

Special points of interest:

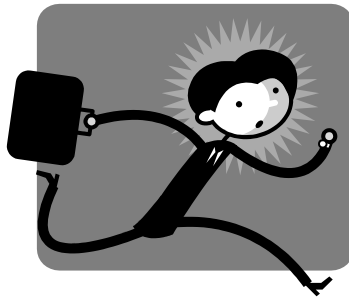
- Women's Retreat
- Christian Education
- Group Sale
- Women's Fellowship
- Game & Pizza Night

April 2008

Women's Retreat

If Only I Had More Time!

We say it all the time . . . so let's do something about it!



The Women's Retreat at Pilgrim Park Retreat Center April 25th - 27th.

We have schedule planners, computerized

Home Bible Class

The Home Bible Class will meet on Thursday, April 10th at 1:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.

The study will be from our study guide "Above and Beyond."

calendars, and self-stick notes to help us organize our business and social lives every day. But what about organizing the other side of our lives, the Spiritual side?

Using Gordon MacDonald's book *Ordering your Private World* (provided with retreat) *we will spend time reflecting on ways to prioritize our own life to find deeper meaning and a closer walk with God.*

Lodging, Room, Board and Materials

Cost: \$110.00 per person Double occupancy

\$126.00 person Single occupancy (limited number available)

SCHOLARSHIPS are AVAILABLE!

Registration Materials available at the Welcome Desk

Come and Refresh Your Soul!

Saturday afternoon has been reserved for rest, relaxation and shopping!

Inside this issue:

Group Sale	32
You Gotta Eat	5
Game & Pizza Night	5
Pastor Search Committee	6
Prayer Chain Information	7
Thinking Theologically	8
Christian Education	9-10

Money Matters

As of February 29, 2008

GENERAL FUND	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Receipts	\$34,044	\$40,130
Disbursements	\$32,284	\$37,955

5-YEAR CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

	ACTUAL	PLEDGE
Receipts	\$3,713	\$5,967

Giving for both the General Fund and the 5-Year Capital Campaign are below pledge amounts. More detailed financial information is available on the Details Board.

April Birthdays & Anniversaries

Sue Boerner—1	Del Small—12	Sarah Weyhrich—23
Debbie Harrison—1	Brian Trower-12	Scott Luna—24
Joel Keeton—1	Lillie Keeton-14	Lauren Desmond—26
Emily Desmond—2	Margaret Bork-16	Kathy Otto—28
Pierre Roussey—2	Emma DeBruine-17	Carol Parlette—28
Mary Jane Trower—2	Eva Kempin-17	
Kevin Schultz—3	Bob Hippensteele-18	Anniversaries—
Allison Schultz—4	Cameron Luna-18	Gib & Norma Knapp—4
Matt Swanson—6	Lisa DeBruine—19	Paul & Dawn Brown—7
Norm Larsen—8	Dan Moret—19	Frank & Amy Winters—17
Beatrice Smith—8	Bryan Colee—21	
Marian Harris—9	Norma Scott—22	
Sandy Ireland—10	Nellie LaCroix—23	

Father & Son Mission Weeks in The Gulf

June 8th - 14th, 2008

June 15th - 21st, 2008

“Our goal as Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA)

is to fill the gulf with fathers and sons in mission together and out of that experience to create a new energy for men’s ministry within the Presbyterian

Church (U.S.A.).

See Details Board for more information.

GROUP SALE

Friday, April 18th
9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Saturday, April 19th
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Are you getting ready for the Group Sale?

You still have time to collect kitchen items, children's toys, linens, jewelry, furniture, knick-knacks and spring/summer clothing that you no longer need.

All items must be clean and in good condition. You may bring these items

to the church on Tuesday, April 15th or Wednesday, April 16th.

The tables will be marked so you will know where to place the items.

Items will not be accepted before April 15th.

Don't forget the Bake Sale. Baked goods need to be at the church by 8:00 a.m. each day of the sale so they can be assembled into "sale-size" portions.

Volunteers are needed

from Tuesday to Saturday.

On Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday we will arrange and price items. On Friday and Saturday we keep everything organized, and after the sale closes at noon on Saturday we will box up and deliver all remaining items to local thrift shops.

Also needed are volunteers to pick up items from those unable to get their merchandise to the church and vans/pickups to transport items to the thrift shops after the sale.

Thanks

Thank you so very much for all the visits and calls when Jim was in the hospital. We all were very appreciative of the cards, flowers and foods given to us.

Also, thank you ladies and the church for all the food and service you gave to us after the funeral.

Your love, prayers, and support have meant so much.

Audrey Scott and
Jim's Family

Thank You

My heartfelt thanks and gratitude comes out to each of you who lifted me up during my recent illness with your prayers and caring thoughts.

Your cards and notes were each day's highlights.

Special thanks to Pastor Beth and Christian Education Assistant, Kathy Otto, for their regular visits and good shepherds, Carol and Chuck Parlette.

Greatfully,
Jay Hammer

Thank You!

Thank you to all my church family and friends for your thoughts, cards, and prayers during my recent surgery.

Thank you to all,
Bob Hintorn

Lamplighters

Lamplighters is sponsoring a small family through the Children's Foundation.

We would love to include the whole congregation in this mission project.

Some special needs are:

- Area rugs to cover cold cement floors
- Slow rhythm and blues music
- 12-18 months clothing for a baby boy
- Toys
- Books
- Gift Certificates

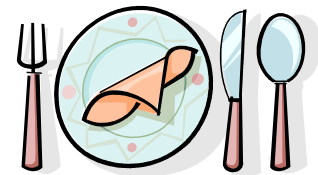
We gave a birthday present to the mother in March and Jayden (boy) will be one-year old in April.

Please see Marsha Hinthorn or Karlene Bledsoe if you would like to contribute items or add to our fund.

Thanks.

Lamplighters April Meeting

Lamplighters will meet April 22nd at CJ's at 6:30 p.m. Contact Pat Parmenter or Marsha Hinthorn for more information.



Church Women United

The spring meeting of Church Women United will be held Monday, April 21st from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Centennial Christian Church, 1219 East Grove St, Bloomington.

The program is being planned by women from First Christian Church and Wesley United Methodist Church.

It will center on celebrating Human Rights.

Everyone is invited. Bring a sack lunch.

Dessert and beverages will be provided by the host church.

Women's Fellowship

Women's Fellowship is hosting our Annual Spring Brunch on April 12th at 9:30 a.m.

Please join us for breakfast, a short program,

and welcome in spring weather!

Please sign up in Fellowship Hall.

Save this date:

Monday, May 12

For

Mother-Daughter Banquet

You've Gotta Eat!!!

Did you know that April is
National Grilled Cheese Month?

Did you know that it is also
National Tomato Month,
National Celery Month and
National Pecan Month?

In celebration of *National
Grilled Cheese Month*, we will be
making grilled cheese

sandwiches.
Thursday, April 10th at 5:00
p.m., we will be having our
monthly "Theme" dinner.
The Agape Committee will
provide the grilled cheese
sandwiches.

If you would like to bring a
dish to pass or anything to go

with the "Theme," please feel free
to do so.

For those unable to bring a dish to
pass, the dinner will cost \$4.00.

Come and Join us for our Game and Pizza Night!

... Twister ... Uno ... Bingo ... Scattergories ... Pictionary ...

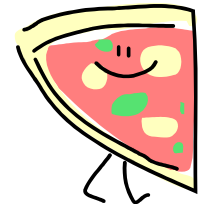
Sunday, April 13rd beginning at 4:30 p.m.

Please bring your favorite game to share.

We will also have Bingo with small prizes.

Pizza will be ordered and delivered for our meal. Agape will provide drinks.

Please join us for a night of fun, fellowship and pizza!



Luther Oaks Art Walk

Luther Oaks, a Senior Living Community, invites you to their **Art Walk** on Sunday, April 20, 2008 from 2 pm to 4 pm, featuring artwork by *Around the Corner Artists Group* as well as Luther Oaks' Resident, Jack Hobbs. Please come and enjoy music, converse with the artists, sample free refreshments, and purchase art. Any questions, please call 309-664-5940. Luther Oaks, 601 Lutz Road, Bloomington, IL, 61704. www.lutheroaks.org

PASTOR NOMINATING/SEARCH COMMITTEE

On February 17th at a called congregational meeting – the following people were elected as members of the Pastor nominating or Search Committee: Charlene Beringer, Yvonne Harrison, Margaret Hawkins, Matthew Kubiak, Dottie Metcalf, Megan Paterson, Kevin Schaefer, Brian Trower and Lin Walton. This team of 9 people is your representative in searching for a new pastor. They have quite a task in front of them. It is somewhat like a marathon race, not a sprint. Here are some of the tasks that need to be completed before we call our next pastor.

- 1) Call an interim (done)
- 2) Engage in a Congregational Mission Study (done)
- 3) Assess finances to determine financial compensation (Personnel is working on this)

- 4) Electing a Pastor Nominating Committee (done)
- 5) Pastor Nominating Committee elects officers (scheduled for April 7, 7:00 pm)
- 6) Writing and Submitting the Church Information Forms for PC (USA) and UCC including Writing a Position Description (will be done with Personnel)
- 7) Collecting and Screening potential candidates' dossiers
- 8) Interviewing potential pastors
- 9) Choosing the nominee
- 10) Making official decisions
 - a) Presenting the selected pastor to the congregation
- 11) Installing the Pastor

It is a long list – that is why we say it is a marathon race. During the time our Pastor Nominating Committee is working, the congregation will not be

hearing much from these individuals; they are asking to keep their work in confidence, to protect the church and the candidates. They will let you know what step they are on and as they get closer to a final candidate.

As a congregation what can you do?

1st don't ask these people for information, they are not allowed to give you and me information!

2nd Pray regularly for these folks and this committee and the task in front of them; ask for the Holy Spirit to help them discern this church's best match.

3rd Remember to thank them, this is not an easy task, but a very important task.

Submitted by Pastor Beth



Prayer Chain Information

We've had some questions about the prayer chain recently and would like to make sure you know how it works.

What is the Prayer Chain?

The prayer chain is a method of notifying people that others would like their prayers for illness, difficult situations, deaths, and even for joyful occasions.

How do I get the prayer chain started?

If you have a prayer concern, you can get it started by one of the following methods:

1. Contact the church office (663-7437) or the pastor and tell them the concern
or
2. Contact your shepherd,
or
3. Contact Evelyne Thomas (663-1559),
or
4. Contact Karen Walters by e-mail (kwalttrn@aol.com)

What information do I need to give?

First of all, we need to know that the person to be prayed for gives his/her consent.

Not everyone wants others to know they might be ill, having a problem, etc.

Tell us what the situation is—an illness, surgery, difficult time, etc.

The person could also just provide the information that they want others to pray for them without giving details.

If okay with the person to be prayed for, give a brief description of the problem, e.g., so and so is going to have surgery on a certain date, where, etc.

What happens after I contact someone to start the prayer chain?

Whoever was contacted as stated in 1-4 above, gets in touch with those who initiate the prayer chain.

If Evelyne gets the call, she contacts the pastor and/or Karen.

The office contacts that person's shepherd if the shepherd was not the one who initiated the contact.

Evelyne calls leaders who make phone calls to others on the "phone tree" and they in-turn call others and so on.

Karen sends a prayer chain

e-mail to those who have signed up to be notified by that method.

If Karen receives an e-mail, she sends the e-mail message and contacts Evelyne or the church and the phone tree is activated.

Karen usually sends a message to those on e-mail if she will not be available and tells who to contact so that the message will be timely.

What if I can't reach one of the above?

Call or e-mail the church office to leave a message. The pastor checks the e-mail and phone messages on a regular basis.

Are prayers answered?

We have had many prayers answered for those making requests.

We have a very active list of "Prayer Warriors" and at times the "Prayer Highway" is very busy; we don't want to miss anyone who requests prayers. When a prayer has been answered, a flower is placed in the wreath near the entrance to the sanctuary.

You can see the wreath is in full bloom!

Thinking Theologically

There has been a lot in the news lately about pastors... and about theology. It makes me wonder; does a pastor's theology "rub" off on the parishioners? Or if your theology doesn't match your pastor's - what do you do? What does a church do?

These are just some of the important questions that we should be talking about if we want to live and grow in faith. Our Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) will be working on identifying our congregation's theology. It will be critical to identify and successfully call a new pastor that will fit this congregation.

So let's begin at the beginning - what do I mean when I use the word theology. The Webster dictionary says:

1: the study of religious faith, practice, and

experience; especially: the study of God and of God's relation to the world

So when I talk about our congregation's theology, I am talking about our faith, practice and experiences - what do we believe and experience of God in relationship to ourselves and our world. In short terms - who is God to us, individually and as a congregation?

Perhaps you have not thought about your theology or have struggled with these ideas. I believe that struggling with theology is part of the spiritual journey. Each of us is called to ask and answer the following questions individually and corporately:

- o Who is God?
- o How is God relating to me?
- o Is there a purpose for my suffering?
- o Am I allowed to

question or get angry with God?

If I were a better Christian, would I have a better life?

Our weekly Bible study classes provide a great opportunity to explore these questions and more.

Until we are sure what we believe (not what we don't believe) we will not go forward on our journey. So many people tell me what they don't believe, but that does not move you forward - only when you can say what you do believe can you move toward a more mature faith. So I invite you to join the quest, and struggle with theology.

Blessings,
Beth

Christian Education Opportunities

SUNDAY MORNINGS - 9:00 A.M.

Christianity for the Rest of Us

SMALL GROUP STUDY DURING THE WEEK:

"Tex Mix"

Wednesday evenings 5:30- 8:00

Dinner 5:30

Worship 6:30

Bible Study 7:00

Thursday evenings -5:30 -7:00PM

First Place Bible Study

E-Merge

Games and fun 4:30-5:15

Bible study 5:15-6:00

Dinner 6:00-6:45

Worship 6:45-7:00

Last Sunday of each month -

Fun Night - games, movies or whatever!

Bible Study
For All Ages

SNAC
SUNDAY NIGHT AFTER CHURCH
FOR:
JR. HIGH & SR. HIGH

Title: "Jesus the Teacher"

Beginning April 20

Through April 27

Power Xpress
Living God's Word

Date	Poppies	Daisy	Sunflower
April 6	I Love you more than . . .		
April 13	Blessed are . . .		
April 20	The Light in the Chapel		
April 27	The Story of Pentecost		
May 4	Going and Telling About Jesus		



Christian Education

The kids in the Garden have been learning about Jesus' teachings, particularly the Beatitudes. Look for the "Blessings Mural" in fellowship hall – each child drew the blessings in his or her life on the mural.

Crystal Bork is involved in a Roller Skating fundraiser for the new wing of the Children's Hospital of Illinois at St. Francis in Peoria. Anyone is invited who would like to support the new wing. The event takes place on Saturday, April 12 from 4 to 6 p.m. at The Skate N Place at 1701 S. Morris Ave. in Bloomington. Cost is \$5 for admission and skates are available to rent for \$1.00 if needed. If you have questions, please contact Crystal at (309) 275-0033.

I have received brochures from Stronghold Summer Camps with information about their summer programs. There are ten different opportunities from June 13 through July 25 from day camp for kindergartners, first-timers camp, adventure camps and a whole variety of other experiences. There is also a camp for grandparents and grandchildren (ask Chuck or Carol Parlette about this

one!). Let me know if you want a brochure. Scholarships are available from the PCUSA.

I also received information from Pilgrim Park that the sports camp for sixth through ninth graders has been moved to June 15 to 21. For more information about this camp, visit www.uccsportscamp.org. For information about other UCC camp opportunities, visit Outdoor Ministries at www.il-odm.org.

Did you know that over one billion people in the world do not have access to safe, clean drinking water? In the U.S., most of us use public water systems; however, the big bottled water corporations like Coke, Pepsi, and Nestle have changed the way we think about water. One in six Americans drink bottled water exclusively at thousands of times the cost for what comes from our kitchen sink.

It's time to "think outside the bottle" and challenge increasing corporate control of our water. On Saturday, April 5, we will host the UCC tap water challenge. Information will be available about the pros and cons of bottled

water, as well as the opportunity to participate in the tap water challenge (can you tell the difference between bottled water and tap water?). Come and check it out!

The confirmation retreat is April 4 and 5 (the same weekend as the tap water challenge) so we will incorporate this event into the retreat. The rest of the time will be spent looking at spiritual practices and ways that we can communicate with and be closer to God. All will have an opportunity to try out some different spiritual experiences to see which help them in their relationships with God.

VBS is just around the corner – June 8 through 12. Please plan to come to the "Power Lab" and discover Jesus' miraculous power! Look for more information and please let Kathy or Amie Keeton know if you are available and willing to help!

Kathy Otto



A Look at our new Look!!

The new carpeting and flooring is installed in the Fellowship Hall and Front Office.

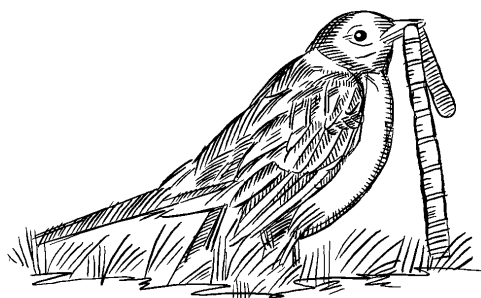


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