendance. Our average used to be 30 to 35 on any given Sunday with 50 to 60 being very high. But now the low was 63 with a high of 107 on August 19. The numbers in that month were 82, 84, 107, and 67 . The Middle Smithfield Presbyterian church provided all those meals, as they have been the cooks in August for many years.

The Tuesday and Friday cooks have seen similar increases.

The saddest part of these numbers is that not all diners are adults. Between 3 and 14 children are present almost every Sunday, as there are more families coming.

As the coordinator of the program I was worried that the participating groups would find the mission too expensive and taxing for their volunteers. On the contrary I have received letters of support from providers.

Pastor Paul from The Cherry and Poplar Valley charges wrote: “We are glad to be a part of this ministry. We now have the opportunity to serve more people in the name of Christ.”

and Rebecca Boyle, a leader at Holy Trinity says: “The added numbers actually encourage us even more. We are blessed to be able to reach out to so many in need as we have donors and volunteers in our small parish who thank you for the opportunity to carry out this ministry.”

“Blessed are they who are persecuted for righteousness, for the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to them.”

CORRECTION

The October UMW Meeting on October 23, 2012 will be held in the blue room downstairs and NOT the lounge. Nomination of officers will be held.

The SUMC Building and Property Team would like to ask the church to look at the following list of items identified by our committee as upcoming projects of the church that will need to be addressed in the future. Please take a look at the five items identified below, and rate them 1 through 5 (**1 being the most important, 5 being the least important**) in the order you would like to see them addressed:

_____ Kitchen Upgrade

_____ Church Rear Exterior Wall (pink wall in back) and New Sign

_____ Restroom Upgrade throughout Church

_____ West Side Church Sidewalk (snow/ice concerns)

_____ Floor Coverings throughout Church

Your opinions do matter! Please put your survey in the wicker basket in the rear of the church. The Building and Property Team will take all submitted surveys and discuss during our next meeting in mid-October. We will then let the church know the results of the survey. If you have additional issues that you would like discussed or know of a situation that needs attention, please notify the church office or email Bill Hardy at william.hardyiii@gmail.com or call at 730-4410. Thank you!

2012 Charge Conference

This year's Charge Conference will be held on Sunday, October 21 at 1:00 pm



October Birthdays

2	Floyd Williams
4	William Clark
4	Janet Marsh
6	Michael Fox
8	Ted Good
11	Marti Lantz
15	Alina Adams
19	Marylyn Block
22	Matt Parton
23	Matt Transue
24	Nick Herrero
28	Jim Maroney
30	Ivan Moyer
30	Lynda Williams

If you would like a card on your special day, please call the church office - 421-6020.

Congratulations to Alberta Weber!

On September 18, 2012, Dr. Alberta M. Finch received the A. Mitchell Palmer award at a dinner held at the Elks Lodge.

Representatives Mario Scavello and Rosemary Brown were in attendance along with judges, former judges and various community people. The award was presented by the Monroe County Bar Association and the Elks Club for outstanding community service. There were about 120 people present.

A program from the dinner is posted on a bulletin board here in the church.

Sunday School Teacher Introduction

Hi, I'm Bob Cool. I am the teacher for the 4th grade through 6th grade class. The class is held in the old bell choir room upstairs from

9:45 to 10:45 am. The lesson is:

“How to Grow-Proclaim-Serve”. I am very pleased and excited about teaching this class. God Bless.



Wanted: Persons available on Monday mornings from 9am- 11am, two months a year as counters.

Training and equipment provided.

If available please contact the church office or Carole Everitt at 421-0459.



The Stitch and Pray small group welcomes all persons from beginner to experienced knitter or crocheter to join us as we meet to provide comfort to those in need through our prayer shawl ministry. Meetings are held in the church lounge on the first Weds. of the month at 2pm and the third Tues. of the month at 7pm. To date we have provided 51 prayer shawls to members and friends of SUMC. For further information please contact the church office or Carole Everitt at 421-0459.

Stewardship

Our giving income through August is up by 5.5% or \$7,237.97 over last year. All bills are paid and our Conference apportionment is up to date. Thank you to all who have been so faithful in your giving over the summer months.

With a generous \$5,000 memorial donation toward the elevator project in August our total giving toward the project is \$273,012.31. On Sept. 17 another payment of \$9,730.00 was made to Edinger Construction for a total payment of \$327,325.00 and balance due of \$41,685.00 upon completion of the project. To date \$54,312 has been drawn from our P&B or Trustee accounts to meet our payments and \$96,000.00 needs to be raised to completely fund the elevator project. If you have been waiting to donate to the project **now** is the time. Please give prayerful consideration as to how you can financially support this project.

On Oct. 21 we will begin a three week series on stewardship and how we, through our time, talents and treasures, can bear fruit for Jesus. Please look for further information on the program in this Courier. We hope you will be able to attend all three Sunday services and will participate with the use of the daily devotions book available on line or in the back of the sanctuary. A mailing will be going out to all members at the end of September with further description of the program.

The Stewardship Committee asks for your continued prayers for our church and it's growth as well as for our committee as we begin our "Bearing Fruit for Jesus" program as well as the 2013 budget.

The Stewardship Committee: Carole Everitt, Fran Harrison, Paul Edinger, Dan Butz, Kirsten Lee, Ruth Weber



Hello, everyone. The Youth Group has started another exciting year!

We are sending cards to members of our congregation that need support. We have sent 4 cards so far and plan to send more throughout the year.

Our first lock in was on September 21. This was an opportunity for fellowship as we spent the night locked in the church. We played games, watched a movie, and enjoyed some delicious snacks. Thanks to Peggy Vail for chaperoning!

We have the following events planned:

October 16: Helping set up/clean up at the Softball fundraiser

October 20: Corn Maze at Mazezilla, Saylorsburg, PA

November 3: Serving food at the Holiday Boutique

November: Fall Retreat; date and location to be determined

February 22-23: 30 Hour Famine

June: Mission Trip; destination to be determined

Please check back often as we add more events. Many people have already contacted me with ideas or offers to help so I thank you and encourage anyone else who is interested to reach out to me or any of the youth.

Sincerely,

Vin Zelizo, Youth Director

vzelizo@hotmail.com

570-730-8331

UMW News

It's approaching - that time of year none of us want to think about - Christmas. However, our friends in the nursing homes look forward to gifts. Our UMW works in conjunction with Church Women United making gift bags, along with several other churches. Our goal is 36 bags. Each bag gets shampoo, deodorant, body lotion, toothpaste, a tooth brush, comb, a pen, non-spiral note pad, soap, emery boards, and a packet of pocket tissues. That is why each month a specific item is asked for - and this month it is deodorant - we need 18 to reach our goal.

Thank you to all who have contributed in the past, and to those who will in the future.

Do not forget our Holiday Boutique Saturday, November 3rd, 9am - 3pm, downstairs. 20+ vendors, and food provided by our Youth Group will be available.

Our next UMW meeting will be Tuesday, October 23, 7pm in the Lounge.

FAMILY PROMISE

- Clothing drive deadline: 10/15/2012. Drop off your usable items (clothing, shoes, pocketbooks; please pack shoes separately) Family Promise Day Center, 1274 North Ninth Street (the middle brick house on Rt. 611 on the left side going north just after Bridge Street). Pull into the back parking area. If you need help, call 420-8589 and someone will help you with your bags.
- 10/3/2012 - Martini & Manicures fundraiser at Desaki Swiftwater. Free admission plus free sushi and appetizers, \$20 mini manicures and a fall fashion show.
- 11/4/2012 - Thanks for Giving dinner at Stroudsmoor. Tickets \$45 each or 2 for \$80. Please see Kathy Cook if you are interested.
- 10/21-10/27/2012 - SUMC will be hosting a group of 4 families. A sign up sheet will be posted soon.

As always, thank you for any help or support you can provide. In these difficult economic times, it is most appreciated!



Please note the time for the Terrific Tuesday SUMC Softball Team Fundraiser Dinner on 10/16 is 6:00 pm. Sorry for any confusion!



Come

To

The

Fair

Who: All SUMC Members and Friends

When: Oct. 28 – after each service

Where: SUMC Fellowship Room

What: Second Annual Ministry Fair

Come and join the fun while learning about

SUMC Ministries and how you can become more involved.

Food, fun and prizes for all ages!!!!



Terrific Tuesday

October 16, 2012 - 6:00 pm

SUMC Softball Team Fundraiser

Spaghetti & Meatballs
Salad, Bread & Butter,
Dessert

\$8.00/person

We need help with setup, serving & clean up after the meal. Please indicate what area you can help in when you sign up for the dinner. Sign up sheets are in the back of the sanctuary.



OCTOBER 2012

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	8:30 AM Worship-Sanctuary 9:45 AM Sunday School-Children through Adult 11:00 AM Worship-Sanctuary 12:00 PM Pizza with the Pastors 1:00 PM Daniel's Dream Team Meeting 4:00 PM Soup Kitchen-Dining Room	1 7:00 PM Alberta Weber's Small Group-Blue Room 7:00 PM Mostly Monday's Small Group	2 1:30 PM Victory in Jesus Small Group-Lounge 6:00 PM Soup Kitchen-Daughters of Thunder Outreach 7:00 PM DASH Youth Group Meeting 7:00 PM Dig Deeper Small Group-Conference Room 7:00 PM Missions Meeting-Blue Room	3 10:00 AM Morning Bible Study-Lounge 2:00 PM Stitch & Pray Small Group 6:00 PM Cub Den Meeting 6:00 PM Experiencing God Small Group-Lounge 7:00 PM Handbell Rehearsal	4 10:00 AM My Brother's Keepers/Little Quilts-Downstairs Dining Room 5:30 PM Getting Ahead-SUMC 7:00 PM Scouts 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	5 12:00 PM Blood Drive-Downstairs 4:00 PM Wedding Rehearsal-Sanctuary	6 2:00 PM Wedding-Sanctuary
7	8:30 AM Worship/Communion-Sanctuary 9:45 AM Sunday School-Children through Adult 11:00 AM Worship/Communion-Sanctuary 4:00 PM Soup Kitchen-Dining Room 6:00 PM Cub Leaders Planning Meeting	8 7:00 PM Mostly Monday's Small Group	9 1:30 PM Victory in Jesus Small Group-Lounge 6:00 PM Soup Kitchen-Daughters of Thunder Outreach 7:00 PM DASH Youth Group Meeting 7:00 PM Dig Deeper Small Group-Conference Room 7:00 PM M & E Meeting	10 10:00 AM Morning Bible Study-Lounge 6:00 PM Cub Den Meeting 6:00 PM Experiencing God Small Group-Lounge 7:00 PM Handbell Rehearsal	11 Getting Ahead-Faith UMC 10:00 AM My Brother's Keepers/Little Quilts-Downstairs Dining Room 7:00 PM Scouts 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	12	13
14	8:30 AM Worship-Sanctuary 9:45 AM Sunday School-Children through Adult 11:00 AM Worship-Sanctuary 4:00 PM Soup Kitchen-Dining Room	15 7:00 PM Alberta Weber's Small Group 7:00 PM Mostly Monday's Small Group 7:00 PM Stewardship	16 1:30 PM Victory in Jesus Small Group-Lounge 6:00 PM Terrific Tuesday-SUMC Softball Team Fundraiser 7:00 PM DASH Youth Group Meeting 7:00 PM Dig Deeper Small Group-Conference Room 7:00 PM Stitch & Pray Small Group	17 10:00 AM Morning Bible Study-Lounge 6:00 PM Cub Pack Halloween Party & Pack Meeting 6:00 PM Experiencing God Small Group-Lounge 7:00 PM Handbell Rehearsal	18 10:00 AM My Brother's Keepers/Little Quilts-Downstairs Dining Room 5:30 PM Getting Ahead-SUMC 7:00 PM Scouts 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	19	20
21	Family Promise 8:30 AM Worship-Sanctuary 9:45 AM Sunday School-Children through Adult 11:00 AM Worship-Sanctuary 1:00 PM Charge Conference 4:00 PM Soup Kitchen-Dining Room	22 Family Promise 7:00 PM Mostly Monday's Small Group	23 Family Promise 1:30 PM Victory in Jesus Small Group-Lounge 6:00 PM Soup Kitchen-Daughters of Thunder Outreach 7:00 PM DASH Youth Group Meeting 7:00 PM Dig Deeper Small Group-Conference Room 7:00 PM UMW Meeting-Blue Room Downstairs	24 Family Promise 10:00 AM Morning Bible Study-Lounge 6:00 PM Cub Den Meeting 6:00 PM Experiencing God Small Group-Lounge 7:00 PM Handbell Rehearsal	25 Family Promise 10:00 AM My Brother's Keepers/Little Quilts-Downstairs Dining Room 7:00 PM Scouts 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	26 Family Promise	27 8:00 AM United Methodist Men Breakfast
28	Ministry Fair 8:30 AM Worship-Sanctuary 9:45 AM Sunday School-Children through Adult 11:00 AM Worship-Sanctuary 4:00 PM Soup Kitchen-Dining Room	29 7:00 PM Mostly Monday's Small Group	30 1:30 PM Victory in Jesus Small Group-Lounge 6:00 PM Soup Kitchen-Daughters of Thunder Outreach 7:00 PM DASH Youth Group Meeting 7:00 PM Dig Deeper Small Group-Conference Room	31 10:00 AM Morning Bible Study-Lounge 6:00 PM Experiencing God Small Group-Lounge 7:00 PM Handbell Rehearsal	1 10:00 AM My Brother's Keepers/Little Quilts-Downstairs Dining Room 7:00 PM Scouts 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	2 Holiday Boutique Set Up	3 9:00 AM Holiday Boutique

WHAT DOES IT TAKE...?

What does it take to acknowledge God's everlasting love, guiding and protecting us each and every day? Some days it's bombastic, hitting us like the proverbial ton off bricks. Other days less so, like a nudge, a tap on the shoulder, a gentle push in the right direction. Then still again, so subtle, a nuance in a day's journey that causes one to pause and realize, yes, there it is, He has revealed His hand again!

At a hospital, an outpatient had just been released from a procedure to return to the transport van. The van, parked some distance away in a space provided for it, had to be summoned. Then came the rain. The waiting area had no cover. The patient and care giver prepared to endure the downpour. Low and behold, almost without notice, serendipitously, a woman appeared beside them sharing and covering them with her small umbrella with one broken rib, askew but protective. She wasn't even supposed to be there! She, a nurse, had left at the end of her shift, but returned, conscientiously, to complete one more task and there she was! Coincidence? Divine Intervention?

One cannot possibly miss the metaphorical reference between the woman and her umbrella and God's omnipresence in our lives with His umbrella of love and assurance which covers and protects us always.

What does it take to acknowledge God's everlasting love, guidance and protection? Perhaps just a little serendipity and a woman with an umbrella!

**Saturday,
October 13, 2012
21st Annual**

P.A.T.H. Luncheon

11:00 am – 1:30 pm



Homemade Soups & Salads!

Breads ✻ Desserts ✻ Beverages

Adults ~ \$7.00

Children under 10 ~ \$4.00

Take Out Available!

at First Presbyterian Church

579 Main Street, Stroudsburg, PA 570-421-7751

Ample parking available in municipal lot behind church!

This event is sponsored by the Presbyterian Women

All Proceeds benefit the work of

Pocono Area Transitional Housing [P.A.T.H.]



The Cornwall Manor Society's Annual Fall Festival & Open House

Saturday, October 6, 2012
9:00 AM—1:00 PM

**On the grounds of Cornwall Manor Retirement Community.
No admission fee! Rain or shine!**

**Park at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Cornwall for bus
transportation to the Fall Festival.**

- Pancake Breakfast (8:00-10:00 AM)
- Pork Barbeque, baked beans, coleslaw, hot dogs, sauerkraut
- Lebanon County's Sycamore Springs apple dumplings
- Taste of Cornwall - sample items & receive recipe
- Lebanon's Patches homemade ice cream
- Candy & Baked Goods
- Silent Auction (dessert & coffee available)
- Colorful Fall Mums
- Scarecrow Making & Pumpkin Painting
- Arts & Crafts
- Musical Entertainment
- Campus Tours
- Manor Shoppe, Curiosity Shoppe & Collectibles OPEN



Cornwall Manor
1 Boyd Street, Cornwall, PA 17016
717-273-2647 | 800-222-2476 | www.cornwallmanor.org

You Are Invited....



CONNECTING THE COMMUNITY

**TEN YEAR CELEBRATION
&
REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY**

Thursday, October 18, 2012

Stroudsmoor Country Inn - Ridgecrest

7:45-8:30am ~ Networking & Tricky Tray, 50/50

8:30am ~ Breakfast served at table

9:00-10:00am ~ Annual Report

Cost: \$25.00 per person

Please RSVP by October 5, 2012

Email: poconoalliance@co.monroe.pa.us or Call: 570-517-3953

Breakfast Registration Form

Organization: _____ Number Attending: _____

Attendee Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Make checks payable to Pocono Alliance and mail to:
912 Main Street, Suite 300
Stroudsburg, PA 18360

Celebrating 10 Years of Connecting the Community!