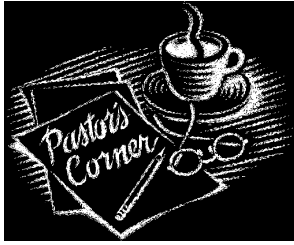




# The Good News Letter

St. John's UCC, Fogelsville, PA

February 2008



## From the Pastor's Desk

Greetings!

We will again begin our lenten journey on February 6<sup>th</sup> with our Ash Wednesday service. It is a time of soul-searching and repentance. It is a season for reflection and courage, responsibility and renewal. Ultimately, it is a time for us to look at ourselves and our world to understand who we are as God's people and how we can grow closer to God and one another in our relationships.

Lent originated in the very earliest days of the Church as a preparatory time for Easter, when the faithful rededicated themselves and when converts were instructed in the faith and prepared for baptism. By observing the forty days of Lent, the individual Christian imitates Jesus' withdrawal into the wilderness for forty days. All churches that have a continuous history extending before AD 1500 to observe Lent. The ancient church that wrote, collected, canonized, and propagated the New Testament also observed Lent, believing it to be a commandment from the apostles.

Lately I have been reflecting on the cross and the disciplines of Lent: there are many crosses we bear. We face the pains of life, sickness, loss, and grief. It is so simple to reply, "Well, there will be resurrection on the other side." Life is not that simple. For some of us, we face a cross in our sickness, for others in loneliness, and for others in broken relationships. When we are hurting and in pain, it is not easy to bear our burdens alone. That is when we can rely on God's grace for strength so we can journey through the darkest valley.

At other times in our lives, we forget about God and that it is God who keeps us alive. So we engage in the disciplines of Lent to stand as a reminder that whether we are facing the desperation of life's valleys, or the joy of seeing God on the mountaintop, we always have the opportunity to return to God and seek God's justice and peace.

This Lenten season, our Trexlertown-Fogelsville group of churches is reflecting on The Psalms. We will be preaching and teaching on the various psalms which help us to express our human experience and look forward to the hope of God's resurrection and justice. The Psalms are the liturgy of the people- their expression of worship. They also contain the message of God's love and God's faith in the community of believers which endures.

And through our faith and lenten discipline, each of us has the gift of growing in our relationship with God. Knowing it is God who always keeps us alive, knowing Jesus who carried the burdens of the world, we can share our gifts of love with one another, whether it be holding the hand of a loved one who is sick, sharing a meal, or a simple phone call that says, "I care about you." God's tremendous love for us keeps us alive, and lets us share God's Loving Spirit that sustains us even through life's darkest valleys. Let us offer our gifts to Jesus and to one another so that God's peace and justice can be felt in our world.

In Christ's love,  
**Pastor Joanne**



## WORSHIP FOR: February 2008

Week of February 3, 2008 - Transfiguration

Sunday

Scriptures: 2 Peter 1:16-21; Matthew 17:1-9

Hymns: #286 Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness

#336 Here, O My Lord, I See You Face to Face

#18 Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer

February 6, 2008 - Ash Wednesday

Scriptures: Joel 2:1-2, 12-17; 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10; Matthew 6:16-21

Hymns: #454 Lord, I Want To Be a Christian

#187 Again We Keep This Solemn Fast

#456 More Love to You, O Christ

Week of February 10, 2008 - 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent

Scriptures: Psalm 32; Romans 5:12-19; Matthew 4:1-11

Hymns: #211 Lord Jesus, Who Through Forty Days

#488 Be Still, My Soul

#77 Lord, Dismiss Us With Your Blessing

Week of February 17, 2008 - 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent

Scriptures: Psalm 121; Romans 4:1-5, 13-17; John 3:1-17

Hymns: #381 Faith of the Martyrs

#473 Blessed Assurance

#198 Lift High the Cross

Week of February 24, 2008 - 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent

Scriptures: Psalm 95; Romans 5:1-11; John 4:5-42

Hymns: #459 Come, O Font of Every Blessing

#481 As Pants the Hart for Cooling Streams

#4 Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You

*For Planning Purposes Only - subject to change as circumstance dictate*



## *Dutch Lunch*

Pastor Joanne invites you to join her for lunch. Meet her at the Starlite Diner on Wednesday afternoons at 12:00 p.m. It will be Dutch Style where everyone will treat him or herself for a lunch out. We will have informal discussions of faith and life, time to share, support, break bread together, and get to know one another



## February Anniversaries and Birthdays

2 – Courtney Moyer

3 – Henry & Betty Rockel

4 – Scott Breininger

9 – John Kleinschuster

14 – Dan Einsla

14 – Zachary Kunkle

15 – Homer Heilman

16 – Dean Mohr

17 – Leon Peters

17 – George Rodenbach

18 – Christine Dietrich

22 – Jennifer Marsteller

23 – Amy Guldin

25 – Dick Boyer



## **Confirmation!**

Our Confirmation program is underway. We have seven youth enrolled in our Confirmation program.

The Confirmation retreat schedule is as follows: We will have a day retreat on February 23, and we will have an overnight lock-in retreat on March 20-21.

The field trip to Lancaster Seminary & Bethany Children's Home on February 9<sup>th</sup>.

## Choir Rehearsal

Our choir has a new meeting date and time. Choir rehearsals will begin at 9:00 A.M. on Sundays. Please come out and join the choir! New voices are always welcome!



# Thank You Corner

To the following people who helped “un-decorate” the church – Pastor Joanne & Jim Marchetto, Jeff & Janet Grim, Warren Boyer, John & Tracey Kleinschuster, Kris Krause, Marjorie Cope, Ken Snyder, Scott Breininger, Ernest Breininger, Bruce Fehnel, & Carl Williamson. The men are to be thanked especially for their hard work getting the old pews down from the balcony & placed in the big Sunday school room for pickup by people interested in having them for a donation towards the purchase of cushions for the two small pews installed in the Sanctuary. There are two pews still available.

To Janet Grim & Marilyn Roth for their involvement in the service on January 20<sup>th</sup> during Pastor Joanne’s vacation time. The skit was so well done & sent a message to all in attendance. (They may end up on Broadway in the near future!) To Jessica Williamson for her solo that she did so well during the service on January 20<sup>th</sup>.

*If you have a “thank you” you would like to share, please drop a note in the Newsletter folder outside the church office. “Thank-you’s” may be personalized anonymous!*



## Busy Bees

Busy Bees are planning an Easter candy sale during February. New this year will be several kinds of molded chocolate figures as well as the regular boxes of candy. This sale will help toward our contribution to the renovation of the family room.

We plan on the first hoagie sale in March.

We will be preparing & serving a luncheon on February 5<sup>th</sup> for the meeting of the Area Mission Council of Pastors at St John’s, hosted by Pastor Joanne



## Wednesday Evening Lenten Services

2008 Lenten Schedule:

- February 6 Ash Wednesday Service at St. John’s UCC
- February 13 St. John’s UCC, Fogelsville; Rev. Laura Stonebach preaching
- February 20 St. Ann’s Episcopal, Trexlertown Rev. Linda Lennon preaching
- February 27 St. Paul’s UCC, Trexlertown; Rev. Joanne Marchetto preaching
- March 5 St. Paul’s Lutheran, Trexlertown; Rev. Judith Snyder preaching
- March 12 Lenten Cantata hosted by St. John’s Lutheran church

*For Planning Purposes Only - subject to change as circumstance dictate*



## VBS Volunteers

Yes, believe it or not, it's that time to start planning for this year's Vacation Bible School.

I am asking for volunteers now so the planning process will go smoothly. Hopefully, this will avoid a last minute rush to get supplies and decorations ready and set up.

Any adults or youth who are willing to give of their time to minister to our young children, please see Nancy Moyer or Pastor Joanne.



## Jazz Concert

Our next Jazz Concert will be held on March 8<sup>th</sup>, This will be the final concert for the season. Tickets are available at the door. Cost is \$10 for adults and \$6 for children. For more information call 610-737-0530 or do an e-mail to [www.rothpiano.com](http://www.rothpiano.com)

To participate, go to any Redner's market, show your card at the check-out, save your receipt, and drop your receipt into the basket. It is that easy.

Please see Jerry Roth if you have any questions about this program.



## Love

It was a busy morning, approximately 8:30 am, when an elderly gentleman, in his 80's, presented to have stitches removed from his thumb. He stated that he was in a hurry as he had an appointment at 9:00 am. I took his vital signs and had him take a seat, knowing it would be over an hour before someone would be able to see him.

I saw him looking at his watch and decided, since I was not busy with another patient, I would evaluate his wound. On exam it was well healed, so I talked to one of his doctors, got needed supplies to remove his stitches and redress his wound.

While taking care of his wound, we began to engage in conversation. I asked him if he had a doctor's appointment this morning, as he was in such a hurry. The gentleman told me no, that he needed to go to the nursing home to eat breakfast with his wife.

I then inquired as to her health. He told me that she has been there for a while and that she was a victim of Alzheimer Disease. As we talked, and I finished dressing his wound, I asked if she would be worried if he was a bit late. He replied that she no longer knew who he was, that she has not recognized him in five years.

I was surprised, and asked him "And you still go every morning, even though she doesn't know who you are"? He smiled as he patted my hand and said "she doesn't know me, but I still know who she is".

I had to hold back tears as he left, I had goose bumps on my arm and thought, "that is the kind of love I want in my life". True love is neither physical, nor romantic.

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## Snow Report

In the case of inclement weather, the snow is falling inch by inch. You are wondering, will we meet for church today? Please turn to channel WFMZ or, you can log onto [www.wfmz.com](http://www.wfmz.com). for cancellation information. If snow is predicted for a Sunday morning, we will be contacted by a member of the Consistory to tell you we will not be having church that day.

Please keep in mind that just because church is cancelled doesn't mean that the church's bills are cancelled for that week. **Please consider turning your offering in the following week** so St. John's can continue to provide for all of God's people. Thank you for your continued generosity.

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### Church Staff

Joanne Marchetto, Pastor

Office: 610-398-7015 Home: 610-530-9013

Cell: 610-703-5897

e-mail: [jomarchetto@rcn.com](mailto:jomarchetto@rcn.com)

### Office Hours

Monday 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Wednesday 10:a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Saturday 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Drew Nielsen, Minister of Music

Dan Einsla, Sexton

Anna DeAngelis, Parish Coordinator

Church Hospital Code # 467

Office Phone: 610-398-7015

E-mail: [stjohnsucc1@enter.net](mailto:stjohnsucc1@enter.net)

### Office Hours

Monday 10:00am -1:00pm

Wednesday 10:00am -1:00pm

Friday 10:am -2:00pm

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### **Redner's Receipts**

It's easy to participate in the Redner's Save-a-Tape Program. This program is designed to donate 1% of all you spend and donate the money to our church.

True love is an acceptance of all that is, has been,  
will be, and will not be.

Something to think about!

Bill and Lorraine

### ***Cedarbrook Nursing Homes***

We are enlisting the help of church members to volunteer. The Abider Program is in hopes that no one will die alone. The Abiders are very special people and not everyone is comfortable with this type of commitment; we do have other needs for volunteers. People who have some extra time to spend talking with residents or assisting with bingo and other activities are always in demand. There is also a need for people who are physically able to push residents in wheelchairs to in-house appointments. For those who want to give back to their community, Cedarbrook can provide various opportunities in which an individual can offer their gifts and talents and feel immeasurably rewarded.

If you would like more information, please contact Pastor Joanne at the church office.



### **Our Church Website**

If you have internet access, please visit our church website: [www.stjohnsucc1.org](http://www.stjohnsucc1.org) Jim Marchetto has started up and maintains the site. He is also looking for additional people to assist with this project. If you have pictures, information, articles, or are interested in learning more about developing websites, please see Jim. One of the biggest limitations to a website is the time put into making it look great and adding content, so the more folks willing to help, the more St. John's will have to share with the world. This is also a great way to get our youth (and hopefully new youth) involved in the church.



### **Notes from the Consistory Meeting**

Three of the old pews will be used along the wall in the large Sunday school room for extra seating.

Family room update is progressing. Donna Breininger has made purchases of a large dining room/conference table, 8 chairs, an upholstered couch & chair for the family room. The walls will

be painted & new carpet laid sometime in February.

A survey of the congregation will be made to know if there is or is not a desire to change the summer service time.

Consistory retreat will be held February 2, 9-12.

Congregational meeting will be held following church on February 24<sup>th</sup>

Two more handicap parking spaces are to be added to the parking lot.



### **Beauty of Math!**

If:

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y  
Z

Is represented as:

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22  
23 24 25 26.

IF:

H-A-R-D-W-O-R- K

$$8+1+18+4+23+15+18+11 = 98\%$$

And:

K-N-O-W-L-E-D-G-E

$$11+14+15+23+12+5+4+7+5 = 96\%$$

But:

A-T-T-I-T-U-D-E

$$1+20+20+9+20+21+4+5 = 100\%$$

THEN, look how far the Love of God will take you:

L-O-V-E-O-F-G-O-D

$$12+15+22+5+15+6+7+15+4 = 101\%$$

Therefore, one can conclude with mathematical certainty  
that:

While Hard Work and Knowledge will get you close,

and Attitude will get you there,

It's the Love of God that will put you over the top!

It's up to you if you share this with your friends

& loved ones just the way I did.

Have a Beautiful Day & May God Bless You