



COURIER

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March 2014

Parson's Perspective

Special Points

Of Interest

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Lent, which comes from the Teutonic (Germanic) word for springtime, can be viewed as a spiritual spring cleaning: a time for taking spiritual inventory and then cleaning out those things which hinder our corporate and personal relationships with Jesus Christ and our service to him. Thus it is fitting that the season of Lent begin with a symbol of repentance: placing ashes mixed with oil on one's head or forehead.

Christians prepare for Easter, through observance of Lent. Although Easter is a most important time in the Christian calendar many of us are unprepared. Easter sometimes sneaks up on us. Lent is the antidote to this oversight. Protestants have not always emphasized participation in Lent, historically speaking. Human nature makes us more comfortable with the joy and celebration of Easter than with the darkness that preceded it. Lent provides an opportunity to remember the dark before the dawn, the sin that Jesus took to the cross. In the Orthodox Church, Lent is called the season of Bright Sadness, because it is a time of both celebration and mourning, as described on the website, <http://www.brightsadness.org/index.html>. Why should we dwell on the darkness at all? Easter is a reality and Jesus' work is done. Death has been conquered, Christ is victorious! The cross has answered it all; why should we be sad? Before Christ, the world called out to God (in the words of David, King of Israel), "How long, O Lord? Will you be angry forever? Will your jealous wrath burn like fire?"—Psalm 79.5 Easter answered that question.

The road to the cross was a difficult one. Jesus took our place on the cross. He went alone, was separated from God and deserted by his friends. This drama of suffering is depicted and to some extent reenacted in Lent. "Before the Resurrection comes crucifixion; before crucifixion comes prosecution; before prosecution comes betrayal, doubt, fear, rebellion and sin. Lent helps us experience our part in the Passion (suffering_ of Jesus." We get to know ourselves during Lent. Sin still dwells in us and we experience darkness. Would we have accompanied Jesus to the cross or would we be like his disciples? Would we fall asleep as Jesus prayed for deliverance in the garden?

Would we deny knowing him as he silently accepted his death sentence?

Pastor Bob

THIS MONTH IN THE CHURCH

Sunday, March 2 - 9:30 a.m. Adult Class
Sharon Weaver's Journey

Tuesday, March 4 - 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.
Shrove Pancake Supper at First Presbyterian
Church-The menu consist of pancakes, sausage,
bacon, fruit and beverage. Cost: \$5.00 per meal

Wednesday, March 5— Ash Wednesday

5:30 p.m. Soup and Bread followed by Ash
Wednesday Service at 6:30 p.m. (See special
article in this "Courier")

Sunday, March 9 - Daylight Savings Time

Set clocks ahead one hour

9:30 a.m. New Adult Class Begins
"Engage for Effective Evangelism" The class
today will be "Evangelism is sharing good
news"(see special article in this newsletter)

10:45 a.m. Pastor Bob Getty will preach:
"Two Temptation Episodes" Genesis 2:15-17,
3:1-7, Romans 5:12-19, Matthew 4:1-11

Wednesday, March 12 - 5:30 p.m.
Soup and Bread followed by discussion

Thursday, March 13 - 9:30 a.m.
Stewardship Committee Mtg.

1:30 p.m. Fellowship Committee Mtg.

4:00 p.m. Worship Committee Mtg.

**Saturday, March 15 - Memorial Service
For Betty Benefiel—Time will be
Announced - First Presbyterian Church**

Sunday, March 16 - 9:30 a.m.
Adult Class "Engage for Effective Evangelism"
Today will be "Telling Our Story"

Monday, March 17 - 7:00 p.m.
Session Meeting

Wednesday, March 19 - 5:30 p.m.
Lenten Soup and Bread with discussion

Thursday, March 20 - 10:30 a.m.
Communion at Bristol Health Care

Sunday, March 23 - 9:30 a.m.
Adult Class "Engage for Effective Evangelism"
Today will be "A Story to Share"

**2:00 p.m. Memorial Service for
Joseph Hodder-First Presbyterian Church**

Wednesday, March 26 - 5:30 p.m.
Lenten Soup and Bread followed by
discussion

Sunday, March 30 - 9:30 a.m.
Adult Class "Engage for Effective Evangelism"
Today is "Connection to the Community"

10:45 a.m. The Likay Thai Folk Drama
will participate in our worship service
For all the details of the day, please see the
special article in this newsletter



IN MEMORY

Walter Emil Vonderohe
February 15, 1925 - February 15, 2014

**Our Sincere Sympathy goes to Florence
Vonderohe and Family on the death of
Walter.**

OUR PER CAPITA ASSESSMENT: GENERAL ASSEMBLY LEVEL

This is the third, and final, *Courier* article on the usage of our Per Capita assessment of \$31.75 per member that is our congregation's share in funding overhead expenses in carrying out the functions of our tri-level representational governmental structure. The January article focused on its usage by the Presbytery of Scioto Valley; the February article focused on its usage by the Synod of the Covenant. This article will focus on its usage of the remaining \$7.02 of each Per Capita payment by the General Assembly, which is the council of the whole church. Sixteen Synods, 172 Presbyteries, and in excess of 10,000 congregations make up the General Assembly. Anyone can attend the G.A., but only properly elected commissioners vote. They consist of equal numbers of ruling elders and teaching elders (pastors) elected by Presbyteries in proportion to the number of Presbyterian members within their bounds. The smallest Presbyteries can only elect one elder and one pastor to represent it. The largest Presbyteries elect seven elders and seven pastors.. The Presbytery of Scioto Valley elects three elders and three pastors to represent it at the bi-annual G.A. meetings.

The offices of the General Assembly are located at 100 Witherspoon St. in Louisville, Kentucky 40202. The 221st General Assembly will be meeting in Detroit, Michigan, June 14-21, 2014. The chief executive of the Office of the General Assembly is currently Gradye Parsons. A new Moderator and Vice Moderator are elected at each bi-annual meeting of the G.A. and become the "faces of the Presbyterian Church" until their successors are elected. The Moderator and Vice-Moderator may be either male or female, and must be either a pastor or a ruling elder. The current Moderator is the Rev. Neal D. Presa, pastor of Middlesex Presbyterian Church (N.J.); Affiliate Assistant Professor of Preaching and Worship at New Brunswick Theological Seminary; and Extraordinary Associate Professor of Practical Theology at the North-West University in Potchefstroom, South Africa. The current Vice Moderator is the Rev. Tom Trinidad, pastor at Faith Presbyterian Church in Colorado Springs, Co.. Our Per Capita payment of \$7.02 helps pay travel expenses of the G.A. Moderator and Vice Moderator. It also helps pay for staffing, training, and meeting costs for the various commissions and committees of the G.A., its Permanent Judicial Commission, and for its related Agencies. These include the Presbyterian Church (USA) Foundation, the Investments and Loan Program., The Presbyterian Mission Agency, the Board of Pensions, and the Presbyterian Publishing Corporation.

The General Assembly has responsibility and power to establish a comprehensive mission strategy and set priorities for the church; warn and bear witness against errors in doctrine or morality in the church and world; establish and maintain ecumenical relationships; and commission, send and support mission personnel. It provides that the Sacraments are rightly administered and received at its meetings and at other events and gatherings under its jurisdiction. The General Assembly provides services, resources, and programs most effectively performed at a national level; provides guidance and resources to presbyteries in a number of areas; authoritatively interprets the most recent edition of the *Book of Order* in a manner binding on the whole church; and organizes new synods by dividing, uniting, or otherwise combining existing ones. To date, members of our congregation have paid \$1,165.25 of our \$3,620.00 assessment.

VISITORS IN WORSHIP

February 2, 2014

Gail Yount, Fostoria, OH, daughter of Bud Hobday
Fred Todt, Washington, DC, son of Earl and Patty Todt
Ida Jo McKenny and daughter
Joyce Alderson, Bristol Village
Jill and Roger Kurtz, daughter and son-in-law of Joyce Alderson

February 16, 2014

Gary and Kathy Phillips, Albany, IN, daughter and son-in-law of Walter Vonderohe
Eric and Barb Vonderohe and daughters, Kaitlin and Madalyn, Indianapolis, IN, son and family of Walter Vonderohe

Lenten Soup Suppers

Come join us on Wednesday evenings through the season of Lent. Our Lenten Soup Suppers will be held on March 5, 12, 19, 26, April 2 and April 9 at 5:30 pm in the back of the sanctuary.

This is an opportunity for us to fellowship with one another as we share a meal and have a time of devotion together. Each week the supper is hosted by volunteers who will prepare the soup and bread. A time for reflection on discussion questions from the previous Sunday's sermon will be provided to guide the conversation at each table.

**"SOUPER PEOPLE"
WE NEED YOU!**

Are you willing to prepare a pot of soup (any kind) to serve approximately 8 - 12 people at a Wednesday evening Lenten Service?

Please call Jean Sydow, 947-2629,
or email or
Barb in the church office.

"Souper" thanks,
from Fellowship Committee

MARCH BIRTHDAYS


March 4 - Pat Dixon
Paula Hays



8 - Bob Penrose
9 - Earl Todt
14 - Marian Odell
15 - Kay Weir
20 - Mack Earnhardt
27 - Tammy Niebling
29 - George Hartwell



MARCH WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES
March 29 - Cay and Dick Roberts

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---|---|--|---|-----------|--|
| <h1>March 2014</h1> | | | | | | 1 |
| 2 9:30 Adult Class 10:45 a.m. Worship | 3 | 4 Shrove Pan Cake Supper 5:30 p.m. | 5 8 a.m. Sl. Tuggers Circles 1:30 5:30 p.m. Lenten Soup 6:30 Ash Wed. Service Choir | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 9 9:30 a.m. Ad. Class 10:45 a.m. Worship (Bob Getty Preach) 1st Sunday of Lent Daylight Savings Time Begins | 10 | 11 | 12 8 a.m. Sleeve Tuggers 5:30 p.m. Lenten Soup 7 p.m. Choir | 13 9:30 a.m. Stewardship 1:30 p.m. Fellowship 4 p.m. Worship | 14 | 15 Betty Benefiel Memorial Service Time TBA |
| 16 9:30 a.m. Adult Class 10:45 a.m. Worship | 17 Session Mtg. 7:00 p.m.  | 18 | 19 8:00 a.m. Sl. Tuggers 1:40 p.m. P.W.C.T. 5:30 Soup 7 p.m. Choir | 20 Communion 10:30 a.m. Bristol Health Care | 21 | 22 |
| 23 9:30 a.m. Ad. Class 10:45 a.m. Worship Joseph Hodder's Mem. 2 p.m. | 24 | 25 | 26 8:00 a.m. Sl. Tuggers 5:30 p.m. Soup 7 p.m. Choir | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| 30 9:30 Adult Class 10:45 a.m. Worship with Likay Thai Folk Drama & Pot Luck | 31 | | | | | |



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S NEWS-

The women's circles will meet on Wednesday, March 5 at 1:30 p.m.

Esther Circle: Hostess - Irene Noble (709 Third); Study Leader - Karen Henderson

Martha Mary Circle: Hostess - Elaine Zingg (424 Robin); Study Leader - Helen Heinmiller

Because of the weather, we did not cover Chapter 5 in February, so we will "touch on" that chapter, and then discuss chapter 6 of our study books "An Abiding Hope."

On March 13, the Martha Mary Circle will help the Bristol Health Care residents to celebrate the March birthdays.

SPRING GATHERING Plan now to attend the Scioto Valley PW Spring Gathering on Sat., April 26 at 1st Presbyterian Church of Gallipolis.

Saturday Night Bible Study

Each Saturday night about four folk from the Waverly First Presbyterian Church visit the Recovery Council, Georgia Harris House residence. Audrey and Cal Tysen, Sharon Weaver and Bob Getty have been involved up to now. Pastor Getty, presently, has been leading a devotional reading from the Gospel of John and Audrey has been leading a time of singing, each Saturday at 7:00 p.m. Others will be scheduled to visit at well. There is limited space so we limit our folk to four or five. About eight GH residents have been attending. Pat Penrose, Evelyn and Gary Baker are in the bull pen to step up to the ministry as the space allows. This opportunity for sharing the love of Christ has been a blessing to all. Please pray for these ladies for each to be flooded with the Grace of God as they travel their challenging journey.

Scripture Texts for Sunday Worship, March 2014

| | |
|----------|---|
| March 2 | Transfiguration Epiphany Exodus 24:12-18; Psalm 2; 2 Peter 1:16-21 ; Matthew 17:1-9 Pastor Rick: "Fiber Optic Communication" |
| March 9 | First Sunday in Lent Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7; Psalm 32; Romans 5:12-19; Matthew 4:1-11 Pastor Bob: |
| March 16 | Second Sunday in Lent Genesis 12:1-4a; Psalm 121; Romans 4:1-5, 13-17 ; John 3:1-17 Pastor Rick: "Surrogate Father" |
| March 23 | Third Sunday in Lent Exodus 17:1-7 ; Psalm 95; Romans 5:1-11; John 4:5-42 Pastor Rick: "Massah and Meribah" |
| March 30 | Fourth Sunday in Lent 1 Samuel 16:1-13 ; Psalm 23; Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41 Pastor Rick: "Cataracted Christians" |

The Bible and the Offering of Letters

Bread for the World is a collective Christian voice urging our nation's decision makers to end hunger at home and abroad. Moved by God's grace in Jesus Christ, we reach out to our neighbors, whether they live in the next house, the next state, or on the next continent.

We experience God's grace and love through our faith in the saving power of Jesus' death and resurrection. "We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another" (1 John 3:16).

In the Gospels, Jesus was compassionate to all people, especially the widow, the orphan, the stranger, the hungry, the poor—those most vulnerable in society. Jesus loved all people, rich and poor, and actively cared for those in need. He urged his disciples to do the same.

As followers of Christ, we are called to proclaim and embody God's reconciling love at all times and in all places. We work to end hunger and poverty in our communities, in our country, and in other countries.

Throughout Scripture, God calls people into community and sets the expectation that leaders (whether they are kings, pharaohs, or elected officials) should care for their people. Therefore, we also reflect God's love by challenging individuals and institutions that have the power to change laws and structures that keep people vulnerable. As God's hands and feet in the world, we work toward a beloved community in which every person has an equal opportunity to thrive.

The Offering of Letters is one opportunity for Christians to live out this commitment. It invites us to be good stewards, using our voices to encourage our elected representatives to take the necessary steps to end hunger.

Read more about the biblical themes that inform our mission in "The Biblical Basis for Advocacy to End Hunger." Download or order a free copy of this resource at www.bread.org/store or by calling 800-822-7323.



While churches along with food banks and other private charitable organizations are critical to meeting emergency needs, federal programs provide 23 times more food assistance to struggling American families.

**COMING IN APRIL
OFFERING OF LETTERS**

INFORMATION SUNDAY APRIL 6, 2014

DEDICATION OF LETTERS SUNDAY APRIL 13, 2014

LIKAY THAI FOLK DRAMA

The Christian Communications Institute
Payap University
Communicating Faith Through Thai Culture



March 30 will be a special day for our church. We will have as our guests for the entire day a group of nine people from Payap University in Bangkok, Thailand. Among them will be Esther Wakeman and Rob Collins, leaders of this very special drama group.

At morning worship they will participate in the service. Following that everyone including our guests is invited to a pot luck dinner. For that each of our folks are asked to bring a dish to share remembering that we will have these extra guests with us. Tableware will be provided for all.

In the evening from 7:00 - 8:30 PM the Folk Drama will be presented in the Glenn Center Auditorium with the entire community invited.

This drama group is an outgrowth of the efforts of early missionaries to present the Christian message to the people of Thailand in a way to catch their interest and understanding. John and Fran Hamlin were two of those early missionaries and the idea has developed into a full outreach sponsored by the University.

These dramas and dances are presented around the world and to many school children in Thailand. The group has visited in the United States several times. This is the second time they have come to Waverly at the invitation of our congregation.

Esther Wakeman is a PCUSA missionary who has spoken to us before and who is sponsored by gifts from our congregation over the year. Her husband, Rob Collins, organizes the details of the tours.

We are thankful to Bristol Village and especially to the Vespers Committee for their help financially and in other ways as our church sponsors this very special opportunity. Mark this day on your calendar, invite your friends to come with you. You don't want to miss any part of it.

Engage for Effective Evangelism

During the Lent season the adult Sunday school class will be addressing evangelism using the *Engage* curriculum developed by the PC(USA) office of Evangelism And Church Growth, website: www.pcusa.org/evangelism. Videos have been developed to lead the discussion and will be shown at the beginning of each session. The following is a quote from the on-line materials:

Effective evangelism is part of a disciple-making church culture that emphasizes the importance of both social justice and faith-sharing. Evangelism begins with Jesus' question, "Who do you say that I am?" (Matthew 16:15). Our response to this question leads us into God's mission of rescuing and reconciling a broken creation. Our mission includes relieving suffering and offering people the fullness of life in Jesus Christ. The work of the church is a foretaste of the restored and healed creation.

Engage Class Schedule

March 9, 2014 - Evangelism is sharing good news.

March 16, 2014 - Telling our story

March 23, 2014 - A Story to Share

March 30, 2014 - Connection to the Community

April 6, 2014 - Change of Perspective

April 13, 2014 - Where do we go from here?

FAITH ENDURES - "Hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts." (Romans 5:5)

One Great Hour of Sharing is coming in April. This is an opportunity for us to assist in the empowerment of others as they move past emotional, physical, and spiritual misfortune through gifts to the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-development of People programs. Look for details next month.

MEMBERS IN MINISTRY

FEBRUARY 20, 2014

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: Ralph Strickland

Ministers for Vision and Mission: Session

| <u>Class of 2014</u> | <u>Class of 2015</u> | <u>Class of 2016</u> |
|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Karen Henderson | Juliet Getty | David Bell |
| Paula Hays | Betsy Hall | Robert Neely |
| Audrey Tysen | Marian Odell | Irene Noble |
| Kay Weir | Dick Roberts | Glenn Noble |

Ministers for Member Care: Deacons

Don Kerry Kitty Neely Gerald Barnes

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 45690
Maryanna Cassady-14
Patricia Dixon-28
Anna Dodge-111
Ed Dodge-103
Virginia Hartwell-102
Dorothy Headley-5-A
Agnes Nash-5-B
Ben Lane-118
Jay Yetter-1

The Gardens

Betty and David Jenkins-202

At Home

Virginia Dixoon, Jay Early, Shirley Mellinger, Earl Todt, Marlene Voorhes

In the Waverly Area

The Choir is looking for a person who is comfortable doing hand signs with the choir during worship for the deaf. Please contact Karen Henderson 835-8880

March Worship Assistants:

March 2 - Paula Hays
9 - Nancy Seward
16 - Glenn Noble
23 -
30 - Alexandra Getty

March Greeters:

March 2 - Jean and Paul Sydow
9 - Ruth Karner and Marian Odell
16 - Evelyn and Gary Baker
23 - Betty and Ivan Sumey
30 - Barbara and Tom Patterson

March Ushers:

March 2 - Bob Neely, Kitty Neely, David Bell
9 - Ann Oyer, Marian Odell, Lois Hardy, Wanda Stratton
16 - Bud Hobday
23 - Ralph Strickland, Tom Frank, Dmitry Sergay, Gerald Barnes
30 - Bob Neely, Kitty Neely, David Bell

March Flowers:

March 2 -
9 -
16 -
23 - Elinor Hodder
30 -

March Coffee Hour Hosts:

March 2 -
9 -
16 -
23 -
30 -

Coffee Hour Hosts are needed for March. Please look at the dates and see if you are able to host one of the fellowship times.

Address Service Requested

WAVERTLY, OHIO 45690
211 SCHMITT DR.
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

AMEN CORNER

*When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem.—
Luke 9:51*

Jesus has already foretold his coming death—twice—when he sets his face toward his crucifixion. Instead of running away from suffering, he moves toward it, step by step. He is bound for the cross, and by the end of his journey, he will be bound to the cross. He is, in a word, cross-bound. Along his journey, Jesus challenges those around him to move toward the cross. He marches into Jerusalem on that first Palm Sunday and becomes increasingly cross-bound with every minute, while his followers struggle to bind themselves to him in his passion. He calls us to take up our cross and follow him, too.

Jesus challenges us to put others before ourselves and join God's mission to transform the world in love. The cross-bound life seeks not to glorify the Christian but to glorify Christ. The cross-bound life serves and sacrifices and endures. It relies on Jesus' strength in order to follow Jesus' example of setting his face toward Calvary—not for his own benefit but for ours.

Like Jesus' original disciples, we often resist the cross. This Lenten [season we are invited] instead to embrace it. But that embrace does not mean giving into the violence perpetrated on us by an abuser. Neither does it mean justifying the suffering that comes about because of the fallen nature of the world—poverty, illness, or injustice. In fact, a cross-bound life fights against such things. . . . I pray that this Lent we will not simply read about the cross but be bound for it and bound to it—that, like Jesus, we will learn to live cross-bound lives of sacrificial love as we await the resurrection.

By Chip Hardwick, *Presbyterians Today* | From preface 2014 Lenten Devotional