

THE NEW TIMES

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 3

MARCH/APRIL 2009

BPC YOUTH ARE GOING ON A MISSION TRIP

The BPC youth are planning a Youth-Works mission trip in partnership with PC(USA) to Louisville, Kentucky this summer, July 17-26. Our youth will work with others to serve at places like homeless shelters, thrift stores, elderly centers and children's programs. Our group will also have the opportunity to visit the National Headquarters of the PC(USA) to learn more about how they participate in missions locally, nationally and globally.

The group will also assist with daily meal preparations, participate in personal devotion time, work at the various ministry sites, experience fun and cul-

tural evening activities and engage in a "Club time" that includes worship, games, skits and a talk.

Youth Director Scott Dobovsky said, "We chose to do a Youth-Works mission trip because they are a youth mission organization created to serve youth, communities and the church. I have been on other Youth-Works trips, and they have been very meaningful and successful for the whole group. YouthWorks is an excellent youth-friendly organization." This multi-denominational ministry provides youth with a "life-changing experience by allowing them to be the hands and feet of

Christ and to see God move in a new way. Their mission trips open the youth's eyes to both situations and relationships in different communities and allow them to serve side by side with their peers, learn from leaders and deepen their relationship with Jesus."

The youth will be diligently working in the coming months to raise the funds needed for the trip. "Our congregation can support us in many ways," says Scott. "We welcome your prayers, participation in our fundraisers and donations."

Watch the newsletter for regular updates as we prepare for our journey.

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *Lent Soup Suppers begin Wednesday, March 4th.*
- *Church bell tower meeting is Sunday, March 8th.*
- *Youth overnight / mini Lenten retreat is Friday-Saturday, March 27-28.*
- *Adopt-a-family Easter basket will be delivered April 5th.*
- *March is Food Shelf month. Don't forget an item for the Food Shelf.*

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FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear Friends,



The Light is beginning to extend itself into our lives. The temperatures remain cold but not quite so frigid; we are beginning to enjoy some spring-like peaks (or peeks) even in the midst of these winter days. It is our physical world leading us into Lent. We, like Jesus, walk this Way through the valley of shadows, for several reasons. First, dormancy and death are simply a part of life; this awareness makes life sweeter and deepens our joy. But we also faithfully follow Jesus' path into Jerusalem and to the cross because we live in hope of something

“We walk The Way because it, like the growing light and warmth of the earth, is our hope.”

better. We hope that individuals the world over and including ourselves can learn to embrace love, peace, and truth. We hope for the spread of grace and the rising up of new life. We walk The Way because it, like the growing light and warmth of the earth, is our hope.

Our Wednesday night Soup Suppers will focus on prayer. We are collaborating with the folks from Spirit of Joy in planning a Maundy Thursday worship drama that will depict The Last Supper. Don and Ralph are planning music to accompany us on our journey

through sorrow and into triumph for our Lenten, Palm/Passion Sunday and Easter worship services. And when the Easter service itself has come and gone, we will continue to celebrate light and warmth by recognizing and celebrating the new life that is all around us in the church and in the world.

I hope you will fill up your calendar with church dates – and invite your friends – we are all in need of hope in these days.

See you in church,
Julia

CELEBRATE 2008



We had a successful BPC Officer's Retreat in early February. We started the retreat listing our accomplishments in 2008. Here is our Celebrate in 2008 list: choir concerts, strengthening the core, Scott and Holly-youth leaders, replacing the roof, more participation-

member strength, hosted (and survived) a Presbytery meeting, finding direction and strong leadership in the pulpit, new Sunday School curriculum, healing in the congregation, innovative worship, sanctuary door banner, new members, more efficient, effective, fo-

cused structure, Kwanzaa banners, new officers, ended obligations to past pastor, named/elected PNC, took down Christmas trees/cleaning day, new mower, acquired new land, moved middle schoolers out of the closet and the work of the Deacons.

LET'S HEAR THE BELL RING AGAIN!

Since we moved to our current building, our Church Bell has been forced into hiding in the storage closet. We would like to return it to its rightful place, announcing our services and events, by constructing a bell tower or other structure. We have more than \$10,000 donated for this specific pur-

pose, and several ideas for location and design have been discussed over the years, but never finalized. If you are interested in working on this project, we would love to hear from you! We will begin with an organizing meeting on Sunday, March 8th, right after church. We can look at some of

the drawings that have been considered, and chart a course of action. If you can't make it on that day, but would like to help, drop a note to Marcy in the Church office. This can be a fun project that will have a great impact on our property. Thanks!



METRO-PAINT-A-THON

Beginning in 1984, the Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches (GMCC) were prompted to help find a way to keep seniors and those with physical limitations in their homes. One way to follow through with this commitment was to develop an annual paint-a-thon.

GMCC relies solely on volunteers and donations to prepare and paint homes each year. The question is, would you, Buffalo Presbyterian Church Family, like to participate in this mission project the first weekend of August, 2009? If we are

able to gather a team together by mid-April we can send an application in and inform the GMCC of our intentions. The number of people needed is not of primary importance as they will match us with the appropriate size home, or combine our team with another to paint a larger home.

A team would spend 2-3 evenings prepping the home the week prior to the scheduled paint day and then paint on one Saturday in August. Many materials are supplied to the volunteers; other items would be provided by us.

If BPC wants to put together a team, please sign up and/or speak with Dave Johnson, Mary Markve-Patch, Ron Grittman, Jill Gatzke, Lavina Pattee or Jerry Aldrich.



**Don't forget
to change
your clocks!
Daylight
Savings Time
begins
March 8,
2009**



CELL PHONE VERSUS THE BIBLE

Ever wonder what would happen if we treated our Bible like we treat our cell phone? What if we carried it around in our purses or pockets? What if we flipped through it several times a day? What if we turned back to go get it if we forgot it?

What if we used it to receive messages from the text? What if we treated it like we couldn't live without it? What if we gave it to kids as gifts? What if we used it when we traveled? What if we used it in case of emergency? This is something to make

you go ...hmm...where is my Bible? Oh, and one more thing. Unlike our cell phone, we don't have to worry about our Bible being disconnected because Jesus already paid the bill.

Thanks to Dick Jenson for submitting this!

Adult Sunday School

Beginning in March, the adult Sunday school class will begin a study of Ezekiel and Ephesians, focusing on our new creation in Christ. All are welcome to join the discussion group in the Heritage Room at 9:00 a.m. every Sunday morning.

LENT STUDY: A PRAYING CONGREGATION

This year's Lenten study will be "A Praying Congregation."

We will meet at 6:15 p.m. to enjoy a soup supper as a church family. After our meal, we will explore practices of prayer that will enhance the spiritual tools we put in our spiritual tool-

boxes last year. This Lenten Season we will strive to grow the prayer life of individual members as well as the congregation as a whole.

Our first Wednesday soup supper will be on March 4, starting at 6:15 p.m.

You can be an important part of these evenings by signing up and bringing soup or chili to share. We need 3-4 pots of soup each of the five weeks. Sign-up sheets are in the Narthex.

See you there!

HIGH SCHOOL SUNDAY SCHOOL/YOUTH GROUP

The Senior High Sunday school and youth group have changed to a new time and combined format featuring Sunday school lessons, games and activities and, of course, food. The Senior High youth meet from 11:30 a.m. to 2:00

p.m. here at church. Lunch is provided. This is promising to be an exciting time of learning, fellowship and spiritual growth. Come and join us!

If you're interested in providing lunch for our

senior high youth, please contact Holly through the church office, at home (763) 682-1035 or by email at hminke@charter.net. Thanks for your support!

YOUTH NEWS

Our youth program is going strong! Our February verse was Galatians 5:13--"Serve one another in love." We started the month by serving during our fellowship time and participating in the national Souper Bowl of Caring. We raised \$280.44, which was donated to the Buffalo Food Shelf. Thank you for your support!

Valentine's Day found a group of us sliding down the slopes on our trip to Powder Ridge. It was a good time! We had a great day of fun, fellowship and laughter.

We got back in the service mode after the Session approved our Mission Trip to Louisville, Kentucky, for later this summer. We are busy planning the trip, organizing

fund raisers and working out the details. For more information on the mission trip, please see the article on page one.

New Senior High Youth Group

The end of February also brought us to our new combined Senior High Sunday school/youth group format. The group now meets on Sundays following worship until 2:00 p.m. This new "teen-friendly" format includes scripture-based lessons on relevant topics, discussions, food, fun, activities and games.

March activities

The Middle Schoolers will be focusing on "Christians and Culture" in their Sunday School lessons. They will be talking about

movies, tv, music, video games, and sports. They will learn about tools they can use to distinguish the good from the bad.

The Senior highs will be talking about believing in God and what Jesus looks like.

Plans are being made for a middle school/senior high youth Lent overnight event on Friday, March 27- Saturday, March 28th. This will be a mini-retreat with activities both at and away from the church. Part of the focus will be on individually preparing for Easter. What does that mean? What does it look like? The activities promise to be both fun and meaningful. You won't want to miss this one!

POP FOR SALE
THE YOUTH HAVE POP FOR SALE IN THE COOLER BY THE COFFEE MAKER IN FELLOWSHIP HALL. ALL ARE WELCOME TO SUPPORT THE YOUTH WITH THIS FUND RAISER! POP IS \$.50 A CAN.

ADOPT-A-FAMILY UPDATE

The Mission Committee has determined that we wish to continue support for our Christmas adopt-a-family throughout the rest of this year. Collections to fill small baskets will be made

quarterly to remind this family that we still care about their well being. Sunday, April 5 we will be delivering an Easter basket with traditional treats and a few more gift cards. Watch for

the empty basket and the suggestions on what will be needed. Summer and early fall will be the final two care baskets before we adopt a new family for Christmas 2009.



SUPER SENIOR—LORRAINE DIXON

“GLENN AND LORRAINE ATTENDED THE BUFFALO PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH ALL THE YEARS THAT THEY WERE MARRIED,”

Whenever we deacons get to visit our Seniors in their assisted living homes, we need to set aside more time than we anticipate. Each visit brings us interesting conversations and information about our church friends. I always leave, hoping to come back sooner than our scheduled visits, and marvel at the long and productive lives these people have contributed to each of us, in one form or another. Health issues and/or other circumstances have brought them to this chapter of their lives, and each one loves to have visitors and a chance to talk about the past and to keep up with their friends and acquaintances from the Presbyterian Church.

A very special Senior I look forward to visiting is Lorraine Dixon. She has such a lovely, welcoming room in a corner apartment at the Lake Ridge Manor. She keeps several plants and often one is in bloom. The curtains, pictures, mementos from home, and her

familiar furnishings make her room especially homey and welcoming. But more often than not, Lorraine is not in her room. She seems to be a very active senior and participates in the group activities much of the time.

Lorraine and her husband, Glenn, lived on a farm near Rockford Township a few miles from Buffalo. They had been married for 57 years before he died in 2000. On their farm there was a big garage which was quite often cleared out for big gatherings and parties. Our church picnics were held there for several years providing an opportunity to see all of Glenn's tools, machines and gasoline engines that he collected and kept in that garage. A favorite was an engine with a steam whistle, which was a hit for most people as they were paraded down the streets of the towns around this area.

Glenn and Lorraine attended the Buffalo Presbyterian

Church all the years that they were married, although they and their children never officially joined the church. They raised their two daughters, Linda and Cathy, and participated in all the activities the church offered them. The church picture albums show Lorraine at the retreats and family gatherings during the summer outings. Linda and Jerry Flynn now live on a small farm outside of Buffalo and have three children, Corey, Carrie and Kelly. The granddaughters live nearby and often brought their grandma to church with them. Cathy, who works at the Wells Fargo Bank, and her husband, Herman Ernst, are able to be with their mother quite often and bring her back to the farm house often.

When Lorraine was growing up, she lived on a farm with her sister and four brothers. Each had nicknames. Lorraine was known as Sissy, her sister, Toots, and her brothers, Soup,



SUPER SENIOR LORRAINE DIXON, CONTINUED

Dutch, Arnie and Clem. They were a tight knit family and all lived together on the farm, going to school in Delano. During the war years, she had to quit school and earn money for her family. In 1943 she and Glen were married and they continued farming and raising their family on the same farm.

Today, Lorraine is the only one left of her generation and her only grandson, Corey Flynn, now lives on the family farm along with his bride and two stepdaughters. Another generation continues the farming tradition. Lorraine has three grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

Many happy memories of friends,

fun times and fellowship fill her mind now as she looks back. She was always treated so well by people from the church and thought it was very sad to see the old church torn down that used to be a landmark in the middle of Buffalo. She is thankful that the organ was saved and that the church windows in the sanctuary and the Heritage Room were preserved. They keep her memory of the old family church alive, and she looks forward to the new bell tower when it is built. She remembers especially the ministers, Carrie Carlson, and Rev. Sorenson, and the special friendships of

Glen and Audrey Moon, along with many other friends throughout the years.

Lorraine says she finds something to enjoy each day but wishes that she still had two good eyes, two good ears and one good knee. She puts up with the "rust" in these golden years and is thankful for the memories and the friendships of all her friends from this church family. We thank her for her loyalty and support for this church over all the years and for her beautiful, welcoming smile whenever we get the privilege of visiting once again.

"MANY HAPPY MEMORIES OF FRIENDS, FUN TIMES AND FELLOWSHIP FILL HER MIND NOW AS SHE LOOKS BACK...SHE IS THANKFUL THAT THE ORGAN WAS SAVED AND THAT THE CHURCH WINDOWS IN THE SANCTUARY AND THE HERITAGE ROOM WERE PRESERVED. THEY KEEP HER MEMORY OF THE OLD FAMILY CHURCH ALIVE."

OUR EASTER OUTLOOK

During World War II, when the Blitz was at its worst in London, theologian Leslie Weatherhead said there had been no loss of life among the Christians there. Many Christians had been killed in London, but there was no

loss of life. People who believe in the risen Lord have true life in him, no matter their earthly trials and circumstances. Because God raised his Son from the dead, Christians are assured of immortality in Christ. Eternal life is ours,

thanks to the empty tomb.

For people who believe in an ever-living Lord, every Sunday is resurrection Sunday.



Searching for a New Pastor



PNC UPDATE

We remain committed to the task of finding a new pastor for our church, and we are still meeting weekly. Our group is working well together and we have enjoyed interesting, respectful and sometimes intense discussions.

Last month we interviewed 3 candidates by phone. After those interviews, we are continuing the process with two of them.

However, as we travel down that road, we are continually evaluating new candidates. To date, we have reviewed more than 100 personal information forms (PIFs). We keep adding new pastors to our "active list." We are setting up another phone interview with another candidate. And we are also reviewing all the PIFs one more time to make sure we haven't missed some-

one that God has brought to us. We are staying with the task you've entrusted to us. We are persevering.

Please continue to pray for us to listen and hear where God wants to lead us. Pray we continue to depend on and trust the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

WATCH FOR
INFO ABOUT THE
YOUTH'S MISSION
TRIP FUND
RAISER AT
APPLEBEE'S IN
APRIL!

BUCKLE ON THE STRAPS

A cowboy once offered this sensible notion of living the Christian faith: "Lotsa folks who'd like to do right think that servin' the Lord just means shoutin' themselves hoarse praisin' his name.

"Well, I'll tell ya how I look at that. I'm

working here fer Jim. Now, if I'd sit around the house here tellin' what a good fella Jim is, and singin' songs to him, and gettin' up in the night to serenade him, I'd be doin' just like a lot of Christians do. But I wouldn't suit Jim, and I'd get fired mighty quick.

But when I buckle on my straps and hustle among the hills and see that Jim's herd is all right and not sufferin' fer water and feed, or bein' off the range and branded by cattle thieves, well then, I'm servin' Jim the way he wants to be served."

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Please pray for our church family during this Lenten season. Pray that each of us will seek God's will for our lives during this

time. Pray for God's continued guidance for our church and for our youth as they begin preparations for the summer mission

trip. Remember, also, to thank God for the many ways in which God richly blesses us.



CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

March and April church family celebrations

Birthdays

March 4th Judy Spike
 March 5th Katherine Spike
 March 10th Irene Painschab
 March 15th Kayla Arns
 March 16th Bart Andersen
 March 20th Doris Persian
 March 27th Pat Quady
 March 28th Norm Arns
 March 29th Pam VanderSluis
 March 31st Henry Kieft
 April 1st Jerry Aldrich
 April 2nd Ellen Point
 April 3rd Tammy Aldrich
 April 5th Tootie Reese
 April 6th Libby Quatier
 April 8th Ryan Minkoff
 April 10th Pat Olsen
 April 17th Virginia Johnson

April 19th Alex Gatzke
 Holly Minke
 April 20th Brad Quatier
 April 26th Charles Aldrich
 Julie Long
 Stan Held

Anniversaries

March 18th Stan & Virginia Johnson
 April 22nd Julie and Bryan Long
 April 28th Judy & Kurt Spike



The BPC Church family extends its sympathy to Lavina and Larry Pattee in the death of Lavina's sister, Nancy, on Sunday, February 22nd, in Las Vegas, Nevada.

TO MEET THE NEEDS OF OUR CONGREGATION, WE ARE NOW OFFERING GLUTEN-FREE COMMUNION WAFERS. PLEASE LET THE SERVERS KNOW IF YOU NEED ONE.

MARCH/APRIL ROTATIONS

Lay Leader

March 1 Stan Johnson
 March 8 Brandon Aldrich
 March 15 Dolores Pensky
 March 22 Pat Olsen
 March 29 Chuck Klaassen
 April 5 Mike Quady
 April 12 Nancy Grittmann
 April 19 Joel Aldrich
 April 26 Jerry Aldrich

Greeters

March 1
 March 8 Jerry & Marlene Aldrich
 March 15 Joel & Tammy Aldrich
 March 22 Kurt & Deanne Andersen
 March 29 Rick & Deb Anderson
 April 5 Norm & Debra Arns
 April 12 Doug & Jodi Block
 April 19 Jim & Lisa Cooper
 April 26 Dave & Jill Gatzke

Resident Pick-up

March 1, 15, 29, April 12, 26
 Dick Jensen

March 8, 22, April 5, 19
 Marlene Aldrich





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 ENRICH 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 COMMANDMENTS TO LOVE AND WORSHIP GOD, LOVE AND CARE FOR OUR NEIGHBORS, AND MAKE NEW DISCIPLES IN OUR COMMUNITY AND THE WORLD.

THE NEW TIMES

MARCH/APRIL 2009

Newsletter submissions are due by Friday, April 17th for the May issue.

Julia Carlson,
Interim Pastor

Scott Dobovsky,
Youth Director

Marcy Bodin,
Office Manager

Holly Minke,
Newsletter Editor, Youth
Administrator

LENTEN AND HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Soup Suppers

Wednesdays, March 4, 11, 18, 25, April 1, at 6:15 p.m.
followed by a Lenten study on Prayer

Palm Sunday, April 5

10:30 a.m. Worship featuring special music

Maundy Thursday Worship Drama with Spirit of Joy

Thursday, April 9, at 7:00 p.m. at BPC

Good Friday Community Service

Friday, April 10, at Noon at Assemblies of God Church

Spirit of Joy Good Friday Service

Friday, April 10, at 7:00 p.m. at BPC

Easter, April 12

10:30 a.m. Worship featuring special music

