

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

MAUNDY THURSDAY (April 1)

Prayer in song and silence. Communion around the table in the sanctuary, 7:30 p.m.
Prayer Vigil to follow from 9:00 p.m. through Good Friday 12 noon

GOOD FRIDAY ECUMENICAL SERVICE

The Seven Last Words: homilies, prayers, music and silence
Christ Reformed Church, East German Street
April 2, 12 noon to 3:00 p.m.
Come when you can; leave when you must

EASTER SUNDAY (April 4)

Informal sunrise service at Rumsey Monument Park, 6:30 a.m.
(Dress warmly and bring something to sit on.)

Bring a special reading, such as a poem, prose or scripture, or share a song with the group.
Light breakfast to follow at the home of Becky Phipps. Bring breakfast breads or fruit to share.

LITURGY OF THE WORD AND TABLE, 8:15 and 10:45 a.m.

Special Offering: ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING, through PCUSA, supports ministries of disaster response, refugee assistance and resettlement, and community development that help people find safe refuge, start new lives, and work together to strengthen their families and communities.

EARTHFEST

SPC, Sunday, April 18, 7:00 p.m.

**Celebrate the good earth in song, prayer, silence
and with breads plus fruits of the earth.**

"We have forgotten who we are," says Pastor Tremba citing the United Nations Environmental Sabbath Prayer. "We have alienated ourselves from the unfolding of the cosmos. We have become estranged from the Earth. We have turned our backs on the cycles of life. But we can join together as many and diverse expressions of one loving mystery: for the healing of the earth and the renewal of all life." We offer our prayers and songs of lament and hope as well as ourselves in the way and spirit of Francis of Assisi, patron saint of birds, animals and natural habitats.

RECLAIMING THE SABBATH: FINDING SPACE, THE FINAL FRONTIER

Rest is as holy as work—Abraham Joshua Heschel

What did God create on the seventh day? Nothing you say. Try “rest.” Rev. Kris Haig led a group of 15 members of SPC in an enriching exploration into the holiness of the Sabbath. God has given us one of her most profound gifts, the notion that rest is liberation and that in seeking regular intentional times away from the “busyness” of life, we create the space for God to do something else.

Reclaiming the Sabbath is more than a reminder that God’s gift of rest dates to the earliest and most important of God’s commandments. It is also more than the absence of work. It embodies our fullest sense of what it means to be with God, to set aside all that is important for that which is even more so.

Those who found the time to venture out on a wet, dreary Saturday morning found the wisdom of their own community, coaxed into life by Kris (and a little coffee), ready to provide the encouragement to explore holy space together. Kris led us to the often forgotten reality that God, Sabbath, and rest require space.

Space provides the indispensable ingredient for a *fire to burn*, for music to be heard, for the images of art to be discerned. Without space, we cannot live into the Sabbath, risking exhaustion, spiritual and physical. But even in exhaustion we find grace, the beckoning of God, of which Chris so carefully reminded us. And for that, she has all our gratitude. —Jeff Hornbeck

FIRE

—Judy Brown

What makes a fire burn
is space between the logs,
a breathing space.
Too much of a good thing,
too many logs
packed in too tight
can douse the flames
almost as surely
as a pail of water would.

So building fires
requires attention
to the spaces in between
as much as to the wood.

When we are able to build
open spaces
in the same way
we have learned
to pile on the logs,
then we can come to see how
it is fuel, and absence of the fuel
together, that make fire possible.

We only need to lay a log
lightly from time to time.
A fire
grows
simply because the space is there,
with openings
in which the flame
that knows just how it wants to burn
can find its way.

SPC Monthly Activities...

EVENING PRAYER In the way of Taizé. First Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. A Service of Prayer in song, silence and candlelight. **Next: April 7.**

WOMEN’S CIRCLE First Thursdays, 10:00 a.m., Fellowship Hall. Bible study is titled *Joshua: A Journey of Faith*. All women of the church are welcome to join us. **Next: April 1.**

SHEPHERD PRESBYTERIAN CONNECTIONS College student gathering. Second and fourth Thursdays at 5:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. **Next: April 8 and 22.**

FIRST THINGS FIRST SUNDAY Coins for relief of hunger and non-perishables for JCCM (see list under **Mission: JCCM**). **Next: April 4.**

ROUNDTABLE WITH ETHEL HORNBECK Conversation and reflection with and around scripture, poetry, and other selected texts. Third Thursdays, 10:00–11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary. **Next: April 15.**

SUPPER GROUPS Combined Moveable Feast and TGIF, **Saturday, April 10**, 6:30 p.m. hosted by Sharon & Al Henderson, 304-262-9467.

MEN’S BREAKFAST Third Saturdays. Breakfast at 7:30 a.m. Discussion 8:00–9:00 a.m. **Next: April 17.**

CONTEMPLATIVE AND CENTERING PRAYER Third Sundays, 7:00 p.m. (Note: Canceled for April due to Earthfest). **Next: May 16.**

Mark Your Calendars...

ELLIE LLOYD presents India travelogue, **Sunday, April 11** at 9:30 a.m. Fellowship Hall.

SPRING RETREAT Friday, **April 23**, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Priestfield Retreat Center, Kearneysville, WV. “Give Yourself the Gift of a Day of Quiet” Retreat with fellow SPC folks. Come walk, listen, rest and reflect in the presence of God and one another. Led by Kay Schultz and Yvonne Fisher. Cost: \$17 (includes lunch). Please contact the SPC office, 304-876-6466, to register.

BREAKING THE SILENCE: Embracing Our Mortality With Wisdom and Grace. Presentations by and discussions with professionals regarding end of life deci-

sions: Wills, medical directives, hospice care, funeral arrangements, and memorial services. We are really never too young or too old to address these issues. **Saturday, April 10, 9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m. SPC.**

Events Elsewhere...

GOOD SHEPHERD CAREGIVERS SPAGHETTI DINNER Friday, April 16, 6 to 8 p.m., War Memorial Building, corner of German and King Streets, Shepherdstown. Menu: spaghetti (with and without meat), salad, bread, dessert, coffee, and soft drinks. Tickets: \$10 adults, \$5 children (age 5–12), no charge for children under 5. Call Good Shepherd Caregivers at 304-876-3325 or 304-725-2262 to reserve tickets.

PAPER RECYCLING 4-H group at Christ Reformed Church, 8–9:15 a.m. Paper, cardboard, magazines, books. Place in paper bags, boxes, or tie securely. **NO PLASTIC BAGS. Next: April 3.**

EASTER: WHAT WAS IT AND WHAT IS IT NOW? A 24-hour Easter retreat hosted at the Rolling Ridge Retreat House, **April 2, 5:30 p.m.–April 3, 6:00 p.m.**, focusing on Borg and Crossan's book, *The Last Week*, through selected readings, meditation, and sharing insights. In the Gospel, Mark narrates that Jesus was passionate about love of God and love of neighbor, which moved him to passionately embrace distributive justice for all.

Friday begins with walking the Stations of the Cross, led by Lindsay McLaughlin. On Saturday, SPC members Vivian and Verle Headings will guide meditation and sharing reflections on this central theme of what was Jesus's passion. For details, see retreat flyers in the SPC Fellowship Hall.

ROCK (Ride On For CASA Kids) Sixth annual tri-county bike ride is **Saturday, May 22**, starting and ending on West King Street in Shepherdstown. Rides are 10, 25, 50, 100 miles and metric century, plus *Tykes on Trikes* for kids ages 2–7. To register for the ride or find out more about CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) go to www.casaride.com or call 304-263-5100. If you can help the day of event (registration table, rest stop support, etc.) please contact Kathy Reid in the SPC office, 304-876-6466 or email her at kathy@spcworks.org.

50TH ANNIVERSARY

Suppose a mother came to you on a cold winter day with her 2-year-old child with bare, cold feet turning blue. Would you give her shoes and socks? You do, when you bring your old clothing and shoes to the Martinsburg Union Rescue Mission.

Suppose a hungry stranger knocked at your door asking for food. Would you share your meal? You do, when you give food supplies and monetary support to the Rescue Mission. Its kitchen prepares more than 70,000 free meals each year for the hungry.

Suppose someone's son has a drinking or drug addiction problem. Would you house, feed, clothe, and

counsel that son? You do, when you make a tax-deductible donation to the Rescue Mission. More than 20,000 nights lodging were provided last year.

The Mission is celebrating its 50th anniversary and breaking ground on a new shelter building. If you can help with the construction costs, please send a check to Martinsburg Union Rescue Mission, memo: New Building Fund. The address is Martinsburg Union Rescue Mission, Inc., P.O. Box 843, Martinsburg, WV 25402."

—Terry Lindsay, SPC Deacon liaison to Rescue Mission

(NOTE: We have been collecting clothing for the Rescue Mission during Lent, but please do not bring any more clothes or shoes at this time. You may take clothes directly to the Martinsburg Rescue Mission.)

REFLECTIONS ON SPIRITUALITY, PART 2.

Spirituality is, at its most basic, about relationship—about each individual's particular relationship with life—including self, others, the world (and, in a faith context, God). Every human being has a spirituality, although it may not be expressly "religious" and may never even be consciously claimed or articulated. As Ronald Rolheiser puts it in his excellent book *The Holy Longing: The Search for a Christian Spirituality*, "all of us are fired into a life with a certain madness that comes from the gods...what we do with that madness is our spirituality."

Religious traditions, at their best, offer deep wisdom that orients, interprets, and shapes particular spiritualities and the practices that arise from them. Not only do different faith traditions have different spiritual orientations, there are also many different ways of spiritual expression, different spiritual gifts, and many, many kinds of spiritual practice within the large family that makes up Christian faith. Reformed Christianity, for example, has traditionally emphasized the intellectual dimensions of relating to God, while others like Pentecostalism is more oriented to emotional expression. Franciscans are known for their devotion to creation, while Carmelites are rooted in contemplative practice.

At its most basic, however, Christianity is a profoundly this-worldly tradition, one which affirms a God who acts in and through history to create, liberate, heal and reconcile, a God who is always present, always acting, and always good. It is both sacramental (affirming the sacredness of God's world) and incarnational (inviting our fullest participation, through the Spirit of Christ, in the reconciling work of God). We live this out (or not!) in attitudes, actions and the discrete practices that make up our practice of faith—the subject of next month's reflection.

—Ethel Hornbeck Director Spiritual Formation

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SHEPHERDSTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Post Office Box 268
Shepherdstown WV 25443
office@spcworks.org

Mission...

Place items for these three missions (no used clothing) in the containers at the bottom of stairs on the way to the nursery:

JCCM (Jefferson County Community Ministries) Current pantry needs: pancake mix, pancake syrup, instant mashed potatoes, jelly, canned meats, instant coffee, toothpaste, toothbrushes, bath soap, toilet paper, dish detergent, laundry detergent, canned or fresh hams for Easter, clean baby food jars/tubs with lids, clean pint size jars with lids, large (size 5) diapers.

SHENANDOAH WOMEN'S CENTER Most urgent needs include: household cleaning supplies, such as Ajax, Windex, Clorox, Lysol; NEW sheets (twin and double); NEW bath towels and washcloths; tampons and sanitary pads; bar soap.

HISPANIC MISSION FOOD OUTREACH Most requested items include: rice; dry (not canned) pinto beans, potatoes, salt, sugar, cooking oil, and coffee.

Keeping up with Members...

Newsletter correction: **Sally Fitzgerald** will be in Carlsbad, NM for only a year's assignment. She'll be back!

Tim Schmitt has received a football scholarship to Shepherd University. Way to go, Tim!

Mike Murdock won a Shenandoah Area Council Boy Scout leadership award.

Financial Corner...

GENERAL FUND through March 28, 2010. Expected to date: \$71,990. Actual giving: \$70,182. Building Fund pledged for 2010: \$44,803. Submitted to date: \$8,166.

BLANKET SUNDAY Special offering for Church World Services blankets and tools: \$1,496.50.

PRESBYTERIAN INVESTMENT & LOAN PROGRAM (PILP) You can make a big difference in building the Presbyterian family worldwide and it makes you money. PILP (<http://www.pcusa.org/pilp/>) currently returns 3% on 36-month investments. Your money is used to build new churches and ones that have been destroyed in storms and earthquakes. We built our addition to SPC with PILP funds.

Over 15 members of our congregation have investments with PILP, but you don't have to be a member of SPC. It's such a good investment that we have participants from other churches, too.

It's easy to participate. Just go to the website above. Or contact me at 304-876-8448 and I will get you material on how you can invest. Members can invest from \$500 or more. PILP needs to raise \$300 million over the next 20 months to help churches carry the Word into new communities. Won't you help? Thanks.

—Paul Pritchard

NEXT NEWSLETTER: May 2010. Announcements, articles, pictures or news about our members? Contact the office, 304-876-6466 or office@spcworks.org. Copy deadline **April 21**.