

Lisa's Corner

This Haiti prayer chain came to me this morning and it is so powerful that I wanted to share it.

Lord, I just want to say THANK YOU, because this morning I woke up and knew where my children were. Because this morning my home was still standing, because this morning I am not crying because my husband, my child, my brother or sister needs to be buried out from underneath a pile of concrete. Because this morning I was able to drink a glass of water, I was able to turn on the light, and I was able to take a hot shower. Because this morning I was not planning a funeral. But most of all I thank you this morning because I still have life and a voice to cry out for the people of Haiti. Lord, I cry out to you, the one that makes the impossible possible, the one that turns darkness into light. I cry out that you give those mothers, fathers, sisters, and brothers strength, that you give them peace that surpasses all understanding. That you may open the streets so that help can come, that you may provide doctors, nurses, food, water, and all that they need in a blink of an eye. For all those that have lost family members, give them peace, give them hope, give them courage to continue to go on! Protect the children and shield them with your power. I pray all this in the name of Jesus!

- Yours in Christ, Lisa



Youngstown State Presents African American History Month

February is African American History month. On Saturday, February 6th, the opening event of African American History Month in Youngstown will be held in the Chestnut Room at Kilcawley Center at YSU. The African Marketplace will be open from Noon to 6 p.m. and will include not only wonderful sights and sounds (music and dancing), but also items to purchase: food, books, jewelry and clothing.

Some other events scheduled for the month of February include: Diversity Roundtable on Tuesday, February 9th, at 8 p.m. in the Ohio Room of Kilcawley Center; a Panel Discussion on African American Contemporary Art: "Truth and Fear," on Thursday, February 11th, at 7 p.m. in the McDonough Museum of Art; and on February 12th, at 7:30 p.m., a lecture in the Presidential Suites at Kilcawley Center by Daryl Davis: "Klandestine Relationships."

Details about these and other events during the month of February are posted on the bulletin board on the first floor at church and are available in the Church Office.

"Upon My Death"

Have you let your family and loved ones know what your preferences are for arrangement when you die? Our church has recently revised a brochure for doing this. The brochure is called "Upon My Death." Copies are available on the Garden Room table and from Debbie Toman. Completion of this brochure is a thoughtful gift to give your family. We encourage members to also share a copy with the office for our files.

"Lord, Teach Us To Pray"

The Office of Spiritual Formation of the Presbyterian Church USA has put together a wonderful notebook of resources for nurturing and expanding our spiritual lives. Our church has purchased eight copies of this notebook for sale to any of our members or friends. The cost is \$6, which includes a 3-ring binder to hold the resources. Members may look at and/or purchase this resource in Debbie Toman's office. Rev. Mager and Lisa Velker would welcome the opportunity to discuss spiritual practices and formation with any of our members.



Deacons Announce ASH WEDNESDAY Dinner and Vesper Service

On Ash Wednesday, February 17th, the Board of Deacons will once again host a covered dish dinner in Helen Chapel followed by an Ash Wednesday Vesper Service. The Deacons will provide baked chicken and fish and drinks. Members and friends are invited to bring a vegetable, salad or dessert dish to be shared. We suggest the following guidelines: persons whose last names begin with A-F bring salads; G-M bring desserts; and N-Z bring vegetable dishes.

While reservations are not necessary, it would be really helpful to have an indication if you plan to attend by Sunday, February 14th. We have also invited members of Butler Memorial and the Hungarian Presbyterian Churches to join us for dinner and the Vesper Service.

The Vesper Service will begin at 7 p.m. in Helen Chapel and will once again include the imposition of ashes for those who desire the same. The service will conclude by 7:30 p.m. to support those who may have "homework" to complete (hint, hint).

We hope you will begin Lent with us in Helen Chapel and that you will invite a friend.

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY

"Forgiveness"

Begins Thursday, February 18th

Rev. Mager will once again lead a six-week Bible Study during Lent. The study will take place on Thursday afternoons from 4:30-5:30 p.m. in the Church Parlor, and it will begin Thursday, February 18th. The theme for this year's study is "Forgiveness." All members and friends of our congregation are welcome to join us. Copies of the first of six weekly handouts will be available from the office beginning Sunday, February 7th.

2010 Pledges Reach \$181,260

As of Friday, January 22nd, our financial pledges for 2010 totaled \$181,260 from 82 pledging units. The Session is still hopeful that more pledges might be received to help make up the difference from our 2009 pledges which totaled \$191,000. Those wishing to make a pledge may simply request a pledge card from the church office or telephone Pat Fitch, our Financial Secretary, at the church: 330-744-4307.

Per Capita payments for 2010 are welcome at any time during the year. This "head tax" of \$28 per Active Member must be paid by our church to Presbytery by January 31st.

SPECIAL LENTEN RESOURCES

In addition to our regular resources, *The Upper Room* and *These Days*, our church has also purchased a Lenten devotional resource from *Presbyterians Today* entitled "Praying Through Lent." Copies of all these resources are available on the tables in the Garden Room and outside the church office on the first floor.

The church has also purchased eight copies of a book of 40-daily readings called *Knowing God's Triune Story*. This resource has been recommended by the Moderator of our General Assembly, Bruce Reyes-Chow, as a Lenten study resource. The author, Rev. Michael Lindvall, pastor of the Brick Presbyterian Church in New York City, says of this book: "My goals in this little book are . . . first, to explore the depths of the doctrine in a way that is accessible to the average reader without trivializing its subtleties; and second, to share my conviction that the Trinity is not just true and interesting, but profoundly important to how Christians believe in God and how they live their lives." Copies of this resource are available for \$10 from Debbie Toman.

At the regular meeting of Eastminster Presbytery on January 12th, Elder Jeanne Monroe was elected to serve as an Elder Commissioner to this year's 219th General Assembly. The meeting will be held from July 3rd through 10th in Minnesota.