

DEACONS PAGE

Please keep in thought and prayer

Ann Haag, recovering from surgery

David and Laura Keiling, both recovering from separate medical issues

Marcia Way's father, battling health issues

Irene Derry's brother in England, battling health issues

Continued prayers for **Doris Falke, Lois Benedict,** and **Jim Bartell** and **Shirley Eckerson**

Our sympathy to

Rev. Scott Cupp and Family, on the recent death of his father-in-law

Bev Switzer and Family, on the recent death of Bev's mother **Fran Pyritz**

Wendell Burtner and Family, on the recent death of his brother

Janice Bilohlavek and Family, on the recent death of Janice's mother

Mary Hadley and Family, on the recent death of Mary's uncle in Virginia

Jim and Linda Allen and Family on the recent death of Jim's mother in Missouri

Congratulations to

Jessica and Nathaniel Troup on the birth of their daughter, **Lilliana Margaret**. Proud grandparents are **Teresa and Michael Cioppa** and proud great-grandparents are **Margaret and Gordon Troup**.

REMINDER TO DEACONS

Our next meeting will be at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, February 23rd.

LUNCH BUNCH will gather again starting Tuesday, February 3rd at 10:00 a.m. Bring a lunch and join us for crafting and fellowship. Any questions, please call June Hungerford at 426-2656.

TABITHA CIRCLE will meet at the home of Bonnie Beckett on Tuesday, February 10, at 7:00 p.m.

The **PRAYER SHAWL GROUP** will meet at GPC in Room 16 at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 17th. Any questions, call Bonnie Beckett.

**Dr. Cupp's office hours are:
9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. Monday-Thursday
Please call for an appointment for times other than stated above.**

Musings:

Lent begins on the last Wednesday of February. The day is known as Ash Wednesday – so named for the Ashes that are signed on the foreheads of those who attend worship services at churches who observe the rite. The ashes come from palm fronds from the previous year that are burned for the specific purpose of use in a worship service.

For many years the observance of Ash Wednesday has been largely ignored by Protestant churches because it was seen as a Catholic rite that had no place in Reformed tradition. However, gradually this view has begun to change.

As people move from place to place they often cross denominational lines. In the process they are exposed to a variety of traditions and practices that gradually become a part of their own spirituality. They also begin to discover new depths of meaning in centuries old practices that have, for one reason or another, fallen into disuse by segments of the church only to be rediscovered.

So what is it all about? At an appropriate time in the service, the worship leader invites people to come forward to receive the sign of the cross. You can tell people who have attended such a service by the dark smudge on their foreheads. The meaning of this act has many levels. In one sense it is a reminder of our baptism into the life, death and resurrection of Christ. It is a reminder of who we are and whose we are.

In another it is a reminder that we are a part of the people who are there. We are the body of Christ. In a very clear way we are reminded that what happens to one of us has an impact on the rest of us. It does not take a lot of imagination to see that the connection is larger still. As we remember that we may be drawn to think of how we can live more carefully.

The ashes are also a reminder of our mortality. As the sign of the cross is being made, the words, "Remember that you come from dust and to dust you will return" are spoken. No one lasts forever. Life is a finite experience – at least on this side of the grave. As a consequence to be reminded of its relative brevity is also a subtle encouragement for us to treat it with reverence and care. The Psalmist encourages us to "so number our days that we gain a heart of wisdom."

As I said above, Ash Wednesday signals the beginning of Lent. The forty days of reflection on our life as followers of Christ. It is a time of prayer, other spiritual disciplines and perhaps changes small or large in our life. As Wednesday effectively sets the tone for what is to follow. And hopefully, it brings us closer to the one who has called us by name to be his own. See you at Worship.

- Scott

Thank You

There is no easy time to lose a loved-one and just before Christmas is one of the more difficult times. Tonia and I and the rest of our family thank you for your prayers and for your expressions of sympathy and concern at the death of her father on the Sunday before Christmas. We have been strengthened and encouraged and we are grateful.

Grace and peace,

Scott, Tonia, Matthew, Nicholas and Cassandra Cupp

Lectionary Readings for February

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 1st

Communion

Teacher Commissioning

Deuteronomy 18.15-20 – I will raise up a prophet like you

Psalms 111 – Praise the Lord

1 Corinthians 8.1-13 -- be careful with your freedom

Mark 1.21-28 – a man with an unclean spirit is healed

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 8th

Commissioning Jamaica Team

Scout Sunday

Isaiah 40.21-31 – those who wait on the Lord will be renewed

Psalms 147.1-11 – the Lord lifts up the downtrodden

1 Corinthians 9.16-23 – all things to all people ...

Mark 1.29-39 – the healing of Peter's mother-in-law

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 15th

2 Kings 5.1-14 – Naaman the Leper goes to Elijah

Psalms 30 – I cried to you, o God, for help and you gave it

1 Corinthians 9.24-27 – run as if to win

Mark 1.40-45 – Jesus heals a leper

Transfiguration of the Lord

February 22nd

2 Kings 2.1-12 – Elijah is called home

Psalms 50.1-6 – the Lord summons the earth

2 Corinthians 4.3-6 – you are a letter from Christ

Mark 9.2-9 – The Transfiguration of Jesus

JR. CHOIR NEWS

In January, we learned a little bit about Francis of Assisi in preparation for singing the words of his prayer as our anthem "Let Me Be an Instrument of Peace". Although this song is based on words that are over 800 years old, words that have been set to music many, many times, *this* arrangement was published barely three years ago.

Whereas our anthem put new music to old words, our introit worked the other way around. The words to "Have We Not All One Loving God?" were written fairly recently, but the hymn tune Old Hundredth, ("Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow") is familiar to us as the Doxology, and has been used in worship for hundreds of years.

What will we be singing this month? Something with a history? Something brand new? Come on February 15th and find out!

2009 Per-capita Apportionment

The "per-capita apportionment" for 2009 is \$25.71 per member. This represents the "cost of being Presbyterian." It pays for services such as the Resource Center on Winton Road, the Presbytery staff, and similar expenses at the Synod and General Assembly levels.

While the apportionment is assessed to the Church, rather than individual members, it will certainly help our budget crunch if members would reimburse GPC for their share. There is a special envelope for this purpose in with your regular offering envelopes. Remember, the above number is **per member**, so the amount would be \$51.42 for a couple if both are members, \$77.13 for a youth member and both parents, etc.

Whit Beckett, Budget Committee

Spring Time & Talent Sheet

Enclosed you will find the Spring 2009 edition of the Time & Talent Sheet. At the top are activities which are pertinent to this time of year; the main body of the sheet includes ongoing activities which are pertinent year-round. The sheet has room for 2 members' submissions; if there are more than 2 members in your household, extra sheets are in the Narthex on top of the collection box.

Please return your sheet to the box in the church Narthex by February 15.

Whit Beckett, Stewardship Committee

From Alternatives for Battered Women:

Thank you for the hand-made blankets and personal hygiene items that Gates Presbyterian Church recently dropped off for ABW. It would be impossible to provide all that our clients need just from our operating budget. That is why donations like the ones you gave us are so essential to our operations. We truly "couldn't do it without you!" Your thoughtfulness means a lot to us!

Sincerely, Chatherine Mazzotta, Executive Director

STATEMENTS OF GIVING FOR 2008

We thank God for you! Your gifts to Gates Presbyterian Church throughout 2008 are gratefully acknowledged. 2008 Financial Reports or what are commonly called statements of giving are available to be picked in the church office. These can be retrieved during regular office hours (9am-12pm and 1pm-3:30pm) or can be mailed by making a request to the church office 247-5292. To mail over 300 reports is not cost effective when not everyone asks for them. Although the books are closed for 2008, if you are able to do so you are invited to consider fulfilling last year's pledge along with this year's commitment. Of course, gifts to the church will be deductible in the year they are received. However, take note the IRS is making a greater effort to confirm contributions to not-for profit organizations so be sure you comply with IRS rules. Once again, thank you for your generous commitment to the work of Jesus Christ through Gates Presbyterian Church.

Yours in Christ,
Your Stewardship Committee.

FEBRUARY PUBLIC WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Date	Lay Reader	Communion	Usher Team
1 st	Jan Beutner	* See below*	#2
8 th	Bonnie Beckett		#3
15 th	Youth TBD		#4
22 nd	Eric Vail		#5
25 th	Janice Bilohlavek (Ash Wednesday service)		#6

Communion Servers for February

Left

1. Jeff Tuttle
2. Sue Mancini
3. Brenda Thornton
4. Chuck Goodykoontz

Right

1. Mary Beth MacKenzie
2. Bruce Taylor
3. Keith Szczepanski
4. Cathy Goodykoontz

MEN'S FOOD, FUN & FELLOWSHIP

The monthly Men's Breakfast fellowship continues on the second Thursday of each month starting at 6:30 a.m. at the Town and Country Restaurant on Chili Avenue. In February, please join us at breakfast on the 8th. The Men's Dinner is held on the third Tuesday evening of each month at 6:00 p.m. and we will gather at the Town and Country Restaurant on Feb. 17th. Discussions, friendship, and food bring blessings to all the participants.

ROCHESTER AREA PRESCHOOL

Registration for the general public for the 2009-2010 school year opens Saturday, February 7 at 9:00 a.m. We have a wonderful preschool in our building with an outstanding reputation community-wide! They may call the RAP registrar, Susan Gramowski at 889-4249 to register. Please pass the word on to neighbors and friends.

NURSERY SCHEDULE

Date	Name
February 1	Cathy Goodykoontz and Jenna Steinmiller
February 8	Chris Davis and Laura Hossenlopp
February 15	Sharon Call and Andrea Unson
February 22	Tammy and Mike Endulovski



THANK YOU to all the Elders, Deacons, and Trustees whose terms have ended:

ELDERS:	John Belt	Mary Beth MacKenzie
	Ken Birkbeck	Jeff Tomkinson
	Ann Haag	Kevin Paine

DEACONS:	Tammy Endulovski	Donna Schott
	Christine Fitzgerald	Linda Sidore
	Dorothy Mundt	Ginny Smith
	Debbie Lamphron	Leah Tackling

TRUSTEES:	Gary Dykes	Rob Waugh
	Paula Sousa	Kyle Millar
	Ron Steinmiller	



THE GREAT GPC YARD SALE



The Gates Presbyterian Yard Sale is scheduled for June 13, 2009. Please begin to save your gently used items to donate. This has been a great event for our church with the opportunity to have fun while fundraising and finding some great deals on things you always knew you needed, but could never find. We will need LOTS of help to make this event anywhere near as successful as previous Yard Sales. We welcome your ideas and your time along with your donation of treasures. Please contact Sheri MacFarlane at 436-1274 with any ideas or questions and watch for updates in the weekly Worship Bulletins. We look forward to an exciting and successful Yard Sale in 2009.

Adult Education Programs

1st Microcredit with Guest Speaker Perlis J. Trahan

Muhammad Yunus, the pioneer of microcredit, the innovative banking program that provides poor people - mainly women - with small loans they use to launch businesses and lift their families out of poverty, goes beyond microcredit to pioneer the idea of social business. Social business is a completely new way to use the creative vibrancy of business to tackle social problems from poverty and pollution to inadequate health care and lack of education. In partnership with some of the world's most visionary business leaders, Mr. Yunus has launched the world's first purposely designed social businesses. Find out how Mr. Yunus went from micro credit to his "Next Big Idea" of Social Business thereby offering a pioneering model for nothing less than a new, more humane form of capitalism.

15th Old Testament with Rev. Dr. Scott Cupp, Interim Pastor

Rev. Cupp will lead a session entitled: "Introduction to the Old Testament" that will introduce participants to the process that formed the Old Testament and will talk about some of the issues that continue around its translation and use. Bring your *Bible*.

22nd Historic Inauguration Reflections

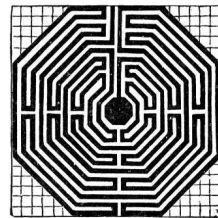


Our own Gates Presbyterian YOUTH members, Jenna Steinmiller & Allison Mackenzie will be doing an Adult Education 2nd hour program on their experiences, along with photos, after attending a historic moment by attending the new President Barack Obama's Inauguration. We are very pleased that they have agreed to do this for 2nd hour. Please make room in your schedules to come hear their experiences after worship in the Adult Lounge.

25th Walk the Labyrinth on Ash Wednesday

A labyrinth is a single path – not a mental challenge - used for personal and spiritual transformation. Use a labyrinth: to:

- Open to the voice of God
- Repeat a Bible verse, a sacred word, phrase, or poetry
- Focus on a challenge or desire to change
- Meditate prayerfully
- Silently empty your mind
- Follow images or dreams that you imagine or create
- Walk in memory of a loved one who has passed away
- Explore your thoughts and musings about a question



Take a few minutes before or after the worship service to walk.

Women – If you attended the retreat, please bring your decorated stained glass candle to place around the labyrinth.

Care Through Prayer

The members of the GPC prayer chain want to carry your concerns to God in support of you and your loved ones. Initiate this service ministry by calling Ginny Smith at 247-5563. Anonymous requests are accepted.

If you are interested in joining the prayer chain to pray for others upon request, contact Ginny. Remember that the confidential nature of all requests is to be respected. This is a very rewarding way to serve others.

During the days of Jesus' life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions ... and he was heard because of his reverent submission.

Hebrews 5:7

Bring a Friend



Consider inviting a friend or acquaintance to worship with you in February. Spread the inspiration, joy, and love of God we share within our congregation. After worship, consider staying for coffee. Use the time to unwind, greet newcomers, and spend some time with others.

Women - Save the Date

Plan now to join the wild and crazy women of GPC in a spiritual (and fun) retreat at Camp Asbury, an hour south of here. Put a hold on these dates in your calendar for **Friday, November 13 through Sunday, Nov. 15, 2009.**

New members are especially urged to attend to get to know other women in a deeper way while exploring the *Bible* and developing spiritually.

Contact Barb Snaith or Lynn Schramel if you are willing to serve on the Retreat Steering committee at Bas0429@hotmail.com or Lynn@gatespres.org. We meet a few times in advance to prepare a wonderful program, select movies, crafts, and activities.

Christ Our Hope Daily Lenten Devotions by Henrie Nouwen

Henri Nouwen's moving spiritual insights and prayerful conversations with God are particularly timely during this holy season of Lent when we prayerfully journey with Christ through his suffering, death and resurrection. Each meditation begins with a Scriptural quote and ends with a brief prayer. A limited number will be available during Lent in the Narthex.



Bears Donation to Urban Children Video on GPC Website



View the inspirational video highlighting the work of the people at St. John's Meadows and Gates Presbyterian Church at www.gatespres.org. Two city schools received hand-knit hats, books, and bears. Thanks to all the volunteers and coordinators as well as our tech guru Chris Thornton for loading this.

From the Associate Pastor

Unbelievable! As I watched the festivities, I remembered the childhood images of badly painted signs, “coloreds only”, “no coloreds allowed”, “coloreds in the balcony only”, etc. Yet, now I was watching Barak Obama sworn in as President of the United States. Unbelievable! It makes me proud to be a citizen of the United States. It renews my conviction that change can happen.

January 20th was a wonderful celebration of an amazing historical event. It was, however, much more than a historical event. Our new President spoke clearly of the serious struggles in front of us and challenged each of us to be part of the solution. Whether Obama was your candidate or not, his call to unity, his challenge of service reminds us that we each have a responsibility in determining the future of our country. Our men and women in uniform have long known the importance of serving one’s country, but Obama challenged all of us to be of service within our communities.

We, at Gates Presbyterian Church, believe that service is an expression of our faith. For example, we have a long history of serving lunch at St. Joseph’s, collecting food for SWEM, developing global partnerships, tutoring at Cameron Community Ministries and so much more. We also have a long history of advocating for justice. Gates Presbyterian Church, in fact, helped to break down the walls of segregation that made Tuesday’s inauguration possible. I love the stories of long time members who tell of GPC’s involvement in the civil rights movement. I am told that there were struggles and disagreements but ultimately a conviction that God calls us to be people of justice. Folks from the congregation joined Rev. Donn Vickers traveling to protest discrimination. Indeed, it was the collective efforts of so many that destroyed those walls of segregation that made this inauguration possible.

We are being challenged with an amazing opportunity. We can be both the country of our ancestor’s dreams and the people of our Creator’s vision. It is not a given that “our best days are behind us”. We do not have to spiral down into helplessness for we are far from helpless. Yes, our national problems are serious, but we already know that our collective efforts will transform ill systems. January 20’s events were the very assurance of that fact. At GPC, we know the beacon of hope that volunteerism brings to both the volunteer site and the volunteer him/herself. There are many places within our area that need volunteers. There is work for everyone regardless of age and situation. If you would like suggestions as to where you can put your talents to use, please call and we will brainstorm together. If you are currently volunteering in an organization that needs additional volunteers, let me know. I will spread the word. Whether it is a one day commitment, a one hour commitment, a once a month commitment or a weekly commitment, let 2009 be a year of discovering the joy of community service.

Carol Anne

Youth News

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|-------------|--|
| February 1 | - 9:00 - Youth Choir
- 9:45 - Jr High Souper Bowl
- 11:15 - Junior High Church School (no Sr. Hi)
- 12:15 - 2:00 - Junior High Soup Party
- 2:00 - Senior High's return from retreat |
| February 5 | - 7:00 - Advisor's Meeting |
| February 8 | - 9:00 - Youth Choir
- 10:00 - Jamaica team commissioned in worship
- 11:15 - Confirmation Class orientation with parents - Room 3
- 11:15 - Jr. and Sr. High Church School
- 4:00 - Jamaica Mission Trip Orientation with parents |
| February 12 | - 7:00 - Youth Committee |
| February 14 | - 5:00 AM - Jamaica Mission Team meets at airport |
| February 15 | - 9:00 - Youth Choir
- 11:15 - Jr. and Sr. High Church School
- 12:15 - 3:00 Senior High Bowling Event
- 6:00 - Jr. and Sr. High Youth Group |
| February 21 | - 10:00 - 3:00 Jr. High meet at GPC to serve lunch at St. Joseph's |
| February 22 | - 9:00 - Youth Choir
- 11:30 - Jamaica Mission Team returns |

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: SUMMER YOUTH WORK PROJECT DATES

Junior High - July 27-30

Senior High - August 9-15 (CORRECTION: this is the correct date contrary to info last month.)



Jamaica Mission Travelers: Our trip is finally here!

A few last minute tidbits of info:

- ALL of your paperwork and money is DUE!
- Bring your parents to the orientation, February 8, 4-6. (required)
- Meet at the airport at 5:00 AM – Valentine’s Day! (required) –
- Buy suntan lotion! (required)

Awesome GPC Junior Highs:

Reaching out and helping those who are hungry!!!!

- **February 1 - Junior Highs celebrate the Super Bowl by celebrating the Souper Bowl**

It's a soup, souper, soupest day of all.On February 1, help collect money for St. Joseph's and cans of soup for Cameron. Meet Mary, Carol, Allison, and Rob outside the worship center at 9:45. Following Church School, it's still all about soup – bring two dollars, and we will go out for.....soup, of course! Have your parents pick you up at 2:00.

- **February 21 – Serving Lunch at St. Joseph's**

Meet at GPC at 10:00 – we will go to St. Joseph's House of Hospitality to serve lunch to the those who are homeless or who have very limited income. After we are finished at St. Joseph, we will have lunch and then return to GPC at 3:00.

2009 Confirmation Class begins – February 8

Confirmation Class is an opportunity for ninth graders to explore their faith and what it means to be a Presbyterian. At the end of the class, youth will decide whether or not they would like to confirm their faith by joining Gates Presbyterian Church. If you are in ninth grade and interested in this class but have not gotten a letter from Carol Anne, call her – 247-5292.

Mission News

Souper Bowl Sunday – February 1

Souper Bowl Sunday began twenty years ago on February 1, 1989. A Presbyterian youth group believed they could make a difference by inviting their congregation members to donate one dollar to fight hunger on Super Bowl Sunday. Playing on words, they called their efforts “Souper Bowl” Sunday. By acting on their passion, they started a movement that is transforming Super Bowl weekend into the nation's largest youth-led weekend of giving and serving. More than \$50 million has been raised for food banks, soup kitchens, and other charities across the country by youth. GPC youth have been long time participants in this event. On Super Bowl Sunday, our Junior Highs will offer you a chance to participate in the **Souper Bowl**. They ask you to bring one dollar and one can of soup. They will collect your donations at the worship center doors. We will take the soup to Cameron Community Ministries and the money will be given to St. Joseph's House of Hospitality. Both of these mission sites help to fight hunger in Rochester by offering a six day a week hot lunch. GPC has supported their mission work for many years with budget dollars, food donations, volunteers, and Souper Bowl gifts. For more information on the Souper Bowl go to www.souperbowl.org.

2009 Jamaica Mission Trip

On February 14th, 12 GPC'ers will begin the 10th mission trip to Jamaica. This group of 12th graders and their advisors will spend a week working with the congregations of the Negril Charge of the United Church of Jamaica. On past trips, groups have built a church and a women's center, painted a school and a church, repaired damage from hurricanes, cleared land for emergency housing for victims of human trafficking, as well as other things. This year the mission travelers hope to be the first group to begin the construction of the Green Island Basic School. GPC has pledged to work with the Green Island United Church of Jamaica to build a preschool for the community. It is the belief of these two partnering churches that a solid education foundation results in academic success - that academic success offers alternatives to the unhealthy illegal components of the tourist industry. The Green Island Basic School is a five year mission focus of our mission budget. Members of the 2009 Jamaica Mission Team are: Collin Binko, Corey Crosdale, Mitch Davies, Kelsey Ecksten, Dave Fish, Dan Hadley, Mary Hadley, Kyle Millar, Kevin Paine, Carol Anne Strawbridge, Leah Tackling, and Jeff Tuttle. Please keep this group in your prayers. They return on February 22 and will lead worship on March 1. ***There will be prayer cards in the foyer for each participant. Please sign them as your commitment to pray for them while they are gone.***

St. Joseph's House of Hospitality

Junior Highs serving but we still need donations and cooks.

On February 21, the Junior Highs will be serving lunch at St. Joseph's House of Hospitality. Although this energetic bunch of middle schoolers will do an outstanding job of serving the guests at St. Joseph's, we still need cooks on Friday night as well as food donations. The meal will be cooked on Friday evening, February 20 at 6:30. The sign-up sheet will be on the Kiosk.

WALL OF FOOD - Lenten Food Drive for Southwest Ecumenical Ministries

This year GPC's Lenten Drive is more important than ever. The local needs are great due to the financial crisis. As a result, mission sites that feed people with limited or no income currently have shrinking inventories. Please bring a can of food each time you come to worship during Lent. The collection will begin on the first Sunday of Lent, March 1. Food donations will be given to SWEM, Southwest Ecumenical Ministries. SWEM provides people living in the southwest quadrant of Rochester with emergency food supplies.

Suggestions: canned fruit, vegetables and/or meat,
oatmeal and/or, cereal
powdered milk,
cans of soup

