

The Open Door

July/August 2015



Hillsdale
United Methodist Church
is a faith community,
offering opportunities
to all people seeking
to know God,
advance God's kingdom,
and do God's will,
by following
Jesus Christ.

Hillsdale United Methodist Church

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Please submit articles for the *Sept/Oct Open Door to* Lisa.Schoelles@hotmail.com no later than **August 15th**

Holy Work

There are lots of groups all over the world that do good work. The Red Cross provides disaster relief and coordinates blood drives to bring health and healing to people here and abroad. Human Rights Watch works to uphold human dignity by putting pressure on powerful people. UNICEF works largely with children under five that lack basic necessities and might otherwise die. Many of you in our church support such organizations. You might even support local organizations that do something similar, though perhaps on a smaller scale. These are all good things and worthy of support.

But in the church we do something different. We don't stop at doing good things. Our job is to do work that is holy. I have a note in my office that is permanently displayed to remind me of this. It says, "Church mission is different because it is holy work – we are the priesthood of believers doing God's work in this world." It's not that there is anything wrong with the other organizations listed, but I think their work only goes part of the way. Our job as Christians is to minister to the whole person, both body and soul. What good is it to keep a person's body alive to have them swallowed up in depression, or anger, or narcissism? Our faith provides a compelling answer that changes people's lives.

I found God when I was 23. Now, I grew up in a Christian home. I knew all about Jesus as a kid. I even helped feed homeless people and get housing for international refugees when I was young, but all of those things were done devoid of God's love. I absolutely believe there was a grace at work in me and through me during those early experiences, but it wasn't until I was overwhelmed with a deep sense of God's love for me that my actions were no longer good, humanitarian actions; they became holy work. Now when I feed someone it is qualitatively different. I feed the body *and* the soul. I give someone as much as I can so they encounter God's love through me. I want them to feel overwhelmed with God's love the same way I did. I want them to be transformed in a radical way so they can experience the fullness of life God has for us.

Continued on page 3



Participate
in our food drive
during the lean
summer months!

July 19th

From Your Lay Leader ...

submitted by Joanna Good

Sometimes the most powerful words and ideas come from the young. It is easy for adults to lose sight of simple truths as we live our lives multi-tasking in a complex world of diverse ideas. And so it was for me, when during the Children's Sunday worship service on June 14 one of the Sunday School members volunteered what she had learned this past year. Emma Castrillon said, "Sometimes God requires us to do what is hard, like give up playing to help friends with difficult school work." Well, this really got me thinking. Besides, "Thank you, Emma, for being so perceptive and sharing with us!" and "What a great class and teacher and students to have the kind of discussions that foster such growth!", I thought



how true Emma's statement was about our relationship with God and its impact on us. We know that God requires us to follow a different, higher standard and we know that it means sacrifice, just as Jesus taught us.

Sometimes the most powerful words and ideas come from experienced and dynamic speakers. I had that experience at the end of May, attending the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference and hearing the words of Nicole Caldwell-Gross delivering the sermon during the opening worship service. The theme of the Conference this year was FISH, from the scripture, "throw your net on the other side of the boat and you will find some" (John 21:6). Mrs. Caldwell-Gross reminded us that leading up to these words, the resurrected Jesus found his disciples fishing, going about business just as they had before they met him, and they were not having any success. She reminded us that these words about fishing on the other side of the boat mean that after we have encountered the presence of Christ in our lives, our purpose has changed and so now we must also change our process. We are different after we encounter Christ, therefore, we should also be doing things differently. And as Emma so rightly observed, sometimes this is hard!

To change, to do things in a new and different way, is a challenging process for most of us. It may help you to know that psychologists have identified at least five steps in the process of change. The first three are all about mental preparation, planning, and skill building. When change is put into action, it is expected that time and practice are needed to internalize the new way. Then two more steps focus on recognizing benefits of the new way and preparing for obstacles and the occasional return to old ways.

So whether, you are attempting to please God and to serve others and finding it hard to get started or finding it difficult to maintain your goals, I think these words by Emma and Nicole are inspirational. They can be part of our mental preparation, or inspiration, as well as reminders for our long-term embodiment of new ways of living. What God asks of us is hard, and we most likely do need to change our patterns and old ways. But, just like the disciples out fishing, we have Jesus words, teaching, and example to guide us: "... remember, I am with you always, to the end . . " (Matthew 28:20).

Ret us dare to follow in a new way, Soanna

Upcoming Sermon Series

submitted by Pastor Brian Neville

Please invite your friends and family to join us this Summer, Sundays at 10 am
4th of July, State of Hillsdale UMC, followed by a series about Emotions



Holy Work

The Pastor's Open Door Message for July 2015 - continued from page 1

So, I wonder, what holy work are you engaged in? We have several opportunities in the church coming up. There's Family Promise in August, where we provide housing and meals for families. There's the youth mission trip where we will do simple tasks to help community organizations and families in Eastern Pennsylvania. Perhaps you could be a chaperone, or help transport the group. There's a volunteer day August 22nd at CUMAC to assist them in feeding, clothing, housing and tutoring those in need. Finally, our church is doing something new this summer. We will be holding our 'Hunger Doesn't Take a Vacation' food drive for the Helping Hand Food Pantry. Every summer the many food drives to support the pantry come to a screeching halt. We want to counter this with our own drive July 19th that will also connect us with our neighbors. You'll hear more about this on Sundays in July. So be engaged in holy work! Do more than pay someone else to do nice things. Be transformed as you work to transform the world for Jesus Christ!

On Christ! Rastor Brian Neville

Congratulations to Our Graduates!

Graduate Level:

Jaclyn Geitz University of Buffalo, Buffalo NY
Masters Degree Speech Pathology



College Graduates:

Nicholas Benoit Roger Williams University, Bristol RI
Kelly Gattoni Richard J. Stockton University, Galloway NJ
Damian Murberg Jr. Stevens Institute of Technology, Hoboken NJ

Kevin Sather Rowan University, Glassboro NJ

B.S. Electrical Engineering

B.S. Bio-Chemistry

B.S. Finance & Information Technology

B.S. Biological Sciences

High School Graduates:

Kristen Finger Pompton Lakes H.S., Pompton Lakes NJ
Jessica Gattoni Northern Valley H.S., Old Tappan NJ
Western Wayne H.S., Lake Ariel PA

Pascack Valley H.S, Hillsdale NJ

Nathan Porter, Ashley VanDyken Anthony Vezza, Michael Villegas

Administrative Committee Summaries

Nominations: The Nominations Committee continues to seek: 2 Trustees to care for the buildings and grounds of the church, a Vacation Bible School Coordinator, and a Sunday School Superintendent for 2015-2016. The committee also looks forward to the hiring of a youth minister in the fall of 2015 to support ministries without adequate volunteers.

SPRC: We are currently conducting our annual pastor evaluation. Staff evaluations will be conducted in September.

Trustees: The Trustees continue to look for support for the Greenfaith campaign. We have the contractor ready to install the new Sanctuary windows as soon as we have the finances. The Nursery School made a welcome contribution to the education building by purchasing and installing all new windows and new carpeting in that building. These have been on a wish list for some time. Thanks to the administration staff and board from the Nursery School.

Finance: First half of the year results are in and the church is in good shape financially thanks in part to a wonderful year for the Nursery School who exceeded attendance projections. We are on track to make all of our Shared Ministry payments to the conference again this year. Finance will also be providing mid-year reports to all ministries based on amounts spent vs. budget.

United Methodist Women News

submitted by Sue Moran

Happy Spring! Have you heard the news? THE RUMMAGE SALE IS A prayer from the Response Magazine...

"We are women of action. We like to get the job done. Grant us the grace to know that we never work alone for you said you'd be with us

always...Grant us faith to trust your promise. Help us to know that you alone give growth and change hearts.

alone." Amen.











This spring the UMW were women of action! Our general meeting in early April was a fun celebration of friendship and poetry. The ladies brought bagged lunches and enjoyed sharing delicious desserts and poetry readings. On May 3rd we hosted a ladies tea to include new UMW members and ladies who were interested in learning more about the UMW (more to come on that...). May 12th was the Spring Blue Moon Mexican Café Fundraiser. Thanks to all who participated, we raised \$434 for our missions. It was nice to walk in and see so many tables filled with HUMC friends. Next came the annual Rummage Sale. Four days filled with sorting, stacking, baking, selling, cleaning, feasting, and laughing went by very quickly and nearly \$3,000 was raised! THANK YOU to all those who participated in any way. Whether you donated, baked, set up, and/or cleaned up, we could not have done it without you! Our last event of the Spring was a trip to St. John the Divine Church in NYC. We enjoyed a personal guided tour of the inside of the church and walking around the grounds. It was informative, spiritual, and beautiful! Thank you to

Remind us that falling fully into your embrace is strength and not weakness. We praise you for your steadfast love and presence as it is expressed in the lovely mystery of your ways. Our trust is in you

Vicki for making the arrangements. It was a lovely way to spend a Saturday morning. We wish you all a peaceful, restful Summer and look forward to meeting again in September.

Reace and blessings, Sue & Wicki

Many Thanks!

- Thanks to all for your prayers, calls, and emails about my sidewalk face-plant. You have truly boosted my spirit. I am looking forward to the day I can again greet you all with a big smile! **Zeace and love, **Qicki **Serentnall**
- Blessings and many thanks to all of you for your prayers, cards, phone calls, and good wishes after my knee surgery. I'm very blessed with my wonderful church family. You are the best! *Chanks, and love to you all, Alida*
- ◆ Thank you to our Men's Group for landscaping and mulching our grounds a \$500 savings!
- Thank you to the Iscreamery, 130 Broadway, Hillsdale for donations to our Sundae Sunday youth mission trip fundraiser!
- ♦ Thank you to the Blue Swan Cleaners, 194 Kinderkamack Rd, Park Ridge, for donations to our UMW Rummage Sale!
- Thank you to the Orange Cleaners, 80 Broadway, Woodcliff Lake for the donations to our UMW Rummage Sale!

Stay In Touch! Let us know if your Contact Information has changed

Please let the Church Office know of any changes to your contact information (name, address, home or mobile phone number, and/or email address).



Ministries: We continue to seek Christians called into a variety of ministries within our church. Currently, we seek: VBS Team Coordinator, Sunday High School teacher, Ushers, Collection Counters, Choir Members, and Youth Group Advisors. Our administrative teams are also seeking members to fill open positions on: Trustees, SPRC, and Nominations & Leadership Development. If interested in serving in one of these roles, please contact the church office.

Be A Go-For! From time to time we need to call upon volunteers to help out with various situations. If you can help, please contact Cathy D'Eletto at 201-664-5231 to join.



We honor the recent passing of our beloved ones, and keep their families and friends in our prayers.

Bob Kanwisher

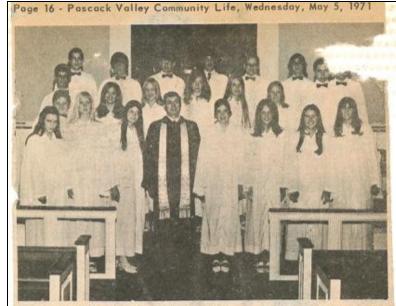
Happy Birthday! Michael Turner 7/30 7/1 Satish David Master 7/2 **Emily Neville** Laura-Jean Arvelo Thomas Castrillon 7/4 Phyllis Clark 8/1 Suzanne Strang 7/5 Gordon Hampton 8/2 Nicole Ross Rocco Vezza Peyton Chang 7/6 8/3 Noah Palm Jean Griffin Zara Bennett Daniel Pagano 8/4 James Benoit Ashley Van Dyken David Neville 8/5 Matthew Moran 7/7 Elsie Logan 8/6 Dorothy Palm Ayden Torres Mary Harada 7/9 Brian Sloan 8/7 Roy Kohan 7/11 Stacey Bujas Bill Griffeth Kathryn Koons Stella Beshara 7/12 Chelsea Unger 8/8 Barbara Hampton Louis Cicala III 7/14 Frank Kartan Julianna Koeniges 8/10 **Charles Bennett** 7/15 **David Martin** 8/12 Mary-Jane Christie Shayne Reily Sorafine Jeffrey Geitz Frank Strauch Sean Cunningham 7/16 8/15 8/16 **Tod Christie** Thomas Mrsich George Mrsich 8/17 Carlee Griffeth Christopher Mrsich Justin Kohan Denise Winkler 7/18 8/18 Alida Preciado 7/21 Ellen Ross Ashley Lane 8/19 Justin Frasche Juliana Friend 7/22 Chase Pflueger 8/21 Charley Paul Katherine Jamer 8/22 Kimberly Cuffe Mary Ellen Phykitt **Daniel Pescatore** 7/23 Michael Lavitol 8/23 Lisa Lavitol 7/24 Amanda Winkler Breanna Kanwisher Ashley Villegas Robert Saul Faithalyn Bujas 8/24 **Ruth Burmeister** 7/25 Brett Drisgula Jeffrey Roggenburg Scott Sather 8/28 Joanna Good Kristine Stewart Nathan Apostolico Vera Sassenscheid 7/27 Ellen Stratton 8/30 Daniel Pflueger Melanie Harada Logan Capogna 7/28 Kathryn Wrynn

Thank You - to all who serve Family Promise:

We are two-thirds of the way through our 2015 mission with Family Promise and, once again, many thanks to all who have cooked, served, and stayed overnight with our guests. Without the combined efforts of many people, this would be a monumental undertaking. Many hands make light work. May God Bless all of you who have served this worthy mission so unselfishly this year. I am very proud to be a part of this caring and generous congregation.

Throw-Back-Thursday - Confirmation Then & Now

submitted by Florence Finger



CONFIRMED IN HILLSDALE - Pictured above are the new youth members of the United Methodist Church who were confirmed and received into membership on. Sunday by the Rev. Robert J. Payne, pastor. Their confirmation followed a two-year training program. The ervice included the singing of folk songs by the high school youth. Left to right in the picture are, Front row: Paula Casper, Adele Williams, Karen Roden, Mr. Payne, Patricia Payne, Barbara Maio, Cindy 'ozier, Donna Steurer. Second row: Thomas Schuette, Marcey Bender, Joan Andersen, Kathleen Gibbs, Marnie Snyder, Barbara Gilmour, Stephen Pfranger. Third row: Paul Olsen, William Engel, Joel Finger, Hal Janssen, Richard Englander, Robert Bedarbis, Robert Bedarbis, Robert Selover, Russell Gibbs. (Photo by Kent Fulcher)



2014-15 Sunday School





Summer One-Room Sunday School is In Session!

Kids Welcome!

Volunteers Welcome!

See Ellen Stratton to learn more!

May-June 2015 at Hillsdale United Methodist Church































Mixed Bowling League

Submitted by Sylvia Kleister

We're looking forward to September with full teams, and to make this happen, we need your help - we need FOUR more bowlers. If you know of anyone that would like to join us (any average - high, low, or unknown) or if you would like to substitute, please contact Sylvia Kleister or speak with any of our church

bowlers - Lesa Brinker, Pat Martin, Gerry Costello, George Benoit, Amy Fred-Villegas, Lois Nacinovich, Mike Schoelles, and Randy & Mary Jane Drisgula to learn more about our league.

This May, we completed our 53rd year with a delicious dinner at Domani's of Hillsdale. First Place Team certificates were given to Michele Fedorchak, Gloria Truppi, Marcy Oggenfuss, & Captain Ed Hauck. Last Place Team trophies were given to Denise Pallatta, Sylvia Kleister, George Morton, & Captain Dennis Pallatta. High Average: Robin Van Tilburg & Mike Schoelles. High Series: Janet Moore & Bob Hubbard. High Game: Carol Gyetko & Robert Riedel. Most Improved: Amy Fred-Villegas & Ed Hauck. Everyone had a good time and great fellowship!

Join us as we start our 54th season, September 10th - Thursdays, 7:30pm, at the Montvale Lanes.



Hillsdale United Nursery School

submitted by Carol Stalter



I illsdale United Nursery School graduated its 41st class on June 5, 2015! Our graduating class totaled 41 students. The past year was filled with making new friends and learning. As the nursery school classrooms moved easily from season to season, we watched as the little ones grew and grew. While creating artistic masterpieces and tackling preschool academics, the children made new friends and learned social skills.

Springtime programs included the "Moms & Muffins," "Chief Francaviglia for 'C' Week," "Field Day," "Supermarket," "Pizza & Puzzles," "Flag Salute with American Legion Post 162," "Hillsdale's Memorial Day Parade," and "Lemonade Lunch." The Three-Year-Olds hosted a "Spring Sing" for their families, while the Four-Year-Olds invited their mothers into the class for "Mother's Day Tea."

The year ended with an enrollment of 124 children! The "June Bugs" Camp has 43 students enrolled. Our four-year-old program for September is full (with a wait list!) and our three-year-old program is almost full. Please let your friends and neighbors know that there is availability in our 2.5 year-old "Jump Start" class for September.

Improvements that were made to the school this year included a new picnic table in memory of Bev Taup, our long-time director, a four-seater rocker on the playground, new storage cabinets, and new hallway carpet. The most exciting addition was the new lighting fixtures in the building! Now we can see what we're doing!

This year has been terrific. Our energetic staff is outstanding! I appreciate the support of Hillsdale United Methodist Church in all that the Nursery School does. I thank the Nursery School Board for their dedication to our school. I wish all of you a wonderful summer!

Have a great Opring! Parol OStalter



Join Us for Icy Mountain Adventure this Summer!

Vacation Bible School "Everest" August 3-7 9am to noon

Kids Welcome! Volunteers Needed!

Contact the Church Office at 201-664-5231 for more information

From Your Church Council Chairperson ...

Submitted by Tammy Molinelli

Jesus was successful. His mission changed the world. He transformed the lives of millions without wealth, or prestige. He understood that God had a plan for him and he lived his life doing that. He didn't need an expensive car or a hot girl to feel good about himself. So why is it that in American culture, the definition of success is so different from that of Jesus'?

In looking at success in American culture we see that it comes in many shapes, sizes, and activities with expertise in varying levels. What success looks like to you is different than what success would look like to me. And it should. God calls us all to do different things.

Success is also age relevant. If you ask a 5-year-old girl what a perfect life looks like, she may likely tell you that it's being a Disney Princess! That's where she is in her spiritual growth. Older kids may think a successful life models the pop culture version of success. A rock star, a movie star, or an elite professional sports icon with all its trapping of fame and fortune found in the media, movies, and sports. It's hard to get away from the bombardment of media messages out there. As parents we need to continually be redirecting our youth to understand that what the world offers as success in an illusion.

It's no wonder kids grow up confused with the mixed messages they get from the media regarding what success looks like. What we see in the media is confusing to children, young girls and boys because of the perfect images seen. Reality shows distort the way that women and men should behave with each other and within close relationships. Without strong and responsible role models, that teach the meaning of life as God intends, young people can believe that this is how people are supposed to behave.

Some people think that wealth, and power, and fame makes you successful in life. Clearly this is not true as the sole indicator of success. Britney Spears, Elvis Presley, Marilyn Monroe, clearly were not happy, yet society said they were successful. While wealth can make life easier, and allow one to make the lives of others easier, it is not needed to have a successful life. Without God as a compass, life's path takes you to many places you may not want to go.

Dr. Seuss's definition is closer to what I believe brings us success. He said, "You have the brains in your head. You have the feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself any direction you choose. You're on your own. And you know what you know. And YOU are the one who'll decide where to go," This definition talks of personal empowerment, but without God's direction and knowing what God wants you to do, a successful path may be very rocky. At least Dr. Seuss encourages us to get out there and make things happen in our lives.

I like the definition of success as defined by David Kidder, CEO of Bionic. He defines success in the following way... "The purpose of our lives is to contribute our unique, God-given gifts to have an extraordinary positive impact on the lives of others and the world." You see God is in the middle of this definition because true success means that God is working through you. It's important to define a successful life based on God's unique purpose for us, our values and our talents, and our ability to love ourselves and



others. This is success. We don't need to worry about anything else. Isaiah 41:10 says, "Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." We just need to ask. God calls us to design our own lives based on our unique skills, talents, and abilities. God wants us to grow and find happiness, to overcome barriers and hardship, and to learn every day. Proverbs 16:3 says "commit your work to the Lord, and your plans will be established." This is all we need to know. Commit your work to the Lord and the rest will fall into place.

May the Reace of Christ be with you, Cammy

Finance Committee Update

submitted by Mike Schoelles

I am happy to announce that the church is in a good financial position going into the summer months and are currently on target to make all of our Shared Ministry payments in 2015 for the second year in a row.

As we go into the summer months and the nice weather gets the better of us, I would like to encourage you to consider electronic giving. Not only does electronic giving happen automatically on the frequency you designate, is secure and it also happens without you having

to think about when the last time you gave or how many weeks you might need to make up. We will also be trying out a credit card reader during the summer months for those that would like to give in that manner.

Finance is always seeking counters on Sundays after service to count and record the offering. This only takes about an hour and is done in a team of 2 people. If you can spare a couple of Sundays each quarter that would be fantastic. If we could get just a few more volunteers we can spread the work out a little better amongst the team.

I would like all ministry leads to begin thinking about budgets for 2016. I know you think it is early, but I would like to start meeting with the respective ministries to determine any adjustments or changes necessary to budgets for each area. This will help when we begin our Stewardship campaign this fall and begin the planning for 2016 and beyond.

As always, if anyone has any questions or suggestions for the finance committee please let me know. I would love to share anything you want to know.

Reace and blessings, Mike Schoelles

Stewardship Update

submitted by Mike Schoelles



Green Faith capital campaign update: Our goal is \$25,000 in donations for energy-efficient lighting and air conditioning upgrades, and energy- efficient windows in the sanctuary. We have \$14,000 pledged, of which \$13,275 has already been received! Plus we have received \$2,085 in unpledged donations - totaling \$15,360 received in a few short months - that's 64% of goal! We need \$9,640 to reach our goal - \$760 of which is pledge not yet received. If you have not already handed in a commitment card or made a donation I would urge you to please do so and help us with this important campaign.

Reace and blessings, Mike Schoelles

Public Theology Advocate Update

Submitted by Lisa Schoelles

attended the Greater NJ Annual conference in Wildwood a few weeks ago, to experience GNJAC2015 as our Public Theology Advocate. It was an exhilarating and emotional few days. Please feel free to read more about my personal experience leading up to, during, and after conference, on my weekly Public Theology Advocate blog. Hardcopies are always available to be printed at the church office.



As we publish this newsletter, I am saddened by the news of yet another tragic shooting in our country. I am echoing the call for all of us to pray for the families and the congregations in Charleston. I also ask you to pray radically for the violent haters by asking God's light to shine and break the darkness in their souls, and the darkness that is now creeping into the people who are suffering loss. We must not judge - we must love and forgive in spite of our pain. We must stand tall for Justice and Peace and Healing.

I have joined "Congregations for a Better Bergen", and with this inter-faith group, we will learn more about congregation-based organizing for Justice. It is my hope that we will engage in projects beyond simple acts of mercy, to bring lasting solutions to key issues that effect our communities.

Those who pursue justice shall find life (Proverbs 21:21). I continue to ask that you pray for me in the role of Public Theology Advocate as I take a stand for Justice. Share with me your thoughts, ideas, and concerns about social justice in the Pascack Valley region.

In Christ's Reace, Risa

You Can Make A Difference!

Did you know that the print version of "The Open Door" costs our church over \$1,300 annually? Some churches in our District have moved to a strict online policy for their newsletters eliminating the need to print and mail. But, we understand that not all people have their own personal computer and printer.

"The Open Door" is well-read and anticipated by our Congregation, and has been a vital tool in helping our Congregation better understand the church ministries and activities. And it has been an excellent way for persons who love our church but have moved away, to stay informed and in touch.

With this in mind, we have honored the traditional print "The Open Door" in style and look, even as we've created a beautiful online version. We need not sacrifice one for the other, and we need not take away the print version from the people who've cherished it for so long.

There are many advantages to becoming an online subscriber:

- ♦ You can read "The Open Door' before it prints!
- ♦ You can read on any electronic device.
- ♦ You can print the PDF copy in 8.5x11 format suitable for any printer.
- ♦ You can share "The Open Door" articles and images easily with your friends and family.
- ♦ The images are crisp and clear and beautiful.
- **BUT MOST IMPORTANT!** You will help us save between \$500-600 in office expenses while being an active Environmental Steward.

So please, fill out and send this coupon back to:

Lisa Schoelles, The Open Door editor Hillsdale United Methodist Church 349 Hillsdale Avenue Hillsdale NJ 07642

Or email Lisa with your preferences at Lisa.Schoelles@hotmail.com

At year-end, we will review all the responses and update our mailing lists – and announce the projected annual savings in the January/February 2016 edition.

Thank you for your continued support of "The Open Door" and all our ministries.

My Open Door Preference (6 editions publish the 1st of January, March, May, July, September, November)
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I want to continue to receive "The Open Door" via postal service, and will look for other savings for ministry.
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