

LENT

Lent in this (southern) hemisphere heralds the autumn. Nature pares down to her essentials. She carries with her the seeds of the future. She concentrates her energies on the one thing necessary that life may be renewed when the globe turns once more towards the sun. Gardeners do their essential tidying and preparation. We plant our bulbs, hoping for new life in the future.

We, the church, also pare down in Lent. Lent focuses on the essentials: the new life in the death and resurrection of Jesus and our participation in this through our faith and baptism. After the busyness of the summer, there is a time to learn to pause. We Christians can plant some bulbs together, praying that through our celebration of Lent new life may spring up in our community and throughout the world.

In modern liturgy, the penitential flavor is now more concentrated on Ash Wednesday. Creation all around us is beginning to die. Nature seems to echo the ancient words addressed to each person at the imposition of ashes that marks the beginning of Lent: "Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

These forty days, approximately a tenth of the year, are our tithe of the year. Our personal Lenten disciplines, however, are not just another self-improvement course. They are to prepare us for a party, the party of Easter.

In a growing number of communities, Lent is once again what it was in the early church, a special time of preparation for Easter baptisms or for a personal affirmation of one's baptism. As worshippers support these candidates, parents, sponsors, and companions, they are vividly reminded of their own baptism and encouraged to renew their baptismal commitment.

The stark simplicity of Lenten worship can provide a striking contrast with the joyful celebration of Easter. Flowers might be absent from church, organ music restrained. Removing banners and pictures and veiling rich metalwork could enhance the atmosphere (though to obscure the cross in Lent seems to misunderstand the tradition, it may be better that a wooden cross replaces an expensive one). Traditionally, "Glory to God in the highest" is not used in Lent. Texts and hymns are carefully selected to avoid the use of the word "Alleluia" which is not used during Lent but will greet the resurrection on Easter Day.

To grow closer to Christ we need to take time to reflect and pray. The danger of Lent is that it tends to be the church's busiest time as we add extra services and study on top of our full parish program. In the gospel of the first Sunday of Lent we go with Jesus into his forty days in the desert (Three Year Series). Our times at church and the Lenten programs can be oasis in the desert, encouraging us on to that intimacy with God and a realistic examination of ourselves that the desert promises.

LECTIONARY FOR MARCH

March 2

Exodus 24:12-18; Psalm 99
2 Peter 1:16-21; Mathew 17:1-9

March 9

Genesis 2:15-17,3:1-7; Psalm 32
Romans 5:12-19; Matthew 4:3-11

March 16

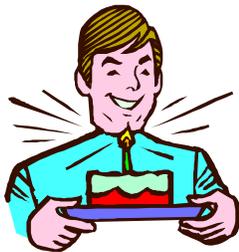
Genesis 12P1-4a; Psalm 121
Romans 4:1-5,13-17; John 3:1-17

March 23

Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 95
Romans 5:1-11; John 4:5-42

March 30

I Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 23
Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41



HAPPY MARCH BIRTHDAYS TO:

<i>Jeffrey T. Scott, Jr.</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Steven Curtin</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Andrew Ian Moore</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>Lois Burns</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>Joseph Cocco</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>Virginia Chavan</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>Leona Parker</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>NancyJane Baldwin</i>	<i>16</i>
<i>Kenneth Long</i>	<i>19</i>
<i>Laura Schickel</i>	<i>19</i>
<i>Cynthia Mannino</i>	<i>21</i>
<i>Christopher Beyer</i>	<i>22</i>
<i>Leonard Parker</i>	<i>23</i>
<i>Keith Burns</i>	<i>27</i>

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

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL
MEETING

At the direction of the Administrative Council, they will be meeting every other month. since they met in January, the next meeting will be Wednesday, march 12th at 10:00 a.m.

all those elected to office and members of any committees are part of the administrative council and we urge you all to attend this meeting. reports are given about the activities of various committees and decisions are made that can affect the entire church. we need your input!

In January it became necessary to change the meeting date and some members could not make the new date. that is why it is important that each person mark this date on their calendar so you will not make another date on the one already scheduled.



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Each year, the women of the member churches of the Interfaith Council of Linden, hosts the World Day of Prayer here in town, joining women from all over the world who are also celebrating this special occasion. This year the women of the Linden Presbyterian Church will host the service in their church on Orchard Terrace on March 7th at 7:30 p.m. Women from all the member churches will have small readings as part of the service. Rehearsal will be at the Presbytrian Church on Sunday, March 2nd at 2:00 p.m. and they are looking for women to take part. If you are willing to do this, please call Carolyn Franz, 908-486-3792. She will be at the rehearsal and the service on March 7th and will be happy to pick you up if transportation is a problem. All are invited to attend the service on March 7th.

CROP WALK

The figures just came in with the report of the the money raised by the Crop Walk. The total was \$4,620.50 and it will be shared by the LINC'S FOOD BANK here in Linden and other groups that are supporting those in need.

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INTERFAITH COUNCIL BIBLE STUDY GROUPS

Each year the Interfaith sponsors a Lenten Bible Study group. This year they will be at our church in Aldersgate Hall with the following schedule:

TIME – 3:00 P.M. ON SUNDAYS
DATES – MARCH 9TH, MARCH 23RD AND
APRIL 6

In the past, these Bible Studies have been well attended and we hope for the same this year. Light refreshments will be served and each session will be led by one of the interfaith members. Not only will you enjoy the program, but also meet other members of the various churches from the Interfaith Council, Come join us – you'll be glad you did!!

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TO OUR MEMBERS AND YOUR FRIENDS

THE ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE WILL BE HELD IN OUR SANCTUARY ON MARCH 5TH AT 7:00 P.M. PLEASE RESERVE THIS DATE AND JOIN US! WE WILL ALSO BE STARTING OUR OWN LENTEN BIBLE STUDY GROUP ON TUESDAYS IN THE YOUTH ROOM NEXT TO THE DAY CARE AREA IN OUR EDUCATION BUILDING. THEY WILL START AT 10:30 A.M. AND LAST ABOUT AN HOUR AND CONTINUE UNTIL EASTER. YOU CAN BRING YOUR FRIENDS WITH YOU AND ARE ALL WELCOME!



LINC'S FOOD BANK

The Linc's Foodbank has put out a desperate call for donations of canned goods and packaged foods. There has been an increased request for help from our Linden citizens and we certainly want to help them. You can bring the food in any Sunday and put in the baskets at the rear of the sanctuary and we will see that it is delivered to the food bank.

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INTERFAITH YOUTH SCHOLARSHIPS

The Interfaith Council is now working on updating their applications for scholarships for 2014. If you are continuing your education, please contact Carolyn Franz, 908-486-3792 for further information. Scholarships are available to anyone attending a Linden church. It is not necessary to live in Linden.

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The day this Messenger was finished and ready to be put together, we received word that Ginny Chavan had died on February 13, 2014 in Penna. Ginny would have been 83 in March. She and her family were very active in our church for many years. She leaves her loving husband, Bill, and children Bill, Debbie, Karen and Paul and a number of grandchildren. If there is an obituary printed, we will expand this article in the next Messenger. The viewing and service will be in Penna. We extend our sympathy.

WHAT A WINTER THIS HAS BEEN!!

We've had to cancel a number of meetings. our Sunday worship services, because of snow or ice, have not been well attended and most of our older members have been spending more time in their houses than ever before!

Our financial problems are adding up and we want to tell you how you can help. If you have not been in church to complete your financial commitment, please mail it to the church or bring it with you on any Sunday when the weather is better.

We have already spent \$410. making sure the church property (steps, entrances, sidewalks and driveway) are all cleared of snow. According to the police, the sidewalks on the main street of Linden must be available for residents to walk safely on them or we can be ticketed.

How can you help in this situation? Please call Gertrude Baldwin, member of the board of trustees, if anyone in your family can give some time helping clear our property. Or you can help financially towards the expenses of hiring people to do the job. Tom Henel, President of the trustees, has engaged two young people (who have been doing a great job) and they are willing to continue. Either call Gertrude, 908-862-9473 to volunteer, tell her if you can help financially, or put money in the pew envelope and mark it "SNOW SHOVELING". This is a difficult problem to solve, and we call on you to help!!

Thank goodness, we don't have a winter like this very often!

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IT'S COMING!!!!

What's coming?

MARCH 9 – Daylight Savings Time

MARCH 20 – 1ST Day of Spring

After the winter we have had, it's like getting two special gifts in March!! Happy Days are coming!

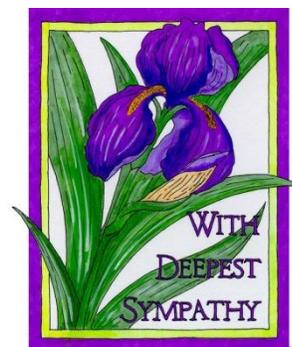


Rev. Dennis HIER, WIFE JAN, AND FAMILY

This Christmas card was received from the Heir family. While Dennis was completing his education, he served in our church, working with our youth. He is now retired but serving temporarily in a local church. The picture above, with wife, Jan, includes his children and grandchildren.

HOW FAST THE YEARS PASS!

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In reading the obituary column in the Star Ledger we were saddened to see that Albert Waiton had died on Thursday, January 30, 2014. Although (having moved away) it has been a long time since we have seen the Waiton family, there are still members of our church that remember them. Al's wife, Rosemary, died very suddenly in 1970 and left her loving husband and 3 wonderful young daughters. Every Sunday, Al would sit in a pew on the left side of the sanctuary with his 3 daughters. We watched them grow up, marry, and always love their father very much. I remember each year when our church would conduct an Every Member Canvass, my husband and I usually had Al Waiton and his family. Al was a quiet man, but he always made us feel welcome at his home. He was born in Linden and lived the last 15 years in Whitehouse Station. He retired after 45 years, from Ramsey Tool & Die in Hillside, N.J. He is survived by his loving children, Dianne Karczynski and husband, Stanley, Susanne Lucas and husband Roland, and Alice Korab and husband, Greg and 5 wonderful grandchildren. I remember Greg graduated as an architect and designed our vestibule for our home, and I love it still!

Visitation was held at Werson Funeral Home on Monday, February 3rd. The funeral service was private.

Unfortunately, the day of the funeral was one of our terrible snow storms and those from church that remembered the Waiton family are mostly elderly now and were not able to leave their homes that evening for the viewing. However, we send our deepest sympathy and will always remember the whole family.

A short time after reading about the death of Albert Waiton, I read that Mary Hall Bauer had died on January 22, 2014 at her home in Hightstown, N. J. Interment was at Evergreen Cemetery in Hillside.

Mary graduated from Linden High and worked on Wall Street in the late 1930's. In November 1939 she met the love of her life, the late Raymond Wood Bauer. He was the former chairman of the board and chief executive officer of United Counties Bancorporation and a former director of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. He passed away in February 2001. In remembrance of Raymond, Mary helped fund the Raymond Wood Bauer Promenade on North Wood Ave, in Linden.

Mary volunteered with the Girl and Boy Scouts, and supported the Humane Society and the Cleveland Amory Society's Fund for Animals. Along with her husband she was predeceased in death by her sister Margaret Biddar and her youngest daughter Victoria Myers. She is survived by her son Eugene and daughter Patricia Ruud, four grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

The Bauer's, through the Bauer Family Foundation, have been very generous to our church over the last years, and even helped us with the financing of our church when it was first built.

We extend our deepest sympathy to the family of Mary Bauer and her many friends.

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**ETERNITY: IT'S NOT THE END OF THE WORLD.
IT'S THE WORLD WITHOUT END.**

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OUR NEW DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT

In a recent article in The United Methodist Relay, the Bishop announced that Rev. Jisun Kwak, our present District Superintendent, will move from the Gateway North District to the Delaware Bay District. Our new District Superintendent will be Emmanuel Sardinas. The appointments will take effect July 1, 2014. Rev. Sardinas is the Senior Pastor in Union City at the present time. He is one of the few pastors in our denomination to start a mission church in an urban community and lead it to self-sufficiency including paying all shared ministries without compromising the mission. We hope that Rev. Kwak will enjoy working in the Delaware Bay area and thank her for her help during her time with us. We will miss her!



DIANNE FLEMING LONG, GREGG CARHART AND WILLIAM STEINIGER SCHOLARSHIPS

Applications are available for the Long, Carhart and Steiniger scholarships for the Spring of 2014. A reminder that the interest rate has been very low for the CD and will come due in June. It has been invested for 26 months which gave us the best rate at the time. We have already had an offer to add to whatever the amount is so that we will still be able to award a couple scholarships. We were very lucky the last two years because church members donated for the scholarships presented in 2012 and 2013. We were able to give 5 scholarships last year, because we received a large donation. We doubt that we will be able to repeat that offer this year. Please speak to Jamilla Lashley, church secretary, for the one application needed for all three scholarships.

BITS AND PIECES

Marie Dziamba has been spending recent months with her sister in Texas. One of the things she was hoping for was some warm weather, since we were in the midst of an extremely cold one. However, there have been times that the weather in Texas has been just as cold as New Jersey. However, she is still having a wonderful visit with her sister with lots of laughs, game playing and good conversation. Her daughter, Diane, will be arriving sometime during the week of February 17th to spend two weeks with them and then return with her mother early in March.

Ethel Bethe's new address is:

50 Fleetwood Ave. Apt. 5F
Mt. Vernon, N. Y. 10552

She is now living with one of her granddaughters. Ethel was 104 years old on October 20, 2013. WOW!!! She has a large family, but hearing from our church members would really mean a lot to her.

I always tell Beatrice Bradford that she must have a direct line to God, because she prays for all of us that need it. Thanks, Beatrice!

Jayne Cocco had a successful knee operation and is recuperating in her new condo at 673 Deering Rd., Pasadena, Md. 21122. She is slowly getting everything in order and enjoys her new home very much. Please use this same address for Charles Lamont, who is now living in a continuing care facility.

THIS MESSENGER IS BEING SENT OUT A LITTLE EARLIER THAN USUAL. THERE ARE IMPORTANT DATES AND INFORMATION FOR YOU DURING FEBRUARY AND EARLY MARCH. PLEASE MAKE NOTE OF THEM AND MARK IT ON YOUR CALENDAR!

PLEASE MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO HELP WITH OUR SNOW SHOVELING AND THE COSTS INVOLVED. WE ARE CERTAINLY OVER OUR BUDGET FOR 2014.

MARCH 2014

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
2 9:30 Choir Rehearsal 10:30 Worship Service 2 pm-World Day of Prayer rehearsal at Presbyterian Ch.	3 7pm Board of Trustees 4:30-9:30- Fencing School	4 10:30 Bible Study 12 Noon – United Methodist Women @ D. Henel home 4:30-9:30- Fencing School	5 <u>ASH WEDNESDAY</u> 7pm – Worship Service In our church – 7 pm 4:30-9:30- Fencing School	6 4:30-9:30- Fencing School	7 5:30-8:30 Champion Youth 7:30 – <u>WORLD DAY OF PRAYER</u> @ Presbyterian Church	1 9:30- 1:30 Fencing School <hr/> 8 9:30-1:30- Fencing School
9 <u>Daylight Savings Time Begins</u> 9:30 Choir Rehearsal 10:30 Worship Service 3-Interfaith Council Lenten Study in Aldersgate Hall	10 4:30-9:30- Fencing School	11 10:30-Lenten Bible Study 4:30 -9:30 Fencing Sch.	12 10 am- Administrative Council meeting 4:30-9:30 – Fencing School	13 4:30-9:30- Fencing School	14 5:30-8:30 Champion Youth	15 9:30-1:30 – Fencing School in gym
16 9:30 Choir Rehearsal 10:30 Worship Service	17 4:30-9:30- Fencing School	18 10:30-Lenten Bible Study 4:30-9:30-Fencing Sch	19 4:30-9:30 Fencing School	20 <u>FIRST DAY OF SPRING</u> 4:30-9:30 Fencing School	21 5:30-8:30 Champion Youth	22 9:30-1:30- Fencing School
23 9:30 Choir Rehearsal 10:30 Worship Service 3-Interfaith Council Lenten Study in Aldersgate Hall	24 4:30 – 9:30 Fencing School	25 10:30Lenten Bible Study 4:30-9:30-Fencing Sch	26 4:30-9:30 Fencing School	27 4:30-9:30-Fencing Sch	28 5:30-8:30 Champion Youth	29 9:30-1:30 Fencing Sch. in Gym
30 9:30 Choir Rehearsal 10:30 Worship Service	31 4:30 – 9:30 Fencing School					.