

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
321 SOUTH SEVENTH STREET  
SPRINGFIELD ILLINOIS 62701

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**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

# UPDATE

*The monthly newsletter of First Presbyterian Church* February 2008

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## OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Thursday, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

## WORSHIP/CLASSES

### Sundays:

9:00 a.m. Children's Sunday School

9:00 a.m. - Adult Education Programs

10:30 a.m. - Worship

### Wednesdays

5:30 p.m. Vespers

6:00 p.m. Potluck and activities

Please submit all information for inclusion in  
the newsletter to the church office to Cindy  
**at the e-mail address listed above.**

Editorial Coordinator and Production  
Cindy Cass

## February 6 – Ash Wednesday Worship, 7:00 PM – Sanctuary

### Ash Wednesday

In ancient Israel, the symbolism of ashes was understood to be a forceful reminder of the pervasiveness of human sin and the inevitability of human death. Ashes represented that which, in the human experience, was burned out and wasted, that which once was but is no more.

This traditional emblem of grief and mourning has been adopted by the Christian church of today as a sign of our own sinful mortality. Ash Wednesday, for the person of faith, points forward to the redemptive power of God's grace.

When you come to worship on Ash Wednesday, February 6 at 7:00 PM, you will pray together with the worshipping community, "*Almighty God, from the dust of the earth you have created us. May these ashes be for us a sign of our mortality and penitence, and a reminder that only by your gracious gift are we given eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen*"

When the ashes are applied to your forehead or wrist, the following words will be said, "*Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return.*" This statement has the effect of dispelling any lingering feeling that the imposition of ashes should be viewed as an act meritorious in itself. We are saved by the redemptive power of God's grace. On Ash Wednesday we give thanks to God for God's unmerited and unmeritable gift of love!

## Lectionary for February 2008

3<sup>rd</sup>: Exodus 24:12-18; Psalm 2 or Psalm 99; 2 Peter 1:16-21; Matthew 17:1-9

10<sup>th</sup>: Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7; Psalm 32; Romans 5:12-19; Matthew 4:1-11

17<sup>th</sup>: Genesis 12:1-4a; Psalm 121; Romans 4:15-, 13-17; John 3:1-17

24<sup>th</sup>: Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 95; Romans 5:1-11; John 4:5-42

## *Pastor's Column*

### **Lent, a Season of Downward Mobility**

Let's go ahead and ask the question. Why did God need to suffer? God is all powerful . . . capable of accomplishing anything so why did God become vulnerable?

Everyone knows that to be higher up is better than to be down low. In fact, the higher up one is – the more one can do for others.

The dominant voice in our culture shouts loudly in favor of upward mobility. And yet these voices calling us to be dominant are strangely absent from the Gospel. Jesus says, "If you love your life, you will lose it. If you give it up in this world, you will be given eternal life." (John 12:25) And our Lord goes on, "You know that among the gentiles the rulers lord it over them, and powerful people make their authority felt. Among you this is not to happen. No, anyone who wants to become great among you must be your servant and anyone who wants to be first among you must be your slave – just as the Child of the People came, not to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." (Matthew 20:25-28)

God is inviting each one of us to examine and re-examine our lives. The Lenten worship provides an occasion for being drawn into God's nearer presence.

#### **Lenten Worship Schedule**

- February 6 – Ash Wednesday Worship, 7:00 PM – Sanctuary
- March 16 - Passion/Palm Sunday – 10:30 AM. – Sanctuary  
We turn toward Holy Week, led by our traditional children's palm Processional commemorating Christ's triumphant entry into Jerusalem.
- March 20 \*Maundy-Thursdays Communion: A Service of Healing and Wholeness– 7:00 PM. – Sanctuary  
Our communion table is an inclusive one – a remembrance of the Last Supper.  
As we join Christ in the journey to the Upper Room, we offer a Service of Healing and Wholeness.
- March 21 Community Good Friday Service sponsored by the Ministerial Alliance of Springfield and Vicinity --12:00 Noon –at a location to be announced
- March 21 Vigil of Darkness – Readings and Meditations --7:00 PM. – Sanctuary  
This stirring service of darkness recalls Christ's "seven last words" from the cross – through scripture and meditations.
- March 23 Easter Sunrise Service – 6:45 AM. – Sanctuary–  
Join us for Easter Breakfast in the Commons/Fellowship Hall @ 7:30 AM –
- March 23 Easter Morning Worship – 10:30 AM  
Celebration of the Resurrection  
with special music from the Sanctuary Choir and the Brombaugh Opus 35

#### **\*Maundy Thursday Communion Service of Healing and Wholeness**

The focus of the Presbyterian Service of Healing and Wholeness is on God's ability to heal and make whole. Jesus was a teacher and a healer. Many stories in the Bible tell us about Jesus healing. There are many ways we need to be healed: disease, old grudges, pettiness, self-hatred, narcissism, addictions, prejudices, illnesses, social ills . . . All healing is of God. The Church's Healing Ministry in no way detracts from the gifts God gives through medicine and therapy. Rather it adds to our total resources for wholeness. Healing is not magic, but underlying healing is the great mystery of God's love.

A Service of Healing and Wholeness is not necessarily a service of curing, but a service that provides an atmosphere in which God can bring us to greater wholeness. The greatest healing of all is the reunion or reconciliation of a person with God and a person with another person. When this happens, physical healing sometimes occurs, spiritual health is enhanced, and relationships are healed. For the Christian, the basic purpose of spiritual healing is to renew and strengthen one's relationship with the living Christ.

## **Lenten Brown Bag Recitals**

**12:15 – 12:45 p.m.**

*Every Wednesday through Lent*

- February 13 - The Four Sopranos - directed by Paula Irby  
February 20 - Russel Brazzel - guitar  
February 27 - The Rochester High School Singers  
March 5 - Anne Marie Stahel, flute, and Rudolf Zuiderveld, organ  
March 12 - The Heritage String Trio  
March 19 - The Sanctuary Choir of First Presbyterian Church

**Brown Bag Recitals are free.**

**Brown Bag lunches are available for \$5.00 with beverage included.**

**For more information on our concert series and upcoming events,  
you may call the church office at 528-4311.**

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## ***Spring Craft and Bake Sale***

***Friday, March 28***

***8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.***

If you would like to help us make this sale a success,  
please call the church office no later than

**Monday, March 3,**  
to let us know that you will be donating  
craft items or baked goods.

It will take a lot to make this a success  
so please give us a call today!

## Youth and Family News

### **Mark Your Calendars-Valentine's Dinner Fundraiser!**

Come celebrate Valentine's Day with a special dinner at First Presbyterian Church on Friday, February 8th. You'll enjoy good company, enjoy good music and help us raise funds for youth and family programs.

Dine with us while serenaded by live musicians starting at 6 p.m. After dinner, we'll have fun activities, including an updated version of the "Dating Game." Find out more about each other – and maybe even learn something about your significant other!

Reservations are due by February 3. If you would like to make a reservation or need more information, call Shannon at 343-9917, or Chris at 341-8487, or you can just fill out the reservation form below. We look forward to seeing you February 8th!

*Make a Reservation Today*

## *Valentine's Dinner*

*First Presbyterian Church, 321 South Seventh Street*

*Doors open at 5:30 p.m. and dinner will be served at 6 p.m.*

*Name(s) :*

*Number in Party : -----*

*Address :*

*Phone : -----*

*E-Mail :*

### **Shake Off The Chill!!!!!!**

Winter gotcha down?

Can't wait for Summer to Arrive?

Join the Office of Youth and Family Ministries  
for a late winter Cabin Fever Party.

We'll have food, board games,  
movies and fellowship.

Join us in Fellowship Hall at 6 p.m.  
Saturday night, March 1,  
and shake off the winter chill.

Call Shannon at 343-9917 or Chris at 341-8487  
if you would like to help out.

### **Valentine Card-Making**

All youth are invited to make Valentine cards for our homebound members on Sunday, February 10<sup>th</sup> following church. We'll meet in the education wing to eat lunch and make cards. Parent pick-up will be at 12:30 p.m. See Chris or Shannon if you have any questions.

## THIS - N - THAT

### ACEs \*\* Lenten Study with John and Ann Kelson

February 3: Come to hear John Kelson give us an eye-opening picture of a *Providential God*, God understood as “the power guiding and sustaining human destiny.” In our troubled times how do we understand God as providential?

**Lenten Bible Study with Ann Kelson** – In a previous series Ann helped us to understand the depth and beauty of the opening chapters of Romans; this year she has chosen key New Testament writings to help us better understand the meaning and depth of Lent. Come share Lenten study with us. Five Sundays starting on February 10th.

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### CUBA BOUND, STILL TIME

Attention First Presbyterians: We are sending a group of First Presbyterians to our sister church in Sancti Spiritus, Cuba during later March and early April. Approximate cost of the trip is \$1800 all inclusive. We still have room if you are interested. This is a wonderful religious and travel experience. Contact Joe Hills or Mick Bernasek at 787-1362 or 494-2099.

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## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

<b>1</b> Eric Linderman	<b>13</b> Lou VonBehren	<b>22</b> Bette Rogers Lucian Taylor
<b>3</b> June Greer Sonthana Thongsithavong	<b>14</b> Alexandra Davidson	<b>23</b> Terry Haynor Sandra Yedinak
<b>5</b> Callie Akers Dolores Slusser Wayne Temple Roy Wehrle	<b>15</b> Beth Cappellin	<b>24</b> Joyce Horney
<b>7</b> Michael Steele	<b>16</b> Alice Millhon Jane Turner	<b>25</b> Tim Forman Harvey M. Stephens
<b>8</b> Shelby Beverly	<b>17</b> Ginny Sanert Harvey B. Stephens Emma Stuebs	<b>27</b> Charles Chapin Lynn Raynolds
<b>10</b> Alice Carpenter	<b>18</b> Gerry Graff Jonathan Hayes	
<b>11</b> Lillie Anderson Doug Slater Duane Slater Joan Struck	<b>20</b> Clark McKee	
	<b>21</b> Helen Shears	

## *Families*

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### *Can Nature Help Chase the Blahs Away?*

When you are feeling down, have you ever stopped to notice the natural wonders of the world we live in? Our world reminds us there is a predictable order that is set in place- that summer follows winter, harvest follows planting, and day follows night. There are so many messages we can find around us to encourage our heart when we stop to consciously consider them. Here are just a few to ponder:

Each morning the sun rises, lights, and warms our day and each evening the moon and stars illuminate the sky and shine. There are predictable lights to guide and order our steps even in darkness.

The vastness of the sky above us reaches out as far as the eye can see. Although it can make us feel small and powerless as we gaze up into space, it also provides a covering that wraps around and protects us.

The sunset paints a gift of bold, rich colors across the sky each evening. It's as if we have been given a unique hand painted work of art to daily remind us we are important to the painter, and there is beauty in each day.

The intricacy of a leaf, a snowflake, one finger on our hand speaks of the unique value and elaborate thoughts and plans that went into the tiniest of all that has been made.

The breath of life that keeps us alive is invisible, yet all around us.

Even though there are times of earthquakes or sudden disasters, the earth quickly returns to its normal direction. Most of the time the ground is solid and dependable beneath our feet, making our way stable.

The rain nourishes the ground and trees, replenishes the waters, and cools us during the heat. The lakes, streams, rivers and waterfalls refresh our spirit like a much needed drink on a hot day. The rhythmic waves of the oceans bring a calmness and serenity to the hustle and bustle and chaos of our lives. There is refreshment for our lives.

The mountain peaks, hills, valley and flat plains speak of highs and lows and level times in our lives. The changing seasons speak of the different seasons in our lives- times when life can be cold, dark and dreary, and other times when it is warm, bright, and full of color. It teaches us there are times of growing and blooming and other times of waiting, watching, or planting seed. It gives us hope that we will again find life and meaning after we have experienced hopelessness and despair- that just as the trees that appear dead and lifeless in the winter return to new life in the spring, a time will come when we will also feel alive again.

*Written by: Patti Faughn, Family Life Educator, Springfield Center, 2007*

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For more information contact:

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University of Illinois Extension, Springfield Center

P.O. Box 8199  
Springfield, Illinois 62791-8199

*All activities take place in the  
church unless otherwise noted*

## **February 2008**

### **2\*SATURDAY**

11:00 a.m. – Eastside Ministerial Alliance  
Worship Service

### **3\*SUNDAY**

8:45 a.m. – Nursery Opens  
9:00 a.m. – Adult Programming Classes  
- Children's Sunday School  
10:00 a.m. – Fellowship Time  
10:30 a.m. – Worship Service  
11:30 a.m. – Fellowship Hour

### **4\*MONDAY**

1:30 p.m. – Building & Grounds Committee

### **5\*TUESDAY**

7:30 a.m. – Bible Study Section II

### **6\*WEDNESDAY**

6:00 p.m. – Midweek Gathering  
7:00 p.m. – Ash Wednesday Worship Service

### **7\*THURSDAY**

4:30 p.m. – Personnel Committee  
5:30 p.m. – Yoga Class  
7:00 p.m. – Deacons

### **8\*FRIDAY**

6:00 p.m. – Youth Valentine's Dinner

### **10\*SUNDAY**

8:45 a.m. – Nursery Opens  
9:00 a.m. – Adult Programming Classes  
- Children's Sunday School  
10:00 a.m. – Fellowship Time  
10:30 a.m. – Worship Service  
11:30 a.m. – Fellowship Hour  
11:30 a.m. – Youth Event

### **12\*TUESDAY**

Church and Office closed for Lincoln's  
Birthday

### **13\*WEDNESDAY**

12:15 p.m. – Lenten Brown Bag Recital  
5:30 p.m. – Chapel Worship Service  
6:00 p.m. – Midweek Gathering  
6:30 p.m. – Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

### **14\*THURSDAY**

5:30 p.m. – Yoga Class  
7:00 p.m. – Mission Committee Meeting

### **15\*FRIDAY**

9:30 a.m. – Fairhills Circle @ The Presbyterian Home

### **16\*SATURDAY**

8:00 p.m. – Classical Guitar Society Concert

### **17\*SUNDAY**

8:45 a.m. – Nursery Opens  
9:00 a.m. – Adult Programming Classes  
- Children's Sunday School  
10:00 a.m. – Fellowship Time  
10:30 a.m. – Worship Service  
11:30 a.m. – Fellowship Hour

### **19\*TUESDAY**

7:30 a.m. – Bible Study Section II

### **20\*WEDNESDAY**

12:15 p.m. – Lenten Brown Bag Recital  
5:30 p.m. – Chapel Worship Service  
6:00 p.m. – Midweek Gathering  
6:30 p.m. – Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

### **21\*THURSDAY**

5:30 p.m. – Yoga Class  
7:00 p.m. – Session Meeting

### **24\*SUNDAY**

8:45 a.m. – Nursery Opens  
9:00 a.m. – Adult Programming Classes  
- Children's Sunday School  
10:00 a.m. – Fellowship Time  
10:30 a.m. – Worship Service and  
Congregational Meeting  
11:30 a.m. – Congregational Lunch

### **26\*TUESDAY**

7:30 a.m. – Bible Study Section II

### **27\*WEDNESDAY**

12:15 p.m. – Lenten Brown Bag Recital  
5:30 p.m. – Chapel Worship Service  
6:00 p.m. – Midweek Gathering  
6:30 p.m. – Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

### **28\*THURSDAY**

5:30 p.m. – Yoga Class  
7:30 p.m. – First Pres Book Club @ Claire Eberle Home