



People's to People
The Newsletter of the People's Church of Dover
United Church of Christ
46 South Bradford Street
Dover, Delaware 19904
(302) 674-4177 - Office, (302) 674-3423 - Fax
Email Address: peopleschurch@dmv.com
Webpage: <http://www.peopleschurchofdover.org>

MARCH 2010

Under the Bell Tower

Of Blizzards and Budgets

“When it rains it pours” goes the old jingle for Morton Salt. Well, this winter, when it snows there’s a blizzard! I hope you have remained safe and comfortable through all these strong snow storms in December, January and February. Maybe the March wind will whisk it all away and bring us that spring the Ground Hog promised us.

When the storms came on a weekend, we tried very hard to find a way for People’s Church to remain open for worship and Sunday School, but some of these snowfalls and the ice that followed were just too much. With regret we canceled services on three Sundays. Unfortunately the first cancellation came on December 20, the Sunday before Christmas, when many church members catch up on their year’s giving, or give special offerings to the church. And the third cancellation came on the first Sunday of February: and first Sundays are usually the days the largest offerings of the month are received. As a result, People’s Church is working with a significant check book deficit already this year. And this year’s budget was already a reduced, bare-bones budget. The church is not, thankfully, “in trouble” financially—but we don’t want it to get into trouble before we do something about it.

I offered to the Board of Finance a “Pastor’s Hair Challenge”: if the members would make up the deficit and add some over and above, I would shave my hair and beard and preach hairless on Easter. The Board of Finance didn’t go for that idea—maybe they think I’ve already lost enough hair! But they did present **A CHALLENGE TO THE MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF PEOPLE’S CHURCH**: to write an extra check to make up what we’ve missed due to blizzards.

Now let me say something theological about this. We don’t really give because the church needs the money (although it does). The reason a Christian gives is because we need to give: to become a giver in this world and not a taker is to be conformed to the image of God the Great Giver. Christianity is not about “being nice”: it’s about human transformation—it’s about this caterpillar becoming a butterfly that can soar high into the heavens. Such a human change can come only if we step out, do what we haven’t done before, take a chance that God really is God. And becoming a giver is a major part of that.

I hope you will respond to the Board of Finance’s challenge; and more, I hope you will respond to God’s very character and allow yourself to be changed.

-Dan



**STEWARDSHIP REPORT THROUGH
FEBRUARY 31, 2010**

Annual Church Budgeted Income	\$200,100
Income Weekly	3,848
Budgeted Income to Date	33,385
Income Received to Date	33,832
Budget Expenses to Date	<u>- 35,176</u>
Net Difference	\$ - 1,344

ATTENDANCE FOR FEBRUARY

	2009	2010	offerings	
02/08	129	02/07	00	Snow
02/15	114	02/14	95	16,095.55
02/22	98	02/21	120	3,434.00
03/01	<u>96</u>	02/28	<u>132</u>	<u>3,810.35</u>
	437		347	\$23,339.90

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

03/04	Estelle LOCKWOOD
03/04	Ruth GALLIHUE
03/05	Mary WILSON
03/05	Amanda DOWNES
03/06	Judy ZINGARO
03/06	Joan Caulk
03/06	Elaine EWING
03/07	Glenn HITCHENS
03/08	Brook PEARCE
03/08	Rod THOMPSON
03/13	Helaine JONES
03/14	Sage COLE
03/14	Austin MAYAN
03/15	Mae BOWEN
03/15	Bradley LEWIS
03/15	Sandra COSDEN
03/16	Robert HAWKINS
03/16	Charles DEMPSEY, Jr.
03/18	Matthew MOOR
03/18	Patrick McCLEARY
03/19	Courtlyn WITTE
03/21	Gale GROVE
03/22	Jesse MAYAN
03/23	Sue DODD
03/24	Rosamond PIERCE
03/24	Jim CALDWELL
03/27	Bette Jo VAN KAVELAAR
03/27	Philip S. BETTS
03/27	Cody LLOYD
03/28	James GROVE
03/28	Shirley HAWKINS
03/29	Lynda CAULK
03/30	Judith DOWNS

03/30
03/30

John C. (Jack) LEWIS
Alli PEARCE

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

May God Bless You on Your Birthday



IN OUR PRAYERS

PRAYERS FOR MEMBERS

Sarah Hastings – recuperating at home after a fall.
 Barba Merriwether – in chemotherapy for abdominal cancer.
 Sylvia Latourette – recuperating in KGH from a fall at home Feb. 27th.
 Cameron Ridgeway -- in Christiana Hospital after premature birth.
 Caroline Ridgeway—home from the hospital.
 A.J. Senato – waiting after spinal-cranial surgery for re-assessment.

PRAYERS FOR FRIENDS

Drexel Biddle – Cliff's nephew in GA, heart and lung problems.
 Tom Bullard -- Kevin Gilliam's brother-in-law, hospitalized for kidney failure.
 Leon "Buddy" Carter – Brenda Polasko's brother: COPD.
 Faye Downey – Marian DePue's friend in MO with Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever.
 Bill Henry—Dodds' friend: Alzheimer's Disease.
 Lucille Horsey – Carol Skadsberg's friend.
 Sue Leonard – Cleah Muntz's sister: spinal deterioration.
 Keith Nicolls – Fred Hotchkiss' uncle: kidney failure.
 Tom Rice – Jerry's brother: triple bypass surgery.
 Jean Tilley – Billie Boehmer's mother in PA, diagnosed with Lewy Body Disease.

PRAYERS FOR CANCER PATIENTS

Melanie Giangrant -- friend of Judy Reed.
 Michelle Hill – Sue Dodd's cousin.
 Barbara Jackson – Cleah Muntz's cousin.
 Howard Killian – Angela Downs' father.
 Gordon Minner – friend of Jeff and Judy Reed.
 Christina Neustad – Betsy Stewart's niece.
 Diane Nickelson – friend of Brenda Polasko.
 Lillian Schrantz – Cleah Muntz's sister-in-law.
 Donna Stanley – friend of Bill Hufnal, breast cancer
 Michael Williamson – 12-year-old grandson of Pat Thompson's friend.

Debbie Yates – friend of Pat Thompson, recent diagnosis after a long illness.

Tracy Zlock – Phyllis Tarburton’s niece recuperating from breast cancer surgery.

“Storkulations”

Congratulations to David and Christina Petrosky in the birth of a son, Cole Reese-Bernard Petrosky, on January 6, 2010.

SNOW CLOSING NOTIFICATION

If People’s Church should be closed on a Sunday morning due to a snow storm, it will be broadcast on the following stations.

WDOV-AM radio

WRTX-FM radio

WBOC-TV

TV channel 27/47

DE Ecumenical Contemplative Morning

Saturday, March 20 : 8:30 AM to 1:00 PM
at Resurrection Parish
3000 Videre Drive
Wilmington, DE 19808

Pre-register: Jesus House Prayer & Renewal Center
302/995-6859 or angie2501@comcast.net

Bring a brown bag lunch: bever. provided

A freewill offering will be received

“This day will include several prayer periods, an inspirational DVD from Contemplative Outreach, with Fr. Thomas Keating and a time of fellowship over lunch. People of all faiths are welcome.

LENTEN STUDY: “Saving Jesus”

Wednesday evenings during Lent

Light Supper at 6:00

Study at 6:30

8TH ANNUAL LENTEN ORGAN CONCERTS

Each Thursday: 12:05 until 12:35 PM

Performances of Lenten music by some of the best organists in central Delaware. All are welcome.

HOLY COMMUNION MARCH 14

In order to coordinate the celebration of Holy Communion with anointing and prayers for healing and some special music in preparation, we will move Communion to the **second Sunday in March** instead of March 7.

WOMEN’S FELLOWSHIP INVITES YOU

to a

PANCAKE BRUNCH

Sunday March 14, 11:15 AM

in the church’s dining room

TICKETS may be purchased from any member of the Women’s Fellowship.

Give to the UCC Haiti Earthquake Relief Fund

If you would like to give specifically for Haiti, Church World Service provides the highest possible percentage of your gift to the people for whom you give. Here are three ways you can give for Haiti.

1. Online www.ucc.org, click on the link, use credit card.
2. Check to People’s Church of Dover, marked “Haiti Earthquake Relief,” and place it in the offering.
3. Send check to “Wider Church Ministries” marked “Haiti Earthquake Relief,” to *OGHS Haiti Relief, Wider Church Ministries, 700 Prospect Ave., Cleveland, OH 44115.*

DIACONATE FUND

The Board of the Diaconate is the committee in People’s Church that oversees worship, fellowship, evangelism, and some of the benevolence. The fund used for benevolence to individuals and families who run into a financial crisis in their utility payments or rent, and travelers stranded in Dover, is called the “Diaconate Fund.” There are standards governing the certification of need when Diaconate funds are spent. Last year at this time there was \$3,000 in the Diaconate Fund, and as you can imagine, most of it was used. We retained about \$500 to keep the fund alive until we could rebuild it. During November and December the Diaconate Fund received about \$100. With winter upon us and unemployment still high, needy people qualified to receive our help will have to be turned away, **unless you help.** Please give what you can to the Diaconate Fund. In your box of offering

envelopes, at the first of each month there is an offering envelope marked "Communion Offering." What you place in that envelope goes into the Diaconate Fund to serve the needs of the poor. Won't you help!

HOLY COMMUNION

Holy Communion on Sunday March 14th.

Men's Breakfast
Thursday March 18
8:00 AM at the
Countrie Eatery

BOARD OF DIACONATE

The Upper Room Devotional Magazine

The cost of the Upper Room Devotional Magazine has been eliminated from the budget! The cost of the Upper Room will be \$ 1.00 each and we will only order what we have interest from the congregation in purchasing. If you wish to have the Upper Room please see Cindy in the church office to enter your subscription!

**Someone has stepped up and paid for the Upper Room for the next year!
To that person Thank You!**

The Church Ads in The State News & The Dover Post

Due to budget short fall we must discontinue these ads! The cost for The State News Ad is at this time \$ 15.00 / Week. The Dover Post Ad cost is around \$ 100.00 +/Month. If there is anyone who feels strongly about keeping either one of these Ads in the newspapers please let Cindy know!

These have been Stopped!

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

There will be another Spaghetti Dinner this winter, scheduled for Sunday, March 28. We will again combine the Youth Group and our board to provide an evening of fun, fellowship, and delicious food. Mark your calendars now!

The **new yoga class** is in full swing with 11 participants. We are meeting at 5:00 P.M. on Thursday evenings, in the gym. We will go for six weeks, then decide whether to continue yoga or try another practice or form of exercise.

We thank the Reverend Courtney Mys for leading our Adult Class on "the five wishes". Attendance has been steady for that class, and Fred is sharing his culinary talents with us again.

The next Board of Christian Education meeting will be February 7, after the worship service.

Jean Hitchens, Chairperson

Youth Group 2009 Children Ages 6-11

Purpose: To create a group that not only teaches children about Jesus, but also involves them in community service and social activities that reinforce His teachings.

Mission Statement: Teach children to incorporate the lessons of Jesus into their own lives through community service and social activities.

The Youth Group has a meeting place! The classroom next to the kitchen was organized and cleaned for our use. The Youth Group met on February 14, 2009 to decorate placements for Bayhealth. We also discussed love and the different ways to show love.

The Youth Group is open to any child between the ages of 6 and 11. We welcome suggestions for community service and are open to all ideas for activities. You can see me at Church on Sundays or leave a message for me at the church office.

The Youth Group will be going to Chuck E. Cheese on Sunday March 29, 2009. Transportation will be provided thanks to the new church van. More details will be on the bulletin board outside the Fellowship Room.

Jennifer Myer, Youth Group Director

BOARD OF FINANCE

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

The Board met last on January 10, 2010. Calvin Waite has volunteered to be the new Chair for the Board, and Mark Biddle agreed to continue Secretary duties. The first meeting of the year was very productive with a long list on new tasks to accomplish and some others carried over from the previous year. Most notably (or noticeable!), the repairs to the slate roof on the Sanctuary. These repairs are more extensive than planned with no exact time of completion at present. The water damage to the walls will not be addressed until the roof is completely finished. A good amount of wrought iron repair has taken place around the church grounds to fences, grates, and gates. The next fix will be on one of the gates in the Bell Tower. The Church's riding lawn mower is going for service. The service will determine if the mower (+10 yrs old) will need only a little work or possibly enough work to consider finding a newer/refurbished mower.

The doors to the Narthex (rear entrance to the Sanctuary) are becoming more difficult to deal with and sometimes are not shutting or locking properly. Another issue is that the doors are narrow and caskets are difficult to get in and out. The Board has decided to entertain bids to replace these doors and will be looking for doors that compliment the entrance, as well as having to meet fire code. The Board determined that there are many issues that we deal with, so much intricacy and long history to them that a Board of Management manual or guidebook will be developed. Anyone with a desire to help, especially with historical knowledge of the building and grounds, please contact the Board. The next Board meeting is scheduled for February 14, 2010 directly after the service.

BOARD OF MISSION & OUTREACH

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

On March 14 churches all over America will be receiving the annual "One Great Hour of Sharing" offering. This is an ecumenical and interfaith program to reach out to victims of disasters and to victims of chronic poverty around the world, to help victims help themselves. Please give!

The People's Church of Dover is on the schedule to feed the homeless men during the week of February 28th through March 6th. We need to coordinate 7 teams of people to cover each night of that week. I have received offers to help coordinate this project and now we need teams of people to put the meals together and serve. The men are currently located at the Presbyterian Church on State and Reed Street (right around the corner from us). Volunteers will be needed to cook the meal, serve and clean up afterwards. We will need to be at the Presbyterian Church from about 5:30 to 7:30 each evening. The meals can be cooked at home and brought in or cooked at the church. We can't get into the church kitchen until 5:00pm so cooking at home (or even over at People's Church) and bringing it in will work out best. Please look at your schedule and consider volunteering an evening (or even two) to help us fulfill this obligation. If you have not had the opportunity to come to the shelter and serve a meal I hope that you will consider coming out for an evening and seeing what it's all about. It is a wonderfully humbling experience that I always gain so much more from than I give. If you would like to see more about the shelter you can visit the website at doverinterfaithmission.org.

God Is Still Speaking "Feed My Sheep"

When you make a gift to **One Great Hour of Sharing** you actively participate in tending God's flock throughout the world. Your gift brings shelter, food, water and medical supplies to disaster survivors. You help refugees find safe shelter and begin to build new lives. You aid impoverished communities in securing dependable sources of food and clean water. And you help provide medical care and

education that strengthens bodies and minds and creates brighter futures.

If you would like to give specifically for Haiti, you can write a check to People's Church and mark it "Haiti Earthquake Relief and place it in the offering. Or online at www.ucc.org and click on donation link.

Board of Mission and Outreach



Food Bank Sunday is March 7th. 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 June. There were 60 food items donated and \$60.00 collected. All gifts were given to the **Holy Cross Samaritans Food Bank** for the month of June. Your generous offerings are greatly appreciated.

Sue Hunt and Ruth Harris
Board of Mission & Outreach

VOLUNTEERS

Flowers

03/07	Fred Hotchkiss
03/14	Elisabeth Tomlinson
03/21	Sandy McNinch
03/28	Dorothy Biddle

Liturgist

03/07	Terry Jaywork
03/14	Mark Biddle
03/21	Richard Merriwether

03/28 Betsy Stewart

Greeters

03/07	Cheryl Goldsmith
03/14	Cheryl Goldsmith
03/21	Cheryl Goldsmith
03/28	Cheryl Goldsmith Jackie Niehorster

Ushers

03/07	Karl Swift Cheryl Goldsmith Bill Hufnal Calvin Waite
03/14	Karl Swift Jackie Niehorster
03/21	Karl Swift Cheryl Goldsmith
03/28	Karl Swift Sandy McNinch John Paradee

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS! Call Sandy McNinch at 538-6646.

Sermons & Scriptures

March 7 **"You Shall Not Commit Adultery"**
Proverbs 5:15-18, 20-21; Matthew 5:27-32

March 14 **"You Shall Not Steal"**
Leviticus 19:11-13; Luke 11:9-13
Holy Communion

March 21 **"You Shall Not Bear False Witness"**
Exodus 23:1-3, 6-7; Matthew 5:33-37

March 28 **"A Colt Never Ridden"**
Psalm 118:19-29; Luke 19:28-40

YOGA ANYONE?

IF YOU WOULD BE INTERESTED IN A ONCE-A-WEEK FREE YOGA CLASS AT PEOPLE'S CHURCH FOR ABOUT SIX WEEKS THIS WINTER, PLEASE GIVE CINDY HOTCHKISS, IN THE CHURCH OFFICE, YOUR NAME AND NUMBER. IT WILL BE ELEMENTARY INSTRUCTION AND EASY, NON-STRESSFUL STRETCHING.

Women's Fellowship

The ladies gathered on Monday, Jan. 4th to report on their visits to our shut-ins and to approve the program for 2010.

RADA cutlery and more are still available. Please see one of the members to order.

Two of our members delivered a quilt for our adopted Stockley client. The quilt was made and generously donated by member Suzanne Kreisher.

Members agreed to host another "**Fat Tuesday**" **pancake supper on Feb. 16th**, Shrove Tuesday, the eve of Ash Wednesday. **Tickets are available from members and in the office- Adults \$5 and children under 10 years are \$3.** Members are asked to donate various kinds of syrup, sausage and pancake mix and bring them to our **next meeting on Feb. 15th at 12:30pm.**

Caring Hearts Helping Hands (698-1900)

As Easter comes early this year, we are gearing-up for our Easter program. Each child under 13 will receive a basket filled with small toys, etc and some candy. Children 13-18 will received a chocolate bunny and a token gift.

We are currently accepting children's gently used and new fall and winter clothes; 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, and gifts for teen birthdays. No adult clothes please.

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 next to Jonathan Landing Golf Club house. Please feel free to come by any time.

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 their help as well.

Thanks again for all your support.

Fran Clinton and BJ Van Kavelaar

Your Church on the Internet

www.peopleschurchofdover.org

webmaster: Elinor Baker

www.chesapeakeucc.org

our local UCC association

webmaster: Rob Cox

www.cacucc.org

Central Atlantic Conference

www.ucc.org

National Setting: United Church of Christ

→ www.ucc.org/news

denomination's magazine: United Church News

www.iucc.org

web community and Twitter contact

www.ucc.org/disaster/swine-flu.html

information & resources about the H1N1 virus