

the LANTERN

First Presbyterian Church

MARCH 2009

Spring Drama!



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Dessert Auction/Talent Show

Sunday, March 29
Time: t.b.a.

Join our PYF Montreat Money Maker
Talent Show volunteers accepted!
Donations of desserts eagerly accepted!!
Your presence at this event most eagerly
accepted!!!

Hope you can make it!

Special Plays for Lent and Easter

The children and teens who are members of *Operation J.O.Y.* and PYF will be making larger-than-life puppets this month. The puppets will be quite large, and the kids will be under the puppets' clothes.

You will get to see these puppets in skits during Lent and Easter. On Sunday, March 22, the teenagers will perform the story of Nicodemus' visit to Jesus. Then on Sunday, April 5, the children and teens will combine to

bring the story of Jesus' triumphal entry to the city of Jerusalem. Finally, on Saturday, April 11 the children will present the Resurrection. This will be repeated on Sunday, April 12, Easter morning.

Please pray for our children, teens and leaders as they rehearse and prepare. Make every effort to be present and worship with our youth through these Christian skits.

Joyce Otten Speaks about African Mission

On Wednesday, March 18, Joyce Otten will speak about her own and her brother's mission work in Africa. The evening will begin with a light supper, followed by the talk.

Lenten Prayer Time

Come join us at noon each Thursday of Lent in Fellowship Hall for a time of prayer. Bring a lunch and we will eat together. Plan now to attend!

the Lantern

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March Lectionary

MARCH 1

1st Sunday in Lent

Genesis 9:8–17

Psalms 25:1–10

1 Peter 3:18–22

Mark 1:9–15

MARCH 8

2nd Sunday in Lent

Gen. 17:1–7, 15–16

Psalms 22:23–31

Romans 4:13–25

Mark 8:31–38

MARCH 15

3rd Sunday in Lent

Exodus 20:1–17

Psalms 19:1–14

1 Corinthians 1:18–25

John 2:13–22

MARCH 22

4th Sunday in Lent

Numbers 21:4–9

Psalms 107:1–3, 17–22

Eph. 2:1–10

John 3:14–21

MARCH 29

5th Sunday in Lent

Jeremiah 31:31–34

Psalms 51:1–12 or Psalm

119:9–16

Hebrews 5:5–10

John 12:20–33

Spring Youth Retreats

Sr. High: March 7–8, First
Pres., Jeff. City

Mid-High: April 24–25,
Covenant Point

Millard Fuller Remembered

Millard Fuller died February 4, 2009. He was 74. In 1976 he became the co-founder, with his wife Linda, of Habitat for Humanity International. In partnership with the future homeowners, Habitat volunteers have built nearly two million houses, worldwide. "Every child should have a decent, safe place to rest at night." Homeowners pay for their homes through a no interest loan and their own "sweat equity" labor.

Kirksville First Presbyterian Church played a major role in founding Kirksville Area Habitat for Humanity. Many churches in this community are currently involved in this Christian Housing ministry.

We remember Millard Fuller.



www.habitat.org

Christian Clown Performs at Operation J.O.Y.

Wednesday, February 4 was an exciting day for our children and teens. After refreshments, we met in the sanctuary with NannaAnna, the Christian Clown, a.k.a. Charlotte Parrish from Ewing. Her illusions fooled us each time. We joined her in singing funny songs. *And* she told us God's plan of salvation using balloons

of different colors to help us understand. Finally, NannaAnna made balloon animals for us. The hour went by too fast. Perhaps NannaAnna will come again one day.

Thanks to the leaders and moms who helped make this event fun and meaningful for our youth.

A Note of Thanks

I realize it is a little late, but I have returned to work, and I want to share with you the gratitude of the women and families of Victim Support Services. Your generosity at White Gift touched many lives: we helped 19 women and their children. One woman said that this Christmas was the best she has ever had with her children. She explained that her spouse had never let her have a Christmas tree and had always controlled the finances, making Christmas an impossibility. She saw your generosity, the generosity of strangers, and it was a realization of how controlling and mean her husband had been. She was moved to tears as she explained what a blessing and powerful spiritual message you extended to her, the love of Christ to a stranger.

Michael, Noah and I also want to say thank you for your help and support during my surgery and recovery. I am back on my feet and not picking up Noah. We so enjoyed having everyone stop by, send cards, and of course all the yummy food. You all showed us the powerful message of sharing in our time of need. I now know that helping someone in need is an amazing way to share the power of Christ and teach the gospel message. The evangelistic ministry of food, AKA the Casserole Brigade, is doing Christ's work. The frozen chosen know how to fill bellies and warm hearts. Thank you!!

*Blessings,
Elizabeth McCormack*

Mike's Page: No Failure with the Spirit

The 40 days of Lent is underway. I hope you are having a "Holy Lent," as people sometimes say. Lent is a season of the church based on Jesus' 40 days in the desert: being tempted, isolated, and struggling inwardly with all that's expected of him. So, we in turn take 40 days to prepare spiritually for his journey to the cross. This can be a time when we ask ourselves questions for reflection:

- What is the Spirit driving me toward?
- How do I feel that God is present to me each day?
- What was I most thankful for and least thankful for today?
- How difficult has it been for me to observe Lent or a Lenten practice?

I struggled with what to give up for Lent this year. In years past I have given up a certain food (ice cream) or given up eating between meals (ice cream, especially). This year I decided to take up something new: gardening.

First, let me say that I know the Holy Spirit is driving me to do this, because I don't like gardening. My mother always gardened and often cajoled and convinced me to help her in the garden. I probably helped twice. I just never liked it. Gardening is a near-infinite thing to do. It's right up there with making your bed and tying your shoes—something you will just have to do and keep doing forever. I mean, get a duvet. Wear loafers, you know?

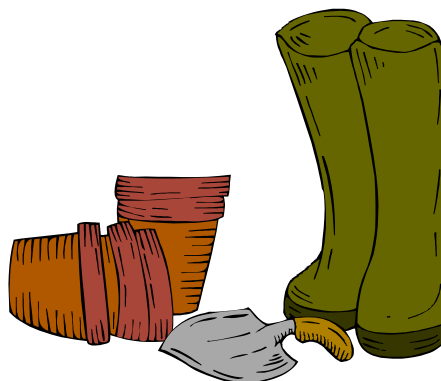
But that doesn't stop the Holy Spirit. I am going to garden. Shannon Jung, in his book *Food for Life*, shares about the way God-in-Christ transforms our lives. "Two specific activities 'feed' transformation: gardening and cooking." Jung adds, "Many authors who write about food suggest that everyone ought to grow some of the food that they eat. Indeed, gardening teaches us where food comes from and the sort of effort it takes to put food

on the table." If we want to live Eucharistic lives, lives filled with grace, thanksgiving, sharing and delight, Jung suggests that gardening and cooking are both ways to do this.

So, I begrudgingly began my Lenten discipline. I quietly sought counsel from Danny about potatoes and tomatoes, went with my mom and dad to Westlake's, bought a shovel. Dad and I dug a hole. And all the while, I tried to remember little pieces of the Psalms to help me in the process: "This is the day the Lord has made," or "Justice and mercy shall meet; Righteousness and peace shall kiss each other." But actually all I felt like was, "How long O Lord? Will you abandon me forever?" Gardening to me is the unknown, and it could very well result in failure. It is a little wild, for me, actually. That dirt hole that is supposed to be a garden is more of an existential abyss.

But the Spirit pushes us into the desert, and forces us to grow, even when we feel like clods of dirt. There is no failure with the Spirit. There is only faithfulness. Sometimes we are more faithful. Sometimes we are less faithful. We try to grow. We try to prepare the ground of our spirits, but it is the Spirit who really gives the growth, as Paul would remind. I look forward to conversations with you all this Lent and Eastertide regarding gardening. I need help from my fellow desert companions.

What journey are you on this Lent? What is the Spirit doing for you, to you, with you? I pray that it *isn't* successful, but fruitful and faithful. Amen.



Mike's Office Hours

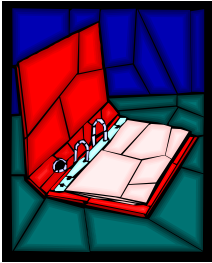
MONDAY:
8:30 am – Noon

TUESDAY:
8:30 am – Noon

WEDNESDAY:
1:00 – 5:00 pm

THURSDAY:
8:30 am – Noon

FRIDAY & SATURDAY:
No office hours.



Notes from Session

JOINT DEACONS/SESSION MEETING

We have reserved the Point at Thousand Hills for a **church picnic** on the third Sunday in August, August 16.

Dorothy Bloskovich is progressing and thanks us for our prayers.

BUDGET AND FINANCE/TREASURER'S REPORT

December Report

Most of our 2008 expenses fell **within budgeted amounts**, or a little under. Regular giving during 2008 was the highest since Danny has been here: \$137,461.

January Report

If giving continues at 2008 levels, our budget for 2009 will be very nearly balanced.

BUILDING IMPROVEMENT

Benton & Associates provided a letter detailing the status of the **elevator project**. We have enough in the fund to go ahead with Phase II, the creation of detailed plans and the solicitation of bids. The Session previously approved that we do so when funds were available. The cost for Phase II has not changed since the previous estimate: \$12,000. A motion to go ahead with Phase II was made, seconded and passed without objection.

The committee brought two **options for loans** that would cover actual construction costs. Bank of Kirksville and the Church Development Corporation provided information. Both were for 20-year ARM loans, with our building as collateral. Neither included prepayment penalties. Bank of Kirksville offers a 6.5% rate, and has the advantage of being local. The CDC (who serves only Presbyterian churches in our Synod) offers a 5.5% rate. To pay the monthly payments, we'd need each family to give between \$5 to \$10 more per week, if we have 60 families giving, or between \$1800 and \$2300 per month total. The committee tried to be very conservative in estimating the final cost. The CDC also offers a 30-year loan.

When asked if the Banks required further steps before approving a loan, the committee

answered that a valuation of our building as sufficient collateral was all that was needed.

The Session made no decisions at this meeting, and suggested that the committee talk with Bank Midwest as well because we have accounts there. As a reminder to newsletter readers, a decision to take a loan would need to be approved by Session, the congregation, and the Presbytery.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Ronnaug will teach a **class on the Tabernacle** during Lent.

A study of John Calvin was suggested for the **summer** Christian education study.

Ronnaug and Michael will discuss **Sunday School attendance** on Second Sundays. Children's attendance is down because the adults don't meet. How should that be resolved?

Joyce Otten has agreed to come talk about her own and her brother's mission work in Malawi on March 18 after choir rehearsal.

CAMPUS MINISTRY

The PCF has had its **winter retreat** on the 20th and 21st of February at St. Joseph retreat center in Edina. The topic was child-like, not child-ish faith.

Not all of the **campus ministry budget** from Presbytery may come through in the next year because of shortfalls in Direct Missions giving. This shortfall is not expected to cause a problem for our group.

HOUSE AND GROUNDS

When the weather gets better, repairs for the **leak in the balcony** will begin.

A member has asked whether we plan to do anything with the **10 landlocked acres** we own near the lake. This member is interested in helping us sell it. A question as to whether we should look at the property more closely was raised. Others responded that we have looked closely in the past, and we did not have a use for it. The Session approved a motion to entertain more discussion on this issue.

[Continued on Page 5]

Congratulations March Birthdays and Anniversaries!

BIRTHDAYS

Francis Walter
Pat Lintner
Fran Norman
Colleen Hamilton
Elliott Jennings
Mary Giovannini
Nathan Ferrell

Bob Sanders
Megan Matheney
Ellie Dublin
William King

ANNIVERSARIES

Eddie & Mary Hodges



Financial Report

JANUARY, 2009

	Month Income	Month Expense	YTD Income	YTD Expense
Giving & Other Revenue				
Restricted Program Transfers				
Designated Income/Expense				
Direct Mission				
Pastoral Leadership				
Worship & Music				
Christian Education				
Administrative Support				
House & Grounds				
General Needs				
Campus Ministry				
Membership Shepherding				
Community Ministries				
Rollins Ministry				
Westminster House Ministry				
Total				
Undesignated Cash Checking Account:				



Session (continued from page 4)

WORSHIP AND SACRAMENTS

An **Easter Vigil** service on Saturday, April 11 (perhaps around 7:00 pm) was approved without opposition. Communion at the Lent Lunch on Maundy Thursday will be offered, but there will be no evening service that day.

Paula suggested that we compile information or create a video detailing all the things that various people do around the church that perhaps many are not aware of.

OTHER BUSINESS

A set of Easter **banners** has been selected by the memorial committee. A motion to approve the purchase of the banners was approved.

Scott Thatcher presented a motion on how **Bell Trust money** would be spent by the church, with the goal of ensuring that Trust money is spent on church activities that most closely align with "home missions in Adair County." A revised list will be considered at the next meeting.



Dates to Remember

SUNDAYS

9:30–10:45 am: Sunday Worship Service

11:00 am: Sunday School for All Ages

5:30 pm: Campus Ministry meal at the
Westminster House

...

Mar. 1, 3:00 pm: Manor Care Service

Mar. 8: Second-Sunday Brunch

Mar. 8: **No** Campus Meal

Mar. 8: Sr. High Retreat, 1st Pres. Jeff. City

Mar. 15, 2:00 pm: Highland Crest Service

Mar. 15: **No** Campus Meal

Mar. 29: Dessert Auction/Talent Show

TUESDAYS

Mar. 3, 6:30 pm: K.I.M.

Mar. 3, 7:00 pm: Presbyterian Women

Mar. 10, 7:00 pm: Session & Deacons

Mar. 31, 3:30 pm: Christian Ed. Comm.

Mar. 31, 5:30 pm: Food Depot

Mar. 31, 7:00 pm: Presbyterian Women

WEDNESDAYS

1:15 pm: Bible Study

3:15 pm–5:15 pm: *Operation J.O.Y.*, P.Y.F.

5:30 pm–6:30 pm: Adult Choir

...

Mar. 11: **No** *Operation J.O.Y.*

Mar. 18: Joyce Otten: Meal and Talk

THURSDAYS

Noon: Lenten Lunches

Mar. 5, 1:30: Budget & Finance

Mar. 12, 9:00 am: Presby Seniors at Rosie's

SATURDAYS

Mar. 7: Sr. High Retreat, 1st Pres. Jeff. City

March Food:



Corn!