

THE SPIRIT

The Monthly Newsletter of Totowa United Methodist Church

TERESITA'S TABLE TALK



REV. TERESITA MATOS-POST

Friend in the faith,

In 2016, a man from Kenya sent me a Facebook friend request. I was hesitant to accept the request, since I did not know him, nor we had friends in common. However, I felt compelled to accept his request. Since then, we have developed a friendship. He is a local pastor who oversees a ministry that provides shelter, food, education, and love to 24 children, ages 3-17.

After some research, and a positive report from United Methodist missionaries who visited the ministry, my husband and I have been sending monetary support for food, school supplies, and emergencies.

However, all along my new Kenyan friend and I, have been compelled by the call of the Holy Spirit to partner together in ensuring these orphaned children and many others, have access to health and education. The project includes the construction of a housing, and educational center.

Our hope is that this project will be included in United Methodist Volunteers in Mission.

The next step, before Volunteers In Mission teams are able to start the work, my husband and I must travel to Kenya to build relationships with our new friends, partners, the village, and establish the scope of the project.

As a part-time local pastor with the United Methodist Church, building an orphanage on the other side of the world was not in my ministry plans. But it has become ever so evident that it is in God's plans. However, I had no clue where to start!

A mission team from West Virginia is heading to Kenya in January, and through contacts in common, they have welcomed Ken and I to come along for ten days. For the first part of our trip, Ken and I will be part of their team as they continue their work at a High School they've built. The second part will be to start the work at the orphanage.

As your pastor, it would be our honor if you would accept our invitation to partner with Ken and I with your blessing, prayers, and support. This missional work is at the heart of God's creative force in the world.

In gratitude;
Ken & Teresita

CHURCH NEWS



November Birthdays

- 1 – Renee Polizzi*
- 10 – John Falconi*
- 11 – Helen Rigolo*
- 13 – Maureen Grant*
- 16 – Michael Iannacone III*
- 21 – Sam DeVausney*
- 22 – Miriam Falconi*
- 29 – Marcus David James*
- 30 – Michele Laborsky*

Stewardship 2019

Each year around Thanksgiving we conduct our annual financial stewardship campaign. This is important for our financial health. We ask our members and friends to estimate their giving for 2019. We have forms where we can designate weekly giving estimates, or monthly estimates, or one estimate for the entire year. Like all financial information, estimates are highly confidential.

Why do we do this? (1) This is part of the financial information that we have to report to the conference (totals, not individual amounts). (2) It gives the finance committee a better idea of income for the coming year (3) People who make a commitment generally give more money to the church. This is NOT because they are wealthier or more generous. It's because they have a goal and a commitment As an example, you may resolve to do several things in the coming

year: lose weight, save money, and give money to the church. "If you aim at nothing you will hit it every time". (Zig Ziglar) To be successful, goals should be specific and written down - lose 10 pounds, save \$500 dollars, donate \$27 dollars a week to the church.

Watch for giving forms in church. If you have questions, ask Pastor Teresita, Nancy, or Jim. We encourage everyone to give this careful thought and make an estimate of giving for the coming year. Forms can be placed in the collection plate or dropped off at the church office.

2 Corinthians 9 : 6-12

⁶ The one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. ⁷Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. ⁹As it is written, 'He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor; his righteousness endures for ever.'

¹⁰He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. ¹¹You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us; ¹²for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God.

Special contributions:

Pastor Teresita and Ken for shared ministry

Nancy Mecca for property insurance

FALL THROUGH CHRISTMAS AT TUMC



Sunday, November 4, 2018 at 10am

A Service of Remembrance for all the saints we love and miss. You are welcome to bring photos or items in honor of your loved ones that have passed on.

The Spirit Coffee House Dates

November 8 at 5pm – Hot Dogs & Fixin’s - \$5

November 15 at 5pm

Second Mile Food & Paper Pantry

November 17 at 8am

December 22 at 8am



Bring fresh produce donations for CUMAC.



God with Us – Small Group Schedule

Thursdays at 6pm starting November 29



Doors Open for Rummage/Garage Sale Vendors and Sales (Tables and Chairs Available for \$10) Craft, Service, Product Vendors (Tables and Chairs Available for \$20) Face painting & Henna, Christmas Cookie Walk, Bake Sale, and pictures with Santa.



Bring your favorite potluck dishes. Pastor’s family will provide desserts and drinks. ALL ARE WELCOME!

FALL THROUGH CHRISTMAS AT TUMC



**Thursday, December 20, 2018 at
6pm**

A Service of reflection, contemplation, and meditation for those who are broken hearted and need a safe space to grieve, or just be.



**Saturday, December 22, 2018 at 3pm
– 3:30pm.**

This half hour will be packed with carols, storytelling, and craft to reconnect young families with the Nativity story this Christmas. Appropriate for children 0 – 10 y.o. and their parents. Open play and snacks afterwards. Registration encouraged!



**Christmas Candlelight
Service**

**Monday, December 24th,
2018 at 7pm**

October Bible Quiz answers

1. To hide the meaning of His teachings from those who wouldn't understand
2. A believable story used to provide a comparison to an abstract concept
3. That everyone is our neighbor
4. The Jews hated the Samaritans and would have no business with them
5. Those that do not understand the word of God.

POEMS AND THOUGHTS

“THE SOLDIER’S TEAR”

BY THOMAS HAYNES BAYLY

Upon the hill he turn’d, to take a last
fond look

Of the valley and the village church and
the cottage by the brook;

He listen’d to the sounds, so familiar to
his ear,

And the soldier leant upon his sword, and
wiped away a tear.

Beside that cottage porch, a girl was on
her knees, she held aloft a snowy scarf,
which flutter’d in the breeze;

She breath’d a prayer for him, a prayer he
could not hear, but he paused to bless
her, as she knelt, and wiped away a tear.

He turn’d and left the spot, oh, do not
deem him weak; for dauntless was the
soldier’s heart,

Though tears were on his cheek;

Go watch the foremost rank in danger’s
dark career

Be sure the hand most daring there, has
wiped away a tear.

**A Prayer for Peace and
Freedom**

By Doug Dunlop

There is a tower, that reaches the sky.

It carries the prayers of You and I.

A prayer for peace to God on high.

In memory of those who had to die.

*Not bought with blood and bullets and
war.*

But with God’s love forevermore.

God gave us freedom, that is our right.

But some would take it from our sight.

We fight to keep what’s rightfully ours.

*And look to God who lives with the
stars.*

*There once was one who gave his life,
to end all war and death and strife.*

If we could only follow him.

Forever freedom we will win.

“VANTAGE POINT” FOR NOVEMBER 2018 “ARMISTICE DAY”
BY DOUG DUNLOP

November 11 1918, the eleventh day, the eleventh month, 100 years ago.

The Armistice that ended the “Great War”, the “War to End All Wars”.

We know now in retrospect that the end of World War I was just an intermission in the continuing cycle of war.

Each war sets the stage for the next war.

After the war the Allies wanted to punish Germany for war crimes and the loss of so many soldiers and civilians.

America became isolationist, feeling it had been deceived by the merchants of war who profited from the conflict.

Germany also had the feeling of being betrayed, this plus plus the world economic depression led to the rise of Adolf Hitler and World War II, which in turn led to the “Cold War”, Korea, and Vietnam. As John Locke said, war only leads to more war, a continuing cycle.

The current wars against terrorism also have their roots in ancient hatreds.

What is the cause of war, in its most fundamental sense war is about survival and protecting those we love.

There are aggressors and defenders.

Aggressors seeking to take what we have by force and impose their will on the defenders. Now we have countries, political ideologies,

kings, and dictators who use war to advance their own lust for power.

Somehow they convince the people to follow them.

They call upon God to give them Victory.

The people in turn have their own reasons for going to war. The story of Cain and Abel points out the fundamental reasons for human conflict. Pride, Jealousy, The harshness of human life, Fear of death, the “Blaze of Glory”, the need to dominate others.

Some scientists say war is in our DNA. Like the lower animals we fight to dominate and pass on our genes to the next generation,

God did give us instincts for survival, but also minds to think, hearts to love, and hands to build.

Working together in peace we can accomplish what war can never do.

At the end of WWI President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed that Armistice Day should be used to honor those who died and to pray for peace.

He also requested churches to commemorate it with prayers for peace.

Soldiers are prepared to give their lives for what they believe in. Jesus also gave his life, not for war but for peace.

If we could only follow his example, there would truly be “Peace for our time”!

VETERANS DAY

by Dean McIntyre, Dan Benedict, and Taylor Burton-Edwards

In most years and most times, Veterans' Day passes in our churches with little or no mention. Historically and traditionally, Veterans' Day has been more a civic than a sacred observance. As with New Years Day, Mother's Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, and others, Veterans' Day is not a part of the liturgical calendar — although sometimes local congregations will observe these days in some manner in Sunday congregational worship.

History

World War I ended on November 11, 1918, with the signing of the Armistice by the Allies and Germany. In the first Armistice Day proclamation in 1919, President Woodrow Wilson called for the nation to remember those who had died in their country's service and to make the day an opportunity for America to "show her sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of the nation."

In 1927 Congress called for the display of the U.S. flag on government buildings, and in 1938 Congress called for the observance of Armistice Day in churches and schools — again dedicating the day to the cause of world peace.

Note the order here: the nation was telling the churches to celebrate this day. This was not an

initiative arising from the churches, but from Congress. The timing was significant. The strong stirrings of World War II had already begun in earnest in Europe. The United States was still reeling from the effects of World War I and the Great Depression, and the political climate overall was against any sort of engagement in wars. Of course, within just three years, the United States became involved in the War "over there" in Europe and "way out there" in the Pacific.

Since the end of World War II, observances of Armistice Day have been held all over the nation, but especially in our national cemeteries and monuments and at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Washington, D.C. The president and many state governors have issued proclamations. Countless communities, veterans groups, and civic clubs and organizations have held local observances. Armistice Day became Veterans' Day by an act of Congress in 1954, changing its purpose and scope. President Eisenhower called on the nation to remember the sacrifices of those who fought in *all* our nation's wars, to celebrate the contributions of all veterans of military service, and to rededicate ourselves to the task of promoting an enduring peace. It is Eisenhower's call that remains the three-fold purpose of Veterans' Day: remembering those who fought and died, celebrating all veterans, and promoting an enduring peace.

FOR ALL THE SAINTS (All Saints Day)

1. For all the saints, who from their labours rest,
Who Thee by faith before the world
confessed,
Thy Name, O Jesus, be forever blessed.
Alleluia, Alleluia!

2. Thou wast their Rock, their Fortress and
their Might;
Thou, Lord, their Captain in the well fought
fight;
Thou, in the darkness drear, their one true
Light.
Alleluia, Alleluia!

3. For the Apostles' glorious company,
Who bearing forth the Cross o'er land and
sea,
Shook all the mighty world, we sing to Thee:
Alleluia, Alleluia!

4. O may Thy soldiers, faithful, true and
bold,
Fight as the saints who nobly fought of old,
And win with them the victor's crown of
gold.
Alleluia, Alleluia!

5. For the Evangelists, by whose blest word,
Like fourfold streams, the garden of the
Lord,
Is fair and fruitful, be Thy Name adored.
Alleluia, Alleluia!

6. For Martyrs, who with rapture kindled
eye,
Saw the bright crown descending from the
sky,
And seeing, grasped it, Thee we glorify.
Alleluia, Alleluia!

7. O blest communion, fellowship divine!
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine;
Yet all are one in Thee, for all are Thine.
Alleluia, Alleluia!

8. And when the strife is fierce, the warfare
long,
Steals on the ear the distant triumph song,
And hearts are brave, again, and arms are
strong.
Alleluia, Alleluia!

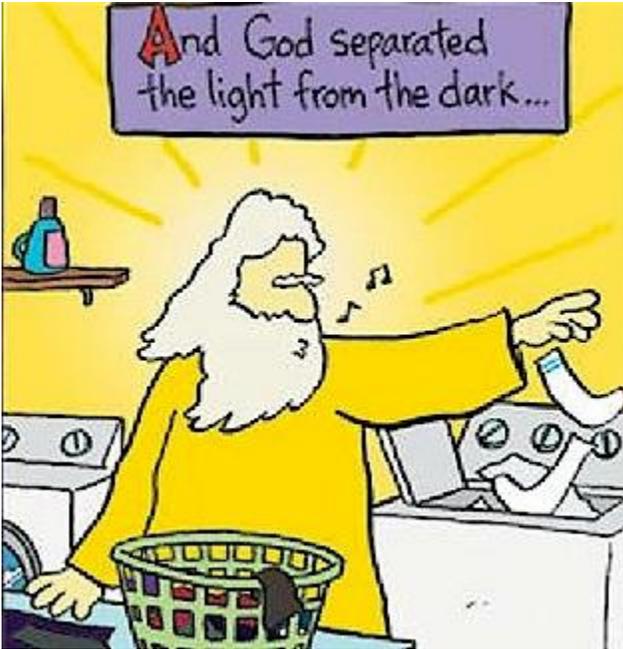
9. The golden evening brightens in the west;
Soon, soon to faithful warriors comes their
rest;
Sweet is the calm of paradise the blessed.
Alleluia, Alleluia!

10. But lo! there breaks a yet more glorious
day;
The saints triumphant rise in bright array;
The King of glory passes on His way.
Alleluia, Alleluia!

11. From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's
farthest coast,
Through gates of pearl streams in the
countless host,
Singing to Father, Son and Holy Ghost:
Alleluia, Alleluia!

"For All the Saints" was written as a [processional hymn](#) by the [Anglican Bishop of Wakefield, William Walsham How](#). The hymn was first printed in *Hymns for Saints' Days, and Other Hymns*, by Earl Nelson, 1864.

SMILE



BIBLE QUIZ

1. How many verses are there in the bible?

- over 3,100
- over 31,000
- over 16,000
- over 22,000

2. Which church in Asia minor did Jesus say was "lukewarm"?

- Philadelphia
- Laodicea
- Smyrna

3. Which is not a name given for the devil in the bible?

- Satan
- the Dark One
- O Morning Star
- Beelzebub

THE SPIRIT

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Please send your contributions for the December issue of *The Spirit* by November 20, 2018 to the editor at **reneevl@verizon.net**. Consider events, news, stories, poems, recipes, or photos. Thank YOU.



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