



People's to People
The Newsletter of the People's Church of Dover
United Church of Christ
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MARCH 2011

Under the Bell Tower

A RINGING RENEWAL

Several years ago there was a middle-aged couple here in Dover who did something very special. She was the manager in a restaurant, he helped out. One spring he surprised her with a new ring. Oh, it was beautiful. It was a gold band with a cluster of diamond chips in a flower design. It wasn't an engagement ring—they were already married. It wasn't even a birthday or anniversary gift: he just bought the ring and gave it to her because he loved her and he wanted to. She was ecstatic. I was eating at their restaurant one day and she asked if they could come over to the church and have me bless the ring and their marriage. I had never done that before, but...well, why not! So we set a day and time.

The time arrived and so did the couple. She was wearing the ring, and it sparkled, and she glowed. He was happy too. I put on my robe, turned on the sanctuary lights, lit the candles, and I had them stand in the center of the chancel. I took the ring and held it up, offered a prayer of blessing on the ring and on their marriage. He then put the ring on her finger. I then pronounced a benediction, and the short ceremony of blessing was over. They left the church happy, and also with a renewed sense of their love for each other.

That's what Lent is about. You are already a Christian. Christ had claimed you. God has forgiven you of your sins. But Easter is coming, and this season leading up to Easter, Lent, is a time for taking off that glowing ring, holding it up once more, and doing something a little special to remember, to express gratitude and to renew your faith. The church provides several opportunities, or you may devote some hours to serving the poor, or helping a neighbor who is recently disabled. Whatever you do, Lent is the perfect time to remember, to express gratitude and to renew your faith. I hope you will.

Lenten Study – Wednesdays at 6:00 PM from March 9 until April 13: the study book is available at a discount in the church office. We have a light supper to begin each session.

Lenten Organ Concert Series – Thursdays at 12:05, for half an hour, in the sanctuary. The best organist in central Delaware present their best Lenten devotional music. Everyone is welcome.

Bible Study – 4:00 PM on Sundays March 13, March 27, and April 10: each Sunday the study will be on the two scripture lessons read that morning in the worship service, but we will go in depth with them.

Maundy Thursday Prayer Vigil – from about 6:00 AM until about 8:00 PM on Thursday April 21, the chapel will be set up for individuals or small groups to sit down, engage in some special devotional moments, receive Holy Communion, and prepare their hearts for the remembrance of Christ's death, burial and resurrection.

Good Friday Service – at noon at Christ Episcopal Church there will be an ecumenical Good Friday service

emphasizing the reading of the Passion Narrative.

Easter Service of Holy Communion – April 24 is Easter this year. Worship will be at the regular hour, 10:00; and we will celebrate Holy Communion on this highest day of the church's year. I hope you will be there.

-Dan

**STEWARDSHIP REPORT THROUGH
FEBRUARY 28, 2011**

Annual Church Budgeted Income	\$201,208	Budgeted	Actual	Difference
Income Weekly	3,869			
Income Received				
Income members		22,301.52	20,876.40	-1,425.12
Income savings		10,000.00	10,000.00	00.00
Expenses to Date		-32,618.00	-34,150.61	-1,532.61
Net Difference		-316.48	-3,274.21	-2,957.73

ATTENDANCE FOR FEBRUARY

2010	2011	offerings
	02/01	Savings 10,000.00
02/07	SNOW	02/06 103 2,410.13
02/14	95	02/13 118 4,322.72
02/21	120	02/20 80 2,056.80
02/28	<u>132</u>	02/27 <u>91</u> <u>1,861.50</u>
	347	392 \$20,651.15

March Birthdays

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

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

May God Bless You on Your Birthday.

VOLUNTEERS

Flowers

03/06 Fred Hotchkiss
03/13 Betty Tomlinson
03/20 Sally Childears
03/27 Clifton Biddle

Liturgist

03/06 Betsy Stewart
03/13 Bill Hufnal
03/20 Richard Merriwether
03/27 Lyn Arnold

VOLUNTEERS

Greeters

03/06 Cheryl Goldsmith
03/13 Cynthia Hotchkiss
03/20 Jackie Niehorster
03/27 Cheryl Goldsmith

Ushers

03/06 Jackie Niehorster
Roz Pierce
Sandy McNinch
Vic Pierce

03/13 Phyllis Tarburton
Keith Kreisher
Lyn Arnold
Jim Miller

03/20 Sandy McNinch

Keith Kreisher

03/27 Jackie Niehorster
Sandy McNinch
John Paradee
Richard Merriwether

Sermons & Scriptures

03/06 **"Fire All Around"**
Second Kings 2:1, 6-15 ; Matthew 17:1-8
Holy Communion & Oil

03/13 **"The Gift of Yourself"**
First Corinthians 10:23 – 11:1; Matthew 16:24-26

03/20 **"The Generosity of God"**
First John 5:13-15; Matthew 16:7-11

03/27 **"Moral Wisdom"**
James 1:19-25; Matthew 7:12



The Prayer List for Members & Friends of the Church

PRAYERS FOR MEMBERS

Earl & Frances Clinton—returned home with daily assistance.
Sylvia Latourette—has been ill and limited to her home this winter.
Dale Stewart—after hospitalization, in Capitol Nursing Home for rehab.

PRAYERS FOR FRIENDS

Drexel Biddle—Cliff's nephew in GA, heart and lung problems.
Leon "Buddy" Carter—Brenda Polasko's brother: COPD.
Dawn Elliot—Lyn Arnold's friend going through difficult times.
Rev. Kevin Gilliam—hope that he may regain some of his sight.
Gretchen Goulet—friend of Jane Dodd, has Lupus and a bone disease of the spine.
Evelyn Gubbs—Phyllis Tarburton's mother recuperating at home after a heart attack.
Sue Leonard—Cleah Muntz's sister: pain from spinal deterioration.
Keith Nicolls—Fred Hotchkiss' uncle: kidney failure.

Jean Tilley—Billie Boehmer's mother in PA: Parkinson's Disease and increasing Dementia.

Don Williams – Shirley Hawkins' brother-in-law in great pain with a crushed vertebra.

Debbie Yates – friend of Pat Thompson.

PRAYERS FOR CANCER PATIENTS

John Belian – friend of Paul Hanebutt.

Esther Belliveau – friend of Tina Potts.

Shawn Carhart – Jennifer Childears' nephew in N.J.

Tom Ciampa – friend of Bill Hufnal.

Mrs. Terry Craig – friend of Kathy Hanebutt

Mary Ford – friend of Betsy Stewart

Melanie Giangrant -- friend of Judy Reed.

Barry Helbert – neighbor of Bob and Shirley Hawkins.

Michelle Hill – Sue Dodd's cousin: showing improvement.

Howard Killian – Angela Downs' father.

Joy Lindsay – Cynthia Hotchkiss' niece.

Gordon Minner – friend of Jeff and Judy Reed.

Lillian Schrantz – Cleah Muntz's sister-in-law.

PRAYERS FOR MILITARY PERSONNEL

Dr. Greg McDermott – Army veterinarian in Afghanistan, friend of the Hanebutts.

Andrew Dennison – Marine deployed to Afghanistan, Joyce Warrington's nephew.

STORKULATIONS

To David and Erin Werner and Kaytlin, on the birth February 9 of **Kayla Elizabeth Werner**, at 8 pounds 15 ounces.

BAPTISM

Sunday February 27 **Connor William Rumbley**, son of Chris and Tiffany Rumbley, was baptized during the worship service.

HOME !

Earl and Frances Clinton were able to go back to their home after hospitalizations and therapy. They have help, but they're home!

SYMPATHY

The church's sympathy is expressed to the family of **Reba Clifton**, who died February 26 at the Delaware Hospice Center.

THANK YOU

Again, Harriet and I express our deep-felt thanks for everyone's cards, prayers, gifts, food, flowers and well-wishes as I have been recuperating from "those events" in late January. –Dan

LENTEN STUDY

The 2011 Lenten Study, Wednesday evenings at 6:00, will be reading Brennan Hill's book **8 Spiritual Heroes: Their Search for God**. This study has the potential to be the most compelling of our Lenten serieses for several years. The book is available at a discount in the church office.

LENTEN ORGAN CONCERTS

12:05 – 12:35 PM Thursdays during Lent

March 10 – Phyllis Moses

March 17 – Rick Givens

March 24 – David Wilkins

March 31 – Jon Rania

April 7 – Kathy Hanebutt

April 14 – Ellen Harbeson

April 21 – Philip Betts

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS MARCH 13



CONFIRMATION SUNDAY this year is scheduled for April 17. Classes are scheduled and the confirmands are preparing. April 17 is Palm Sunday: come celebrate our youth in their spiritual growth.

BIBLE STUDY – Sunday evenings at 4:00, every other Sunday:

March 13 – First Corinthians 10:23 – 11:1 and Matthew 16:24-26

March 27 – James 1:19-25 and Matthew 7:12

April 10 – First John 4:1-4 and Matthew 7:15-20

LIGHT YOGA

Our church's light yoga sessions have begun for the year. The class meets in the church gym at 5:00 on Thursday afternoons. Participants are asked to make a \$20 contribution to help with the utility costs. Everyone is welcome

CHURCH VAN MINISTRY

If you or someone you know is interested in riding to worship and back home each Sunday in the church van, OR if you would like to volunteer as a van driver for this ministry, please call the church office and let us know. The Van Ministry began on November 21, so everything is in place to respond to your call.

MEN'S BREAKFAST
Thursday March 17th.
at the Countrie Eatery

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

For those elementary students in Sunday School, please remember that your class will remain in worship service for the communion service, usually the first Sunday of the month. This change is being made, because we have failed to find a third team teacher, and Cheryl and Debra deserve the chance to take communion. If there is any feedback to this arrangement, please let it be known to a member of the board.

The board voted to host another Spaghetti Dinner, with Sunday School students as helpers, in early April, the date yet to be confirmed. The board will participate in the Lenten Study by preparing their meal for April 6.

Unfortunately, we were unable to schedule the Ba'Hai speakers for the adult class in March, as planned. We are trying to reschedule for early May.

The next board meeting will be March 13, after the worship service.

Jean Hitchens, chairperson

Youth Group 2011 -- 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.**

BOARD OF FINANCE

Lyn Arnold will still be our committee chair with Phyllis Tarburton acting as secretary. It was decided that Glenn would approach Cindy to see about learning office procedures. The date for the Finance & Trustees Lenten supper which is March 23rd. If you have any questions about the finances please call Lyn, Phyllis, or the church office.

Phyllis Tarburton

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

BOARD OF MISSION & OUTREACH

What is One Great Hour of Sharing?

One Great Hour of Sharing, as part of Our Churches Wider Mission, is the special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that carries God's message of love and hope to people in more than eighty countries.

Nine Christian denominations work together to develop common promotional materials and sharing ideas, costs and a commitment to faithful service. Each denomination receives and manages its respective OGHS offerings.

We will receive the One Great Hour of Sharing on Sunday, April 3rd, 2011.

Board of Mission and Outreach
Sue Harris-Hunt and Mary Johns

The Board of Mission & Outreach will sponsor a Lenten Supper March 9th.



Food Bank Sunday is March 6th. 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 **Holy Cross Samaritans 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 **First Baptist Church Food Bank** for the month of February. There were 60 food items donated and \$20.00 collected. All gifts were given to the **First Baptist Church Food Bank** for the month of February. Your generous offerings are greatly appreciated.
Sue Hunt and Ruth Harris -- Board of Mission & Outreach

Women's Fellowship

Suzanne Kreisher is seeking volunteers to knit or crochet lap blankets or shawls or to sew quilts. If you are interested in helping out this church ministry, please give her a call.

We will be raffling off an afghan (made by Daisy Hill) and a knitted shawl (made by Suzanne). Phyllis Simpkins and Phyllis Tarburton have the tickets. \$1 each or 6 for \$5. Tickets will be sold separately.

Nell Baker, Phyllis Simpkins, Phyllis Tarburton and Jean Hitchens volunteered to help Suzanne Kreisher make a new Easter banner for the sanctuary to hang over the balcony. .

After the meeting members made winter/valentine arrangements for our shut-ins, sick and bereaved.

The "Fat Tuesday" pancake supper has been changed to a Sunday brunch on March 6th and the preparation meeting will be on Saturday, March 5th).

Plan to Enhance Communication and Care Continues with Phone Tree, E-mail Alerts, More

Last year the Women's Fellowship launched initiatives to enhance care, communication, and timely notice of significant information. We thank the 38 members who submitted the communication surveys that are a key part of this project.

Soon we hope to make increased use of phone trees, email alerts for those who desire, our website, and other methods to increase our ability to share information and the qualities of our church.

Of course, the WF's successful ministry of prayer shawls, blankets, and quilts will continue as another way to reach out to the sick and bereaved or to celebrate baptisms, etc.

Accomplishments:

We are glad to report progress in these areas but urge you to be patient and understanding as we try these new approaches and make any needed improvements.

1. **PHONE TREE:** We've devised a phone tree which branches from Rev. Dan Griggs/church office/Cindy to the church moderator. The moderator then contacts the heads of all major boards . Those board members will each call one full page of names in the 2011 church directory.
Main proposed purpose: Urgent alerts about a highly significant situation.
2. **EMAIL ALERTS:** These will be used with those who submitted email addresses in the recent survey in bulletins and newsletters.
Purpose: For less urgent concerns and/or to underscore, add details to, or update info shared by phone. (If a member lacks email, of course, phone calls will be attempted.)
3. **PRAYER CHAIN:** This is still in development. Rev. Griggs will continue to receive prayer requests as usual for now. For those who agree to be prayer chain links or prayer leaders, Rev. G. has offered to hold a brief training on intercessory prayer.
4. **WEBSITE:** We **are** adding photos and setting plans to make our site more frequently used, up to the moment, and as user-engaging as possible.
5. **FUTURE PLANS:** We will continue to work on guidelines for use of the above.

What can members do now?

1. **Survey?** If you have not done so, please complete the green communication survey in the next 10 days. Surveys are available on the table behind the back pew in the sanctuary. Note questions on both sides.
Also, if you can't get to church, contact Cindy at 674-4177 for ways to get a copy if you missed it in past bulletins or newsletters.
2. **Info?** If there is church-related information that needs to be communicated rapidly, please continue to let Dan and/or Cindy know.
3. **Join in:** Please participate in opportunities to bring us closer in friendship, fellowship, and knowledge of each others' needs, celebrations, and concerns.
4. **Contribute:** Please share your ideas and talents about ways to further this care and communication project. Technology skills are especially helpful.

The Communication Committee members are Phyllis Simpkins, WF pres.; Suzanne Kreisher, Jean Hitchens, Betsy Stewart, and Pat Thompson.

Respectfully submitted,
Pat Thompson

Caring Hearts Helping Hands (698-1900)

We are currently gearing up for our Easter Program for which each child will receive an basket of goodies (not just candy, but small games, books, etc).

We are accepting gently used and new spring and summer children's clothes; furniture, small appliances, kitchen items, linens, toys and 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. Two men and a truck have volunteered to pick up and deliver large furniture items for our client families.

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

MARCH, 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5 1 PM C.O.D.A.
6 Holy Communion 11 AM Pancake Brunch	7 1:00 Women's Fellowship DE Music School NA & AA meetings	8 DE Music Sch AA meeting	9 ASH WED. DE Music School NA & AA meetings 6:00 Lenten Study	10 12 N - Organ Concert 5:00 Yoga 7:00 Choir	11 NA & AA meetings	12 11 AM – Spring Association Meeting in Balt. 1 PM C.O.D.A.
13 DST begins 11 Coffee Hr 4:00 Bible Study	14 De Music School NA & AA meetings	15 DE Music Sch AA meeting	16 DE Music School NA & AA meetings 6 PM Lenten Study	17 8 AM Men's Brkfst 12N - Organ Concert 5:00 Yoga 7:00 Choir	18 NA & AA meetings	19 11 AM – Confirmation Class 1 PM C.O.D.A.
20 11:15 Diaconate	21 DE Music School NA & AA meetings	22 DE Music Sch AA meeting	23 DE Music School NA & AA meetings 6 PM Lenten Study	24 12 N Lenten Concert 5:00 Yoga 7:00 Choir	25 NA & AA meetings	26 1 PM C.O.D.A.
27 11:15 Board of Management 4:00 Bible Study	28 DE Music School NA & AA meetings	29 DE Music Sch AA meeting	30 DE Music School NA & AA meetings 6 PM Lenten Study	31 12 N - Lenten Concert 4:00 Yoga 7:00 Choir		
			APRIL	↓		
					1 NA & AA meetings	2 11 AM – Confirmation Class 1 PM C.O.D.A.
3 Holy Communion	4 1 PM Women's Fellowship DE Music School NA & AA meetings	5 DE Music Sch AA meeting	6 DE Music School NA & AA meetings 6 PM Lenten Study	7 12 N - Lenten Concert 4:00 Yoga 7:00 Choir	8 NA & AA meetings	9 1 PM C.O.D.A.