



COURIER

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February 2015

Parson's Perspective

Special Points

Of Interest

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At the beginning of the month of February, we are halfway to Lent or halfway between Epiphany (the end of Christmas Season) and Ash Wednesday (the beginning of Lent). On their journey a lot of Christians experience living between "this day" and "That Day" — between memory and hope, between what we know and what we long for, between the summons of the kingdoms of this world and the call of the kingdom of God, between baptism and Transfiguration. This a time when we consider what we have learned in the past and anticipate our future. We reflect on our joys and concerns and attempt to improve on our mistakes and plan for new endeavors. This is an in-between time, when we anticipate where our Lord and Savior may lead us. How do our gifts and talents match the direction that God is taking us.

God has a plan for us here in Waverly and this a good time for reflection. Whom will we as a congregation and individually be coming alongside intentionally this Lent? What do we need to be doing now to be ready to start doing that later this month, just two and a half weeks from now? Are there practices of prayer, fasting, or searching the Scriptures we may need to get a "running start" on now, so we can be ready to share them effectively with others in the weeks to come? At times we may want to join with one another in prayer to reflect and discern God's will. We have just completed almost a year of gathering data in our New Beginnings initiative. Lent provides a great opportunity to listen to God. Let us listen to Jesus. We will listen for the voice of the Spirit in one another as we walk these weeks until the celebration of the Resurrection. We may say very little. But we will listen.

This is an opportunity for inspiring worship during this time. Begin it with glory. Sing powerfully. Celebrate lavishly. Then move toward a listening silence in prayer, and an attentive focus that honors the Transfigured One whose death, rising, and return transfigure all things. We have seen his glory. Now let us go forth to listen for his teaching.

Pastor Bob

This Month in the Church

Sunday, February 1 - 9:30 a.m.
Adult Class - Being Reformed "The Confession of Belhar" Richard Hays

Wednesday, February 4 - 1:30 p.m.
Circle Meetings: Esther Circle at the home of Evelyn Baker, 613 E. Seventh St.
Study Leader: Audrey Tysen

Martha Mary at the home of Sandra Andrews, 704 E. Fifth St.-Study Leader- Elaine Zingg

Thursday, February 5 - 3:45 p.m.
Choir Rehearsal begins at a new time
(See schedule Page 3)

Sunday, February 8 - 9:30 a.m.
Adult Class will finish the "The Confession of Belhar" Richard Hays

Tuesday, February 10 - 3:15 p.m.
Deacons' Meeting

Sunday, February 15 - 9:30 a.m.
New Lenten Class begins—"Requiem"
By Brahms—Leader: Cal Tysen

Monday, February 16 - Presidents' Day—Church Office Closed
6:00 p.m. Annual Cong. Dinner
(See special article in this newsletter)

Tuesday, February 17 - 3:30 P.M.
Presbytery Meeting at Overbrook Church

5:30 p.m. Shrove Tuesday - Come and Enjoy a pancake supper. A donation of \$5.00 Per person is suggested. There will be a form in the bulletin to fill out and return to the Office so as to know how many to plan for.

Wednesday, February 18 - 7:00 p.m.
Ash Wednesday Service—First Presbyterian Church

Thursday, February 19 - 10:30 a.m.
Communion at Bristol Health Care

Sunday, February 22 - First Sunday in Lent
9:30 a.m. Adult Class—"Requiem" by Brahms
Cal Tysen, leader

Wednesday, February 25 - 5:00 p.m.
Soup Night - We will be having Soup and Bread every Wednesday during Lent. There will be a sign-up sheet on the Kiosk asking for Volunteers to make Soup and Bread.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- February 1 - Richard Hays
Jane Williams
- 5 - Barbara Patterson
- 7 - Charles Van Person
- 8 - Amy Schutte
- 9 - Alexandar Fox
- 15 -David Boyer
- 18 - Hal Demus
- 20 - Elmer Smith
- 21 - Glenn Peterson
- 23 - Shirley Mellinger

FEBRUARY WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES;



- February 11 - Jean and Tom Frank

Please let the office know if we do not have your Birthday.

IN MEMORY:

- Agnes Nash - December 31, 2014
- Dorothy Headley - January 20, 2015



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>February 2015</h1>						
1 9:30 a.m. Adult Class 10:45 a.m. Worship	2	3	4 8 a.m. Sleeve Tuggers 1:30 p.m. Circle Mtgs.	5 Choir Rehearsal 3:45 p.m.	6	7
8 9:30 a.m. Adult Class 10:45 a.m. Worship	9	10 3:15 p.m. Deacons' Mtg.	11 8 a.m. Sleeve Tuggers	12 3:45 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	13	14 Happy Valentines Day 
15 9:30 a.m. Adult Class 10:45 a.m. Worship	16  Annual Cong. & Corp. Mtgs. 7 p.m. Dinner 6:00 p.m. Presidents' Day-Church Off. Closed	17 Presbytery Mtg. 3:30 Overbrook 5:30 p.m. Shrove Pancake Supper	18 8 a.m. Sleeve Tuggers Ash Wednesday Service 7 p.m.	19 10:30 a.m. Communion Bristol Health Care 3:45 p.m. Choir	20	21
22 First Sunday in Lent 9:30 a.m. Adult Class 10:45 Worsh.	23 Session Mtg. 7 p.m.	24	25 8 a.m. Sleeve Tuggers 5 p.m. Soup Night	26 3:45 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	27	28

LENT

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE DINNER - FEBRUARY 17, 2015

In preparation for Lent, we are offering a "Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner" at the church on February 17th beginning at 5:30 p.m. The menu will be pancakes, sausage, bacon, applesauce and beverage for \$5.00 per person.

There will be a form in the bulletin for you to fill out if you plan to attend.

WEDNESDAY EVENING SOUP AND BREAD NIGHT

Beginning Wednesday, February 25th and every Wednesday night in March we will have our Lenten "Soup Night" There will be discussion and fellowship time around the table. If you are willing to prepare either a large pot of soup or bread for one of the Wednesday nights, please sign the chart on the kiosk or contact Barbara in the church office 947-2905 or E-Mail bpattersonpresbychurch@yahoo.com. You can choose the kind of soup and bread.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT (Nel Huck, chair; Pat Penrose; Karen Henderson; Barbara Paterson; Otto Zingg; with Rick Hays and Bob Getty, ex-officio)

Last month the Courier carried the introduction reflection section of the committee's report on the Lord's Supper. In preparation of this report and recommendations, we received helpful comments from 17 worshippers. We are grateful to all who took their time to share their thoughts and feelings with the Worship Committee. As you can imagine with the diversity of our congregation, we had an equal diversity of opinions, e.g., some prefer coming forward to receive the elements; others have a strong preference for receiving the elements in their seats; several who responded affirmed the variety of serving communion both ways throughout the year.

There is no one "right" way to celebrate this important Sacrament. However it is done, there is the need for reverence, for awareness of the presence of God, for a sense of our unity in Christ, and for openness to the leading of the Spirit in the breaking of the bread and the sharing of the cup. Following are the two major recommendations of the report:

1. Receiving in Seats or Coming Forward

- a. Noting the increasing number of congregants that find it difficult to stand, even for hymn singing, we recommend that serving people in their seats be the most frequent means of serving the elements when we celebrate this sacrament. Receiving communion in the seats reminds congregants that the sacrament is a gift from Christ.
- b. Congregants coming forward to receive the elements physically express their commitment to Christ who invites them to the table. This movement may be appropriate for some services. As the mystery and meaning of the sacrament is expressed in partaking of the elements, congregants could be encouraged to watch as others go forward to receive and so deepen the sense of our community in Christ.

2. Intinction or Trays

- a. We suggest, however, that intinction (the use of a common cup) might be used with the congregation seated as a way of lifting up our oneness in Jesus Christ. Breaking pieces from a common loaf also does this. Given concerns about passing germs, breaking pieces from a loaf may prove to be a stumbling block. We suggest prepared bread pieces such as pita, matzo, or wafers. When intinction is used, we suggest the use of pita bread, cut into large enough pieces so that fingers do not have to be dipped along with the bread.
- b. The use of trays is convenient and the uniformity of bread pieces and cups of wine remind congregants that all are equal at Christ's table. Trays of bread and wine cups can be as easily used for congregants coming forward to receive the sacrament as they can be used for passing to worshipers in seats.

A RESPONSE TO CONGREGANTS' NEEDS

At the last Session meeting, the members recognized that something should be done to address some of the financial needs of our congregation. Every now and then, an unforeseen problem arises in the life of a member or friend of the church, and they have a special need for financial help.

To care for our church family in difficult times, the session has decided to establish a fund, temporarily called "Member Care Fund." \$1,000 from the "over-the-budget funds" from 2014 will be the "seed money" to start the fund and have it available for emergency financial needs of members and adherents of our congregation. It was decided that the 3 elected Deacons would be the best ones to administer the fund – they could evaluate requests and decide how to take care of them. At the next Deacons meeting, they will establish guidelines on handling the fund.

It should be noted that our Outreach Council (administered by our church and others in Waverly) ministers to the common needs that occur, so this new fund will be used for other things that are not covered by the Outreach Council or other agencies in Waverly. Also, this fund is "revolving." Individuals who have been helped by this fund could put money back into the fund, if they are able, and others will want to contribute thank offerings, showing gratitude for what God has given them.

Other than financial help, we encourage you all to look for ways that you can minister to people's needs. Many of you are doing this now by offering time, talents, transportation, or maybe just an "understanding ear." Some of us can only offer a prayer, but God will honor all of our actions, especially to those in need. "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." (Matthew 25:45)

Scripture Texts for Sunday Worship, February 2015

February 1	Fourth Sunday after Epiphany Deuteronomy 18:15-20; Psalm 111; 1 Corinthians 8:1-13; Mark 1:21-28 Pastor Rick: "Awe, Not Terror"
February 8	Fifth Sunday after Epiphany Isaiah 40:21-31; Psalm 147:1-11, 20; 1 Corinthians 9:16-23; Mark 1:29-39 Pastor Rick: "It Takes Vulnerability"
February 15	Transfiguration of Christ 2 Kings 2:1-12; Psalm 50:1-6; 2 Corinthians 4:4-6; Mark 9:2-9 Pastor Rick: "The Prophet's Tears"
February 22	First Sunday in Lent Genesis 9:8-17; Psalm 25:1-10; 1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:9-15 Pastor Rick: "God Bound to Humanity"

February Adult Class News-

The adult class will be continuing a study of the "Belhar Confession" the first two Sundays of February. Pastor Rick has been leading the discussions on this confession which is proposed for adoption by the Presbyterian Church.

The Lenten Season study will be using the "Requiem" by Brahms as a starting point. "Sowing Tears, Reaping Joy" is the title of the study. Sessions 1-3 help us confront our humanity, our mortality, giving us permission to mourn.

Session 4 moves us to consider the dwelling place of the One who is immortal.

Session 5 personalizes the comfort we begin to feel in Session 4.

Sessions 6-7 highlight victory over death and end with hope. (The seven sessions correspond to the seven movements of the Requiem.) Calvin Tysen will be the leader.

It is wonderful to be able to have a class for children during part of the worship hour. Thanks to the women who are the team-teaching them: Irene Noble, Irene Clark and Evelyn Baker. They forfeit some of the worship experience to teach and bless young hearts and minds.

CHOIR REHEARSAL TIME CHANGE

Our choir has decided to change our rehearsal times for the cold, dark wintry months of February and March. Here is our rehearsal schedule for Feb. 5th-April 2nd (the last rehearsal before Easter Sunday):

January 28 (Wednesday Evening): 7:00-8:15

February 5, 12, 19, 26 (Thursday Afternoons): 3:45-5:00

March 5, 12, 19, 26 (Thursday Afternoons): 3:45-5:00

April 2 (Thursday Afternoon): 3:45-5:00

When this new rehearsal schedule has ended, we will decide if the new day and time will continue or not.

THE EVANGELISM COMMITTEE SHARES ANOTHER VERBALIZING OUR FAITH

My Faith

I believe faith can be expressed in action rather than words. My Paternal Grandmother (Granny) introduced me to religion at a very early age. She lived in a small hamlet named Harshaville and while visiting there, I attended a revival in a barn. She and I walked up the hill and I only remember it was a very lively meeting with animated people walking up and down the aisles. On the way down the hill to her house she told me "you don't have to act like that". Therefore, I understand it was o.k. to be quiet in worship.

Over the early years I went to Sunday School and Bible School, but it wasn't until my daughter was baptized as a baby that I was baptized and became a member. Most of the experiences were in rural or country Presbyterian churches. Even though I've associated mostly with the Presbyterian faith, I consider myself to be an ecumenical person.

By the grace of God, my life has continued in the church for each day I fall short of being the Christian God intends. Only by His grace can I continue on this path.

Respectfully submitted,
Anne Young

PW events

Wed., Feb. 4, Circle meetings

Esther Circle meets at the home of Evelyn Baker, 613 Seventh St.; Bible Study leader is Audrey Tysen

Martha Mary Circle meets at the home of Sandra Andrews, 704 E. Fifth St; Bible Study leader is Elaine Zingg.

No PWCT meeting in February

2015 Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women, in Minneapolis, Minnesota, June 18-21, 2015. Every three years, women (and some men) meet to make and renew friendships, enrich minds and souls, and engage in new ways to live out our PW purpose through mission opportunities, advocacy work and Bible Study. If you would like more information about this gathering, please see Audrey Tysen, Nel Huck, or Karen Henderson.

"Alternative Christmas" this past Nov./Dec. brought a total of \$1,660 for various groups. These are the agencies that benefited:

Living Waters for the World - 845 (includes a late-2013 gift)

Medical Benevolence Foundation - 90

Misc. Presbyterian gifts (think chickens, scholarships) - 200

Presbyterian World Mission - 100

Presbyterian Disaster - 300

Outreach Council - 120; Welfare House - 5

Thanks to all those who gave these different kinds of gifts to their friends and family members. People all over the world will benefit from your generosity.

MEMBERS IN MINISTRY

JANUARY 28, 2015

Ministers for Community: Every Member

Co-Pastors: Richard Hays and Robert Getty

Secretary Barbara Patterson

Clerk of Session: Audrey Tysen

Choir Director: Karen Henderson

Organist: Patricia Penrose

Treasurer: Robert Neely

Ministers for Vision and Mission: Session

Class of 2014

Karen Henderson

Paula Hays

Audrey Tysen

Kay Weir

Class of 2015

Betsy Hall

Ann Oyerl

Dick Roberts

Kitty Neely

Class of 2016

David Bell

Robert Neely

Irene Noble

Glenn Noble

Ministers for Member Care: Deacons

Evelyn Baker

Kitty Neely

Anne Young

Ministers Serving In Other Places

Pike County Outreach Council of Churches

Pike County Welfare House

Mark, Jenny, Keila Rosa & Anika Estela Hare — Papay, Haiti

Dendamrongsaat Church — Chiangrai, Thailand

Ministers Serving from Home

At Bristol Health Care

444 Cherry St., Waverly OH 4569

Jeanne Barron-105

Maryanna Cassady-14

Anna Dodge-111

Ed Dodge-1

Virginia Hartwell-102

Ben Lane-118

The Gardens

Betty Jenkins-202

At Home

Virginia Dixon, Oscar and Janet Marsh, Marlene

Voorhes

Other Places

Kitty McCollam and Max Russell

In Other Places

Kitty McCollam, Max Russell,

February Worship Assistants:

February 1 - Dick Roberts

8 - Cal Tysen

15 - Audrey Tysen

22 - Betsy Hall

February Greeters:

February 1 - Barbara and Jay Early

8 - Florence Vonderohe and
Anne Young

15 - Ruth Karner and Bill Johnson

22 - Irene and Jim Clark

February Flowers:

February 1 -

8 - Jean and Tom Frank

15 -

22 -

February Coffee Hour Hosts:

February 1 - Cay and Dick Roberts

8 - Elaine and Otto Zingg

15 -

22 -

February Counters:

February 1 - Bob Neely and Mike Milam

8 - Jim Clark and Kay Weir

15 - Betsy Hall and Nancy Seward

22 - David Bell and Anne Young

February Ushers:

February 1 - Bob Neely, Kitty Neely, David Bell

8 - Lois Hardy, Wanda Stratton,
Ann Oyer

15 - Bud Hobday, Dimitry Sergay,
Ivan Sumey

22 - Ralph Strickland, Dimitry Sergay

For addresses, call the church at 947-2905, or e-mail <bpattersonpresbychurch@yahoo.com>

Address Service Requested

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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

AMEN CORNER

Finding Solitude

All human beings are alone. No other person will completely feel like we do, think like we do, act like we do. Each of us is unique, and our aloneness is the other side of our uniqueness. The question is whether we let our aloneness become loneliness or whether we allow it to lead us into solitude. Loneliness is painful; solitude is peaceful. Loneliness makes us cling to others in desperation; solitude allows us to respect others in their uniqueness and create community. Letting our aloneness grow into solitude and not into loneliness is a lifelong struggle. It requires conscious choices about whom to be with, what to study, how to pray, and when to ask for counsel. But wise choices will help us to find the solitude where our hearts can grow in love.

Community Supported by Solitude

Solitude greeting solitude, that's what community is all about. Community is not the place where we are no longer alone but the place where we respect, protect, and reverently greet one another's aloneness. When we allow our aloneness to lead us into solitude, our solitude will enable us to rejoice in the solitude of others. Our solitude roots us in our own hearts. Instead of making us yearn for company that will offer us immediate satisfaction, solitude makes us claim our center and empowers us to call others to claim theirs. Our various solitudes are like strong, straight pillars that hold up the roof of our communal house. Thus, solitude always strengthens community.

Henri Nouwen, Daily Meditation, January, 2015