



People's to People
The Newsletter of the People's Church of Dover
United Church of Christ
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APRIL 2008

Under the Bell Tower

Rev. Jeremiah Wright

I have refrained from saying anything in worship about the fifteen or twenty seconds of video of UCC minister Jeremiah Wright (now retired from the pastorate of Trinity UCC in Chicago) that have been shown, re-shown, commented on television and blogged on the internet; but since Trinity is a local church in the United Church of Christ, and so is People's Church, I really do need to respond. I would prefer not to respond: Rev. Wright didn't speak for me, let him speak for himself. But you need to have something from your pastor. So here goes. Four points.

1. The language used in the clips I saw on TV offended me. I don't say that they were "inappropriate," I say they were crude. It was as offensive as when Jerry Falwell said that God made 9/11 happen to punish America.
2. I have been in the pulpit for 37 years, and I suspect that if someone had been videotaping me all that time they could probably come up with several minutes of really stupid things I have said or done in the pulpit, and a few offensive things as well. None of us in the ministry is free of this, as it says in James 3:1-2 about ministers: "Let not many of you become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness; for we all make many mistakes, and if any one makes no mistakes in what they say they are a perfect person, able to bridle the whole body also." I remember a sermon I preached during the presidential campaign of 1972 ... well, I won't go into that.
3. Rev. Wright's statements were within the tradition of Black Liberation Theology. In a seminary class I had with both White and Black students we read the books of Black Liberation theologian James Cone, and compared to Dr. Cone's language Rev. Wright's comments were calm. Rev. Wright's approach, even in the clips televised, is consistent with the prophetic side of Black Protestant preaching.
4. The truth behind Rev. Wright's preaching really is true. I'll say it my way: in the Civil Rights Movement and in the civil rights legislation a generation ago America addressed many structures of institutional racism: unequal education, unequal consideration for employment, unequal access to home loans; but you can't legislate the human heart. It's the Holy Spirit who changes hearts. As a society we still have quite a distance to go in dealing with the human face of prejudice. It is a deep-seated flaw, going back at least 400 years; and although one generation can get us on the right track, the job of fulfilling "all men are created equal" is still America's number one moral issue.



- Dan

STEWARDSHIP REPORT THROUGH MARCH 31, 2008

Annual Church Budgeted Income	\$221,700
Income Weekly	4,264
Budgeted Income to Date	55,406
Income Received to Date	54,530.60
Budget Expenses to Date	<u>- 54,440.77</u>
Net Difference	\$ 125.83

ATTENDANCE FOR MARCH

	2007		2008	offerings
03/09	124	03/02	108	4,583.10
03/11	114	03/09	104	12,105.00
03/18	126	03/16	126	2,413.50
03/25	142	03/23	187	4,433.25
04/01	<u>159</u>	03/30	<u>122</u>	<u>2,573.00</u>
	665		642	\$26,107.85

April Birthdays

04/01	Joshua DODD
04/02	Zackery PARKER
04/03	Casey POLASKO
04/04	Shelby COLE
04/06	Casey JAYWORK
04/07	Wesley WOODRUFF
04/08	Sarah HASTINGS
04/10	Christopher HANE BUTT
04/10	Craig L. LINDSEY
04/13	Allison SMITH
04/18	Constance BIDDLE
04/20	Carolyn LEWIS
04/21	Julie LEWIS
04/15	Ava SHRADER
04/23	Debra COLE
04/24	Dorothy BIDDLE
04/28	Erin McCLEARY
04/29	Abby BOLLER
04/30	Susan Smith SHANER
04/30	Barbara MOORE

If we missed anyone, please notify the church office to get your name on the list.

May God Bless You on Your Birthday



PRAYERS FOR MEMBERS

Mary Alice Bailey – resting from chemotherapy.
Bob Cooke – doing well after suffering a broken foot.

Ed Cox – home after being hospitalized with a severe respiratory infection.

Fred Hotchkiss – recuperating very well after another surgery on his knee (this time for the tendon).

Mary Johns – back in her home after heart surgery.

Catherine Moor – recuperating from a severe respiratory infection.

Jack Toler – recuperating at home after seizure.

PRAYERS FOR FRIENDS

Suzanne Bañez – Cleah Muntz's friend: spinal surgery.

Kathy Gilliam – blood clots in her legs.

Brent Harris – Sue Harris' cousin: in a coma.

Bill Henry – Dodds' friend: advancing Alzheimer's.

Betty Holderbaum – Dodds' friend recuperating from successful surgery.

Lucille Horsey – Carol Skadsberg's friend.

Richard Long – Hanebutts' friend recuperating from lung transplant.

Family of Esther Moffett – friends of Hanebutts, grieving for Esther's death.

Keith Nicolls – Fred Hotchkiss' uncle: kidney failure.

Janice Rice – Jerry Rice's sister-in-law: ruptured disk.

Pat Williams – Shirley Hawkins' sister in Indiana, respiratory infection.

PRAYERS FOR CANCER PATIENTS

Meena Ball – 3-yr-old friend of Stewarts

Carol Bucco – Jennifer Myers' mother.

Faye Denkenberger – friend of Marie Clement.

Mary Ford – Betsy Stewart's friend.

Barbara Geraghty – Jim Miller's cousin.

Barbara Jackson – Cleah Muntz's cousin.

Kathie Latourette – Sylvia's daughter-in-law: had surgery March 28.

Megan Macklin – friend of Lindsey family: 11 months old

Gordon Minner – friend of Jeff and Judy Reed.

Charlena Murdock – Reeds' friend in South Carolina.

Judy Smith – Phyllis Simkins' niece.

Patricia Stites – Fred and Elva's daughter.

Jean Stulir – friend of Lyn Arnold: has 3 small children.

Michael Wieder – Nancy Guth's cousin: has two young autistic children.

Please pray for others whose friends or family have requested prayers without names.

Deployed Military Personnel

Capt. James C. Grove – Air Force: Gale & Ann Grove's son deployed to a refueling base in Turkmenistan.

It was great to have Carol Skadsberg's son in worship on Easter Sunday: **A1C Matthew J. Clendaniel**, who has just returned from a tour of duty in Iraq.

THANK YOU

My personal thanks to every person who pitched in during the Lenten Season to make all our church's programs and projects go well. The Lenten suppers each Wednesday evening were very good. The organ and choral music was just right and well performed. The behind-the-scenes work of the Diaconate, the Board of Christian Education, and our youth leaders was—well, we couldn't have done it without you. I hope that Lent 2008 has been a time of spiritual renewal for us all.

-Dan Griggs

SYMPATHY

The church's sympathy is expressed to the family and friends of **Harold Schmittenger** on his death March 25. He was a member of People's Church from 1958, but had been inactive in his later years.

Men's Breakfast

3rd Thursday, 8 AM at the Countrie Eatery
April 17th.

BOARD OF DIACONATE

Our Church's Website

Have you looked at our church's website lately? www.peopleschurchofdover.org Special thanks to Elinor Baker for all the work she puts into her job as our webmaster.

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

We have many blessings at People's Church! Counted among them are the members of the Board of Christian Education who lead our many activities and opportunities. We thank Craig Lindsey, Cheryl Goldsmith, Jennifer Downs, and Michelle Caulk for their leadership with the Youth Event and Pizza Party. We hosted the fine young boys of the Tuscon, Arizona Boys Choir that night, bowled, ate, watched videos, and did crafts. Everyone enjoyed the evening.

We thank Cheryl, Jenny and Mary Beth Goldsmith for stuffing the plastic eggs for our Easter Egg Hunt. We thank Michelle and Lance Caulk for the arrival of the Easter Bunny.

We hope to have an April event for our young children. Details will be available on the bulletin board and through the Sunday School.

The Adult Sunday School class will meet after worship on **April 13**. A light lunch will be served, and Glenn Hitchens will lead the discussion of "Religion, Science

and the Law".

The next Board of Christian Education meeting will be **April 6, after the worship service.**

Congratulations to Alyssa Senato, Chad and Megan Dempsey who won awards in a recent 4-H food preparation contest!

Jean Hitchens, Chairperson

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

BOARD OF MISSION & OUTREACH



Food Bank Sunday is March 2nd. The items needed this month include **Beef Stew, Spam, Applesauce (cans), Jello, small boxes, and any other non-perishable items.** All donations will go to First Baptist Church Food Bank. Thank you for your kind donations, they are greatly appreciated. People's Church is asking that all checks be made payable to the **People's Church of Dover**, so that one check can be given to the designated Food Bank for that month. Thank you for all your generous donations.

There are folders provided in each **pew hymnal rack containing Food Bank envelopes.** Your donation can be put in the collection plate on any Sunday. Thank you for your kind donations to the Holy Cross Samaritans Food Bank for the month of February. There were 50 food items donated and \$40.00 collected. All gifts were given to the Holy Cross Samaritans Food Bank for the month of February. Your generous offerings are greatly appreciated.

Sue Hunt and Ruth Harris,
Board of Mission & Outreach

BOARD OF FINANCE

VOLUNTEERS

Flowers

04/06	Joy Hall
04/13	Sandra McNinch
04/20	Sarah Hastings
04/27	Irene Hufnal

Liturgist

04/06	Jennifer Myer
04/13	Terry Jaywork
04/20	Debra Woodruff
04/27	Kathy Hanebutt

Greeter

04/06	Jennifer & Cheryl Goldsmith
04/13	Jane Kent
04/20	Barbara VanSant & Elaine Ewing
04/27	Sandy McNinch

Ushers

04/06	Bob & Mary Cooke Jim Baker Bob Hawkins
04/13	Phyllis Simpkins Sandra McNinch Jim Baker Bob Hawkins
04/20	Phyllis Simpkins Sandy McNinch Robert Hawkins Jim Baker
04/27	Cindy & Charlie Dempsey Robert Hawkins Jim Baker

Sermons & Scriptures

April 6	"New DNA" Acts 2:14a, 36-41; First Peter 1:17-23 Communion Sunday
April 13	"Healed by His Wounds" Acts 2:42-47; First Peter 2:19-25
April 20	"You Are the Church" Acts 7:55-60; First Peter 2:1-10
April 27	"The Harrowing of Hell" Acts 17:22-31; First Peter 3:13-22

Women's Fellowship

Pat Heather of Auxiliary of Stockley Center came to update us on Stockley and the updated mission of their organization. Only 78 clients remain at the site; all the others are now in community "foster homes". The Women's Fellowship has agreed to sponsor a client. More news to follow on how we can assist this person.

A big thank you to Betsey Stewart for preparing the Women's Fellowship tri-fold information folder. They were distributed in last month's newsletter.

The Marti Gras pancake supper on "Fat Tuesday" was a big success. Thank you to Dave Van Kavelaar and Chris Senato who volunteered to cook, to Richard Johnson for running the dishwasher and to everyone who helped the evening and to everyone who came to enjoy the pancakes. We will try it again next year.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 7th at 12:30pm at the church. Please bring small clay pots, small silk flowers with stems to make arrangements for our home-bound members. For more information you may phone Shirley Hawkins (698-1258).

Spring Luncheon trip!!

The Women's Fellowship is sponsoring a luncheon trip to St. Michaels, Md., on Wednesday, May 7th. We will carpool from the church parking lot at 10am for the 1 hour and 30 minute drive to the lovely coastal fishing village of St. Michael's. Lunch will be served at the "Characters Café" overlooking the Chesapeake Bay. A \$3 per person donation will help the volunteer driver with gas expenses; lunch is "Dutch-treat". If you are interested, please RSVP with BJ Van Kavelaar or Cindy Hotchkiss. **The RSVP deadline is Sunday, April 27th.**

Thank-you

Few people know who provides and actually makes the boutonnières for the ushers every Sunday. Aren't they lovely!! Our secret flower angel is Billie Boehmer. A big thank-you to Billie, and to Glen who delivers them if Billie is working.

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

"COPPER PENNIES"

#1)

5 cups sliced cooked carrots (2 lbs.)
1 medium onion sliced (pull apart)
1 small green pepper (diced)

#2)

½ cup salad oil	1 tsp. Prepared mustard
1 can tomato soup	1 tsp. Worcestershire sauce
1 cup sugar	1 tsp. Salt
¾ cup vinegar	1 tsp. Pepper

#3)

Cook carrots until tender crisp – drain and cool.
Cut onions in thin slices and pull apart.
Cut green pepper in small pieces.
Mix onion, carrots and green pepper together.

Mix #2 ingredients and let boil hard. Pour mixture over vegetables. Cover and marinate 12 hours in refrigerator. Serves 10 to 12. Keeps indefinitely. Store in refrigerator.

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED CROP SUPPER

The Crop Supper will be, Friday, April 11, 2008, doors open after 6 p.m., Dinner at 6:15 p.m. It is being held at **CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH**, Parish Building, second floor (elevator available), Water & South State Street, Dover. Parking in church lot in alley off Elm Terrace or in former Kent County Parking Lot off Water Street.

Bring a Covered Dish, Health Kits, School Kits, Dental Kits.

Chicken & Beverage are provided, People's Church signed up for broccoli and blueberry covered dishes (serves 6 – 8 people).

Adults or Child 12 & over: \$5 each

Children under 12 yrs: FREE

BENEFITS DELMARVA RURAL MINISTRY.

For further information and tickets contact:
Jean Hitchens 736-6086 or Ann Alexander 697-2879 evenings.

Caring Hearts Helping Hands (698-1900)

Thank you for your continued support of low income working families here in Kent County. Caring Hearts Helping Hands distributed 90 Easter baskets to children ages 1-12 of our client families. Thank you for your help.

Our office hours are every Tuesday, 10 am - 2 pm; the first Wednesday evening of each month, 4:30 pm - 6:30 pm and the first and third Saturday of each month, 10 am - 12 pm. We are always looking for volunteers to help sort and hang gently used donations that come into our warehouse. Please feel free to come by any time we are open if you can help.

We are currently accepting gently used spring and summer clothes and shoes. We particularly need the larger sizes (XL, 2X etc.). We will accept furniture, small appliances, kitchen items, linens, gently used board games (with all the pieces included) and always need cleaning supplies, paper products, personal hygiene items, school supplies and gifts for teen birthdays.

If you are interested in helping or know of any teens or college students who need hours of community service, we would be happy to have you help.

Thanks again for all your support.
Fran Clinton and BJ Van Kavelaar.