

Community of Christ

Forest Hills Happenings

EASTER

March 2009

Upcoming Events

Wednesday, March 4 - Fireside Meal and Worship Service, beginning at 6:30 pm.

The Worship Service will focus on the journey to the cross as we enter the Easter season.

Friday, March 13 – Coffee House with Larry McGuire & Don Compier

Saturday, March 14 - Missional Transformation activity,

"Theology and Mission in the Community of Christ"

with Don Compier, Dean of the Community of Christ Seminary.

Sunday, March 15 – Guest Speaker, Don Compier

Saturday, March 21 – Work Day at Glenn Wood Hills to prepare for the camping season.

Sunday, March 22 – Baptismal service – Grady Rogers will be baptized.

Wednesday, April 1 – 6:30 pm – Fireside Meal

Thursday, April 9 – 7:00 pm – Maundy Thursday service at Forest Hills

Sunday, April 12 – Easter Sunrise Service begins at 8:30 am, followed by Breakfast, an Easter Egg Hunt for the children, and our Easter Worship service at 11:00 am

Saturday, May 16 – Work Day at Glenn Wood Hills to prepare for the camping season.

*Due to budgetary concerns, the Happenings will be completed
and distributed every other month instead of every month.*

2009 Budget

The 2009 Forest Hills Congregation Budget was approved by the congregation at the Feb. 15 Business meeting. If anyone would like a copy of the budget, they can contact Sanna Rogers.

Daily Prayer for the Congregation

*Please pray daily as we seek to discover what God is calling us to
at this point in our journey as a community of Christ.*



FROM THE LEADERSHIP TEAM

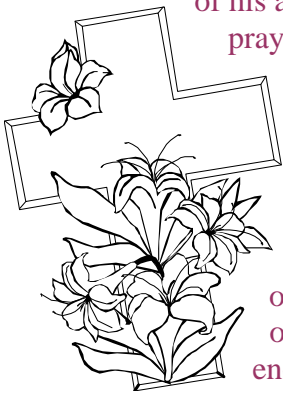


In the Worship Team meeting last week, as we deliberated as to whether or not to have a “sunrise service” on Easter Sunday, we began to share some memories of meaningful Easters from our childhoods. I can recall with great detail getting dressed up on Easter morning, going to the valley in the Cleveland Metroparks at the break of day, the air cool, the dew rolling off my shiny new white shoes, and participating in a sunrise service. I don’t recall the specifics of any of those worship services, just the presence of being there, of knowing that something important and profound was happening. Then we would go to my grandmother’s house for breakfast, where she had prepared fresh hot cross buns.

As I write this article, it is Ash Wednesday. I watched the news coverage earlier today of those who lined up to receive the mark of the cross on their foreheads from the ashes of burnt palm branches in preparation for the Lenten season. And while this is not a tradition our church has traditionally observed, I am aware that we have entered the season of preparation, of the journey to the cross of Jesus. As I am preparing to share a message on Easter Sunday, I have already begun weeks ago to read again the gospel stories of the resurrection, asking the questions, “What is the meaning of the cross? What is the meaning of the resurrection?”

In some ways, I guess, the answers are obvious. This is a story that we have told again and again and is the foundation of our faith as Christian disciples. And yet, it is so complex that for me at times, it seems beyond comprehension.

And so, I would invite you to journey with me once again to the foot of the cross. To read the gospel stories of the ministry of Christ, of his triumphal entry into Jerusalem, of the last Supper with his disciples, of his anguish in the garden and the betrayal of one of his closest friends, of his passionate prayers, of his Passion on the cross, of his resurrection. In particular, I would invite you to study with me the lectionary gospel passage from John 20:1-18. I would invite you to ask with me the questions, “What is the meaning of the cross? What is the meaning of the resurrection?”



And when we meet together on Easter Sunday morning, I pray it will be with the anticipation of a child, wearing new clothes and shiny white shoes, aware of a profound and real event that is unfolding anew. And imagine my delight when Sanna shared in our Worship Team meeting that she makes hot cross buns! She promised to make some for our Easter breakfast, following our sunrise service (not quite at sunrise, but still early enough to be cool and for the dew to roll off our shoes). I can’t wait!

In Christ, Barb Harmon

OUTREACH HAPPENINGS

“There they nailed him to the cross. Two others were crucified with him, one on either side, with Jesus between them. And Pilate posted a sign over him that read, ‘Jesus of Nazareth,^{la} the King of the Jews.’”

John 19:18-19

OUTREACH INTERNATIONAL – “Change For Change”

Remember the third Sunday of the month is set aside to collect change for change.

FOOD BANK

March - Soups, Combs, Brushes
April – Green Beans & Toothpaste

MISSION STATEMENT

We proclaim Jesus Christ and promote communities of joy, hope, love and peace.

Easter: Resurrection or Resuscitation?

“Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain.” I Corinthians 15: 12-14 NRSV

When my family and I first moved into the Cedar Rapids congregation, I was asked to speak for Easter. It came after several months of traveling in the old North Central States Region as a new Regional President, visiting nine districts in four months. I spent several days working on the sermon trying to convey my belief in the resurrection of Jesus Christ because I did not want to be one of “those appointees” accused of not believing in a basic Christian belief.

I gave it my all and felt the congregation understood that I was a believer. As I was in line for the greetings and well wishers, a gentleman came up to me and said, “Well that was pretty basic, I thought they’d taught you to be more creative. That sermon was pretty down the middle.” I didn’t know if it was a compliment or a criticism but I told him thank you for his presence in the service. Several days later I saw him and asked him about his comment and he said, “I was hoping you’d shake things up a bit so that people would get over the idea of a resurrection.” Well, I assured him that I was not interested in shaking things up in that fashion but respected his position.

For me, Easter is the basic element of why I’m a Christian; I believe in the resurrection of Jesus and because of that, I believe in our resurrection as well. Marcus Borg says, “Easter is utterly central to Christianity, ‘God raised Jesus from the dead’ is the foundational affirmation of the New Testament...I see the meaning of Easter as twofold: Jesus lives, and Jesus is Lord. Both claims are essential. Easter means that Jesus was experienced after his death, and that he is both Lord and Christ.” (*The Meaning of Jesus Two Visions*, pg. 129)

HE IS
RISEN

I’m not interested in the debate of literal or figurative as many choose to waste time arguing over. This simple truth from Paul makes the difference for me: If Christ has not been raised from the dead, what difference does all our stuff make? (My paraphrase) Again from Borg, “Easter is about resurrection, not resuscitation.” (pg. 131) I don’t mind being labeled as having a simple perspective on Easter. For, the meaning of Easter is found in the ongoing presence of Jesus Christ in my life. It’s enough for me to simply believe. The Lord is Risen, He is Risen indeed. Amen. -- Grace and Peace, Larry McGuire

What’s Happening In Your Group?

“A jar of sour wine was sitting there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put it on a hyssop branch, and held it up to his lips. ³⁰ When Jesus had tasted it, he said, ‘It is finished!’ Then he bowed his head and released his spirit.” John 19:29-30

Missional Transformation Activity

Friday, March 13 – Sunday, March 15 - *Theology and Mission in the Community of Christ*

You are invited to attend a weekend event with Don Compier, Dean of the Community of Christ Seminary and Seventy Larry McGuire. The activities will be held the weekend of March 13-15 at the Forest Hills Congregation. **Friday, March 13** will be a Coffee House with an opportunity to fellowship with Don and Larry beginning at 7:00 pm. **Saturday, March 14** from 9:00 am - 3:00 pm, we will address the topic *“Theology and Mission in the Community of Christ: How who we are informs what we do.”* A continental breakfast will be provided. Lunch will be on your own at area restaurants. Child care will be provided if requested. **Sunday, March 15**, Don will meet with the Jr. High/Sr. High youth during Sunday School (10:00 am), and Larry and Don will share in the 11:00 am worship service, followed by a potluck lunch. You are welcome to join us for all or part of the weekend. Please RSVP to Barb Harmon at bjharmon@insightbb.com or (502)357-1079 by March 8 so we will know how many to plan for. We are looking forward to sharing with you in worship and fellowship.

Fun Tidbits, Birthdays & Other Happenings

“On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.” John 20:19-20

Happy Birthday!!

Robert Mattison	3/02	Brian McGraw	3/05
Gregory Purvis	3/06	Michael Cormack	3/11
Brennen Darrah	3/11	Edith Hunt	3/12
Taylor Percy	3/16	Mathew Sherrard	3/17
Noah Elliot	3/17	Max Rogers	3/19
Michael Ray Daugherty	3/22	Donald Purvis	3/22
Lang Leichhardt	3/22	Nicholas McGaha	3/23
Andrew Fredrickson	3/25	Tammy Kaninberg	3/25
Neil McElroy, Jr.	3/25	Frank Hoagland, Jr.	3/26
Larry Hoagland	3/26	Stephen Darrah	3/27
Thomas Mercer	3/29	Frances Hough	3/30
Kate Ross	3/30	Kevin Taylor	4/03
Phillip Weis	4/04	Joel Poore	4/10
Kenna Daugherty	4/11	Kellie Sampson	4/11
Alyssa Shanks	4/12	Jamie Maymon	4/15
Jackson Williams-Hale	4/16	James Kaiser	4/17
Claire Curtis	4/20	Terri Bowles	4/22
Daniel Harmon	4/25	Gene Skiles	4/25
Michael Daugherty	4/26	Lori Heil	4/27
James Ross	4/27	Jolie Schmidt	4/28
Jordan Schmidt	4/28		



Who Am I?

Last month's "Who Am I" was Kathleen Rosenbarger.

What do you do for a living? Stay at Home Mom
How many children/grandchildren do you have? Three
What is your favorite sport? Whatever sport my children are in at the time.
How long have you lived in the Louisville area? 3 Years
What is a fact about yourself that most people don't know? I can wiggle my ears.

This person's identity will be revealed in May's Forest Hills Happenings

"Who Am I" is put together by Ashley and Marty Sherrard.

A Boy & His Dog

When I was in about the 8th grade, I had a job, for some of you that means work, delivering the Courier Journal throughout New Castle (my home town in Henry county). I walked from my home to the post office to pick up my papers and deliver them. One morning as I approached the post office, I saw on the sidewalk the most beautiful and majestic German Shephard lying next to Bill Long's store. I moved to the edge of the sidewalk so as not to alarm him and/or be mutilated. I picked up my papers and started my route. I was praying that the dog did not belong to anyone else and that he would follow me home. My grandmother taught us to pray about everything. Since I really wanted that dog, it seemed like a good time to request a little help from the Lord.

The dog followed me home and stayed behind a shrub as I went into our home to change clothes and eat breakfast (but not before I raided the kitchen for anything I thought a dog would like). I placed the food about half way between our house and the sidewalk. When I started for school I saw that the dog had eaten the food, but all I could see were two ears through the shrub. I approached him talking as we all do to our pets. He responded by moving toward me and allowed me to pet his head. I had to leave for school. I was late again but happy. When I got home after school my dog was there waiting for me and he greeted me with reserved enthusiasm. We soon became best friends and had many adventures together. Since he was the largest and strongest dog I'd ever seen, I named him "Big Boy". We had four years together.

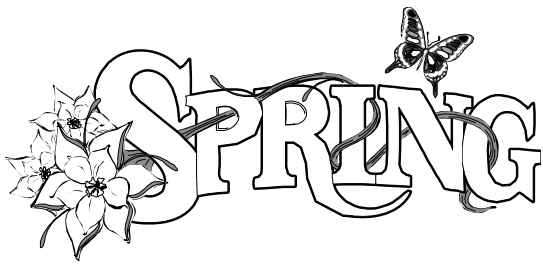
If you have an unusual dog story, I for one will believe you. Big Boy had some unusual adventures. If anyone wants to read two of the best, I will share them at some point. – Larry Hoagland.



EDITOR'S NOTE

Due to budgetary concerns, the Happenings will be created and distributed every other month instead of every month. I look forward to your articles for the next edition in May.

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March

March 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4 Fireside Meal 6:30 pm & Lent Worship Service	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13 Coffee House w/ Larry McGuire & Don Compier	14 Missional Transformation Activity
15 Guest Speaker Don Compier	16	17	18	19	20	21 <i>Work Day at Glenn Wood Hills</i>
22 Baptism al Service – Grady Rogers	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				



April

April 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Fireside Meal at 6:30 pk	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9 7:00 pm <i>Maundy Thursday service</i>	10	11
12 EASTER <i>Easter Sunrise Service, Breakfast, Egg Hunt and Easter Service</i>	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		



Community of Christ

Come Worship With Us

Wednesday Night 7:00 pm Prayer & Testimony Service

Sunday Schedule 9:30 am Congregational Breakfast & fellowship

10:00 am Sunday School for ALL Ages

11:00 am Morning Worship in the Sanctuary



Fully Staffed Nursery Provided Every Sunday for Morning Worship

Church Building is All One Level and Mostly Handicap Accessible



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