

Ash Wednesday
February 13th, 2013
Read Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent. It is a somber day of reflection on what needs to change in our lives if we are to live fully as disciples of Jesus Christ. It was not always the way we know it today. Ashes marked on the forehead of worshippers were not given to everyone, but only to the public penitents who were brought before the church.

As time went on, others began to show their humility and their affection for the penitents by asking that they, too, be marked as sinners. Finally, the number of penitents grew so large that the imposition of ashes was extended to the whole congregation in services similar to those that are observed in many Christian churches on Ash Wednesday.

We who will bear the ashes upon our foreheads stand with those whose sins may be more public, but not, according to the Scriptures, more grievous to the heart of God. And so we make our confessions. . . . If you only knew the secrets of my heart, if you only knew the sins that I am capable of contemplating, if you only knew some of the schemes I have considered – and of course God does know – then you would know that I, too, am a sinner.

Ashes are signs that we are all in this sin business together, and that the difference between the good in us and the bad in us is sometimes frightfully thin. We so often fall short of the Faith we claim. We have treated people as things and we have treated things as if they were valuable people. And so we look into our hearts and make the ancient prayer of one notorious sinner our own: "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me" (Psalm 51:10). Lent is a season that reminds us to repent and get our lives centered, our priorities straight, and our hearts clean. This holy season offers us a new chance to say, "yes" to the Lover of our Souls who created us, who made us in his own image. Lent is the time for a restoration project that will reveal the beauty of God's design for us, showing once again the scale, proportion, and priorities intended by our Maker.

Further, Lent is a season of hope and with ashes on our foreheads and hope in our hearts, we go forth to love and serve. For by God's grace in Christ, we do not have to stay the way we are.

LECTIONARY FOR FEBRUARY

February 3

Jeremiah 1:4-10; Psalm 71:1-6

February 10

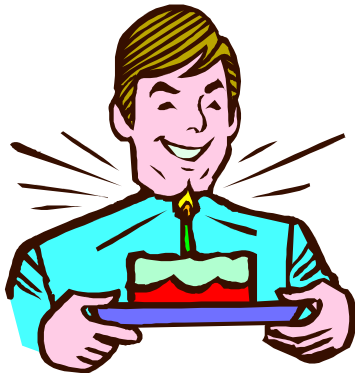
Exodus 34:29-35; Psalm 99
2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2; Luke 9:28-36

February 17

Deuteronomy 26:1-11; Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16
Romans 10:8b-13; Luke 4 :1-13

February 24

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18; Psalm 27:
Philippians 3:17-4:1; Luke 13:31-35



HAPPY FEBRUARY BIRTHDAY TO:

- | | |
|------------------------|----|
| Annelie Jeanne Jones | 3 |
| William Heinaman | 5 |
| Joanne Murphy | 6 |
| Thomas Henel | 8 |
| John Cammarata | 13 |
| Joseph Stamer | 14 |
| Alexander Henelsmith | 18 |
| Celina Faye Henelsmith | 18 |
| John Henel | 19 |
| Mark Halterman | 20 |
| Johnson Michael Tan | 23 |
| James Stamer | 24 |
| Susan Henel | 25 |
| Walter Baldwin, Jr. | 27 |

.....and many, many more!!!!

FRIENDSHIP IS ONE MIND IN TWO BODIES!

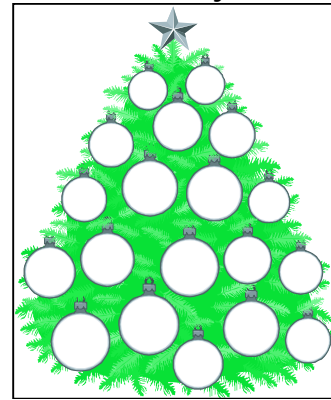
THANK YOU!

A special "thank you" to members of the congregation for their donations to the Bountiful Basket program. The Christmas season sometimes is a difficult financial hardship for many people, and we really appreciate the help our church family gives to others at this time.

**NancyJane Baldwin, Chairperson
Bountiful Basket Program**

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OUTREACH PROJECT – Carolyn Franz, Chairperson



OUR ANNUAL CHRISTMAS ANGEL TREE

Our Angel Tree was once again well received as we honored our loved ones by replacing an angel with the name of a person dear to us. The \$5.00 each person paid was distributed to the Food Pantry of Linden to help Linden families in need. Outreach also donated their annual contribution of \$100.00 to the United Methodist Homes. Our Homes continue to support all members even after they have used up their own money to support living in the Homes.

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PRAYER LIST

The following people have recently been listed on our Prayer List each Sunday in our church bulletin:

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------|
| Leona Parker | Janet Pavlinic |
| Doris Stamer | Dan Ajuka |
| Joy Hinko & Family | Carol Jones |
| Lorraine Sweet | Kime Smith |
| Otts Schnellenberger | |

Please continue to pray for them all.



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

At the February meeting the United Methodist Women will be cleaning the kitchen in Aldersgate Hall. There will be a list of conditions posted for the use of the kitchen. If the conditions are NOT MET, the person will be denied future use of the kitchen. This will be true for members and non-members.

1. NO FOOD TO BE LEFT IN REFRIGERATOR OR FREEZER.
2. NO DISHES (clean or dirty) TO BE LEFT IN SINK OR ON COUNTER.
3. EVERYTHING USED MUST BE RETURNED TO ITS PROPER PLACE.
4. FLOOR IS TO BE FREE OF CRUMBS TO AVOID ATTRACTING MICE OR INSECTS.
5. WIPE TOP OF STOVE AFTER EACH USE. CLEAN UP ANY SPILLS LEFT IN OVEN.
6. COFFEE POTS DRAINED AND WASHED.
7. TEAPOTS DRAINED AND PLACED ON SHELF OVER STOVE.
8. DISH TOWELS WASHED AND RETURNED TO KITCHEN.
9. WINDOWS CLOSED - LIGHTS OFF.
10. TAKE HOME ALL EXTRA SUPPLIES THAT YOU BROUGHT.
11. NO EQUIPMENT TO BE REMOVED OR BORROWED.

Your cooperation is appreciated! It is not up to the members of our church to clean up after people have used our facilities. If you use it, YOU MUST TAKE CARE OF IT!!!

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SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

THE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN WILL NOT BE HOLDING RUMMAGE SALES ANY LONGER. DO NOT BRING YOUR RUMMAGE TO THE CHURCH.

THE SALVATION ARMY NOW HAS A THRIFT STORE IN THE OLD BLOCK-BUSTER BUILDING ON ST. GEORGE AVE. AND NEAR THE CORNER OF STILES STREET. YOU MIGHT WANT TO TAKE ANY CLOTHING YOU DO NOT NEED TO THEM. YOU CAN CONTINUE TO SAVE WHITE ELEPHANT ITEMS FOR THE ANNUAL CHURCH FAIR.

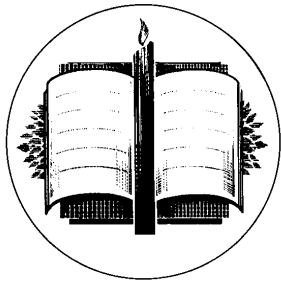
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STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

The results are in! We sent out 91 mailings and received 23 in return. The amount pledged was \$34,000 (more than last year) but less than is needed. We have sent a second letter out to those who normally pledge, but for some reason did not fill out a card this year. We will probably hear from those after they receive the letter. We are grateful to those who pledge year after year, but we still pledge less than half our budget. We depend on outside interest to complete our budget (Day Care, Fencers, Weight Watchers, rentals, etc.). If you have never pledged to your church, or don't understand how it works, please contact us and we will explain it. Thank you again to all those who pledge and those that give of their time, talents and treasures to help keep our church stable.

Gertrude Baldwin, Chairperson
Stewardship Committee



Carolyn Franz & Charles Ettel enjoy one of our coffee hours following church.



INTERFAITH BIBLE STUDY

The Interfaith Bible Study sponsored by the Interfaith Council of Linden will be held at the Reformed Church this year at 3:00 p.m. on the following Sundays:

- February 17, 2013
- March 3, 2013
- March 1, 2013
- March 17, 2013

They are encouraging everyone to attend this previously, well received, bible study for Lent. Please use the handicapped entrance on Wood Avenue at the Reformed Church.

LATEST REPORT FROM THE CROP WALK

The final figures of the amount of money raised by the churches and members of the Interfaith Council is \$4,626. All the money was used to help the needy and \$1,000 was turned over to the LINC program.

We thank all those who walked and helped support this very worthwhile project.

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ADDITIONAL CHRISTMAS CARDS RECEIVED BY THE CHURCH

The following cards were received after the January Messenger was mailed:

- Lourdes Kozar
- Tom & Caroline Long
- Florence & George Fedeles (Florence had quadruple by-pass in January And is doing great, thanks to our precious Lord and Savior)

Come, Share, Rejoice

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

WHEN? Friday, March 1, 2013
WHERE? 1ST Baptist Church, Dill Avenue
TIME? 7:30 p.m.

The women of the local churches of Linden will take part in the World Day of Prayer as scheduled above. We are also pleased to announce that we have two new members on the Interfaith Council representing our church – Christina Crespo and Latasha Cavezza. Carolyn Franz was very pleased to have two new volunteers. We are also happy to see them in church each Sunday! It was Christina's suggestion that we establish a Sunday each month to celebrate those having birthdays that month. The first one was held on Sunday, January 20, 2013 and everyone enjoyed it very much! Great idea, Christina!! Please reserve the date for the World Day of Prayer – it's always a lovely service and the 1st Baptist Church is a beautiful church!

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PLEASE RESERVE THE FOLLOWING # _____ OF EASTER LILIES FOR OUR SANCTUARY ON EASTER SUNDAY:

IN MEMORY OF _____

IN HONOR OF _____

GIVEN BY _____

The price is \$7.50. Put the money and reservation in an envelope and give to Gertrude Baldwin, or put in a pew envelope marked "Easter Lilies" and put in the offering plate on Sunday.

SPRING CLEAN-UP PROJECT

The United Methodist Women and the Stewardship Committee are sponsoring a **SPRING CLEANING EVENT ON:**

SATURDAY, MARCH 23 - 9:30 A.M.

The work will start in the sanctuary with polishing the pews, railings and other large cleaning projects that the sexton is not able to accomplish during his regular working day. If you can't stand and work, we will be happy to provide jobs that can be done sitting down!!

If the repair damage in the ceiling of the church office is fixed before that date, we will also try to work there.

We want our church rooms to be sparkling and it will take all of us to get the job done.

Please join us to complete this project. A light lunch will be provided and coffee and cold drinks will also be supplied for the workers.

Cleaning supplies will be available - bring your own energy and elbow grease. Let's get this job done together - and look great for Easter!!!

THANK YOU!

A REMINDER

Many times, lately, church members have found the piano from Aldersgate Hall pushed into the hallway going into the church office. This is a fire exit and the fire department has reminded us that nothing should be moved into this area.

These doors are also marked FIRE DOORS - PLEASE KEEP THESE DOORS CLOSED.

No one seems to pay much attention to any of the directions, and we may begin to be ticketed by the fire department if we don't take these seriously.

The directions are for church members and non-members who are renting our facilities.

IF YOU SEE THE DOORS OPEN OR ANYTHING STORED IN THE HALLWAY, PLEASE CLOSE THE

DOORS AND INFORM THE PEOPLE IN THE ROOM THAT THEY CANNOT MOVE THE PIANO INTO THE HALLWAY.

WE ARE ALL RESPONSIBLE FOR OBEYING THE LAWS AND TO MAKE SURE OUR BUILDINGS ARE SAFE FOR ALL.



Thanks to the generosity of MaryJean Barnes, who gave a scholarship gift to the committee for 2013 in memory of her mother, we will be able to give scholarships this year. We did not think we would be able to do this, because the interest rate was so low for 2012 and 2013.

The applications are available in the church office (please speak to Doris Henel, the church secretary). There is now one application to fill out for all three of the scholarships - Dianne Fleming Long, Gregg Carhart and William Steiniger. The application and the guidelines explain everything and they are due by APRIL 30, 2013.

Grants are open to members of the United Methodist Church who are pursuing the goal of a meaningful vocation through vocational and technical schools, colleges at the undergraduate level, or other continuing education institutions. Previous recipients may re-apply for consideration.

Scholarships will be presented a Sunday in June. The committee selecting the recipients consists of the Lay Leader, Chairperson of Administrative Council, and chairpersons or representatives of Nurture and Outreach Committees. If you have someone in your family that qualifies for a grant, please pick up your application as soon as possible.

**FEBRUARY
2013**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1			1 5:30-Champion Youth	2 9:30-1:30 Fencing School
3 9:30 AM Choir 10:30 - Worship	4 7-Board of Trustees D.Beyer,T.Henel,B.Losyk, G.Baldwin,J.Stamer, C.Franz,C.Ettel, M.Curtin (ALL PLEASE ATTEND) 4:30-Fencing School	5 10:30-Bible Study 9:30 AM-United Meth. Women clean kitchen- bring a sandwich 4:30-Weight Watchers 4:30 -9:30 Fencing Sch.	6 4:30-9:30 Fencing School	7 4:30-9:30 Fencing School	8 5:30- Champion Youth	9 9:30-1:30 Fencing School in gym
10 9:30 AM - Choir 10:30 - Worship	11 4:30 - 9:30 Fencing School	12 10:30-Bible Study 4:30-6:30-Weight Watchers 4:30-9:30-Fencing Sch	13 4:30-9:30 Fencing School	14 4:30-9:30 Fencing School	15 5:30-Champion Youth	16 9:30-1:30 Fencing School
17 9:30 AM – Choir 10:30 - Worship	18 4:30 – 9:30 Fencing School	19 10:30-Bible Study 4:30-6:30-Weight Watchers in Aldersgate Hall 4:30-9:30-Fencing Sch	20 4:30-9:30 Fencing School	21 4:30-9:30-Fencing Sch	22 5:30-Champion Youth	23 9:30-1:30 Fencing Sch. in Gym
24 9:30 AM – Choir 10:30 - Worship	25 4:30 – 9:30 Fencing School	26 10:30-Bible Study 4:30-6:30-Weight Watchers in Aldersgate Hall 4:30-9:30-Fencing Sch.	27 4:30-9:30 Fencing School	28 4:30-9:30 – Fencing Sch		