



Thank you to everyone who contributed money and time to February's mini mission project!! We provided CCFI with over 100 meals for their therapeutic play and caregiver support meeting. We also had extra fruit and sandwiches which were donated to Food for Friends. Thanks again! Your support is always amazing! Also a Thank you from CCFI is posted on the board outside of the office.

Mission and Evangelism is sponsoring a diaper drive for CCFI through the end of March. We need diapers of all sizes for their diaper pantry. Place your contributions in the cradle in the hallway. Last year, we were able to donate almost 500 diapers--Let's shoot for 750 this year!!

We need help in the office, as Elaine will be having foot surgery on March 16th. If anyone is interested in volunteering to fill the gap, please call to sign up for entire days, or hours.

HOPES AND DREAMS OF THE CONGREGATION 2012

1. Fix stained glass windows in the sanctuary
2. Hire a part-time maintenance person
3. Do more fun stuff
4. Need kitchen supplies (maybe hold a kitchen shower) – new stove
5. New kitchen
6. Fix parking lot
7. 50% increase in worship attendance
8. 50% increase in choir participation
9. Expanded presence in community through mission
10. Create a quilt group
11. Designate a "Bring a Friend" Sunday
12. Embrace other cultures so they feel more a part of our church community
13. Become more child centered
14. Encourage the surrounding residential area to participate in our church life
15. Develop more interfaith community/connection
16. Increase focus on college students – inviting them to attend (possibly have other Presbyterys send us a list of students coming to OU)
17. Interpreter for the deaf – possibly offer a series of classes
18. Prayer chain list/prayer requests printed in the bulletin
19. Pursue avenues of communicating the prayer chain requests for those without computers
20. New speaker system in the fellowship hall





Rev. Tracy Evans

The grinding power of the plain words of the Gospel story is like the power of millstones; and those who can read them simply enough will feel as if rocks had been rolled upon them.

G.K. Chesterton

Lent has begun. Those who gathered at the Ash Wednesday service left with a cross of ashes on their forehead formed from last year's burnt palm branches. We gathered around the communion table as we placed the sign of the cross on each others' forehead. It was an intimate time; participants not only standing close to one another, but also touching the face of the person next to them. I was struck to see children placing the ashes on adults, saying the powerful words, "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

There is a sense of earthiness, of grimy, get-your-hands-dirty, practicality in the ashes. We placed them on the forehead of another, yet are left with a residue on our hands. We can't connect with another without them leaving a piece of themselves with us.

This Lenten season, as we work and prepare to better understand and experience the sacrifice made on our behalf, we will find a great deal of "residue", that piece of another who has made an impact on us whether known to them or not.

The work of following Christ does not allow us to follow from a distance as we sit idly by, watching and perhaps agreeing and accepting, but not participating. Jesus the Christ consistently used the word "followers." He never asks for admirers, worshipers or adherents. He is looking for followers in the life of Christ.

Soren Kierkegaard says that "the admirer never makes any true sacrifices. He always plays it safe. Though in word he is inexhaustible about how highly he prizes Christ, he renounces nothing, will not reconstruct his life, and will not let his life express what it is he supposedly admires. Not so for the follower. No, no. The follower aspires with all his strength to be what he admires. And then, remarkably enough, even though he is living amongst a "Christian people," he incurs the same peril as he did when it was dangerous to openly confess Christ. And because of the follower's life, it will become evident who the admirers are, for the admirers will become agitated with him. Even these words will disturb many—but then they must likewise belong to the admirers." (from *Provocations: Spiritual Writings of Soren Kierkegaard*, Orbis Books, 2003)

So come on this Lenten journey, but know that it is one that will be messy, will get your hands dirty, and one that will change you forever.

Grace and peace to you this Lent,

Tracy

Memorial will be holding a kitchen shower to replace and refurbish some items in our kitchen inventory! This will take place some time in April, so if you clean out your cabinets, set aside any items that might be of use. More details to come!

ABLE Workshop celebrating life by selling Lilies. The order blank is on the table across from the office. The Lilies are \$12. this year, and orders and money are due Mar 18.

CLERK'S CORNER FOR MARCH NEWSLETTER

Session met on February 28, 2012 for it's first meeting with Rev Tracy Evans moderating. The following actions were taken:

The nominating committee members have all been identified. They are: from Session – Karen Girdner (Chair) and Bob Clarke; from Deacons – Will Farris; those elected during the annual congregational meeting – Charlotte Lovett, Linda Rodriquez, Holly VanAuken, Carl Forthman.

The Board of Trustees are as follows:

President: Tim Thiessen

Vice President: Ann Fayles

Secretary: Carolyn Montgomery

Treasurer: Mike Cole (Session voted Mike Cole as treasurer)

Session voted Joan Cole as their clerk for 2012.

Committee assignments were made. Session encourages all members of the congregation to join one or more of these committees to ensure our church remains vital and strong.

Stewardship: Jim Rodriguez (Chair) and Bob Clarke

Worship & Music: Joan Cole and Charlotte Lovett(Co-Chairs), Lisa Upton and Christy Masango

Christian Education: Harry Wright (Chair), Ann Fayles and Ann Forsyth

Mission & Evangelism: Carolyn Montgomery (Chair) and John Beck

Building & Grounds: Karen Girdner (Chair) and Tim Thiessen

Elder Commissioner to Indian Nations Presbytery: Charlotte Lovett; Alternate is Joan Cole.

There will be a Session retreat on Saturday, March 10th from 9AM-1PM to develop short-term and long-term plans.

Rev Tracy Evans' installation will be April 22 at 4PM at the church. A special offering will be collected for the Indian Nations Presbytery Assistance Fund for Church Professionals.

An Irish blessing

May God grant you always
A sunbeam to warm you.
A moonbeam to charm you,
A sheltering angel
So nothing can harm you,
Laughter to cheer you,
Faithful friends near you —
And whenever you pray,
Heaven to hear you.

Spring fever

Four high school students afflicted with spring fever skipped their morning classes. After lunch, the boys told their teacher they'd had a flat tire.

Much to the boys' relief, the teacher smiled and said, "Well, you missed a test, so take seats apart from one another and take out a piece of paper."

Still smiling, she waited for them to sit down. Then she said, "First question: Which tire was flat?"

- "I've long since stopped feeling guilty about taking 'being' time; it's something we all need for our spiritual health, and often we don't take enough of it."

—Madeleine L'Engle

Part of the deal?

Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland, spread Christianity in the fifth century, helping people abandon pagan rites. One day, he was baptizing new converts, including the chief of a fierce warrior tribe. Patrick leaned on his staff for support as he lowered each person into the rushing river. As he baptized the chief, he inadvertently pressed his staff firmly down on the chief's foot.

The chief uttered not a word of complaint, but as he stepped back onto the bank, people noticed he was limping. Patrick apologized, asking, "Why did you not cry out when I struck your foot?"

The chief replied, "I remember you telling us about the nails in the cross. I thought pain was part of my baptism."

—Homiletics





MARCH 2012



ANNIVERSARIES

3/17 Bruce & Trisha Bunce

3/27 Cornelius & Susan Anonh

MARCH 2012 BIRTHDAYS

3/03 Brian Collins
 3/05 Margaret Storm
 David Stensrud
 3/06 Bill Silman
 Harold Conner
 3/07 Elvira Sama
 3/11 Jim Eckel
 3/14 Riley Bensen
 3/21 Kasey Sewell
 3/22 Randy Sewell
 Marcus Williams
 Mandy Jiran
 3/23 Clay Girdner
 3/25 Scott Terrell
 3/27 Loreen Upton
 3/29 Eileen Burke
 3/30 Joan Cole



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!!.... or not

We keep a very special file
 On every sir and miss
 And now, we're asking for your help
 On one thing, and it's this:

If we don't have your birthday date
 We don't know what to do
 You won't be in the Messenger
 That's mailed each month to you.

We can't send you a birthday card
 Perhaps a birthday call
 Or sing (off key!) the birthday song
 Or wish you well at all.

If you tell Elaine she'll put you on
 Her special "birthday page"
 Then tell us all when it's "your day"
 But she won't tell your age!

Bible Quiz

Job's "friends" weren't exactly supportive when he experienced great trials. Which of the following lists his friends' names?

- A. Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah and Malachi
- B. Eliphaz, Bildad and Zophar
- C. Melchior, Gaspar and Balthasar
- D. Philemon and Onesimus



Answer: B (See Job 2:11.)



2012

March



Youth Group

Youth Group



Youth Quake April 13-15

It's that time of year! Coming up in April is YouthQuake, a Presbyterian weekend retreat at Canyon Camp in Hinton, Oklahoma. We have attended in the past and we always have a GREAT time singing, hearing from some great speakers, hanging out with other youth groups, and growing in our faith!

Make sure you save the date and plan on coming with us! Everyone in the church is welcome to join, and we could always use some adult sponsors! There is plenty to do for everyone, and it is a beautiful location!

If you have any questions, please come ask Corey, or just talk to any of the youth who have attended in the past! MPC can assist with registration fees, so don't let anything keep you from joining the Youth for a weekend to remember!

Save the Dates!

March 4

Special Lent Devotional.

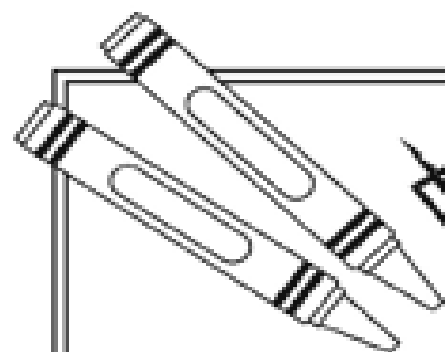
March 11

Coffee House Night

**March 18 – SPRING
BREAK! No youth!**

March 25

Egg Games. Get ready to get messy!



PUZZLE

SIGNS OF *Rebirth*

Isaiah 35 describes the rebirth of a dry land when Jesus returns, as well as the signs of God's beautiful creation at springtime.

Directions: Solve each math problem. Then write the words in order, from smaller numbers to larger numbers, in the spaces below.

bloom $6+1=$ _____ blossom $2 \times 2=$ _____ rejoice $4 \times 2=$ _____
burst $3+3=$ _____ wilderness $2+1=$ _____ joy $5+5=$ _____
crocus $3+2=$ _____ desert $1 \times 0=$ _____ parched $0+1=$ _____
glad $2 \times 1=$ _____ shout $10-1=$ _____



"The _____ and the _____ land will
be _____; the _____ will rejoice
and _____. Like the _____,
it will _____ into _____; it
will _____ greatly and _____ for _____."

Isaiah 35:1-2, NIV

Answers:
"The desert and the parched land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and blossom. Like the crocus, it will burst into bloom; it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy."

MARCH 2012

Sun

Mon








Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

				1 Serve at FFF 10:00 AM	2 Williams Wedding Rehearsal 5:00 PM	3 Sally Schicpack & Kyle Williams Wed- ding 7:00 P.M.
4 	5 Boy Scouts 7:00 PM	6	7 LWV 11:15am— 1:30 PM Library Regular Scheduled Activities	8 Building and Grounds 7:00 PM	9	10 SESSION Retreat 9AM—1PM
11 Daylight Sav- ings Time begins  	12 Boy Scouts 7:00 PM	13 CE Committee 7:30 PM Mission & Evangel- ism Committee 6:00 PM	14 Regular Scheduled Activities	15	16	17 
18  Deacons Meeting Stewardship Com- mittee 5:30 PM	19 / _____ Boy Scouts 7:00 PM	20 SPRING _____ / NO Session	21 BREAK _____ /	22 _____ /	23 _____ /	24 SPRING CLEAN UP DAY 8:00 AM 
25 	26 Boy Scouts 7:00 PM	27 Session Meeting 7:00 PM	28 Regular Scheduled Activities	29	30	31

SUNDAY REGULAR SCHEDULE

Sunday School 9:30 AM
Fellowship and Refreshments 10:30 AM
Worship Service 10:55 AM

WEDNESDAY REGULAR SCHEDULE

LOGOS - Recreation 3:00 PM
Wednesday Night Dinner 5:45 PM
Youth In Motion (6th—12th) 6:00 PM
Chancel Choir 7:30 PM