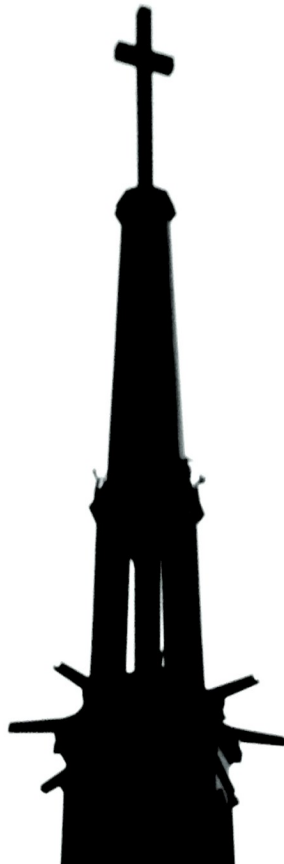

The Lutheran Visitor

721 12th Avenue Huntington, WV 25701
The Reverend Jennifer Obermueller, Pastor

March 2011

*The Mission of St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church is to celebrate and proclaim
to all the saving grace of Jesus Christ through word and deed.*



Symbolism of Ashes



On the first day of Lent, pastors in many churches dip a finger in ashes (often made by burning palm branches from the previous year's Palm Sunday) and make a cross on parishioners' foreheads. God's people have used ashes as a sign of mourning, humiliation and penitence. In the Old Testament, ashes were used as a purification offering. The New Testament speaks of repenting in "sackcloth and ashes" (Luke 10:13, NRSV).

On Ash Wednesday, Christians are pained because our sins — private and public — led to Jesus' death. With repentant hearts, we begin the season of Lent, knowing it leads to resurrection on Easter Sunday.

We will have a special service of worship on Ash Wednesday, March 9 at 7:00 pm. The liturgy will begin with confession and the imposition of ashes. We will celebrate Holy Communion in the traditional way at the altar. In addition to our own service, the Downtown Churches will hold a community service at 12 noon at First Presbyterian Church with Pastor Jennifer preaching the homily.

"The Story of the Bible"

Adult Class Begins Tuesday Evening, March 8

We will begin a new adult class, "The Story of the Bible" on Tuesday evenings at 6:15 p.m. in the Parlor. The course will be based on an in-depth series of 24 lectures by Luke Timothy Johnson of the Candler School of Theology at Emory University. Each class will include at least one 30-minute lecture on the history of the Bible to be followed by class discussion. The course is a great way to learn about what we have come to know as scripture and promises to be an enriching experience for Christians interested in learning more about the tradition of our faith. "The Story of the Bible" is the first of four university-level courses we'll be offering in 2011. The lectures, which are on DVD, also will be available in the library for members interested in the subject who are unable to attend the class.

Interested? Check out the first class: 6:15 p.m., Tue. 3/8, Parlor. For more information, contact Andy Obermueller via Facebook.

A Prayer for Lent

Lord Jesus Christ, send your Holy Spirit upon your people this Lenten season that we might faithfully take up our cross each day and follow you. Help us to die to all that is false in our lives, all that is worthless, all that is sinful. Confident in your abundant mercy, may we face the truth about ourselves without fear. Freed from all that keeps us from joyfully living our baptismal promises, may we join with all Christians in the Easter celebration of your resurrection. Amen.

Mutual Ministry Committee Up and Running

Do you all realize Pastor Jennifer has been with us for over 6 months? Where has the time gone? I am writing to you to let you know of a new committee active in the church during the past few months. The purpose of this committee, in short, is to support Pastor Jennifer.

Under our Church's constitution, upon the calling of a new pastor a "mutual ministry committee" is to be formed. Our constitution states that the committee shall consist of the members of the Call Committee and the new pastor. Unfortunately, this is all our constitution says about such a committee. With Pastor Jennifer's assistance, discussions among the call committee members, as well as reviewing various materials about mutual ministry committees received from Bishop Dunkin, we had our organizational committee meeting in November and our first "official" meeting in December.

The members of our committee are: Stephen Golder (Chairman), Dolly Oshel, Bernadette Wellman, Andrea Lindberg, Carl Mummert (who replaced Aaron Schmidt) and Joel Jones.

Mutual Ministry Committees are based on the principle that the ministry of any pastor is strengthened when there exists a small group of persons who act out of mutual concern for the pastor and the congregation. In essence, our committee is here to minister to our pastor, as she is led to minister to all of us. Mutual Ministry becomes specific in such ways as:

- (1) Serving as a personal and confidential support group to the pastor
- (2) Serving as an open communication channel regarding conditions and attitudes within the congregation
- (3) Serving as agents of reconciliation in time of conflict in the congregation
- (4) Early warning station for misunderstandings in the congregation
- (5) A "listening post" for the pastor
- (6) Sounding board for the pastor in time of personal or professional stress
- (7) Showing concern for the spiritual, emotional and physical needs of the pastor

It is our goal to meet every four to six weeks in private. Our discussions are strictly confidential. We will make reports to church council as appropriate and if the need arises, make recommendations to church council for specific actions we believe should be taken. We are not a replacement for the personnel committee or see ourselves in the role of evaluating Pastor Jennifer or her performance. We are here to support her as a person and as our pastor and to serve as a bridge between her and the congregation as needed. All members of the congregation are encouraged to contact any church council member regarding any issue in the church. We are certainly happy to talk to any member about any concern he or she might have, but our mission is different from that of church council. The church council is responsible for making official policy, planning and implementing the budget, strategic planning for future of the church, evaluating Pastor Jennifer and our other paid staff members, etc. Our chief mission is to minister to Pastor Jennifer in anyway needed and to work to make sure that the relationship between Pastor Jennifer and our congregation is a strong one.

Stephen Golder, Chairman

Some Symbols for Lent

Colors - the usual color for Lent is purple, signaling repentance. Black may be used on Ash Wednesday, a bare altar on Good Friday, and scarlet on Passion Sunday.

Ashes - Lent may begin with a cross-shaped smudge received on our foreheads during the Ash Wednesday liturgy, a solemn, public reminder of our mortality and repentance.

The 40 days of Lent - a time of self-denial and preparation, patterned after Jesus' retreat into the wilderness before his ministry.

Palms - an ancient Jewish and Roman symbol of victory, used in triumphal processions and for decoration.

Crown of thorns - Like the cross itself, Jesus' painful crown is a sign both of his humiliation on our behalf as well as his kingship.

Darkness and uncovered altar - used in some churches where the interior is dark and the chancel furniture laid bare to symbolize the death of our Lord.

Prayer Requests



Let us pray for our friends and family members LaDonna; Mikah; Olivia; Susan; Eddie; Mary; Karen; Marissa; Kris; Beverly; John; Jan; Rex; Niza; Tim and son Chris and family; Ryan and her family; all victims of natural disasters; those involved in disaster relief; for the military, especially Tim; and for church council.

Please notify the church office (304)525-9630 or e-mail stpchurch@frontier.com if a name needs to be added or removed.

SYNOD CALENDAR

March 2011



2-4 Clergy/Rostered Leader Spiritual Retreat, Bishop Hodges, Huttonsville, \$175 pp. Dave Westphal is the contact person for this retreat (Update: this was originally scheduled for Feb 23-25)

Wednesday Evening's Lenten Dinners



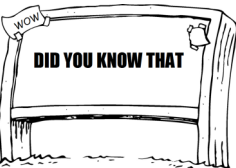
Come and join us for light dinners on Wednesdays during Lent. Each dinner will begin at 6:00 and will be hosted by a Fellowship team each week. March 16 will be hosted by Ron Pease and team, followed by Debby Arentz and team on March 23, Judi Korstanje and team on March 30, Linda Schneider and team on April 6, and Bernadette Wellman and team on April 13. Come join us for fellowship and good food.

Ohio/Kanawha Valley Cluster



This year the Ohio/Kanawha Valley Cluster spring meeting is Saturday, March 26, 2011, at Christ Lutheran Church, 4513 Grand Central Avenue, Vienna, WV 26105. The women at Christ are looking forward to hosting this event and seeing everyone again.

The theme is "Looking into the Past" with a discussion and demonstration of antiques and lifestyles. If you have an antique (smaller than a breadbox) you think we might not be able to identify, please feel free to bring it. We'll play "Stump the Lutherans."



Wilma Anderson was recently selected by the staff at Huntington Middle School as their nominee for Cabell County Teacher of the Year 2012? Wilma and the other Cabell County Schools nominees will be recognized at the May 3 meeting of the Board of education, and the 2012 Teacher of the Year will be announced at that time.

"I love to think of nature as an unlimited broadcasting station, through which God speaks to us every hour if we will only tune in."

—George Washington Carver

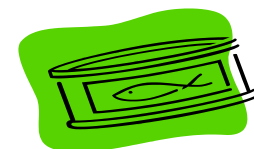
MARCH WORSHIP LEADERS

	Acolyte	Sacristan	Assisting Minister	Reader	Communion Deacon	Nursery	Ushers
Sunday, March 6	Zoe May	Zakare Garnett	Linda Schneider	Steve Golder	Traditional	Doug and Susan Korstanje	Arlan Hesse Paula Simpson Kenny Kirby Earl Arentz
Ash Wednesday, March 9			Jeannie Riley	Linda Schneider	Traditional		
Sunday, March 13	Heath Wade	Trey Bell	Keith Wellman	Bernadette Wellman	Jeannie Riley	Debbie and Elizabeth Arentz	Arlan Hesse Paula Simpson Christine Eid Rick Eid
Sunday, March 20	Kathleen Korstanje	Samuel Plate	David Stuart	Ryan Vickers	Linda Schneider	Sally Pettit	Arlan Hesse Paula Simpson Kenny Kirby Earl Arentz
Sunday, March 27	Jacob Simpkins	Zakare Garnett	Linda Schneider	David Stuart	David Stuart	Christine and Ryan Vickers	Arlan Hesse Paula Simpson Christine Eid Rick Eid

Altar Guild Debra Perkins, Jenny Murray, Christine Vickers and volunteer



Cridlin Food Item
24 cans of tuna



In Sure and Certain Hope of the Resurrection, We Entrust Our Brothers in Christ

David Dale Lykins, II, son of LaDonna Beckett and grandson of Linda Hay, fell asleep in the arms of Jesus on February 9, 2011. The Rite of Christian Burial was conducted at Rollins Funeral Home in Kenova, West Virginia.

H. Patrick Oshel, husband of Dolly Oshel, fell asleep in the arms of Jesus on February 19, 2011. The Rite of Christian Burial was conducted at St. Paul.

Rest eternal grant them, O Lord, and may light perpetual shine upon them.

Words can't begin to express our heartfelt love and appreciation for all the prayers, support and many acts of kindness by our St. Paul family.

The family of David Dale Lykins, II

Linda Hay

LaDonna Beckett

Mikah Beckett

Thank You from The Oshel Family

We would like to thank all the members who sent us cards, brought us food, and gave us kind words of comfort upon hearing of Pat's death. God does give us angels on earth - they are called friends, and we are blessed to have so many at St. Paul's.



Jan and Rick Wilson would like to thank everyone for the prayers, meals, cards, visits and phone calls as she has recovered from her accident. We have really appreciated all the love and support shown to us.



Our blessings to Troy and Sara Fricke on the birth of their first child and daughter Parker Ellen. Parker was born February 12 in Nashville, TN. Mary Lou and Sandy Fricke are Parker's proud grandparents.



Church Women United Programs

The upcoming World Day of Prayer program will be held March 4, 2011, at Beverly Hills United Methodist Church (2600 Washington Boulevard). This is a day of prayerful reflection celebrated by women in over 170 countries across the world. Fellowship with light refreshments will begin at 10:00 am and the one-hour ecumenical Worship Service written by the women of Chile will follow at 11:00 am. This year's theme is world hunger as we are asked to reflect on the question Jesus posed to his disciples when confronted with the problem of feeding the thousands of hungry followers—"How Many Loaves Have you?" We ask that you encourage the women of your church to join with us in this powerful celebration.

This year our Lenten Bible Study entitled "Living the Word through Lent" will be led by the Reverend Beth Bondurant. The four-part series of Bible study and discussion will take place at Beverly Hills Presbyterian Church, 469 Norway Avenue on the following Fridays during the Lenten season: March 25, April 1, April 8 and April 15. Each study session will begin at 10:00 am and will be followed by a light lunch for which a donation is requested.

Please contact Carolyn Becker (304) 522-0813 if you need a ride to the World Day of Prayer service.

Lenten Worship Begins Wed. 3/9

Lenten worship begins on 3/9 with Ash Wednesday worship. Below is a schedule of worship for Lent and the start of the Easter season.

More information about Easter opportunities will appear in next month's Visitor.

Unless otherwise noted, all events are at St. Paul.

Ash Wednesday Worship with the Huntington Downtown Churches

12 noon, 3/9, First Presbyterian Church

7 p.m., 3/9

Sundays

9:30 a.m. 3/13, 3/20, 3/27, 4/3, 4/10, 4/17

Wednesdays

Dinner 6 p.m. 3/16, 3/23, 3/30, 4/6, 4/13 in the Undercroft in the lower level of St. Paul

Evening Prayer 7 p.m. 3/16, 3/23, 3/30, 4/6, 4/13

Triduum (The Three Days)

Maundy Thursday (including Confession and Individual Forgiveness and Holy Communion)

7 p.m., 4/21

Good Friday

7 p.m., 4/22

Easter Vigil (including Holy Communion)

7 p.m., 4/23

Easter Sunday

9:30 a.m., 4/24



- 3 Benjamin Jones
- 5 Sophia Kelz
- 6 Amy Borowski
- 6 Jane Beck
- 9 Richard Cunningham
- 10 Larry Kendall
- 13 Rick Wilson
- 14 Arlan Hesse
- 15 Herbert Eiselstein
- 16 Kevin Vickers
- 16 Jeannie Riley
- 18 Al Hess
- 19 Bonnie Conger
- 19 Bernadette Wellman
- 27 James Case



THE WINDS OF CHANGE

2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 9:30 am Quilting	2 Individual Absolution 11:00 am Confirmation 5:30 pm CCC 6:00 pm Choir 7:00 pm	3 12:00 Noon Brown Bag Bible Study 7:00 pm Church Council	4 	5
6 The Transfiguration of Our Lord 9:30 am Worship 10:45 am Sunday School	7	8 9:30 am Quilting 6:15 pm Story of the Bible 6:30 Girl Scouts	9 Ash Wednesday 12 Noon Service First Presbyterian 7:00 pm Ash Wednesday  St. Paul	10 12:00 Noon Brown Bag Bible Study	11	12 Daylight-Saving Time begins 
13 First Sunday in Lent 9:30 am Worship 10:45 am Sunday School	14	15 9:30 am Quilting 6:15 pm Story of the Bible	16 Individual Absolution 11:00 am 5:30 pm Catechism 6:00 pm Lenten Dinner 7:00 pm Worship 7:30 pm Choir	17 12:00 Noon Brown Bag Bible Study 	18	19
20 Second Sunday in Lent First Day of Spring 9:30 am Worship 10:45 am Sunday School	21	22 9:30 am Quilting 6:15 pm Story of the Bible 6:30 Girl Scouts	23 Individual Absolution 11:00 am 5:30 pm Catechism 6:00 pm Lenten Dinner 7:00 pm Worship 7:30 pm Choir	24 12:00 Noon Brown Bag Bible Study	25	26 Lutheran Women Ohio/Kanawha Valley Cluster Spring Mtg. Vienna, WV
27 Third Sunday in Lent 9:30 am Worship 10:45 am Sunday School	28	29 9:30 am Quilting 6:15 pm Story of the Bible	30 Individual Absolution 11:00 am 5:30 pm Catechism 6:00 pm Lenten Dinner 7:00 pm Worship	31 12:00 Noon Brown Bag Bible Study		



St. Paul Lutheran Church

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Huntington, WV 25701

Phone (304)525-9630

Email stpchurch@frontier.com

Website www.stpaulhuntington.org

March 2011

"Everything  has become new!"

2 Corinthians 5:17, NRSV

