

NOTE: The time changes Sunday, March 8. Set clocks forward (before church!) one hour .

THE COMMUNION TABLE

Cultivating a Spirit of Thanksgiving: Praying Around the Communion Table was the theme of SPC's winter forum this year, presented by Paul Galbreath, Professor of Preaching and Worship at Union Theological Seminary and Presbyterian School for Christian Education. This education event is part of a larger, ongoing effort to continue exploring renewed sacramental practice in the life of our church at the invitation of the PCUSA, Office of Theology and Worship. (For more information, see www.pcusa.org/sacraments).

The central identifying mark of the early church, according to Galbreath, was its meal practice. From the beginning, Christians met to hear scripture read and to gather at table, in order to share with one another and with those in need. In one of the earliest post-biblical descriptions of the early Christian community, its prayers with bread and wine are explicitly linked with care of orphans, widows, captives, the sick, and strangers—"all who are in need."

John Calvin also saw the centrality of Eucharistic practice, and emphasized the need to reform the worship practices of the medieval church, where communion was typically received once a year or less; for Calvin, weekly communion was the norm. (In fact, Calvin's definition of the true church was one where the word is read and heard and the sacraments administered properly.) It is one of history's strange ironies that the Roman churches long ago took Calvin's advice, while Calvin's heirs are still talking.

Communion remains a central aspect of Christian worship, despite the various forms and frequencies that occur in different denominations and communities. Even with these differences, according to Galbreath, there are certain basic shared patterns in Eucharistic prayer. First, it is a prayer that tells a story, and invites participants to link their personal stories with the larger story of God's great works of creation, healing and transformation. It is also a communal prayer, not a private meal, one intended to help shape and sustain community. Finally, it is a forward looking prayer, anticipating that this table nourishes individuals and a community in an ongoing journey. And so, it is most of all a prayer meant to shape lives in a certain way; the ultimate test of authentic Eucharistic practice is not about particular words, or music, or frequency, or style, so much as it is about transformation.

This Lent, we will share another season of weekly communion at SPC. We will continue, together, to watch and listen and pray. And, as we do, let's pay attention to our experiences in weekly worship and notice ways in which our Sunday experiences touch and change our everyday lives.

THE SEASON OF LENT

The season of Lent is upon us, the period of preparation for the feast of all feasts, Easter. It is a time of prayer and repentance—which is to say, returning—our lives to a center more on God than self. I think the invitation is not so much finding some trivial thing to give up for a few weeks, but to some deeper more intentional listening, seeking to let go of those things that keep us from a center in God (which is not a one time thing, but a lifelong process!) This year, as always, there will be many opportunities in the season to listen together.

On Sunday evenings in March we will hold our annual soup and bread suppers with some very special guests, voices from other Christian traditions, including Roman Catholic, African American Pentecostal, Orthodox and Mennonite. This is a very exciting opportunity to listen to the Spirit in a new key. Supper begins at 5:45 in the Fellowship Hall; program at 6:30 in the Sanctuary.

Wednesday, March 25 (from 9:30-3:30) I will be leading a day long retreat with the theme "Listening to the Beloved." This quiet day will include guided prayer experiences, listening in groups, and listening in communal solitude. This is a rare opportunity to slow down and listen for the voice of Love that is always unfolding in our lives, in our midst, and in our hearts. It will take place at Priestfield Pastoral Center, a beautiful, peaceful and holy place about 20 minutes from here. Cost for the day, including lunch, is \$17—pay what you can, more if you are able so all can participate. Please register and pay in the office as soon as possible (**no later than March 15**) so that we can secure our reservations.

—Both articles above by Ethel Hornbeck Parish Assistant for Spiritual Formation

Yootz Corner..

Last weekend (January 23-25) I was part of the team that went to Washington DC. The whole experience was an awesome one. We drove down on Friday night, hung out and got to know each other. Saturday morning we woke up early and after breakfast headed down to the DC Central Kitchen. There we were briefed on what we would be doing and got down to the job of making pasta salad—lots and lots of pasta salad. We were so efficient that we finished ahead of schedule. While I was working in the kitchen, I was thinking about the homeless people who would be receiving the food and hoped that they would get enough and would be happy.

Back at our digs, a woman spoke to us about the Faces of Hunger Program. She told us stories of homeless people and their everyday struggles. We actually did some role-playing, which helped me to see how hard life would be as a homeless person. It made me appreciate the fact that my family has enough money to keep us fed everyday. As a reward, we got to go to the Library of Congress...and to Starbucks, yum.

When we arrived back at our temporary home, we made dinner, talked about our day, watched the Lion King and hit the sack. Following Sunday morning's breakfast, we went to church on Capitol Hill, then headed back to Shepherdstown. It was the best weekend I've had in a while. If you get the chance next year to go on this trip, I highly recommend it...I know I will be there!
—Eli Paris

Mark Your Calendars...

STRANGERS IN THE LAND A devotional guide on "Immigration, the Church and The Bible." A copy of the study guide provided to each participant. **Sundays, March 8-29**, 9:30 to 10:15 a.m. in classroom No. 3. John Gonano and Dick Anson facilitate the discussion.

TRAINING FOR SOUND OPERATORS **Sunday, March 8**, 9:30 a.m.

LENTEN SUNDAY EVENINGS 5:45 p.m. Soup & Bread supper in Fellowship Hall; 6:30 p.m. program in Sanctuary: "Why I Am Catholic...Pentecostal...Orthodox...Mennonite"

March 8 Evelyn Taylor, House of Prayer Church of God, Pentecostal, Charles Town

March 15 Father Dennis Buck, St. Catherine's Orthodox Church, Hagerstown

March 22 Harold and Mary Grace Shenk, Mennonite, Hagerstown

Please sign up in Fellowship Hall to bring soup and bread and to help with set up and clean up.

GOOD SHEPHERD CAREGIVERS 9th Annual Potter's Bowl **Friday, March 6**, from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Shepherdstown Fire Hall. Select a handcrafted pottery

bowl to take home, and enjoy delicious soups, breads, desserts and coffee, donated by area restaurants and individuals. Live auction begins at 7 p.m. Advance tickets are available for a \$25 donation; \$5 for children in Shepherdstown, 101 S. Princess Street, 304-876-3325, and Charles Town, Zion Episcopal Church Parish House, 221 E. Washington Street, 304-725-2262. Tickets will be sold at the door on a first-come, first-served basis.

FRIENDS IN ACTION (FIA) is a network of people who provide caring outreach to needy families in our community. Volunteer mentor teams are linked to a local family for one year in a supportive relationship. FIA is hosting a lunch time fundraiser on **Monday, March 16**, 12-2 p.m. at the AWOK restaurant in the Maddox Square shopping center near Food Lion. For a \$20 ticket, you get all you can eat from the buffet, a beverage, and you donate \$10 to FIA. For more information or to buy a ticket, contact Rosemarie Coy at church, or 304-876-6262, or rmrcoy@frontiernet.net.

FREE CHOIR CONCERT **Sunday, March 29**, 4:00 p.m. at SPC. Washington, DC's A. P. Shaw / Congressional Heights United Methodist Church choir in celebration of Pastor Rev. Ernest Lyles' 25th ordination anniversary.

EASTER RETREAT at Rolling Ridge Study Retreat Community, "Easter—What Was It and What Is It? Recovering the Holy Week Narrative" **April 10**, 7:30 p.m. to **April 11**, 6:00 p.m. We will reflect on Jesus who is passionate about love of God and love of neighbor, and our own call to be transformed into holding such a dream, and not to be conformed to the practice of Easter by the *empire* in which we live. For questions and registration, contact Verle or Vivian Headings, VvatRR@juno.com or 304-725-2312.

THE ENLIGHTENED HEART OF ISLAM Are you aware Islam traces its roots back through Jesus to Moses and Abraham; that Muslims believe in the same God we do; that a significant portion of the Quran reflects the life and teachings of Jesus; that an original precept of Islam is that Muslims, Christians and Jews who follow their faith will be united with God.

We will meet between services beginning **Sunday, April 19** for five Sundays. Please join in our discussion to gain insight into Islam from a Sufi perspective. Sufism is one of the several sects of Islam and is found in Northern India, Turkey and Iran. One of its great prophets is Rumi who uses stories and verse to convey great truths. We will use his stories and verse to gain an understanding of the principles and pillars of Islam. But more importantly we will hopefully gain insight that will make us better Christians.
—Dave Scott

EARTHFEST at SPC, **Sunday, April 19**, 7:00 p.m. Celebrate the good earth in song, prayer, silence and community meal.

AN EVENING WITH BETTY EGAN AND PHIL HILL **Wednesday, April 29**, 7:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Betty and Phil will share their stories about the people and events that influenced their lives.

CHURCH PICNIC **Sunday, June 21** at Devil's Backbone Park (not at Morgan Grove Park, but in Washington Co., Maryland, this year) including our farewell to Brandon Dennison.

SPC Monthly Activities...

FIRST THINGS FIRST SUNDAY Coins for relief of hunger and non-perishables for JCCM (see list under **Notices: JCCM**). **Next: April 5.**

CHURCH 101 A six-part series for new members Sundays in Classroom # 1, 9:30–10:15 a.m.

March 8 The Practices of SPC.

March 15 The Roots of SPC and Presbyterianism

March 22 The Bible

March 29 Jesus and the Trinity

April 5 Polity and Programs

TAIZE SERVICE First Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. A Service of Prayer in song, silence and candlelight. **Next: March 4.**

WOMEN'S CIRCLE First Thursdays, 10:00 a.m., Fellowship Hall. All women of the church are invited to join us. **Next: March 5.**

COLLEGE STUDENT FELLOWSHIP including dinner and discussion with Pastor Tremba. First and Third **Thursdays** at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. **Next: March 5 and 19.**

ROUNDTABLE WITH PASTOR TREMBA First Saturdays, 9:30–10:30 a.m. Any and all questions and topics related to faith and the church. **Next: March 7.**

SUPPER GROUPS

Moveable Feast, **Saturday, March 14** (note, 2nd Sat), 6:30 p.m. at Lucy & Gordon Gay's, 304-876-0825

TGIF, **Friday, March 20**, 6:30 at Diane & Paul Kradel's, 304-876-7025.

CHURCH 201 with Pastor Tremba & Ethel Hornbeck. Discussion of *Quest for the Living God* by Elizabeth Johnson. Books (\$25). Pay what you can. Second **Wednesdays** at 7:30 p.m. **March 11, April 8.**

CANTERBURY SERVICES, second Thursday of the month at 10:30 a.m. **Next: March 12.**

CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER Third Sundays, balcony, 7:00 p.m. **Next: March 15.**

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: March 19.**

MEN'S BREAKFAST Third Saturdays. Catered breakfast at 7:30 a.m. Please RSVP office@spcworks.org by **March 19**. Discussion, 8:00–9:00 a.m. "The Recession: A Gift from God?" **Next: March 21.**

Notices...

MISSION OF MERCY (MOM) Christ taught us to love each other. On **June 26 and 27** at Hedgesville High School we can demonstrate that love by helping those who cannot afford dental care. Last year MOM provided dental services to over 1000 individuals, including extractions, fillings, cleanings, and, yes, a few root canals. You don't need to be a medical professional to help. The MOM event needs volunteers to do registration, escort patients, serve food to volunteers, set up and take down, and direct traffic flow. We also need translators to help the Hispanic community.

Last year over 20 folks from SPC volunteered and it would be wonderful to see that number increase. So please register **NOW** at www.heathysmileswv.org. You can volunteer in four-hour blocks.

For more information, contact David Scott, dbcpscott@frontiernet.net, or 304-876-2263. Encourage your dental professionals to help by contacting Dr. Tom Leslie at 304-258-2291, or tleslie@earthlink.net.

If you know people who cannot afford dental care, tell them about MOM and urge them to be there when the doors open at 5:30 a.m. Care will be given on a first come first served basis.

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: March 7.**

Place items for these three missions below in the baskets at the bottom of stairs on the way to the nursery:

JCCM (Jefferson County Community Ministries) Current pantry needs: jelly, pancake syrup, canned fruits, canned meats, disposable razors, toothbrushes, toothpaste, cereal, saltine crackers, eggs, coffee (instant & perked). SPC contact: Sally Fitzgerald, 304-725-3795.

SHENANDOAH WOMEN'S CENTER Ongoing needs: pre-paid long distance phone cards, Martins/Walmart/Food Lion/Sheetz gift cards, used cell phones (with or without charger), laundry detergent (powder), shower gel, ACT Fluoride rinse, waxed dental floss, pain relievers for adults and children, cold/flu medicine, cough syrup and drops, and lice treatment kits. SPC contact: Rie Wilson, 304-876-6591.

HISPANIC MISSION FOOD OUTREACH Most requested items include: rice; dry (not canned) pinto beans, potatoes, salt, sugar, cooking oil, and coffee. SPC contact: Jeff Hornbeck, 304-876-0566.

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

Keeping up with Members...

STETSON UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF LAW has awarded the inaugural William A. Kaplin Award for Excellence in Higher Education Law and Policy Scholarship. The award is named for (SPC's own) **William A. Kaplin**, research professor of law at Catholic University of America School of Law and distinguished professorial lecturer at Stetson Law. Professor Kaplin teaches and writes in the areas of education law and constitutional law.

TYLER QUINN won first place in the county science fair.

STELLA BARRAT, ALEX NAVARRO GUITZ, and NATE HOWARD contributed to a book, *A Celebration of Poets*.

Thank You...

My dear SPC family, I want to thank you for all you did during Sallye's final illness and for all you have done for me following her death. I've been absolutely overwhelmed by words and deeds of kindness. Each expression of affection was unique and deeply appreciated. You have been and are even more than friends to Sallye and me. You have been and are our family—true brothers and sisters in the Lord.

—*Yours in Christ, Jim Price*

Prune juice stains. Cookie crumbs. Assorted and unidentified microscopic remnants of this and that. Good grief, Pigpen, said Charlie Brown, that's an awful way to treat a blanket, particularly one that's hand made and prayed over for your continued and speedy recovery. Three weeks earlier, in my persona as the Red Baron's want-to-be nemesis, I had crashed in flames onto a very hard and unforgiving concrete garage floor. It hurt; it hurt a lot. The good women of the SPC Women's Circle

"felt my pain" and presented me with my very own prayer shawl, and the pain from my broken hip is all but gone. Thanks, ladies. —*Al (a.k.a. Linus) Henderson*

MACDONELL HANDBELLS Jim's late father, Charles B. Macdonell, purchased the imported Belgium handbells in the early 1960s. They were originally played in the First Presbyterian Church of Evanston, IL. They were left to Jim after his father's death while Jim was the pastor of Saint Mark Presbyterian Church, Rockville, MD. For many years, the bells were played at Saint Mark. In the early 1990s, the bells were refurbished with new leather handles and pads on the clappers, and additional bells were purchased.

Recently, Saint Mark told Jim they had no further plans for using the handbells in their music program, so they were returned to him. Jim approached Randy and the Session who said they would be delighted to receive the bells. In presenting the handbells to SPC, Jim and Nancy hope they will enhance the music program and be enjoyed by this congregation.

Financial Corner...

GENERAL FUND through March 1. Expected to date: \$49,067. Actual giving: \$48,541. Building Fund pledged for 2009: \$34,400. Submitted to date: \$5,948.

BLANKET SUNDAY Special offering for Church World Services blankets and tools. Total to date: \$1,713. Thanks to one and all very much for your care and generosity.

NEXT NEWSLETTER: April 2009. Announcements, articles or news on our members? Contact the office, 304-876-6466 or <office@spcworks.org>. Copy deadline **March 25**.

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

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