



GOOD NEWS
February 2010
United Presbyterian Church
Harrodsburg, KY 40330

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This month we enter into the season of Lent. Though we derive the name “Lent” from a Germanic, *lenten*, meaning “Spring” (as in the season), as we approach this season each year, I find myself more drawn to the translation from French. The French word “*lent*” means “slow.” You can elongate the word into “*lentment*” - “slowly.” That is a very appropriate and timely reminder to us as we enter into this season. Slow down. Go slowly. Be still.

Lent is a time for deep and intentional self-examination and repentance. Fasting is a common discipline practiced during Lent, ranging from abstaining from all food or drink for certain periods of time to choosing one particular thing from which to abstain during this season. That’s what we did in my family; often we gave up chocolate, Coke, chewing gum or candy. One thing that always struck me was the way that fasting interrupts our routine. I didn’t realize how much of a candy lover I was until I tried to give it up. Fasting jars us from the patterns of daily life, and reminds us to cultivate deeper awareness, to examine ourselves before God, to examine our lives and our relationships, and to repent and turn intentionally from those things that separate us from God and from each other.

Lent invites us to slow down, and to be more intentional. This season, every Wednesday evening after Ash Wednesday and through Holy week, we will gather in the sanctuary for a brief Taize service. These services, involving some prayer, scripture, and very simple songs, invite us to worship slowly, prayerfully, and intentionally. These services will give us a time to gather in the middle of our weeks, to drop our busy-ness and to be still, to experience God in stillness and prayer.

Whether or not you are able to join us on Wednesdays, we invite you to engage intentionally in one or more spiritual practices during this season. It could be some form of fasting, from abstaining from one particular item during Lent to a longer or more involved fast, such as choosing one day per week to go without lunch, or fasting from all food after a certain time of day. Take time to feed your soul through prayer and study of Scripture.

Another discipline, called “Examen,” is also appropriate for Lent. We examine the things in our lives that separate us from God and others, and pray for the strength to amend those things. In the morning, we remind ourselves of those things, and in the middle of the day we stop and ask ourselves how we are doing. The Examen at the end of the day reviews all of those places in our day where we felt close to God or distant from God. This discipline is particularly well suited for families, where the questions can be asked in many different ways: “What was your high-point and low-point today? Where were you surprised? Where did you do something that made you feel good? Or made you feel bad? What do you want to work on tomorrow?”

Presbyterians are usually very “heady” people, but we often neglect our own spiritual formation. Lent is a wonderful time to explore various spiritual disciplines and practices of the church that help to open us up to experience God and be transformed by the Holy Spirit. These practices can help us to slow down and attend to our spirits. The Office of Spiritual Formation of the Presbyterian Church (USA) has a wealth of resources and information online at <http://www.pcusa.org/spiritualformation/index.htm>. Whether you use these or other practices during the Lenten season, let us all go slowly through these next few weeks, to wait, to listen, and to be still.

*“Be still and know that I am God.” – Psalm 46:10*

Grace and Peace,  
Stephanie and Andy

## Grace Notes

### **Communion Changes**

The Session, on recommendation from the Worship Committee, has set dates for Communion for 2010, and the schedule is a little different from what we have done in the past. There are a number of special Sundays in the liturgical cycle that are especially appropriate for celebrating Communion and recommended in the Presbyterian Planning Calendar. We will celebrate Communion on each of those Sundays during the year rather than sticking to our 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday pattern. During months that do not have particularly recommended Sundays, we will celebrate Communion on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of that month.

For the month of February, we will celebrate communion on Sunday, February 14<sup>th</sup>, which is known as “Transfiguration Sunday.” On this particular Sunday we recall how Peter, John, and James witnessed the Transfiguration of Jesus on the mountain. We also remember how the Lord appeared to Moses on Mount Sinai, and how Moses’ face shone so brightly that he had to be veiled when he returned to the people. It is the final Sunday of Epiphany, a season in which we celebrate the appearance of God in Jesus Christ. There are few texts that so dramatically depict the encounter between humanity and the divine as our texts on Transfiguration Sunday. We are reminded of God’s full glory, which is beyond our comprehension or grasp, and how God comes to us in the person of Jesus Christ, fully human and yet fully divine. It is Christ who still invites to dine at his table during Communion.

Do you have questions about our Sacramental theology or practice? Questions about Baptism or the Lord’s Supper? Pass those along, and we can answer them here.

### Lent, Holy Week, and Easter

We will enter the Season of Lent on Ash Wednesday, February 17<sup>th</sup>. This year we are joining with Harrodsburg Christian Church, Harrodsburg United Methodist Church, and Burgin Christian Church in our services. We will have an Ash Wednesday service on February 17<sup>th</sup> at 7pm at Harrodsburg Christian Church.

Starting Wednesday, February 24<sup>th</sup> and running through Wednesday, March 31<sup>st</sup> we will gather here at our church for a brief Taize service at 7pm. For centuries Christians, based on Christ’s acts of solitude and prayer, have sought intentional times of silence, prayer and meditation as a means for experiencing God’s word to them and for them. Taize worship brings this ancient style of worship to the hurried and harried Christians of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Taize is an international ecumenical prayer community located in Taize, France. It was founded in 1940 by a young seminary student, Roger Schultz, as a place of hospitality and hope as a response to World War II, when Christians fought Christians on the battlefields of Europe. Now more than half a century after its founding, the worship style of Taize has spread across the globe. Taize invites each participant to “be still” in the presence of God – inviting us to remove ourselves from the busyness and noise of the world around us and enter into a time of silent meditation and contemplation based on the Scriptures. The simplistic and repetitive nature of Taize music becomes a sung prayer as the community unites in voice, allowing the words to become embodied in our thoughts.

Our church will be hosting the weekday Holy Week Services, sponsored by the Mercer County Ministerial Association. From March 29<sup>th</sup> through April 2<sup>nd</sup>, we will gather each day at noon in the Sanctuary for an ecumenical service. Preaching and worship leadership will rotate among local churches, with those churches provided a light lunch (sandwiches and desserts) that will be served in the Fellowship Hall downstairs. Our church will supply paper products, chips, and drinks, as well as our hospitality as we welcome members of the community into worship and fellowship. The Kate Riker Circle will be coordinating the hospitality. Watch the newsletter or bulletin for more details.

On Maundy Thursday, April 1<sup>st</sup>, we will join with Burgin Christian Church for an Agape Feast and Maundy Thursday devotion at 6:30pm. We will meet at UPC at 6pm and travel over together. The Good Friday service will be at 7pm, location TBD. We will also join with the other churches for an Easter Sunrise service at 7am at the Old Mud Church. Watch next month’s newsletter for more details.

## *Presbyterian Women*

The Kate Riker Circle will meet Monday, February 1<sup>st</sup> at 10:30am in the Fellowship Hall. They will be studying Lesson 6 from the Horizons Bible Study on Joshua. The evening circle will meet on Monday, February 8<sup>th</sup> at 7pm in the Ladies' Parlor, and will study Lesson 5 from the Horizons Bible Study on Joshua.

## *Session Notes*

The Session gathered together for a day-long retreat on Saturday, January 16<sup>th</sup>. Elder David Weber was elected Clerk of Session. We spent a good deal of time looking at the call of the church and the responsibilities of the Session as outlined in the Book of Order, and after much discussion, the Session determined that some changes needed to be made to the Committee Structure in order to better fulfill our call as a church.

The Evangelism and Outreach Committee was essentially broken down into 3 new committees. A Mission Committee will now oversee our budgeted mission items, promote the four national church offerings and Hunger and 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday offerings for Bellewood and Buckhorn, identify needs for mission, provide for regular mission opportunities in the community and beyond, coordinate the mission and outreach work that we currently do, and provide opportunities for evangelism to be learned and practiced in and by the church.

A new Outreach Committee will oversee advertising and getting information out about the church and our work, and will also focus significantly on membership, including communicating with our active membership, providing for care and outreach to members in particular need, reaching out to potential new members, and maintaining care and contact with our inactive members or those unable to be with us on Sunday mornings. This committee will also make sure we have an updated church directory and website.

The Hospitality Committee will oversee the Kitchen Committee, plan and organize church socials and fellowship events, update the bulletin boards in the church, and provide the refreshments for Sunday morning fellowship in the Conference Room.

If you have questions or comments about any church business, you can always approach an Elder, or talk specifically to the Committee involved. If you are interested in getting involved on a Committee, please talk to the Committee Chair.

### Session Committees and Chairs:

|                          |                                |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Christian Education:     | Nadine White                   |
| Hospitality:             | Sue Saufley Sullivan           |
| Mission:                 | Carrie Shewmaker               |
| Nominating:              | Doug Ferguson                  |
| Outreach:                | Lee Russell                    |
| Personnel:               | David Weber (Clerk of Session) |
| Property:                | Harry Woodard                  |
| Stewardship and Finance: | Henry Grall                    |
| Worship:                 | David Bradshaw                 |

## *Safe Place Policy*

The Session voted to adopt a Safe Place Policy, which includes new guidelines for all staff and volunteers working with children as well as procedures for reporting any concerns. The policy is available by request from the Office and will be placed on the church website. Parents of children under the age of 18 will also be given a copy, along with appropriate forms to be filled out for participation in church activities. We want to insure that our church is a safe place in every way for all of our members, particularly the most vulnerable.

This policy establishes a Safe Place Team, comprised of the Chairs of the Christian Education, Property, and Personnel Committees, a Pastor, and another Active Elder. Questions regarding the policy can be addressed to any of those individuals. Please watch for more information as we begin to implement this new policy! Members of the Safe Place Team for 2010 include: Nadine White, Harry Woodard, David Weber,

Stephanie Wing, and Crystal Nichols. Special thanks to Nadine White, Sherri Prigmore, Lee Russell, and Stephanie Wing for their work in developing this policy.

## **Christian Education**

### **Children and Youth**

Check out the 2010 Camp and Retreat Schedule from Camp Burnamwood, posted on the bulletin board to the left of the church office. There are weekend retreats throughout the Spring as well as week-long retreats and camps during the summer. Scholarships are available to cover half of the registration fee from the Jan Hylen fund.

### **Youth (6<sup>th</sup> grade through High School)**

Stephanie will continue to lead the Youth Sunday School this month, with Guest Teacher Irene Mitchell on February 14<sup>th</sup>. We are currently working our way through the Book of Genesis, learning more about the world of the Bible and the stories of our faith. Discussion has been great, and visitors are always welcome! The class is geared for middle school and high school youth, and we start at 9:30am upstairs.

We are currently organizing a Youth Mission Trip for this summer for Middle School and High School youth. Watch the bulletin and newsletter for more details!

### **Adult Sunday School Classes**

The Thoughtful Christian Class meets at 9:30am in the Ladies Parlor. All studies are available for download and reading online at <http://defaoite.us/UPCWeb/Index.htm>. Whether or not you have a chance to look at the study in advance, we welcome any and all to join in the discussions on Sunday mornings.

The “Stage Class” meets in the classroom adjacent the Fellowship Hall in the Basement, using “The Present Word” as its curriculum. The authors of the student book for the Winter Quarter include some familiar names – Sheldon Sorge and Stephanie and Andy Wing!

## **Living Wills**

Rev. Beth Mosier Silence, who was a guest preacher in May, will be coming to lead a workshop on living wills and directives for anyone interested. Many of us know the importance of letting our friends and loved ones know our wishes in cases of medical crisis, but there is no substitute for a written living will. Watch the bulletin for more details on the scheduling of this workshop.

## **Stewardship and Finance**

### **Pledges Needed**

If you have not submitted your pledge card for 2010, you can still submit that to the church office. If you need a new card, please call Bobbi at 734-4710.

## **Living Waters Fundraiser**

The Synod of Living Waters has a well-established mission, Living Waters for the World, which trains mission teams to install drinking water filtration systems in areas where clean drinking water is not accessible. Most of this work has happened in developing countries, but they have also been expanding to provide home units in some areas of eastern Kentucky and Tennessee. The Session has approved a new fundraising project to begin raising money so that we can fund a team and an installation project in Appalachia in the future. Mary

Weber has already raised several hundred dollars for a local installation through the sale of her necklaces, in addition to the thousand of dollars raised and still being raised for the Synod-wide project. If you would like more information about this, please contact Mary Weber, and keep an eye on the bulletin and newsletter for more details.

### *Upcoming Events* **“Church Basement Ladies”**

We have 20 tickets reserved at \$30 each to go see the “Church Basement Ladies” at the Norton Center in Danville on Saturday, March 6<sup>th</sup> at 8pm. This musical comedy is a celebration of the church basement and the women who work there. The show features four distinct characters and their relationships as they organize food and the problems of a rural Minnesota church. From the elderly matriarch of the kitchen to the young bride-to-be learning the proper order of things, the show provides a touching and funny look at their lives. There is a sign-up sheet on the church bulletin board. Once the 20 tickets have been claimed and purchased, individuals can purchase additional tickets for \$35 from the Box Office by calling 877-HIT-SHOW or going to NortonCenter.com.

### **Congregational Meeting**

The annual meeting of the Congregation will take place after worship on Sunday, February 7<sup>th</sup>. We will review the Annual Report, hear from each of our committees, and elect new members to the Nominating Committee and Foundation Board.

### *Pastors’ Travel*

Andy and Stephanie will be on vacation from February 9<sup>th</sup> through the 15<sup>th</sup>. Rev. Maurice Gibbard will be our guest preacher on Sunday, February 14<sup>th</sup>. During our absence, the Rev. Rollin Tarter of Danville will be on call for Pastoral Care emergencies. Carrie Shewmaker is the Elder on Call for February. The office will be open as usual.

Have you moved? Do you have a new address, phone number or email address? Keep us posted! It has come to our attention that some mailings have not been received by all of our members. If you suspect that postal mail or email are not reaching you from the church, please call the church office during regular office hours so that we can address the issue. Thanks for your patience!

We currently have 3 methods of distribution for the newsletter. The newsletter is always posted online, with emails sent out letting subscribers know when the new edition is available. We also have hard copies available for pickup at the back of the Sanctuary. This allows members to continue to receive a paper newsletter, but helps to save on postage. The third option is regular 1<sup>st</sup> Class mail delivery. If you would like to change your method of receiving the newsletter at any time, simply call Bobbi in the church office.

If you would like to receive the newsletter electronically, just send us an email at [upcharrodsburg@bellsouth.net](mailto:upcharrodsburg@bellsouth.net), and we will add you to the email list.

## *Calendar at a Glance for February 2010*

|             |                                                                                                                       |
|-------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| February 1  | 10:30 Kate Riker Circle<br>6:30 Property Committee Meeting                                                            |
| February 2  | 5:30 Outreach Committee Meeting<br>6:30 Christian Education Committee Meeting                                         |
| February 7  | After Morning Worship – Annual Congregation Meeting                                                                   |
| February 8  | 7pm Evening Circle                                                                                                    |
| February 11 | 6:30 Stewardship & Finance Committee Meeting                                                                          |
| February 14 | Morning Worship – Transfiguration - Communion<br>1:30 Hospitality Committee Meeting<br>1:30 Worship Committee Meeting |
| February 17 | Beginning of LENT<br>7pm Ash Wednesday service at Harrodsburg Christian Church                                        |
| February 21 | Morning Worship – Communion<br>2pm Session                                                                            |
| February 24 | 7pm Taize service                                                                                                     |
| February 28 | Morning Worship – Hunger Offering                                                                                     |

### *February Celebrations*

#### *Birthdays*

|    |                |    |                 |
|----|----------------|----|-----------------|
| 5  | Kay Howells    | 21 | David Alexander |
| 7  | Logan Dedman   | 21 | Kathy Howells   |
| 9  | Bob Baughman   | 22 | Roxie Jackson   |
| 10 | Frank Mitchell | 23 | Morgan Lewis    |
| 12 | Beverly Baird  | 25 | Mary Nicholson  |
| 17 | Letha Berry    | 29 | Bill Wickliffe  |
| 20 | Ann C. Howells |    |                 |

#### *Anniversaries*

|    |                      |    |                     |
|----|----------------------|----|---------------------|
| 16 | Howard & Ann Howells | 18 | Nick & Morgan Lewis |
|----|----------------------|----|---------------------|

*Revs. Andy and Stephanie Wing – Co-Pastors*

(859) 734-4710

|                 |                 |                                   |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|
| Choir/Organist: | Susan Shewmaker | Thoughtful Christian Class @ 9:30 |
| Secretary:      | Bobbi Rightmyer | Sunday School @ 9:30              |
| Nursery:        | Dorothy Shuman  | Present Word Class @ 9:45 am      |
| Treasurer:      | Pat Alexander   | Sunday Morning Worship @ 10:45 am |
| Custodian:      | J. L. Devine    | Wed. Choir Rehearsal at 7:30 pm   |

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United Presbyterian Church  
326 S. Main Street  
Harrodsburg, KY 40330

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*Lectionary Readings for February 2010*

Carrie Shewmaker – Elder Host

**February 7, 2010**

Old Covenant Lesson:  
New Covenant Lesson:

**Psalm 138**

**Isaiah 6:1-8 (9-13)**  
**I Corinthians 15:1-11 and Luke 5:1-11**

**February 14, 2010**

Old Covenant Lesson:  
New Covenant Lesson:

**Psalm 99**

**Exodus 34:29-35**  
**2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2 and Luke 9:28-35**

**February 21, 2010**

Old Covenant Lesson:  
New Covenant Lesson:

**Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16**

**Deuteronomy 26:1-11**  
**Romans 10:8b-13 and Luke 4:1-13**

**February 28, 2010**

Old Covenant Lesson:  
New Covenant Lesson:

**Psalm 27**

**Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18**  
**Philippians 3:17-4:1 and Luke 13:31-35**