



# the Well Spring

The monthly newsletter of North Spring United Methodist Church



**Outpourings from the Spring**  
Rev. Bill Radford

**HAPPY EASTER!**  
**HAPPY SPRING!**

As I cut my yard for the first time this year I noticed several things: First, the weeds are back along with the grass! How can this be? When I cut my yard for the last time in November there were no weeds. My time and efforts in spraying weed killer, digging weeds, and mowing at the correct height all spring, summer and fall had paid off, no weeds, a smooth thick yard. Second, the ground was rougher and there are bare spots that were not there last fall. Third, my yard is made up of a number of different

kinds of grass and they all seem to grow at different rates making the yard look uneven.

It is hard to maintain a nice even looking yard in our area of the country with the constant weather changes. I guess I will have to start again and apply fertilizer, weed killers, bug killers, and mow at the right height and maybe by the end of the growing season I will have a nice weed free, even yard again for a short time.

Our souls are kind of like a yard. They need constant attention and anytime we neglect our souls for a time we lose ground on having a beautiful, well kept soul. John Wesley spoke about this often and challenged the early Methodists to meet often and to question each other, "How is it with your soul?" What a tough question to answer honestly even when you are among close friends. So, I ask you each now, "How is it with your soul"? Does your soul need to be fertilized with the hearing and reading of the Scripture? Does your soul need the weed killer and crab grass control of attendance in

worship and Bible Study? Does your soul need the bug control of meditation and practicing acts of mercy?

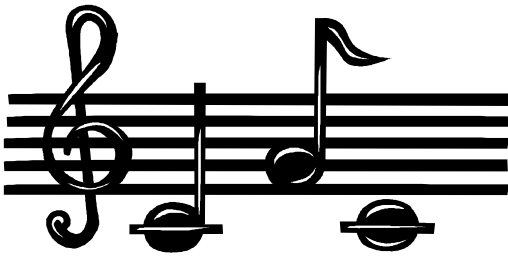
Let's all commit to working together this spring to get our souls in good shape for the coming of God's Kingdom. Let our witness of strong Christian practice be a shining witness to the Greatness of God's Love in our lives so others may see the beauty of our souls and be drawn from the darkness of sin into the light of God's mercy and grace.

**I love you all!**

**April 2009**

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## Music Notes

From Heidi Rater  
heidirater@comcast.net  
623-9105

Hello everyone! Easter is fast approaching and we have some wonderful music coming up. We will praise God with a variety of music as we remember the gift of the cross.

April 19<sup>th</sup>, the Sunday after Easter, we will have an awesome guest musician. Christopher Ames is a very talented contemporary Christian performer. He came to our church last in May of 2006. If you would like read more about him, he has a website: [www.christopherames.com](http://www.christopherames.com). And a big thank you to Sherree and Tom Gorman for arranging this special music.

Christopher Ames will be a great treat for us, but I still want to encourage kids of *all ages* and ALL abilities to sing or play during our worship. I can help you find a song if you don't know what to do. You do NOT have to be a professional musician to participate in the music at North Spring.

Our music planning meeting will be April 21 at 6:00 p.m. (right before Selah practice) in Pastor Bill's office. Anyone who would like to help plan the music for May is encouraged to attend.

Special music for April:  
April 5, Palm Sunday: Selah  
April 9, Maundy Thursday:  
Scott Chance and Heidi Rater  
April 12, Easter: Selah  
April 19: Christopher Ames  
April 26: Marie Ware

## Not Here—He Is Risen

Being a child and a man of humble birth  
With only a manger for a cradle,  
After years of preaching the Kingdom of God,  
It seems He would have been able.

To avoid the sentence of a ghastly death,  
Between two thieves on a murderous cross,  
The Lamb of God went willingly,  
Pleasing His Father seemed mankind's loss.

But as forces evolved, His death was a blessing,  
Such as man had never known,  
The sustaining power of faith in God,  
Exceeded the power of arrogant Rome!

When Mary Magdalene went early to the tomb,  
She found the stone was rolled away,  
The tomb was empty; The Master was gone!  
She trembled in utter dismay!

She hastened to tell his brethren,  
That the Master was truly living,  
None of them believed her story,  
To utter remorse they were fully given!

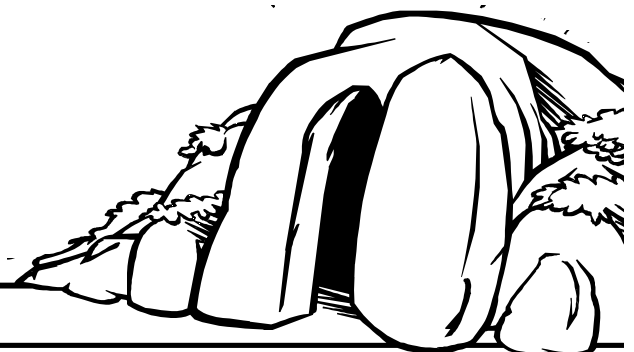
Soon He showed Himself to the eleven,  
They still did not fully believe,  
Said He to one, thrust your hand to my side,  
You will believe; 'tis truly Me!

Said He to doubting Thomas,  
You did not believe because you could not see,  
Bless those who believed without seeing,  
They are worthy as well as thee!

Ere He finally rose to rejoin His Father,  
He said preach the gospel throughout the world,  
Belief and baptism help nurture the soul,  
Until the victory flag is unfurled!

Let believers join hands and circle the earth,  
We must never be found alone,  
Proclaim the word of the empty tomb,  
'Twill lead all faithful pilgrims home!

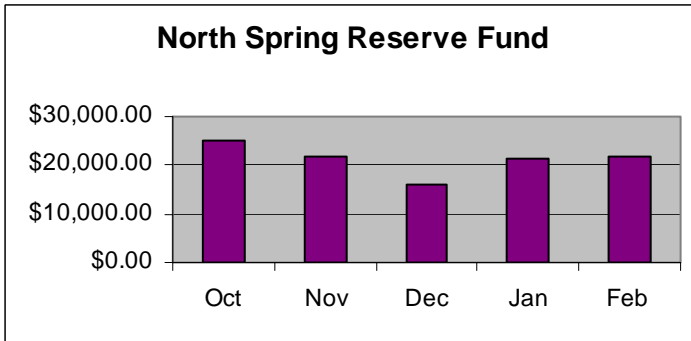
—Raymond Foster



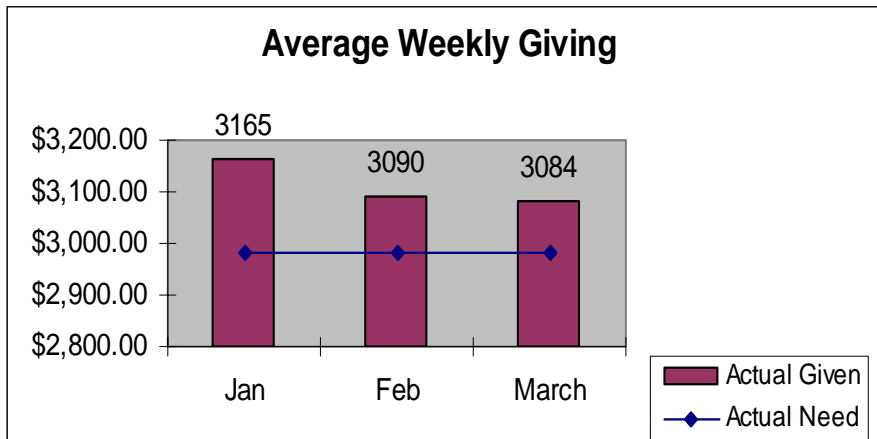
### \$\$Money Matters\$\$

Here is a quick update on where we stand through mid-March on Church Finances.

With the following chart we see our Average Weekly Giving holding steady through March. The Average Weekly Giving for all three months of 2009 is slightly above the barebones amount needed to meet our Pledge Budget. This reflects the faith and sacrifice of our congregation to continue the pace of giving despite some very difficult economic times.



The following Chart tracks our funds balance for the past several months. Again here, we see our Fund Balance holding steady through the month of February.



I mentioned last month the need for some good luck this year and for more volunteer money and work for church projects. This continues to be the case. We also will need some fund-raisers over the coming months to supplement our weekly giving. We need both ideas and volunteers for fund-raisers. The Finance Team also asks for prayer as we work to get through this difficult time. Remember, that when we stick together as a Congregation we can accomplish anything. I feel that the spirit of togetherness is alive in our Church and that is what sustains us. Let's keep it going!

Tom Gorman  
Finance Chair

### Women of the Spring

The next Women of the Spring meeting will include a salad potluck. We will begin the potluck supper at 6:30 pm on Thursday, March 26th. A brief meeting will follow. The rest of the evening will be dedicated to getting things ready for our next annual Mother-Daughter Banquet which will occur this year on Saturday, May 2nd. If you would like to help us out with preparations, please feel free to join us. You need not be member of North Spring to participate.

### Scouting News

By Dick Witt

#### Scouting Service Projects

On Saturday, March 21, six Boy Scouts, two Cub Scouts and five leaders, all from the BSA units sponsored by The Spring, cleaned the underbrush from beneath several trees behind the church. This is part of an overall project to remove all locust trees on the Church property. These trees grow large very sharp thorns. These thorns are one to two inches long and are so sharp that native Americans used them as needles. Needless to say, these same thorns punch holes in lawn tractor tires and create hazards as children play in the church yard.

Several weeks ago, one of the Dens from Pack 306, picked up trash and disposed of trash that had collected on Church property over the winter time.

## Outreach News

By Sherree Gorman

### Hillcrest Walk

It is that time again for the Hillcrest Walk for the Homeless. We have had several people walk in the past 6 years. If you are interested in walking, go online to register at [www.hillcrestministries.org](http://www.hillcrestministries.org) and pick Eastern Jackson County. This year's walk will take place at 10am on May 16th. Check-in and donuts start at 9am. The walk is 5K (really not that long) and will take less than an hour and a half to complete. Lynette Harrenstien will be our team captain for this event. The walk is not only fun, but also the funds it provides are so vital to the success of this important ministry.

If you are unable to walk this year, please sponsor a walker. You can donate online under the registered walker.

If you are unfamiliar with Hillcrest Ministries, here is some information about them. There are now four associations that provide transitional housing for the homeless in the Kansas City area. The one that our church supports is in Independence and is called Eastern Jackson County Hillcrest Ministries. It is located in a large old home that has been converted into several apartment units. The program provides a Christian environment that helps homeless families become self-reliant contributors to society. It is designed to move families from

homelessness to self sufficiency by providing rent free and utility free housing for 90 days in a fully furnished apartment, life skills training and professional services such as haircuts, dentistry, medical treatment, GED training, car repair, bill reduction and consolidation. Many families have graduated and their lives have been changed completely as a result of this program. Hillcrest boasts a 95% success rate of graduate families remaining self sufficient after graduation.

If you have any other questions, please contact Lynette Harrenstien at 229-7109.



We would like to invite everyone to a baby shower for Kylie Harrenstien on Sunday, April 26th @ 3 pm. Her baby Boy is due later in May.

She is registered @ Baby's R US.

For any other questions, please call Mary Pulley or Betty Witt.

## CIA Calendar

### April

Sunday, 5th  
6:30-8:00 pm @ Hope  
Sunday, 12th  
No Youth, Easter  
Sunday, 19th  
6:30-8:00 pm @ NSUMC  
Sunday, 26th  
Youth Sunday @ Hope



### Note...

The deadline for submitting items for the **May WellSpring** is **Wednesday, April 22.**

Please have all articles and information turned in to the office before this date.

Contact Heather at:  
[hsooley@northspring.org](mailto:hsooley@northspring.org)

### Contact our Staff...

**Rev. Bill Radford, Pastor**  
church: 224-9490  
home: 220-3533  
cell: 516-2729 or e-mail:  
[bradford@northspring.org](mailto:bradford@northspring.org)

**Heidi Rater, Music Director**  
[heidirater@comcast.net](mailto:heidirater@comcast.net)

**Heather Sooley, Office Manager**  
[hsooley@northspring.org](mailto:hsooley@northspring.org)

**Holy Week Schedule**

**April 5**

**Palm Sunday**

Worship 10:00 am

Congregational Potluck 11:00 am

**Holy Week Come & Go Prayers**

Start your days with prayers and devotions this Holy Week. The church will be open from 6:30 am until 9 am for prayers and devotions **Monday, April 6 through Friday, April 10** for Holy Week.

**April 9**

**Maundy Thursday**

**Tenebrae Service**

The Maundy Thursday evening service on April 9 will include a dramatic presentation of the Tenebrae. The name means "darkness" or "shadows" and is a Holy Week devotion which dates back to the seventh or eighth century A.D. It powerfully dramatizes the extreme price Jesus paid for us and helps us experience the dark emotions of his passion and death. This Tenebrae service is based upon the last hours of Jesus' life as depicted in John 18-19 and is characterized by a successive extinguishing of candles and darkening of the sanctuary. It will be a meaningful Lenten experience you won't forget.

**April 12**

**Easter Sunday**

Pancake Breakfast – 8 to 9:15 am  
*(for a Love Offering)*

Then, come and join in the extraordinary Easter Celebration of our risen Lord, Jesus Christ at **10:00 am!** Bring your friends, relatives and neighbors. Let's blow the doors out! Our worship cannot be contained! He is risen indeed, and he is in our midst!

**Holy Week  
Lectionary Readings**

**April 5, 2009**

**Passion/Palm Sunday  
(Sixth Sunday in Lent)**

*Liturgy of the Palms*

Mark 11:1-11; Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 (UMH 839)

*Liturgy of the Passion*

Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16 (UMH 764)

Philippians 2:5-11; Mark 14:1-15:47 or Mark 15:1-39 (40-47)

**April 6, 2009**

**Monday of Holy Week**

Isaiah 42:1-9; Psalm 36:5-11 (UMH 771)

Hebrews 9:11-15; John 12:1-11

**April 7, 2009**

**Tuesday of Holy Week**

Isaiah 49:1-7; Psalm 71:1-14 (UMH 794)

1 Corinthians 1:18-31; John 12:20-36

**April 8, 2009 [Red or Purple]  
Wednesday of Holy Week (A, B, and C)**

Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 70 (UMH 793)

Hebrews 12:1-3 John 13:21-32

**April 9, 2009**

**Holy Thursday**

Exodus 12:1-4 (5-10), 11-14; Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19 (UMH 837)

1 Corinthians 11:23-26; John 13:1-17, 31b-35

**April 10, 2009**

**Good Friday**

Isaiah 52:13-53:12; Psalm 22 (UMH 752)

Hebrews 10:16-25; John 18:1-19:42

**April 11, 2009**

**Easter Vigil**

The number of readings may vary, but Exodus 14 and at least two

other readings from the Old Testament should be used in addition to the New Testament readings.

**Old Testament Readings and Related Responsive Psalms/Canticles**

**April 12, 2009**

**Easter Day**

Acts 10:34-43; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 (UMH 839)

1 Corinthians 15:1-11; John 20:1-18 or Mark 16:1-8



**For prayer requests or  
to join the prayer chain,  
call Grace Lakey  
at 224-3098**

**Church Calendar**

You can now check the church calendar any time you'd like, right from the comforts of your home! It is on the church website. The web address is: <http://www.northspring.org/Calendar.aspx>. If the calendar doesn't show an activity that should be scheduled, just contact Heather to add the activity to the calendar. This calendar has the ability to generate an email to invite people to our activities. Just click on the activity and fill out the form to send an email. You can view the calendar by the month or by the week. You can scroll to future or past months. So, we hope you will find this new calendar to be helpful in keeping abreast with activities in the church and planning your activities. If you have suggestions or comments, please contact Sherree Gorman.



**North Spring UMC**  
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**Our Mission:** To build a Christian family where all are welcomed, valued, and inspired to become deeply committed Christians.

**Our Vision:** To be agents of Christ to transform lives and community through Christ by prayer, discipleship, fellowship, and outreach.



9th Annual Mother/Daughter Banquet

## *Showers of Blessings*

Saturday, May 2nd

Doors open at 6:00 pm

Dinner at 6:30 pm

Adults \$12

Age 10 and under \$6

Door Prizes, Favors, Silent Auction

Tickets Available from

Women of the Spring

starting April 5th

visit us on the web @ [www.northspring.org](http://www.northspring.org)