

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

February 6, 7:30 p.m.

Imposition of ashes is optional

BREAKING THE SILENCE—EMBRACING OUR MORTALITY WITH WISDOM AND GRACE

Woven into the fabric of SPC is the aim to address congregational needs that are encompassed in these words: "In Life and in Death—We Belong to God." The Lenten season Soup Suppers Program will provide the congregation with information to address personal and family mortality issues in a practical, informed, and timely manner on **Sundays, February 10, 17, 24, and March 2** (snow date March 9.) We will have a light soup and bread meal at 5:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall followed by the program in the Sanctuary from 6:45 to 7:30 p.m.

For the first three sessions, congregation members Bill Howard, Yvonne Fisher, and Jack Young will relate their personal experiences with family mortality. There will be time for attendees to ask questions or share some of their individual concerns and experiences. On March 2 several speakers will briefly address Estate Planning, Palliative and Hospice Care, Funeral Considerations, and Church Funeral/Memorial Services. Pastor Tremba and/or Ethel Hornbeck will be assisting with each session.

A follow-up Saturday workshop with these speakers is scheduled for March 29. They will be available from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall to answer specific questions and provide detailed information. A workbook will be provided to use in conducting family discussions and making plans.

You are encouraged for *yourself and your family* to participate in this year's Lenten season program.

— Jack Young

(See *LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS* under *Notices* for hospitality needs.)

CHURCH 101 Orientation to SPC led Pastor Tremba and church Elders will meet **Saturdays, 9:30–11:00 a.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome including those who are considering membership in this congregation or interested in deepening their discipleship. Next session is **February 2**. Later sessions: **March 2, April 6, and May 4** will include discussion of *The Heart of Christianity* by Marcus Borg. Get book from table in Fellowship Hall or in office. Reading prior to sessions is recommended but not required.

SUNDAY BOOK DISCUSSION *Reading the Bible Again for the First Time*, by Marcus Borg. **Sunday** mornings, 9:35–10:25 a.m. in Classroom No.1. With this book as a guide we will look at selected Bible passages through historical and metaphorical lenses. The class runs through all Sundays in **February**. Books are available in the Fellowship Hall. \$15.00; pay what you can. David Scott (304-876-2263) is the convener.

BLANKET SUNDAY Annual offering for the "Tools of Hope and Blankets" program will be received on **February 10**. You can make a difference in the lives of children and families the world over, whether faced with an emergency or struggling to keep food on the table. Funds can provide blankets and other emergency shelter items in the wake of a disaster. Refugees returning home can be helped with tools to rebuild and seeds to replant fields. Families living in drought-plagued areas are helped to dig wells for clean, safe drinking water, and for water to irrigate crops and gardens. A \$5 contribution will purchase a blanket, but please give more if you can to support this important mission program. Special envelopes are available in church pews.

—Karen Davison

SOUPER BOWL OFFERING for Martinsburg Union Rescue Mission Kitchen, **Sunday, February 3**.

WHAT'S UP WITH MORE COMMUNION SERVICES?

At the request of the national Office of Worship & Theology, SPC has joined other Presbyterian churches in the PCUSA in a season of renewed sacramental practices. "We believe a renewed sacramental life can strengthen evangelism and hospitality and bring into clear focus the gospel's call to ministries of compassion and justice." Most of what is recommended (for example, incorporating the Table and Baptismal Font in Sunday worship) has been part of SPC's practices for many years.

One of the five recommendations is to experience communion (The Lord's Meal) more frequently. For some churches that means increasing from four times a year (quarterly) to once a month. Since SPC already has a monthly frequency, our Session accepted the Worship Committee's recommendation to increase to every Sunday during Advent (three extra services) and Lent (five extra). This will give us ample opportunity to experience the mystery of Christ's *real presence* in a concentrated *season of experience* before we discuss the benefits for us individually and as a congregation.

The Office of Worship & Theology recognizes a wide variety of understandings and practices of communion over two millennia and in countless places and traditions. The Lord's Meal (communion, or Eucharist) is, however, the most ancient and continuous practice of all churches. Practices have changed for a variety of reasons over time. Once upon a time Catholics partook only once a year; once upon a time Presbyterians partook every Sunday. But things change. Keep in mind that we are not bound by the past practices of Presbyterians or other Christians. Still, it behooves us to take past and other practices into account along with changing values in our own time and culture.

The purpose of this trial is to see if more frequent celebrations of our Lord's Meal might better form us—individually and communally—into the likeness of Christ, that is to say, help us be more loving of God and others. Initially we should focus on what happens to and for us during communion. Does the Lord's Meal help you become more aware of God's real presence in your life and the world? Once we discern that, we can take up the question of frequency within the wider context of the church's vocation to be like Christ.

Obviously, our service of worship is more

than communion. Our service has several movements that are carefully designed to form us as a people in the likeness of Christ, gradually over time, like cultivating a garden. That is the basis on which worship should be evaluated, not on the basis of *entertainment*, or *nods to tradition*, or what makes me *feel good*.

So this year, let us pay closer attention than usual to what effect the various elements (prayers, songs, hymns, chants, silence, readings, reflections, sermons, and sacraments) of each movement have on us. Following the Lenten season there will be several different opportunities and ways to talk about our experiences with worship.

—Pastor Tremba

Yootz Corner...

WEDNESDAY NITE LIVE (WNL) continues for 6th–9th graders through **March 19** from 5:30–7:00 p.m. Community dinner is served at 5:30. It is followed by karate or some type of fun movement, then by great discussions and activities. The purpose of the program is to learn the stories of the Bible, using them as a background for discussions about what goes on in students' lives today. Also, WNL provides a place of support, by prayer and discussion, for kids to talk about challenges in their lives. Questions? Contact Brandon Dennison <Bmdherdfan@aol.com> or Natasha Baihly <natashabaihly@yahoo.com>.

Mark Your Calendars...

SHEPHERDSTOWN FIRE DEPARTMENT will be having their "Annual Super Bowl Sunday Buffet Dinner" on **Sunday, February 3**. The menu includes fried chicken, roast beef and all the trimmings, plus homemade desserts. Cost is \$9.00 for adults, \$5.00 for children, and under the age of five, it's free! The buffet will be served from 12 noon until 4:00 p.m. The fire department is located at 8052 Martinsburg Pike (Route 45 West). Plan now to attend and support your local volunteers so that they may provide emergency services to Shepherdstown and the surrounding communities. Questions? Call the department at 304-876-2311.

SILENT RETREAT AT ROLLING RIDGE Cultivating a Listening Heart, 5:00 p.m. **Friday, February 8** to 2:00 p.m. **Sunday, February 10**. In the heart of winter's stillness and at the start of the

Lenten season, here is an opportunity to set time apart and come away for awhile to enter into the great silence of God—and seek to become more merciful and loving. We will seek to deepen our ability and willingness to listen truly to the Heart of our hearts.

For cost and registration information, contact Trish Stefanik, 304-724-1069, tstefanik@aol.com, or see www.rollingridge.net.

AFRICA FORUM: CHALLENGES AND HOPE **March 28 and 29**, 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m., Robert C. Byrd Center for Legislative Studies, Shepherd University. The Forum aims to bring together people from the tri-state and Washington, DC areas to increase understanding of and engagement with development efforts in Africa. For detailed information on registration and the agenda, contact Dr. Dick Anson, 304-754-6563, or see www.ezekielsplace.com.

Monthly Activities...

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S CIRCLE First Thursdays, 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. All women of the church are invited for Bible study and refreshments. **Next: February 7.**

FIRST THINGS FIRST SUNDAY Coins for relief of hunger and non-perishables for JCCM (see list under **Notices: JCCM**). **Next: February 3.**

TAIZE SERVICE First Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. A Service of Prayer in song, silence and candlelight. (Ash Wednesday Service replaces Taize Service in February.)

SUPPER GROUPS Moveable Feast, **Saturday, February 2**, 6:30 p.m. at Helen and John Burns', 304-876-9146; TGIF, **Friday, February 15**, 6:30 p.m. at Rie Wilson's, 304-876-6591.

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 balcony. **Next: February 21.**

MEN'S BREAKFAST Third Saturdays. Breakfast with Phil Baker-Shenk cooking at 7:30 a.m.; discussion about our mortality from 8:00–9:00 a.m. Next meeting, *if we make it*, is **Feb. 16.**

CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER Third Sundays, balcony, 7:00–7:30 p.m. (No Contemplative

Prayer in February or March) **Next: April 20.**

PAPER RECYCLING BY 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: Feb. 2.**

Notices...

LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS **February 10, 17, 25 and March 2.** Can you bring soup or bread one evening? See sign-up sheets in Fellowship Hall. To save clean-up time, bring your own bowl, spoon and cup. If you can help with set up or clean up, please contact Mary Ellen Lloyd, 304-876-0805.

2008 SPC DIRECTORIES are available in the Fellowship Hall.

JCCM (Jefferson County Community Ministries) USDA food contributions are currently very limited. This means more foods must come from our contributions. (There is a good supply of canned vegetables and pasta.)

Current pantry needs: cereal (hot and cold), pancake mix, pancake syrup, grape jelly, peanut butter, tomato soup, vegetable soup, instant potatoes, regular coffee, shampoo, clean baby food jars/containers w/lids, clean mid sized jars w/lids, clean plastic grocery bags, clean large paper grocery bags.

Collection at SPC on first Sundays. **Next: February 3.**

TWO BOOKS AVAILABLE IN FELLOWSHIP HALL *PCUSA Mission Yearbook* for 2008, \$5; Ann Baltzer's pictorial journal *Palestine: A Jewish American Woman in the Occupied Territories*, \$15. Pay what you can for each.

HOSPICE LIAISON Mary Bell is SPC's liaison with Hospice of the Eastern Panhandle. She is available to our church community and others to provide information and support for anyone about the services available through Hospice. Also, Mary will contact Hospice for anyone who asks. Hospice of the Eastern Panhandle offers a wealth of services and support to patients, caregivers, and family members beyond what is needed at the very end of life. Please feel free to call Mary at 304-876-3026 if you have any questions about what Hospice can do for you, your friends, or your family.

Non-profit Organization
U. S. POSTAGE PAID
Permit No. 35
Shepherdstown WV

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

Congratulations...

Jennifer Baker-Shenk's artwork is on display at the State House in Annapolis, MD as part of the Maryland General Assembly Student Art Exhibit. The show runs through **April 7** during the 2008 Maryland Legislative Session. Each school system in the state was asked to submit a limited number of artworks to be displayed to celebrate excellence in art education.

Thank You...

Dear people of our "tribe,"
Thanks so much for all the prayers, love and warmth you showered on me and mine. Many of you know that I had a unique relationship with my dad. Your caring didn't just stop with the cards and the beautiful prayer shawl (which I wore to his service). We sincerely felt your love and prayers all around us. The service actually turned out to be quite an awesome experience! Joe and I will never forget what transpired there. We felt your spirit and care all along the way. Thanks to you and thanks be to God for giving us such a wonderful church family!

—Dena, Joe, Eldred and Angie

We extend a heartfelt thanks to all who came to visit Anderson over the last several months, and also to those who kept us in their thoughts and prayers during this difficult time. The love and care given to us is most comforting even yet. May rich blessings of peace and love be extended to all.

—Jan Offutt-Clark

In Our Prayers...

Jan Offutt-Clark (death of Anderson) • Roy Dick (death of brother-in-law) • Katie Proudman • Wann Martin • Ada Hatchett • Barkley Sutherland • Pat Kercheval • Pam Steven's mother • Esther & Tim Murphy (sister-in-law and aunt) • Peg McNaughton • Margie Lloyd • Mike Hasty • Joan Kenney

Financial Corner...

GENERAL FUND through January 27. Expected: \$21,154. Actual giving: \$17,400. **Building Fund** pledged for 2008: \$27,000. Submitted to date: \$1,615.

NEXT NEWSLETTER: March 2008. Announcements, articles or news on our members? Contact the office, 304-876-6466 or <office@spcworks.org>. Copy deadline **February 20**. Let us know if you would like to get the newsletter on line. It will save us paper and postage.

Visit www.spcworks.org on a regular basis for all the latest news, podcasts, calendar events and much more.

CHILDCARE can *usually* be provided for church programs. Notify the church office at least seven days prior and include names and ages of children and the program event.

WEATHER-RELATED CANCELLATIONS

Check web page or call the church 304-876-6466 for a message.