

# FRIENDLY NEWSCASTER

March 2011  
Volume 1, Issue 3

## Inside this Issue

- 1** Message from the Pastor
- 2** Special Days
- 2** Prayer Requests
- 2** March Offerings
- 3** STAR Ministry Message
- 4** Announcements
- 5** Pastor/Parish Relations
- 5** Updates
- 5** Lay Assistants Schedule

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“Therefore, since we have been made right in God’s sight by faith, we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us.”

- Romans 5:1, New Living Translation

Dear Friends,

Only at the end of my days at Lancaster Theological Seminary did I truly begin to wrestle in my heart and mind with the Christian teaching of “justification by faith” to which the above verse refers. I shared my exciting discoveries with a much younger United Methodist seminarian who seemed surprised that I was coming upon this Christian teaching relatively late in life. He gave a broad smile and said, “Well, it really is a central teaching of the church.” We are saved...we are made right with God...we are justified...we become Christians solely through our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. It is all an act of trust. No works, no ladder of success must be accomplished on the road to our salvation; everything is founded on our faith in Christ.

Even though I came upon this official teaching late, what I knew before arriving at that point were some of the results of justification by faith. The earliest and most dramatic result of a life given to faith in Jesus is peace with God. No longer do we strive to somehow earn God’s favor and blessing. No longer do we fear what may happen to us on all those occasions in which we fall short of God’s laws of living which are given us in our Bible. Through Jesus we have

been ushered into the continuing presence and the deeply caring atmosphere of God’s own home. It is like the love shared between wife and husband. What have you ever done in order to earn the love your spouse has shown you?

A second result of this saving grace of God in Jesus is a deep-down confident hope which becomes the motivation behind each day’s living. God is able “...by the power at work within us to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think” (Ephesians 3:20). There is in us Christians the knowledge that God will do the right thing and the good thing alongside us, regardless of our weaknesses and the number of mess ups we create. We walk through life holding this confident hope in our hearts. How joyful we are, then, that Christ has been given to us and that Christ has opened the doorway of eternal life for us.

As we enter the church season of Lent let us remind ourselves of the infinite number of ways we experience God’s peace through the journey Jesus is making to the cross and beyond the cross. Let us open our lives more fully to walking faithfully in Jesus’ loving ways. Let us give ourselves to living confidently and joyfully in the knowledge that salvation is ours through all that Jesus has already shared with us.



**LENT BEGINS**



**Yours in Christ,  
Dennis Weidler**

## SPECIAL DAYS:

### March Birthdays



- 1 Chip Hoover
- 2 Kathy Church
- 5 Mary Sauble
- 5 Missy Welsby
- 6 Joseph Hartley
- 6 Susan Miller
- 7 William Harrold
- 8 Arlene Chinault
- 11 Ashlyn Fritz
- 13 Donald Horick
- 15 Stephen Brooks
- 16 James Kain
- 19 Kaitlyn Jacoby
- 19 Janice Thoman
- 19 Sherry Dubbs
- 20 Cheryl Shaffer
- 22 Jeannie Wallick
- 23 David Stricker Jr
- 26 Brandon Wherley
- 30 Jason Stover
- 30 Jackie Senft
- 30 Travis Hoffman

### Baptismal Birthdays

- 17 Allyson Kern
- 18 Theresa Beck
- 22 Ryan Bankert
- 23 Missy Welsby

### Wedding Anniversaries

- 1 William and Doris Harrold
- 2 Gary and Susan Miller
- 24 Terry and Nancy Miller
- 27 John and Rachel Lau
- 28 David and Diane Klinedinst

## Please remember the following in your prayers:

### Members

Bob & Deb Henry,  
 Chip Hoover,  
 Dede Klinedinst,  
 Greyson Stough,  
 Deb Wilt

### Members & Friends in assisted living and nursing homes

Janet Booz,  
 Gerry Gentzler,  
 Grace Gladfelter,  
 Mildred Gobrecht,  
 John and Rachel Lau,  
 Anna Smith,  
 Jeannie Wallick,  
 June Whitecomb

### Members of the military and their families

Eric Brown,  
 Chris Glass (Husband of Sarah Glass),  
 Matthew Mitzel,  
 Jake Pate (civilian),  
 David Stricker Jr.,  
 Benjamin White,

### Friends

Jo Feeser,  
 Neil Klinedinst (Peace Corps),  
 Mike Zeigler, Sr.,  
 Bonnie Shearer,  
 Noah Wischhusen



## **March Offerings:**

Sunday School Offering will be forwarded on to **Heifer Project International**. Please use a special offering envelope and label it Heifer Project if you are not present during the first Sunday opening program. Thank you!

*Check this out*

We will be receiving our annual One Great Hour of Sharing Offering on Sunday, March 20, 2011. This day we will be welcoming Mr. Richard Bronakoski, who is involved with the UCC Penn Central Conference/Dakota Association Partnership Committee. The Dakota Association UCC churches are on the Cheyenne River Reservation in the central part of South Dakota. The theme for this year's OGHS is Sharing Brings Joy, To Us, To Others, to God.

The Worship Offering, the month of March, will go to One Great Hour of Sharing

## Lenten Services

The Lenten service schedule with dates, locations, and themes is listed on a separate attachment (Lenten Schedule) and on the calendar that is attached as well. Please join together for the light suppers at 6:30 pm with worship to follow.

**(W)holy, (W)holy, (W)holy  
Health Healing and Wholeness  
Article  
March 2011**

*“He was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, ‘Lord, teach us to pray’....”  
(Luke 11:1)*

If you have been raised in a faith tradition in which praying aloud by anyone other than the pastor or worship leader is not the norm, offering prayer and comfort to another via prayer (often called *Prayers of Intercession*), in his/her presence, can be a very intimidating! However, bear in mind that there is no right or wrong way to pray – just many different approaches. Sometimes the old familiar prayers, such as the Lord’s Prayer, the Hail Mary, or the Jesus Prayer are most helpful. At other times just one word is sufficient: “Help!” “God.” “Jesus!” “Savior.” Paul reminds us that *the Spirit helps us with sighs too deep for words*. (Romans 8:26) Rev. Deborah Patterson, in her book, Healing Words for Healing People, reminds us: “Pray on your knees, on your back, on your feet. Pray as you wake, or before you go to sleep. Pray in thanksgiving before you eat, or for guidance before you begin your work.” She goes on to say, “Can you breathe? Can you think? Can you talk? If you can do any of these things, you can pray.”

Whether you are a parish nurse, a lay visitor, or are just someone visiting a friend who is ill, there are many prayer

resources that can assist you. Several of my favorites are, The Hospital Handbook: A Practical Guide to Hospital Visitation, by Lawrence Reimer and James Wagner, Healing Words for Healing People by Deborah Patterson, and Prayers for Help and Healing, by William Barclay. You may also come from a faith tradition which has its own bound Book of Prayer or Book of Common Prayer. These resources offer prayers that can be adapted to fit many different situations, or can be used during personal devotional time.

If you have favorite scripture passages, or prayers that have been of comfort to you, consider copying them onto one side of a plain post card, and place your signature on the back – if you are comfortable with a computer, design them to be printed as needed. Think of them as you would greeting cards; they can provide you with the words that you’ve always wished you could find in the midst of a difficult situation. These handy cards can then be left with the person(s) with whom you are visiting, to serve as tangible reminders that someone is praying for, and with them. They can also serve as “calling cards” for the times you may visit someone in the hospital, only to find that he/she has been taken for testing or a procedure.

One example of a personal-favorite, hope-filled scripture, is Romans 8:37-39, “*In all these things we have complete victory through Him who loved us! For I am certain that nothing*

*can separate us from His love: neither death nor life, neither angels nor other heavenly rulers or powers, neither the present nor the future, neither the world above nor the world below – there is nothing in all creation that will ever be able to separate us from the love of God which is ours through Christ Jesus our Lord.”* Another is taken from 2Corinthians 4:7-9, “*We who have this scriptural treasure are like common clay pots, in order to show that the supreme power belongs to God, not to us. We are often troubled, but not crushed; sometimes in doubt, but never in despair; there are many enemies, but we are never without a friend, and though badly hurt at times, we are not destroyed.*”

Rev. Patterson ends the first chapter of Healing Words .... with these profound statements, “God loves us whether we pray or not. Always. No matter what. And prayer [just] might help us to believe it. Amen!”

*Spring Blessings to all!*

Debbie Best RN, BSW, MHA  
Peace, Maryann & Deb



**Wanted:** A good wheelchair that can be kept at the church for emergencies. If you have one and would like to donate it to the church, call Maryann @ 225-4497.

REMINDER: Cemetery Clean-off of floral arrangements March 5, 2011 8:00 a.m. (weather permitting)

**Cemetery Lot Owners and other parties**

1. A limit of two arrangements of flowers, crosses, baskets or any other item placed in a cemetery lot is permitted. This limit does not apply to holidays. Flags placed on the cemetery lots by local veteran groups will remain until July 4. Any flag that becomes damaged will be removed and properly disposed of.
2. Arrangements are to be removed two weeks after the date of placement.
3. All arrangements will be removed during the annual spring clean-up which is held on the first Saturday in march, weather permitting.
4. The care taker has the right to remove any arrangement that is not properly cared for.

We will be preparing a meal for Our daily Bread on Thursday March 31 beginning at 7 a.m. We are asking for Brownies for dessert. We will be making Turkey potpie. All help will be appreciated.

St. Paul’s Happenings

**“How many loaves have you?”**

We will join together at St. Jacob’s U.C.C. in New Salem on March 4, 2011 at 7 p.m. to observe the World Day of Prayer along with them and St. Paul’s Lutheran. The Chile World Day of Prayer Committee prepared this year’s service. They ask, What are your gifts? What can you share? They ask us to reflect on the meaning of the theme, How many loaves have you? Come, be part of this common day of prayer held around the world.

Sunday, March 20<sup>th</sup> beginning at 5 p.m., we will have a Spring Fling – Game Nite. We are planning to eat about 5:30 p.m. Hot dogs, rolls and drinks will be provided. Each family is asked to bring a dish to share and their favorite game. **Invite a friend to come with you.** This would be a great way to introduce them to St. Paul’s.



**Dear Friend of Hoffman Home for Youth:**

We are excited to team up with Hoss’s Steak and Sea House to raise money for a very worthy cause. Please consider visiting the to aid us in raising money to benefit Hoffman Home for Youth.

**April 9, 2011** at Hoss’s in York on White Street **or** at Hoss’s in Hanover at 1180 Carlisle St.

E-mail MaryAnn Brenneman ([mbrenneman61@comcast.net](mailto:mbrenneman61@comcast.net)) to request the coupon that is needed to have Hoffman Home for Youth receive a portion of the total check amount. Thank you.

With statistics showing that one in every four families has a LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender) member it is not surprising that this issue personally affects members of our St. Paul’s family. In an effort to provide an opportunity for greater education and open dialogue, Consistory is supporting the formation of a small group which will facilitate study and discussion around LGBT issues. The group facilitators are Barb Senft, Deb Henry, Michele Wherley and Jacquie Church-Young. The goal is to provide a safe space for study, questions and conversation surrounding these very timely—and often highly charged—issues. With these goals in mind, all are invited and encouraged to attend the showing of the award-winning documentary film “For the Bible Tells Me So” on Sunday, May 1, from 6-9 p.m. Refreshments will be served and a time of study and discussion will follow the 90 minute film.

**PASTOR/PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE  
REORGANIZATION:**

Welcome to the committee, Mike Bollinger, who will be serving a three year term. He replaces six year veteran and Chairperson, Steve Kern. The committee wishes to thank Steve for all of his hard work, dedication, and leadership.

The new officers of the committee for 2011 are:

Mark Sterrett, Chairperson, ‘Ginny Thoman, Secretary, Other members are: John Brenneman, Deb Henry, and Jacqueline Senft.

It is the goal of the Pastor/Parish Relations Committee to support and maintain an open relationship between the pastor and the congregation. It helps the pastor and church members share ideas, hopes, and dreams while providing a framework for dealing with conflict in an atmosphere of confidentiality.

Should a need arise, please feel free to speak with any of our members, or attend our next committee meeting on April 25<sup>th</sup>.

**UPDATES:**

**GEOTHERMAL SYSTEM**

We have experienced a full year of heating/cooling with the Geothermal system and can share some statistics on energy use and costs. The Geothermal system was installed during August of 2009. The \$80,000+ cost of the system is being paid for through the Capital Improvements portion of the Special Gifts Fund. We currently have a loan with People’s Bank of \$50,000 which is being paid down as funds become available.

Approximate average costs for heating and cooling during the years 2005 through 2009 were \$3,000 for electricity and \$3,500 for Fuel Oil for a total of \$6,500 total cost.

Electricity (no fuel oil) costs for 2010 was a bit over \$4,600.

**OFFICE TECHNOLOGY**

We have recently had “Business Class” Comcast Internet, Telephone, and TV service installed at the church. This bundle of services upgrades our office technology and provides faster speed to maintain the computer and to communicate more effectively via the internet. This upgrade was one of the areas of concern that came out during our discussion several years ago in the Focus Group meetings. Please be patient as we explore and become knowledgeable with the various capabilities of the software. We hope to add a wireless hook-up in the near future.

**This Month’s Lay  
Helpers**

**Acolytes**

- 6 Kayla Gentzler
- 13 Skylar Chinault
- 20 Caitlin Hoffman
- 27 Lexi Hoffman

**Greeters**

- 6 Fay Herman & Mary Ellen Fritz
- 13 William & Connie Clancy
- 20 Barb & Joshua Brenneman
- 27 Tim Bankert Family

**Lay Readers**

- 6 Darlene Hoover
- 13 Darcey Hull
- 20 Eric Kern
- 27 Jennifer Miller

**Nursery**

- 6 Deb Henry
- 13 Diane Klinedinst
- 20 Jen Fritz
- 27 Jessica Hoffman

**SKY GROUP:**

Fun and games now that they have a Wii gaming system in the SKY room. Maybe they will show everyone how it’s used and share it with us!!!

**FAITH CHALLENGE**

ISAAC’s Fundraiser --Sunday, April 3, 2011, 5:00 - 9:00 p.m., at the West York Isaac’s. Flyers will be available at church to take along to receive the “rebate”.