



# THE FIRST EDITION

## United Methodist Church of Island Heights

111 Ocean Ave. P.O. Box 146

Island Heights, N.J. 08732-0146

Church: 732-929-0444 Fax: 732-929-1271

Parsonage: 732-929-044

The Reverend Dr. Gregory S. Bruton, Pastor

## November and December Newsletter 2011

### Pastor's Message:

If you are like my family you have been on the look-out for Christmas gifts since the day after Christmas last year. It's amazing how much "stuff" is available. It's equally amazing how much "stuff" we think we need.

Over the years this "stuff" begins to break and wear out so we buy new "stuff". This has been a growing trend for the past few decades. If you remember, back some time ago, we made do with what we had. Dad fixed the broken toys, mom sewed new dresses for the favorite dolls and we held on to what we had. There were no storage units that could be rented, that's what you had attics for. Now a days we accumulate so much "stuff" that the building of storage units is one of the fastest growing business opportunities around!

Why do we keep all this "stuff"? Maybe because it defines who we are or maybe it makes us feel successful. Whatever the reason, its still just "stuff". And stuff doesn't last! So what's the purpose?

As Christians, our focus should be on helping others around the world who are struggling. We are called to use our blessings, to be a blessing to others. As Christ has blessed us, so we should bless others. Not just with material things but with the virtues of the living Christ within us.

It is the good news of Jesus that is really needed in our lives because it is the one thing that doesn't break or wear out, but lasts forever! I like the way Rick Warren put it in his book, The Purpose Driven Life:

"You are not an accident. Even before the universe was created, God had you in mind, and He planned you for His purpose. These Purposes will extend far beyond the few years you will spend on earth. You were made to last forever!"

We don't need to hold onto all the broken and worn out "stuff" offered by the world and accumulate enough to need storage units to hold it all. We need Jesus and the love and grace He offers to us.

This is the time of the year where we say that "Jesus is the reason for the season". Do we really believe it? If we do, we'll stop storing up treasure where rust and moth can destroy, and start accumulating our treasures in heaven where they last for eternity just like us.

**But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Matthew 6:33**

God Bless,  
Pastor Greg



**Church Services**

**8:00 A.M.**

**A Contemplative Eucharistic Service**

**9:30 A.M.**

Sunday School classes will be held during this Worship Service. Coffee fellowship will follow this service, everyone is welcome.

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**Pre-House Tour Candlelight Service**

**Friday, December 2nd**

**7:30 P.M.**

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**Children's Holiday Pageant**

**TBA**

**Christmas Eve Services**

**Saturday, December 24th**

**5:00 P.M.**

**7:00 P.M.**

**11:00 P.M.**

**Christmas Day Service**

**Sunday**

**There will be one service at 9:30 A.M.**

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**Church Office Hours**

The office is open Tuesday through Friday from 9:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M.

Secretary, Janet Lafferty

Phone: 732-929-0444

Fax: 732-929-1271

E-Mail: ihumc@comcast.net

Web Site: www.ihumc.org.

**Holiday Schedule**

Closed November 24th and 25th for Thanksgiving

**Pastor visits to shut-ins are on going.**

If you would like a home visit with communion for yourself or a loved one, please call the church office  
732-929-0444

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**Autumn**

Carry with you the blessing of God as you go out into this colorful world. Reveal the light of God as the days grow shorter, and the darkness increases. Go with the peace of God in your hearts.

**Thanksgiving**

**Psalm 100:1-5**

Make a joyful shout to the LORD, all you lands! Serve the LORD with gladness; Come before His presence with singing. Know that the LORD, He is God; It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; We are His people and the sheep of His pasture. Enter into His gates with Thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name. For the LORD is good; His mercy is everlasting, and His truth endures to all generations.

**A Quote from George Washington**

It is the duty of all Nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey His will, to be grateful for His benefits, and humbly to implore His protection and favor.



**OUR  
FOOD PANTRY  
IS IN NEED OF  
DONATIONS**

Kindly bring in non-perishable items and place them in the baskets in the foyer. Once a week Shirley Gabriel picks up and delivers items to the First Baptist Church. They in turn stock all items and disperse them to the many families in need. A special “Thank You” Shirley for all you so graciously do.

**The HOPE Center of Ocean  
County**

233 Chestnut Street  
Toms River, N.J. 08753  
732-341-4447

Our mission is to provide support, resources, referrals, food and targeted financial assistance to clients as they work to overcome a current life crisis.

Trained staff and volunteers assist the clients with navigating the social service programs within the county and state and help them resolve housing, utilities and other urgent needs. The HOPE center serves clients with dignity and compassion and strives to empower each person to achieve his or her level of self sufficiency.

**Hunger Relief**

Carol , 732-505-4357, reached out to us the week of October 16th to express their tremendous need **of Volunteers, Food, Clothing, Financial Donations, Gift Cards.** **There has been an incredible increase in the number of families in our community that are in need.**

They can also pick up GENTLY USED FURNITURE from your home and in turn give you a receipt for tax purposes.

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**TO ALL THE COMMITTEE  
CHAIRPERSONS AND  
VOLUNTEERS,  
A HEARTFELT  
“THANK YOU “ FOR YOUR  
SUPPORT, TIME, TALENT  
AND EXPERIENCE.  
GOD BLESS**

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*To everything there is a season and a time for every purpose under heaven,  
“a time to be healed”  
“a time to die”.*

*Please continue to pray for those on our prayer list and all others who need our prayers.  
Pray also for Rachel Hodge and all who courageously serve in our military and all others who keep our nation safe.*



**COFFEE**  
**FELLOWSHIP**  
**FOLLOWING**  
**9:30 A.M.**  
**SUNDAY WORSHIP**  
**SERVICE**

Please pick a Sunday and sign-up in the book in the foyer. It's best, easier and fun if two or three people or a couple of families can work together. The coffee, juice, milk and paper products are provided and set up for you.

Two things are required of you:

- 1) Bring the food, either homemade or store bought. Examples: coffee cake, breads, donuts, etc.
- 2) To clean up after.

If you have any questions, please see Peggy Parry or Joyce Hoyer after the 9:30 A.M. Church Service.

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**SAVE THE DATE**  
**Grieving with Friends**  
**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6TH**  
**2:00 P.M.**  
**"A CHRISTIAN GUIDE TO**  
**SURVIVING THE HOLIDAYS'**  
**DVD PRESENTATION**

Following the DVD, we will lead a discussion to answer questions and or to share personal experiences. All who have lost a loved one are invited to join us in the "Youth Room".

In Christ,  
 Carol Herbert



**Grieving With Friends**

From the Letter of James, we read in the first chapter, verse 27, ***"Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after the orphans and widows (also widowers and children) in their distress and keep oneself from being polluted by the world."***

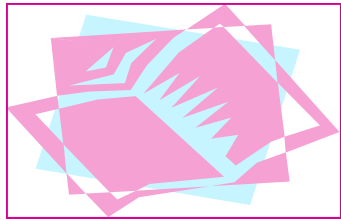
***"Looking after"*** includes an on-going commitment to be present to the hurting ones for as long as it takes them to regain balance in their lives. The personal gift of caring time from a friend is priceless to them.

The uniqueness of each person's response to grief doesn't lend itself to 'one size fits all' solutions. The process is step-by-step on a lonesome path that is made a little brighter by a caring, loving friend.

Carol and Al have already come together with a couple of other folks who are processing their own grief and are willing to join others in their walk. Resources of written materials and trained counselors are available as they may be needed.

Anyone wishing more information can call us, Pastor Greg at the Church office 732-929-0444 or Carol 732-929-3287.

In Christ,  
 Pastor Greg and Carol



**“A Word From Friends”**

A kind and loving word from a friend can soothe a hurting spirit; an echo of joy for happy occasions; or a warm reminder that someone is missed. It is a gentle expression of fellowship from Christ’s family to others. Bettie Lou Kenny and Barbara Schumacher invite you to join them in the creation and outreach of the unique cards that are on display in the Fellowship Hall on Sundays after the 9:30 a.m. service.

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**Membership Committee**

There are many of us visiting the Holy Land at the present time. When we return we would love to get together and share our experiences with you.

A system has been established whereby the committee can be notified monthly of home sales in Island Heights so we can introduce our Church to new residents. We are searching for a similar system for renters.

Mardee Eaglesham and Pastor Greg have visited with shut-ins to offer fellowship and communion. Thank you Ann Mazzi for driving members to church and other activities.

In Christ,

**United Methodist Men’s  
Corner**

The UMM, as does the Toms River, keeps rolling along. Our attendance has been dwindling though. We had only seven people at our August and September meetings and eight at our October meeting, all were field trips too. Our November 15th meeting at noon will be our regular business meeting where we will pick our charities for the upcoming year. On Tuesday, December 13th we will have our Christmas luncheon at the “Legend Lounge”. I have the list of entrée’s so each man will see me and pick out what he wants to eat.

The UMM Breakfast Attendance:

August	89
September	82
October	65

**Dates of Upcoming Breakfasts**

November 19th  
December 3rd House Tour

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**Our next clean-up day will be Saturday, November 26th, (the Saturday before the House Tour). Please meet in Fellowship Hall at 8:30 A.M. for coffee and cake, we will start work in-side and out at 9 A.M.. PLEASE bring your rakes. Thank you.**

C U in Church  
God Bless,  
Art Edler  
226 days to go

**United Methodist Women**

The “Fall Fashion Show and Luncheon” was a great success. A special thank you to the chairpersons and all that helped in any way.

**Save the Dates:**

**Tuesday, November 15th**  
**7:00 P.M. Fellowship Hall**

**Bring a Friend**

**Cookie Demonstration**

**Presented by Helen Houston**

**Tuesday, December 13th**

**Annual UMW Christmas Dinner**  
**Serenity Café, Rt. 37, Toms River**  
**Salad**

**Choice of three entrées**

**Coffee and Dessert**

**\$30.00 per person, includes gratuity**

**More information will be announced**

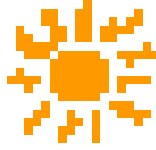


**UMW**  
**CRAFT GROUP**  
**We Need Extra**

**Help to Prepare Crafts For the**  
**House Tour**

**Many hands make light work**

*Our ladies meet every Wednesday at 9:00 A.M. to work on crafts which we sell at various functions throughout the year. The profit helps to support our mission programs. Please come out and help us. We have a lot of fun!*



**“CIRCLE OF LIGHT”**  
**All Women Are Welcome!**  
**Our group meets to learn**  
**about the Bible as it relates**  
**to women’s lives.**

We are presently studying prayers, starting with “The Lord’s Prayer”. We will meet:

**Monday, November 14th**  
**1:00 P.M. at Gloria Asay’s**

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**Monday, December 12th**  
**12 Noon in Fellowship Hall**  
**We will be joining the Naomi Circle ladies for a “Christmas Covered Dish Luncheon”.**

We will not be meeting in the Winter months. We will meet again in the Spring.

God Bless You All,  
Helen Wittenberg

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**Naomi Circle**

**All women are invited to attend.**

*We meet the first Wednesday of the month at noon in the Church Fellowship Hall. The ladies bring a lunch. Dessert and beverage are provided. The gathering shares fellowship, devotions and outreach to elderly shut-ins.*

**Save the Dates**

**Wednesday, November 2nd**  
**Fellowship Hall at Noon**

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**Monday, December 12th**  
**12 Noon in Fellowship Hall**  
**We will be joining the Circle of Light ladies for a “Christmas Covered Dish Luncheon”.**

**Quilters meet on Thursdays at  
9:30 A.M.**

If you are an experienced quilter and would like to join our group, please call the church office.

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**United Methodist Women  
Book Group**

We meet three consecutive months in the Fall and again in the Spring, the third Thursday of the month at 11:45 A.M.. We either meet in our homes or in Fellowship Hall. Books are chosen for inspiration, strength and enlightening the Christian spirit.

**Save the Date**

**Thursday, November 17th**

**11:45 A.M. at**

**Lois Divine's, co-host Ann Wilber**

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**We will not meet again until**

**Thursday, March 15, 2012**

In Christ,

Doris Meredith

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**“Keep the Light Shining”.....**

Is a NEW and Exciting opportunity to support our Church!! On House Tour Day, we will be situated in the church at the base of the stairs at the Simpson Avenue entrance in the “Re-Gifting Corner”. We will offer delectable confections, gift baskets ready for giving, and more! The “Keep the Light

ing project is organized by the Sunday School Teachers in an on-going effort to raise money to help defray the operating costs of the church; hence the name “Keep the Light Shining” should be interpreted as: the “Light” in our hearts and in our lighting fixtures!!! We hope to see you soon!

God Bless,  
Suzan Hale

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**Youth Group**

Our Youth Group, which also includes college students meet in our youth room on Sundays at 6:00 P.M.

All are Welcome!!

If you have any questions about meetings, upcoming events, etc, please contact Keith Brendler at 732-929-2285.

**Save the Date**

**Sunday, December 11th**

**Children's Holiday Pageant**

**Time TBA**

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**Choir Chimes**

Anyone interested in ringing choir chimes is welcome to join...no experience necessary. We need between 8 and 11 ringers. This is a great opportunity to learn something new.

**We will begin practice on Thursday,**

**November 3rd**

**from 6:00 to 6:45 P.M..**

**I hope to see my experienced ringers and some new faces. Bring a friend!**

God Bless,  
Tom

## Our 28th Annual House Tour and Craft Show

We are very pleased to presently have the six homes and two “Tea Houses” needed for our “House Tour”. This year we have added a “Trolley Car Service”!!!! The two Trolley Cars will drop off and pick-up at all points of interest and the Island Heights Post Office parking lot. Hours of operation are 10:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.. Christmas music will be played during the ride to your destinations. A “Trolley Wristband” is \$5.00 and can be purchased through pre-registration or on December 3rd at the Island Heights Fire House or The Island Heights United Methodist Church.



### HOW HOUSE TOUR TICKETS CAN BE PURCHASED:

PRE-REGISTRATION COST \$20.00 per ticket if purchased by November 5th, 2011. You will receive this information in the mail, if you are not on our mailing list, please call our church office, 732-929-0444.

AFTER NOVEMBER 5TH, Cost per ticket will be \$25.00. You will be able to purchase tickets at the following locations: Island Heights United Methodist Church office (Tuesday thru Friday 9 A.M. to 1 P.M.), Thorston Gallery, Fast Break Restaurant, Island Café or The Ocean County Artist Guild or at the door on Saturday, December 3rd.



Volunteers are needed in all areas: Island Heights Fire-house, Church, houses, mailing and making soup. The “Volunteer Forms” are available in the Church Foyer. You may earn a Free House Tour Ticket. Also Helen Houston needs an assistant to help with setting up the volunteers. Shirley Gabriel would like to retire from her position of setting up the “Crafters”. She will train anyone interested. Thank you one and all for your anticipated help.



Bob and Barb Wightman are requesting cookies, brownies and sweet finger food for the “Tea Rooms”. There is a sign-up sheet in the foyer and Fellowship Hall. If you have any questions, please call us. Thank you for your help!

Bob and Barb

## Calendar of Events

### November 2011

1/2 Naomi Circle Meet at Noon in Fellowship Hall

11/2, 11/9, 11/16, 11/30 Bible Study with Pastor Greg 7:00 P.M.

11/3, 11/10, 11/17 Bible Study with Pastor Greg 10:00 A.M

11/3 CHIMES-ANYONE INTERESTED please join us at 6 P.M. to 6:45 P.M.

11/6 "Grieving with Friends" Group, All Welcome. Meet at 2 P.M. in the Youth Room, "A Christian Guide to Surviving the Holidays" DVD will be shown followed with a discussion.

11/8 House Tour Committee Meeting 7:00 P.M. in Fellowship Hall

11/14 Circle of Light Meet at 1:00 at Gloria Asay's house

11/15 UMM Meet at Noon

11/15 UMW "Cookie Demo" by Helen Houston Bring a Friend 7 P.M. F/Hall

11/17 UMW Book Group Meet 11:45 at Lois Devine's house

11/19 UMM Breakfast 8:30 to 10:00 A.M.

11/22 Trustees Meeting 7:00 P.M.

11/26 CHURCH CLEAN-UP DAY Inside and out, House Tour is the following weekend. Meet at 8:30 A.M. for coffee and cake, we will start to work at 9:00 A.M.. Please bring a rake. We hope you can make it.

### December 2011

12/1, 12/8, 12/15 Bible Study with Pastor Greg 10:00 A.M.

12/7, 12/14 Bible Study with Pastor Greg 7:00 P.M.

12/2 Candlelight Carol Service 7:30 P.M.

12/3 28th Annual House Tour & Craft Show 10 A.M. to 4 P.M.

12/3 UMM Breakfast

12/11 Children's Holiday Pageant Time TBA

12/12 Circle of Light and Naomi Circle Meet at Noon in Fellowship Hall for a Covered Dish Luncheon

12/13 UMM Christmas Luncheon Meet at the Legend Lounge..See Art for details.

12/13 UMW Christmas Dinner Meet at Sorenity Café, Cost \$30.00 Look for more information in Sunday bulletins

12/24 Christmas Eve Worship Services 5:00 P.M., 7:00 P.M. and 11:00 P.M.

12/25 Christmas Day (One) Worship Service at 9:30 A.M.

Please check your Sunday Bulletins for any updates or changes. Thank You