

News From The Pews

News of the First Presbyterian Church

March 2011

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UPCOMING WORSHIP/EVENTS

March 6, 2011 – Communion Sunday

Worship Theme: “A Touch of Wonder”

Scriptures: Exodus 24: 12-18; 2 Peter 1: 16-2;

Matthew 17: 1-9

Rev. Bob Garrard

March 9, 2011 – Ash Wednesday

Communion by intinction will be served and ashes for anointing provided.

Worship Theme: “Time to Get Right With God”

Scriptures: Isaiah 58: 1-12; Psalm 51: 1-17 (as litany);

2 Corinthians 5: 20b – 6:10; Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-21

Rev. Bob Garrard

March 13, 2011 – Youth Sunday

March 20, 2011

Worship Theme: “Born From Above”

Scriptures: Genesis 12: 1-4a; Romans 4: 1-5, 13-17;

John 3: 1-17

Rev. Bob Garrard

March 27, 2011

Mission Speaker, Jonathan Partee, will speak at both services and present during Sunday School

Worship Theme: “Who Is My Neighbor?”

Scriptures: Luke 10: 25-37; Deuteronomy 6: 1-9

It's Happening Right Here!

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Daylight Saving Time begins
Sunday, March 13th

Youth Bake Sale
Sunday, March 13, 2011
Between and After Both Services
Please help support the Youth Mission Trip
to Tennessee in June 2011. Thanks!

Join Us for our
Ash Wednesday Service
March 9th at 7:00 pm.
Communion by Intinction

FROM THE



Pastor

This year, March is our World Mission month. We will begin to share information on One Great Hour of Sharing and begin to receive this special offering through Palm Sunday. Greta Morrow has written a wonderful newsletter article (page 8) on this mission work.

Norm Soden and Tom Muhlbach will have returned from their mission trip with Living Waters in Nicaragua and we hope to hear from them about their experience.

Sunday, March 27: We will be privileged to have Jonathan Partee from the Pittsburgh area to speak on a mission in Ethiopia. Ethiopia is one mission area we particularly support as a congregation. Jonathan is a scientist at the Research Faculty, Penn State University Electro-Optics Center, Freeport, Pa. He often takes mission trips to Ethiopia with his family. He is currently working with an Ethiopian liberal arts college, Hope University College. He will tell us more about this during Sunday school time at 9:15 am on March 27. Jonathan's father, the Rev. Dr. Charles Partee is the P.C. Rossin Professor Emeritus at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. Jonathan and his father are presenting a course on Science, Religion and Theology at the seminary during March and April. Jonathan's maternal grandfather was Rev. Don McClure, a very feisty and dedicated Presbyterian missionary to Ethiopia who was killed there by communists. Don McClure's inspiring presentations at my home church and at missionary conferences I attended, greatly influenced me to become a Presbyterian minister. Ironically, Jonathan now lives on the same road I did when growing up. Jonathan will preach at both services as well as present on missions in Ethiopia during the Sunday school time in the sanctuary.

Jonathan and his wife Sara's story of their mission work in Ethiopia: "Following God's call, we lived and worked in Ethiopia from September, 1998 until October, 2000 with brief visits to Ethiopia in 2001 and 2003. Jonathan was teaching Physics at Addis Ababa University and Sara was teaching at the Evangelical Theological College. We also ministered to the college-age students of the International Evangelical Church. Furthermore, we had many non-traditional ministries which defy placement into traditional categories. While we went to Ethiopia to teach about Christ, we also stared down enraged bulls, faced men with spears, dodged pickpockets, and traveled within spitting distance of the Sudan, Kenya, Eritrea and Somalia. There is never a dull moment in Eastern Africa. Right now we have returned to America and are working in Pittsburgh, PA. We are praying to ascertain God's will about returning to His work on the mission field."

New Member Class: It is not too late to join us on Sunday, March 6 and 13, from 2-4 p.m. in the church library for the new member class.

Information Table in the Parlor: This table is set aside for our own church information. Please check with the church office before placing anything on the table. Thanks.

Peace, Bob Garrard

CHURCH WELCOMES MORE NEW MEMBERS!

First Presbyterian has been blessed to receive ten new members thus far this year. On January 23, Elder Marilyn Ham, on behalf of the Session, presented nine young people who joined by reaffirmation of baptismal covenant. Those joining included Julia Hayes-Siltzer, Sarah Carver, Ryan Cook, Seth Haack, Rachel Sato, Jazmene Lane, Justice Lane, Michael Boyce and Matthew Blaney. They were joyfully welcomed in the name of Jesus Christ and each one was presented with a Bible.

Another young person, Bonnie Saville, also recently joined our congregation, by letter of transfer from her church in Cody, Wyoming. Bonnie is a student at Central High School and moved to Cheyenne last year. She lists First Presbyterian's organ and chimes, sanctuary and architecture as among her reasons for being attracted to our church, and also notes her interest in the activities presented by the church. A warm welcome to all these young people who have chosen to become members of First Presbyterian.

The Spiritual Vitality of People

By Diana Hartman

What does it take to make people feel welcome, for people to be developed as genuine disciples of Jesus and sent into the world as God's messengers, and for ministry to be geared to the people outside the church as well as those inside it? This is the third article in a series that is looking at the *Twelve Dynamic Shifts for Transforming Your Church* by E. Stanley Ott. In this article I will discuss those shifts that are concerned with ministry to people. As is revealed in the opening question, hospitality, discipleship and outreach are three measures of the spiritual vitality of people that we will be looking at.

The shift from friendliness to a ministry of friendliness and hospitality. Most churches claim to be friendly. The transformational church seeks to offer the gifts of both friendliness and hospitality to all persons. Friendliness is being warm, sociable and pleasant. When we meet someone we know we may ask "How are you and the family?" "It's nice to see you." "How's the cat?" "Great to see you." That's friendliness. People and congregations are generally friendly.

Hospitality is somewhat different. Hospitality is an invitation to another to become a part of your life. Practicing hospitality might mean inviting someone over to my house, to attend an event with me, or to join me for a cup of coffee. In church ministry it means that we have to include new people not only in the programs of the church but also in our own personal lives. In his book Ott gives an example: A woman in the church approached him and explained that there were four couples in her church that every year spent a week together in Colorado skiing. She said that they were a tight knit group. Then she asked if they should include a new couple in their church on the ski week. Ott replied that if they wanted the couple to remain active in the church they would have to find a way to involve them in their personal web of friendships. They did not extend the invitation. Six months later the new couple had left the church. The transformational church finds ways to be both friendly and hospitable.

The shift from assuming discipleship to developing discipleship. Churches will often assume that its members are devout disciples. The transformational church intentionally and lovingly develops discipleship in its members. Maturing in faith does not happen without some effort being made to provide places and practices that develop discipleship. Ott writes that "when we assume that everyone's faith is mature, then the fellowship groups in the congregation can become little more than social groups." The Pleasant Hills Church where Ott was pastor found it helpful to have a written profile of discipleship. They called it "The Seven Habits of the Burning Heart." The title refers to the seal of John Calvin, which portrays a hand holding a heart that is on fire. The words around the edge, translated into English, read "My heart I give to you, O Lord, eagerly and sincerely." The Seven Habits of the Burning Heart are as follows: 1) The habit of growing in relationship to Christ through worship and the devotional life 2) The habit of well-being—seeking physical, emotional and spiritual health 3) The habit of building family and friendships 4) The habit of fellowship—time spent with other Christians and the small group 5) The habit of stewardship—managing one's money, sexuality, power, time, and speech. 6) The habit of ministry and mission—nurturing other people in well-being and discipleship. 7) The habit of work—offering my work to God. Putting to use the many excellent resource materials available, participating in small groups and the deliberate practice of spiritual disciplines are some tools that can be used to develop discipleship but it is the work of God's Spirit among us that forms Christ within us. And so we pray that God will grow our congregation into a family of vital, loving disciples of Jesus Christ and we make plans with this vision in mind.

Shift from a primary emphasis on the communal life of the church to a balanced emphasis on the communal and missional life of the church. The third and final shift in the area of ministry to people looks at the emphasis that the congregation puts on the gathered state and the scattered state of the church. The

gathered state emphasizes programs and meetings usually held in the church building and geared toward the church participants. The scattered state has to do with the church participants at home, in the community and workplace, our primary places of activity. A typical church member spends about five percent of their time in the church. The transformational church gathers to study the apostles' teachings and share in fellowship, breaking of bread, and prayers (Acts 2:42) and to equip its members to scatter into their worlds as representatives of Jesus Christ.

One practical means of addressing both the communal and missional aspects of ministry is the use of the ministry cycle "Reach – Grow – Send." Most of our ministry groups can use this pattern to be both communal and missional. We "reach" people as we welcome those with a minimal level of Christian experience into our fellowship and introduce them to faith in Christ through a variety of fun, interesting, yet spiritually compelling activities. In order for the "reach" stage to be successful we must carefully consider the needs of the people we wish to reach and then organize accordingly. In the "grow" stage, we help one another grow in personal discipleship through teaching and encouraging in a wide variety of the aspects of Christian faith and practice through classes, small groups, and mentoring. Finally, we are sent equipped and eager, in all humility, by God, to engage in ministry and leadership in our homes, workplaces, and community.

Women of First Presbyterian Church

Submitted by Kay Barnes



Ways You Can Help Our Church Mission Projects

A group has been formed to stitch and bead new Chrismons (Christ symbol ornaments) for our church tree. We would love to have any donations you could make of the following - **note that for this project all items must be white, ivory, gold or cream in color**: thread for sewing or stitching, cord for edging, beads of various sizes, fabric suitable for cross stitch, thin beading wire, fishing line, small round gold frames for mounting stitching, lace, foam board pieces (at least 6"x6"), etc. - anything we could use in making these ornaments or finishing them. A box for your donations will be on the long parlor table.

We can still use leftover yarn, cotton fabric or flannel (no pieces smaller than 6" square, please) for use in making afghans and quilts for the Linus Project, Alzheimer patients and Safehouse. Please contact Kay Barnes 778-7445 or Ann Lembke (634-4677) for where to leave these donations.

Your help and support is greatly appreciated! Thank You.



Upcoming Dates for Presbyterian Women

- The first Chrismon working session will be Saturday, March 12th at 10 a.m. in the Parlor.
- Stitch-by-Stitch Workshop dates are different for March and April. We'll meet March 26 and April 30 at 10 a.m. in the Parlor. Beginning in May we go back to the 3rd Saturday of every month for these stitching times.
- Women's Retreat March 18-19 at the church.
- Spring Gathering for all Presbyterian Women in Mountain View, Wyoming April 15-16. See article below.

Spring Gathering Is Coming Soon!

This year's gathering of Presbyterian Women will be held at First Presbyterian Church in Mountain View, Wyoming on Friday and Saturday, April 15 and 16. The theme of the meeting is "Walking With Jesus" - we will learn about projects women have been participating in across our presbytery and in the church in their walk with Jesus. The keynote speaker will be Marilyn Collins, our Churchwide Coordinating Team Representative at the synod level sharing stories of women from various ethnic groups she met in southern Sudan as they try to bring peace to their country. We'll also hear about the last General Assembly from Christina Kirschener and the PW USA Mission Experience with Native Americans in South Dakota from Gail Heimback. The two day meeting will include fellowship, worship, review of next year's Bible Study (on the Beatitudes), a hands-on mission project and learning about organizing and evaluating PW groups. A poster about the meeting, registration forms and a list of motels in that area are on the long table in the Parlor. If you have questions please contact Gail Heimback at 307-836-2293 or Freda Dixon at 307-742-0506.



**Take a Trip
Around the World!**

Calling All Women to Travel a Wonder Full World!

If you're a woman from ages 14 to 155, you're invited to the Wonder Full World retreat at our church on Friday and Saturday, March 18 and 19. Cost is just \$30 which includes two meals and all the supplies. Scholarships are available. The retreat will start Friday night with dinner at 6:00 p.m. ending by 8:30. Saturday morning opens at 9 a.m. and ends at 3:30. Wonder Full World takes you on a journey packed with friendship, God, and spiritual growth. We'll take a whirlwind tour of the seven continents where we'll experience meaningful Bible studies, explore the wonders of a woman's heart, and have time for both quiet reflection and laugh-out-loud fun!

Have excuses why you can't come? Think about the last time you gave yourself a real treat... when you were able to get to know other Christian women, find out more about what God has in store for you, learn more about your talents... and didn't have to do any hard work to prepare for it! Forget the excuses... jump at this opportunity! This is a retreat you shouldn't miss. Bring your daughter, your mom, your sister, your friends... but come!

Many women have already come aboard to present you with these great two days... Libby Barnett, Melinda Brazzale, Louisa Brownstein, Mary Burby, Deanna Dyekman, Diana Hartman, Barb Lutz, Mary Lou McMIndes, Rachel Meeker, Teresa Moore, Belinda Smith and Becky Tish. Please join them.

Registration will be available between worship services... (just look for the posters), or contact Rev. Diana Hartman in the church office or Melinda Brazzale at mlbrazzale@gmail.com, 778-7009. Hope to see you on March 18 and 19!

SMALL GROUP MINISTRY

Small Group Ministry Team: Naomi Allen, Jean Marie Seitz, Rachel and Zack Meeker, Diana Hartman

The following Small Group Ministry Description has been approved and recommended to Session for approval by the Christian Education and New Life Ministry Teams. Please send your comments to Pastor Diana at firstpresap@qwestoffice.net or phone at 638-3345 or contact any team member.

PURPOSE STATEMENT:

The purpose of Small Group Ministry is to be a positive catalyst encouraging all members to build Christian relationships through prayer, study, fellowship and mission that will enrich spiritual depth, build a unified faith community and empower us to share the gospel with the world, as we grow in number and in Christ's love.

GOALS:

1. Study—to learn more about Christian faith, life, and service.
2. Self-understanding—to discover greater insights and understanding of ourselves (e.g., feelings, potentials, and gifts)
3. Support—to increase our experience of close personal relationships in which we share the joys and obstacles of daily life.
4. Mission—to develop confidence to express our faith and share God's love in service to those beyond our congregation
5. Experience of God—to enable us to gain a greater understanding and presence of God.
6. Leadership—expand and grow the number of leaders actively involved in the ministries

The Qualities of a Small Group Leader:

- The effective small group leader:
- Is open to others and willing to share self
- Accepts others; is nonjudgmental
- Is willing and able to take initiative
- Is a good listener
- Is a growing person
- Is warm and supportive
- Has confidence in groups
- Has a healthy commitment to Jesus Christ
- Is committed to the church
- Is diplomatic

We recognize that no one person is likely to have all of these qualities but it is imperative that a leader has healthy, effective interpersonal relationships. If you are interested in being a small group leader or would like to suggest some else, please contact one of the team leaders listed above. We will be holding the Leadership Enrichment Program for potential small group leaders on Saturdays April 2, 9, and 30. We will not ask for a commitment to lead a small group until after you have finished the three session course. Our goal is to begin at least 10 small groups in September 2011. Please keep this ministry in your prayers.



**HYSTERICAL
HISTORICAL
ARCHIVES**

Submitted by Peggy Williams

This information was printed in a Lenten brochure for our church in 1965.

Suggestions for Lent

Be present as far as possible at every service of the church. The benefit will be to others as well as to yourself.

Read the scriptures regularly and meditate upon what you read. Do not regard the Bible as a Book of the past.

Pray until prayer becomes a habit, turning to God at all times as naturally as the flowers turn to the sun.

Let self-examination be a daily duty. It is not a question of where you stand, but whither you are moving.

Make your Lent **positive**. Undertake some practical work for good; and carry it through.

Don't forget to put your pennies in the Pennies for Stained Glass jar toward the rear of the sanctuary. We aren't able to empty the Penny Jar very often but when we do, we usually find \$100.00 or so. We need to continue saving our pennies as this fund goes toward any maintenance or cleaning needed on our beautiful windows. Try putting your age in pennies every year on your birthday.

If you are interested in serving on this committee or just helping with some of our projects, please contact any member of the committee.

Paula Qualls	638-8805	Glen Oslund	638-8884
Mel Qualls	638-8805	Peggy Williams	634-0147
Ralph DeWyke	632-8210		

Remember, It is important to know where we have come from as we journey forward making our own history.



IN THE LIBRARY - submitted by the Library Committee

In Mountain Laurel Kate Welsh gives us an inspirational story of the meeting between a Christian horse trainer and a non-Christian veterinarian and the difficulties they face as they grow steadily more involved with each other. [fiction WEL.MOU]

Lord, Make My Life Count by Raymond Ortlund is a special youth edition of his book Lord, Make My Life A Miracle. This book will help you find the excitement and challenge of being a Christian and grow in your discipleship. Ortlund covers three important commitments of life – commitment to Christ, commitment to the body of believers, and commitment to your work and witness in the world. [245.4 ORT.LOR]

Divorce and remarriage are looked at through both the Bible and case studies of real people in Remarriage: A Healing Gift from God by Larry Richards. Richards discusses relationships with other church members and those outside the church after divorce and shows how remarriage may indeed bring the gift of healing and a new beginning for individuals involved in divorce. [248.4 RIC.REM]

PER CAPITA INFORMATION

Per capita for our church for the year 2011 is \$39.25. You have seen this amount listed frequently in our bulletins and in our newsletters. But many have been asking what does this mean?

The per capita amount is what our church pays per member to the Wyoming Presbytery. Since this amount is paid directly out of our budget, many members choose to pay this amount in addition to their pledge or non-pledge giving.

Below is more detailed information regarding per capita as noted on the PC (USA) website:

Frequently asked questions

What is per capita?

The official definition: "Per capita is an opportunity for all communicant members of the Presbyterian church through the governing bodies to participate equally, responsibly, and interdependently by sharing the cost of coordination and evaluation of mission; and of performing ecclesiastical, legislative, and judicial functions that identify a Reformed Church, while at the same time strengthening the sense of community among all Presbyterians" (GA Minutes, Part I, 1995).

In essence: Per capita is a set amount of money (apportionment) per member that congregations pay to the larger Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Said another way, it is a Presbyterian Covenant Community Fund — part of the glue that holds Presbyterians together. Because every Presbyterian shares in the benefit of the PC(USA)'s system of government, the expenses associated with coordinating and performing the functions of that system should be shared by everyone as well.

Who pays per capita, and how much?

Congregations (through their sessions) pay an annual amount of money per church member — per capita apportionment — to their respective presbyteries. The per capita amount requested from a congregation is a combined total of requests from that congregation's presbytery, the synod in which the presbytery is located and the General Assembly — based on their respective budgets for the coming year(s).



2012 Member Giving Envelopes to Receive Changes

In an effort to reduce costs, the Finance Ministry will be reducing the number of giving envelopes ordered for use in 2012. For the past few years, 575 boxes of giving envelopes have been ordered for our members to use. Many of these envelope boxes sit on the shelf unclaimed only to be destroyed at the end of the year.

By reducing the order by the number of boxes that are not used, we can reduce our cost by at least 40%. In doing so, we will have to assign new envelope numbers to our faithful givers. The Finance Ministry and session feel that the potential savings of at least \$600 makes this change worthwhile.

We thank you for your understanding and ask that you contact Ken Sherman, Finance Ministry chairperson, or any other Finance Ministry member if you have any questions.

One Great Hour of Sharing Campaign

March 20 – April 17

-Greta Morrow, Mission Ministry



Luke 1:79 instructs us to “give light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death.” That’s exactly what we are called to focus on during our annual One Great Hour of Sharing campaign, which begins March 20. Our donations will help Presbyterian Church USA make a difference in the lives of those who struggle here in the United States and all over the world.

Imagine the good that comes when the people of Detroit can use vacant lots to grow fresh vegetables, which have become increasingly hard to find since the recession devastated the city. Think about the people of Haiti and how we helped them last year when they were rebuilding following the tragic earthquake. Now it’s time to rebuild hospitals and make sure farmers continue to have the tools needed for farming. These are examples of how our donations will be used.

Of course, hard times know no national boundaries. Donations from Presbyterians across the country will go where they are needed. In the past, we have helped establish after-school programs in Mozambique; drill water wells in Kenya; help flood victims in Cedar Rapids, Iowa; grow gardens in Youngstown, Iowa; teach sustainable farming in Guatemala; work against indentured servitude in Pakistan; bring assistance to refugees in Chad, and help with a vast array of other projects, all clearly illustrating the Presbyterian Church (USA) focus on “giving light” to those who struggle.

Feel free to use one of the special offering envelopes in the pews or the One Great Hour of Sharing offering envelope in your offering box. Please also write “One Great Hour of Sharing” in the memo line on your check. We would appreciate your prayerful consideration of this offering!

It's Remarkable What Your Gift Will Do.

It's Remarkable What Your Gift Will Do.

**Ash
WEDNESDAY
SERVICE**

March 9, 2011



Deacon's Beacons

Submitted by Jane Nelson

Thank you for being my Great Physician and for never being too busy to attend to my needs or wounds. Guide me in joyfully dispensing to others the good medicine you pour out to me. - Cheryl Fuller

We bring before you, O Lord, the troubles and perils of people and nations; the sighing of prisoners and captives, the sorrows of the bereaved, the necessities of strangers, the helplessness of the weak, the fading years of the aged. O Lord, draw near to each; for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. - Anselm (11th Century)

These are loved ones for whom we pray, O Lord, and the prayers are even now being whispered before the throne of grace. We ask for Thy help without hesitation, knowing Thou art disposed to give even before we ask. - Peter Marshall

Pray for these loved ones:

Stacy "Skoumal" Adams	Virginia Donaldson	Roshni Joseph	Paula Qualls
Meryl Adams	Robert Drummond	Rev. Tom Kittleman	Aaron Rebout
Loretta Adsit	Pat Fairbanks	Jim Kleine	Midge Reed
Lil Barbour	Adam George	Dr. Robert Lanier	Rev. Skip Reeves
Richard Beauchamp	Bob Goss	Mary Jane Larson	Douglas Rice
John Bishop	Joan Gray	Bob McGuire	Doris Rogers
Betty Brown	Karen Grover	Paul Murdoch	Patti Sandison
Del Brown	Jim Hamil	Carla Nolen	Camille Silver
Jay Brown	Marydee Hartsook	Alice Norfleet	Lana, Leann Smith & Ken Smith
R.J. Brown	Jeanie Hazels	Kari Pace-Murdoch	Austin Strietmatter
Dennis Butler	Charlie Heinritz	Kim Olson	Thyra Thomson
Bonnie Carley	Marjorie Hoflund	Jennifer O'Neill	John Townsend
Caroline Carver	Marv Hoflund	Glen Oslund	Javen Westby
Eric Case	Bob and Karen Hruby	Virgil Payne	Margy Will
James Chaney	Michelle Ivester	Robin Peterson	Harry Williams
Richard Chatfield	Marcy Jacobsen	Sherry Popham	B.J. Wise
Gary Child	Margret Jones	Bertie Price	
Scott Coulson			

- If anyone listed on the above list needs to be removed, please let the church office know. -

The blessing of the Lord rest and remain upon all His people, in every land, in every tongue; the Lord meet in mercy all that seek Him; the Lord comfort all who suffer and mourn; the Lord hasten His coming and give us the blessing of peace. - Handley Moule

Before me, even as behind, God is, and all is well. - John Greenleaf Whittier

Lord, comfort our loved ones:
 Becky Dougherty - Loss of Father
 Bob Garrard - Loss of Father
 John Rinehart - Loss of Mother
 Gwen Vines - Loss of Mother





Adult Christian Education Series

The Christian Education Ministry continues the series on the New Testament: "The Making of the New Testament Canon" at 9:15 a.m. in the stage room. Each session consists of a 30-minute lecture on DVD followed by class discussion for the remainder of the hour. The remaining sessions are:

- March 6 - The Other Gospels
- March 13 - Apocalypticism and the Apocalypse of John
- March 20 - The Copyists Who Gave Us Scripture
- March 27 - (Mission Speaker - No Sunday School)
- April 3 - Authority in the Early Church
- April 10 - The Importance of Interpretation
- April 17 - When Did the Canon Get Finalized?



Children's Ministry

Importance of Family Time . . .

Karen, who is nine years old, comes home to find her dinner placed on the table alone. Everyone else is too busy to sit with her, so she eats alone. Karen grows to dread dinner time at home, because it is so lonely.

Annie, who is also nine years old, comes home to find everyone sitting around the dinner table waiting for her. She sits down and enjoys a lovely dinner and conversation with her family. They discuss what happened throughout their day, how school was that day, and how well she did on her math test. Annie loves dinner time because she feels that her family cares about her and what she has done throughout the day.

Having a family time can make such a difference in a child's life. Children need to be loved, and feel like they are important. God teaches us in the Bible that Children are a gift. Proverbs 127:3-5 says "Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb is a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, so are the children of one's youth. Happy is the man who has his quiver full of them; they shall not be ashamed, but shall speak with their enemies in the gate."

Having a time allotted for family discussion and activities is a wonderful bonding experience. Family time also encourages open communication and discussion. Although different things are taking place in all of our lives, the things that may not seem important to us, may be important to someone else. When you engage in family time you have a chance to learn what it is that is truly important to your family. It also gives you an opportunity to become a closer knit family by encouraging each other when things get a little tough, and praising each other for a job well done. The difference between Karen and Annie is that Karen feels that her family is too busy to care, and Annie knows that her family cares because she sees it daily. Even though, Karen's family may love her very much, and care deeply for what is happening in



her life, she doesn't see it.

Family time does not have to be a family dinner every night; it can also be a family game night, or a family quiet time together. You can get as creative as you like, maybe you want to gather in the sitting room with the television off and have a nice family conversation about the events from everyone's day. Whatever your choice may be, rest assured that it will make a big difference in the closeness of your family, and will in turn make your family stronger.

Upcoming Events-

March 2nd – 12:00 pm. – 5:00pm Fun Day (lunch provided)

April 10th – 11:30 am –Passing on the Faith

April 22nd - 12:00 pm. – 5:00pm Fun Day (lunch provided)

April 24th - No Sunday School

With God's Grace

Ashley Braisted, Children's Ministry Director



Youth Ministry

Youth Sunday is coming! Are you ready? Join us on Sunday, March 13th, for a service put on entirely by the youth of our church. The youth will be leading worship during both services (in case you forget to change your clock and miss the first service). The topic for Youth Sunday is temptation and forgiveness. While you are at church, please support our fundraising bake sale for the youth mission trip to the Appalachian Mountains of Tennessee (June 19 – 24). We look forward to seeing you in worship.

One of the many highlights of February was the youth's Mystery Menu/Greasy Spoon dinner. Also, our *Cast of Characters* book study was moved from Thursday evenings to Wednesday after school.

Here's a look at the plans for March:

March 3 – 7 Heather is in Chicago for a conference

12 – Last practice for Youth Sunday

13 – Youth Sunday (Remember to change your clocks!)

18 – 20 Women's Retreat (Women ages 14+ are invited)



As always, all (7th – 12th grade) youth are invited to our many events every week: Sunday School (9:15 – 10:15), Youth Group (Sundays 6:30 – 8), Junior High Only (Wednesdays 6:30 – 8), and *Cast of Characters* Book Study (Wednesdays 3 – 4:30).

~Heather