

the LANTERN

First Presbyterian Church

MARCH 2008

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Celebrate Holy Week!

PALM SUNDAY (MARCH 16)

Palm Sunday Service – 9:30 am

MAUNDY THURSDAY (MARCH 20)

Maundy Thursday Meal – 6:00 pm
Maundy Thursday Service – 6:30 pm

GOOD FRIDAY (MARCH 21)

Good Friday Ecumenical Prayer Service – 12:00 noon
This service is made possible by the Kirksville Interchurch Ministries and will be held at the Salvation Army (1004 West Gardner). The free will offering will go to the *Food 4 Kids* program.

RABBITY SATURDAY (MARCH 22)

Easter Egg Hunt – 10:30 am
At the McCormack's. Join in making this a tradition!

EASTER SUNDAY (MARCH 23)

Easter Sunrise Service – 7:30 am
Easter Breakfast – After the Sunrise Service
Easter Sunday Service – 9:30 am

(All events at the Church, unless otherwise indicated.)

Valentine Dinner Recap

Our annual Valentine Dinner was held Saturday, February 16 in Fellowship Hall. Fifteen people attended and enjoyed an evening of dinner and visiting.

The meal, catered by Western's, consisted of beef brisket, chicken parmesan, cheesy potatoes, green beans, noodles, rolls, layered lettuce salad, apple cobbler, and chocolate cake. Our tables were covered with white cloths, silver sprays, and tiny rosebuds.

It was a lovely way to spend an evening with friends.



Above: Shannon Tanner and Megan Mathenev sample the spread, while John Settlege, Michael McCormack, Susan Presley, Elizabeth McCormack and Danny Bull chat.

the Lantern

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March Lectionary

MARCH 2

4th Sunday of Lent
1 Samuel 16:1–13
Psalm 23:1–6
Ephesians 5:8–14
John 9:1–41

MARCH 9

5th Sunday of Lent
Ezekiel 37:1–14
Psalm 130:1–8
Romans 8:6–11
John 11:1–45

MARCH 16

6th Sunday of Lent,
Passion/Palm Sunday
Liturgy of the Palms:
Matthew 21:1–11
Psalm 118:1–2, 19–29
Liturgy of the Passion:
Isaiah 50:4–9a
Psalm 31:9–16
Philippians 2:5–11
Matthew 26:14–27:66 or
Matthew 27:11–54

MARCH 17–23

Holy Week &
Easter Sunday
See Page 4

MARCH 30

2nd Sunday of Easter
Acts 2:14a, 22–32
Psalm 16:1–11
1 Peter 1:3–9
John 20:19–31

Receive the Newsletter by E-mail?



Would you like to receive *the Lantern* by e-mail, in addition to or in place of our traditional physical mailing? Beginning this month, we will be offering the newsletter in both formats.

Those who have previously expressed an interest in receiving the newsletter by e-mail will receive it in both formats this month. The e-mail version should arrive before the printed copy. If you signed up, but did not receive the e-mail version, please contact me.

If you would like to sign up to receive the newsletter by e-mail, please contact me at newsletter@presbykv.org. Thanks!

Scott Thatcher

Notes from Session

DEACONS

The Deacons will be coordinating a “Fish for Hunger” event on Saturday, May 3. We can pledge an amount of money per fish caught (up to the legal limits). Anglers who wish to participate or congregation members who wish to pledge should stay tuned for further details from the Deacons.

BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS

A report from the elevator engineering company, Benton and Associates, was discussed. After a preliminary appraisal, they will be able to tell us whether an elevator in the Southwest stairwell is possible. The first part of Phase I will cost between \$2,300 and \$3,300, and if conditions are favorable, the further design work will cost approximately between \$4,700 and \$5,700, with a maximum of \$8,000 for all of Phase I. Last summer, an estimate of \$150,000 was given for the entire project. Benton and Associates agreed to have the Phase I work done by the end of March.

The elevator fund is now up and running! It now stands at \$3,000 after two generous gifts.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

The Christian Education Committee is planning a “Christmas in July” event. Christian Education has also proposed a summer plan that

includes reading books from the *Narnia* series.

CAMPUS MINISTRY

Jen Hurst, Pastor Mike and the college students had a productive retreat in Edina.

WORSHIP AND SACRAMENTS

The Lenten lunch is continuing. Thanks to Ronnaug, who led the first installment.

Plans are being made for the Maundy Thursday service and the Easter morning services. (See Page 1.)

MEMORIALS

Work on the Alm and Bloskovich memorials continues. The Lintner memorial will go to the Stubbins Home.

OTHER BUSINESS

The Session has decided to review the options available to the church regarding the Bell Fund. While the resources in the Bell fund have been a blessing to the church, money does also seem to bring its share of conflict. A motion was made and seconded that within the next 30 days we show our trust documents, including an up-to-date monthly statement, to Bob Fenlon in Mexico and ask his advice. He is the legal counsel for the Presbytery, but Pastor Mike envisions beginning with an informal conversation.

Mike's Page: Beware the Ides of March (Not!)

"Beware the Ides of March." That's what Shakespeare had a soothsayer say to Caesar (say *that* ten times fast!). You and I don't need to beware the Ides of March. We can instead look forward to this month. It is a special time for us. This March we have some of the holiest days of the church year: Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday. And then there is Easter Morning.

March can be a time for us to hear (again) why we're Christians in the first place: We need to know that Jesus is victorious over sin, evil and death. We need to know that all the things that worry us, bother us, and stand in our way do *not* have ultimate status. They will not last. They will pass away. They will be conquered. This is the Good News of the Gospel. John of Patmos put it like this: "The Lamb at the centre of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes." (Revelation 7:17) This March I hope we can feel that guidance from our Good Shepherd, the one who nourishes us and comforts us.

I have felt that comfort and nourishment. I have been teaching confirmation class. And I have found myself looking forward to it each Sunday morning. Do you remember your confirmation classes? Maybe they didn't call them that when you "went through." Communicant classes? Maybe you just became a member, and that was that.

In my studies, I have discovered a lot of eye-opening aspects of confirmation in the church, mostly due to the book *Confirmation* by Richard Osmer. Historically, the Bishop would perform the rite of confirmation, though he was sometimes unavailable to 'confirm' the child at baptism because he was away, elsewhere in the parish. So, the next time he came, he performed this sacrament, confirming the baptism of the child. In the protestant church, however, we don't see confirmation as a sacrament, though we do affirm it's connection with baptism. Osmer points out that confirmation has a "one time, good deal" quality, like Baptism, but also a continual quality, like the Lord's Supper. Confirma-

tion is something that our youth go through only once, and yet they will continually confirm their faith in Christ, each and every day.

I also realized that many different denominations "do" confirmation differently. The Lutheran Church has a four year program. The Presbyterians have two year programs and six week programs. There are many good ways to schedule confirmation.

Confirmation can have many different focuses. Some people see it as a time to get students ready to receive communion, or realize their spiritual gifts. Others use the time to orient these new members to the specific congregation.

I have been using this time with our students to share again the story of our faith, to teach about God (Father, Son and Holy Spirit). We are going through the new *Study Catechism* and learning about the catechetical tri-fecta: The Apostles' Creed, The Ten Commandments and the Lord's Prayer. With those in our pockets, we'll get pretty far.

Let me tell you what you can do to help our confirmands. You can nurture and encourage them when you see them. When you see Matthew Matheney, Andrew Giovannini, Derek Jones, Ellie Dublin, Megan Matheney and Sydney Slavin, encourage them and ask them how "confo" is going. You can also pray for them by name. Ask God to bless them, to build them up in the faith. Frankly, it is a lot harder to be in middle school than we all realize. They face the kinds of temptation and pressure we faced in college or high school, and they are much younger. Prayer is something they need as well as a smile.

Throughout this holy season of Easter, our faith is growing. The faith of our confirmands is growing. We are all being drawn toward the goal and chief end of our faith, which as the Westminster Catechism reminds us is God. We are to worship God and enjoy God forever.

Don't beware the Ides of March—enjoy God on the Ides of March and every day until. And every day after. That's what I'm going to do too.

mm

Keep Our Confirmands in Your Thoughts:

Sydney Slavin, Ellie Dublin, Megan Matheney, Derek Jones, Andrew Giovannini, and Matthew Matheney.

Mike's Office Hours

MONDAY:

8:30 am – Noon

1:00 – 5:00 pm

TUESDAY:

8:30 am – Noon

WEDNESDAY:

8:30 am – Noon

THURSDAY:

8:30 am – Noon

1:00 – 5:00 pm

FRIDAY &

SATURDAY:

No office hours.

Holy Week Lectionary

MARCH 17

Monday of Holy Week

Isaiah 42:1-9
Psalm 36:5-11
Hebrews 9:11-15
John 12:1-11

MARCH 18

Tuesday of Holy Week

Isaiah 49:1-7
Psalm 71:1-14
1 Corinthians 1:18-31
John 12:20-36

MARCH 19

Wednesday of Holy Week

Isaiah 50:4-9a
Psalm 70:1-5
Hebrews 12:1-3
John 13:21-32

MARCH 20

Maundy Thursday

Exodus 12:1-4 (5-10)
11-14
Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19
1 Corinthians 11:23-26
John 13:1-17, 31b-35

MARCH 21

Good Friday

Isaiah 52:13-53:12
Psalm 22:1-31
Hebrews 10:16-25 or
Hebrews 4:14-16;
5:7-9
John 18:1-19:42

[Continued on Page 5]

Stories from the Gulf Coast Mission Trip

The mission team from Kirksville departed at 5:30 Sunday morning and met the rest of the Presbytery team near Wentzville, where we picked up two more folks to make seven in our church van. Two other vans from North-east Missouri formed a three-vehicle convoy. With stops for fuel, lunch and rest stops, we arrived at the Orange Grove, Mississippi PDA Village about 7:30 pm. Supper was waiting for all 25 of us. After some necessary announcements we retired to our 2 person pods/quarters. Jackie and I helped prepare breakfast the following morning, served at 7:00 am. A brief devotional in the church was held as we received work assignments.

Most of the week, Jackie and I worked in a local home with Jim Long from Marshall and John Montgomery from Columbia. We replaced the floor with ceramic tile, repaired the front door and installed an interior door. We needed some additional supplies from local building supply outlets; the process of locating and purchasing cost some time.

We were able to become acquainted with the home owner, Gloria, who shared some of her life story and indicated that flood water had been five feet deep inside her home. Other work crews had rebuilt the house we were finishing up. Remember hurricane Katrina was over 2 years ago. Gloria is unemployed because of poor health. She has received some grant money for materials; we

supplied the labor.

The weather was cool and pleasant most of the time. We made sack lunches after breakfast; we had lots of drinking water. The work was not particularly demanding of strength. As we worked, we visited and laughed together. It became tedious on occasion, after cutting a tile 3 times and still not having it fit. We returned to the village for supper served each night at 6:30 pm, except for the one night we ate at a nearby restaurant. Our team prepared supper one night: turkey and dressing, salad, taters and gravy. We ran a bit low on food; it must have been good.

Most days started with a devotional and finished with a sharing time and prayer. We sometimes helped another crew on their site while our tiles were curing.

The Kirksville van departed the Gulf Coast Saturday at 5:30 am; it returned to Kirksville around 8:00 pm. With four different drivers, the 14 hour drives weren't too bad. We feel that we accomplished good things. It is estimated that the damage may not be repaired in ten years; the PDA Village is to function five more years. There are five additional similar PDA villages positioned along the Gulf Coast, arcing down to Houma, Louisiana. You will be blessed if you go as we were blessed. We welcome conversations.

John Settlage



Above: John and Martha Rowe, Murilyn Koutstaal, Marty Hird, John and Jackie Settlage and Chuck Hird (from Marshall, MO).

Congratulations February Birthdays!

BIRTHDAYS

Lindsey Crabb
Abram Farley
Thaddeus Farley
Nathan Ferrell
Mary Giovannini
Colleen Hamilton
William King
Pat Lintner
Audrea Lyons
Megan Matheney

Peter McLean
Fran Norman
Diane Rhodes
Bob Sanders
Francis Walter

...AND ANNIVERSARIES

Charles & Vicki Franklin
Eddie & Mary Hodges

Financial Report JANUARY 31, 2007

	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:

Note: Amounts removed from online version.

A Note of Thanks

Because Post Office bulk mail regulations seem to make it a necessity to print *the Lantern* on 11 x 17 inch paper, and because color on the newsletter does look so nice, we have been looking into the possibility of obtaining a large-format color printer for the church.

In the mean time, the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science at Truman has generously given us permission to print the color pages of this newsletter on their large-format color laser printer. Thanks!

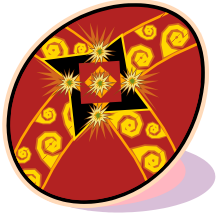
Easter Lectionary

MARCH 22

Great Vigil of Easter
Genesis 1:1–2:4a
Psalm 136:1–9, 23–26
Genesis 7:1–5, 11–18;
8:6–18; 9:8–13
Psalm 46:1–11
Genesis 22:1–18
Psalm 16:1–11
Exodus 14:10–31;
15:20–21
Exodus 15:1b–13,
17–18
Isaiah 55:1–11
Isaiah 12:2–6
Proverbs 8:1–8, 19–21;
9:4b–6
Psalm 19:1–14
Ezekiel 36:24–28
Psalm 42:1–11 and
43:1–5
Ezekiel 37:1–14
Psalm 143:1–12
Zephaniah 3:14–20
Psalm 98:1–9
Romans 6:3–11
Psalm 114:1–8
Matthew 28:1–10

MARCH 23

*Easter/Resurrection of
the Lord*
*Resurrection of the
Lord/Easter:*
Acts 10:34–43 or
Jeremiah 31:1–6
Psalm 118:1–2, 14–24
Colossians 3:1–4 or
Acts 10:34–43
John 20:1–18 or
Matthew 28:1–10
Easter Evening:
Isaiah 25:6–9
Psalm 114:1–8
1 Corinthians 5:6b–8
Luke 24:13–49



The Hunt Begins!

The 2nd Annual Easter Egg Hunt will be at the McCormack's on March 22. The hunt begins at 10:30 am! See inside for more Easter news.

March Food:



Macaroni!

Dates to Remember

SUNDAYS

9:30–10:45 am: Sunday Worship Service
11:00 am–12:00 noon: Sunday School for all ages; Confirmation for Mid-High
5:30 pm: Campus Ministry meal at the Westminster House
 ...

Mar. 9, 10:45 am: Second-Sunday Brunch

Mar. 9, 16: No Campus Meal

Mar. 23, 7:30 am: Easter Sunrise Service, breakfast to follow

TUESDAYS

Mar. 11, 7:00 pm: Session/Deacons

Mar. 25, 7:00 pm: Christian Education

Mar. 25, 7:00 pm: Presbyterian Women

WEDNESDAYS

1:15 pm: Bible Study

3:15 pm–5:15 pm (except 12th): Operation J.O.Y., Mid-High Confirmation

7:00 pm–8:15 pm: Adult Choir

THURSDAYS

12:00 noon: Lenten Lunches (through March 20)
 ...

Mar. 6, 1:30 pm: Budget & Finance Committee

Mar. 20, 6:00 pm: Maundy Thursday meal & service

FRIDAYS

Mar. 14, 6:00 pm: Parents' Night Out

Mar. 21, 12:00 pm: Good Friday Ecumenical Prayer Service, 12:00 noon at the Salvation Army (1004 W. Gardner) *See p. 1.*

SATURDAYS

Mar. 8, 9:00 am: Presby Seniors at Ponderosa



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