

Volume 11

Issue 4

APR 2011



Easter



POINT PLACE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Parish Paragraphs

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Wednesday No Recess
Maundy Thursday Service 7:00P
Good Friday Service – 7:00P
Easter Sunday – Traditional Service - 7:30A
 Mission/SLAM Breakfast - 9:00A
 Celebrate Service - 10:30A

Communion will be served at the Maundy Thursday and Easter Sunday services.

Special donations for SLAM/Mission Easter Sunday

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Weekly Schedule:

- Sun, 9:00am —Church School
- Sun, 10:30am —Worship Service
- Sun, 11:30am—Coffee Hour
- Wed, 12:00N—Bible Study
- Wed, 6:00—Simple Supper
- Wed, 6:30 pm—RECESS Worship
- Thurs, 8pm—AA & Al-Anon Meeting

Pastor's NOTES

I've heard of a man who claimed he could describe what is going on in a particular pastor's life at a given time just by listening to a couple of his sermons. His point was essentially that the pulpit often becomes an avenue for the pastor to process his or her own life and agenda. I try to avoid doing this. I believe the sermon is a time for the pastor to be a channel for the Word of God to speak to you, the congregation. I try not to choose texts or sermon series based on my own life or issues or desires, but rather on how I believe God wants to speak to the community. (In fact, I begrudgingly scrapped my original sermon series idea for Lent because I arrived at the conviction that it was more what I wanted you to hear and less what God wanted to say to us.)

In trying to avoid being self-centered and speaking only out of personal experiences, however, a preacher runs the risk of being detached from the very Word he is called to preach and the community to whom he is preaching. To that end, I hope to make the sermon preparation process during the week one in which I am not just a preacher or studier, but also a listener, allowing God's Word to speak to me in the same way I hope it speaks to the community. Hopefully, the preacher has experienced the power and grace of God that he or she is preaching on a personal level.

I hope that in our Lenten sermon series, "The Cross and Us," you are not just getting information about why Jesus' death is significant, but are experiencing how the Cross is relevant to your life. I truly believe it is and can be relevant to you because it has been relevant and life-changing for me. Guilt, shame, worthlessness, loneliness, and confusion are all real emotions that have and do, from time to time, play a role in my life. Oftentimes, these emotions—and the fears that accompany them—go unnoticed because they often turn into something else before we act on them. They might come out in a fit of anger or self-harming, addictions or complaining, racism or boasting, hoarding or hyper-religiosity, wild indulgence or isolation. Much of our behavior is driven by the fears that go along with the emotions we've been looking at during Lent.

I've been surprised, disturbed, and frustrated at times to see how these emotions come out in my life and relationships. It is not always easy or comfortable to gaze into the depths of our hearts to see what's really going on and what really has the last say in how we live our lives. But it has been through this process—of honest searching and seeing—that I have been blessed to experience God's mercy, grace, love, presence, and direction at the Cross. Being a Christian is not about putting on a show, trying to become good enough, being polite, or growing a church. A Christian is someone who has come to the Cross, received the love of God, and who continues on the journey

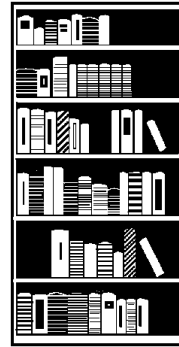
of life accompanied, encouraged, and guided by the Spirit of the Risen Christ. I hope this is what you find as you approach the Cross this Lenten season.

“Search me, O God, and know my heart. Test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting”—Psalm 139:23-24

Library Book Review

There seems to be a theme to this month's set of books: indirection. If you want happiness, pursue holiness; if you want treasure, give it away; if you want God, acknowledge your ragamuffin-ness. That's how the Kingdom of God works: gaining life by losing it.

Sacred Marriage, by Gary Thomas. This is a very practical book about changing how we understand the marriage relationship. It is a great read on your own, but an even better read with your significant other. Thomas bases his discussion on the question, “What if God designed marriage to make us holy more than to make us happy?” (Hint: if you want your marriage to be a source of true happiness, check out this book)



The Treasure Principle, by Randy Alcorn. Is generosity an “I should” or an “I get to”? Well, perhaps it's both. Randy Alcorn discusses what the Bible has to say about our possessions, where they come from, and how to use them to their fullest. This is a short read, but packed with fresh encouragement to “store up your treasures in heaven.”

The Ragamuffin Gospel, by Brennan Manning. Did Jesus come for the religious or for the ragamuffins? If you feel like you're too _____ (fill in the blank) for God's grace, then it's time to embrace your inner ragamuffin and rejoice in the fact that the Good News of Jesus is especially for you.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

FEED MY SHEEP

April is the program's one year anniversary!! This month will mark the start of our second year providing help to our community. In February we served 84 turkey dinners and dished up homemade soups to our neighbors and friends in March.

In April we'll be celebrating "Cinco de Mayo" just a few days (9 actually) early by serving a Mexican dinner of tacos, Spanish rice, refried beans and ice cream on April 26th from 5 – 7 pm. Mark your calendars and come on down and help or just stop by for a meal. Food donations should be left at the church by Easter Sunday, April 24th.

You can be a part of this program by –

- Volunteering -
 - to help set up for the dinner
 - to help cook the food
 - to serve during dinner
 - to help with clean up
 - to help with publicity or yard sign placement
 - to deliver a meal to a church member's home
- Donating–
 - food and supplies



We are in need of donations of

- bagged rice
- taco seasoning packets
- salsa (mild)
- pre-sweetened powdered drink mix (any flavor)
- Cash for the purchase of meat and perishable items

Sign-up sheets are available in Paterson Hall if you are interested in volunteering or donating, or you may call Tina Mockbee 419 276 0637 or Lori Winne 734 848 4120 for more information.

MISSION BOARD

JOIN US FOR BREAKFAST on Easter Sunday! The Mission Board and SLAM invite you to breakfast on Easter Sunday, April 24, at 8:30am immediately following the early service. Suggested donation is \$6.00 for adults and \$3.00 for children ages 2 and up. Donations collected will be split between the Helping Hands fund and the SLAM Mission Trip this summer. Everyone is welcome!



In April we will be collecting Easter candy for Feed Your Neighbor. Every year, Mustard Seed helps to provide Easter baskets for the children of local families. We can help by bringing in a bag of candy. You'll find a large Easter basket on the Feed Your Neighbor table in the Sanctuary. Please leave your donations there and it will be delivered to Mustard Seed.

The Giving Tree focus this month is Nu-Vizion. Since Nu-Vizion provides a meal at every service, they are always in need of paper plates, napkins, cups, plastic ware, etc. Visit the Giving Tree table in Paterson Hall for a list of items needed. Thank you for giving. Save the date...

Relay for Life – May 14-15th at St. Francis de Sales High School
Ericka Winne

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Can you knit or crochet? Or would you like to deliver a prayer shawl to a friend or church member in need of a special sign of God's love? Or, how about a roll bandage for Vietnam lepers...the shunned ones just as in Our Lord's time. This is a part of Tom Treece's Dove Project. Or a small donation for materials or the cost of printing the cards that go with the shawls. There is something for everyone. Just let me know; Kitty Kelsey 734-242-0055, cell 419-349-0966.



CELEBRATING IN APRIL



ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Jamie and Tina Mockbee
- 7 Gary and Mindy Papera
- 11 Bill and Jackie Dobson
- 20 Curtis and Alison Osmun
- 23 Mark and Melissa Mayfield



BIRTHDAYS

- 4 William Beebe
- 5 Betty Hathaway
- 5 Mindy Crouch
- 7 Bonny Beebe
- 8 Lynette Thayer
- 13 Jim Debth
- 13 Nancy Harrington
- 14 Bill Reimschuessel



- 16 Becky Brocus
- 17 Keith Rider
- 19 Linda Woodall
- 20 Dick Berkhoudt
- 22 Pat Ambrose
- 24 Steven Kasmierski
- 24 William Ramp
- 24 Ashley Seybold
- 26 Abby Geletzke
- 28 Carol Faylor



ELIZABETHANS

After a two month hiatus, the Elizabethans met March 7th with Ruby Usher and Kitty Kelsey as hostesses. Ruby made her famous corn flake coated buck-eye treats and Kitty baked poppy seed and nut loaves that were super special. We all agreed that a break from meetings during the winter months was good better.

Ruby then opened the meeting asking Carol Faylor to read devotions. Carol selected three readings from a back issue of Readers Digest which were interesting and unusual. We appreciate the effort it takes her to find these special stories. Carol concluded with a devotional prayer. us being together again was so much better.

Treasurer, Bonny Beebe reported \$54.55 in the Elizabethan General Fund and \$424.79 in the Penny Fund. In addition Gerry Ellis reported \$47.52 received in February for the Penny Fund. This brings the grand total to \$479.34. The Elizabethans are still considering using Penny Fund monies for new coffee makers for Paterson Hall kitchen. We will ask Jim Armstrong, Lori Winne and Tina Mockbee for some input on the type of coffee makers that would be more user friendly than our current ones. Bonny also reported receiving a check from Krogers Rewards Program for \$281.98. This check is given directly to the church's General Fund. If you are not a participant in this program, we urge you to do so. It is an excellent way to help our church. See Bonny for details to enter.

The Birthday Club met at Bob Evans March 17th in celebration of March birthdays, including Mickey Depth's 87th! A wonderful crowd gathered for this vey special day and staff presented Mickey with an ice dream treat while we sang Happy Birthday. This indeed was a special day for a very special YOUNG lady. Ray Curtis was among the gentlemen present who also had a March birthday. We aren't sure of his age but Ray is very young at heart, so that is all that really counts!

Before the meeting ended Ruby told of a program called "Cell Phone for Soldiers" that uses proceeds from donated used cell phones to purchase prepaid calling cards for American Troops. Phones must be deactivated with batteries kept in. If battery is not attached to phone, place tape over terminal ends. See Ruby or Evelyn Berkhoudt for more details.

Our April meeting is scheduled for April 4th at 7 PM. Wanda Franks and Doris Towers will be our hostesses for that evening and we hope all the ladies, young and old, will join us.

DIACONATE

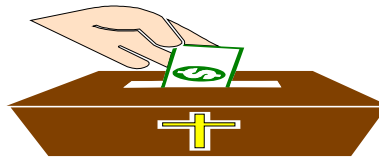
LENTEN SELF DENIAL FOLDERS TO BENEFIT THE LEWIS HOUSE

Self Denial folders are available on the shelf in the coat room. This year the Board of Diaconate has designated profits from this collection to benefit a local urban ministry recommended by the mission board – The Lewis House. This ministry serves youth and families in the Lewis Ave./Sylvania area with programs and assistance.

RELAY FOR LIFE SERVICE PLANNED

Plans are underway for a service centered around those effected by cancer in any of its forms. Survivors of cancer, families and friends of cancer patients or those wishing to honor or remember cancer patients are invited to participate on Friday, May 13 at 7:00 pm at PPUCC's "Relay for Life" service in the sanctuary. The service will feature music and worship centered around this topic and conclude with a luminary display in honor and memory of cancer patients. Luminaries are available for dedication in honor or in memory of individuals at a nominal cost of \$2.00 each and may be decorated or inscribed for the individual by the donor; proceeds will go to the American Cancer Society. PPUCC Mission Board is also coordinating a team to walk during the Relay for Life walk May 14th – 15th at St. Francis High School.

For information or to order a luminary please see Tina Mockbee or call 419 276 0637 or the church office. Anyone interested in assisting with planning this service is also encouraged to call.



General Fund		
	FEBRUARY	Year-to-Date
Expenses	8,044.42	17,747.10
Income	9,778.01	20,332.97
Difference	1,733.59	2,585.87



Relay for Life is an annual event hosted by the American Cancer Society. In an effort to raise money for cancer research and support for families and friends of those battling cancer, thousands of people across the world participate in Relay For Life. This year, the Toledo Relay will be held on Saturday, May 14 at 1:00pm and run through Sunday morning May 15 at St. Francis de Sales High School. We have already started to form a team and anyone is welcome to join! You can sign up for the event by visiting www.relayforlife.org and registering for the Toledo, OH event. You will find Point Place UCC listed as a team name. Or, you can notify Ericka Winne and she will be sure you are signed up. The cost is \$10 to participate in the walk and this includes your t-shirt.

So.....how can you get involved?

There are a number of ways to participate in Relay For Life!

Become a team member and volunteer to walk (or run) on the track at any time throughout the event. We will need a team of people to walk the track in support of this cause for the entire eighteen hours! We will walk because cancer never sleeps!

Sponsor a walker or the Point Place UCC team by giving a donation. All donations will go to the American Cancer Society.

Help provide water, juice, snacks to those participating in Relay.

Come out to St. Francis High School on May 14 to join in the fun!

There will be games, food, and many other activities – come to support those who are walking too!

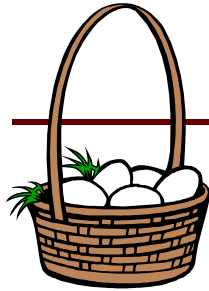
Come to the Relay For Life Service at the church on Friday, May 13
Pray!

We will continue to keep you updated as we receive more details.

Please contact Ericka Winne (419.349.8167) if you have questions or would like to participate!



NOTES AND



Huge "Thank You" to those that helped the youth at the spaghetti dinner. Couldn't have done it without you.

Thanks to Lori Winne for organizing and running the event, Jim Armstrong for all you give of your gifts, talents, and organization to help the kids it is awesome, Terri Serviss for all you do and the time you spend with our youth, and Kevin Korcecki who stepped in to help anywhere needed to make the day a success. Also we thank the congregation for with our your love, support and prayers none of this can happen.

You all are great!!!! The Youth raised \$480 toward their mission trip!!!

Dear Congregation:

The youth group would like to say thank you for all the support you have given us regarding our fundraisers. We appreciate all of the help you have given us. We hope, with your guidance, we can continue to do more fundraisers.

**Thank
You!**

Thank you again,
The Youth Group

PPUCC has received 4 lovely thank you letters for donations given by the church. Take a moment to read them. They will be posted on the bulletin board.

Leah Grace Komperda arrived on March 7, 2011! By God's grace, she is a very healthy and happy baby. Thank you to everyone for the meals, flowers, cards, and gifts. We can't wait to introduce Leah to her wonderful church family! —Jon and Lauren Komperda



ANNOUNCEMENTS



KROGER REWARDS



Donna Armstrong has graciously offered to re-register all presently participating members of the Kroger Rewards Program. This re-registration is now an annual requirement.

GIFT CARDS

We will continue to sell gift cards during the year. The Church makes a percentage from all sales. There are order forms on the window ledge in the cry/coat room for your order. Remember they are not just for Christmas, but any time of the year. They make great thank you gifts, anniversary gifts, birthday gifts, etc. I will have to have orders totaling \$300.00 before I can place an order and make it worth the postage to send it to us. So if you need gift cards for any occasion, please remember the church and help us make some extra money. The cards will be ordered after the second Sunday of the month and you will receive them the third Sunday. Thank you.

THESE ORDER FORMS AVAILABLE WITH THIS PUBLICATION OR IN CHURCH WITH THE WEEKLY BULLETIN

COOKIE SALE FUNDRAISER FOR CAMP FUND

Sample Scarlett Krumm cookies at coffee hour April 10. Then place your order by April 24. Pick up May 1.

MOTHERS DAY TRIBUTE

Elizabethans are sponsoring a "Tribute to Mothers" to raise funds for Fairhaven Retirement Home in Upper Sandusky, Ohio.

EASTER FLOWERS

Purchase flowers to decorate the Sanctuary on Easter. Honor or dedicate to someone special. Take your flowers home April 24.

HONORING GRADUATES

Submit the name of your graduate to celebrate their success during worship on June 12.