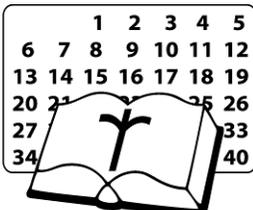


THE NORTHERN LIGHT

FEBRUARY 2010

ISSUE 2



Pastor's Message for Lent

Biblical justice is a theme that I want to lift up this month. It is something we can all be thinking about as Lent approaches beginning with Ash Wednesday on February 17th. We'll be worshipping with Covenant and Oakland Presbyterian Churches at Covenant Presbyterian at 7:00 PM. I want us to think about biblical justice during Lent and consider a suggestion I have toward the end of this article.

When we examine the scriptures, we find out how central justice is to the life of the Christian. There is no concept in the Old Testament with so central a significance for all relationships of human life as that of justice. The people of the Old Testament were in relationship with God because of the covenant that existed between God and Israel.

As a member of this covenant community, each person was in relationship with every other person, including the most vulnerable listed in scripture the orphan, the widow, and the stranger (the immigrant or illegal alien). Out of these relationships arose responsibilities and demands. The just person was faithful to these responsibilities and demands.

When asked what was required for right relationship with God Micah 6:8 declared that what was required was not "right" worship or "right" belief, but "...to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with your God." Doing justice meant to provide care for and provision for the vulnerable or the needy in addition to one's own family.

God wanted people to look at Israel and their behavior as an example of how people who are in relationship with God are called to live. The Old Testament Prophets declared the neglect of the most vulnerable folks as God's judgment on the people of Israel.

When we think about the God of the Old Testament being vengeful or wrathful we can find scriptures filled with judgment from God throughout the books of the prophets. The judgment of God came from God's displeasure at how poorly Israel was treating those who otherwise had no protection. Read Amos 8:4-8 to hear one example of Israel's call not to trample on the poor and vulnerable.

With Israel and with God it was not (and still is not) an issue of finding faults for why the people were vulnerable; it was (and still is) an issue of seeing someone in need and out of a desire to be faithful in relationship with God responding to that need. We as Christians share the same call to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with our God.

(continued on next page)

SUNDAY WORSHIP 10:00A.M.

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Springfield, Ohio 45503

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nrthmnstr@sbcglobal.net

www.northminsterspringfield.org

PASTORS

Dwight McCormick II, Pastor
W. Franklin Sparks, Pastor Emeritus

CHURCH STAFF

Deana Knotts	Office Manager
Gay Steiner	Bookkeeper
Mark Brush	Custodian
Lydia C. Smith	Director of Music
Kristina Ahlstrom	Organist
Mark Brush	Youth Directors
Susan Dersch	
Debbie Spoon	
Dick White	Adult Ministry
Dwilla Cramer	Presbyterian Women
Joan Generous	
Nancy Jean Graves	Parish Nurse
Ruth George	Librarian

The Northern Light is published monthly September thru May with one summer issue.

If there is an omission or an error, please contact the editor so a correction can be made.

Thank You

Deana Knotts, Newsletter Editor

Pastor's Page Continued

I want to suggest that the issue of care for the vulnerable in society while has ties to politics and policies that would promote justice or not, but care for the needy doesn't have a party affiliation.

Sadly our political leanings have become a secret handshake to identify whether we're one of "us" or one of "them." Jesus Christ was not affiliated with any particular party though both parties would have us believe he is part of their camp. Jesus is affiliated with all of humanity. Jesus loves and forgives humanity and calls us to care for one another out of gratitude for that love.

As Christians we are challenged to rise above our personal politics to demonstrate compassion. Political speech has unfortunately obfuscated what it means to be a just or a good person. We somehow are so distracted by rhetoric from both sides of the political spectrum that we have forgotten that to love is much more important than being right.

If there is someone in need we are called to respond out of our faith to help them just as Israel was called to do. Feeding the hungry, providing shelter for people if they have none, providing comfort for those who are mourning, or hospitality to someone who is an outcast are all part of practicing justice.

We might disagree about how to go about caring for the vulnerable-but I hope if we were walking down the road and saw someone lying in a ditch beaten and bleeding having been robbed we wouldn't ask first who they voted for before we took them to get treatment and saved their life. (See Luke 10:25-37).

So here's my suggestion. During Lent Christians are often asked to give up something for the forty days between Ash Wednesday and Holy Week. It is a reminder of how much we rely on God's Grace. It is a practice to observe a fast of some sort in honor of God and remind ourselves daily of our need for God. During Lent this year I want to invite us all to think of what we do every day for a number of hours at a time (watch television, listen to the radio, surf the internet) and see if we can give up the time spent doing that and instead use that time to seek specifically how we can practice justice.

I suggest that for the next forty days we try to practice some form of additional spiritual discipline that serves the outcasts or the people we believe to be the most vulnerable in our culture. We might take time to go and serve in a soup kitchen, or visit someone we've been meaning to go see and haven't. We could visit a homeless shelter, or a food pantry. I challenge us to engage in some form of hands on ministry that we would otherwise never have done or considered.

I will work to observe this practice over the next forty days alongside you. Let's see where God leads us. Share with me how you're doing and I'll share with you as well if you ask. Lord Jesus please grant us strength to love through justice not just for forty days, but each day. But God please guide us during Lent to add this practice and make it a habit of our Christian faith. Amen.

Dwight

Lectionary Readings

Sunday, February 7, 2010

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isaiah 6:1-8 (9-13); *Psalm 138*

1 Corinthians 15:1-11; Luke 5:1-11

Sunday, February 14, 2010

Transfiguration of the Lord

Exodus 34:29-35; *Psalm 99*

2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2; Luke 9:28-36 (37-43)

Wednesday, February 17, 2010

Ash Wednesday

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 or Isaiah 58:1-12

Psalm 51; 1-17; 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Sunday, February 21, 2010

1st Sunday in Lent

Deuteronomy 26:1-11; *Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16*

Romans 10:8b-13; Luke 4:1-13

Sunday, February 28, 2010

2nd Sunday in Lent

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18; *Psalm 27*

Philippians 3:17-4:1; Luke 13:31-35

LENTEN FEASTING and FASTING

Fast from gossip;

Fast on the Gospels.

Fast from junk foods;

Fast on the Bread of Life.

Fast from bad news;

Fast on "The Good News."

Fast from darkness;

Fast on the Light.

Fast from the secular;

Fast on the sacred.

Fast from despair;

Fast on hope.

Fast from revenge;

Fast on forgiveness.

Fast from tears of sorrow;

Fast on tears of joy.

Fast from getting;

Fast on giving.

Fast from complexities;

Fast on simplicities.

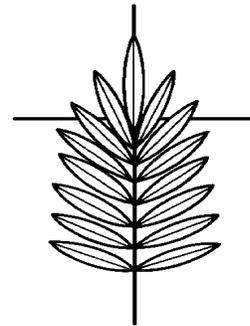
Fast from horror;

Fast on humor.

Fast from listlessness;

Fast on laughter.

-Rev. James A Gillespie "The Joyful Noiseletter"



ASH WEDNESDAY

**ASH WEDNESDAY
WORSHIP**

February 17th

A Service to Begin Lent

to be held @

Covenant

Presbyterian Church

~~~

*Dinner at 5:30 p.m.*

*Service at 7:00 p.m.*

This will be a combined service  
with Covenant,  
Northminster and Oakland  
Presbyterian Churches.

High Street United Methodist Church

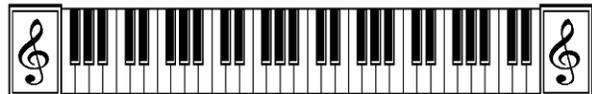
*Sanctuary Series*

February 28, 2010 @ 3:00 PM

**Two Pianos ~ Four Hands**

*Kristina Ahlstrom & Lydia Smith*

Free Admission ~ Good Will Offerings Accepted



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:**

|                          |             |
|--------------------------|-------------|
| <i>Lilly Adams</i>       | February 3  |
| <i>Lucinda Yeagle</i>    | February 4  |
| <i>Maggie Roberts</i>    | February 5  |
| <i>Kristen Zeeb</i>      | February 15 |
| <i>Karen Veith</i>       | February 17 |
| <i>Martha Clement</i>    | February 22 |
| <i>Ashley Foster</i>     | February 22 |
| <i>Nancy Graves</i>      | February 22 |
| <i>Nancy Jean Graves</i> | February 26 |
| <i>Lorri Long-Howard</i> | February 28 |
| <i>Ruth Martin</i>       | February 28 |

**Financial Support  
for Relief Effort in Haiti**

Financial support for relief efforts in Haiti can be made through the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Program and designated to DR000064. The funds given supplement the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering. Gifts can also be made by phone at (800) 872-3283 weekdays between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. (EST) and checks can be mailed to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, P.O. Box 643700, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700. Visit [www.pcusa.org/pda/response/latinamerica/haiti-index.htm](http://www.pcusa.org/pda/response/latinamerica/haiti-index.htm) for detailed information including updates, daily devotionals, volunteer work and more.

**OUTSIDE WORK DAY**

**Mark your calendar now!!!**

APRIL 17th - 9 AM

Back-up weather date April 24th.

We NEED your help!!!

Lunch Served

Hamburgers and Hot Dogs



**Order Form for Easter Flowers**

You may choose from the following variety of spring flowers to help decorate the Worship Area for Easter. The Easter flowers this year are again being ordered through Zonta International and proceeds from the sales will go toward service projects. The types of flowers available are listed below. Please indicate the plant(s) you would like to order and how many.

|                     |       |                |
|---------------------|-------|----------------|
| <b>Azaleas</b>      | _____ | <b>\$13.50</b> |
| <b>Daffodils</b>    | _____ | <b>10.00</b>   |
| <b>Tulips</b>       | _____ | <b>10.00</b>   |
| <b>Hyacinths</b>    | _____ | <b>10.00</b>   |
| <b>Lilies</b>       | _____ | <b>10.00</b>   |
| <b>Pansy Basket</b> | _____ | <b>10.00</b>   |

**Your name**

\_\_\_\_\_  
(as you would like it to appear in the bulletin)

**In memory of**

**or**

**In honor of**

**(circle your choice)**

\_\_\_\_\_

Your payment will confirm your order.

Please make your check payable to *Northminster Presbyterian Church* with a memo "Easter Flower." You may place your order in the offering plate or send it to the church office.

**Deadline for ordering flowers**

**is February 28, 2010**

**HEALTH NEWS**  
*from the Parish Nurse . . .*  
**Nancy Jean Graves**  
**February 2010**  
**FLU SEASON**

What you need to know. Flu is a contagious respiratory illness. It spreads easily from person to person by cough, sneeze, and runny nose. H1N1 flu has a higher risk of disease in people younger than 25 years of age than in older people. People with chronic conditions may be at high risk for serious flu complications and should consult their physician. People infected and contagious can infect others one day before getting sick to five to seven days after. This may be longer in children and people with weakened immune systems.

Signs and symptoms of the flu include: sudden onset of symptoms, fever over 100 F in adults and as high as 103-105 F in children, chills and sweats, headache, dry cough, muscle/joint aches and pains, fatigue and weakness, loss of appetite, and diarrhea and vomiting.

Prevention is key. Listed are just a few of the many prevention ideas. Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze or the courtesy cough which is coughing into your elbow. Wash your hands for 15-20 seconds with soap and water after coughing or use alcohol based cleaners. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth. This is how germs spread.

Get your flu shot!!!! Flu shots can be given to children six months and older. A nasal spray vaccine can be given to healthy children two years and older. H1N1 viruses are NOT spread by food. You cannot get infected with the virus from eating pork or pork products.

For more information, contact your local health department. For Springfield, the number is 390-5600 or the website is [www.ccchd.com](http://www.ccchd.com). Let's all try and stay healthy this season.

God Bless,  
 Lisa Mayhugh, MSN, RN  
 Grace United Methodist Church  
 Information taken from CCCHD Flyer

**AVM (Adult Visionary Ministry)**  
*The "Visionaries"*



**Bingo and First Quarter Birthday Party**  
**Tuesday, February 16th**  
 1:00 PM

We will celebrate birthdays for January, February, and March with a fun time of Bingo. Birthday cake and ice cream will be served. Plan to come and help us wish our birthday friends a "Happy Birthday."

**Upcoming Event**

**The Alan Gresik Swing Shift Orchestra**  
**Friday, March 26, 2010**  
 8:00 PM

We are planning a trip to Kuss Auditorium for an evening of music performed by the Alan Gresik Swing Shift Orchestra. This is a Big Band sound featuring music from the 1930's and 1940's. Our kind of music! The Performing Arts Center is offering a senior discount for this performance at a price of \$20 per person. To receive this discount we need to have at least 15 or more people to sign-up for this event. Regular price is \$24. Even though the show is not until the end of March, tickets must be reserved early. There is a no refund policy, so tickets **must be paid for by February 8th.** Contact Dick White (AVM associate) or Joan Garrett (secretary) for additional information. Sign-up sheets are posted in the Family Room and the Narthex.

**A NOTE THANKS**

Dear Deacons of Northminster,  
 Thank you very much for the college care package! It was filled with many essential items that I need when away at school. You could tell there was a lot of thought and love put into it! Thank you for remembering me. I appreciate it!

*Love,*  
 Megan Knotts

# Presbyterian Women

Faith, Fellowship and Fun with a Circle of Friends.  
All are welcome to participate.

Co-Moderators.....Dwilla Cramer & Joan Generous  
Secretary.....Anne Hines  
Treasurer.....Ruth Martin

**ESTHER CIRCLE** *Meets 2nd Monday*

**Leader: Ruth George**  
Esther Circle will meet at the church on Monday, **February 8** at 7:15 p.m. Susan Dersch and Mindy Twiggs will be hostesses. Members of the Planning Committee, Susan Dersch and Maggie Roberts, will lead a discussion.

**MARY-MARTHA CIRCLE** *Meets 3rd Friday*

**Leader: Ruth Martin**  
Mary-Martha Circle will meet at the church on **Friday, February 19** at 10:30 a.m. Lunch will be a pizza party and the program will be a discussion led by Susan Dersch and Maggie Roberts from the Planning Committee.

**REBEKAH/SARAH CIRCLE** *Meets 2nd Thursday*

**Leader: Joyce Carpenter**  
Rebekah/Sarah Circle will meet at the church on **Thursday, February 11** at 12:00 noon.  
Hostesses: Irene Hughes and Betty Thomas

**PW BOARD MEETING**  
**Monday, February 1st**  
**10:00 AM**

**CRAIG HOUSE MEALS**

PW will deliver an evening meal for 12 men living at Craig House, a homeless shelter for men, on **Monday, February 22**. If you are interested in providing either a **meat, vegetable, salad or dessert**, please sign-up on the sheet located on the bulletin board in the Family Room. Your donation may be brought to the church on the Sunday before or picked up at your home. Call or see Marcia or Andy Barga (399-9839) for more information.

## *Session Highlights*

The Session met in Regular stated meeting January 19 at 7:00 PM, beginning in the sanctuary for a time of prayer and reflection on scripture. Those present then returned to the Family Room for the rest of the meeting.

The Session received reports from the Pastor and most of the committees of Session.

The Pastor reported that there are tentative plans for a youth mission trip to a Youth Works site in Lincoln County, West Virginia the week of July 11-18 or 18-25.

The Pastor proposed and Session approved that any committees that are willing and able to do so will hold their meetings one hour before the regular session meeting (i.e., at 6:00 PM on the third Tuesday of the month). This arrangement will enable the immediate reporting of committee business to the Session for information or for session action. It will also allow for more efficient use of the Pastor's time in serving as staff person for the various committees.

Mark Brush, moderator of the Deacons, reported that the Deacons are planning for the congregational dinner following the annual meeting on January 31, 2010.

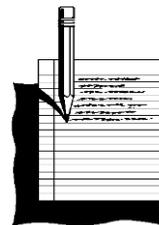
Treasurer Bill Harrison presented a brief report listing the funds budgeted and the funds raised by various groups (and individuals) within the congregation for mission, both local and global, in 2009. The conservative total is about \$22,000, or about 12% of the budgeted income for 2009.

Session re-elected Bill Harrison as Church Treasurer and Lois Shroyer as Clerk of Session for 2010.

The next stated meeting of Session is February 10, 2009 at 7:00 PM.

Please continue to pray for the Pastor and Session as we try to serve this congregation and our Lord Jesus Christ.

*-Lois Shroyer, Clerk*



NORTHMINSTER  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

400 Villa Road  
Springfield, Ohio 45503



**THE NORTHERN LIGHT**  
*Issue 2*

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## February 2010

- February 6 Pancake Breakfast**
- February 15 Deadline for Newsletter**
- February 15 Presidents' Day - Office Open**
- February 16 Men's Breakfast**
- February 16 AVM 1st Quarter BD Party/Bingo**
- February 16 Session Meeting**
- February 17 Ash Wednesday Service**  
**@ Covenant Presbyterian**  
**Dinner 5:30 PM / Worship 7 PM**

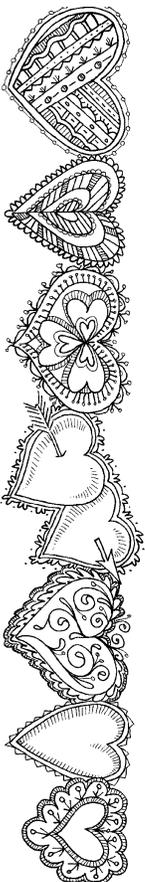


NORTHMINSTER'S VISION STATEMENT  
REJOICE! RENEW! REACHOUT!

*A church family that lives and shares its Christian faith by rejoicing, renewing and reaching out!*

# February 2010

## Northminster Presbyterian Church



Sun      Mon      Tue      Wed      Thu      Fri      Sat

|                                              |                                               |                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                        |                                         |                                       |                                                                        |
|----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                              | 1<br>9:30 YWM Meeting<br>10:00 PW Board       | 2                                                                                                                                                     | 3<br>6:00 Bell Choir<br>7:00 Boy Scouts<br>7:15 Choir                                  | 4                                       | 5                                     | 6<br>8:00 Pancake<br>Breakfast                                         |
| 7<br>Blood Pressure<br>Screening             | 8<br>10:00 AVM Adv. Bd.<br>7:15 Esther Circle | 9                                                                                                                                                     | 10<br>6:00 Bell Choir<br>7:00 Boy Scouts<br>7:15 Choir                                 | 11<br>12:00 Rebekah/<br>Sarah<br>Circle | 12                                    | 13                                                                     |
| 14<br>4:30 Youth Group                       | 15<br><b>DEADLINE for<br/>NEWSLETTER</b>      | 16<br>7:00a Men's Breakfast<br>1:00 AVM Bingo and<br>1st Qtr BD Party<br>6:00 Finance<br>6:00 Administration<br>6:00 Mission/Outreach<br>7:00 Session | 17<br><b>Ash Wednesday<br/>Service @<br/>Covenant<br/>5:30 Dinner<br/>7:00 Worship</b> | 18                                      | 19<br>10:30 Mary-<br>Martha<br>Circle | 20<br>9:30 Youth help @<br>Clifton Ave<br>Church of God<br>Food Pantry |
| Valentine's Day                              | <i>Presidents' Day<br/>Office Open</i>        |                                                                                                                                                       | 7:00 Boy Scouts                                                                        | 25                                      | 26                                    | 27                                                                     |
| 21                                           | 22<br>6:30 Quilt Guild                        | 23                                                                                                                                                    | 24<br>9:30 Mail Newsletter<br>6:00 Bell Choir<br>7:00 Boy Scouts<br>7:15 Choir         |                                         |                                       |                                                                        |
| 28<br>Youth Hosting Café<br>4:30 Youth Group |                                               |                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                        |                                         |                                       |                                                                        |