



the **M**essiah messenger

A monthly publication of Messiah Lutheran Church • ELCA • Knoxville • TN ••• Volume 54 ••• March 2010

Lent



Join us each

Wednesday in Lent
(Feb. 24, March 3, 10, 17, & 24)

for

Lenten Soup & Bread Supper
and

Midweek Lenten Worship

Supper at 6:00 PM

Worship at 7:00 PM

Midweek Lenten Offerings will be designated to Cross of Grace, the new ELCA mission congregation in Jonesborough, TN.

Join us on
Tuesday mornings
in Lent
for



Service of Morning Prayer

Join us on Tuesday mornings in Lent for Service of Morning Prayer. Pastor Eric will lead the ~30-minute service at 7:00 AM in the Chapel Narthex each Tuesday morning through March 30.

Holy Week



Worship Schedule

Palm/Passion Sunday, March 28

8:30 and 11:00 AM

Procession with Palms
and Reading of the Passion
according to St. Luke

Holy Communion

Maundy Thursday, April 1

7:00 PM

Worship with Holy Communion
and Foot Washing

Good Friday, April 2

12:00 NOON

Ecumenical Service at Sacred Heart Cathedral

7:00 PM

Service of Darkness
with Veneration of the Cross

Holy Saturday, April 3

7:00 PM

Easter Vigil

See page 2 for the Easter Sunday schedule.

Pastoral Care 101: Being Present

One of the hardest things to do is simply to be present. This is especially the case when we're pulled in all directions at once, when we feel as if we have to be present here and there - and there, and there, and there - all at the same time. It is also the case when we feel as if we're not needed anywhere. Sometimes we experience both at the same time.

It's a strange thing, that when people are so pushed, pulled and off-balance, we have a hard time being present to one another. Right when we need each other the most, we give each other the impression that we're not needed at all. Worship - especially during Lent - is a time for setting distractions aside, for being gentle with ourselves and each other, and for being present.

During Lent, we let silences stretch a little longer, especially during confession, as we take time to offer to God anything that would keep us from being present, that would distract us or turn us away from God, present with us. We ask God to open us, to "cleanse the thoughts of our hearts" by the inspiration - the breathing in - of God's Holy Spirit. We breathe, and we listen, and we are present.

This Lent, to help us be present, we sing ancient, gentle songs. At the beginning of worship, we chant the *Kyrie*, "Lord have mercy." As we welcome the Gospel, we encourage one another, "Return to the Lord your God." As we bring our gifts forward to be blessed for the work of ministry, we sing, "Create in me a clean heart, O God." As we receive God, present in the bread and wine and promise of forgiveness in Communion, we sing, "Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world."

This Lent, we are all likely to encounter things that seek to break our peace, to turn us away from God present with us. Take note of those things. Bring them to God in prayer, and trust that in that moment, God is already at work in you.

One of the great temptations of a life in ministry - and we all share a life in ministry - is to get so caught up in doing and doing, that we forget the benefit of being present: to God, to one another, and to ourselves. This Lent, be present. And always remember, God is present with you.



Vicar John Tirro



Easter Sunday April 4

Celebrating
the Resurrection of our Lord

8:30 AM

Festival Worship
with Holy Communion

9:45 AM

Easter Brunch

Members of the congregation are asked to bring their favorite Easter breakfast dish to share. The Fellowship Committee sponsors this event and will furnish coffee, juice, bacon and sausage.

10:00 AM

Children's Easter Egg Hunt
(for Preschool thru 5th Grade)

11:00 AM

Festival Worship
with Holy Communion

the Messiah Messenger

Deadline is the 15th of each month

Your contributions and suggestions are welcomed.
The editor reserves the right to edit for content and space.

Messenger Staff

Editor: Kristin Kennedy

Member News: Lois Sherman

Proofreaders: Lois Sherman, Allison Pressley, Dorothy Pearson

Church Office Hours

Monday through Thursday — 8:30 AM–5:00 PM
Friday hours vary.



ADULT DISCIPLESHIP

Sundays at 9:45 am

Spiritual Disciplines for Ordinary People

Pastor Eric L. Murray, Class leader

Join Pastor Eric for a new adult Sunday school class. The disciplines of Lent, as we said in our Ash Wednesday liturgy, are self-examination and repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and works of love—strengthened by the gifts of word and sacrament. These traditional disciplines used by the church throughout history serve as means by which we contend against evil and resist whatever leads us away from love of God and neighbor. This class will examine some of these Lenten disciplines as well as others. The class is video based, with class lecture and discussion and experiential practice of several disciplines. 6 weeks, through March 28.



YOUTH NEWS

*Angela Kronau
Youth Discipleship Committee*

CrossMark (middle school)

Sunday School

Sunday school meets each Sunday morning with Danny Pressley & Debbie Sayers serving as teachers. We meet in the

middle school classroom (on the lower level) at 9:45 AM using the Akaloo curriculum published by Augsburg Fortress.

SAVE THE DATE

CrossMark Youth will get together and go bowling on Sunday, March 21. Please be watching for more information.

Luther League (high school)

Sunday School

Sunday school meets each Sunday at 9:45 AM. We'll be using *FaithLens*, a study that links a current world event with scripture texts from the Common Lectionary to explore and better understand all of life in the context of faith and God's Word.

SAVE THE DATE:

Luther League Youth will meet Sunday, March 14, 12:00-3:00 PM, to make cookies for Messiah's homebound members. Please be watching for more information.



CHILDREN'S NEWS

*Heidi Murray
Children's Discipleship Chair*

Candy needed for Easter Egg Hunt

Donations of individually wrapped candy for the Easter Egg Hunt (scheduled Easter morning at 10:00 AM) are now being accepted. Look for the candy collection box in the Narthex beginning the first Sunday in March.

Vacation Bible School

June 14-17, 2010

Mark your calendars now for Vacation Bible School on June 14-17, 2010, 5:30-8:00 PM. Tell your friends and watch for further details in upcoming *Messengers*.



Next Children's Discipleship meeting March 18 at 6:00 PM

Anyone interested is welcome to attend. Meet us at 6:00 pm on March 18 in the church library.



New in the Library

The Library is pleased to offer four books authored by Loletta Clouse, who wonderfully presented the program at the Grandmother-Mother-Daughter Banquet. Do enjoy!

- **Wilder**

An epic tale of power, strife, and romance in the East Tennessee coalfields of the 1930's.

- **The Homesteads**

A bittersweet story of hope and determination to build a new way of life in the rugged mountains of East Tennessee during the 1930's.

- **Mallie**

A story of love and redemption set in the Great Smoky Mountains in the era of the logging boom.

- **Rainbow of Moonlight**

The story of a young teacher's adventure at the Pi Beta Phi Settlement School in Gatlinburg, Tennessee, set against the stunning backdrop of the Great Smoky Mountains.



Our purpose is to mobilize women to **Act Boldly** on their faith in Jesus Christ.

Lent and Lutheran World Relief Health Kits for Haiti

During the season of Lent, let us **act boldly** in our disciplines, and as God loves us, let us love and care for others in the world. Women of the ELCA will collect items for health kits for Lutheran World Relief with distribution to the people of Haiti. Each week, we are asking you collect an item for the kit and bring it to church and place it in the collection box provided. The suggested items for each week are as follows:

February 24: hand towel and wash cloth (dark color recommended)

March 3: one sturdy comb and metal nail file or clippers with file attached

March 10: one adult toothbrush

March 17: one bath-size bar of soap

March 24: collect your small change to purchase toothpaste (purchased by LWR) and to help in shipping

We thank you for your support.

WELCA Cluster Meeting

April 24, 2010, is our meeting date for Cluster 6-Agape (previously Cluster 2.) Cluster 6 includes churches from Northeast and Southeast Tennessee. Messiah WELCA will be the host for the meeting which will be held from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. We will be responsible for registration, morning coffee, lunch and the worship service. We will need volunteers to serve in various ways as host of this meeting. Meeting attendance could be upward of 100+.

Our theme is **The Wind and the Spirit**. We will have worship, Bible study, fellowship and lunch. Cost will be approximately \$15.

Please mark this date on your calendar and prayerfully consider ways you can serve.

Ronald McDonald House Pop Tab Program

Remember the cans the children decorated for us to collect pop-tabs for the Ronald McDonald House? They are still available as we continue to collect the pop-tabs. Last year we collected approximately 12 lbs. of tabs. We ask you to collect your pop-tabs, empty contents into a baggy and return to Messiah Lutheran Church to the WELCA mail slot in the mail room across the hall from the church office. We appreciate your participation in collecting pop tabs for the benefit of the Ronald McDonald House.

Join us for Bible Study

WELCA holds a women's Bible study on the First Tuesday and the First Thursday of each month. All women are invited to participate.

WELCA Bible studies are taken from *Lutheran Woman Today* magazine. The current study is entitled, "To God's Beloved: Paul's Letter to the Romans" and is written by Rev. Sarah Henrich, a teacher at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minn. (Video introduction is available on the web site: www.lutheranwomantoday.org.)

First Tuesday Circle

March 2 at 10:00 AM in church library

First Tuesday WELCA Morning Bible Study will meet Tuesday, March 2 at 10:00 AM in the library. The lesson is from the March issue of *Lutheran Woman Today* magazine, Session 7 - "The Renewing of Our Mind" (Paul's letter to the Romans continued.) Copies will be available. **Leader:** Doris Featherston

First Thursday Circle

March 4 at 1:00 PM in church library

First Thursday WELCA Afternoon Bible Study will meet Thursday, March 4 at 1:00 PM in the library. Brown bag lunch will begin at 12:30 PM. The lesson is from the March issue of *Lutheran Woman Today* magazine, Session 7 - "The Renewing of Our Mind" (Paul's letter to the Romans continued.) Copies will be available. **Leader:** Lynn White.

Join us for either morning or afternoon Bible study. We welcome you!

Thank You to the volunteers of the Grandmother-Mother-Daughter Banquet

The 16th annual Grandmother-Mother-Daughter Valentine's Banquet was held on Saturday, February 6 at 6:00 p.m. Ninety-five women and children attended, ranging in age from one year old to 99 years young. We were honored to have with us a charter member, Helen Neas, who is also the oldest member of Messiah. Among our guests were several two and three generation groups; there was one four generation group - Della Cheak and family members.

WELCA article continues on next page...

WELCA extends a huge thank you to the Grandmother-Mother-Daughter Banquet volunteers...

Banquet Coordinators: Illy Wood and Bonnie Pederson; **Meal Coordinator and Preparation:** Paul Kronau; **Meal Preparation:** Ray Maier, Curt Martin; **Kitchen & Servers:** Danny Blalock, Roy Biberdorf, Norm Busch, Norm Featherston, Rich Gibson, Richard Hess, Steve Hess, Jim McMillan, Bob Michel, Pastor Eric Murray, Ray Osejo, Don Pederson (Server Coordinator), Keith Scheideler, Mike Tinker, David Wilson, Steve Wilson; **Poster:** Virginia Young/Illy Wood; **Computer:** Kristin Kennedy, Don Pederson; **Sewing Red Table Center Cloths:** Cathy Foster, Leslie Brock; **Ticket Sales:** Anne Tinker, Barbara Wilson, Cristall Mount, Illy Wood, Bonnie Pederson; **Jello Salad Preparation:** Anne and Mike Tinker, Bonnie Pederson, Illy Wood; **Cupcake Bakers:** Dinah Brock, Linda Menasco, Gloria Nelson, Barbara Wilson, Christi Wood; **Chocolate Dipped Strawberries:** Illy Wood; **Room Set-up:** Norm Busch, Norm Featherston, Rich Gibson, Ray Maier, Bonnie and Don Pederson, Gary Schneider; **Decorating:** Doris Featherston, Bonnie Pederson, Pat Rivera, Lois Sherman, Barbara Wilson, Helga Wagner; **Final Set-up:** Heidi Murray (balloons), Barbara Wilson, Bonnie Pederson; **Hostesses:** Doris Featherston, Anne Tinker; **Greeters:** Pat Rivera, Helga Wagner; **Favors:** Illy Wood, Barbara Harrell; **Name Tags:** Lynn White, Bonnie Pederson, Barbara Wilson; **Name Tag Table:** Irene Rudness, Gloria Nelson; **Door Prize Contributors:** Dinah Brock, Angela Kronau, Illy Wood, Anne Tinker, Bonnie Pederson, Barbara Wilson; **Door Prize Wrapping:** Anne Tinker, Illy Wood; **Photographers:** Anne Tinker, Illy Wood; **Clean-up:** many volunteers; **Linens:** Mike Tinker.

Grandfather, Father, Son Banquet

Looking ahead on the calendar; mark the date of Saturday, April 10th for the annual Grandfather, Father, Son Banquet. This year our speaker is Dr. Mark Banker, American History teacher at Webb School and author of the recently published book: *Appalachians-All*. Look for more information to follow next month.

Calendar Notes:

- **WELCA Cluster Meeting** (now known as Cluster 6)
April 24, 2010 - 9:00 AM-3:00 PM
Hosted by Messiah women; Fellowship Hall & sanctuary
- **WELCA General Meeting and Election of Officers**
April 12, 2010 - Fellowship Hall
- **Grandfather, Father, Son Banquet**
April 10, 2010 - Fellowship Hall

2009-2010 WELCA Leaders

President-Cristall Mount; Vice-President-Lynn White; Treasurer-Dawn Liner; Secretary-Gloria Nelson; Faith & Life-Illy Wood, chair; Outreach & Fellowship-Barbara Wilson, chair; Witness & Service-Anne Tinker, chair.

News from our FISH Pantry

Bill Boys, Co-coordinator

FISH needs a driver or two



Our FISH pantry delivers food to needy families on the second Tuesday of each month. We could use one or two more delivery teams due to attrition this past year. (We're okay at present on phone answerers and bag packers.) Depending on how many drivers are available on any given date, it only takes one to two hours to complete the pickup of food bags at church and delivering them to the folks who need the food. It's not a big time commitment, but you have to have a car and be available from about noon to two o'clock on that second Tuesday, which rules out quite a few folks, of course. Please call or email me if you could sign on as a deliverer.

Thanks to Messiah WELCA

Thank you to Messiah's WELCA group for a \$175 contribution from their Advent Tea. When we buy food at Second Harvest Food Bank, that much money gets us more than half a ton of non-perishable food, which provides enough food for about an entire month of our FISH pantry's operation - emergency food for 30 households for 3 days.

Hooray, Hogan's Bakery has reopened!

We were delighted to find out that Hogan's Bakery has reopened, and not just because we love their artisan breads. For years - until they closed about a year ago - they donated their day-old bread to our pantry and other pantries for feeding the hungry. Since bread is not an item available at Second Harvest Food Bank, after Hogan's closed we had to buy 45 loaves of bread at retail every month. Dinah Brock was the one who clued me in that they were in business again, so I stopped by on Feb. 8th to wish them every success as they re-start the business - and also to pick up two huge plastic bags of day-old bread for our FISH deliveries on the 9th!





“EXCEPTIONAL!” says Garrison Keillor of the Concordia Choir

The world-renowned Concordia Choir of Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota, under the direction of Dr. Rene Clausen, will perform at Church Street United Methodist Church on Tuesday, March 2 at 7:00 PM. From new Clausen arrangements to familiar hymn tunes, the choir will amaze you with their technical mastery and incredible sound. Tickets (\$20 Adults, \$10 Students [K-Univ.]) are available at ConcordiaTickets.com, 1-800-838-3006, Church Street UMC 865-524-3048, and at the door.

The LWR Coffee Project: your role in fair trade.

Micah 6:8 calls us, as Christians, to do justice, love mercy and walk humbly. The LWR Coffee Project helps Lutherans answer that call by righting the injustices faced by small-scale farmers around the world.



The LWR Coffee Project closes the gap between our parish and the kind of communities in which LWR works. By using fair trade coffee and other products in our parish and homes, we guarantee that farmers will earn the income they need to feed their families, educate their children, seek medical care and improve their communities.

What difference can a simple cup of coffee make? José Luis Castillo Vasquez, a member of a cooperative in El Salvador, put it simply: “I want to thank all of the congregations that purchase our coffee. It is thanks to you that we have a seed of hope in our lives.”

Fair trade coffee (\$6 & \$7), tea (\$3), hot chocolate (\$5), and cranberries (\$4) are available for purchase in our church fellowship hall. We use the “honor system”—a basket is provided where you can leave your payment. Look for the display, as pictured above, in the church fellowship hall.



Profiles of Messiah - Donna Maier

Pat Kopp, Reporter

Whenever you come in contact with this month’s honoree, you are always greeted with a warm smile and a tender touch! But that seems just to be a part of Donna Maier’s makeup!

Donna is one of those folks from Minnesota—Dassel to be exact, and she has been married to what she refers to as “the love of my life” for 58 years. No dust settles underneath her as she has worked with Contact—a crisis telephone line—for approximately 12 years. At Messiah, Donna gladly offers her efforts to serving with our FISH Pantry, as a eucharistic minister, serving on the Altar Guild, is an usher, serves as a greeter and is on the Fellowship Committee.

In her earlier years, she loved playing golf and bowling. Now she continues to busy herself with gardening, reading, and traveling whenever Ray says, “Pack your bags.”

Good vibes arise from her comment that she is most satisfied “just to be me.”

Two memorable moments come to mind as she recollects her Via de Cristo experience and more importantly, watching Ray’s ship come in when he was returning from Vietnam. How many people can you name who, if given all kinds of time and money, would find ways to “give it away?” While she does not consider her family and friends falling under the category of “possessions,” she still points them out as such.

Donna played basketball in middle and high school, but Ray, as her best asset, ranks higher than a long basket. There is no way her phraseology can be improved than by quoting her closing remarks: “God has really blessed me with wonderful friends and a very loving family. What more could I ask for? Amen.” No need to add a closing statement to hers! But AMEN!



News and Notes from family and friends ...

We invite you to share items of interest and noteworthy news in this column. Submit information to Lois Sherman or send to:

office@messiahknoxville.org

Landon Brooks Roadman born June 2, 2009 entered Amy and Steve Roadman's hearts and home on Jan 20, 2010. Amy is the daughter of **NANCY SCHOWALTER**. The whole

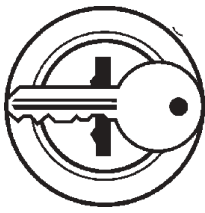
family wishes to thank the Messiah family for their thoughts and prayers. God has richly blessed this family.

ELLEN COLE, E. Tennessee Children's Hospital Annual Giving Coordinator, was pictured in the local paper on February 3. She was on the Vol Spirit page as she accepted a contribution from the Tennessee Valley Fair and Great Clips in the amount of \$3,750.00 for the hospital.

JULIE GIBSON was on television news on February 4. She was at a ribbon cutting and an open house ceremony for the new Sevier County LeConte Medical Center. Julie is a vice president with Lancaster Consulting Group which is a market research company. Through one of their clients, they were invited to this event. **MIKE DRISKILL**, an architect, was instrumental in the building of the hospital.

REV. GEORGE and **NANCY DOEBLER** received the 2010 Helen Ross McNabb Spirit Award at a dinner celebration on February 4. **GEORGE** is a special adviser at the University of Tennessee Medical Center. Proceeds of the event went to the work of the McNabb Center which annually serves more than 8,000 children, adults and families with mental and emotional problems from 17 East Tennessee counties.

Lights out?
Doors locked?



Be a responsible user of our facilities. Please turn off anything you turn on—lights, coffee maker, copier, etc. Secure and lock any doors you have unlocked, and check that other doors are secure or verify that whoever is still in the building will do so. **As you leave the building, check that the door has latched behind you and is securely closed and locked.** Your attention to this matter will ensure security and safety for all of us.

Thank you!



Celebrating in March...

Happy birthday to...

- March 1 Jim White
Joy Driver
Debbie Sayers
- March 2 Rebecca Margo
Lauren Jurbergs
Lauren Solberg
- March 4 Bob Tobey
Fila Munuo Mnzava
Chantell Osejo
- March 6 Richard Hess
Jenni Wylie
- March 8 Tom Cole
Ann Rita Ditmore
Michael Davis
- March 9 Jonathan Beckers
- March 11 Raymond Bunn
- March 12 Marjorie Johnson
Debra Patterson
Olivia Smith
- March 13 Gavin Driskill
- March 15 Nathan Cope
- March 16 Savannah Blackman
- March 18 Melissa Burns
- March 22 Alicia Pearson
- March 24 Douglas Buck
- March 28 Nikki Frye
- March 30 Holly Burkett
- March 31 Jennifer Ashley-McCall
Reid West

Happy anniversary to...

- March 4 Frank & Nancy Andrews
- March 5 Jim & Margie Atherton
- March 8 Danny & Denny Blalock



Notes of Thanks

Feb. 8, 2010

To the Congregational Care Committee of Messiah,

Your cards which arrived at my home, and at the hospital, were very comforting. I appreciate all your thoughts and prayers.

I am home now, and feeling better, and hoping to get back to Messiah!

And, waiting for Spring.

Frances Van Winkle



And whoever receives one such child in my name receives me. -Matthew 18:5

Thank you, Messiah Lutheran Church, for your continued support of Pack 193!

Pack 193 is a Special Needs Cub Scout Pack where boys of many ages and skill levels come together to have fun and learn all about scouting.

We meet every 1st and 3rd Sunday from 5-6 pm at Messiah Lutheran Church in the fellowship hall.

Any questions, please contact Pat Vanek at 865.298.1241



Wednesday, Feb. 10, 2010

Dear WELCA members,

Thanks for your \$175.00 check, from your Advent Tea! Using our special rate of purchasing food at Second Harvest for 14¢ a pound, your contribution will provide over half a ton of non-perishable staple foods—1,250 pounds, to be exact. That’s a B-I-G bag of groceries! Probably enough to stock the pantry for a whole month or month and a half.

On behalf of our FISH ministry,
Thank you very much!

Bill Boys
FISH Pantry Co-Coordinator



Thank you to those who contributed to the Souper Bowl of Caring. Messiah youth collected \$903.08 February 7th which will be given to the ELCA World Hunger Appeal. Thank you for your very generous support!



Feb. 18, 2010

To Messiah,

I am grateful for the love and prayers I have received from Pastor Eric and members of Messiah during my stay at the hospital, and while being home. It has been very comforting.

Now that I am feeling better and able to get about, I am looking forward to being an active member of Messiah again soon.

Sincerely,
Frances Van Winkle



Dear Messiah Family,

Roy and I, as well as Frieda’s grandchildren, want to thank you for your support during her brief illness and after her death. Your prayers, visits, cards, notes, and calls were greatly appreciated, and gave comfort to us all during a very difficult time.

Joy, and peace,
Valerie



A report from the Finance Committee

Rich Gibson
Finance Committee Chair

Contributions in January were \$30,554, but expenses were \$7,932 higher than contributions. This January’s deficit is actually \$453 less than our deficit of last January because our expenses were \$1,740 lower this year, as were the contributions by \$1,288.

A couple of points are of concern. The first is that we experienced a deficit with only \$172 being spent by ministry committees. A second concern is that a couple thousand dollars less is being contributed each month through the Simply Giving method. Contributions through Simply Giving are dependable, arriving even when the contributor is absent from worship. These steady gifts contribute to our financial stability during the months of lower worship attendance.

As we discussed during the Annual Meeting in January, contributions to Messiah are being squeezed as its members are feeling the impact of the economic recession. The annual budget has been reduced by \$23,000 for 2010, but over 90% of the budget is for the fixed expenses of staff, facility and operating supplies. We really don’t have a lot of “wiggle room”, but all spending is being scrutinized.

For the Finance Committee,
Rich Gibson, Chairperson

A Message from our Council President

Beth Ford, 2010 Congregation Council President

I don't know about you, but I am SO ready for spring. I am tired of being cold, wondering if the road is going to be bad, and looking out at a gray, dreary landscape. I know that it is going to be spring before long, but I am still impatient. I sometimes forget that winter always comes before spring and that even though I do not see it, the world is getting ready for spring.

The same impatience slips into my personal life and into my church life. I always have lists of things to do, and I want to declare success and mark the list entries off as soon as possible.

As a parent, I am often impatient. Sometimes my children just have not done things as quickly as I thought that they should. They put things off, or they just do not do things like I would. However, if I step back, I see that everything that they do is preparing them for the next step of life. Gwyn recently became engaged, and we are so happy, but even so, I have to keep pulling back and not be tempted to rush all of those steps that will and should come next. (Do you like the way I slipped that little news announcement in?)

My impatience shows up at church, and I have to be reminded to slow down. For everything there is a season. Mortgages are not paid off quickly. Growth does not happen overnight. New programs do not come together without prayer and hard work. We need to take care and act intentionally in deciding what we are called to do. Fortunately for me, Lent comes once a year so that I can be reminded in a big way of the need for patience. God knows how what we are doing today will provide the groundwork for his work tomorrow. He knows what the fruits of patience are. He knows that I need to have faith and trust.

Even so, sometimes my impatience is because I just cannot wait for good things. The 2010 Council came together for its annual retreat a couple of weeks ago, and it did not do much to encourage my patience. We are doing so much; we have such good ideas and so many gifts; and I just cannot wait. But I will wait, and I will use this season of Lent to help me slow down and enjoy what God has in store for us.

Peace,

Beth



COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

from meeting of February 6, 2010

By Doris Featherston, Secretary

- Finances: Allison compared our January giving to spending and we were left with a deficit of \$7,933. Unrestricted funds are \$14,625.
- Lenten mid-week offerings will go to the ELCA mission congregation at Jonesboro, TN. The suggestion was made to have a Messiah delegation deliver the check in person to the newly-formed congregation.
- As a part of the retreat, new opportunities were discussed for welcome, service and stewardship ministries.
- In response to a request from the Worship Ministries Committee, Council voted to continue offering two worship services in the summer. As we endeavor to be a more welcoming community, reducing the number of worship opportunities wouldn't appear to be conducive to this purpose.
- We will move ahead with our contact with the Bridge Refugee resettlement program.

Congregation Council Retreat

Beth Ford, 2010 Congregation Council President

The Council gathered at Tyson House on February 13 for its annual retreat. What a creative, thoughtful group of people you all have chosen to be leaders of our congregation!

The group worked hard before the retreat by reading and thinking about readings from Dave Daubert's book *Living Lutheran, The Ministry of the Missional Church* by Van Gelder, and *Christianity for the Rest of Us* by Diana Bass.

Our day began in the chapel with morning prayer and a meditation on **John 14:8-14**. We divided into groups and read passages from Luke before finishing the phrase "The kingdom of God is like..." (How would you complete the phrase after reading Luke 7:36-50, Luke 10:25-37, Luke 14:1-6, and Luke 19:1-10?)

After watching a **video** blog entry about God being loose in the world, we brainstormed and compiled a list of how Messiah is doing God's work in the world through our individual vocations to feeding the hungry at KARM. The list was impressive. Then we moved back to our small groups and came up with ideas about how we can implement or improve Messiah Vision 2010. That is where the creativity really shone. There were ideas about becoming more welcoming, improving our stewardship, developing new events, etc. Stay tuned for more about the ideas and what it can mean to the world.

Thank you to everyone for their support of Messiah's leadership.

for
MARCH CALENDAR

see website

www.messiahknoxville.org

click on CHURCH CALENDAR link

How to access the online church calendar

You can view the church calendar online any time—day or night. And it will provide you the most up-to-date church calendar available.

1. Go to the church website at www.messiahknoxville.org.
2. Click on the Church Calendar link, found underneath the tabs on the left side of the main page.
3. Use the Next Month and Previous Month tabs on either side of the blue bar that indicate the name of the month to navigate to the month you need to view. (There is also a pull-down menu of months accessible from just above the calendar display on the left side of the page.)

After finding the month you are seeking, you can easily print the calendar by clicking on the grey tab (located at the top of the calendar) which indicates “Print View.” This will open the “Printing Instructions” screen. Follow the instructions indicated there to print out a copy of the calendar. If additional months are needed, simply exit the two print screens, maneuver to display the month desired, and click the “Print View” tab again, following the instructions indicated.

The church calendar constantly changes and this will provide you with the most current calendar available. Please reference it prior to your meetings or setting dates for church events.

To request an event, activity, or meeting to be added, changed, or updated on the church calendar , simply send an email to kristink@messiahknoxville.org or office@messiahknoxville.org or call Kristin in the church office (588-9753.)

the Messiah Messenger

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Messiah Lutheran Church

6900 Kingston Pike
Knoxville • TN • 37919

865•588•9753 • office@messiahknoxville.org
Visit us on the web: www.messiahknoxville.org

