

THE NORTHERN LIGHT

MARCH 2013

ISSUE 3

A Word from the Pastor . . .

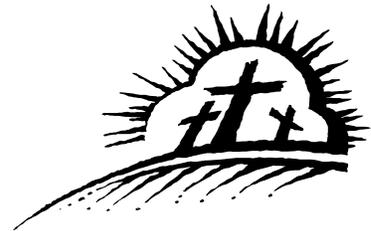
I had never heard of Maundy Thursday before I became a Presbyterian. I actually didn't even hear about it until I was in my final year of seminary and was attending a conference in Chicago. It was the Skirball Institute Conference. It has ties to what now has become the Skirball Culture Center in Los Angeles California.

It was a conference to promote tolerance and build relationships between Jews, Catholics, Protestants and several other faith traditions including Buddhists. I first heard about Maundy Thursday during a skit from a group that was performing as our evening entertainment at the conference. They were doing skits using biblical themes and word play. One thing they did was announce "AND NOW AN IMPRESSION OF JOB'S MOTHER!" Then a woman wearing a headscarf and looking frail walked out and said "Don't PICK!"

Then they went into a singing montage where one of the songs they sang was a parody of "Monday Monday" by the Mamas and the Papas. They came out in singing troubadour style with great verve "MAUNDY THURSDAY, It's so sad to see you go."

Later, I asked my professor of Old Testament and Hebrew Exegesis what Maundy Thursday was. He shared with me that it is the Thursday during Holy Week when we observe Jesus' last night with his disciples. It was the night when Jesus was with his disciples celebrating Passover. Jesus, as a demonstration of servant leadership, washed the feet of his disciples. He also added a Christian meaning to the Passover practice of sharing a meal of bread and wine. His words about how the bread represented his body being broken for them and the wine representing the blood that was shed for them for the forgiveness of sins are words we speak at each communion service today. Jesus' meal with his disciples that night transformed the meaning of the meal and gave us the practice of communion.

(continued on next page)



SUNDAY WORSHIP 10:00 A.M.

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Joan Generous
June Hughes

Presbyterian Women

Nancy Jean Graves
Ruth George

Parish Nurse
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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

At Northminster we often observe Maundy Thursday with communion and a Tenebrae service. The night is one where we read accounts of the Last Supper, the events surrounding Jesus' arrest and the event of Jesus' crucifixion and death. We will be observing a Maundy Thursday service again this year at 7PM. In addition we've added a Good Friday worship service at 7PM. I invite you to attend both services.

On Maundy Thursday Jesus' disciples betrayed and abandoned him at the hour of his greatest need, yet He forgave them. Jesus forgave them, and He forgave the very ones who nailed him to the cross. Luke 23:34 states, "Then Jesus said, 'Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.' And they cast lots to divide his clothing." Jesus said these words FROM the cross! What a profound witness to the way God forgives humanity.

God's forgiveness for humanity is a miracle. God's forgiveness through Jesus Christ is the embodiment of love. The love of God for humanity is a love stronger than death. That is the power of the resurrection. That is good news because we face our share of death in this world. Jesus' forgiveness for us and for all of humanity gives us salvation, new life and hope.

Thankfully the darkness of Maundy Thursday and Good Friday is not the final word. The death of Jesus on the cross is not the final word. Easter and the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead are the final word in creation. Hallelujah!

Because of the resurrection we've been given the gift of salvation through the forgiveness of our sins. The truth of the resurrection means that even in the darkest night of our souls, even at our weakest moments of shame, guilt, bitterness, rage, lust, pride, envy, jealousy, vengeance, greed, you name it; Jesus is there to forgive us. That's the good news. We are called to repent from that which is within us that leads to sin so we can be transformed by the good news of God's love. That is our call not only during the remaining days of Lent, but at all times. We are invited to continue our Lenten disciplines through our worship services on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. Then we can gather with one another Easter Sunday to celebrate the joy of the resurrection and proclaim "Rejoice! He is risen! He is risen indeed!"

Dwight

Session Highlights

The Session met in regular stated meeting February 19, 2013. The Moderator, Rev. Dwight McCormick, opened the meeting at 7:00 PM, with Scripture reading and prayer.

The pastor reported his plans for attending a continuing education event August 5 through 11 and for taking vacation time from August 12 through 19. He will arrange for pulpit supply for August 11 and 18.

Finance Committee:

- The printed financial report and balance sheet shows that total income for January was \$13,683 and total expenses were \$ 18,085, producing a deficit of \$ 4,122. Committee member Kevin Creager pointed out that a disproportionately large deficit in January is not unexpected. It is partially due to semi-annual or quarterly payments falling due in January and partially due to decreased attendance during the winter months.
- On motion from the committee, session approved moving any restricted funds to the Presbyterian Foundation Fund, where they will earn more interest than they have been ("restricted" refers to the stipulation that only the interest, not the capital may be used by Northminster, and that arrangement remains unchanged).

On motion from the Worship Committee session approved holding a Good Friday service at 7:00 PM on March 29 at Northminster.

Session approved a request from the Springfield Arts Council's Summer Arts Festival to use the church building for rehearsal space for the cast of "Footloose," a musical to be performed at the Festival. Rehearsals begin May 6 and continue through July 12, and they will work around the use of the building by the congregation and by other scheduled groups. This was viewed as a "good-will" gesture to the larger community.

The next stated meeting of Session is March 19, 2013 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

Presbyterian Women

Faith, Fellowship and Fun
with a Circle of Friends.

All are welcome to participate.

Co-Moderators.....Joan Generous & June Hughes
Secretary..... Anne Hines
Treasurer.....Ruth Martin

Esther Circle

Leader: Cindy Chesnut

Meets 2nd Monday

Meeting Date: Monday, March 11

Time: 7:15 p.m.

Place: Church

Hostesses: Sally Asper
Susan Dersch

Ruth Circle

Leader: Joyce Carpenter

Secretary: June Hughes

Treasurer: Joan Garrett

Meets 2nd Thursday

Meeting Date: Thursday, March 14

Time: 11:00 a.m.

Place: Church

Bazaar Workshop

Attention ladies!!! The Bazaar Workshop will begin meeting on **Tuesday, March 5th at 9AM** (weather permitting) in the lower level community room. Please considering joining us for a morning of making crafts, fellowship and fun as we begin to prepare for our annual Holiday Bazaar the first Saturday in November. If you aren't able to attend the workshop and would like to participate, you may work on a project at home. For more information, please contact Joan Generous at 969-8130. We look forward to seeing you March 5th!

P.W. Hosting Café

Presbyterian Women will be hosting the church Café before and after worship on **Sunday, March 17th**. Please stop by the Café table to say hello, and enjoy a cup of coffee along with other baked goodies. Information about PW will also be available that day to women who are interested in learning more.



HEALTH NEWS *from . . .* *the Parish Nurse Nancy Jean Graves* **March 2013** **Migraine Headaches**

Headaches are not new. Migraine headaches may begin in childhood, adolescence or early adulthood. When they occur, they usually progress through four stages.

PRODROME—A day or so before a migraine, certain changes may be noticeable such as constipation, depression, diarrhea, food cravings, irritability, hyperactivity or neck stiffness.

AURA—Not everyone experiences an aura. The aura begin gradually and then build up and may last up to 30 minutes. They may occur as bright spots, flashes of light, seeing various shapes, vision loss or pins and needles in an arm or a leg, or even in a speech or a language problem.

ATTACK—The migraine headache may last from 4 to 72 hours but will vary from person to person and may occur several times a month or less frequently. The pain may have a pulsating or throbbing quality. There may be sensitivity to light, sounds or sometimes smells. There may also be blurred vision, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea or light-headedness.

POSTDROME—This occurs after an attack and causes a person to feel drained although sometimes a feeling of euphoria may be present.

If headaches occur on a regular basis, it is best to keep a diary and discuss the frequency and circumstances of the pain with a doctor. There are many different medicines a doctor can prescribe to treat migraine headaches. At home, relaxation exercises, getting enough sleep but not too much, and keeping a careful history in your diary will help you to receive the best treatment.

Submitted by: Sue Markley

Urbana United Methodist Church



Lectionary Readings for March

Sunday, March 3

3rd Sunday in Lent

Isaiah 55:1-9, *Psalm* 63:1-8
1 Corinthians 10:1-13; Luke 13:1-9

Sunday, March 10

4th Sunday in Lent

Daylight Saving Time Begins
Deadline for Ordering Easter Lilies

Joshua 5:9-12; *Psalm* 32
2 Corinthians 5:16-21; Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Sunday, March 17

5th Sunday in Lent

PW Hosting Café

Isaiah 43:16-21; *Psalm* 126
Philippians 3:4b-14; John 12:1-8

Sunday, March 24

Passion/Palm Sunday

Palms: Luke 19:28-40; *Psalm* 118:1-2, 19-29
Passion: Isaiah 50:4-9a; Philippians 2:5-11
Luke 22:14—23:56 or Luke 23:1-49

Thursday, March 28

Maundy Thursday

Exodus 12:1-4 (5-10), 11-14
Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26
John 13:1-17, 31b-35

Friday, March 29

Good Friday

Isaiah 52:13—53:12; *Psalm* 22
Hebrews 10:16-25
or Hebrews 4:14-16, 5:7-9
John 18:1—19:42

Sunday, March 31

Easter/Resurrection of the Lord

Communion

One Great Hour of Sharing Offering Received

Acts 10:34-43 or Isaiah 65:17-25
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; 1 Corinthians 15:19-26 or
Acts 10:34-43; John 20:1-18 or Luke 24:1-12



Service
March 28
7PM



Service
March 29

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Aiden Brush	March 1
Doris Harris	March 1
Tim Lockwood	March 3
Josh Twigg	March 4
Emily Spriggs	March 6
Betty Lou Graven	March 9
Nicole Roberts	March 9
Lucille Arthur	March 12
Toni Conway	March 16
Eileen Reeves	March 16
Jason Spoon	March 18
Erin Deas	March 19
Bud Graves	March 24
Carol Sparks	March 24



ADULT FORUM SCHEDULE

During the month of March, the forum will continue the study from *The Thoughtful Christian*, "Learning Forgiveness."

LEADERS

March 3	Jim Griffin
March 10	Terry Rigio
March 17	Dwight McCormick
March 24	Jim Cutler
March 31	Easter—No Forum

The Adult Forum meets after worship at 11:15 in the Loft.

**Easter Sunday
Worship
March 31**

Mission Committee News

Thank You!

Thanks to all in the congregation who supported Souper Bowl Sunday by bringing in cans of soup. I have to confess that I counted all the cans of soup and was going to put the number in the newsletter...but I didn't write it down! So, I forgot. My best guess is 90 something. I know it wasn't 100. Perhaps that is a goal we will shoot for next year.

Coming in March: One Great Hour of Sharing



Stories of disaster, hunger, poverty and other tragedies filled our newspapers and television screens in 2012. With such stories, it is easy to become disheartened and experience compassion fatigue. In the midst of these times, the prophet Isaiah reminds us that we are called to be “the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in” (Isa. 58:12). We are called to make God’s community livable for all.

Your gift to this offering allows Presbyterian Disaster Assistance to restore communities around

the world affected by disaster including those now recovering from Hurricane Sandy. It helps the Presbyterian Hunger Program work with Presbyterians and other partners to alleviate hunger and eliminate its causes in this country and internationally and makes it possible for Self-Development of People to affirm the dignity of all by assisting in the empowerment of economically poor, oppressed and disadvantaged people.

Since first received in 1949, the One Great Hour of Sharing has been an ecumenical effort among

Protestant churches. While each denomination allocates its gifts differently, all use their funds for ministries of disaster relief, refugee assistance, and development aid. Today, projects supported by One Great Hour of Sharing are under way in more than 100 countries, including the United States and Canada.

From the One Great Hour of Sharing Leadership Guide

Clifton Avenue Church of God Food Pantry Statistics

Posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex are statistics for the food pantry for all of 2012 and January 2013. The statistics are gathered primarily for the pantry itself, to monitor the numbers served. Unfortunately, the number served for breakfast is always the same estimate (90), which is a good average but obviously not a specific count. Still, the stats can help you understand the numbers served through our food and cash donations.

Submitted by: Susan Dersch, committee chair

Breakfast Crew for Clifton Avenue Church of God

Emily Spriggs, Coordinator

March 9th

Team Two Leader: Jim Griffin

Diana Schneider

Bill & Barb Benston

Lois Shroyer

Irene Hughes



**April 18th
PW Appreciation Dinner**

Everyone is invited to the PW Appreciation Dinner on Thursday, **April 18th at 6PM** at the church.

The meal will be catered by Lee's Famous Recipe Chicken.

Northminster's own Bill Benston will speak on the history and life of Springfield.

Additional details about the cost of the meal and how to sign-up will be in the weekly bulletin announcements.

This is a time to gather and reflect on the work we do "together" as a church.



**Saturday, April 20th
"Back in Five" Comedy and Improv Troupe**

On April 20th at 7:30 PM we'll be welcoming sketch comedy and improv troupe "Back in Five" to Northminster Presbyterian Church. They will be performing not only for the folks at Northminster but also the general public. The group was started at Grace College in Indiana with the help of, Cheryl Spencer, a Shawnee High School graduate. She is a former student of Lydia Smith-Lockwood. It is through Lydia that Cheryl and "Back in Five" came to our attention. The group features four young men and four young women who are guaranteed to make you laugh with their clean, intelligent yet goofy brand of comedy. Tickets are available at the door and are \$3.00 for students and children, and \$5.00 for adults. Half of the ticket sales will go to a yet to be named charity. Please invite your friends and come support their ministry of comedy. You will be glad you did.

**April 7, 2013
Holy Humor Sunday**

We will be celebrating Holy Humor Sunday once again the Sunday after Easter. People are encouraged to bring a favorite church joke to tell in worship, wear a playful hat or tie, or even plan a practical joke on the pastor. The idea is that the Resurrection was the biggest joke God played on the devil and against the forces of death and evil in the world so we extend the joyful day of Easter by enjoying laughter together. Here is some background on Holy Humor Sunday from *The Joyful Noiseletter*:

Churches Resurrect An Old Easter Custom

Many American churches are resurrecting an old Easter custom begun by the Greeks in the early centuries of Christianity - "Holy Humor Sunday" - celebrations of Jesus' resurrection on the Sunday after Easter.

For centuries, in Eastern Orthodox, Catholic and Protestant countries, the week following Easter Sunday, including "Bright Sunday" (the Sunday after Easter), was observed by the faithful as "days of joy and laughter" with parties and picnics to celebrate Jesus' resurrection.

Churchgoers and pastors played practical jokes on each other, drenched each other with water, told jokes, sang, and danced.

The custom was rooted in the musings of early church theologians, (like Augustine, Gregory of Nyssa, and John Chrysostom) that God played a practical joke on the devil by raising Jesus from the dead. "*Risus paschalis* - the Easter laugh," the early theologians called it.

In 1988 the Fellowship of Merry Christians began encouraging churches and prayer groups to resurrect Bright Sunday celebrations and call it "Holy Humor Sunday," with the theme: "Jesus is the LIFE of the party."

Many churches from different traditions responded enthusiastically. Holy Humor Sunday services are bringing back large crowds to churches on a Sunday when church attendance typically drops dramatically.

If you Google "Holy Humor Sunday" on the Internet, you'll be amazed at how widespread Holy Humor Sunday celebrations on the Sunday after Easter have become among churches of all traditions. It's clearly a movement of the Holy Spirit to shore up belief in the resurrection of Jesus.

Both the religious and secular press are now reporting on this phenomenon.

Northminster Presbyterian Church

Springfield, Ohio

www.northminsterspringfield.org

March 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 8:00 Pancake Breakfast
3 Blood Pressure Screening 11:15 Adult Forum	4 9:30 Young Woman's Mission 10:00 PW Board	5 9:00 Bazaar Workshop 6:30 p.m. Christian Education Meeting	6 6:00 Bell Choir 7:00 Youth First 7:15 Choir	7 6:00 Springfield Dulcimer Club	8	9 Clifton Ave. Breakfast
10 Daylight Saving Time Begins 11:15 Adult Forum	11 7:15 Esther Circle	12 9:00 Bazaar Workshop 6:30 Deacon Meeting 7:00 Property Meeting	13 6:00 Bell Choir 7:00 Youth First 7:15 Choir	14 11:00 Ruth Circle	15	16
17 PW Hosting Café 11:15 Adult Forum	18 Newsletter Deadline	19 7a Men's Breakfast 9a Bazaar Workshop 6p Finance Meeting 7p Session Meeting	20 6:00 Bell Choir 7:00 Youth First 7:15 Choir	21	22	23
24 Passion/Palm Sunday 11:15 Adult Forum	25 6:30 Remembrance Quilt Guild	26 9:00 Bazaar Workshop	27 9:30 Mail Newsletter 6:00 Bell Choir 7:00 Youth First 7:15 Choir	28 7:00 PM Maundy Thursday Service	29 7:00 PM Good Friday Service	30 
31 Easter Sunday Communion						

NORTHMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

400 Villa Road
Springfield, Ohio 45503



THE NORTHERN LIGHT
Issue 3



*The Promise
of Easter*

March 2013

March 2	Pancake Breakfast
March 9	Clifton Ave. Breakfast
March 19	Session Meeting
March 24	Palm Sunday
March 28	Maundy Thursday Service 7PM
March 29	Good Friday Service 7PM
March 31	Easter Sunday/Communion

**Why do you look for the living among the dead?
He is not here, but has risen.
Luke 24:5b**

NORTHMINSTER'S PURPOSE STATEMENT

Northminster Presbyterian Church will develop disciples of Jesus Christ and learn to follow the way of Jesus.