

ROSSVILLE

PresbyteriaNews

MARCH 2010

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The word *Lent* is derived from the Anglo-Saxon word, *lencten*, which means “springtime.” Taken literally, the word means the time of year when the days lengthen. This season, which precedes Easter, is a time of preparation, reflection, renewal, and change. It is a time for our soul and heart as Christian believers to nurture and grow our faith, to deepen our understanding of the gospel, to recommit our life to God, and to strengthen our relationship with Christ. In many denominations, the emphasis during Lent is on fasting, meditation, prayer, giving, and good works. In our tradition, these disciplines are practices we can use to understand the pivotal event of the Christian faith — the resurrection of Christ. The forty days before Easter are a time to remember and prepare for the triumphant joy of Christ’s victory.

The Lenten season as we now know it developed over a period of a thousand years. In the first century of the church, Lent was an observance lasting forty hours, because that was how long the body of Jesus lay in the tomb between burial and resurrection. As the church matured, the season was stretched to six days of fasting and special observance called Holy Week. In the fourth century, Holy Week was practiced in Jerusalem by going to the various sites associated with the death of Jesus, or the passion, which eventually led to the Stations of the Cross.

This six-day observance later grew into thirty-six days, a tithe of the number of days in the year. Sometime during Charlemagne’s rule, around 730 A.D., four days were added to total forty. The number *four* was considered special, a symbol of completeness as in the four winds, the four seasons, and the four compass points. The significance of the number *four* can also be found in the forty years the Israelites wandered in the wilderness, the forty-days Moses was on Mount Sinai to receive the commandments, and the forty days that Jesus was in the desert.

Sundays were never considered to be a part of Lent, since they are always celebrated as days of remembrance of the resurrection. That’s why the Church refers to the Sundays as **in** Lent rather than **of** Lent. Therefore, Lent actually begins forty-six days rather than forty days before Easter. Even so, in many congregations, on the Sundays during Lent the altar clothes are purple and the word *alleluia* isn’t spoken or sung. These practices enhance the somber and serious mood of the season, and help us to focus on the short, powerful life of Jesus Christ, and all that he offered to us in his loving gift. He gave his life that we might live eternally. Lent is a time for pondering the gift, and for coming to an understanding of what it means in our own life. The plain and simple quiet prepares us for the bursting joy of Easter.

In the early church the period of Lent was a time of preparation for baptism, as the candidates were carefully led through the mysteries of the Christian faith. Now Lent is a time when we renew our commitment to Christ, laying hold of God’s grace through faith.

Lent is also a period of penitence, when we consciously examine, and become aware of all that keeps us from being the best and most faithful people we can be. This is the time when we can seriously assess our flaws and weaknesses, and seriously seek forgiveness for all the thoughtless mistakes, and unintentional hurts we have inflicted on ourselves, others, and God.

Lent is **not** a time for guilt, but a time for taking responsibility for our mistakes, a time to give them up and find a fresh beginning. It is **not** a time for shame, but a time of hopeful preparation for the future by leaving the burdens of the past where they belong; in the healing hands of God. Lent is a time for soul searching, light seeking, forgiveness, and healing. It is a time to be honest with ourselves and with God, without fear, but with faith that God will accept our sincere and penitent prayers, forgive us our mistakes, and make of us something new.

John

FEBRUARY 10, 2010 STATED SESSION MEETING SUMMARY

Present: John Everett, Phyllis Hodson-Hutsell, Cheryl McIlrath, Jan Sandos, Joe Hufford, and Bill Ruch.

Excused: Charlie Beard, Jim Perkins, Dick Hackerd.

Also Present: Janis Miller, Ken Miller, Bill McClain and Bobbie Tobin (Committee on Ministry)

Committee on Ministry: Bill McClain and Bobbie Tobin came to discuss One Year Assessment of Ministry. Each Session member and John will be asked to fill out a survey.

RCC: Janis talked with us about RCC financial problems. Numbers of children are down due to economy (parents losing jobs). To help, salaried employee pay has been reduced and hourly employee time cut. The goal is to raise them when numbers pick up. Linda McMains and Janis will be ending their three-year commitment this year. We need two from the congregation to fill these spots beginning in August.

Mini-Marathon: We have an opportunity to make \$2,000 by working ticket booths at the May 8 mini-marathon. Needed - 20 people from 6:00A – 2:00P. Session approved Janis presenting this to congregation.

Event Coordinator: There are concerns about people using childcare rooms after hours and leaving them in disarray. Ken has distributed reminders to Session and groups to clean thoroughly after building use.

Pastor's Report: Received a list of John's activities for the month.

Clerk's Report: Noted the following deaths of members: Richard Cottrell, Don Snapp, Beulah Heise. When we meet with Rev. McClain to discuss the survey, we will also discuss the church by-laws and rules and fees associated with events in the church.

Treasurer's Report: approved report.

Christian Education: Received report.

Worship: Communion was served February 7. Communion will be served Ash Wednesday.

Member Care: Committee served funeral dinner for Don Snapp and will serve one for Beulah Heise.

Administration and Finance: Session approved \$175 for Joe Hufford to attend a convention.

Presbytery: Tuesday, February 23 at Geneva Center. Jan will attend with John.

Old Business: Red Cross coordinator would like to visit the church. Jan will work to determine a date.

New Business: Jan wanted to discuss emailing newsletter. We suggested that we discuss it with the congregation for the next couple of months and then revisit the decision.

Next Meeting: March 10, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.

USE OF CHURCH

This is a reminder to everyone who uses the church for evening activities. The east classrooms are used Monday through Friday (6:00A-5:00P) for childcare. Being a state-licensed facility, they are required to sanitize each room before they close in the evenings.

We can not use these rooms when we have evening activities (committee meetings, Scouts, choir, Bible study, etc.) Please do not unlock these rooms to get toys or let children play in them. Everyone's cooperation would be appreciated. If you have any questions, please contact the event coordinator.

Thank you, Ken Miller, E C

Communicate

New telephone directories are now available.
If you haven't received one, please see Polly.

ALMOST FREE MONEY FOR THE CHURCH Saturday, May 8, 2010

Want to run the "mini-marathon?" Well, probably not. How about simply sitting under a tent selling food and beverage tickets and make \$2,000 for the church?

Yes, the 500 Festival is giving our church a great opportunity to raise \$2,000. We need 20 people to work four tents selling tickets. The 500 Festival will provide everything needed: chairs, tables, event t-shirts (must wear with jeans or khaki pants), credentials to get access to all areas of the park where you will need to go, breakfast and lunch. We will also be provided three parking passes for an area within two-three blocks of the event.

All we need to do:

1. Have 20 people (21 or older) sign to work May 8. (leave Rossville by 5:15A; work 7:00A-2:00P)
2. Willing to sit under a tent and sell food and beverage tickets
3. Willing to eat breakfast and lunch provided by the 500 Festival
4. Earn \$2,000 for the church

If you are interested, please see Ken and Janis Miller.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Our Youth group will set, serve and clean up the March fellowship dinner. A freewill offering will be accepted to help send some of the high school kids to the Triennium at Purdue this summer.

For Such A Time As This: 2010 Presbyterian Youth Triennium

Any high school youth interested in attending the Triennium must have their paper work turned in to the office as soon as possible. Any adult wishing to help sponsor students can make donations to a scholarship fund. Our goal is to be able to send everyone at half of the registration cost which is \$409. The event takes place July 20-July 24. Registration is due in April.

The ROY {Rossville Organizational Youth} group needs cases of water, snacks of any kind, volunteers, and prayer partners. Please bring snacks to the church with a note on them, and contact Cheryl Jones at the Methodist Church directly if you would like to volunteer or become a prayer partner. Her email address is: glassparsonage@hotmail.com The church telephone number is 379-2981.

Our own youth group meets on Sunday afternoons under the direction of Kay and John. They would like to have someone or a small group to plan a fun activity once per month. It could be anything! Please contact one of them or sign up on the bulletin board. It could be anything: bowling, movie, Wii fun, anything...

Sunday school teachers are always needed. Please prayerfully consider your gifts and callings. Have you felt the need to help with our youth? Perhaps there is a nudging to teach or facilitate an adult class. Please contact anyone on the Christian Education committee. We especially have a need for someone in the Middle/High School class right now. Thanks for your prayerful consideration.

Your CE committee is: Cheryl McIlrath [chair], Kay Everett, Toni Bluemke, Jessica Engen, Cheryl Coffin, Phyllis Hodson-Hutsell

Old Fashioned Board Game Night

The church family is invited to enjoy an afternoon of games and Ice Cream social. Please bring your favorite family game to the fellowship hall on March 7th from 3-5pm. We hope everyone will enjoy some ice cream and some games like Candy Land, Chutes and ladders, Checkers, Chess, Twister, Uno, Euchre, etc.

Youth

March 07 - 3:00-5:00P

March 14 - 5:00P

March 21 - 5:00P

March 28 - 5:00P

March Youth Activities

Game Night and Ice Cream Social. Everyone is invited.

Older youth in grades 6 - 12: make your own sub

Possible meeting on Haiti and assembling Baby Kits

Let's pray for Marcia and Tim and e-mail them



THANK YOU

We would like to thank our church family for all of the prayers, cards, visits and the wonderful funeral dinner after the passing of Kent's dad, Dewey. It has meant so much to us to have your support.

Love, Kent and Cheryl McIlrath and family

Rossville Volunteer Fire Department will host a **SPAGHETTI DINNER** from 4-8P on March 13 at the new station on East State Road 26.

A dedication will be held at 6:30P.

Anyone interested in donating baked goods may bring them to the church Friday, March 12 or to the fire station after 8:00A on Saturday, March 13.

Tim & Marcia Eller are spending about 6 weeks in Africa. They have been regularly sharing updates and pictures of their travels. Much of their time has been spent planting banana tree seedlings and educating the people on planting and caring for the banana trees so they can have a crop to harvest in the future. To see photos of this mission, go to www.rossvillepresby.org and click on 'photos'.



MARCH 2010 WORSHIP TEAM
Mary Sue Whitlock and Jessica Engen



MARCH 7, 2010 COMMUNION SERVERS
Ron McMains Mary Sue Whitlock Ted Roberson
K T Roth Larry Elston Mike Hufford
Don Wallace Marilyn Wallace Tracy Fife

MARCH 2010 VOLUNTEERS

March 7 March 14 March 21 March 28
Liturgist Wrena Hufford Wrena Hufford Maury Oglesby Maury Oglesby
Ushers C / MS Whitlock C / MS Whitlock T Eller / E Glenn T Eller / E Glenn
Greeters R / L McMains R / L McMains P Garrett / P Miller P Garrett / P Miller
Acolytes Communion S / N Hrdlicka D / N Hrdlicka K / P Hutsell
Nursery J / M Hufford J / M Hufford Marcia Eller P / L Hutsell
P A System Mike Hufford Mike Hufford Charlie Beard Charlie Beard
Screen Preparer Michele Houser P Hodson-Hutsell Josh Hufford Justin Hufford
Screen Presenter Michele Houser P Hodson-Hutsell Josh Hufford Justin Hufford
Geographical Prayer Ginny Murphy Jan Sandos Rich Roth K T Roth
Fellowship Cookies Marge Wolf Cindy Perkins S Ahlersmeyer Toni Bluemke

Instructions are available. If you cannot serve when scheduled, please find a replacement and call the church office at 765-379-2801. Thanks!

ROSSVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Sermon Titles and Topics, March 2010

March 7

Lectionary for the Lord's Day: Isaiah 55:1-9; Psalm 63:1-8; 1 Corinthians 10:1-13; Luke 13:1-9

Title: "RSVP"

Text: Isaiah 55:1-9

Main Idea: We write it at the bottom of personal invitations: RSVP — please respond. Perhaps we should print those initials in our churches, as well.

March 14

Lectionary for the Lord's Day: Joshua 5:9-12; Psalm 32; 2 Corinthians 5:16-21; Luke 5:1-3, 11b-32

Text: Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Title: "The Story of the Scandalized Neighbors"

Main Idea: There is joy in heaven when we repent and our heavenly Father's heart overflows with ecstasy when you and I return.

March 21

Lectionary for the Lord's Day: Isaiah 43:16-21; Psalm 126; Philippians 3:4b-14; John 12:1-8

Text: Philippians 3:4b-14

Title: "If You're Going to Get There, You've Got to Leave Here"

Main Idea: If our lives are going to have any authenticity and growth, we need to learn to let go of one thing to be able to grasp a new thing.

March 28

Lectionary for the Lord's Day: Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16; Philippians 2:5-11; Luke 23:1-49

Text: Isaiah 50:4-9a

Title: "Profile of a Savior"

Main Idea: Photographers have done us the great favor of capturing moments. Isaiah did not have a camera. Still, he gives us a dramatic and personal portrait of an individual and a moment.

SCOUT SUNDAY

Rossville's Boy Scout Troop 337 has been sponsored by Rossville Presbyterian Church for over 35 years. They meet in our building and once a year participate in scout Sunday at our worship service. This year several scouts and their leaders attended worship on February 7. Two of the scouts shared their experiences and adventures in scouting and then presented John with a check for \$2000 as a thank you to our congregation. The money is to be used wherever deemed appropriate. Following the service, the congregation was treated to lunch prepared by the troop. Despite freezing temperatures, they had erected a tent in the parking lot and cooked 4 kinds of chili in pots on an open fire. They also had stacks of Dutch ovens surrounded by hot coals where they baked cornbread, pie, brownies, and other desserts. The meal was delicious and gave the church family a real taste of outdoor cooking.



Desserts cooking in stacks of Dutch ovens and hot coals



Troop 337 and their leaders



Our own Kevin Hall cooking chili outside in the tent

NEW OPPORTUNITY

Over the past few years, RPC has done several things to improve our communication with each other during and after worship and to improve the worship service experience. The fact that we have chosen to take advantage of these opportunities has had a very positive impact on the life of our church.

The use of the Phone Tree has been a tremendous help in keeping parishioners alert to things going on at church and with our church family.

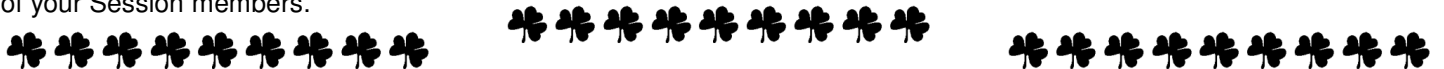
The large screens have made it easier for many people to follow the worship service through the words printed on the screen.

We have a new digital piano that can do just about everything! It has different tones for piano, organ, and various instruments. And it never has to be tuned!

We know of a praise band that is willing to occasionally be part of our worship services; and we have many youth who are willing to also share their gifts and talents.

Your Session is now looking toward another opportunity—that of providing the monthly newsletter online to everyone who has an e-mail address. If you don't have an e-mail address, of course, you would still receive the newsletter through the Post Office. But everyone else would receive an e-mail at the beginning of each month stating that the newsletter is now posted on the church website. To send the newsletter this way would save the church about \$250.00 per year, including the paper, the mailing labels, the postage, and the bulk permit fee (and that doesn't count the use of the copier with the printer cartridges). The savings in time to prepare the newsletter, though, would be even more substantial.

As your Session pursues this new opportunity over the next couple of months, we hope that you will be encouraging and supportive of whatever decision your Session makes. If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact one of your Session members.



STEP FORWARD WEIGHT-LOSS PROGRAM

Twenty-five parishioners have been involved in a weight-loss program called, "Step Forward", since January 17. Twenty-two of our group meet every Sunday after church for 30 – 40 minutes and review the past week's lesson; (three of the group are in Florida and are doing this program on their own). As of February 21, the 22 members here at home have lost a combined total of 90#!----and we have completed only 5 of 12 weeks. We contribute 25 cents for every pound we lose and will donate the total amount at the end of the 12 weeks to a mission project, yet to be determined.



I Timothy 6:6—But godliness with contentment is great gain.

HOW TO FIND CONTENTMENT AMONG THE WINTER DOLDRUMS

Are you getting tired of winter? Tired of the snow and the drab days? Anxious for spring to arrive? Here are some things you can do for yourself to make you feel better until winter ends.

- ⊗ 5-second de-stresser: Rub your earlobes. This acupressure trick clears your head and dulls pain above the neck.
- ⊗ 5-second energy booster: Drink a glass of water. Dehydration wears you down, even before you feel thirsty.
- ⊗ 30-second mood lifter: Laugh out loud. Humor improves your mood and may spur you to take on more high-energy activities.
- ⊗ 1-minute stamina builder: Focus on your breathing. The deep abdominal kind will calm your heart rate and rush energizing oxygen throughout your body.
- ⊗ 3-minute energy charger: Take a hot/cold shower. The water itself will wake you up. Then, when you switch from hot to cold, the temperature change will make you tingle all over.
- ⊗ 5-minute energy charger: Soak up (a little) sun. Light stimulates neurotransmitters in your brain, such as serotonin and dopamine, which increases motivation.
- ⊗ 5-minute brain reviver: Take the road less traveled. Even doing something as simple as driving or walking a different route to work stimulates brain pathways and raises your energy.
- ⊗ 20-minute de-stresser: Curl up for a catnap. So refreshing! But sleep any longer, and you'll feel even groggier.
- ⊗ 20-minute brain reviver: Practice a new skill. Learning a language or a challenging game like chess are two of the best ways to stave off mental fatigue.
- ⊗ 20-minute energy booster: Opt for solo time. One energy expert calls annoying people “energy vampires.”

Taken from Prevention Magazine October 2004.



Please remember our friends In your prayers...

Serving in the Armed Forces

Runnar Crane Travis Perkins
 Darray Hunt (K Hollingsworth's great-granddaughter)

Cancer Issues

Linda Hodgen Larry Lawson Phil Buck
 Kasey Kelley Jody Bassett Frank Kollar
 Missi Metzger
 Sara Soupir (J Engen's cousin)
 Zeyad Kudsi (Z Griffey's brother)
 Braylie Kellogg (J & S Kellogg's granddaughter)
 Jerry Parnell (W Parnell's son)
 Blake Kamstra (G & P Kamstra's great-grandson)

Special Prayers

Kyle Elston
 Mark Crane
 Suzanne Ahlersmeyer
 Virginia Cottrell
 Paula Wagner (W Parnell's daughter)
 Dennis Parnell (W Parnell's son)

Rossville Presbyterian Church

5434 W State Rd 26, Rossville IN 46065

765-379-2801

www.rossvillepresby.org

rpc@rossvillepresby.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



2010

ROSSVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday School: 9:00A

Fellowship: 9:45A

Worship: 10:15A

Pastor: Rev John Everett

Clerk of Session: Phyllis Hodson-Hutsell

Office Administrator: Polly Merrick

Christian Education: Cheryl McIlrath

Fellowship: Ron and Linda McMains

Finance & Stewardship: Joe Hufford

Member Care: Bill Ruch

Mission & Evangelism: Jim Perkins

Property & Maintenance: Charlie Beard & Dick Hackerd

Worship: Jan Sandos

Tech Team: Mike Hufford

Parish Nurse: Jan Sandos

Event Coordinator: Ken Miller

Custodian: Tracy Fife

Rev John Everett

311 N Gaddis St

Rossville IN 46065

765-379-3653

revev@rossvillepresby.org

