



*The January Maple*

A friend shared this story with me recently.

I saw God's love today. I was standing in the check-out line at the grocery store and right in front of me, a cute little toddler, sitting in the child seat of the cart, oblivious to what her mother was doing with her grocery items, started smiling at me. I couldn't help myself... I smiled back. And then I began making faces at her... and she began making faces at me. Back and forth we went until her tiny little body started bouncing in tandem with her laughter. Others standing near joined in. Soon there were smiles all around. It's amazing what one tiny little baby can do to change the environment of a grocery check-out line.... and a world. Someone once said, "A smile is the shortest distance between two people." A baby is the shortest distance between God and a broken world.

It is often thought that Christmas ends by December 26th, and people begin to put decorations away on the first day off they get. But the coming of Christ into our world is just the beginning of the good news – it is not the end. Anyone with a new born knows that the fun is just beginning when the little bundle comes home from the hospital. So just because the world is wrapping up the holiday season and moving on to the next advertising opportunity – let us NOT forget about the baby Jesus who grew into a man with a mission: that mission being to redeem a lost and hurting world.

Through December we wear little pins that say, "Let's keep Jesus in Christmas". I say, "let's keep Jesus in our life! January through November, too!"

*Grace and Peace,  
Pastor Wendy*





**WHO:** You! Middle Schoolers, High Schoolers, & their Adults

**WHAT:** A winter weekend mini-mission trip. Why wait until the summer to serve with your team?

**WHERE:** St James UMC in Philadelphia. The historic parsonage of St. James has been converted into retreat housing with bunk beds to sleep 28, and there is plenty of sleeping bag space in the church as well!

**WHEN:** President's Day Weekend, February 16-18, 2018.

We will arrive on Friday night at 7:30pm for worship and to get sorted into crews. On Saturday we will serve either at St. James church or in the local community and end the day with worship. On Sunday morning we are attending church with the St. James congregation or return home as schedules dictate. Fun Fact: since it's a long weekend, you still get some time for a little R&R.

**WHY:** St. James UMC is a big beautiful church in Philadelphia that had dwindled over the years. Enter 2016 & Pastor John Brice, when the conference highlighted the need to give St. James a little TLC and the doors were opened wide to the community. Pastor John decided he did not need the large parsonage so it was renovated into a space to host groups for missions or retreats.

Please respond to let us know who can attend. We would like to take 20 kids and adults! Cost is \$50 if you are not a youth member. (youth have raised money to help fund this trip). Please hand in your fee and forms ASAP. Deadline January 24<sup>th</sup>.



Mission/Outreach Team's Pancakes and MORE Breakfast will be Saturday, January 20th. We'll be serving a good, hot breakfast of pancakes, sausage, and eggs. Join us between 8:00-11:00. If you're interested in helping with the breakfasts and/or going on the adult mission trip, please let Pastor Wendy, Jim Rea or Becky Kent know.



The Mission/Outreach Committee is thinking ahead and forming an Adult Mission Team to respond to the recent flooding disasters. Although still waiting for some direction from our VIM Coordinator, the forming of the team is starting now. If you are interested in being a part of the Adult Mission Team, or would like to help the team, please let Pastor Wendy, Becky Kent or Jim Rea know.



**CALLING ALL LADIES!** It's time to sign up for our annual Women's Retreat. Once again Sue Duffield will be bringing us her love, laughter and inspirational message. The dates are January 12-14, 2018, at the same location as last year...  
**Bird-in-Hand Family Inn, Lancaster.** If you have never joined us, **NOW** is the time! And bring a friend...there's plenty of room!  
Contact Janet Fabian for more info...215-295-7035.



### *The Investment Stewardship Fund Story:*

In 1985 MUMC became the beneficiary of a \$350,000 estate. This, though very welcome, presented a challenge to MUMC as the leadership decided what to do with it. Some people wanted to pay off the church's existing mortgage. Others wanted to invest it. And there were many suggestions between these two options. Eventually the leadership created a policy on how to invest it, and how to steward the interest. The Church Council established an Investment Stewardship Committee (ISC) to oversee the stewardship of the ISF. The committee developed a policy to outline specific plans for the investment, distribution, growth and protection of the funds. At all times the ISC was to reflect good, faithful, wise stewardship of the ISF and report to Church Council. The intent is to never spend the principle; reinvest a portion of the interest; and give a portion of the interest for the purpose of evangelism and mission.

Since its inception, the ISF has helped: Frankford Group Ministries, a Philippine mission, a mission in Peru, Mid-Town Parish, the Samaritan Counseling Center; The Red Cross Homeless Shelter, Congregations United for Housing, Interfaith Housing, Pipersville New Church Initiative, our own young adults and students in mission, Bethanna Children's Shelter, Father Ritter's Covenant House, Methodist Home for Children, Hurricane Hugo devastation ( and areas of devastation following this hurricane), Granada Island Church, and various mission experiences and programs of MUMC. We built a church in Mozambique, helped young people entering ministry, supported bishop appeals, equipped a school in Lesotho, and met dozens of emergency requests from local partners in community mission.

In 2009 over \$50,000 was given to our general fund for apportionment obligations and emergency property demands. In 2010 and following, on average \$30,000 was given each year to the general fund for our mission objectives. Even with our generous distribution of funds, we were able to maintain a balance of over \$350,000.

In 2015, through the generous bequests of two women in our congregation: Ruth Graves and Joyce Kira, our \$350,000 grew to over \$1,400,000. Because of our mission focus with students of the church and the Morrisville community, \$100,000 was immediately invested into the renovation of our youth room, allowing us to quadruple the number of students we are able to be in ministry with.

The interest of the ISF continues to contribute to our general fund for missional purposes. In 2016 and 2017 over \$50,000 was distributed to organizations in our community helping the homeless and those in need. We helped Family Promise purchase a van so families in the program could get from the ministry center to the churches they were living at for the week, and then to school or work. Along with this investment of funds, we were also a host congregation, providing a warm and welcoming living space and meals.

We have a deep relationship with Advocates for the Homeless and Those in Need (AHTN) and are one of 35 faith communities that provide a Shared Meal once a month. When AHTN lost major funding in 2017, we were able to give a significant gift through the ISF to help bridge the gap in ministry. In addition to these and other organizations that care for the most vulnerable in our community, we also help members of our church family share in mission. Contributions are given to the summer Revolution Youth mission trips, and we have supported our young adults in their mission endeavors.

Because we have an ISF being carefully and prayerfully invested and distributed, MUMC is making a meaningful impact in the world: locally, nationally, and globally.

The Investment Stewardship Committee is assuring that this fund leads MUMC in perpetuity in our mission. In Acts 1:8, Jesus came to his disciples with this parting imperative: *"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."* The ISF is a powerful tool, enabling MUMC to go into the world as a witness to the love of Christ.

You are invited to include MUMC in your will, adding to the foundation of the ISF, enabling your church to continue in the mission work commissioned to us by Jesus Christ.

**Morrisville United Methodist Church  
Lay Leadership for 2018**

Church Council Chairperson – Dave Sample

Council Secretary – Lee Sonnhalter

Lay Leaders: -- Emmanuel Abalo and VK Macwana

Delegate to Annual Conference – Emmanuel Abalo

UMW Co-Presidents:(Elected by UMW) Linda Mier, Rhonda Rea

Men’s Fellowship: Dave Miller

Memorial Secretary and Women’s Bible Study: Michelle Martin

Finance Chairperson: Jim Rea

Worship Chairperson: Margy Dickson

Outreach/Mission Representative: Becky Kent

Chairperson of Capital Investment Fund: Linda Mier

Trustee President:

Chairperson of Investment Stewardship Fund: David Sample

Investment Stewardship Fund Treasurer: Sue Gotta

Staff Parish Relations Chairperson: Joyce Bigley

Treasurer: Lillian Mannon

Staff Members: Rev. Wendy Bellis, Kim Jakimowicz, Jennifer Arruda

At Large Members: Carol Young, Brian Doron and Emmanuel Milton-Gorvie

Worship Team – Margy Dickson, Carol Young, Sue Urbano, Jim Rea, Christine

Bonno, Sue Gotta, Rhonda Rea, Tom Wisnosky, Steve Decker

Staff Members: George Gray, Amanda Kelly, Sean Kelly and Abigail LaVecchia /

Lay Leaders: VK Macwana and Manny Abalo

Communion Stewards: Margy Dickson, Dean Dickson, Sue Gotta

Flowers/Greening: Carol Somers

Usher Coordinator: Carol Young

Christian Hospitality: Becky Kent – purchaser (we still need a coordinator)

Altar Design: Rhonda Rea and Christine Bonno

Power Point: 9:00 Andy Steppe 11:15 Donna Steppe

Outreach and Missions Team – Chairperson – Pastor Wendy Bellis

Lois Avery – (Bloodmobile); Vera Straley (food pantry) Becky Kent,

Nancy Sample, Marian Makemson, Deb Price

Mission Trip Coordinator: Becky Kent

Trustees - President – V. Pres:

2018 2019 2020

Carol Somers(Secretary) Walt Pabers Harold Long

Dave Burkhardt John Koba George Duthie

Staff Pastor Parish Relations Committee – Chairperson – Joyce Bigley

Lay Leader: Manny Abalo or VK Macwana / Pastor: Wendy Bellis

2018 2019 2020

Joyce Bigley Amy Surdy Shirley Kamman

Charlotte Duthie Chili Obbo Deb Price

Wanda Long Diana Pabers Lee Sonnhalter

Finance Committee – Chairperson – Jim Rea

Treasurer: Lillian Mannon Finance Secretary: Barbara Lombardo

VK Macwana, Linda Mier, Joe Urbano, Harold Long, Jim Biemesderfer

SCRIP Coordinator: Dave Sample

Family Ministries: Coordinator: Kim Jakimowicz

Janet Fabian, Frances Rivera, Nick Doan, Bethany Macwana, Lee Sonnhalter,

Rashmi Swaroop, Marian Makemson, Beth Ellsworth, Jessica Barrett, Ava Thomas

Investment Stewardship Fund: Chairperson: David Sample

Church Council Chair: David Sample

ISF Secretary/treasurer: Sue Gotta

Pastor Wendy Bellis

Church Treasurer: Lillian Mannon

Finance Chair, Jim Rea

SPPR Chair, Joyce Bigley

Trustee Chair:

Pete Wisnosky, Don Swenson, Jim Biemesderfer, Lay Leader: Manny Abalo or VK Macwana

Capital Investment Fund: Chairperson: Linda Mier

Church Council Chair, Dave Sample

Finance Chair: Jim Rea

SPPR Chair: Joyce Bigley

President Trustees:

Dave Burkhardt, Lay Leader: Emmanuel Abalo / VK Macwana, Dean Dickson

Committee on Lay Leadership (Nominations): Chairperson: Pastor

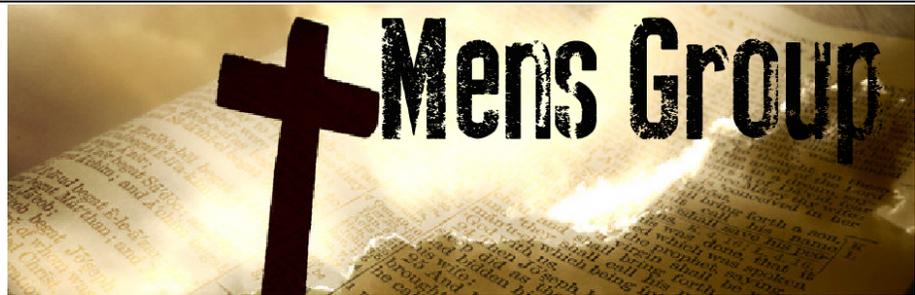
Manny Abalo (Lay Leader) VK Macwana (Lay Leader)

2018 2019 2020

Charlotte Swenson Edith Massaquoi Barbara Lombardo

Wanda Long Patricia Logan

Native American Representative: Hal Long



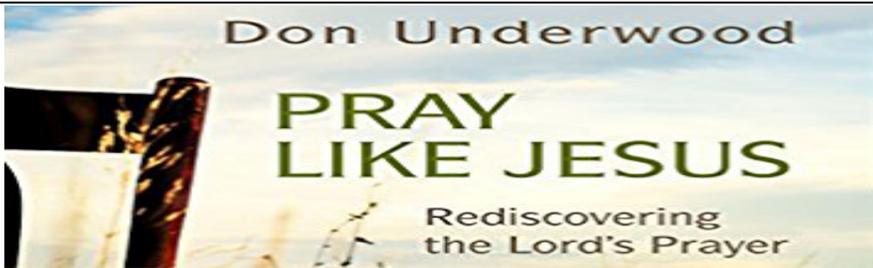
The next meeting of the Saturday Morning Men's Group is on the 13th of January at 8 AM. We meet in the church lounge the second Saturday of each month. Good fellowship, "light" refreshments, and encouragement from God's Word is a great way to start our weekend. Men of all ages are welcome.

If you have any questions call David Miller at 215-943-2046.



### MUMC Talent Show and Gifts and Talent Auction

Saturday, January 27th, 2018. Calling ALL Talents! We're looking for any and all kinds of talent (see Jim Rea). We need donations of baskets for our silent auction, baked goods for the live auction. Can you host a dinner for 4-6 in your home, or someone else's? Do you have a timeshare or vacation home that you'd be willing to donate for a few days, or a week? Please consider making a donation to the Talent Show and Auction. It's going to be a fun family night out!



**Tuesday Bible Study**  
**Beginning January 9th**  
**10:00 AM in the Church Library**  
**6-week study on The Lord's Prayer**

We will study Don Underwood's book called "Pray Like Jesus" and rediscover the Lord's Prayer. We will discuss topics such as: Can God forgive me? and What happens when unforgiveness builds up in my life? Let Pastor Wendy know of your interest so you can pick up your book.



Thank you to ALL who baked or delivered for our Dec. Mission Project- "Cookie Trays for our Friends". Super thanks to Carol Young for organizing this project. More than 30 trays were assembled and delivered to our homebound members, our MUMC staff and others in need of some holiday cheer.

- No General UMW meeting in January.
- Marcia Ruth Circle meeting- Mon. Jan. 15th at 7:00pm, location to be announced.
- Elizabeth Circle meeting- Wed., Jan. 17th at 1:30pm in the Church lounge.
- Next General meeting will be Sunday, Feb. 4th at 12:30pm in Fellowship Hall- Look for more details in the February Maple!

thank you!

It is a pleasure and a privilege to serve with our church family here in Morrisville. We have a devoted and talented ministry staff, offering opportunities for us to serve in the mission field locally, nationally and globally. Our worship is presented in meaningful ways each week, drawing us closer to God and each other through music and the proclamation of the Word. And our children and teens are loved in beautiful ways with the light of Christ and guidance of faithful leadership. I am blessed to be your Pastor. Thank you for words of encouragement, cards of love and support, and the generosity of your Christmas gift!

Pastor Wendy

**COMING ... Saturday, February 10, 2018**  
**ACTIVATE**

**Expanding Mission Outreach**

For the past 3 years MUMC has worked to develop partnerships with the Morrisville Community to help those in need and to share the love of Christ whenever possible. This has been a ministry and a mission focus for us, which is taking us into the Morrisville School in practical and meaningful ways. As we all know with life, the way to accomplish great things is to set goals, work with focus, and measure outcome. This is also true for the mission work of a church.

So on Saturday, February 10th, from 8:30 – 2:00, we have invited The Mission Society: Global to come and work with us in a planning session to mobilize our church for mission.

Put this date on your personal calendar NOW

Plan to join us for the entire DAY

You WANT to be part of God's Great Command!



December was a busy month for MUMC. We hosted 3 different Morrisville School youth groups plus the Revolution MUMC Youth Group each week – serving approximately ten meals through the month. We purchased, wrapped and presented Christmas gifts for eight families in our community. Served a soup dinner for the Advent meal and worship night, served a meal for our homeless and hungry guests, baked cookies for our homebound members, hosted a mission breakfast to raise funds for the summer mission trip, hosted the Morrisville Senior High Chorus, and provided food and household items for the back-pack ministry. What is truly beautiful about this impressive list of outreach is that December was not an unusual month! We do many of these things every month of the year!

Christ sent his disciples into the world to serve, love, baptize and make more disciples. We are Christ's disciples for today. How will you help your church obey His command? How will you serve in Jesus' name, in 2018? MUMC has opportunities for you.

*Installation of Officers*

**January 28**

In both of our worship services on the 28th we will thank our church members who are serving in a leadership capacity on boards and committees for the 2018 year. It is important that we recognize the work it takes to keep our focus on mission and move forward in the ways God calls us. These people need the support of the entire church to make decisions, set goals, initiate new projects and carry through on the day to day work it takes to lead MUMC in ministry.