

## Growing Faith

Do you have faith? How much faith do you have today? Is your faith strong enough to withstand whatever comes your way? How do you know? Would you like to grow your faith?

These questions and more will be addressed in the new sermon series on growing faith. First, we will do a faith checkup. Got faith? Is it enough? Do you ever doubt or struggle with unbelief? Is that always bad?

I like the disciple named Thomas. I think it is mostly because he is so easy to relate to for many of us. He was there with Jesus--hearing his words of teaching and preaching, seeing the miracles, and working every day as a close disciple with Jesus. And yet, when the other disciples told Thomas that they saw the resurrected Lord, Thomas did not believe them.

I can identify with this. I do not always believe what someone else says. Do you?

Some people were taught that questioning is not a good thing whatsoever. Just believe. Well, that might work for some people but not for me. I grew up on the Socratic method--question and answer. The more questions we ask, the more answers we get. I found that many people pretend to understand or know something when, in fact, they did not. This does not make sense to me. I want to learn everything I can in this life--how things work, why things are the way they are, how God works and moves in our lives, what terms and words mean, how the Bible speaks to situations in our own day, and much, much more!

You see, for me, I learned about faith by asking questions. I asked some hard questions, like why is there suffering in the world. This bothered me tremendously at one point in my life, so I read books on the topic, asked pastors and teachers what they thought, and explored this topic by asking question and after question until people actually got sick of hearing about it from me. But I learned a tremendous amount in the whole process and it was memorable!

Some people have faith but don't realize it until something happens to test their faith. Others have faith and don't need to question many things. Some of us question and question, and come to faith in this way.

The point is: do you have faith? Is your faith strong enough? Do you want your faith to grow?

I do not want to be a Christian whose faith is the same as it was twenty years ago. I recognize the need to grow in my faith so it becomes stronger and bolder. So for me, I keep asking questions and am always amazed at the answers that always come to me! While I am not completely satisfied with my faith-level all the time, I do know that my faith has grown tremendously over the years.

What about you? How is it with your faith?



Bob Shank

# Daily Scripture Readings

**May 1**  
Revelation 4

**May 2**  
Revelation 5

**May 3**  
Revelation 6

**May 4**  
Revelation 7

**May 5**  
Revelation 8

**May 6**  
Revelation 9

**May 7**  
Revelation 10

**May 8**  
Revelation 11

**May 9**  
Revelation 12

**May 10**  
Revelation 13

**May 11**  
Revelation 14

**May 12**  
Revelation 15

**May 13**  
Revelation 16

**May 14**  
Revelation 17

**May 15**  
Revelation 18

**May 16**  
Revelation 19

**May 17**  
Revelation 20

**May 18**  
Revelation 21

**May 19**  
Revelation 22

If you've been reading these Daily Scripture Readings faithfully every month since January 2011, then congratulations are in order for you because you've now read the entire Bible!

This is a tremendous accomplishment and I am proud of you for this. Way to go!

Also, please let me know if you would like to continue reading the Bible in this way by continuing to include monthly Bible readings. Are many of you using this page of the newsletter? Is there something you prefer instead? I will do what you want with this page in the future, so please let me know. Feel free to email, send a letter, a smoke signal, or whatever way you prefer. I do want to hear from you!

And again, if you read all these suggested readings since January 2011, congratulations!

Pastor Bob



### To Serve You in May

<b>Greeters</b>	8:30
4	Irene Goforth
11	DeAnn Harris
18	Walter & Hilda Roeckendorf
25	Ray & Alice Singer
	11:00
4	Sue & Bill Weitzmann
11	Sue & Ron Gouger
18	Joyce Neil & "Deannie" McDonald
25	BJ Bachman
<b>Ushers</b>	8:30
Ray Singer	
Alice Singer	
DeAnn Harris	
Bob Howell	
	11:00
C.J. Penwell	
John Allen	
BJ Bachman	
Joni Singer	
Betty Michelin	
<b>Counters</b>	
Ray Singer & Doris Philips	
<b>Altar Guild</b>	
Eleanor Bentzoni & Alice Singer	
<b>Soup Kitchen</b>	
Sundays at 4:00 pm	
4	McMichael's UMC - Pastor Ed
11	The Barth family - Cindy Barth
18	Pen Argyl Grace UMC - Tom Odenwelder
25	The Fox family - Bob Fox
Tuesday evenings at 6:00 pm	



### OUR CHURCH STAFF:

<b>Ministers</b>	Everyone
<b>Pastors</b>	Bob Shank & Ted Good
<b>Pastor of Church Growth</b>	Gar Pollard
<b>Pastor Emeritus</b>	Tom Anderman
<b>Church Secretary</b>	Jackie Herrero
<b>Choir Director</b>	Dave Lantz
<b>Organist</b>	Marti Lantz
<b>Youth Leader</b>	Vin Zelizo
<b>Handbell Director</b>	Lynn Seip
<b>Custodian</b>	Matt Parton

### OUR CHURCH LEADERS:

<b>Daniel's Dream Team</b>	
Chairperson, Boyd Butz	
	boydbutz@stroudsburgumc.com
<b>Worship</b>	
Chairpersons, Ralph Harrison, Pastor Bob Shank	
	bobshank@stroudsburgumc.com
<b>Property &amp; Building</b>	
Chairperson, Dick Seip	relseip@ptd.net
<b>Servant Resource Team</b>	
Chairperson, C. J. Penwell	
	cjpen53@ptd.net
<b>Stewardship</b>	
Chairperson, Carole Everitt	
	caroleeveritt@stroudsburgumc.com
<b>Missions</b>	
Chairperson, Alberta Weber	
	albertaweber@stroudsburgumc.com
<b>Membership &amp; Evangelism</b>	
Chairperson, Peggy Stewart	bpstew@juno.com
<b>Lay Leader</b>	Beryl Hellgren
	bykoh@verizon.net

# CLASS OF 2014

Congratulations to our 2014 Graduates!

College - Molly Maroney

High School - Christopher Cook, Brandon DeWitt, Travis Miller,

James Shank, Lydia Shank

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## SUMC Softball Team - Game Schedule for May

May 5 - 6:00 pm at Pinebrook Field

May 9 - 6:00 pm at Pinebrook Field

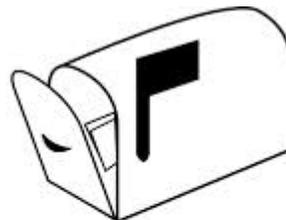
May 14 - 6:00 pm at Pinebrook Field

May 21 - 6:00 pm at Tuscarora Field

May 29 - 6:00 pm at Pinebrook Field

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Marty & Nelson Ernest  
1170 West Main Street Apt. 265  
Stroudsburg, PA 18360 570-421-2212



**NOTE!**  
**ADDRESS CHANGE**

“My Mom”

By Karen Vaughn

On the 8<sup>th</sup> day  
After His day of rest  
The Lord to a task set His mind.  
A whole day He thought  
How to fashion a Mom  
She had to be one of a kind.

She’s got to be sweet  
She’s got to be strong  
And filled with My loving compassion.  
She can’t be perfect  
But when held in My hand  
She’s a Mom with heavenly devotion.

The Lord stepped back  
With a smile on His face  
His heart had the peace of a dove.  
He saw His creation  
Was good, very good  
And long, quite long on love.

Written by Karen Vaughn in memory of her  
Mom, Edna Nelson

happy  
birthday  
to you!

**May Birthdays**

- 1 Joseph Vuchak
- 3 Matthew Transue
- 6 Barbara HineLine
- 9 Bill Stewart
- 10 Beryl Hellgren
- 13 Boyd Butz
- 13 Leia Transue
- 14 Denise Shank
- 15 Hannah Imgrund
- 21 Sheryl Flatt
- 24 Pam Cool
- 25 Jack HineLine
- 28 Henrietta Metzgar
- 29 Ryan DeHaven
- 29 Chris DeHaven

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



**FATHER'S DAY BOOKLET**

**June 15th, a day to honor or remember that special man  
in your life.**

Names for the Father's Day booklet will be taken after both services on May 25th, June 1st, and June 8th.  
\$2.00 per name, in honor of or in memory of. Please make checks payable to: **Stroudsburg United Methodist  
Women**. Requests can also be sent to: Eleanor Bentzoni, 1755 Honeysuckle Lane, Stroudsburg PA  
18360.

**In Honor of:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Presented by:** \_\_\_\_\_

**In Honor of:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Presented by:** \_\_\_\_\_

**In Memory of:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Presented by:** \_\_\_\_\_

**In Memory of:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Presented by:** \_\_\_\_\_

**DEADLINE IS JUNE 8th AT NOON**

**One member writes...**  
**Thanks, thoughts and theories**

I may not be the oldest member of SUMC but I may be eligible for being a current active member longer than anyone! I was baptized here at the age of 4 and since I am now 93 that means my “church going” record is 89 years. 75 of those years have been spent singing in the Senior Choir.

But first, I take this opportunity to thank those who brightened my days with cards when hospitalized 3 times last year and during the ensuing periods of recuperation. And so, because of medical reasons that forced a leave of absence from the choir, I occasionally sat with the congregation. Upon returning, thoughts and emotions have overwhelmed me to the point I felt the need to “vent” by writing this epistle.

It’s general knowledge that the Main Street area churches would welcome attendance growth but unlike the days of yore, more churches have entered the picture in our county. The Pocono Record’s Directory of Churches, Synagogues and Mosques printed in the daily issue every month is an eye opener for one thing. Recently, they included a “Where We Live” issue on churches so I sat down and made a survey. 81 were listed (and I know they missed one). 25 places to worship in Stroudsburg, 12 in East Stroudsburg, 8 in Tannersville, 5 in Brodheadsville, etc., etc.

To focus on our church my thoughts keep returning to our membership and to those we miss seeing on Sundays. My parents always stressed that if we find time to do many things during the week (other than work) we can find an hour or two for church on Sunday. Understandably, there are those with medical problems or those whose employment is a deterrent. Being part of a church family truly fills a personal need and a great deal of comfort can be derived.

Sitting in the congregation and listening to our marvelous 20 voice choir gave me the chills. Now, back in the choir I feel more than proud to be a part of it. More people should hear these talented and devoted singers led by Director Extraordinaire Dave Lantz, and come to admire our especially beautiful windows. Add to this a meaningful message from our Pastor, Bob Shank and a great calm is experienced.

Another fervent wish is for my church to grow by reaching out to the community in multiple ways and by being more “visible”. Our present goals are being accomplished by so many wonderful workers who simply can’t tackle anymore in my opinion. So we need help and looking at the overall picture may bring ideas and answers.

Recently I read a very interesting article in one of America’s most popular magazines. It embraced “Science, Mind and Body” and research claimed that a little spirituality may be good for your health. Something to think about!

This diatribe is in no way meant to criticize or complain about anything currently taking place in the life of our church. The activities, events and programs deserve our support and gratitude. It’s just that my deep hope for the growth of our church keeps surfacing. Strength lies in numbers and reaching out to beckon our not so active members in this way is all I can do. I guess I feel at my age I can be a little vocal! Amen.

- Ruth Sibley Bensinger

**A Cake That Doesn't Last**

**JoAnn Calkins**

3 cups flour  
1 tsp. baking soda  
1 tsp. baking powder  
2 cups sugar  
1 tsp. salt  
1 tsp. cinnamon

Mix dry ingredients.

1 1/2 Tbsp. cooking oil  
1 (8 oz) can crushed pineapple and juice  
3 eggs  
1 1/2 tsp. vanilla  
2 cups diced bananas

Add to dry ingredients. Stir to blend. Do not beat. Pour into well greased tube pan. Bake at 350° for 1 hour,  
20 minutes.

No icing necessary.

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**Dump Cake**

**Ruth Sibley Bensinger**

1 can-20 oz. crushed pineapple  
1 can-21 oz. cherry pie filling  
1 box lemon cake mix  
1 cup pecans (halves)  
1 stick butter or margarine  
1-13x9x2" baking dish, greased

Spread evenly on bottom of dish the undrained pineapple.

Spread evenly pie filling on top of pineapple.

Spread evenly the dry cake mix on top of pie filling.

Place pecans evenly on top of dry cake mix.

Slice butter thinly and arrange on top.

Bake 350° 50-55 minutes. Serve warm or cool.