

MARCH 2010 NEWSLETTER

The MorningStar

Sermons

March 7, 2010
Third Sunday in Lent
11:00AM Communion
Isaiah 55:1-9
Luke 13:1-9

March 14, 2010
Fourth Sunday in Lent
Joshua 5:9-12
Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

March 21, 2010
Fifth Sunday in Lent
Isaiah 43:16-21
John 12:1-8

March 28, 2010
Palm Sunday
Choral Cantata
5 Cents a Meal

Room In The Inn

A BIG THANK YOU to all the cooks and servers at Room In The Inn for January. Your support of this ministry is greatly appreciated!



Pastor's Corner

Timing. It's all in the timing. My Dad used to say...and probably still does... that what is more impressive about the miracles is not their inherent nature and power, but the timing of them. The Red Sea, healing the infirmed, raising the dead and even amazing feedings... it's all about the timing.

Often so many things have such bad timing. Just when you get the project finished, something contributes to its untimely demise. Just when you have a particular technique mastered, the technology is updated and it is off to retraining you go. Just when you think that the relationship can't get any worse... the bottom drops out. When the dream house and property have finally been secured...there goes the job. And when you have finally got everything organized and in the right direction...hell seems to freeze over. So much bad timing out there.

But then again, so many things happen in just the nick of time. Having just

enough bread coming in to keep the wolf away from the door. Finding the right doctor when hope had been just about lost. Meeting that one person that walks into your life that makes all the heartache and anxiety seem like hazy history. And just when things look like they are going to "hell in a handbasket," an amazing angel appears.

The person of faith knows all about failure, struggle and disappointment...it is a part of the life in which we find ourselves that was never promised by our Master to be charmed. Our Lord told us that in His presence, we would have abundant life. No kidding! The lows are really low.

But the mountaintops are amazing and dominating. The apostle said that we are winning for ourselves *a glory out of all proportion to our pain*. It's just that we think that Providence cuts a little bit close all time. Being a disciple is not dull.

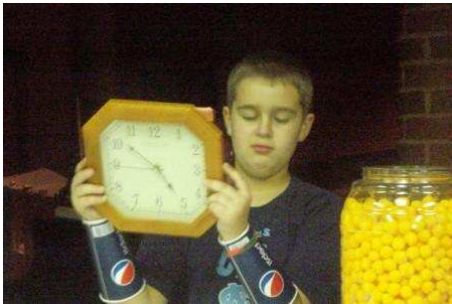
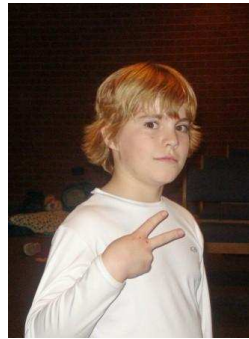
But because our Lord was nailed to a Cross, and was raised...We can strap ourselves to the mast. What a ride it is turning out to be.

Recently Mrs. Nestor's Preschool Sunday School class had a special visitor. After spending a few Sundays learning about the birth of Baby Jesus, her students were visited by Anna, the lady in the temple who actually saw Baby Jesus when his parents, Joseph and Mary, took him to the temple for the first time! Anna had heard that a new messiah would be coming and had hoped to see him before she passed on. This was a dream come true for her! When she saw Baby Jesus, she had to share the news with his parents. We, at Morningstar, are so fortunate that Anna (Joyce Dennis) came to spread the good news with us too!



Lock – In Fun!





SYNOPSIS OF REGULAR SESSION MEETING – FEBRUARY 8, 2010 – 7pm

Report of the Treasurer (Tom Clifford for Donna Little) Current checkbook balance \$4,176.24. Current Pershing MM balance \$43,232.37. Higher than expected utility bills, need more awareness of thermostat controls; roof replacement also a partial cause of increase. Need to look into having utilities billed placed on an estimated payment plan to help smooth out cash flow.

Facilities (Tom Clifford) No written report. Roofing contract in place. Hopeful for a 3/1/10 start date and work should take 4-5 days. Suggestion was made to have one member undertake the task of checking thermostats and lights on a regular basis to report back to facilities. Moderator will recruit.

Christian Education (Heather Newgreen) Written report. Teacher Appreciation event planned for 3/21. Youth Services at 8:30 and 11:00 on 2/28. VBS tentative date set for July 11th – 15th, several themes being explored. **M/S/P from MG to approve a 6-week Lenten Class to be taught by Pastor Steve on Wednesday nights from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m., beginning 2/24 and ending 3/31. Study will be on Romans. M/S/P from MG to approve dismissal of standard Sunday School classes during the summer of 2010. Current teachers will be asked to lead a structured time together for all ages on a rotational basis.**

Fellowship (Nancy Hamilton) No written report. Madrigal Dinner work well under way. Tentative date of 3/27 for Easter Egg hunt. Fellowship supper being planned for Palm Sunday (3/28) with BBQ chicken by the Pastor. John Crane has requested use of kitchen facilities 2-3 times a year for supplying meals to the homeless shelter.

Mission and Evangelism (John Owen) Written report. One Great Hour of Sharing offering to be received April 4th. Looking into implementation of “simple friend” concept to supplement greeters for first time visitors.

Congregational Care (Randy Jones) Written report. **M/S/P from MG to contact local churches (specifically, Abundant Life, Idlewild Baptist and Joy Church) for the purpose of doing a combined blood drive.**

Worship (David Allen) No written report. Upcoming special services: 6:30 Ash Weds, 6:30 Maundy Thurs, Cantata on Palm Sunday – currently for 11:00 service only. After discussion, MG agreed to ask Marti if her schedule would permit the possibility of having a combined worship service (SS would be cancelled). Pastor secured Session approval to invite a Musical Touring Group from a Texas Methodist Church to perform ‘Godspell’ on Tues 6/15. Session agreed to host event, more details will follow.

New Business Website: Kim has done a wonderful job, now viewable. To streamline ongoing maintenance, Session agreed to establish a monthly deadline for submitting additions or corrections. For efficiency, newsletter deadline will be used. Basic calendar editing through Steve with a copy to Kim.

2010 Nominating Committee: M/S/P to appoint Elders Randy Jones and Brenda McIntosh to serve on the 2010 Nominating Committee (Book of Order G-14.0223); to be asked to serve with them will be an active member of PW, Men of the Church and the Administration MG. Assistant Treasurer: Names suggested, Moderator will help recruit name for Session approval.

Music Program Improvements: The Session checked on the progress of a task force to work with the Music Director, Marti Dushak, to suggest improvements to the music program, which may include music staff re-arrangements and additions to continue to build the music offerings for worship and special events. It will report at the next regular Session meeting.

Session Exercise Moderator distributed MG annual reports along with a blank sheet and asked Elders to sit together by MG assignment. Discussed how we could use written descriptions of what each MG does currently to engage the process of re-structuring the ministry groups, as well as developing a useful tool for Elder recruitment and Moderator training. Pastor will put together a summary of the worksheets to use for continued action on re-structuring our ministry groups.

Next Session Meeting: Monday, March 8th, 7:00 p.m.

Intermediate Youth



January and February kept us busy with Youth Service preparations! We met to write prayers, designed the bulletin cover and a banner, made magnets for members to take home after the service, and

worked on special music and group music! It was a lot of work, but the kids did a wonderful job – we hope that you attended the Youth Service on February 28th and took time to tell the kids how proud you are of them! We have lots of very talented youth and they continue to amaze us as we work with them. Look for pictures from this special worship service in next month's newsletter!

Plans are coming along nicely for our summer retreat to Massanetta Springs. If your child is planning to attend and you have not yet gotten your packet of information with registration forms and workshop offerings, please see Cindy Reninger. We need to sign up by mid-March in order to secure our spot for the June 22nd – June 25th session.

Peace, Cathy and Cindy

Calendar reminders:

Sunday, 3/7 – Laser Quest: 3:40 – 5:45 p.m.

Monday 3/15 – Youth serve at RITI, 6:00-7:30pm

Sunday, 3/21 – Regular Meeting: 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. at the church



Preschool



Preschool registration has begun for fall! We have classes for twos, threes, fours, and fives. There are two teachers per class and the two year olds have a maximum of 10 children, the three years old have a maximum of 12 children, and the four and five year old class has a maximum of 14 children. The two and three year old classes meet three or four days per week while the four and five year olds meet four days per week.

To register your child or schedule a tour, please contact Mary Beth Brewer at 704-847-0864.

Presbyterian Women



Meeting will be held on Saturday, March 6th at 10:00 at the church. Carolyn Crane and Nancy Finlayson will be hostess and Lynn Rorie will lead the Bible Study. Make plans to join us for great food, fellowship and Bible Study. All women are invited, so bring a friend!! LOOKING AHEAD...Mark your calendars for the PW Luncheon "Celebrating Women" on Saturday, April 17th and the Beach Trip to Ocean Isle Beach on May 19-24th. Details to follow!

March Birthdays

March 2	Kylee Daugherty	March 15	Jessyka Persson
March 2	Camille Hanson	March 16	Jared Reninger
March 4	Tim Hanson	March 19	Rick Loomer
March 5	Joe Nestor	March 21	Bruce Wilhoit
March 7	Sarah Hogshead	March 27	Tom Clifford
March 8	Carly Szymanski	March 30	Ruby Cox
March 12	Ron Curlee	March 31	Betty Besemer
March 15	Erin Bradey		

Volunteer Schedule

GREETERS

COMMUNION STEWARDS

Bill and Deb Smith

COMMUNION SERVERS

David Allen Casey Little, Tom Clifford, Rory Drake, Kim Drake, Ian Drake, Alice Skinner

LAY LITURGIST

EVANGELISM TEAM

March 7 Barbara Guthrie

March 14 Mary Highsmith

March 21 Nancy Hamilton

March 28 John Owen

COUNTER SCHEDULE

March 7 Susan Harvell and Alice Smith

March 14 Casey Little and Kathy Jones

March 21 Pattie Woodall and Rick Loomer

March 28 Robert Hamilton and Joan Owen

NURSERY VOLUNTEERS

March 7 Becky Szymanski and Rory Drake

March 14 Becky Szymanski and Rory Drake

March 21 Sandy Roth and Madison Woodall

March 28 Sandy Roth and Madison Woodall

Calendar Reminders

March 3 Brown Bag Lenten at 6pm

March 6 PW meet at the church at 10am

March 7 Samaritan House

March 7 Intermediate Youth Laser Quest at 3:40

March 8 Room In The Inn

March 8 Session meets at 7pm

March 10 Newsletter Deadline

March 10 Brown Bag Lenten at 6pm

March 15 Room In The Inn-Intermediate Youth

March 17 Brown Bag Lenten at 6pm

March 21 Teacher Appreciation Sunday

March 21 Intermediate Youth meet at the church 4pm

March 24 Brown Bag Lenten at 6pm

March 28 5 Cents A Meal Offering

March 28 Sunday Dinner-Host:Pastor Steve

March 29 Ministry Groups meet at 7:15pm

March 31 Brown Bag Lenten at 6pm

What can a brown bag do for you?



If you fill it with dinner, you can bring it to Lenten Bible study! Pastor Steve will lead an hour-long study at the church, from 6:00 – 7:00 pm on Wednesday nights during Lent – the study begins February 24th and continues through March 31st. The get-togethers will focus on St. Paul's Letter to the Romans. Long considered the central document in understanding the why's and wherefore's of what Christians believe, Romans is a great way to move to Easter Sunday.

Fellowship

By the time you receive this newsletter, we will have had a successful Madrigal 2010. I would like to thank my cooks, servers, and clean-up crew for their hard work and dedication for a good cause.

A special Thanks to the "Three Stooges" and "Steve Martin" for building our castle on Hwy 51.

Another special thank you goes to Diane Bradley. The special occasion paper products are really appreciated.

Mark your calendars for March 28th at 5:30. The chef for this meal will be Steve Mitchell. Menu will be announced soon.

It is not too soon to plan for the Easter Egg Hunt. If you would like to donate plastic eggs filled with candy we would really appreciate it. Drop them off in the narthex. Thank you Nancy Hamilton.

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