

PROGRESS-IMMANUEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

3640 Ash St., Harrisburg, PA 17109, 717-545-8711



PIPC Messenger



MARCH 2009

Lent...Full of Life

The month of March seems to be one of those in-between months in the calendar. If you flip to the end of this issue of the *PIPC Messenger* you will find our own calendar of events. When you look closely you will find the usual committee meetings listed, chancel choir practices and other service opportunities that are always available.

You will also find a few other events that I might term “extra,” such as on Wednesday evenings the Lenten Gatherings and Suppers. Here we will enjoy table time - good fellowship and a great meal - and learning about how our benevolence dollars are making a difference in our community. Come and hear about Downtown Daily Bread, Bethesda Mission, DELTA Community, Habitat for Humanity and Camp Krislund. Another extra is the Church Women United World Day of Prayer on March 6. And another extra is the Missional Discovery Journey, a group meeting for intentional prayer, study and conversation around the theme of congregational discernment. Did I piqué your interest with that one?

For me, these are what I would term “liminal events” or “transitional” events. Why, you might ask. Because they assist us in moving from the cold and dormant days of winter to the emergence of new life that Spring promises. And even more so, they point us toward the promises of Easter coming up in April.

I want to let you in on a little secret...more is going on this month than you might realize. More is going on within this faith community that is helping to transition us, that is helping us move forward, that is helping us emerge from listlessness to new life.

People are praying for Progress-Immanuel Presbyterian Church, for hearing God’s call, for healing and mending of broken relationships, for the moving of the Holy Spirit in and through the lives of our leaders and members. Some are working behind the scenes to insure day-to-day operations continue. Others are serving in ways that reflect the care and compassion of our Lord Jesus.

Just as March seems to be an in-between month for the year 2009, the season of Lent has become in-between time, as well, for us. I believe God has planned for us for a new kind of mission and ministry, and has given us the gift of Lent to prepare for it. So this season of forty days leading up to Jesus’ death and resurrection will be for us more than focusing on our brokenness and sin. It will become for us a time of getting ready for new life and new living.

I invite you to consider during this Season of Lent, how God is calling you, individually, and us, as church, to partner with God in what God is doing in the world. I invite you to listen intently, to watch closely, to live intentionally – and to discover the hope that lies within transitional time.

Then I invite you to worship enthusiastically and work gladly in the good news of resurrection.

May your Lent be full of life.

Kent Carter

NEWS FROM THE PIPC FAMILY

★ Thank You ★
★ THANK YOU! ★

To my church family, Thank You!
Edna Holsberger

VBS

The Christian Education Committee is partnering with Paxton Presbyterian Church again this year to hold Vacation Bible School (VBS) in July. This year we have selected "Camp Edged" as the program material. It has a great message, great music and an outdoor adventure theme. This is a planning announcement for families with young children (ages 4 through 4th grade) and for adults to start thinking about volunteering to be a teacher, a snack leader, a recreation leader, a science leader, a story teller, a photographer, set designer, or other volunteer. The dates for VBS are July 14, 15 and 16, from 9-12 each day with a light hot dog lunch on 7/16 to end the week. Adult volunteers are also needed on Monday, July 13 to set up. Additional details will follow and postcards with the details will be available in early April. If you wish to volunteer, please see a member of the CE Committee, Connie Kegerreis, Peggy Manning, Billie Hawk or Michelle Beck.



CRAFT SHOW / FLEA MARKET

The Deacons will be sponsoring a Craft Show / Flea Market on April 25. Craft vendors as well as flea market vendors are needed. If you do not want to have a flea market table but have items you would like to donate for the church to sell, please let us know. Please contact the church office or Michelle Beck for details.



“Wedding Emergency Kit”

The Women’s Association is collecting last minute items for wedding parties. Some items needed are: tissue packets, black and white Velcro with adhesive backing, thread, pins, Tide sticks, static guard, lint roller, safety pins, buttons, etc. If you are able to donate any of these items, please place them in the basket in the lobby by the elevator.

WHAT IS HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE?



Another name for high blood pressure is hypertension. This means the pressure in your arteries is consistently above the normal range of 120/80. Blood pressure is the force of blood pushing against the blood vessel walls. It is written as two numbers. The top or systolic number is the pressure exerted when the heart beats. The bottom or diastolic number is the pressure when the heart is at rest. High blood pressure has **NO** symptoms and is often called the “silent killer.” According to recent estimates, about one in three adults in the United States has high blood pressure, and **nearly one-third of them don’t know it**. That puts them at risk for stroke, heart attack, heart failure, kidney disease and even blindness in some cases. What’s your blood pressure? Find out on March 1st and May 3rd after worship. The PIPC Health Ministry team will be offering a free blood pressure screening in the Library.



Luncheon with Dr. Ruth Stoll

March 15, 2009

“Holistic Health Care”



SESSION HIGHLIGHTS from the FEBRUARY MEETING

Membership reflected a loss of one; Rita Eakin died February 12, 2009. Membership stands at 235.

Music & Worship Committee: Average attendance for January was 84. The next times the Sacrament of Holy Communion will be observed is February 25, Ash Wednesday, April 9, Maundy Thursday, and then on April 12, Easter.

Finance: An accurate Treasurer's report is not available due to accounting errors that are still being corrected by the Audit Committee and Gail Diefenderfer, Temporary Finance Secretary. The approximate principal balance of the Zarfoss Book Fund loan is now \$24,680. The original loan in 1995 was \$400,000. If there are no additional "Principal-Only" payments, our monthly payment of \$1,482.79 will pay off the loan in November 2009.

Building & Grounds: The roof leak over the preschool room has been repaired. A valve on the heating zone for the sanctuary is defective and will be replaced. A fan motor for the heat pump serving the offices was replaced.

Christian Education: "Summer Happenings" is proposed to start June 7 and run for 13 weeks through August 30, 2009. The proposed curriculum is "Little Dogs on the Prairie." Sunday school material will be copied and a sign-up sheet for teachers will be posted on the bulletin board. We will announce this in May.

Mission: The One Great Hour of Sharing Offering opportunity is being planned. A Minute for Mission will be given on April 8th and 29th.

Plans will be made to support the Santa Shop mission in 2009.

Sixteen hats, 8 scarves and 2 pairs of mittens have been given to Market Square church for those who visit there on Sunday evenings.

A donation of \$876 was given for Downtown Daily Bread at the Presbytery meeting in our church.

The programs for the Lenten dinners on a Mission are being planned highlighting the missions that we support.

Youth: Proceeds of the peanut sale amounted to \$356 and they will donate \$175 toward a mission program.

Preschool: Current enrollment stands at nine Four Year Olds, six Three Year Olds, and four Two-Three Year Olds. One new child started in January.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF THE SESSION: March 15 at 7:00 pm.

Norm Diefenderfer, Clerk of Session



The World Day of Prayer Worship Service will be held at 1:00 PM, Friday March 6, in Fellowship Hall. Each year a different country serves as the writer of the World Day of Prayer Worship Service. The Committee of Papua New Guinea developed this year's theme, "In Christ there are many members, yet one body." The Rev. Dr. Jan Nolting Carter will be the worship leader with June Rounsley directing the music. PIPC is the 2009 host church in the Colonial Park area for this Ecumenical Worship Service. PIPC members, neighbors, and friends are invited to join in

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING WHERE IS YOUR TREASURE?

Our Treasure lies in honoring God, doing God's will, and loving God's treasured people. May you find your treasure, and your heart, through sharing resources and changing lives with a generous gift to One Great Hour of Sharing.

It's remarkable what your gift will do.

- \$10 a month can provide books, uniform and tuition for an African child.
- \$200 can provide a water sanitation system for a family in Central America.
- \$20 can provide mosquito nets for a family, helping them avoid malaria.



These are just a few of the many things your gifts can provide.

Your contribution can be made anytime now through Palm Sunday.

A special One Great Hour of Sharing envelope is included in your box of envelopes as well as in the pews.

Your gifts will be dedicated during the Palm Sunday Service.




SUNDAY, APRIL 5, 2009
FELLOWSHIP HALL: 8:30 AM - 10 AM
COST: Adults \$5.00 Children Ages 3-18 \$3.00

Deacon's Annual
 Palm Sunday
Breakfast

Tickets will go on sale beginning March 15.

Turn Your Clocks
Forward March 8



Many dates are still available for both bulletin covers and flowers. Remember or honor a loved one in a special way. Bulletin covers are \$10 and flowers are \$27.50.





Each year we have a different focus for our Lenten Dinner topics. This year the theme is ‘Getting to know the missions PIPC supports through our offerings’. Each evening a representative from the organization will present an informational program on the activities performed with a time for questions and discussion. At the time of printing *The Messenger* the following have been scheduled:

- March 4, Bethesda Mission - Scott Dunwoody
- March 11, Downtown Daily Bread - Elaine Strokoff
- March 18
- March 25
- April 5

Habitat for Humanity, Krislund Camp and Conference Center and Delta Community have been contacted to fill the schedule. Sign-up sheets for the meals may be found in the Sunday bulletin or church office. The cost of the meal is: Adults - \$4.50, Children (5-12) - \$2.50, and Children under 5 - free.



WOMEN’S ASSOCIATION NEWS

The Women’s Association held a very successful cherry pie sale to celebrate President’s Day. If you have ever worked in Marge’s kitchen, you know how very organized she is. Each person was assigned a task, from folding boxes to manning the ovens. With everyone working together and Marge supervising, things went smoothly. Marge had all the crusts made and ready to be filled by the time her crew arrived on Saturday morning. By noon, more than 150 pies had been assembled and baked, cooled and boxed, and were ready for pick-up.

THANK YOU to everyone who helped (and to everyone who bought pies). The day’s endeavors realized a profit of \$663.44 for the Women’s Association.

W.A. PART II: On February 15, the day after Valentines Day, the Women’s Association sponsored a food drive to benefit the Food Pantry. As a result of “Give from the Heart” day, twenty-two bags of food were delivered to the Food Pantry from PIPC. Thank you everyone for helping those in need.

W.A. PART III: The Women’s Association is a very active group within PIPC and the funds they raise are used to help many local and Presbytery-sponsored charities. Even though there are no longer designated envelopes for the Women’s Association, you may still contribute money to support their many activities.

MARCH SUNDAY SERVANTS

Worship Assistants

Mar. 1	Charlie Brown
Mar. 8	Bonnie Bentz
Mar. 15	George Eakin
Mar. 22	Janet Smith
Mar. 29	Mike Legg

Greeters Schedule

Blackberry Alley Door	Front Door
George & Phyllis Kegerreis	Doris Smith
Bob & Edna Holsberger	Terry Hack
Doug & Michelle Lauver	Eileen Miller
John & Joan Bowerman	Susan Skelly
Ken & Cathy Bentz	Gail Diefenderfer

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HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

April 4 - 9 AM: Sharing the Easter Faith with Our Children

April 5 - **Palm Sunday**
8:30 AM: Pancake Breakfast
10:30 AM: Worship



April 9 - 7 PM: **Mundy Thursday** Worship with Communion



April 10 - 7 PM: **Good Friday** Worship by Tenebrae



April 12 - **Easter**

9:00 AM: Sunday School

10:00 AM: Fellowship

10:30 AM: Worship with Communion **EASTER**

