

February 25, 2011

**SUNDAY  
WORSHIP  
CALENDAR**

February 27

Sermon:  
Dr. Lonnie H. Lee

March 6  
Youth Sunday

March 9  
Ash Wednesday, 7 p.m.  
Sermon:  
The Reverend David A.  
Anderson

March 13  
Sacrament of the Lord's  
Supper  
Sermon:  
Dr. Lonnie H. Lee

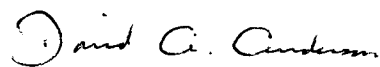
**A NOTE FROM THE INTERIM ASSOCIATE PASTOR**

The late standup comedian, George Carlin, did a classic routine about how possessed we are with possessions. When packing for a trip, we are faced with a dilemma. Given all our personal "stuff," we have to decide which "stuff" that we cannot live without during the time we are away from home. Carlin's routine was funny while making a point about what is it that defines our lives. What is the "stuff" of our lives? Is it material possessions or spiritual treasures? Is it a life that reflects privilege and power or sacrifice and service?

Lent is a six week period in the church year that invites us to reflect upon what it means for Jesus to define our lives and whether our lives adequately embody the love of Christ. Beginning on Ash Wednesday, we are reminded that our lives are defined by birth and death, yet assured that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ. Ending on Good Friday with Jesus' death and the despair of Holy Saturday, we are reminded that the "stuff" we cannot live without loses its importance in times of hardship, suffering, and death.

During Lent, we see the truth that the "stuff" of our lives can often be reduced to ashes. At Easter, we see the truth that the "stuff" in life which really matters is a product of the transforming power of God. This is the proclamation of resurrection – life anew! As we begin our Lenten journey with an Ash Wednesday service at 7:00 PM on March 9, let us begin each day with a prayer from Psalm 51:10 – *"Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me."*

Blessings,



Rev. David A. Anderson

## CHILDREN'S NEWS

There will be **no 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade Sunday School on March 6** so they can enjoy Youth Sunday. 3 year olds-1<sup>st</sup> grade will meet.

### MUSIC NOTES by Dale Rogers

**The Westminster Choristers** meet on Wednesdays at 4:45 p.m. Singers in third through sixth grade are encouraged to join in the fun of preparing the spring musical "Table for Five....Thousand" to be presented on May 15.

**The Westminster Children's Choir** meets on Tuesdays at 4:45 p.m. This Choir for young singers in Kindergarten through Second Grade will sing at the 10 a.m. service on Sunday, April 10.

**The Handbell Guild** If you are interested in ringing or need more information about meetings please contact me at 522-4415.

**The Walnuts** will rehearse on Mondays at 5:30 p.m. in preparation for upcoming events including a Walnuts Coffeehouse on Sunday, April 3 at 4 p.m. to benefit the Youth Mission Trip.

**Church Mice**, our musical experience for infants through age 4 meets on Saturdays at 11 a.m. in the second floor classroom. Just follow the pathway of cheese to musical fun, learning, and adventure.

On Saturday, March 5, Westminster will host a concert of the **Catawba Singers** of Catawba College from **Salisbury, North Carolina**. This fine choir, under the direction of Paul E. Oakley (who was the Organist-Choirmaster at First Presbyterian Church over 25 years ago) has sung at the National Cathedral, Carnegie Hall and at conventions of the American Choral Directors Association. The concert will be at 7:00 p.m. following a dinner prepared by the Worship, Music, and Arts Committee. For that evening, we need the assistance and hospitality of the congregation in providing overnight lodging. The singers go out in groups of 2, 3, or 4. If you are able to help, please speak to me or give me a call at 522-4415. You will pick up your guests following the concert on the evening of March 5 and deliver them back to the church on Sunday morning, March 6 after feeding them breakfast.

**POPs** (Parents of Preschoolers) are meeting on Sunday, March 27 to enjoy lunch together at the church after worship and then head for the new Play Museum at the Illinois State Museum. Lunch costs \$8 per adult and \$3 per child and needs to be prepaid. Call the church office, 522-4415, to reserve your spot.

Planning for **Vacation Bible School** is already underway! Mark your calendars for Monday, June 13-Friday, June 17. VBS will meet from 9am-noon each day that week with early care beginning at 7:45am. This year's theme is "Inside Out and Upside Down on Main Street." All children, 3 years to 5<sup>th</sup> grade, are invited. Signups will begin in May. If you would like to help, please contact the office, 522-4415.

The **nursery** has a wish list of several items. If you have books appropriate for birth-3 years, or wooden puzzles, dolls, or plastic play food, please drop them by the church and let the office know it is for the nursery. We are also in need of diapers size 4T-5T.

## YOUTH NEWS

**Youth Sunday** is March 6. Youth are planning the service on Sunday, February 27, and will have a practice on Friday, March 4 at 5:30pm.

On Sunday, **March 27, the junior high youth** will meet and eat at 5:30pm. At 6pm they will go to the new Goals Indoor Sports. Together we'll play soccer, dodge ball, kickball, and whatever else sounds fun. Bring a friend and \$5 (each) for this fun night.

## RECEPTION FOR ANN WHALEN WEBB

A reception has been scheduled for Sunday, March 13, to honor Ann Whalen Webb, who has served as Westminster's Administrative Assistant for the past 9 ½ years. Ann was recently married and has resigned effective March 15 to join her husband, Reg, in England. Members are encouraged to send or bring cards expressing appreciation for Ann. The cards will be presented to Ann at the reception in Parish Hall following the 10:00 a.m. service.

## JOHN KNOX AND THE SCOTTISH COVENANTERS

Dr. Lee will be leading a Lenten series on John Knox and the Scottish Covenanters beginning March 14. The series will continue on four Monday evenings through April 4. Each session will begin with dessert in Parish Hall at 6:30 p.m. and will conclude by 8:00 p.m. Dr. Lee will be using slides and other resources from his travels to Scotland, England, Ireland, France, Germany, and Switzerland to illustrate the life and ministry of John Knox and the 17<sup>th</sup> century Covenanter movement which sought to preserve and extend Knox' vision of a reformed church. Knox's program of church reform and its political implications would have great influence not only in the British Isles but also in shaping the American experiment.

## FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

**DMA** (Don't Mention Age; All Ages Welcome) meets at 6:30 p.m. on the third Friday of each month (except December, January, and February). The first potluck and program of 2011 is Friday, March 18. "Travels in Nigeria" will be presented by Rev. John Kay, Pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Jacksonville, IL. Potluck begins at 6:30 p.m. in Parish Hall. Invite a friend. Co-leaders are Mary Gail Romack and Bill Post. Program Chair is Sue Baker.

**Moms Group** meets the third Sunday of the month for brunch (offsite). The next brunch is at 11:30 a.m. at Bennigans in the Hilton on Sunday, February 27. The group will read *Eat. Pray, Love* by Elizabeth Gilbert. Books can be purchased in the church office for \$10. If you are a mother of a young child(ren) we would love to have you join us. For more information about meeting times, call Suzanne Borland at 529-5334 or Rev. Blackburn at 522-4415.

**Parents of Pre-Schoolers (POPS)** This is a group for parents of children ages infants to 5 years. It will offer a monthly event that will allow us to meet new families or reconnect with old friends. The next event will be March 27. We will have dinner at the Youth Fundraiser here at the church and then go to the Illinois State Museum. If you have any questions or to RSVP, please contact Kelly Bassett at 546-7322.

**Page-Turners Book Group** meets in the library on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 9:30 a.m. The next meeting is March 23 when we will be reviewing *March* by Geraldine Brooks.

## OUR CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY TO

...**Jim Livingston** on the death of his mother, Sharon Livingston, January 18.

...the Blythe family on the death of **Fred Blythe**, January 26.

**Cheryl Pyle** on the death of her mother, Doris Smith, February 2.

...the family and friends of **Louie F. Dean** on his death, February 7.

...**Bob Leffler** on the death of his brother, Bill Leffler, February 14.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO

...**Jim and Meridith Bryans** on the birth of their daughter, Kathryn Jane on February 7.

## ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Sunday Adult Forum meets at 11:15 AM in the Chapel on the third floor. Led by Lyle VanDeventer, the class begins with a DVD called "*Living the Questions 2.*" A variety of biblical teachers and theologians reflect on Christian faith and raise questions to invite discussion for those who desire a *faith seeking understanding* for living as a Christian in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The current theme under discussion is "*Invitation to the Journey.*"

Sunday Adult Bible Study meets at 11:15 AM in the Conference Room. Rev. David Anderson leads this series on the Gospel of Matthew. Participants are reading Matthew from the new Common English Bible translation along with a Bible study book. The focus of this class is to engage the biblical story in relationship to our lives for informing our mind, forming our heart, and transforming the way we live out the Christian faith. This series will conclude on March 20.

Sunday Adult Lent & Easter Bible Study is a new 6-week series to begin on March 28 at 11:15 AM in the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor classroom led by Rev. Jerry Boutelle, Parish Associate. "*God's Abundant Table*" is the theme to examine the Lord's Supper as a "thanksgiving meal" – Eucharist that connect us to our daily meals, to Jesus' ministry, with our relationship to God and our engagement in the church's ministry to others in the world. This theme is explored in a new book by Rev. Dr. Cynthia M. Campbell, a Presbyterian minister who is president of McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago.

Thursday Adult Bible Study meets at 5:30 PM in the Conference Room. Rev. David Anderson leads the class on the Book of Acts and will finish on May 5. Although you may have not attended from the beginning, everyone is welcome to join us midstream for a stimulating discussion.

**LENT AND COMMUNION** During the 40 days of Lent, we begin a journey with Jesus as we focus on his life and ministry that culminates in Jerusalem with his crucifixion and resurrection. We are reminded of these pillars of Christian faith each time we gather as the household of faith to celebrate the Lord's Supper. During Lent, we share communion together on Ash Wednesday, the First Sunday in Lent, and on Maundy Thursday. For anyone who is a shut-in – at home, nursing home, or hospitalized – and unable to gather with the household of faith to share the Lord's Supper, you are encouraged to have communion brought to you by the Church Elders. To request Home Communion, call the church office at 522-4415.

## PW CIRCLE MEETINGS

**Elizabeth Circle** meets March 14 at 5:30 p.m. in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor classroom at the church. Mary Jo Mattern-Jenkins will lead in the study of Chapter 4 of *Joshua: a Journey of Faith*. Feel free to bring your dinner.

**Lydia Circle** will meet Tuesday, March 15 at 9:30 a.m. at the home of hostess Mina Bentsen. Helen Evenson will lead devotions and present the program: Lesson 6 in *Joshua*.

**Presbyterian Women (PW)** will meet Friday, March 4 at noon for a brown bag lunch before attending the World Day of Prayer program at St. John's Lutheran Church (W. Washington St.) at 1:30 p.m. PW board will meet at 11:00 a.m. in the Conference Room.



**HURRICANE IKE MISSION TRIP REPORT** Jerry and Judy Boutelle spent an exhilarating week in January as volunteers along with groups from upstate New York and Des Moines, Iowa that came to Texas City, Texas on a mission trip to repair homes damaged by Hurricane Ike. Jerry did some general fix-up and painting while Judy repaired plaster cracks in an elderly woman's home. Currently, there are 3000 homes that have been "case managed," i.e., ready to be rehabilitated by volunteers. Unfortunately, churches have begun to reduce the number of mission groups due to lack of funding. The Presbytery of the Covenant is committed to maintain the Mission Village for volunteers at First Presbyterian Church of Texas City through the month of May. Would you be willing to invest one week of your time and talent to participate with members from our church to rebuild the faith and life of another person in the Texas City area? We are considering organizing a one week mission trip after Easter (April 24) before the end of May. If you are interested to learn more, Jerry will show photos of his family's mission trip and provide information about participating in a church mission trip on March 6. It will be held in the Parish Hall following the 8:30 AM and 10:30 AM worship services.

**THE VISITING CARE TEAM** is restructuring and is looking for church members to visit Westminster's homebound members. Training will be provided and you will have a choice about who you would like to visit. You may visit as a couple, with friends, or by yourself. If you have an hour or two month and would love to participate in this ministry, contact Judy Ridinger, Parish Nurse, at 546-9165 or [jridinger@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jridinger@sbcglobal.net).

The **2011 MISSION YEARBOOK FOR PRAYER AND STUDY** is available in the church office for \$11 each. This book is a great prayer and devotional resource for anyone interested in keeping Mission as the focus of their ministry. There are daily bible readings from the Lectionary, regional partners and ministers names for prayer focus, and space for recording your own prayers. We have three left!

**March Meal-a-Month Menu**

Beef Ravioli, Peas

Peaches, Pudding Mix

*Optional: Dry Milk or Dry Cereal  
Soap, Laundry, or Dish Detergent  
(No baby food)*

**The next Reporter Deadline  
is March 27**