

The Announcer

The Newsletter for Pilgrim Lutheran Church January 2010

Musings

We took another step on the path of transformation last fall; the Living toward Reconciliation Workshops. We have two good sessions and one *really* good session. The first session gave us some basic touch-points to bear in mind. Chief among them is that forgiveness and reconciliation are not the same as conflict resolution. Conflict resolution may have nothing at all to do with forgiveness or restoring a relationship. It just gets you past the conflict so business can go on. But if all you have done is gotten through the conflict--without forgiveness and a movement toward reconciliation—nothing will have changed inter-personally, and you will repeat the same conflict-ridden patterns. Reconciliation rebuilds the relationship. It restores unity. Here at Pilgrim we have had much conflict resolution. We have seldom gone the extra mile for reconciliation.

We spent the entire second session talking about the “undiscussables” here at Pilgrim. What subjects are we not “allowed” to talk about? What issue causes stress levels to shoot up? What matters leave us sitting by quietly in a meeting, not daring to comment? We raised many. We discussed the undiscussable. Allowed ourselves to feel the stress. Did not sit quietly. And we did it all in a self-controlled, thoughtful manner. It can be done. We did it. No reason we can't in the future.

The last session offered everybody's favorite activity; role-playing! We were given a sampling of common “situations” that can rise up in congregations and between people in everyday life. The exercises gave us a chance to practice healthier responses when we disagree and when there is a matter between us.

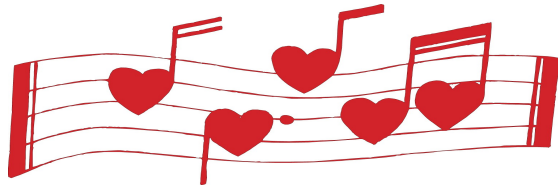
The sessions were very worthwhile, though the real value in them is in how eager we are to actually put the learnings into practice, use them in our relationships to bring healing. Perhaps one of the most startling learning was that forgiveness does not have to wait for someone to “come around” and confess their wrong. We can let go of our own personal anger any time we decide we are ready. When we do that, we may not change the other person, but we create a change in ourselves. Our “blood pressure” goes down, and we learn to live at peace, even if someone else will not. But when you forgive, and you cease living at odds, very often your “adversary” takes notice, and the seeds for *asking for* forgiveness are sown. And you may well be on your way to reconciliation.

For those who are hesitant to reconcile: some guidelines to consider:

1. Be honest about your motives - Make sure that your desire is to do what pleases God and not to get revenge. Settle the matter of forgiveness (as Joseph did) in the context of your relationship with God. Guidelines for reconciliation should not be retaliatory.
2. Be humble in your attitude - Do not let pride ruin everything. Renounce all vengeful attitudes toward your offender. We are not, for example, to demand that a person earn our forgiveness. The issue is not earning forgiveness, but working toward true reconciliation. This demands humility. Those who focus on retaliation and revenge have allowed self-serving pride to control them.
3. Be prayerful about the situation - Jesus taught his disciples to pray for those who mistreat them (Luke 6:28). It is amazing how our attitude toward another person can change when we pray for him. Pray also for strength to follow through with reconciliation.
4. Be willing to admit ways you might have contributed to the problem
5. Be honest with the offender - If you need time to absorb the reality of what was said or done, express this honestly to the one who hurt you. Yet we must not use time as a means of manipulation and punishment.
6. Be realistic about the process - Change often requires time and hard work. Periodic failure by an offender does not always indicate an unrepentant heart. Behavior patterns often run in deep channels. Setbacks and disappointments are often part of the process of change. Don't give up too easily on process of reconciliation. Keep the goal of a fully restored relationship open.
7. Be mindful of God's control – "When you are having a hard time forgiving someone (i.e. being restored), take time to note how God may be using that offense for good. ... What sins and weaknesses of yours are being exposed? What character qualities are you being challenged to exercise? When you perceive that the person who has wronged you is being used as an instrument in God's hand to help you mature, serve others, and glorify him, it may be easier for you to move ahead with forgiveness (i.e. restoration)" (Ken Sande, p.165;cf. Hebrews 12:7; 1 Pet. 2:23b; 4:19).
8. Be alert to Satan's schemes - In Ephesians 4:27, the apostle warns of possibly giving Satan an opportunity in our lives. Significantly, this warning is given in the context of unchecked anger. A few verses later, the Apostle wrote, "Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. And be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you. Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children; and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you, and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God" (Ephesians 4:29-5:2). Meditate on these words and put them into practice! (*Guidelines from **Forgiveness is one thing; Reconciliation is another**, by Steve Cornell*)

Thank You!

- to Ruth Burdette for coming back for Christmas and providing organ accompaniment for Christmas Eve and the following two Sundays.
- to Sylvia Bast for picking up and delivering our poinsettias.
- to the whole gang for putting up the tree and “decking our halls.”



“Soup-er Bowl” Sunday

February 7, 2010

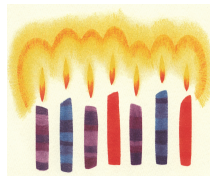


Be part of this program that benefits the food pantries of Lutheran Social Services of Central Ohio. Starting in 1990 in a small church in South Carolina, the famous football event became a way to raise money to help people in need. The “Souper Bowl” project has grown into a national event and now raises over \$1,000,000 each year, with all funds being used by local community programs. Mark the date, open up your heart, and bring your wallet!

And watch for the event logo and a soup pot to receive your dollars!

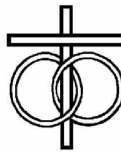
January Birthdays

John Frase	6
Ruth Burdette	7
Leslie Coakley.	14
Ryan Wright	15
Nancy Milleman	21
Lee Ruff	26
Haley Starkey	26
Ryan Harris	31



Anniversaries

Douglas Andrews and Bonnie Lamvermeyer	1
Donald and Judy Warner	7
Robert and Ingrid Green	21



TRAINING to tutor English as a Second Language (ESL)

Two training sessions for ESL volunteers are scheduled. They will be held at the Prince of Peace Youth & Retreat Center, 588 McNaughten Rd., as follows:

Tuesday, January 5, at 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, January 9, at 10:00 a.m.

The sessions will deal with ESL tutoring skills and cultural awareness issues. Our initial “textbook” will be the Oxford Picture Dictionary.

The sessions are for members of all of our churches who would like to get involved in ESL tutoring.

For more information, call Jessica Mayercin at 614-937-0836.

Kids' “Free Christmas Shop” Report

10 individuals of all ages chose 21 assorted gifts from our collection. Many leftover items were sent to be given to children of our active military who had little or nothing to receive for Christmas. Finally, a car-load of “leftovers” blessed a church clothes closet in a needy neighborhood area in south Newark. For an idea that was thought of at the last minute, the “shop” was well-supported and quite successful. “Shoppers” were surprised and very grateful that it was free. We were the only place offering this kind of service in the area. We may see a family come and attend Pilgrim because of this event. The Granville community spoke well of this offering, and we plan to make it an annual event. Thank you to all who helped make it a success!

Lee Ruff, coordinator.

Annual Chili Supper / Cookoff



Just an advance note for our annual chili event. The date will be Sunday, February 14. It is always a Sunday evening close to Valentine's Day, a petsuck, and an easygoing contest to vote for the best chili. We present Hot prizes!

Watch for the February ANNOUNCEMENT details. Meanwhile, dust off your recipe, get the creative juices flowing, and expect a great time!

Guild Notes

The PILGRIM GUILD will hold its January meeting on the second Monday of the month, as usual, on the 11th, at 7:30pm, at church, downstairs. All women of the church are welcome, we have a short business meeting, then socialize, having refreshments. We plan our annual giving to missions and the projects for the year in January's meeting. Please come join us.



Coming January 10

Motivation for Mission



Our new six-week study to help our congregation focus on our purpose as individuals and as a church.

It seeks to answer the question, "Why are we here?"

Here are the session titles:

- **Lost In America**
- **Why is the Church on Earth?**
- **Change? You Gotta Be Kidding!**
- **The Search**
- **The Power of a Team**
- **Starting Interest Groups**



Motivation for Mission is part of our Transforming Congregations process. For this reason it is really important for **YOU! to take part. The class will initially be held in the adult education hour, 9:15 a.m. Sunday mornings. Another class can be added if it will help more folks attend. So mark the date and the time, and make it your aim to be there.**

SUNDAY SCHOOL Notes

Last month the children learned about Advent and Jesus' birth through using the Advent wreath, reading scripture, singing, making crafts: stars, angels, and candles (representing Jesus, the light of the world) and drawing pictures. They practiced a lot for the Christmas Eve service and knew their parts well! This month we will learn what "Epiphany" is and continue the Walk Through the Bible curriculum, learning to use the Bible and what it has to offer us. -Lee Ruff, Deaconess of Education



CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

Our annual Christmas Eve service featured people of all ages this year. Mikey Blaha dressed as our shepherd in the nativity scene, sang a duet of "Away In A Manger" with Pastor Dan, and read a passage of the Christmas scripture. Connor Blaha dressed as Joseph, read Christmas scripture, and sang "Away In A Manger" with his brother and sister Christl, who also took the part of Mary at the manger.

The service allowed several characters involved in the nativity story to speak of the Christ Child. They were: the Innkeeper, voiced by Peter Reetz; Innkeeper's wife, by Valerie Reetz; Joseph, by Jacob Ruff; Wise Man, by Einar Groething; a Shepherd, by Leah Starkey, and Mary, by Stephanie Blaha. Stephanie also sang "O Holy Night," with Pastor Dan accompanying on guitar. Jacob Ruff and Pastor played a guitar duet to accompany singing for "Silent Night." Pastor also played "Wonderful Counselor." Ruth Burdette was our organist. Lee Ruff coordinated the effort.

Thanks to Doug Andrews and Bonnie Lamvermeyer, ushers, and Beth Pheneger, acolyte. Thank you to all there that night for worshipping together and for telling the story so well!



Bible Readings for the Month

Sunday, January 3 – 2nd Sunday of Christmas

Psalmody: Psalm 119:97-104
 First Lesson: 1 Kings 3:4-15
 Second Lesson: Ephesians 1:3-14
 Gospel: Luke 2:40-52

Saturday, January 6 – The Epiphany of our Lord

Psalmody: Psalm 72
 First Lesson: Isaiah 60:1-6
 Second Lesson: Ephesians 3:2-12
 Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

Sunday, January 10 – The Baptism of our Lord

Psalmody: Psalm 29
 First Lesson: Isaiah 43:1-7
 Second Lesson: Romans 6:1-11
 Gospel: Luke 3:15-22

Sunday, January 17 – 2nd Sunday after the Epiphany

Psalmody: Psalm 128
 First Lesson: Isaiah 62:1-5
 Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 12:1-11
 Gospel: John 2:1-11

Sunday, January 24 – 3rd Sunday after the Epiphany

Psalmody: Psalm 19
 First Lesson: Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10
 Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 12:12-31^a
 Gospel: Luke 4:16-30

Sunday, January 31 – 4th Sunday after the Epiphany

Psalmody: Psalm 71:1-11
 First Lesson: Jeremiah 1:4-10 (17-19)
 Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 12:31^b– 13:13
 Gospel: Luke 4:31-44

Pilgrim Staff and Officers

- Pastor - The Rev. Daniel J. Ruff
Phone: (740) 587-0345
Office Hours: T-F 9:30 - 12:30
- President - Robert Warner
Phone: (740) 587-1059
- Elder, Treasurer (pro-tem) - Einar Groething
Phone: (740) 587-1377
- Financial Secretary - Douglas Andrews
Phone: (740) 924-2161
- Recording Secretary - Lee Ruff
Phone: (740) 587-345
- Fellowship - Bonnie Lamvermeyer
Phone: (740) 924-2161
- Education - Lee Ruff – pro-tem
- Evangelism – Einar Groething
- Trustees:
 - Ruth Burdette (740) 928-6788
 - Douglas Andrews (740) 924-2161
 - Debra Warner (740) 587-1059



A Star Flowers

The flower chart is ready and waiting for you to sponsor the altar flowers some Sunday this month and on into 2010. Have a special day in your life and family? Consider placing the flowers as a beautiful way to say “thanks be to God”! **The cost is \$12. 00 per Sunday for the two vases.**

Undecorating

Sadly, the time to take down the tree is rapidly approaching. After the “12 Days of Christmas” that lead us into Epiphany, we take down the decorations, the teachings of the Church move on from the manger. Please come and help with the “undecorating.” Three suggestions: Wednesday, January 6 @ 7p.m.; Sunday, January 10 after the service; or Sunday, January 3 after the service.



Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone. When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.” And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.” — Third Sunday after the Epiphany, Series C