



THE CHIMES

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Dear Friends

It was an honor to be a part of our church's committee to assess options for the future of the building that we call our church home. The committee was an incredible group of diverse members with everyone contributing great ideas. Through the process, a common goal was that our church continue to be an active presence in Grand Rapids for many generations to come and the building reflect that goal.

As a group we would meet for 2-3 hours each week, where we would do some dreaming and then some reality checking. We did not make any decisions without thoroughly looking at many options. Part of this process was meeting with 27 different groups from within our church to discover their needs and wants for now and the years to come. We met every week from June until January 13 when we presented our findings to the Session.

Fifty years ago the members of CPC thought of "us" and our needs and wants when building an educational wing. Now, it is our turn to step up and repair a wall or build a new one. The choice and honor is ours.

A special meeting will be held at 11:15 on March 4 (after one service held at 10:00) to answer your questions and to gather your opinions for your church's future. Hopefully we will see all of you there!

Susan Gerling, Elder.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

March, 2007

- 02-03 Confirmation Youth Immersion
- 04 10:00 One Service - Lent 2
- 11:00 Called Congregational Meeting (FAC report and discussion)
- 11 Lent 3
- Daylight Savings Time Begins**
- 18 Lent 4
- 25 Lent 5

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FROM THE PASTOR

On February 21st we began the season of Lent. Lent is a period of 40 days beginning with Ash Wednesday. The word “Lent” originates from the Anglo Saxon word “lencten,” meaning spring, or the lengthening of days. The liturgical color is purple signifying penitence, humility and suffering. The forty days are symbolic of Jesus’ days of temptation and preparation in the wilderness after his baptism and before the beginning of his ministry.

At our Ash Wednesday service ashes were used to make the sign of the cross on the forehead of those who wished to be marked with this ancient symbol. Since biblical times ashes have symbolized repentance or grief in mourning. Our ashes come from the charred remains of the palm branches used on Palm Sunday last year. The connection with Palm Sunday and Ash Wednesday is a powerful reminder of how Jesus’ triumphant entry into Jerusalem led him quickly to his death.

Lent is often thought of a time of “giving up” something. Giving up something can be a meaningful spiritual discipline if it helps us to be reminded of how Jesus was willing to give up his life to reveal God’s love for all. During Lent, some people add things to their spiritual practices. We might ask what we can add to our daily routines to remember our Lord and be drawn into what he lived and died for.

One thing we might consider adding this season is time in daily reflection and prayer. There are Lenten devotionals available with daily scriptures and prayers prepared by members of CPC. If it is not already your daily practice I would encourage everyone to consider setting aside 10 minutes a day for quiet time with God.

Grace and Peace,
Dan

NEWS OF THE FAMILY

Nursing Homes

Evergreen Terrace: Betty Kauppi, Vivian Erickson, Harold Titus, Edith Mae Carrier

Manor House: Amy Johnson, Beulah Zobel, Dorothy Brace

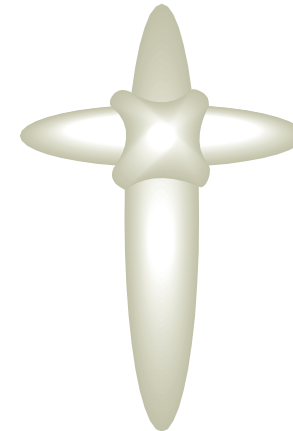
Grand Village: Hazel McLaughlin

Pleasant Seasons: Sylvia White, Mildred Titus, Ed Sparen, Edith Fitzgerald, Warren Anderson

Homestead Nursing Home, Deer River: Ellie and Skip Broberg

Deaths

Florence Fuller passed away in February. Her funeral service was held at CPC on February 2. Please keep Florence’s family in your prayers.



CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS

Adult Education

We meet on Wednesday's at 5pm in room 102. After class we join the church family dinner at 5:45 in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome!

March 7: *Issues of Death and Dying*

March 14: *Advocates for Family Peace*

March 21: *Advocates for Family Peace*

March 28: *Advocates for Family Peace*

Confirmation Class of 2007

Friday, March 2 - Saturday, March 3: *Duluth Immersion Experience*

We leave at 5:30pm from the church parking lot. Bring a sleeping bag, air mattress and other items needed for an overnight.

March 4 at 11am - *Lead the Sunday School children with a movie in the Library during Congregational Meeting*

March 14 at 3:30pm - *Class*

March 14 at 5:45pm - *Covenant Buddy Dinner*

March 28 at 3:30pm - *Class*

Something Special

There is a meeting of the congregation on March 4 and so there will only be one worship service at 10am. The Sunday School children will gather in the Library at 11am (during the meeting) for videos with the Confirmation Class.

YOUTH NEWS & EVENTS

High School

There are several "Thank-You" notes from our *Cookie Kindness* night hanging on your bulletin board outside Dan's office - be sure to read them and see how much you affected many lives!

Youth Group:

Wednesday, March 14: *Documentary Discussion Part I*

Wednesday, March 28: *Documentary Discussion Part II*

Middle School

Youth Group:

Wednesday, March 7: *Destination Ice Cream*

Wednesday, March 21: *Scavengers!*

"If your words are soft and sweet, they won't be as hard to swallow if you have to eat them."

Wednesday Church Family Dinner Menu

We begin at 5:45 in the Fellowship Hall - Don't miss out!!

March 7: Lasagna/Salad/Bread Sticks/Relish Tray/Dessert

March 14: Southwestern Chicken/Veggie Tray/Dessert

March 21: Cream of Wild Rice Chicken Soup/Assorted Sandwiches/Crackers/Pickles/Chips/Dessert

March 28: Tuna Noddle Hot Dish/Salad/Dessert



CONGREGATIONAL CARE

CALLED CONGREGATIONAL MEETING -MARCH 4TH AT 11:15 AM

Session has called a congregational meeting on March 4th for the purpose of discussing the final report of the Facility Assessment Committee (FAC). An introduction and overview of the FAC report was provided at the Annual Meeting of the congregation on February 11th. Copies of the FAC report are available at the church.

Session intends that this called congregational meeting on March 4th will be a time of listening to questions and responses to the report. After hearing the discussion from this meeting, Session will spend time discerning the next steps in this process. At this point, we have a fine report to consider which contains a great deal of good information for our congregation. There are many, many more steps to be taken before we have a clear sense of which option is best for Community Presbyterian. Please do join in each of these next two congregational meetings.

EASTER LILIES

For Easter Sunday the sanctuary will be decorated with lilies. **Cost will be \$6.00.** Please call the church office (326-8515) by **March 30th** if you wish to order a Lily in memory or honor of someone.

GRADUATING SENIORS

You should have received a letter from the Memorial Committee containing information on scholarships. The requests need to be in by April 1. If you haven't received a letter, please let the church office know.



MISSION

JRLC DAY ON THE HILL 2007
THE POWER OF A THOUSAND VOICES
INTERFAITH ADVOCACY FOR JUSTICE

Last October, Marian Wright Edelman challenged nearly 700 participants at the Children's Sabbath Celebration in Grand Rapids to ask our legislators how they plan to make a difference for children. When we allow 68,000 Minnesota children to be uninsured, 50% to enter kindergarten not fully prepared and 1 in 10 to live in poverty, we are NOT taking care of our youngest citizens.

Join Action through Churches Together (ACT) as we head down to the State Capitol to "Bring Hope and Healing to Children in Rural Minnesota". ACT will once again facilitate attendance at the Joint Religious Legislative Coalition's "Day on the Hill" March 27th. We will join hundreds of members of faith communities from across the entire state for a morning of briefings on such issues as Child Care, Healthy Rural Communities, Health Care, Economic Justice, and Tax Fairness. The afternoon will provide opportunities for meetings with legislators and attendance at committee hearings.

The Joint Religious Legislative Coalition represents the Minnesota Catholic Conference, the Minnesota Council of Churches, the Jewish Community Relations Council, and the Islamic Center of Minnesota. More information is available in your church, or call the ACT office at 327-7248. Kathleen O'Halloran Blake, Director

GRACE HOUSE NEWS: DIRTY LAUNDRY

Beginning in March, you will see a container for your quarters and loose change. This money will go to the guests at Grace House to help them with laundry expenses. They will be driven to and from the Laundromat by a Grace House employee. The container will be in the dining room between services by the coffee. Give thanks for your washer and dryer, and please help those who are not as fortunate.

Too many children in our world today are abused or neglected. Many witness violence in their homes every day.

Too many adults in our world today remain in an abusive relationship, afraid to leave for fear of their safety.

Too many of us avoid or deny the issue of domestic abuse because it is an unpleasant or difficult topic to deal with.

The Mission Committee of CPC, however, has faced the urgent need to reach out to those who suffer from domestic abuse. We realize there are too many in our community who fear for their safety, and CPC must extend our love and care through our Christian faith.

In order to first understand the complex issue of domestic abuse, a series of adult classes is planned for Wednesday evenings from 5:00 - 5:40 in the library at the church.

March 14 - Nancy Sauer from Advocates for Family Peace will explain the issue.

March 21 Dan will explain the Presbyterian policy relating to domestic abuse.

March 28. Dan will continue the above.

April 11 - Nancy will return to discuss programs available .

April 18 - Nancy and Dan will bring the issue together for us at CPC

We hope many will attend the classes and become informed. We can then decide the path CPC will take to reach out to those desperately in need of Christian love, care, and safety.

Endowment Auction

Endowment Auction — Your chance to be involved is April 1st (No Joke!). The Endowment Committee has set Sunday, April 1st, as the BIG DAY for the Endowment Auction Event.

This event will raise funds for CPC's Endowment Fund, but to do so we need your help.

First of all, we need your help acquiring items to auction off. Items can be new or used, include just about anything from artwork to furniture, from jewelry to hand-made crafts and home-baked items. If you can think of it, we can probably sell it. Donations of cash are also gladly accepted. If you have a potential donation for the endowment auction please call the church office or Mark Johnson (327-0234).

Second, we need people to attend and bid. Bidding on silent auction bid sheets will also be available in the church basement between services for at least 2 weeks prior to April 1st. The Endowment Auction is renowned as an exceptionally wonderful time of great food, great fellowship, and raucous competition. But beware! You may find yourself lured into the fun and excitement that only a crazy bunch of fun loving Presbyterians can have.

For more information contact the church office or Mark Johnson (327-0234).

CPC's Endowment fund is a tremendous tool that each year greatly aids this congregation with grants thanks to thousands of dollars of interest income. To ensure continued growth to our endowment fund's level of support in the future, funding to enhance the corpus (capital portion) is needed. The CPC Endowment Committee asks you to consider how you can get involved. We need people to pray for our fundraising efforts, people to donate, people to volunteer their help the evening of the Endowment Auction, and people to encourage others to get involved. Join the fun. Be a blessing.