

First Presbyterian Church of Braidwood

March 2008 Newsletter

From the Pastor

As many of you know, Pam and I recently celebrated our anniversary and my birthday was shared with so many of you at the surprise fellowship after worship. Thank you Pam! I am overwhelmed by the outpouring of love received from our "friends" in the church. I really want to thank you all for the kind words, the cards and gifts given on our special days. Your love and kindness are truly appreciated.

When you think about hospitality, there is no greater asset than the warm and welcoming friendly greeting that visitors receive when they walk in the doors of the church. Time and time again, I have heard those comments from my friends and family when they have come to worship with us.

Hospitality is at the heart of Christian values and we do it well. As followers of Jesus Christ, we are called to reflect the same welcome and acceptance we have received from God through Christ. Christ's death on the cross brought us reconciliation with God in spite of the fact that our sinful nature is what nailed Jesus to that cross.

Our hospitality needs to be more than something we do on Sunday morning and become a reflection of WHO we are the rest of the week. Our theme for this year is "Each One Bring One." As I have said before, 50% of un-churched people would attend, if they were just invited. Our hospitality begins when we interact with people even before they come through our doors.

The leadership from several area churches are sponsoring an afternoon workshop on hospitality. The date is April 6th at 3:00 and will be held at Central Presbyterian Church in New Lenox. This event is not just for elders, but for all members of the congregation. Church ministry is not the responsibility of a few, but rather of all believers.

I am inviting and challenging our church to organize a group to attend this enlightening event. It promises to be a good fellowship opportunity and will benefit our church in the long run. Won't you consider participating in this opportunity?

God's love and peace to all,
Dale

Family Night

Don't forget about family night-- March 12th- starts at 6pm since Dale is already at the church. But feel free to arrive when you are able. It's not the time you arrive that's important. It's your presence with us that makes it special. Remember it's a casual time of fun, games and fellowship. Come when you can, leave when you need to.

March Birthdays:

3/6 Craig Bauer
3/7 Karen Bunting
3/11 Cecelia Weathersby
3/14 Trent Bumgardner
3/15 Shirley Cooper
3/16 Dena Lamb
3/21 Austin Blackwell
3/26 Helen Saltzman
3/20 Albert Crater
Jacob Bolatto
Rebecca Maly

March Anniversaries:

3/31 Tony & Sue Neven

Easter Sunday

Easter Breakfast will be begin at 8:30am Easter morning. Please come and join in the fellowship. There will be NO sunrise service Easter morning, worship service will begin at the regular time.

Greeters Schedule

March

- 3/9 Helen Saltzman
3/16 Ron & Mary Maly
3/23 Bill Brockman
3/30 Cecelia Weathersby

April

- 4/6 Bob Marshall
4/13 Tracy Marshall
4/20 Bob & Kay Kostall
4/27 Cecelia Weathersby



For those who are able, this is a day of fasting from morning until we gather for worship to "break the fast." come join our Maundy Thursday worship at 7:00.

MARCH HAPPENINGS

- 3/9 9AM YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL**
10AM WORSHIP
FELLOWSHIP FOLLOWING SERVICE
- 3/12 PASTOR DALE IN OFFICE ALL DAY**
6:00 FAMILY NIGHT
- 3/19 PASTOR DALE IN OFFICE ALL DAY**
6:30 SESSION
- 3/16 9AM YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL**
10AM WORSHIP—PALM SUNDAY
- 3/20 7PM MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE**
COMMUNION WILL BE SERVED
- 3/23 EASTER BREAKFAST**
8:30AM-9:30 AM
10AM WORSHIP
- 3/26 PASTOR DALE IN OFFICE ALL DAY**
- 3/30 9AM YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL**
10AM WORSHIP/YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL
CHILDREN WILL BE PRESENTING THE PLAY
"HERE COMES PETER WHO?"

Coming in April

Leadership Training Event

Topic: "New People". How Do We Welcome Them Into Our Fellowship?

Joliet Lectionary Study Group has invited anyone who is interested to come to this study group. It will be held Sunday, April 6th at 3pm in New Lenox at the Central Presbyterian Church. Group study will last between 2 to 2 1/2 hrs.

Presbyterian Women

Presbyterian Women Synod of Lincoln trails Gathering on May 30-June 1, 2008 at Millikin University in Decatur Illinois. Workshops are on a variety of topics. See Linda Bumgardner for registration forms. Forms will have further information on them.

Mark your Calendars

Saturday, April 5, 2008 is the date of the Blackhawk Presbytery PW Spring Gathering at the Joliet Westminster in Joliet. More information is forthcoming. Check with Ruth Bauter or Linda Bumgardner.

Prayer Chain

Anyone wishing to add their name to the morning or evening prayer chain please contact Ruth Bauter at 815-458-6370. New list will soon be distributed to each volunteer.

Newsletter Information

If you have something you would like included in the April newsletter, please write it down and put it in the box marked "newsletter" that is located in the narthex. Deadline is March 24th.

Reminder to Commissions: Please remember to turn any meeting updates by 3/24 also.

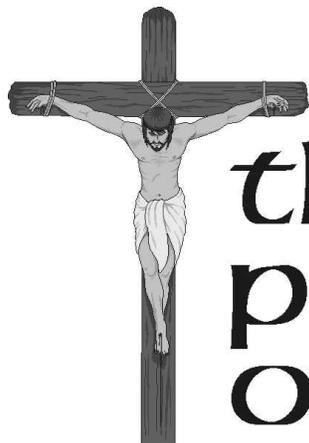
Sunday School News

"God's Children" (Linda Bumgardner's class) will be viewing the Biblical film "Jesus of Nazareth prior to Easter season. Due to the length of the film various dates will be set.. The first date was Saturday, March 8. Following movie date will be announced during Sunday Services. Anyone is welcome to attend.

Passion Play in Lemont

Brochures are in the narthex for "Let Your Kingdom Come" Passion Play, it will be held at the First Church of the Nazarene in Lemont, IL. See brochure for dates and times.

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the
passion
of Jesus