

THE NEW TIMES

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 2

FEBRUARY 2009

ADOPT-A-FAMILY UPDATE

It was with humble gratitude that our adopt-a-family accepted the gifts you sent for Christmas. They were taken back by the generosity and thoughtfulness exemplified by each of you. Santa gave each child one of your gifts, and the parents chose to distribute the remaining ones at their family gathering and Christmas morning. Mom and Dad received all the gas and grocery gift cards immediately, totaling \$730. It was

a treat to witness the entire family's child-like amazement and disbelief. Tears were shed and hugs received, I only wish I could impart to you the feelings with which they were given. Certainly, I will share the hugs on any given Sunday! What a wonderful witness you all are to our community when you share Christ's love by meeting the needs of those who are struggling. I am so proud to belong to such a loving group of



people, here at BPC. THANK YOU!
Mary Markve-Patch

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *The Officers' Retreat will be Saturday, February 7th from 8:30a.m. to 3:00 p.m.*
- *Happy Valentine's Day!*
- *Youth will take a trip to Powder Ridge on February 14th.*
- *Ash Wednesday services will be held on Wednesday, February 25th at 7:00 p.m.*

LENTEN THEME

The theme for this year's Lenten Soup Suppers will be "A Praying Congregation."

Using exercises from Jane Vennard's book by the same title and

enhancing the practices of prayer we put into our spiritual toolboxes last year, we will use the Lenten Season to grow the prayer life of individual members as well as the

congregation as a whole.

Our Wednesday soup supper will start at 6:15 p.m. beginning March 4th .

See you there!

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FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear Friends,

No one knows exactly how long a Pastor Nominating Committee's search will take; the average is six to nine months after the Church Information Form is posted in Louisville. The BPC CIF bears the date, 11/6/08 and the PNC reports receiving and sifting through over 80 PIF's and have proceeded from there. This is good news! This is progress for which you have hoped for two years.

Meanwhile, we have just traveled through Advent, the season when we in the church practice waiting for the conception and birth of God's plan. Our work now is similar to the tasks of any family that is expecting to grow either through marriage or birth: we make space. Marcy has been going

through the file cabinets in the office, clearing out the old and making room for the new. We are ordering the information we think will be helpful and want to keep so that it's accessible and usable. Cabinets and storage places all around the building, both inside and out, have been neatened and readied for ...

The unknown.

The new pastor will be here soon and together you will do what you have always done: the will of God. But, you will serve The Unknown in new ways because new people change the identity of the whole group just as time and experience change even the old people into a new people. Standing in the

threshold of change is a holy time.

I am preparing to make way for conversion as well. I'm not gone yet! But signs of change are beginning to gather around us; the need to stay awake, to be ready are there. It is important to keep the PNC in our prayers, to pray also for the next installed pastor of BPC, whomever he or she may be; it is time still to recognize those things that no longer serve the congregation or the Kingdom and put them to rest and it is especially time to make room for new life – life that will be the light of all people. Who can resist? After all, this is the grace of God!

Peace and
grace to you,

Julia



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TO BE READY
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OFFICERS' RETREAT

The BPC Officers' Retreat will be on Saturday, February 7th from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Parkside Elementary School in Buffalo. Please review the materials from Julia before the retreat.

EDUCATION RE-CAP

Christmas was a special and eventful time at BPC. On December 14, all the Sunday School classes from ages pre-school to Senior High at Buffalo Presbyterian helped retell the Christmas Story while the adult choir sang. Thank you to all the children who helped portray a meaningful nativity scene during "Silent Night." Bravo to the

youth choir for their amazing performance of "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You."

Following that musical Christmas treat we adjourned to fellowship hall for a Christmas X-tra-vaganza for an "appetizer" potluck in which everyone enjoyed the many goodies. We ended the day with prize drawings featuring many fun

Christmas gifts and decorations. A good time was had by all. Thank you to the youth group for the display of luminaries during the Christmas Eve Services. It was wonderful—even with the wind blowing so hard, it looked great. —Jo Hatcher, Diane Heisel, and Michele Lawlor, Elders for this area of our church worship



PNC UPDATE


The committee has returned to its task after the Christmas break. They have now reviewed more than 90 Pastor Information Forms (PIFs). They have found some excellent candidates, yet they are continuing to expand their base for other possible candi-

dates.

On January 31st the committee will interview their three top prospects by phone. These candidates have expressed an interest in BPC and at this point the committee feels that the potential is there for a good fit.

The committee will continue to talk with them, answer their questions and try to discern where the Holy Spirit is leading our church. Your continued prayers for the committee are most appreciated.

ON JANUARY 31ST THE COMMITTEE WILL INTERVIEW THEIR THREE TOP PROSPECTS BY PHONE.



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CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

The BPC family extends its sympathy to Lavina and Larry Pattee in the death of Lavina's sister-in-law, Jane McKee, who died in Chicago on December 31st. A memorial service was held in Chicago on January 10th.

Birthdays

February 5 th	Lavina Pattee
February 7 th	Sira Anderson
February 10 th	Lydia Patch
February 15 th	Deb Anderson
February 20 th	Lily VanderSluis
February 21 st	Chuck Klaassen
February 22 nd	Jeremy Spike
February 24 th	Deanne Andersen
February 25 th	Jennifer Minke
February 27 th	Esther Blesi



ASH
WEDNESDAY
SERVICES WILL
BE HELD ON
FEBRUARY 25,
2009, AT 7:00
P.M.

COMMUNION FAST

At the suggestion of the Worship Committee, we will have Communion on Ash Wednesday and then fast from the table until Maundy Thursday as a part of our Lenten spiritual journey. There will be no Communion on March 1st or April 5th.

VALENTINE'S DAY

In the early Christian church, there were three priests named Valentine or Valentinus. Though they didn't live at the same time, each was said to be holy and each had been martyred for his faith. All three priests were designated as saints. Around the

year A.D. 498, Pope Gelasius declared February 14 as St. Valentine's Day.

Valentine's Day came to be associated with love, romance and marriage. The day is now so popular that only during the Christmas season do

people mail more greeting cards.

No matter how many cards, flowers or sweets you receive this Valentine's Day, be assured that God loves you with an "everlasting love" (Jeremiah 31:3, NRSV).



YOUTH UPDATE

The Buffalo Presbyterian Youth Groups continue to meet each week. The Middle School group meets on Wednesdays from 7:00-8:30 p.m.; the Senior High meets on Sunday evenings from 5:00-7:00 p.m.

On Sunday, February 1st, the youth are participating in the Super Bowl of Caring. They are joining young people in churches across the country to collect money and non-perishable food (such as a can of soup) for those who are hungry and hurting. All the money and food collected here at BPC will be donated to the Buffalo Food Shelf. The youth will also be serving during our fel-

lowship time that day. Saturday, February 14th will find the youth heading to Powder Ridge for a day of skiing, snow boarding and tubing. They will meet at the church at 9:00 a.m. and plan to return about 3:00 p.m.

On February 25th, they will join the rest of the congregation in celebrating the beginning of Lent with the Ash Wednesday Service at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

During the next couple of months, the Middle Schoolers are focusing on their faith journey—traveling through life’s experiences with the lens of faith during their youth group study

time. Each week they are exploring one aspect of the journey.

If you have any questions, please contact Scott or Holly at bpcyouth@gmail.com or by cell phone—Scott (612) 986-9356 or Holly at (763) 229-0453.

Our youth calendar is easily accessed through the BPC website (www.buffalopchurch.org) by clicking the “Ministries” tab and then choosing “youth.”



SATURDAY,
FEBRUARY 14TH
WILL FIND THE
YOUTH HEADING
TO POWDER
RIDGE FOR A DAY
OF SKIING, SNOW
BOARDING AND
TUBING.

WHAT IS LENT?

It is forty days of stripping down to the living essentials;

It is forty days of facing the truth about one’s self-indulgent evasions;

It is forty days of fellowshiping with

Christ in the desert;

It is forty days of rejoicing in God’s mercy and forgiveness.

Lent helps Christians focus on our most basic need as sinners: forgiveness.

The only way our

Lord’s forgiving power can become effective in our lives is by our taking the initiative to confront our sins, confess them and repent of them. In short, Lent is a season of penitence.





**BUFFALO PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

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THE NEW TIMES IS A MONTHLY
PUBLICATION OF BUFFALO
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

BUFFALO PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IS A CONGREGATION
IN WHICH THE WORD, THE SPIRIT, AND THE LOVE OF GOD EN-
RICH AND STRENGTHEN US AS INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES IN
CHRIST.

THE PURPOSE OF THIS CHURCH IS TO FULLY EQUIP US TO
BECOME DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST, OBEYING HIS COMMAND-
MENTS TO LOVE AND WORSHIP GOD, LOVE AND CARE FOR OUR
NEIGHBORS, AND MAKE NEW DISCIPLES IN OUR COMMUNITY AND
THE WORLD.

THE NEW TIMES

FEBRUARY 2009 ROTATIONS

February 2009

Newsletter submissions
are due by Friday, Febru-
ary 13 for the March issue.

Julia Carlson,
Interim Pastor

Scott Dobovsky,
Youth Director

Marcy Bodin,
Office Manager

Holly Minke,
Newsletter Editor

Lay Leader

February 1 Joel Aldrich
February 8 Jerry Aldrich
February 15 Steve Grittman
February 22 Lavina Pattee

Greeters Rotation

February 1 Tony & Marie Sunlitis
February 8 George & Elaine Thole
February 15 Dave & Kelly Van Ruler
February 22 Justin & Pam Vandersluis

Resident Pick-up

February 1 Dick Jenson
February 8 Marlene Aldrich
February 15 Dick Jenson
February 22 Marlene Aldrich