



The Richwood Reporter

Richwood United Methodist Church
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February, 2012

PASTORAL PERSPECTIVE

The holy season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 22nd. Lent, a 40-day period of preparation for Easter, is one of the oldest traditions in the Christian faith. How does one prepare for Easter? The Lenten tradition suggests we use the spiritual disciplines of prayer, meditation, fasting, Bible study, devotions, and giving alms. It is also common for Christians to “give up” or “take on” a particular practice during Lent. For example, some people give up a favorite food or habit as a form of fasting or self-denial, in order to remind oneself of the sacrifice of Christ. Some people take on a habit of extra Bible study or extra giving to draw oneself closer to God. John Wesley called these disciplines “acts of piety” and “acts of mercy.”

I urge all Christians to consider individual spiritual practices during this holy season. In addition, our church will offer many special opportunities for spiritual growth during Lent, including: Ash Wednesday Imposition of Ashes; Lenten devotionals; Wednesday morning and Thursday evening Bible studies; Confirmation classes; and Holy Week Worship Services.

The more we invest in our spiritual growth during the Lenten season, the more meaningful Easter will be to us.
Pastor Herman

LENT ACTIVITIES

Shrove Tuesday

A pancake and sausage supper will be served at the Hall on Tuesday, February 21st, from 5:00 – 7:00



p.m. There is no charge for the meal, but donations will be accepted.

Anyone willing to help prepare and serve the meal should see the pastor.

Ash Wednesday Service

We will hold an Ash Wednesday Service on February 22nd to mark the beginning of Lent. The service will be in the sanctuary from 6:30 – 7:00 p.m. and everyone is welcome.

Confirmation

This is an important spiritual milestone, providing teens and pre-teens with an opportunity to affirm the faith into which they were baptized. If your child is in 7th or 8th grade or has never been confirmed, please see the pastor for details. Confirmation classes will be held at 7:00 p.m. on six Wednesdays, starting February 22nd and ending with dinner out on April 4th. Confirmation will be on Easter Sunday, April 8th.

Bible Studies

Thursday night Bible studies will be held for six weeks during Lent starting on February 23rd. The group will meet in the Conference Room from 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. They will be studying a different Old Testament character each week. Anyone interested is welcome to attend.

ODD FELLOWS SPAGHETTI DINNER

The Odd Fellows are holding their annual Spaghetti Dinner on Friday, February 3rd, from 4:00 – 7:00 p.m. at our Fellowship Hall. Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$5 for children (ages 12 and under). Take-outs will be available. See any member of the Odd Fellows or get your tickets at the Candy Box. Proceeds benefit many local charities.

MYF NEWS

Ski Retreat

The annual Ski Retreat has been scheduled for February 2nd – 4th. Plans are to stay again at the Quality Inn in the Poconos and ski at Shawnee Mountain. Lodging, meals and skiing are included in our package. Please pray for good weather, safety on the roads and slopes, and a great time for all who go.

Souper Bowl of Caring

As we enjoy the Super Bowl on February 5th, let us be mindful of those without even a bowl of soup to eat. From that prayer of one youth group over 20 years ago, the Souper Bowl of Caring has become a movement that is transforming Super Bowl weekend into the nation's largest youth-led weekend of giving and serving. Last year, almost \$10 million in cash and food was collected for charities in local communities across the country. On February 5th, the MYF will be collecting your donations of \$1 and/or a can of soup, which will all be delivered to Peter's Pantry.

Meeting this Month

The only Sunday night Bible study of the month will be held on February 12th from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. All those in grades 7 – 12 are welcome.

30-hour Famine

- ~ A child dies from hunger-related causes every 10 seconds.
- ~ More than 1 billion people go hungry every day.
- ~ The poor spend most of their money just trying not to starve.

How can you help? The MYF will again be participating in World Vision's 30-hour Famine. Our kids will be collecting money from sponsors (you) to help the world's poor and hungry. Just \$30 can help bring emergency food aid to a disaster zone, or give families the tools they need to feed themselves and banish hunger from their communities for good. World Vision finds lasting ways to improve lives by digging wells, providing clothing, delivering seeds and food, and responding to disasters.

Our Famine will be held from February 24th – 25th and our kids will be looking for sponsors until then.

MYFers will meet at the Hall on February 24th, at 6:00 p.m. for lessons and games. Then the group will go bowling. On Saturday, we will collect food for Peter's Pantry by going door to door in local neighborhoods. After delivering all the non-perishables, the kids will go on a scavenger hunt. A covered dish dinner (you are welcome to join us –

and bring the food!) has been scheduled for 6:00 p.m. in the Hall to "break the fast."

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

On Sunday, February 12th, the Sunday School children are invited to gather in the downstairs room at 10:00 a.m. to make a special Valentine craft. The children will be dismissed to their classes from there.

A group will go to the Ringling Brothers and Barnum and Bailey Circus at the Wells Fargo Center in Philadelphia on Saturday, February 25th to see the 3:00 p.m. show. Gillian Bruno is organizing this and will need to know how many tickets to order by February 12th. Cost will be \$15 per person and payment must be given to her by February 12th. Anyone interested is welcome to join them!



MOMS' COFFEE

All moms are invited to the home of Amy Reuter (232 Aura Road) on Friday, February 10th. Come around 8:45 a.m. for breakfast treats and conversation. Bring your children if they are not in school.

KNIT & CROCHET MINISTRY

This group continues to meet on the second Tuesday evening of each month, and the second and fourth Friday mornings of the month. Anyone who would like to learn to knit or crochet is welcome!

MEN'S BREAKFAST

All men are invited to go out to breakfast on Saturday, February 18th. Location will be announced later, but plan to gather at 8:00 a.m. for a great meal, a short devotional, and good conversation.

HOAGIE SALE

The church will hold a Hoagie Sale on Saturday, February 18th. Hoagie orders must be placed by the 12th, either by phone (call the church office at 589-0874) or at church. Hoagies should be picked up at the Hall on the 18th, between 9:30 – 11:00 a.m. Cost is \$6 each. Three types of hoagies are available: Italian, American or Turkey. If anyone is willing to help make the hoagies, you are invited to join the group making them at the Hall that morning around 7:30.

HOLY LAND TRIP

Is there any interest in a trip to the Holy Land in

January of 2013? Please inform the pastor if you would like to go and we can explore possibilities together. All-inclusive eight-day trips next January are only \$1,998!

LAY SPEAKER CLASS

A Lay Speaker is an active member of a local church who wants to serve and has received specific training to develop their skills. If anyone is interested in pursuing this by taking the Basic Lay Speaking Class, please visit www.gnjumc.org and click on Ordained Ministry, then Lay Speaking, then Basic Lay Speaker Class. Dates, location, registration and cost are all outlined there. Classes begin around the middle of February.

FAMILY NIGHT

February

Can you sing? dance? act? Share your talent with us all on Sunday, February 19th at our annual Talent Show. The covered dish dinner begins at 5:00 p.m. and the show will start at 6:00. Everyone is welcome to attend; don't miss this highlight of the year! Anyone interested in being on the program should sign up with Mildred Herman as soon as possible.



March

On March 20th, our Praise and Worship Team will present the program. The group will sing some old favorites and some new music.

April

A special treat is planned for April 15th. Someone from Joy Troop Children's Ministry will be with us for an exciting program geared toward children. Mark your calendar!

DISTRICT DAY OF LEARNING

On Saturday, March 3rd, the Pitman UMC will host the District Day of Learning from 8:30 – 3:00. Based on the theme "The Church's Gifts...Fruitbearing Ministries," attendees can choose from many workshops offered in the morning and afternoon sessions. Registration (which includes lunch) is \$10 before February 24th and \$15 after that date. This year child care will be available at no charge for those in Kindergarten through 6th grade.

AVERAGE ATTENDANCE

November, 2010	185
November, 2011	168

December, 2010	171
(Candlelight Services	255)
December, 2011	139

Minute for Mission

(Candlelight Services 250)
Thanks to all who donated to the various **clothing drives**. Their success reflects, once again, the generosity of

our congregation.

February is "**Food for the Needy**" month. In addition to the MYF's collections (Souper Bowl of Caring on February 5th and the 30-Hour Famine on February 24th – 25th), we will be taking our Third Annual Fun Food Shopping Trip with the older Sunday School class. Kids in 4th – 6th grade will be invited to participate; please keep an eye out for the permission slips. On the Sunday before the kids go shopping, the congregation will be invited to donate money for this trip. What's "fun food"? As one child put it, "Anything but canned peas and carrots" (Peter's Pantry gets a lot of that).

In March we will be assembling **Easter baskets** for Peter's Pantry.

We will be exploring a **mission trip** to North Jersey this summer to help victims devastated by Hurricane Irene. Youth are encouraged to come!

Note: Missions Committee meetings will be held now on the second Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m. Anyone who would like to help is invited to attend.

NURSERY SCHEDULE

The nursery schedule is as follows for the 10:00 service. If you have questions or need to switch with someone, please call Tasha Bowman at 694-1660.

Feb. 5 th	Rachel McManus, Serena Mason
Feb. 12 th	Kelly Clement, Matt Giaquinto
Feb. 19 th	Linda LoGrande, Kristy Fraser-Jones
Feb. 26 th	Tasha Bowman, Tally Lewis
Mar. 4 th	Jessica Guht, Serena Mason
Mar. 11 th	Rachel McManus, Allison Zanow
Mar. 18 th	Kelly Clement, Jackie Guht
Mar. 25 th	Tasha Bowman, Tally Lewis

FROM OUR FINANCIAL CHAIR

Thank you to everyone who has given so generously this year to enable us to end the year on a positive financial note!

	December	Year
Giving	\$41,565.	\$272,931.

Expenses	(\$29,474.)	(\$281,143.)
Coffee Room		\$9,810.*
Total	\$12,091.	\$1,598.

* The coffee room update expense was incurred this year but collected for in prior years.

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Below are the names and dates of our church family's birthdays and anniversaries for February a taken from the Birthday Calendar. Be sure your name is included by checking the calendar in the Narthex.

- 1st Jay Reed
Virginia Koenig
J.R. Powell
- 3rd Jim Bland
Doug Webb
- 4th Steven Herman
- 7th Zack Wyatt
- 8th Charlie Harris
Mike & Darlene Valente
- 9th Sarah Guinto
- 10th Natalie Geurds
- 11th Alanna Willmot
- 14th Briana Valente
Betty Hickcox
- 17th Jennifer Fox
- 18th Jack Stauffer
- 19th Kendra Russo
- 21st Kelly Clement
Nathaniel Valente
- 23rd Shannon & Victor Spiotto
- 24th Amy Reuter
Carla Reim
- 26th Samantha Human
Anthony Dawson
Nancy Guinto
- 27th John Klodnicki
Doris Reuter



KEEP IN PRAYER

Those living with cancer: Lois Zee's friends Megan and Ruth and Carol, Marianne's friend Ann, Jackie Markart, Dawson Nailor (the Valentess' friend), Jim Hirst, Gregg Ferguson's friend Donna, Allison Delaney's aunt Carol, Mark LoGrande's sister MaryAnn, Wendy DiSalvio and Brett Roysdon and Linda (Robin DeGirolamo's friends), Robert Doberstein, the Willmot's friend Victoria, Nikki Stefanucci, Bob Fisher, Joe Doyle, Nikole Tymusczuk, Amy Reuter's friend Ralph, Eugene Vanlith (Darryl Harper's friend), Bill Mauer, Nicole Christison (the Luttenberger's friend), Heather Hirst,

Virginia Koenig's friend Joanne, Dimitri Diekewicz, Jim Parker, Rob McNabb, Kaelyn Barret, Dave Sagers, Linda Simpkins, Ron Lovett, Mrs. Ziegenfuss (Kelly Clement's friend), Vessa Fulton.

Those fighting serious health problems: Sue Ledden's mother, Michael Vincent, Freida Bilewicz, Joe Russell, Clara Bell, Terry Johnson (Suzanne Aumack's friend), Kathy Hitchner's sister Pat, Dick Sowers, Jane Sparks, Donna McCullough, Lois Zee's cousin Irene, Angela Bishop, Virginia Koenig's cousin Linda, Kathy Hitchner's friend Sarah, Anna Brecht's parents, Kathy Lawrence's parents, Angela Gattuso, Pat and Walt Lochhead (Virginia Koenig's friends).

Others: the DeGirolamo's friend Daniel, Bunnie Powell's friend Sue, Terri Badger (Catie Ursino's friend), Stephanie and Barbara Giunta (Virginia Koenig's friends), Bill Moyer, Ed Haynicz, Judy Norris, Marjorie Byrne, J.R. Powell, Hannah Sirisky, Tammie Stile's friend Lisa, Kevin Booth (Betsy Fox's friend), Kyle Karn, Cameryn Shepherd, Brenda Baez, Dorothy Light, Melina Madara, Clayton Ball, Nate Valente, John and Henny Miller (Wendy Webb's parents), Virginia Koenig's stepmother Thelma, Riley McComb, Jennifer Guht's mother.

For requests to our Prayer Chain, call JoAnne (358-8197) or Eleanor (589-4214).

COMING EVENTS

Pot Pie Dinner: This popular event will be held on Saturday, March 17th, from 3:00 – 7:00 p.m. Lots of help will again be needed to feed the 400+ expected to attend.

Vacation Bible School will be held this summer from Sunday, July 15th through Thursday, July 19th. Mark your calendar now!

SUMMER CAMP

Delanco Camp is an inter-denominational Christian camp that aims to bring people into relationship with Jesus Christ and equip them to live holy lives. They have announced their schedule for 2012:

- Camp Meeting, July 1-7
- Junior Camp, July 8-14 (4th, 5th or 6th grade next fall)
- Junior High 1, July 22-28 (7th, 8th or 9th grade)
- Teen Camp, July 29-August 4 (10th, 11th or 12th grade)
- Junior High 2, August 5-11
- Middler Camp, August 12-18 (5th, 6th or 7th grade)

More information is available at their web site –
www.delanco.org.

We encourage all eligible kids to go to camp this summer! Scholarships of \$50 per person for students from our church will be available this year.

Delanco also asks for your prayers and financial support to keep the ministry going. Donations can be sent to Delanco Camp Financial Secretary, PO Box 597, Sicklerville, NJ 08081.