



the Well Spring

The monthly newsletter of North Spring United Methodist Church



Outpourings From The Spring By Rev. Bill Radford

Christmas and New Years have barely concluded and yet Lent and Easter are upon us already. Easter comes very early this year, March 23rd. What a wonderful time of year this is. Lent is a traditional period of preparation and penitence that can be traced back to the early church. Many changes in this tradition have occurred from our first record. The Lenten fast was originally only a two or three day fast but was expanded to a forty day fast sometime before or at the Canon of Nicaea in 325 BC. It is speculated that this change was to follow or commemorate the fasts of Moses, Elijah and Jesus. A strict fast would allow one meal a day usually around evening time and the meal would include meat, fish or eggs. The practice of the Lenten fast, like many of our spiritual disciplines,

declined in importance and adherence over the years. In 1996 the Roman Catholic Church required only a one day fast and emphasized the importance of a time penance, abstaining from festivities, alms giving, and devoting more time to religious exercise.

In the United Methodist tradition we observe Lent as a forty day period from Ash Wednesday (February 6th in 2008) to Holy Saturday (March 22nd, in 2008). If you check your calendar you will see this period of time is greater than forty days, this is because we exempt Sundays which are always to be day of celebration from the forty days of preparation and penance. Many people observe Lent by giving up something they like such as eating chocolate or their favorite TV show or their favorite game on their Game boy.

My suggestion or challenge for us is to not only give up something but to also add something that benefits others. For example giving up a couple of hours of TV each week during Lent and using that time to visit a person in the hospital or nursing home, maybe write a real letter to an old friend you have seen for a while. Giving up some luxury in your life and giving the money you would

have spent to a charity. Spend time in reading your Bible and strengthen the depth of you faith.

Whatever you do to remember this time of year and the passion of Jesus the Christ, his death and resurrection, I pray each of you will be lifted in your efforts and will feel the unconditional love of God in your life. I thank God for each of you and for this faith community. Our witness is a powerful transforming agent in Blue Springs as we continue to pull together to build God's Kingdom.

I love you all!

February 2008

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Children's Ministry News

By Karen Gleich

Well, here we are in January, and it is time to think about Vacation Bible School (VBS). We need a director (or two) for VBS 2008. What does the Director do? That is a good question - and here is an answer.

The VBS Director picks the curriculum (we have lots of advertisements), picks the dates and times, and helps organize the staff for a week of fun and games learning more about Jesus. VBS is a great outreach, and an opportunity to serve the children on a one time basis.

We would like to express a belated thank you to everyone who helped with the children's play, "O Come All Ye Animals". A special thanks to Tracey Mulholland and Merri-Ann Higgason for writing the play, working on costumes, and making sure it got done. Also, thanks to all of our children who were doing their best to behave like animals on that one occasion.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank all of those who teach our children on a weekly basis, and work in the Nursery. These are both areas in the church where there is always a need, but always someone stepping up to help. If you see these people in church, or in the Nursery, please be sure to tell them Thanks for all that they do for our children.

We would like some input from you. We will be scheduling two planning meetings in February. They will be designed to review our current program, see where we are and where we are going. We need input from the congregation, because we need to make some changes to our program. We have mentioned for quite some time that we are very short on teachers

during church. If we cannot get more volunteers during the church service, we will have to evaluate what we can do, which may mean some older children sitting in the church service. Please attend one of the meeting to help us form a strategy to better serve our children.

We thank all of you for your prayers for our ministry, and ask that you keep this program in your prayers during February when we are making decisions on what direction we should go. If you have any questions, please contact Karen Gleich at 690-7159.

CIA KIDS

Hopefully, we can get started back up in February. Kids, which works better for you - Sunday afternoon or Wednesday evenings? Let Karen know so we can get a schedule together and start having some fun. Look for a sign up sheet on the bulletin board.

Check out the bulletin board - We collect money from our noisy offering every Sunday morning, and we need to decide what to do with it. There are three options on the board - you can vote by putting your pennies in the jars by the noisy offering plate. The winning service project will be chosen by the most pennies. You can put as many pennies as you like in the jars to vote. You will have two weeks to vote - the final votes will be counted on Sunday, February 10, 2008.

GIRL SCOUTS TROOP 1522

Our girls have been busy and out and about. We have an old fashioned Christmas party in December, and some of the girls attended a cake decorating class. We also went bowling, and have lots of fun plans for the rest of the

year. Several girls are getting the pre-requisite work out of the way in preparation to work on their Silver award.

If you know anyone else interested in joining a Cadet troop (Middle School or up), please let Karen Gleich know (690-7159).

Outreach News

By Sherree Gorman

World Day of Prayer

We will again celebrate the World Day of Prayer by holding an overnight prayer vigil in our sanctuary. It will start at 3pm on Friday, March 7th and end at noon on Saturday, March 8th. You may sign up for a 30-minute prayer slot, or multiple slots if you'd like. The sign-up sheet is posted in the West Narthex. Last year we had almost every slot filled. Our goal this year is to fill every time slot (42 slots). Let's spend some serious time with God and focus ourselves on the only thing that really matters.

Fifth Annual Pie Auction

On February 3rd, we will have our 4th Annual Pie Auction to raise funds for the Kirzhach Mission Trip. We will again have our auctioneer for the pies. All generous donations will be gladly accepted and appreciated. Mission trips to Russia are exorbitantly expensive but make the world of difference to our young orphans, who are looking to us be the light of Jesus for them. Besides, these pies have been absolutely out of this world in the past and I expect nothing less this year as well! Get your pie for the Super Bowl that evening, after eating your Chili lunch, provided by the Boy Scouts, right after Sunday service. Come hungry!



30-Hour Famine

Six members of the CIA participated in a 30 hour famine over Martin Luther King Weekend. Our goal was to raise \$360, which is enough money to feed one child for an entire year. We are very excited to announce that we exceeded our goal, by collecting \$382. The kids did a fabulous job, not just in raising the money, but also fasting for 30 hours is not an easy task. We would also like to thank Pam Campbell for all the hard work she put in to the publicity of this event. The CIA were in the Examiner, the Star and were also seen on Fox 4!

THANKS!

The CIA would like to thank all of the adults that stayed up all night with them. This is such a hard task especially with teenage kids. Thanks so much to Scott Chance, Bill Radford, or Dave Taylor for sacrificing a Sunday night (and pretty much Monday, too) in order to spend time with a great group of teens!

Calendar

February

- 3- CIA Sunday- No meeting
- 10- meet for ice cream TBA
- 17- no meeting Presidents' weekend
- 24- Meeting

March

- 2- Meeting
- 9- Meeting
- 16- Meeting
- 23- No Meeting HAPPY EASTER!
- 30- Meeting

Note: All meetings are Sunday evening from 6:30 to 8 pm unless otherwise noted.



Music Notes

There may be snow and ice on the ground but SPRING is on the way. Easter comes early this year – March 23rd. The Drama department will be presenting “A Night To Remember” on March 20th, Maundy Thursday. If you participated in last year’s production and would be willing to participate again please let me know.

Please let me know if you are interested. We will have rehearsals on Sundays immediately following the morning service starting in February.

With the huge success of “Four Tickets To Christmas” we have decided to do another dinner theater this summer. There will be two performances the last weekend of June. The show is called “The Love Liner”. The musical play takes place on a 1970’s cruise ship in the Caribbean. The cast consists of 5 males, 7 females and several non-speaking waiters/waitresses. Auditions will be held sometime the first part of April.

If you like to sing we are looking for new members for Selah. We practice on Tuesday night from 7:00pm-7:45pm. Come and join us!

As you can see there is a lot coming up in 2008. This is going to be a wonderful and exciting year for North Spring. More news coming later...

In the meantime.....

Keep a song in your heart!

Sheila Cage
Minister of Music

Scouting News

By Dick Witt

The Undeniable Truths of Scouting

1. Scouting makes a difference to this country. Scouting has made and continues to make a significant contribution to the spiritual, mental, physical, and social development of millions of young people. Its very existence as an organization demonstrates a national commitment to certain democratic principals that are an integral part of a free society.
2. Scouting helps the world. With more than 80 years experience in over 150 countries and more than 16 million current members, Scouting is an influence to be reckoned with – not in terms of political clout, but in terms of positive direction it has given to so many lives over the years.
3. Scouting will change you. But only if you actively subscribe to its aim and principals. And only if you want to.

Taken from the 16½ Rumors about Scouting, by Colin Wallace, a Canadian Scouter from Ontario, published in the Scouter's Journal, Summer 1996, page 16.

February Scouting Events

February is the month we celebrate the origin of the Scouting Movement in the United States. Our celebration begins on February 3 with our second annual Scout Chili Supper. During the Chili Supper, we will be holding our annual Pie Auction, for the benefit of another outreach program of our congregation, the Kirzhach Orphanage in Russia. Last year, these two activities blended together well, so we decided to try it again. I hope you will remain after the worship service and eat some Chili with us and purchase a couple pies at the same time.

One week later, February 10, we are inviting all of Pack and Troop 306 to join us in worship. Pack 692 is invited to join us on February 24.

Girl Scouts will be celebrating their founding in March.

Scouting is one of the most visible outreach programs we have. It has been estimated that about ½ of the families that are involved in Scouting are un-churched, and we are providing some exposure to change that. All we have to do is work the program. How do we accomplish that?

First we need to make sure they feel welcome at worship services. After that, the possibilities are endless.

Scout Chili Supper Kirzhach Orphanage Pie Auction

The second annual Boy Scout Chili Supper will be held on Sunday, February 3, 2008. Serving will begin right after the worship service and continue until 3 P.M. Tickets are \$5.00 from any Scout from Pack 306, Troop 306, or Pack 692, all sponsored by The Spring. Tickets will also be available at the door.

The menu includes Chili with all the fixins, desert, and a drink. Cheesy Potato Soup and hot dogs with potato chips will be served as alternatives to Chili. All items will be available al-la-carte, but the ticket price includes extras at no additional charge. After the pie auction, chili will be available in bulk for your SuperBowl party. Proceeds from the Chili Supper will be used to support the Boy Scout programs at North Spring.

Pack 306 Pinewood Derby

On Saturday night, January 19, Pack 306 held their annual Pinewood Derby in the sanctuary. The pinewood block cars were designed and decorated by the scouts and awards were given for the fastest cars in each den and some of the most unique features such as creative designs, most colorful, most unique. Three boys who families are active in our congregation participated. Joey Gleich was still talking about his awards the next morning at church. Hunter Mulholland and Austin Taylor are also in Pack 306. Incidentally, most of the cars raced down the track in about 2½ seconds. The computer states that is about 200 mph

Pack 692 Pinewood Derby

On Thursday, January 24, well after the submission deadline for The WellSpring, Pack 692 will hold their Pinewood Derby in the gymnasium of Lucy Franklin Elementary School. Those kids will have a good time too!

Contact our Staff...

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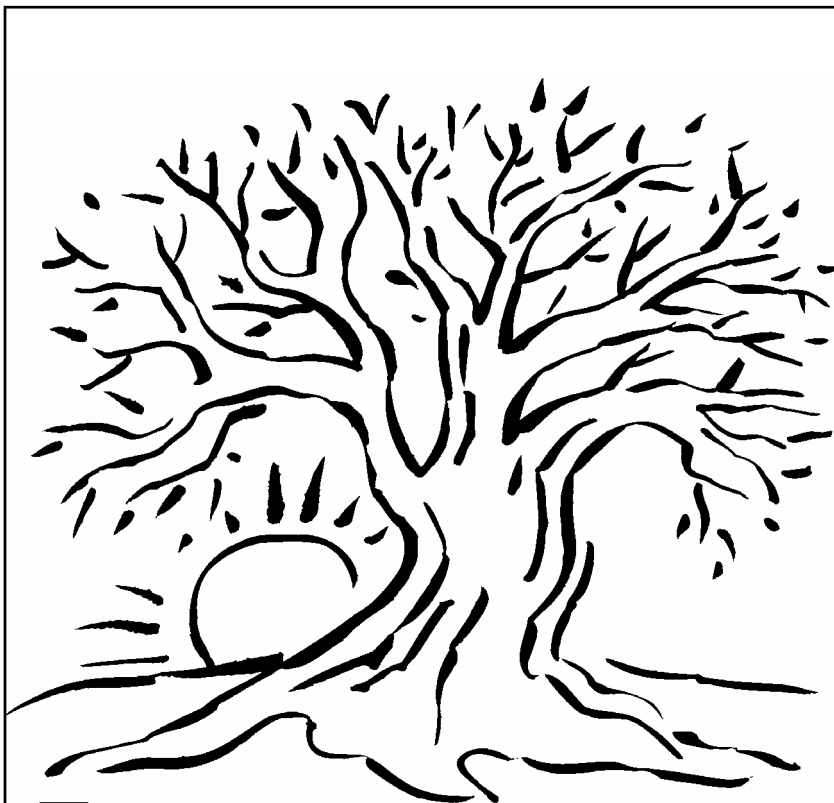
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**Ash Wednesday
February 6...**

We will observe Ash Wednesday at North Spring with informal worship and imposition of ashes at 6:00 am and 7:00 pm on Wednesday, February 6.

See Page 1 for ways to enrich your observance of Lent in 2008.

Lent