

# 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian Church of Greenfield, Indiana



## March 2011

### *From The Pastor*

March winds blow away the February show! They also blow away the winter “blahs” that seemed so strong in this year of the ice and the “snow days”! Being stuck inside was one of the winter themes this year. Lots of TV, reading, conversation, and family time. We are ready for spring this year, in fact, we are more than ready! I just finished clearing off the driveway for the umpteenth time this year, and that is enough!

In addition to being ready for spring, we need to get ready for Easter as well. How do we do that? We do it during the forty day period we call “Lent”. Starting with Ash Wednesday on March 9<sup>th</sup>, and ending on the day before Easter on April 23<sup>rd</sup>, Lent is a time of preparation. In times past, it was the time that people prepared to join the church through baptism. Today, it is a time of reflection; a time to get closer to God and to prepare our hearts for the wonderful celebration of Easter Sunday.

As wonderful as Easter is, we can’t get there without going through Good Friday. We can’t get to the “best” without going through the “worst.”

There will be guides available for your daily devotions during Lent on the table outside the church office in the Selman Room. This time of Lent is a good time to get in the habit of daily Bible reading. The Presbyterian Church, USA,(PCUSA) website, can send you a list of suggested Bible readings every day. Go to <http://gamc.pcusa.org/subscriptions/lists/daily-lectionary/> and set it up. You will be reading the same Bible passages as Presbyterians throughout the world will be reading, and praying for the same issues that are affecting everyone on a daily basis.

We will begin our Lenten journey this year on Ash Wednesday, March 9<sup>th</sup>, with a combined worship service with St. Pauls Anglican Church. During this

service we will have the imposition of ashes as we prepare for the period of Lent.

Please take time to read the Bible and to pray for yourself and others, as well as for our country, our president, our church, the PCUSA, and all those who continue to need God’s loving touch in their lives.

Pray every day!

See you in church,

**Pastor John**

## **LETTER FROM THE ELDER OF THE MONTH – Richard Terheide**

People striving for freedom are gunned down as are the innocent. Terrorists’ bombings are carried out in Pakistan and Afghanistan. Threats of terrorism abound. Pirates seize ships and kill the passengers. Local shootings seem to appear every day on the news. Terrorism and violence seem to dominate the age we are living in. To shoot or not to shoot seems to be the question of the day. Where is there any source of hope.

The Book of John ,Chapter 16 , Verses 20-22 ,seems to offer us this hope. The verses begin.. “ Verily, verily, I say unto you , That ye shall weep and lament, but the world shall rejoice: and ye shall be sorrowful, but your sorrow shall be turned into joy. A woman when she is in travail hath sorrow, because her hour is come but as soon as she is delivered of the child , she remebereth no more the anguish , for joy that a man is born into the world. And ye now therefore have sorrow: but I will see you again, and your heart shall rejoice, and your joy no man taketh from you.

Further solace can be found in Chapter 5, Verses 3-12:, The Beatitudes.. They begin with

“Blessed are the poor in spirit : for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are they that mourn : for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek : for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are they, which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled. Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God. Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness’ sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are ye when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of vile thing against you falsely, for my sake, Rejoice and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.”

Wouldn’t it be wonderful if people today could follow the injunction of Paul to the Romans in Chapter 12, verses 17-21. Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men. If it be possible , as much as lieth in you, live peacefully with all men . Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written. Vengeance is mine: I will repay, saith the Lord. Therefore if thine enemy hunger feed him; if he thirst , give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. Be not overcome with evil, but overcome evil with good.

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**ATTENTION ALL**  
**SESSION MEMBERS**

The March Session meeting is  
Thursday, March 10th at 7 p.m.

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**Char’s**

What’s so great about the month of March? Well, let’s see...February and it’s certain frigid weather is over! April is coming with the hope of Spring. But we live in the present, right? Perhaps—but in our humanness we all probably look too much to the past or future. We cannot change one bit that is past, and certainly not control the future. The past is gone and the future is not here. So we have TODAY...Twenty-

four hours only and how shall we spend them? How do we make our time count for something worthwhile? Are we like a “couch potato” or a gerbil on a wheel going nowhere in a cage? One of these Sunday’s soon we will be singing “Open My Eyes that I May See.” Maybe we need to make that our March petition and ask the Lord to help us make our time count for Him. My friend’s grandmother used to have a picture that said, “Only one life twill soon be past\_Only what’s done for Christ will last.”

So my prayer for this month is for us to have open eyes to see opportunities to make a difference in the humdrum of March to glorify God and As always, keep a song in your heart.



Char

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***GREETERS FOR MARCH –***  
***Dennis and Melva Smith***

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Elder on Call for March  
*Jill Lyon 894-1648*

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**KATHERINE AND BRENT ARE LEAVING!**

After what must have seemed an eternity for them, Katherine and Brent have finally found a place to live in the Cortland, New York area where Katherine has accepted a call to the Presbyterian Church in Cortland as their Associate Pastor! We will miss Katherine and Brent in our church family (not to mention in our choir and in many other ways), but we know that when God calls, it is up to us to answer! Congratulations Katherine (and Brent too)!

## ATTENDANCE AND OFFERING

January 30	Attendance 47	Offering \$1295.10
February 6	Church Closed	
February 13	Attendance 47	Offering \$2608.15
February 20	Attendance 61	Offering \$ 576.30
February 27	Attendance	Offering \$

## BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

### March Birthdays

3/01	Will Mathews
3/01	Tracy Sweet
3/02	Madelyn King
3/11	Kim Garvey
3/24	Roby Hott
3/25	Sammie Hough

### March Anniversaries

3/01	Dennis and Melva Smith
3/31	David H. and June Paterson



Our Youth Group

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## FELLOWSHIP

Plan on a special meal of Corned Beef and Cabbage after church on March 20<sup>th</sup>. Please bring desserts, if you desire. We will all be Irish for the day to celebrate St. Patrick's Day!

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## Youth Group News

The youth of the church would like to thank the congregation for their generous donations totally \$105.00 for Souper Bowl of Caring. This donation will go to the Hancock County Food Pantry.

The Youth Group has just completed a study on "Happiness" looking at what makes us happy. We discovered that we must not let money or appearance or popularity or even our circumstances affect our happiness. We learned that it is our inner strength and our faith and trust in God that are truly involved in making us truly happy. Most of the other "stuff" can bring some short-term fun, but it also can lead to problems and feelings of unhappiness and unworthiness as well.

We are now taking a look at Jesus in a study entitled "Why Jesus?" that will look at why Jesus is so important. Why he is so important that the entire Christian religion is based on his life and his sacrifice for us.

## IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Q: What does it mean? Why do we do it?

A: The imposition of ashes on the foreheads of Christians is an ancient Christian practice, going back at least to the 10th century. Biblically, ashes are a symbols of purification and penitence (see Numbers 19:9, 17; Hebrews 9:13; Jonah 3:6; Matthew 11:21, and Luke 10:13 ).

In the early church, people who had been separated from the church because of serious sins might seek to be re-admitted to the fellowship by observing a formal period of penitence during Lent. These people were generally sprinkled with ashes or given rough garments sprinkled with ashes as a sign of their sorrow for their sins.

Beginning in the tenth century, the observance of Ash Wednesday became a general rite for the church. The ashes, which were a symbol of purification in the Old Testament, remind us that we are mortal. In many churches the ashes are made by burning the palms from the previous year's Palm Sunday. Ashes are placed on the forehead, usually in the sign of a cross, in a ritual known as the Imposition of Ashes. As the ashes are placed on the forehead, words such as these are spoken: "Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return," recalling God's words to Adam in Genesis 3:19.

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From the Upper Room ministries of the United Methodist Church.

# FEBRUARY 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 9:30 a.m. Promised Land Scout Troop 5:30 – 7pm	2	3	4	5 <b>Men's Breakfast 8am</b>
COMMUNION 6  9:15 Adult S.S. 10:30 Worship  1 pm St Pauls Anglican	7  <b>Tri Kappa 4:15 – 8:30pm</b>	8 9:30 a.m. Promised Land	9 <b>CHILI DAY</b> 4 PM Pray with Pastor 5 pm Youth Group 5:30 Bible Study 7:00 Choir	10  Session Meeting 7 PM	11	12
13  9:15 Adult S.S. 10:30 Worship  1 pm St Pauls Anglican	14  Scout Troop 5:30 – 8pm	15 9:30 a.m. Promised Land Scout Troop 5:30 – 7pm 7:15: GS Service Mtg	16 4 PM Pray with Pastor 5 pm Youth Group 5:30 Bible Study 7:00 Choir	17	18	19  <b>Women's Group 9:00 am</b>
20  9:15 Adult S.S. 10:30 Worship 1 pm St Pauls Anglican  CHURCH DINNER	21  <b>Tri Kappa 4:15 – 8:30pm</b>	22 9:30 a.m. Promised Land 7:15: GS Service Mtg	23 4 PM Pray with Pastor 5 pm Youth Group 5:30 Bible Study 7:00 Choir	24	25	26
27  9:15 Adult S.S. 10:30 Worship 1 pm St Pauls Anglican	28  Scout Troop 5:30 – 8pm	29 9:30 a.m. Promised Land	30	31		