

THE NORTHERN LIGHT

MARCH 2012

ISSUE 3



What is Lent and what does it have to do with my faith in Jesus Christ and the life of the Church?

Lent is the Christian observance of the liturgical year from Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday. The traditional purpose of Lent is the penitential preparation of the believer—through prayer, penance, repentance, almsgiving, and self-denial. During this time we are to recall the resistance of Jesus to temptation in the desert, the events of the Passion (suffering) of Christ during Holy Week particularly on Good Friday, and the eventual celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ on Easter Sunday. **(Incidentally Easter Sunday on April 8th is one of our “Big Sundays” where we want you to invite as many people as you can to worship. We’re asking all folks who miss worship frequently to make a special effort to attend worship on Easter and bring a friend. Those who regularly attend we want to bring a friend as well—bring 10 friends. It will help us grow in our discipleship and can help increase our number of members. You will receive cards to hand out as invitations. Please use them excessively and without reservation).** Back to Lent.

During Lent, many of the faithful commit to fasting or giving up certain types of luxury as a form of penitence. The three traditional practices to be taken up with renewed vigor during Lent are prayer (justice towards God), fasting (justice towards self), and almsgiving (justice towards neighbor). According to the Synoptic gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke, Jesus spent forty days fasting in the desert before the beginning of his public ministry, where he endured temptation by Satan. Thus, Lent is described as being forty days long, though different denominations calculate the forty days differently. In many of the Christian churches, Lent is regarded as being forty days long, but the Sundays between Shrove Tuesday (or Fat Tuesday or Mardi Gras) and Easter Sunday are not typically regarded as being part of Lent; thus, the date of Shrove Tuesday will typically be slightly more than forty days before Easter Sunday.

Most followers of Western Christianity observe Lent beginning on Ash Wednesday and concluding on Holy Thursday. The six Sundays in this period are not counted because each one represents a "mini-Easter," a celebration of Jesus' victory over sin and death. It is however not recommended that one overindulge on Sundays to make up for the fasting. Ten pounds of chocolate on Sunday is not one of our plans for worship.

So please walk with me and many Christians worldwide to observe the holy season of Lent. We can grow in our faith in preparation for the celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ on Easter Sunday. God's love was and is stronger than death. Thank you Jesus.

-Dwight



SUNDAY WORSHIP 10:00A.M.

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PASTORS

Dwight McCormick II, Pastor

W. Franklin Sparks, Pastor Emeritus

CHURCH STAFF

Deana Knotts **Office Manager**

Gay Steiner **Financial Secretary**

Bill Harrison **Treasurer**

Greg Veith **Custodian**

Lydia Smith-Lockwood **Director of Music**

Kristina Ahlstrom **Organist**

Dwight & Sarah McCormick **Youth Leaders**
Nate & Kate Smith

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

Mission Committee

What Do We Do?

The formal charge for the Mission Committee is to demonstrate God's love and compassion, to enrich the lives of people in need and to encourage social justice and peacemaking through education. That sounds great...but when it comes down to actual work, what does the mission committee do? Here are the basics:

- Coordinate CAFÉ for Sundays – signing up individuals and groups
- Promote the four special offerings of the Presbyterian Church – presenting Minutes for Mission and writing bulletin items and newsletter articles
- Coordinate local mission efforts, such as Habitat for Humanity work crews and Church of God Food Pantry breakfast crews – work with the local organizations to plan the days and recruit/organize the crews
- Coordinate special mission efforts, such as the kits for Haiti – get information out to the congregation about these special projects
- Coordinate with other groups within the church on mission efforts, such as the food drives by the Deacons – work to provide information that might be needed.



There are a number of mission efforts that are carried on within our congregation (see article below). It is our hope that these efforts can be continued and even added to as opportunities arise and members respond. During these difficult economic times, we at Northminster need to continue to recognize the many blessings we have and be willing to share with those who are struggling.

To date the committee has not done a lot regarding education, and with our budget woes, the committee may consider ways to raise some money to support the church's mission efforts. There is always more that can be done.

If you would be interested in helping with the Mission Committee's work, please let committee chair Susan Dersch know with a phone call (629-0792) or e-mail (sdersch@woh.rr.com).

NORTHMINSTER'S SERVICE TO OTHERS

The Mission Committee, Deacons and Presbyterian Women (PW) board recently met to talk about the mission work of this church. When confronted with a list of what we have done the past few years, those in attendance were surprised...and pleased. We want to be sure all our members are aware of all that is done.

Most mission work is not budgeted. We do provide 2% of our budget to the Presbytery for benevolence work. We have budgeted monthly donations to the local Habitat for Humanity affiliate for several years, provided direct missionary support to Alex Creager during his time in seminary, and just this year we have included funds for our monthly breakfast at the Church of God food pantry. (Adding this reflects what we will spend to make this happen...but it doesn't mean the money is automatically there.)

(continued on next page)

Deacons take the lead on several mission efforts. They coordinate the “adoption” of families at Christmas time, with the congregation buying gifts and the Deacons providing food to those families. The Deacons also have begun coordinating quarterly food drives for the Church of God food pantry. The Deacons, along with PW, also help fund the Kroger gift cards that are available to people in need through the church office.

In addition to helping fund these cards, Presbyterian Women annually makes donations from the funds raised through the Christmas Bazaar. The latest recipients have been Interfaith Hospitality Network, Project Woman, Salvation Army, Second Harvest Food Bank, Nehemiah Foundation, and the Red Cross. Some of these organizations have been supported for several years.

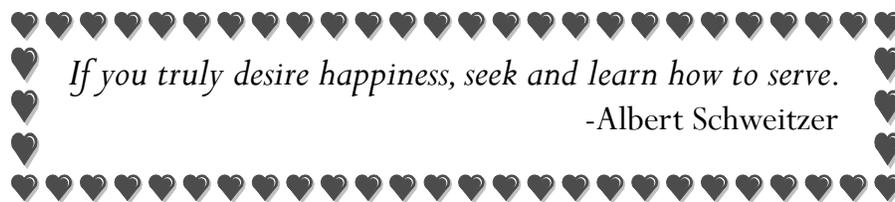
As noted in the previous article, the Mission Committee coordinates several opportunities to give...in treasure as well as time and talent. The four special offerings are supported each year by gifts from members as are the Christmas offerings of things such as toilet paper, gas cards or school supplies. The congregation put together kits to send to Haiti...baby kits, toiletry kits or cleaning kits. In addition, the Mission Committee coordinates the crews to work at Habitat for Humanity and the Church of God food pantry breakfast.

And then there are the mission projects that have been led more by individual members than by any organized group...such as the Relay for Life and the knitting and giving of so many hats for those in the armed services, the local hospital nursery and the men, women and children who come to the food pantry.

I am sure there are other mission efforts that have been done over the years that are not mentioned here. There are times we get tired of hearing about another appeal for support...but when we can look at all we do, we recognize that this congregation responds to needs in our community and beyond. I hope the mission committee can continue to rely on your generosity.

Watch for the poster and slide show that are being created to more visually display our efforts!

-Susan Dersch, Chair



Financial News . . . from Our Treasurer

Dining Out

Let's wipe out our deficit. Let's call it "**March Madness**" and defeat it one month at a time. Can we put March in the "**Black?**"

A majority of our finance committee and our session have agreed that we can do it! And, have agreed to donate an amount equal to one "Dining Out Expense" to our operating budget each week.

Here is the schedule:

- ◆ MacDonald's diners donate \$5.00 per person per week.
- ◆ Bob Evans' diners donate \$10.00 per person per week.
- ◆ Fine Dining people donate \$25.00 per person per week.

If we all pull together we can do it. The alternative is not acceptable. Some of us are already doing it and starting the first Sunday in March will be appropriate.

Don't forget to indicate that part of your donation going to "Dining Out."

DOLLAR\$&CENTS

IRA & 401K Charitable Donations for 2012

So far this year, 2012, the individual retirement account donation rule has expired and is waiting for congress to reinstate it. I recommend you take one of the copies of a Wall St. Journal article that can be found posted on the bulletin board in the narthex. The subject is too involved for here. The article suggests what to do in the meantime.

-Bill Harrison, Treasurer

Session Highlights

The Session met in regular stated meeting February 21, 2012. The Moderator, Rev. Dwight McCormick, opened the meeting at 7:00 PM, with Scripture reading and prayer.

The Pastor brought a proposal (already agreed to by all those involved in the monthly pancake breakfast) that all profits from the pancake breakfasts for 2012 go to the Brett Mansfield Memorial Scholarship Fund. The proposal was duly moved, seconded, and passed unanimously. The Pastor also proposed that session approve letting Olan Mills produce a new pictorial church directory, with photo sittings on May 7 & 8. This proposal was also duly moved, seconded, and passed unanimously. Elder Diana Schneider agreed to be the point person to help coordinate appointments.

The Finance Committee report was given by Chair Kent Sherry, referring to meeting minutes which had been distributed to all session members. The Finance Committee moved that approximately \$122,000 currently in annuity funds be taken out and invested in Franklin Utilities Class A mutual fund. This fund is deemed relatively risk-free, and Northminster's investment is expected to earn \$7000 to \$8000 more than it was earning in the annuity fund. Session unanimously approved the motion.

The printed financial report and balance sheet showed that total income for January 1 through January 31 was \$17,186 and total expenses were \$20,152, producing a deficit of \$2,966.

Property Committee Chair Bill Carpenter reported that the replacement of the sanctuary lighting is underway, and that each 150 watt lamp is being replaced with 250 watts.

The next stated meeting of Session is March 20, 2012 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

**Revised
2012 COMMUNION SCHEDULE**

- April 5.....Maundy Thursday
- April 8.....Easter Sunday
- May 27.....Pentecost Sunday
- July 15.....
- September 9.....
- October 7.....World Communion Sunday
- November 18.....
- December 23.....

MARCH LECTIONARY READINGS

Sunday, March 4

2nd Sunday in Lent

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16; *Psalm 22:23-31*
Romans 4:13-25; Mark 8:31-38

Sunday, March 11

3rd Sunday in Lent

Exodus 20:1-17; *Psalm 19*
1 Corinthians 1:18-25; John 2:13-22

Sunday, March 18

4th Sunday in Lent

Numbers 21:4-9; *Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22*
Ephesians 2:1-10; John 3:14-21

Sunday, March 25

5th Sunday in Lent

Jeremiah 31:31-34; *Psalm 51:1-12 or*
Psalm 119:9-16; Hebrews 5:5-10; John 12:20-33
Infant Baptism of Kingston Turner Deas

Liturgical Color for Lent: Purple

The parament, or liturgical cloth, which hangs from the pulpit has been changed to purple to mark this season of the Christian year. Purple during Lent symbolizes repentance and the royalty of Christ the King.



Hymn of the Month for March

Green Hymnal #25

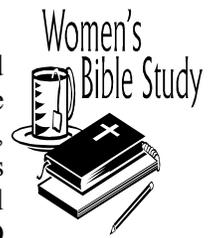
"Psalm 95: Come Worship God"

The hymn of the month for March is a paraphrase of Psalm 95 by Michael Perry, a British pastor. The Levites, a Hebrew tribe who had special religious and political responsibilities among the Israelites, sang this particular Psalm in celebration of the cosmic rule of the Lord. This Psalm is a good choice for a Lenten hymn because it reminds us to listen to God's voice. It reminds us that listening to God's voice brings joy and peace and leads to prayer and thanksgiving. It also reminds us that disobedience brings fear and unrest in the face of divine judgment. The Psalm reminds us that the Lord is to be worshiped reverently and served in humble obedience. We are to rejoice in God's word and rejoice in His goodness.

-Diana Schneider, Worship/Music Chair

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Beth Moore's series, "Living Beyond Yourself—Exploring the Fruits of the Spirit," will be starting on Monday, **March 5th** at 7 PM. Beth Moore's series includes a very thoughtful workbook, cost is \$15, and a DVD series of her presentation. Beth is a dynamic speaker who uses humor, common sense, and a biblical depth to make the Bible message real.



The first meeting will be held at Sue Creager's home, 920 Santa Monica Ave. (399-2349) to watch the first DVD and discuss the course. Please invite a friend, relative, neighbor, or co-worker who may be interested in a women's fellowship/Bible study that will last several weeks. We will meet weekly and if we have more than 12 women, we may move the meetings to the church.

We also could have a daytime Bible study with these materials and we would need one person to get it organized with the time, place, etc.

*If you have any questions,
please contact Sue Creager.*

ADULT FORUM LENTEN STUDY

February 26th thru April 1st (Palm Sunday): Elder Lois Shroyer will lead a Lenten study—"Gospel Portraits of Jesus." This Lenten study explores the biblical names for Jesus and the titles for Jesus in the Gospels.

What can we learn about Jesus from the multitude of names he is given in the New Testament? Plenty! Welcome to a six-week course that will explore a number of the names and titles for Jesus that appear in the four Gospels, with some attention to relevant Old Testament passages.

The sequence of the names and titles of Jesus for our course of study moves from the most familiar name, *Jesus*, to Jesus' activities as *teacher*, to several common metaphors such as *bread*, to more abstract names like *Messiah* and *Son of God*, concluding with a focus on *resurrection and life*.

HEALTH NEWS

from the Parish Nurse . . . Nancy Jean Graves
MARCH 2012

HOLD THAT POSE

It is important to practice good posture in every aspect of our daily life, whether we are sitting at a desk at work or school, lifting a heavy object or slouching in a chair watching TV or playing on an entertainment gadget. Neck and back pain, headaches and jaw pain, decreased lung function and nerve and blood vessel constriction are all problems associated with poor posture. Leaning your head forward while sitting makes you more likely to clench your jaw which leads to the tightening of facial muscles. This culminates frequently in headaches and jaw pain and over time affects the temporomandibular joint wearing it down. This forward leaning also decreases lung function, according to Dr. Rene Cailliet of the Westport Chiropractic Rehab website, which lowers the amount of oxygen in the blood leading to problems with heart and vascular health. Peristaltic function of the intestinal tract is also influenced by this leaning head forward posture. The spine is specifically designed to help absorb shock and keep the body balanced. The spine has four natural curves that make up an “s” shape. When sitting improperly or slouching occurs, the spine experiences pressure, slowly allowing these curves to change their positions resulting in back pain, blood vessel constriction, and nerve constriction. Pay attention to the position of the spine as you sit walk, stand, and bend. Is your head directly above your shoulders not leaning to either side or forward? Are you standing erect not expending your shoulders or your hips? Do you balance on both legs equally? If possible examine your posture in a mirror from both a front view and a side view. Strengthening your core muscles through exercises also can assist strengthening the muscles that hold your spine in place. Being aware of your posture and practicing good posture may save your from pain and future health problems.

Submitted by:
 Sue Markley, R.N.
 Urbana United Methodist Church

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

Leader: Cindy Chesnut

Meets 2nd Monday

Meeting Date: Monday, March 12th

Time: 7:15 p.m.

Place: Church

RUTH CIRCLE

Meets 2nd Thursday

Meeting Date: Thursday, March 8th

Meeting Time: 11:00 a.m.

Place: Church

Devotions: Ruth Martin

Hostess and Program: June Hughes

Lunch will follow the meeting, so please bring your own lunch. We welcome church women to join us! Mary-Martha Circle and Rebekah/Sarah Circle have merged and are now the “Ruth Circle.”

Officers are: Gail Davis-Leader; June Hughes Secretary; and Joan Garrett-Treasurer.

The **Bazaar Worskhop** will begin meeting (weather permitting) on **Tuesday, March 6th** at 9AM in the lower level Community Room. Join us for a morning of creating crafts for the Annual Holiday Bazaar. Questions: Joan Generous 969-8130 or Barb Aker 399-3967.



PW Spring Fling

Thursday, May 17th

Dinner 6:00 PM

Speaker: Bill Felker

NORTHMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

400 Villa Road
Springfield, Ohio 45503

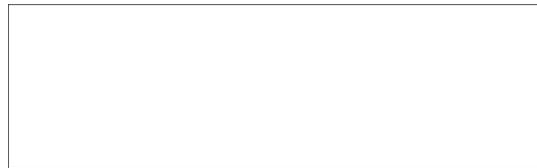


THE NORTHERN LIGHT

Issue 3

NON PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
SPRINGFIELD, OHIO
PERMIT NO. 75

Return Service Requested



March 2012

- March 3** **Pancake Breakfast**
- March 3** **Session Retreat/Elder Training Event**
- March 4** **Blood Pressure Screening**
- March 11** **Daylight Saving Time Begins**
- March 17** **Clifton Ave. Church of God Breakfast**
- March 18** **Youth Group - *Dave and Buster's***
- March 20** **Men's Breakfast @ Perkins**
- March 20** **Session Meeting**



*Jesus answered them,
"The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.
Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies,
it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.*

*Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate
their life in this world will keep it for eternal life.*

*Whoever serves me must follow me,
and where I am, there will my servant be also.*

Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

John 12:23-26

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.

| | | |
|--------------|-------|---------|
| Azaleas | _____ | \$16.00 |
| Daffodils | _____ | 10.00 |
| Tulips | _____ | 10.00 |
| Hyacinths | _____ | 10.00 |
| Lilies | _____ | 10.00 |
| Pansy Basket | _____ | 10.00 |

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 March 4, 2012

NEW PICTORIAL DIRECTORY

A new Pictorial Directory for Northminster is in the works. Sitting dates for pictures to be taken will be **Monday, May 7, and Tuesday, May 8**, beginning at 2:30 PM each day. Watch the weekly bulletin announcements and upcoming newsletters for details about scheduling an appointment for a photo sitting. There will be opportunities to sign up at church and also online.

YOUTH GROUP—*Dave & Buster's*

The youth of Northminster will meet at the church at 2:30 p.m. on **Sunday, March 18th** to travel to *Dave & Buster's* in Columbus. Please contact Dwight if you are able to help with transportation.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

| | |
|-------------------------|----------|
| <i>Doris Harris</i> | March 1 |
| <i>Josh Twiggs</i> | March 4 |
| <i>Emily Spriggs</i> | March 6 |
| <i>Betty Lou Graven</i> | March 9 |
| <i>Nicole Roberts</i> | March 9 |
| <i>Lucille Arthur</i> | March 12 |
| <i>Toni Conway</i> | March 16 |
| <i>Jason Spoon</i> | March 18 |
| <i>Bud Graves</i> | March 24 |
| <i>Carol Sparks</i> | March 24 |
| <i>Megan Knotts</i> | March 26 |



**THE SHAMROCK
 and the TRINITY**

St. Patrick appeared before the pagan King of Ireland to speak to him about the Trinity. The king could not understand how three persons could be in one. St. Patrick plucked a shamrock that was growing nearby. He showed it to the king, asking him if it were one leaf or three. The king was unable to answer the question. Then St. Patrick assured him that if he could not explain the mystery of the shamrock, that there was no hope of him understanding so deep a mystery as the Holy Trinity. The shamrock has become a well-known symbol of the Trinity.

March 2012

Northminster Presbyterian Church

www.northminsterspringfield.org

office@northminsterspringfield.org

Sun



Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri



Sat

| | | | | | | |
|---|--|---|--|--|----------------|--|
| | | | | <p>1 6pm Springfield Dulcimer Club</p> | <p>2</p> | <p>3 8:00 Pancake Brkfst Ticket Sales for Brett Mansfield Memorial Fundraiser 9:00 Session Retreat</p> |
| <p>4 Blood Pressure Screening 4:30 Youth Bible Study/Hang Out Night</p> | <p>5 9:30 YWM 10:00 P.W.Board 7:00 Women's Bible Study @ Creager's</p> | <p>6 Election Day Polling Place 9:00 Bazaar Wrkshp 7:00 Christian Ed.</p> | <p>7 5:30 Music/Worship 6:00 Bell Choir 7:00 Equality Spfld. Youth First 7:15 Choir</p> | <p>8 11:00 Ruth Circle</p> | <p>9</p> | <p>10</p> |
| <p>11 Daylight Saving Time Begins</p> | <p>12 7:00 Women's Bible Study 7:15 Esther Circle</p> | <p>13 9:00 Bazaar Wrkshp 6:30 Deacons 7:00 Property</p> | <p>14 6:00 Bell Choir 7:00 Equality Spfld. Youth First 7:15 Choir</p> | <p>15</p> | <p>16 </p> | <p>17 St. Patrick's Day Clifton Ave. Church of God Breakfast and Food Pantry </p> |
| <p>18: 2:30 Youth Group <i>Dave & Buster's</i></p> | <p>19 Newsletter Deadline 7:00 Women's Bible Study</p> | <p>20 7 am Men's Brkfst/ Perkins 9 am Bazaar Wrkshp 6 pm Finance 7 pm Session</p> | <p>21 6:00 Bell Choir 7:00 Equality Spfld. Youth First 7:15 Choir</p> | <p>22</p> | <p>23</p> | <p>24</p> |
| <p>25 </p> | <p>26 6:30 Remembrance Quilt Guild 7:00 Women's Bible Study</p> | <p>27 9:00 Bazaar Wrkshp</p> | <p>28 9:30 Mail Newsletter 6:00 Bell Choir 7:00 Equality Spfld. Youth First 7:15 Choir</p> | <p>29 </p> | <p>30</p> | <p>31</p> |