
PAOLI PRESS

A Monthly Newsletter of Paoli Presbyterian Church

February 2010



Knowing Christ. Making Christ Known.

Office Off Shoots ~



Coming in the month of February is the season of Lent and the move toward longer days, (lent comes from the old English, lencten, meaning the lengthening of days) warmer sunshine, greening grass (I'm not sure grass ever gets brown here) and early expressions of tulips. As we plan for this most holy season on the church calendar there are two times of unusual opportunity you will want to be tuned into. First is the Ash Wednesday worship service held in the sanctuary. This service of imposition of ashes has not traditionally been a protestant practice. The reformation brought many changes to the practice of religion as it was known then and sometimes there was overreaction to abuses of religious practice. Protestants even as late as a generation ago looked at Roman Catholics who had a smudge of ashes on their foreheads and cynically said it was the "Mark of the Beast." How could some be so insensitive and display such hubris? The remark probably was more telling of who the beast was than who had the sign of the cross on their forehead.

So, with time and better understanding, some of the protestants protestations have been sandpapered down to more appreciation of some of the symbolic traditions that have survived through the ages. I hope we all will take time to look at our mortality; "Dust we are and to dust we shall return." Ash Wednesday has a way of reminding us of that reality.

The second opportunity is the combined service of music, witness and fellowship we have enjoyed with our brothers and sisters of St. Norbert's parish. We are scheduled to host this event this year and it is one more link to fellow travelers on the path of faith. Ties with Daylesford Abby happen in that service as well and this neighbor to the West is a valued colleague in ministry.

Both services will begin at 7:30 PM and I encourage you to engage with these events.

As we move toward Easter and the pivotal event of our faith, take the time to set yourself apart and explore the inner sanctum of your faith through some discipline of Christian origin. Our spirits often go dry over the time between Christmas and Easter; let Lent water the dried roots.

Peace to all,
Ray Larson, Interim Pastor

JIM'S NOTES

As we move into 2010, I can't believe that I have been ministering with you for over 25 years. 2010 will be a crucial year for PPC in many ways, so I decided to depart from my usual "Churchill's Corner" and change to "Jim's Notes" and always include a Scripture and Prayer focus. My goal remains to "build up the body of Christ until we all attain to the unity of the faith." - Eph. 4.13.

READ AND REFLECT on: Isaiah 6.1-8. In this passage, one of the seraphim cries, "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory!" This is a worship response to the glory of God and to what God has done for us in and through Christ our Lord. Placed in a context of worship, this passage reminds us of the "holy other" aspect of God which calls for our confession. This in turn leads to our forgiveness which makes us whole and our forgiveness leads us to mission for the passage ends with "Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying: 'Whom shall I send and who will go for Us?' Then I said, 'Here am I! Send me.' "

PRAYER FOCUS:

Pray for the PNC.

Pray for our members without work.

Pray for a Lenten season of peace.

Pray for Dustin Myers.

Adult Education in February
(10 a.m. Education/Nurture Time)

BIBLE STUDY (Fellowship Hall)

"*THE BOOK OF REVELATION*"-led by Dr. Amir Metry and Pastor Jim (a two month study). Many Christians ignore Revelation thinking it is too mysterious to understand. Others tend to "hype" the extremism of the book and its Old Testament images into something that can only be called "crystal ball gazing." For 8 weeks we will study Revelation in its proper biblical & literary context. Our main resource will be the late Dr. Bruce Metzger's "Breaking the Code" book & video. Participants are encouraged to read Daniel and Revelation as class preparation. Bring your Bibles!

MARRIAGE AND FAMILY (Streeter Lounge)— a discussion of Chip Ingram's DVD series, entitled "Five Lies That Ruin Relationships: Wrong Beliefs Produce Wrong Behavior" (led by Kim Beggs)

THE LIVING WORD (Gould Library) Small group discussion. Call Skip Tunnell for class information.

STARBUCKS AND STUDY (Chapel) Small group discussion based on lessons from The Upper Room. This group usually gathers at 10:15. Call Mark Mayes for more details.

Watch the Welcome Desk for a Lenten Devotional prepared by the Christian Nurture Committee.

NEW MEMBER SEMINAR ON Feb. 14TH at 10 a.m.- Anyone interested in joining our church is welcome to attend.

Invite someone to worship; get involved in our education/nurture programs.

MAKE WORSHIP A HABIT ~ GOD BLESS, Pastor Jim

Lent and Easter Schedule



Feb. 17th ~ Ash Wednesday

7-7:30 p.m. Family Activity~ Fellowship Hall

7:30-8:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service (Holy Communion and Imposition of Ashes)

Feb. 24th

7:30 p.m. Joint Worship Service with St. Norbert's Roman Catholic Church at PPC

March 28th ~ Palm Sunday

April 1st

7:30 p.m. Maundy Thursday worship in Forrester Hall

April 2nd

7:30 p.m. ~ Seven Last Words worship in Sanctuary

April 3rd

10:00 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt

April 4th ~ Easter Worship

Sunrise- worship in The Chapel

9:00 and 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary

April 11 ~ Pancake Breakfast

8:30-10:30 a.m. in Forrester Hall

April 18 ~ Youth Sunday



Read and pray each week of Lent (40 day period leading to Easter morning)

1st week: Recall your baptism & walk in New life; Mark 1:9-11; Galatians 3:25-29

2nd Week: Temptation will come, but it will not conquer Matthew 4:1-11

3rd Week: Jesus came to offer us salvation. Mark 2:15-17 ; Ephesians 2:1-10

4th Week: The Cost of Discipleship Mark 8:31-9:1

5th Week: The Last Supper and us: Mark 14:17-72

6th Week: Open Your Eyes: Luke, Chapter 24

Golfers: Mark your calendars now!

PPC Golf Outing

When: Tuesday, May 18, 2010
Where: Honeybrook Golf Course
What Time: 9:00 Shotgun Start
How Much: \$50 per golfer
Format: Scramble
Who:
PPC members and guests of members

All ages, genders, and ability levels

Contact: Glenn Gorman,
gormangang1@verizon.net
610-722-0724



Congratulations to Jim Baker,
missionary to Ukraine (currently on
leave, staying at PPC'S mission house).
He was ordained on January 17th at his
sending church in Illinois.



Children's Ministries

Dear Church Family,

It is great to see you here each Sunday. Believe it or not, we are ½ way through our Sunday School year! Each week our teachers prepare a terrific lesson for your children, please be sure your child is here to participate in their Christian education.

Just as during Advent we prepare for the celebration of the birth of Jesus, in February we prepare for the commemoration of the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus. On Ash Wednesday, February 17, we will hold a family worship service. Then the following Sunday, February 21. We will distribute the One Great Hour of Sharing fish banks. Join us as we observe these important events in our church lives.

Please look for an announcement about a special lounge we are creating for our parents. Thanks to the donation of furniture by the Gordons and carpet from the Churchills, Room 3 has been converted to a cozy and inviting place to relax and interact with other parents. This room will be a place where parents can wait for their children while they are in Sunday School or choir. We will hold an open house in the near future to dedicate this new space.



Blessings,
Daphne Hager
Director of Children's
Ministries

Youth Ministry

We worship & study the Word so we might...

Know God

Our Sunday Morning Bible Studies are held from 10-10:45 AM.. **Junior High** meet in room 42 **High School** meets in room 43

Mid-week Prayer Group For 10th-12th graders, Tuesday's, 7:30-9 PM. Held at Don & Kim Thompson's home. GPS: 5 Salisbury Ln, Malvern

Confirmation class of '10! Students entering 9th grade are eligible to become members of PPC through Confirmation! Registration/Profile forms are available online. Classes begin on February 14th in room 43 (Sr. High Room). Please see Jill if you have any questions!

Sunday, February 14
7:30-8:30 PM
Amplify
Boost Your Faith

*He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak
- ISAIAH 40 29*

THE YOUTH MINUTE

Now you have something to look forward to the 1st week of every month! *Featuring guest anchors!*
The video will be on our website & on PPC's Facebook page once a month!



When we love one another, we...

Love God

No Youth Group on Sunday, February 7th due to the Superbowl! After or during the game, vote for your fav commercial on our PPC Facebook page!

Sr. High Youth Group meets on Sunday Nights from 7-9 PM, in room 43.

Jr. High Sunday Night Youth Group meets from 7-8:30 PM The program (*games & Bible lesson*) will end at 8:30; only students that have siblings in senior high may stay until 9 PM.

Monday Night Basketball is held in the church gym from 7-9 PM. All students and adults interested in pick-up are welcome to come!

When we reach out of our comfort zone, we...

Make God Known

THE WINTER RETREAT: The moment we have all been waiting for begins on Friday afternoon, February 19th! Yes, it is so close we could almost taste the hot cocoa and hear the music...Winter Retreat 2010!

The theme for this year is *"We are all witnesses."*

Our special discount is \$50 off the retreat cost for anyone who brings 2 friends that haven't been to Youth Group *ever* OR in *the last 4 months!*

As usual, all registrations will be taken online at... www.youth.paolipres.org

Registration STOPS on Wednesday, the 17th.



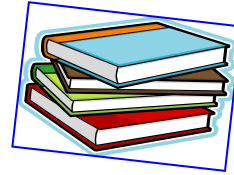


By Ben Champion

Coping with the death of a loved one is one of the needs with which Stephen Ministers are available to help. The month of January brought this home to our Stephen Ministry family as we dealt with the loss of one of our own, Normajeanne Forrester. In spite of her physical difficulties in recent years, Norma would come as often as possible to our Stephen Ministry supervision meetings in her wheelchair with the assistance of her daughter, Sandy. Norma's training in counseling, along with her sweet and caring spirit, epitomized the best characteristics of a Stephen Minister. Her living song has ended, but her joyous melody will continue to linger and live on and on. The words from Ecclesiastes 3 come to mind: "For everything (and everyone) there is a season. A time for every purpose under heaven: A time to be born and a time to die" When this article appears in the February Paoli Press, a little more than three weeks will have elapsed since the "Celebration of Life" service for/about Norma was held. Her legacy of faith and caring will continue to inspire and encourage us. It is certainly fitting that, after the service, the wonderful lunch will have been served in Forrester Hall, named for Norma's husband, Jim, who is remembered fondly by many of us.

As our Stephen Ministry continues on, we continue to focus on words of hope and encouragement like those recorded in Romans 5:4-5: "And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident **hope** of salvation. And this **hope** will not lead to disappointment. For we know how dearly God loves us, because he has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love." (NLT) The following are other quotes related to hope: "Let perseverance be your engine and **hope** your fuel." - H. Jackson Brown Jr.; "Optimism is the faith that leads to achievement. Nothing can be done without **hope** and confidence." - Helen Keller; "We must accept finite disappointment, but we must never lose infinite **hope**." - Martin Luther King Jr.; and "The capacity for **hope** is the most significant fact of life. It provides human beings with a sense of destination and the energy to get started." - Norman Cousins

If you feel the need for a Stephen Minister or know of someone else who could benefit from having a Stephen Minister, please call Ruth Jensen, our referrals coordinator, who can be reached at 610-296-6152. If you can't reach Ruth, Please call Pastor Jim Churchill at the church.



Book Review
by Ruth O’Ryan

They came inspired to serve and armed for success. They found in Neal a storybook kingdom of stunning landscapes of ridge after ridge of mountain peaks, deep valleys and terraced gardens. In his book “Living Stones of the Himalayas” missionary Dr. Thomas Hale captures the interest of the reader relating medical miracles as well failures that he and his wife Cynthia, a specialist in pediatrics, experienced since their arrival in 1970. Western medicine in conflict with ancient traditions faced suspicion and distrust. Desperately ill people walked for days to arrive at the hospital, often too late for successful treatment, yet many were healed. Breaking with tradition to become a Christian in this Himalayan outpost to become a Christian provoked persecution and imprisonment. Almost all citizens are Hindu. They observe the festivals and traditions, customs and beliefs practiced since Hinduism became a state religion in the 1750’s. The king was sacrosanct and cruel, but in 1990 an increasingly aroused populace rose up against the government. Tens of thousands of protestors marched to the king’s palace and the king catapulted. Christian literature was no longer considered contraband, and the fourth star on the Congress Party flag stood for religious freedom.

Hinduism is a syncretistic religion, and many Hindus happily accept Christ by adding Him to the list of deities they worship. They see no conflict here; the idea of exclusivity is foreign to them. Unsophisticated Christians gaze with incredulity on centuries of church fragmentation and splintered Christendom. They have studied the Bible and found that for every biblical passage instructing them to “be separate” and to “come out from among them,” dozens of other passages command them to “judge not” and to be united. With minds unmolested by the posturing and competing claims of Christian camps, they are learning as a minority church in a hostile society that they won’t be heard unless they speak in unison. They understand the danger of allowing the demand for doctrinal “purity” in peripheral matters diffract the single beam of Christ’s teachings.

Women's Ministries

Women's Tuesday Morning Bible Study

Would you like to experience "Jesus in action?" Women's Tuesday Morning Bible Study continues a study of *The Gospel of Mark* using material from a series by N.T. Wright, entitled Bible Study for Everyone.

Please join us in Fellowship Hall and discover a gospel described as "breathlessly exciting." Meet and greet old and new friends from 9:00 until 9:30 and enjoy refreshments. Then, until 10:45 in a large group setting, one of our talented teachers will lead in the discovery of a portion of Mark's gospel. Small group discussions follow until 11:30. We look forward to seeing you!

Join us each Tuesday morning in Fellowship Hall. Light refreshments and fellowship from 9:00-9:30, large and small group discussion groups from 9:30 until 11:30. Free childcare is provided. We hope to see you there!

For more information, call Sidney Constien, 610-640-9345 or Pat Kettler, 484-924-8459.

Monday Evening Women's Bible Study

Women's Evening Bible Study will meet on Monday, February 8th and February 22nd. Join us for Christian fellowship and prayer as we continue our study of the Gospel of Mark. We gather at 7:00 pm in the Streeter Lounge.

For more information, call Lee Guertin at 610-644-0606, Linda Hassett at 610-296-3774, or Donna Russell at 610-644-8021.

Deborah Circle

We would like to invite you to join our circle on the first Thursday of each month at 9:30 a.m. We meet in the homes of members.

February 4th

Hostess-Alice Young
Study: Dottie Spencer

Can War Be Holy?

Joshua 6:1-8:28; 10:16-11:23

For more information, contact
Alice Young 610-644-9565



[Men's Ministries](#)

Thursday Morning Men's Breakfast

We invite you every Thursday morning at 6:15 a.m. to Fellowship Hall, for fellowship and a delightful breakfast prepared by the men of PPC. Contact Russ Appler by calling the church office: 610-644-8250

Thursday Morning Men's Bible Study

Come and join us every Thursday morning at 6:45 a.m. following the men's Breakfast, for Bible study in the Reception Room.

Thursday Evening Men's Bible Study

We will be studying different books of the Bible interspersed with different Christian DVDs and CDs which help us understand our study. We are currently studying the Book of Luke. We meet in the reception room from 6:45 pm to 7:45 pm each Thursday. Men of all ages are more than welcome. Please come and join us! All you need is a Bible and an interest to study God's Word. Any questions, please contact Chuck Moore (610-296-5442)

Bible Teaching, Fellowship, Buffet Breakfast

Embassy Suites, Chesterbrook
Friday mornings, February 5th- May 21st from 6:30 p.m. - 7:45 a.m.

This Spring, Dr Russ Cadle will be teaching on: *Money-Women-Power-Wisdom*

Sponsored and underwritten by
Friendship Ministries Foundation
Sign up by calling 610-407-9400 or
email us at
russ@friendshipministries.com



[Music Ministries](#)

Dear Paoli Presbyterian Church,

Christ is born, sing NOEL! And we sure did that during the month of December as we prepared our hearts for the birth of our Savior. Now during these winter months, our hearts can get cold, yet the Resurrection of our Lord is just around the corner and I have no time to stop and let Old Man Winter get in my way!

Music is an integral aspect of worship, and many of you compliment me on a regular basis. Lent is a time of reflection and the music department will take you on a journey that will lead you right up to Easter morning. I encourage you to get involved, and ring a bell, blow a horn, or lift your voices to the Lord in song at PPC. Make the time, rearrange some schedules, and I promise that you will find it rewarding and uplifting. Come meet a new friend in Christ, or laugh with an old friend who keeps asking you to join us!

The combined choirs of Paoli Presbyterian Church will present "Lenten Sketches" at both services on Palm Sunday. This dramatic cantata by contemporary composer Joseph Martin provides a musical journey through Christ's last days on earth. The cantata is based on different religious works of art including the Pieta. The brass choir will be joining the choirs for this presentation. If you would like to be a part of this opportunity and need childcare, please contact me so that can be arranged. Dust of your horns, get up out of your recliners, ring those bells, and come join me in making joyful music to our Lord!



Blessings,

Jonathan Kreamer
Director of Music Ministries
jkkreamer@paolipres.org

[Wednesdays](#)

7:00pm - Praise Team/Sanctuary
8:15pm - Bell Choir/Music Room

[Thursdays](#)

Thursday 6:15pm - Brass Ensemble/Music Room
7:00pm - Sanctuary Choir/Music Room

Children and Youth Music

Under the direction of Amy McLoughlin , Assistant Director of Music

A Note from Amy:

With icy temperatures and falling snow, we look forward to spring time, and with that comes thoughts of the Resurrection and new life in our church. While the buds are getting ready to burst forth so is the music department at PPC. Our children's and cherub choirs will be hard at work preparing for a special spring presentation. Our young singers are a source of joy, pride and life. They are a treasure, and please make sure to let them know that the next time you see them. If you are interested in helping with this ministry or are interested in getting your child involved, please contact me at amy.mcloughlin@paolipres.org. Rehearsals for Cherub choir are in Room 1 from 10:45 until 11:05. Children's Choir rehearsal is in Room 1 from 11:15 until noon. Nursery care is available before and after choir times so that parents can attend worship.

Spring also brings with it a special surge of energy for our Praise Team. Our church is awake with the spirit of Christ, and it is definitely evident through Sunday Morning music. The Christmas cantata was so well received, that the entire music department is planning a Cantata event for Palm Sunday. Any and all are welcome to come and participate. The PPC Praise Team rehearses on Wednesday evenings from 7:00 to 8:15 in the sanctuary. In addition to learning parts for the Cantata, we will also be learning new music from a variety of genres. We know that music has the potential to reach every type of worshipper. We love trying new styles from African, country, classical, contemporary, gospel, and more. If this sounds like something that interests you, come and join us. We would love to have you!

Above all we realize that music is another form of prayer, and when we pray, we are closer to God. Awaken the spirit within and join us in lifting our voices together. We've all got something to sing about!



in faith and music,
Amy McLoughlin
amy.mcloughlin@paolipres.org
610-716-3066

Cherub Choir

Preschool, Kindergarten and First grade
Sundays from 10:45 until 11:05 in Room 1.

Children's Choir

Grade 2 through Grade 5

12 Sundays from 11:15 until 12:00 in Rm. 1

Where in the World Are Our Sent Ones?

Our dear friends,

We want all of you to know how deeply grateful we are for the congregation's generous financial support of our ministry from January 2002 through December 2008. When we were commissioned together for our "post-retirement" ministry, at Jim's retirement service on September 30, 2001, we had no idea how extensive our work would be. Under World Mission Initiative (WMI), which was founded by PPC's own Dr. Scott Sunquist, we have helped scores of churches across the U.S.A. - in Pennsylvania, Michigan, Georgia, Tennessee, Missouri, and California. We have helped two churches initiate and build thriving partnerships with congregations in Russia and have provided Mission workshops for several presbyteries and annual New Wilmington Mission Conferences. We even have enjoyed having some of you attend our workshops at WMI Mission Conferences in Pittsburgh!

Thanks for enabling our first eight years of retirement to be filled with sharing vital ministry, for which our service at PPC so well prepared us. In fact, our lives were so busy with it that one of our daughters quipped, "You flunked retirement!"

We have fond memories of you and your love, and we still miss you. May the Lord continue to bless you all!

In Jesus' love and ours,
Jim and Lois Caldwell



**May our Hearts and Prayers be
with Haiti at this time
of great sadness.**

Thank YOU

Dear Ann and Deacons' Food Closet Angels,

Your generosity is changing lives. It is putting food on tables and softening worry lines.

Thank you all and please thank everyone at Paoli Presbyterian Church for providing the makings for nine Christmas dinners for families we serve (at Home of the Sparrow). One mom said, "I am blessed that people are so kind and go out of their way for my children and me." The effect of what you do reaches well beyond the holidays. . . . "This program gave me the courage and faith that I have love and support," wrote one woman, "and that pushed me to get my (college) degree and reach for the stars. That diploma that is on my wall reminds me of that every day. Thank you!"

Thank you for continuing to embrace our families and our programs throughout the year. You have created hope, you have given the gifts of care and concern, you have touched lives.

Sincerely,

**Ginny Parry
Director of Volunteers
Home of the Sparrow**

Dear PPC,

Good things came in threes for me recently. First, a triple bypass that was successful. And then the triple blessings of cards, good wishes and prayers from so many of you. PPC'ers do care, and I'm grateful to all of you. My sincere thanks!

Clarence Reed

Thank you from Presbyterian Children's Village for including the teenage residents at the Village's Rosemont campus along with other missions served thru Winter Wonders. Again, Kim did a phenomenal job organizing and mastering a great event. It is a huge undertaking that resulted in many receiving the blessings of your giving. Thank you all who contributed. I also appreciated the women who gave their time during a busy season to wrap gifts for the children served. It was a fun afternoon.

**Thank you,
Barbara Woodcock**

P.S. The Village is again having a slightly used coat drive. Please bring your children's coats to the church office for pick up.





Dear Every Winter Wonders volunteer sponsor, volunteer, etc.,

This was our 1st time attending your wonderful event. My twins and I have had traumatic events happen over the past year attributed to my husband who is now out of our lives . My kids and I are always the ones often donating money, food, gifts. We are now on the receiving end and the relief and joy I have, knowing we will have a warm Christmas with some treasured toys is such a wonderful feeling.

Thank you,
Jan, Riley and Robert

Thank you for all the wonderful gifts that you have blessed us with. We can't thank you enough for everything you all have done.

Love,
Kenniyah, Kanerah, Ayiana, Kerstin, and Atyra

Dear PPC,
Thank you so much for all you have done for myself and my children. From the time we walked in the door of the church on December 12, 2009, to the time we left to go home you all were angels giving us a piece of heaven.

Everyone was so pleasant, friendly and kind, treating my family very special. Even though I fell on hard times Paoli Presbyterian made me and my family forget we even had problems. Matt, Olivia and Heather were their for my family from the time they called my number to sitting down eating dinner with my family. Even when they took my children to pick out gifts for family members they were happy and pleasant. I just want to say to them Thank you so very much!

My prayer is that God world continue to bless PPC for all they do for others.

God Bless,
Darletha

PPC PEOPLE

Births

Dec. 23rd

Haley Renee Christides, daughter of
Mr. and Mrs. Jason Christides

Deaths

Jan. 9th

Normajeane Hill Forrester

PAOLI PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
225 South Valley Road, Paoli, PA 19301
610-644-8250 www.paolipres.org

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Postmaster: DATED MATERIAL
Please deliver by January 22-24

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