

Oxford Presbyterian Church
101 North Main Street
Oxford, Ohio 45056



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Seeking God, Serving others, Sharing Christ's love with all

The Oxford Presbyterian
MARCH - 2010

TO:

March 28: Palm Sunday



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FROM OUR PASTORS

As we begin the season of Lent, the days are slowly lengthening. Although the record snowfall and chilly temperatures remind us that we are still experiencing wintertime, in the church season of Lent we are entering the “springtime of the soul.” It’s a season for planting: for cultivating our inner lives so that the life of God may take root in us more and more deeply.

The term Lent comes from Old English *lencten* or *lengten*, meaning “springtime,” derived from its literal meaning -- the lengthening of daylight hours. Through the centuries, Christians have also sought to lengthen and deepen their spiritual practices during Lent in order to draw nearer to God and to prepare their hearts for the joy of Easter.

The seminary building is already set up with “sacred spaces,” tables or corners with comfortable seating, with themes and items that can enhance your cultivation of faith. Sit by the flowing fountain at the baptism center, reading the scripture passages on laminated sheets, or just meditating quietly. Browse through the table of inspirational reading materials, or sit in the music center and listen to a variety of inspirational music through the headphones provided. Play with clay, look at the Celtic Christian designs and read the Celtic Christian prayer books, or ponder the variety of crosses in different designs. Sit at the labyrinth table and read about this ancient practice, tracing the design in the finger labyrinth. From March 14 through March 21, you can also go upstairs and walk the labyrinth, based on the medieval labyrinth design at the Chartres Cathedral in France. A labyrinth is an “indoor” pilgrimage, of meditating while walking. There is also a children’s center with activities for your children.

Among many other practices you can engage in at home, reflection on the hymns of our faith can be helpful. One of our older adults engages in this practice regularly, and shares what certain lines of certain hymns have meant to her. Her practice has got me returning to the reading of hymns as poems or prayers. Pick one of your favorite hymns, or scan through a hymnal or songbook looking for a

less familiar hymn whose title, imagery or phrasing catches your eye. Read the hymn through slowly and thoughtfully, pondering its meaning. Reflect on what you discover, and end by reading it once again as a prayer.

Other spiritual practices include reading scripture, reading devotional literature, prayer, fasting, service, solitude, simplicity, and silence. Practical acts of kindness and mercy are also an important part of Lent. Of course, joining with others in your church family to worship together is a foundational practice. Lenten packets for families with young children include resources for activities together at home.

Two adult classes are offered during Lent. One is the adult Sunday School class right after church. Student pastor **Deb Bolen** is teaching a four week course on deepening spiritual practices, including guided meditation, a Bible reading method called *Lectio Divina*, and others. Then elder **Jenny Bailer** is leading a two week course on faith perspectives on immigration issues. On Wednesday nights, we are leading a Lenten class on “Gospel Portraits of Jesus.” We will explore names for Jesus such as teacher, Messiah, Son of God, Son of Man, bread of life, light of the world, and the good shepherd. Child care is always gladly provided if you let us know you need it.

The Lenten Brochure has details about all the offerings during this season of Lent.

We pray for many blessings for you in this profound and special time. May Lent this year be a springtime for your soul, so that you may experience God’s love and mercy in a deep way, and you may greet Easter renewed and refreshed in faith.

Mark and Barbara Barnes

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR 13 CONFIRMATION STUDENTS!

Would you consider taking on a spiritual practice of including our confirmation students in your daily prayers? They are studying and practicing their faith throughout this season until the day of Pentecost, May 23, when they may join the church as adult members. They are all wonderful young

people! They are **Amanda Bommer, Ethan Crist, Jeremy Crist, Dylan Davis, Maya Degennero, Ben Hesford, Mark Hesford, Will Hesford, Alex Logsdon, Sam Poetter, Scott Richmond, and Matt Rudolph.**

HAITI OUTREACH UPDATE.

Thanks for your generous response to needs in Haiti! Our congregation sent **148 health and hygiene kits** to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance in the aftermath of the devastating earthquake.

Congregational members and friends provided the necessary items (towels, washcloths, soap, toothbrushes, combs, shampoo, nail clippers and other items) and assembled them into gallon size zip-lock bags to make 148 kits! In addition, many people sent donations through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, one of the prime international disaster responder organizations. More than **\$2.8 million** has been donated to the PDA's Haiti account by Presbyterians across the country. Together with ecumenical partners in Haiti, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance has helped establish 15 food and water distribution stations, distributed 20,000 tents, and provided other needed services and supplies (including our medical missions there). PDA is known for remaining for the long term after a disaster, working on long-range recovery needs. So PDA will continue to draw upon donations for Haiti for rebuilding efforts into the future.

FROM OUR STUDENT PASTOR

Deb Bolen

We are in the midst of Lent, those forty days (not counting Sundays) between Ash Wednesday and Easter Sunday. We don't count Sundays within those forty days because they are reminders of the resurrection; they are "little Easters" that let us breathe a little easier on this journey. To remember Jesus fasting in the wilderness for forty days, many people give things up for Lent, ranging from foods (like chocolate or potato chips) to negative behaviors (like complaining or overspending). Rather than consciously giving things up for Lent, many other people add something positive. They decide to eat healthier (more fruit and veggies), get more exercise (more snow shoveling?), or cultivate positive behaviors (like gratitude or patience). It

seems to me though, that even when we add something positive, there is still an aspect of giving something up, isn't there? For instance, if I decide to be more optimistic, then it goes without saying that my pessimism has to take a back seat. If I decide to add a spiritual practice to my day, I will give up the time for something else I would have done in its place. If I decide to add more broccoli and bananas to my diet, I won't be as tempted by that piece of chocolate over there. Well . . . maybe that's not such a good illustration, but you get the idea!

There's no right or wrong way to travel through the days of Lent. The important thing, whether you're giving something up or adding something, is to look to God for fulfillment instead of to things. Through the life, I have come to settle on exploring spiritual practices during Lent. I ponder the life of Jesus and the mysteries of Christ's death and resurrection. I reflect on my baptism and what being a Christ follower means. I am drawn toward God during these days as I contemplate what sacrifices I may be called to make, not only in the long run, but today, this hour, this very minute. These considerations have practical application because my sacrifice in any given moment might be to give up my knee-jerk reaction of anger when a stranger is rude to me and instead, cultivate giving them the benefit of the doubt. These are good ponderings and practices, because in the wrestling I discover the things that hold me back and prevent me from discerning God's will for me. As I practice sitting in silence with God, I find myself feeling a greater sense of peace and closeness to God.

Seeking spiritual renewal in preparation for the celebration of Easter Sunday is such a meaningful way to journey through Lent so I encourage you to try something out of the ordinary this Lent. It doesn't matter if you haven't started yet because nobody is keeping score. Think about your life, and think about God, and then look for the intersections of the two. Those intersections are there, whether you know it or not, so I hope you will explore a spiritual practice that is new to you during Lent, whether it's centering prayer, guided meditation, labyrinth walking, *lectio divina* or any number of other practices. When we think about changing our habits or behaviors for forty days instead of forever (with Sundays off!), it somehow seems more manageable. We don't have to continue

beyond Easter, but perhaps we will discover that we don't want to give up our new practices because they've made a positive impact on our lives. We may find that we can see and hear God's presence in our lives more clearly when we give up some of our own control during the days of Lent, and we may even begin to feel how precious each one of us is to God. I invite you to try something new for Lent, but whether you do or you don't, I know that we are still companions on the way, journeying through Lent together as members of the same beloved family of God.
Lenten blessings, **Deb**

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

(one definition of Christian Education: the cultivation of wisdom and virtue by nourishing the soul on truth, goodness, and beauty)

By **Prue Dana**



CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS

The Lenten Season this year began in February and extends through Easter Sunday, April 4. During this time the children in the Workshop Rotations will conclude their study of the Creeds and have time to explore the Labyrinth and our Sacred Spaces. All children will be included in our Heritage Sunday Celebration featuring our Banners and Creeds.

The Sacred Spaces will be at the Seminary February 21 through March 21.



The Labyrinth will be at the Seminary March 14 through March 21.

With Lent comes our **One Great Hour of Sharing Offering**. Know that you are a presence of God's love and care throughout the world and especially in Haiti with this offering. Bulletin inserts will tell the OGHS story each week. **The offering will be collected (fish banks and envelopes) March 28, Palm Sunday.** (Envelopes are included in this newsletter).

A NEW EASTER TRADITION: Cascarones (pronounced cass-kuh-ROW-nays)

Cascarones are confetti filled eggshells painted and brightly colored. Cascarones eggshells have a very small opening on the one end and the inside is drained out. The empty shell is thoroughly washed and then dried. The clean shell is now filled with confetti and sealed with tissue paper.

Throughout Mexico and the American Southwest, Cascarones are used to celebrate many occasions especially Easter. It's believed that Cascarones represent the resurrection of Jesus Christ; the breaking of the egg symbolizes how Christ has risen from the tomb, just like a new born chick opens the shell.

The fun is derived from breaking the egg over someone's head allowing the confetti to spill out.

Please see Prue Dana if you can help save eggshells.



YOUTH UPDATE: the Youth Calendar has details.

Information for the **Youth Retreat April 9 to 11** at Kirkmont is available outside the Christian Education Office.

March 19: Fun and Fellowship 7 to 9pm for the Middle School at the Seminary. Because of spring breaks, this is the only Fun and Fellowship of the month.

SENIOR HIGHS:

The Sr. Highs will hold a Spaghetti Lunch at the Seminary, March 28 following the service. This is to help raise money for new Bibles in the Church School. Our paperbacks are now 12 years old and beginning to show the wear and tear. The Sr. Highs will be in the lounge following service to sell tickets for \$5. See you there!!

MISSION TRIP: 2010: Plans for the Mission Trip are beginning to form. We are registered for 15 youth and adult members of the congregation who are interested in working with Baldwin County

Habitat for Humanity, Foley, Alabama. Get your deposits in, spaces are filling up!!

THINK SUMMER, THINK KIRDMONT

Why choose a church camp for your child? Most summer camps give children a memorable week of adventure, fun and exercise. We do all that at Kirkmont Center, but also include the important dimension of faith formation as a primary goal in our program. Paul wrote to the Ephesians, "Let us profess the truth in love and growth to full maturity in Christ the head." Through Him the whole body grows and with proper functioning of the members, joins firmly together, building itself up in love. Campers begin to grow strong, blossom, and bear fruit in the years to come because their roots were nurtured, or possibly started at Kirkmont Center, a growing place. The Kirkmont schedule and applications are out!!! See the bulletin board by the Christian Education Office. **THERE WILL BE A PACKET IN THE MAIL TO EACH FAMILY HIGHLIGHTING THE CAMPS YOU MAY ATTEND.** But you don't have to wait for the packet, check out the website at www.kirkmontcenter.com. The summer theme is **Be A Hero-Living Like Jesus.** Campers will hear about Jesus' welcome, his listening and compassion and the transformation that takes place when we step out into the world and serve.

Kirkmont is not "just for kids!" Check out the adult offerings including a new Summer Art Camp run concurrently with Jr. Music and Discovery Camp, June 13 through 19, that will include carving (wood or stone), drawing, fabrics, film, glassware, jewelry making, painting, photography, pottery, and sculpture. You'll have time to relax and do your own art. **See the bulletin board next to the Christian Education Office.**

Planning for **Vacation Bible School** is underway. We will plan this with the **United Methodist and Faith Lutheran Churches.** Faith Lutheran will host the VBS at their church. We will share expenses and leadership. Because of the success of our new "weekend schedule" last year, we will repeat the dates: **VBS will be held**
Friday July 16: 7 to 9pm
Sat. July 17: 10 to 2
Sunday July 18: 10 to 1pm.



QUESTION OF THE MONTH



Q. Half of all Americans live within 50 miles of what?

A: Look for the answer *Somewhere* in the newsletter....:)

DEACONS

The name deacon ("diakonos" in Greek) means "servant" or "minister"

The Deacons meeting was snowed out for February.



DEACONS BLOOD DRIVE SPRING BLOOD DRIVE TUESDAY, MARCH 2, 2010



The Oxford Presbyterian Church and the Community Blood Center of Dayton, Ohio, will hold their spring blood drive on **Tuesday, March 2, 2010, from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.** at the Seminary Church located at 104 Church Street (corner of Church and Poplar Streets).

The Community Blood Center is the sole supplier of blood to hospitals in its fifteen county service. Without your help, they could not obtain the blood needed every day by patients in our area.

In order to donate blood, you must be at least seventeen years of age (16 with signed Community Blood Center parental consent form), weigh at least 110 pounds, and be in generally good health. Each donor will have blood pressure, temperature, pulse, and hemoglobin checked before donation, and must also present at photo I.D. (such as a driver's license). A donor must eat a nourishing meal, drink plenty of liquids, and get a good night's sleep prior to donation.

Thanks to **Miami University Athletic Department**, all donor names will be placed in a

box for a **drawing to win four tickets** to any 2010 home MAC football game. **McDonald's** has favored us with tickets for their varied products for each donor. An added thank you from the Community Blood Center is a **free St. Patrick's Day t-shirt** for donors.

One in five of us at sometime in life will need a blood transfusion. Let's show how much we care. To set up an appointment to donate, fill out the red insert and place it in the offering plate, or call the Oxford Presbyterian Church at (513) 523-6364, or by email: office@oxfordpresbychurch.org or on the Community Blood Center's web site:

www.donortime.com

If you have any questions or concerns, call **Dick Nelson** at (513) 523-2247.

YOUR KROGER CARD AT WORK

Shopping with a Kroger Rewards Program gift card generates money that is used to support mission and needs within our congregation, and locally in the Oxford area. Just this past year, the money raised was used by the deacons to support our Youth Mission trip, to help send campers to Kirkmont, to buy back to school socks and underwear for children, to help provide needed medical relief, to provide a scholarship to Preschool, to buy "survival bags" for our Miami students during exam week, to buy yarn for our Prayer Shawl Ministry, and to help provide refreshments after Memorial services. These were just some of the ways that the money generated by you, was used to help others. Thank you for your continued support of this program.

If you would like to get a Kroger card, at no cost to you, or have any questions, please see **Elaine Patterson** in the church office, or call **Debra DeGennaro** @ 524-2409.

THE GENE AND FAYE SANTAVICCA CHRISTIAN MINISTRY SCHOLARSHIP FUND of the Oxford Presbyterian Church

Dr. and Mrs. Santavicca funded this scholarship for the advancement of Christian ministry. Candidates for this scholarship shall preferably be or have been a member or an affiliate member of the Oxford Presbyterian Church. Members who are interested in attending theological seminary should

contact **Dick Nelson**, 513-523-2246, or the Oxford Presbyterian Church secretary, **Elaine Patterson**, 513-523-6364.

Should qualified candidates not be found within our membership, consideration may be given to qualified candidates of other congregations of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

HOLY CONVERSATION PLANNING TEAM (**Pat Gifford**: Convener)

Profiling our Community Needs

Did you know?

- Oxford has a permanent, non-student population of 8,000, and population growth is almost flat (1% a year).
- The Miami student population of approximately 16,000 will likely shrink over the next 5-10 years.
- There are two dormitories worth of students living on High Street after the recent building boom.
- The need for services in our community continues to increase, while public funding is drying up.
- In 2005, 480 children were participating in the free/reduced lunch program in the Talawanda School District. In 2009 there were over 1000.
- Illegal drug abuse is declining at the high school, but prescription drug abuse and obesity are rising.
- Faith-based organizations have the opportunity to participate with a representative on the Commission on Off-Campus Affairs.
- Many opportunities still exist for our church to serve in our local community: Back to School Festival, *Sharefest*, *Help Me Grow*, fraternity resource group, to name a few.
- There is a growing collaboration of local agencies to meet the needs of the community

These were just some of the points made at the February 10 meeting of the Holy Conversation Planning Team. We were pleased to have several community leaders on a panel that evening. Joining us were **Bobbe Burke**, Director of Off-Campus Affairs/Miami Tribe Relations, Miami University,

Prue Dana, former Mayor of Oxford, **Steve Snyder**, Executive Assistant to the President, Miami University, **Dan Urra**, Administrator for a Coalition for a Healthy Community, Miami University. The HC Team posed several questions to the panel in advance:

- From your perspective, what do you see as the two to three most important trends and/or challenges for the Oxford community?
- How are these being addressed?
- What more needs to be done?
- What encourages you the most about the future? What gives you hope?

Also invited but unable to attend due to weather related issues were **Vicky Brunn**, Principal, Talawanda High School, **Maureen Kranbuhl**, Director United Way Oxford and Vicinity, **Alan Kyger**, Director of Economic Development, Oxford. Most have provided insights relative to our questions through other means.

The HC Team is meeting at least twice monthly this spring as we consolidate and find direction from our learnings. We are in the final stage of our strategic conversation process, "Shaping our Future." We still encourage your input at any time, and welcome insights and ideas.

Our Mission Statement:
"Seeking God, Serving Others, Sharing Christ's Love With All"

The Holy Conversation Planning Team asked for assistance in completing a Mission Statement exercise during the month of February. We requested that the leaders of each committee or group take 15-20 minutes of your regular meeting in the month of February to reflect on each part of the mission statement and how it relates to your group's purpose and ministry. We asked that a feedback from your conversation be passed on to **Pat Gifford** (gifforp@muohio.edu) by February 28.

Unfortunately, many groups and committees were unable to meet due to the abundance of snowy weather in February. Therefore we are still hoping that those who did not meet **will still plan on completing the exercise during their March meetings**. We would appreciate a summary of the

discussion be turned in to **Pat** by **March 28 or sooner, if possible**.

Thanks to all who have already participated and turned in your summaries. Look forward to hearing from the rest of you!

MISSION AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE

LOCAL MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

The Mission and Outreach Committee will start providing information to our congregation each month about opportunities for volunteer service in our community as a way of encouraging our members to become involved in mission. As a church we need to find ways to reach out to those in need. Two such volunteer opportunities are the following:

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

1. Volunteer Opportunity: Habitat for Humanity

I like to volunteer for Habitat for Humanity to help build decent housing for folks. I volunteer generally on a Saturday morning for 3 to 4 hours and during the week if I can. The current house under construction (and almost completed) is in College Corner. It is a rewarding feeling to help others. The next houses to be completed are on Hester Road in what is called the Reckford Woods. I believe it is a six-acre site that will have numerous houses built by Habitat. I would encourage any others to help out if possible. The local coordinator is **Jim Lipnickey**. **Contact: Marty Miller**

2. Volunteer Opportunity: Kiwanis

Kiwanis has a lot of volunteer opportunities. Barbara and I have limited time available so our participation is less than that of many other members. But I am on the Community Service Committee that meets monthly to channel Kiwanis funds to community groups and activities. As part of that I'm on the annual Food Drive Committee that organizes the food drive that takes place at our Seminary Building each year. I also help with the clubs three major fund raising drives: The Pancake Breakfast each April, the Peanut Day drive on

Parent's Weekend, and the Porsche Breakfast in the Spring. Other opportunities through the Club include: Salvation Bell Ringing, Cemetery Fall Cleanup, leadership and financial support for Kiwanis-related groups: Builders Club, Key Club and Circle K. The Club is heavily supportive of scouting activities (providing leadership and funds) and other activities for children. The focus of the clubs mission in Oxford is on children. The actual hands-on work is mostly fundraising-related for the purpose of community service. There is a lot of networking that happens at the Club's weekly luncheons. It also is a key place where "town" and "gown" mix for friendship and community-oriented service work. It's also a place where church members and those of other faith traditions get to know each other and work together. Contacts: **Carol and Cal Klumb; Mark and Barbara Barnes.**

MUSTARD SEED INVESTMENT GROUP
****NEXT MEETING: MARCH 2****

Contact: Joe Simpson

The Mustard Seed Investment Group was formed in March 2006, for the purpose of investing in stocks, bonds and securities in order to raise money for the church's mission. This group reports to the Mission and Outreach Committee of the Session. Currently there are nine contributing members in the group. Investments, which must be approved by a majority of members, are made on a quarterly basis. Earnings are reinvested, or moved into the Group's cash account at Charles Schwab, Inc.



The initial contribution of each member is \$100. A quarterly contribution of \$50 is due to the treasurer on or before the regular quarterly meetings, which have traditionally been held in members' homes.

The current value of our portfolio is \$9,415 with \$490 in additional cash. The profit portion of the portfolio varies from day to day, but currently averages about \$500. We agreed shortly after formation that we would distribute to mission as soon as the total value reached \$10,000. This

means we will distribute to mission this year! As members join and principle grows, we look forward to enlarging the mission impact this group can have.

The portfolio weathered the challenging economic times of 2008-2009 fairly well and the Group took opportunities to buy General Electric and Bank of America at very depressed prices. Other companies owned include Wells Fargo, Sysco, Yum Brands, Canadian Natural Resources, Duke Energy, and the very first investment, Colgate Palmolive.

This group of people not only support the mission of the church but also learn about investing and the market from each other. If you have an interest in increasing contributions to the mission of this church, adding to your own knowledge, and sharing fellowship at meetings please consider becoming a member. You are welcome to attend a meeting before joining to get a sense of the group and commitment. Contact **Joe Simpson**, 523 -8363. simpsojc@muohio.edu or **Bill Fisher**, 524-4504, fisherwf@muohio.edu.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

The Membership Committee will be hosting birthday parties, "after services", the last Sunday each month, for children ages 6-12 in our congregation, beginning in February! Special cakes will be served and children will be recognized for their special day each year! (I hope we sing!) Each child will receive a Birthday Card inviting them to their party, and recognizing them as important parts of our church family.

HMM...YOU'RE MISSING YOUR NAME TAG?????

If you lost your nametag, put it through the wash, or the dog ate it...it's okay! You can get a new one by jotting us a note on the member/visitor pads in the pews or by contacting **Elaine** at the church office, 523-6364 or office@oxfordpresbychurch.org. Hard to believe it has been two years since the Membership Committee introduced nametags and **Jack Staberg** built the great kiosk to house them! We think they have worked—helped us remember names and made it easier to greet old and new

faces. It is great to see almost everyone using them! But, if you have gotten out of the habit of picking yours up in the Narthex, it is still important to do so. We are making sure that all our new members and regular visitors have permanent nametags too. We continue to strive to be a more welcoming church, so wear your nametag on Sunday and greet each other by name! *Please wear your name tag. Don't leave people wondering: Who was that masked man?*



TIME TO DINE

For those who have signed up for "Time To Dine" ... Dining groups are being organized this week and letters will be sent out the **1st of March** to identify you and the rest of your group. A reminder to each group that we are leaving space in each group for you to fill in with another couple, or perhaps a couple Miami students. We've got 19 households willing to "host" dinners, and hope each group will continue to dine together through the Spring and into the summer months. The tradition of 'Time To Dine' is alive and thriving in our church congregation! Anyone looking to being an 'add-on' to our lists can still submit your name to **Elaine** in the church office and we'll include you as the opportunity arises.



CARES, CONCERNS AND JOYS

IN OUR PRAYERS:

Keep these friends in your prayers: **Hal Bondhus, Louise**

Griffing, Harold Puff, Martin Dulgarian, David Young, Bonnie Fey, Herb Preston, Leda Melis, Brian Hitsman



We remember and celebrate the life of **Richard McLaren** who died February 13. We remember **Adele** and her family in our prayers. A community memorial service will be held May 1.

For **Joe Foltz** in the death of his beloved aunt Marjorie Beck

SHARING JOYS:

MaryDodd Hunter's grandson **Jonathan** married **Maggie**.

Deb and **Rick Sayers** rejoice in the birth of grandson **Carter** (son of Andrew and Molly Farler).

Allison Hurley and **James Moak** share the joy of the birth of **Edith who joins siblings Walter and Helen**. Congratulations may be sent to the family at 445 Rookwood Dr., Charlottesville, VA 22903.

Willis Agutu and **Eunice** (from Kenya) share their joy at the January 3 birth of **Anne**, who joins siblings **Juliette** and **Solomon**. They would love to hear from Oxford Presbyterian Church members. Their address is: 4402 21st Street, Apt. E 1, Lubbock, Texas, 79497

THANK YOU:

Dear Friends,

We wish to thank all of you for your prayers for my cousin, Joy Robbins, during her many months of fighting Cancer.

Also thanks for your words of sympathy, cards and prayers for us and her husband. A special thanks to Barbara and Mark for their prayers and loving support.

May God bless all of you.

Sincerely,

Leroy and Genee Hesse

THANK YOU:

Jack Staberg has worked his magic saw and



hammer again. There is now a *wonderful* wall mounted telephone stand in the Seminary. It holds pen, pencil, paper and telephone books. Thanks Jack, it's just perfect, as usual.

Deb Bolen for creating a facebook page for the Oxford Presbyterian Church.

Brad Cronk, Rodger Cromer, and Steve Flee have been renewing and restoring the Kirk Room, back hallway and bathrooms through painting, scraping, fixing the ceiling and other chores, on behalf of the trustees. Thanks to them for all their devoted work!



OXFORD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH WOMEN

TUESDAY AFTERNOON CIRCLE

The Tuesday afternoon circle will meet Tuesday March 16th at 1:30 in the Board Room at the Knolls. Reservations for lunch at noon are due to Lawretta Clum by Friday March 12th. Lunch is optional and the cost is \$6.00. Visitors and guests are always welcome to attend.

Program: **Lynn Cronk**
Mission Yearbook: **Barbara Mecklenborg**
Least Coin: **Pat Gifford**

EVENING CIRCLE

Evening Circle will meet next on March 2, 2010 at the home of Hostess **Connie Everhart**.

(6135 Fairfield Road #33, Bldg E)

Co-Hostess: **Jo Reinhart**

Program: **Barbara Barnes**

Devotions: **Janet Holmes**

Yefri: **Jo Reinhart**

SAVE THE DATE: APRIL 10

The Mother/Daughter Breakfast will be Saturday, April 10 at 10:00am in the Seminary. Adopt a daughter and/or a mom and come join in. A brief Annual Business Meeting and Election of Leaders start the event.

Hostess: Afternoon and Evening Circles

Contact Person: **Ann Hardy**

ARE YOU READY TO RUMBLE—er--- RUMMAGE?

You'll get the details as the time gets closer, but here are more dates to save:

Spring Rummage Sale: Thursday April 22 (6-8), Friday April 23 (12-4), Saturday April 24 (9-12).

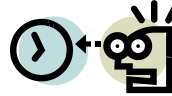
The Theme this Spring:

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO LET ME KNOW YOUR BIRTHPLACE. This will be a nice icebreaker or conversation starter. Be sure to be included! We now have 86 folks reporting where they were born. Come on, join the fun. This just in: Mexico City has to relinquish the prize as farthest away birthplace to Budkov, Poland (Ukraine).

Oxford still has a strong lead for the most AND closest. Canada is represented too. Where do you fit in? Contact **Nancy Moeckel**.

Answer to the Question of the Month

A. Their birthplace



Deadline for the April Newsletter is March 20, 2010

COMMUNITY

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED—World Day of Prayer



WDP's motto: informed prayer leads to prayerful action.

Church Women United will be celebrating World Day of Prayer on **Friday**

March 5, at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church. The service will begin at 11:30am with an African Luncheon followed by worship at 12:30pm. If child care is needed, call Michelle Hughes as 255-1078.

World Day of Prayer is a worldwide ecumenical movement of women of many faith traditions who come together to observe a common day of prayer each year on the first Friday in March. Each year a different county serves as the writer of the World Day of Prayer worship service. For 2010, women of Cameroon developed the theme, "Let everything that has breath praise God."

BACKGROUND:

Since the nineteenth century, Christian women in the United States and Canada have initiated cooperative activities in many areas of concern for women and children, the role of prayer in mission work and the promotion of world peace through involvement in mission work worldwide. The first organized Day of Prayer held nationally was in Canada on January 9, 1920. In the United States, the first organized Day of Prayer held nationally was on February 20, 1920. Now, hundreds of

thousands of women (and men, youth and children) from around the world and in every region gather to collectively worship on the first Friday in March. World Day of Prayer is supported by sacrificial and benevolent mission offerings given by individuals through these annual services. Each of the 170 countries celebrating World Day of Prayer has an organized country committee of ecumenical women representing many cultures, races and faith traditions. Each country's committee is responsible for determining the use of the offering as it relates to the theme for each year. Offering grants are made to women's and children's groups in each country. For additional information: visit the World Day of Prayer USA website at www.wdpusa.org

- View WDP 2010 pages, where you will learn about the women of Cameroon
- View grants from WDP 2009
- Download resources for 2010



**ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING:
SHARING RESOURCES, CHANGING LIVES**
**Jesus said, "Do you love me? ... Feed my sheep."
(John 21:16-27)**

Since 1949, Presbyterians have joined with millions of other Christians through One Great Hour of Sharing to share God's love with people experiencing need. Our gifts support ministries of disaster response, refugee assistance and resettlement, and community development that help people find safe refuge, start new lives and work together to strengthen their families and communities. Recognizing that the hope we have in Christ is lived out in our hope for one another, we respond with gifts that help our sisters and brothers around the world find the hope for a brighter future.

It's Remarkable What Your Gift Will Do.

It's Remarkable What Your Gift Will Do.

Dr. Greg Hitzhusen Executive Director of Ohio Interfaith Power and Light will be speaking in Oxford the last weekend in March. His visit is sponsored by the Oxford Interfaith Climate Change Work Group.

Friday, March 26th

- Environmental Stewardship:the Religious Response to Climate Change 269 Upham Hall 1 to 2:30 p.m.
- Pastoral Care/Earth Care: film screening "Renewal" and discussion St Mary's Parish Center 7:30 to 9:30

Saturday, March 27th

- Our Faith, Our Planet, Our Responsibility: a stewardship workshop The Undercroft at Holy Trinity 9:30 -2 p.m. (lunch provided)

For more information contact: Prue Dana

ALZHEIMER CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP

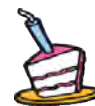
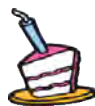
meets the third Sunday of the month from 3-4:30 in the Molyneaux Lounge of the Oxford Presbyterian Church. The group is an educational/ support group for persons caring for someone with Alzheimer's disease or other conditions involving dementia. Persons throughout the community and surrounding area are welcome. The group is affiliated with the Alzheimer's Association of Greater Cincinnati. **Barbara Barnes** and **Joan Teckman** are co-leaders of the group.

MIDDAY MUSIC

On March 10 at 12:00 p.m., the Midday Music in Oxford series will present a free concert at the Oxford Presbyterian Church, 101 N. Main Street, by guitarist & composer **James Lentini**, who is the Dean of Miami University's School of Fine Arts. Along with his wife and soprano **Dana**, the two will perform a wide variety



of works. This duo has performed concerts throughout the Midwest and East Coast and internationally at the Santa Cecilia Conservatory in Rome. Information: 513-523-6969.



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH: TWO MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

1. Family Week in the Gulf Coast

June 20-25, 2010

For the past two years, PDA has sought to help strengthen family bonds and spiritual lives through a family mission experience. Join us for Family Week 2010. Help repair and rebuild New Orleans homes damaged by Hurricane Rita. Stay at a Presbyterian Volunteer Village, worshipping with other family volunteer teams, bonding as a community, and reflecting on the faithfulness of Christ in the mission you share. Share the hope of Christ and build relationships with families who are still recovering from the 2005 storm.

Details:

Who: family members 14 years and older

Where: Olive tree Presbyterian Volunteer Village, New Orleans, La.

When: June 20-25, 2010 (Sunday to Friday)

Cost: \$20.00 per person per day (includes lodging, food and work facilitation)

Register now! Call 866-732-6121 (toll-free) or register your interest online

<http://www.pcusa.org/pda/register/team.jsp>

2. YOUTH WEEKS 2010

Hurricane recovery work opportunities—Work in the community may include rebuilding or cleaning, such as cleaning up a park or painting homes.

There may also be opportunities to assist local churches with Vacation Bible School or other activities—being a witness in the community and helping a church grow.

Who: Senior high youths and adults (5:1 ratio)

Where: Houma, Louisiana Presbyterian Volunteer Village

When: June 27-July 2 (almost full)

July 4-July 9 (full)

NEW: July 11-16—added

How: Team leaders contact PDA Call Center at 866-732-6121 or register your interest online

<http://www.pcusa.org/pda/register/team.jsp>

March 1	Sandra Corbin
March 2	Mickey Simonds
March 2	Greg Hughes
March 2	Mike Snell
March 4	Drena Bowerman
March 4	Nancy Shoker
March 5	William Soika
March 5	Billie Maynard
March 5	Sally Baird
March 5	Jameson Thomas
March 8	Susanna Smith
March 11	Richard Wespiser
March 11	Deborah Davidson
March 14	Mark Boardman
March 14	Amy Wilson
March 14	Nicole Jordan
March 15	Evalou Middaugh
March 16	Lisa Croucher
March 16	Kyle Shriver
March 18	Alan Mehl
March 18	Ethan Kraushar
March 19	Randy Shoker
March 19	Emma Fisher
March 21	David Marado
March 22	Bill Sheard
March 22	Robert Sherman
March 22	Dan Cross
March 22	Deborah Bommer
March 22	Lindsay Crist
March 24	Marilyn Curry
March 24	Jill Grajewski
March 24	Trevor Richmond
March 25	Dick Fisher
March 25	Ted Fujii
March 26	Marian Nelson
March 26	Pat Spitler
March 29	Jan Cromer
March 29	Brad Cronk
March 29	Debby Snider
March 29	Kennedy Johnson
March 30	Fred Browe



**The Oxford Presbyterian
Blood Drive is
Thursday, March 2, 2010 from 3 PM to 7 PM
at the Seminary**

Requirements:

- 1) You must be at least 17 years old (there is no upper age limit) age (16 with signed Community Blood Center parental consent form),
- 2) You must weigh at least 110 pounds

If you are willing to donate blood

- 1) Fill out this sheet with name, phone numbers and time available
- 2) Detach bottom part of sheet and save as a reminder
- 3) Place top part of sheet in Collection Plate or call the church office, 523-6364

Name(s) _____

Day phone number _____

E-mail _____

Preferred appointment time on March 2 _____ (Requires 1 hour)

-----Detach Here and Save Below as a Reminder -----

Oxford Presbyterian Church Blood Drive

When: Thursday, March 2, 2010- 3:00 PM to 7:00 PM

Where: Seminary Building

What to bring: Yourself and a driver's license or Photo I.D.

Appointment Time Preferred: _____ (Requires 1 hour)

Benefits the Community Blood Center - Needs 335 units daily and serves 26 hospitals in 15 counties

Someone will be contacting you soon to schedule a time for donation.
(Questions about donor eligibility contact CBC at: 1-800-388-4483 or 777-4428.



In Honor of Others . . .

The Worship and Music Committee of Session hopes to make each of the worship services as meaningful as possible. Congregational participation is a crucial ingredient in that effort. One example of participation is seen in the enthusiastic response to the opportunities to honor or memorialize others with the purchase of flowers to enhance the beauty of the sanctuary throughout the year, particularly at Easter.

It has been suggested that opportunity be given to honor or memorialize others with a gift to the Special Music Fund in lieu of, or in addition to the purchase of flowers. The Session has authorized the establishment of the Special Music Fund for the express purpose of providing a small Honorarium for guest soloists or instrumentalists or musical events not included in the regular worship and music budget.

Contributions to this special fund will be welcome at any time, but members and friends of the church are invited to make contributions during the Easter season. One may designate a person or persons to be memorialized or honored. Such gifts will be noted in the church bulletin.

As with last year, for Easter a variety of Spring flowers will be used. Please use this form to order a flower or contribute to the special music fund. Please make checks payable to Oxford Presbyterian Church and mark for flowers or the Special Music Fund.

The cost of the Easter flowers this year will be \$14.00.

ORDER FORM

_____ Easter flower (\$14.00)

_____ I would like to donate my flowers to the Deacons for delivery

_____ Special Music Fund



Dedication to be put in bulletin:

Paid by check (no.) _____ or Cash _____

Your Name: _____

Phone # or email _____

Last day to order is Sunday, March 28, 2010