



Volume 54
Issue 3
THE TOWER

Message from the Pastor:

Dear Friends,

February has reminded me that we are in a leap year and a presidential election year, so I'll use that extra time to write for a moment about the election.

A few of my colleagues in ordained ministry and teaching positions are beginning to proclaim their backing for specific candidates. I would like publicly to back all three of the major candidates and many of the non-major ones: we have a good selection of decent, intelligent, hard-working people who are taking a lot of time and money, blood, sweat and tears to run for public office--may God, who looks at their hearts and our own, bless them all! And I would like to back our country: we can be glad that Abraham Lincoln's government "of the people, by the people and for the people" has not perished from this earth--God bless the United States of America! And I would like to back our world: God so loved it as to send his own son--God bless the nations and inhabitants of the earth!

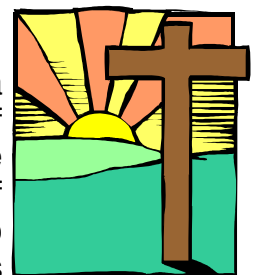
Pastor Jim

A PUBLICATION OF THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

The Tower March 2008

Youth Group Holy Week Activities

The Youth Group will be hosting a Prayer Vigil on Good Friday, March 21, 2008 from 9:30 am – 11:30 am. The Prayer Vigil is a time of prayer, meditation and reflection on the atoning work of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Booklets will be made available that contain Scripture and stories for reading during this time of contemplation. Music will accompany the event. All are invited to attend and join our Youth Group in preparing our hearts and minds for the Easter holiday.



The Youth Group will be hosting an Easter Sunrise Service on Easter Sunday, March 23, 2008 at 7:30 am. The Youth Group will lead us in the entire service that will include hymns, prayer, children's sermon, mini-sermons, a skit, and communion. Please come and watch our Youth lead us in this most important service on Easter. Immediately following the service will be a Continental Breakfast and an Easter Egg Hunt for our little ones (chicks). Please check with you Sunday School teacher to see if your class will be meeting that day.

Please note that Youth Group will be meeting every Sunday evening from 6:00 until 8:00 pm at the church until Easter. We have many things to prepare for Easter.

Blanket Sunday – Many thanks for the support given the annual Blanket Sunday collection for the Church World Service Tools and Blanket Program. To date, \$508 has been received; this included over \$60 from the Sunday School classes. This ministry reaches throughout the world with blankets and tools to help those facing disasters, famine, war, etc.. Special thanks to:

- Pastor Link for his inspiring message with reference to Blanket Sunday
- Kathy Lessman for designing the “Rainbow of Caring” insert for the worship folder
- Karen Holzwarth for using Blanket Sunday for the Children’s Sermon.
- Knittwitters and Prayer Shawl Ministry for participating with the display of lap robes and prayer shawls.

--Sunday School classes whose gifts will pay for 12 of the Church World Service blankets.

A small amount of bedding was collected and will be distributed through the Emergency Center.

To see in more detail how your giving is at work through Church World Service, please see the CWS weekly hotline on the Benevolence Bulletin Board or go online at www.churchworldservice.org.

From the Church Library. . .

Featured on the Library Cart during this time of reflection and meditation during Lent will be books about prayer to encourage thought and meditation.

Books on the cart include:

- The Everything Prayer Book* by Ron Hennies & Sonia Weiss that will help you “learn how to open your heart and soul to find comfort, healing, and hope.”
- Passages of Light* with selected scriptures by Thomas Kinkade, painter of light.
- Lord Teach Me to Pray* by Kay Arthur is a 28 day study that provides practical insights to help you know how to pray, what to pray, and what to expect when you pray.



For the young and young at heart:

- Can I Pray With My Eyes Open?* By Susan Taylor Brown assures all that they can pray when, where, and how they want, and they will always be heard.
- Bless This House* by Leslie Staub with a bedtime prayer that will find a lasting place in the hearts of children of all faiths.
- Give Me Grace* in which author Cynthia Rylant has prayers for kindness, for love, for gratitude and guidance to begin or end a busy day.
- The Lord’s Prayer* with paintings by illustrator Tim Ladwig offers a fresh look at the beloved words of The Lord’s Prayer.

Please feel free to spend some time in the library with a book or take one home.

On March 12, the Benevolence Committee is sponsoring the “Souper” Supper. It will begin at 6:00 p.m. There will be three different soups to choose from including Don’s Vegetable Meat Soup and a vegetarian soup plus fruit, biscuits, crackers, peanut butter and jelly for sandwiches, and brownies. Everyone is invited to attend. If you have never attended a “Souper Supper”, you might wish to give it a try. It is a good chance to get to know other members of the congregation better, and a chance to eat some good food. It is very casual. You don’t have to bring anything but yourself. Join us for an evening of good soup and good fellowship.

WANTED - Lay Readers - Every Sunday the Deacons are responsible for having a lay reader in the pulpit to help the Pastor during the service. We are trying to get more people in front of the congregation. Anyone interested in participating, please see a member of Diaconate so that you can get on the schedule. All ages are welcome. There is no pressure, we would just like to get more people involved in the worship service.

WANTED! - We need volunteers to run the sound board for the new sound system. The new camera has been installed and can also be run from the sound board. Anyone interested, please see Bob Hewett or let the office know. It is not difficult, and this ensure that everyone has a much nicer experience during the worship service.

Schedule Change—Please note that due to Holy Week, the council meeting for March has been changed. Council will meet on Wednesday, March 12 at 7:30 p.m. Anyone from the congregation is welcome to attend. It gives you a chance to see the workings of the church behind the scenes.

Hello Friends!!!!

I’m back from visiting my city cousin. I was helping out as she had had a bad accident with a trap. But she's recovered now and is on a trip to Florida so I was able to come home. And it is nice to be back. I noticed some changes in my church, but I see that you still like to eat. I was there on Lock In night. I not only had a warm sleep sharing Gwen’s sleeping bag but the kids left me enough food for a feast.

I’ve noticed some new people too. That Joel guy seems to be a big presence around the church. I’ll have to get to know him better. Maybe he’ll announce that I’m back.

Last week during church when I was sitting in Stan Jewell’s pocket I was surprised to see Kayla Bencie as Lay Reader. I was glad I could see her over the pulpit. Maybe I’ll be able to do that sometime except I’ll have to have a much higher box to stand on. She was good. Then the chime choir took over. I had climbed upon one of the chimes and fell asleep. Before I knew it Phil Weiss picked up the chime and bonked me on the head. It was B flat. That new Pastor was interesting. He had a blanket wrapped around him. I noticed that he has an old blanket which is really worn out in the closet in his office. I hope he shares with me sometime.

Well, I have to get going. I’m going to take a trip up the street to visit Natalie Nichols. I heard I messed her big birthday party last year. I’ll have to ask her all about it. I do know I’ll be here this year for the big day. Happy Birthday, Natalie!!!!

It’s good to be back. The only problem is those things in the kitchen that make clicking noises. Is there something I should know?

Thank You!!

To the Knitwitters,
My husband is here at Cleveland Clinic having a bone marrow transplant. Some beautiful ladies who are volunteers brought craft items for Valentine's Day and bags for the patients in which we were given this beautiful crocheted afghan. I know each stitch was made with love and compassion. Thank you all so very much. It is truly appreciated and we will keep it and think of what a lovely person took the time to make this for a stranger to keep them warm and let them know that love is all round you if you open your heart and let it in. God bless you all and thank you so very much.

Love
Elmer & Robin Takash

Dear Knitwitters,
I am a bone marrow transplant patient at the Cleveland Clinic and recently received the gift of one of your beautiful throws. It is mauve and blue with a lovely border and accents. I know this was made with kindness, care and prayer. I feel these things are woven into it and it makes me feel comfortable and snug when I place it over my bed. Thanks to each of you for such kindness. It is appreciated.

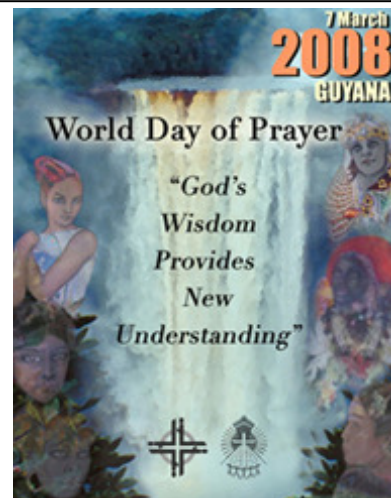
God Bless,
Patricia Hoersten

To the Knitwitters,
Thank you so much.
Blessings,
Crystal Trinity LeDrew

To the Congregation,
"A grateful heart is a happy heart. . .my heart is both." Thank you so much.

My heartfelt thanks goes out to all of my friends at the church who sent cards and called me personally.

God Bless,
Tony (Roberson) & family



World Day of Prayer Service
Friday, March 7
Epiphany Lutheran Church
10503 Valley View Road
Northfield, Ohio
Continental Breakfast 9:30 a.m.
Service begins at 10:00 a.m.
Sponsored by
Church Women United

The women of Guyana invite us to rejoice with them at the astonishing natural beauty of Guyana. Come with us as we acknowledge the Wisdom of God in the marvelous works of creation. The theme, "God's Wisdom Provides New Understanding," is especially meaningful to the women of Guyana. Join us on March 7 as we pray with the women of Guyana and our sisters and brothers around the world.

The Bible explained by kids - truth has been redefined!

In case you're a little foggy on your biblical history, let these junior church students help you with this complete overview of the Bible, compiled from their essays:

In the beginning, which occurred near the start, there was nothing but God, darkness, and some gas. The Bible says, 'The Lord thy God is one,' but I think He must be a lot older than that. Anyway, God said, 'Give me a light!' and someone did. Then God made the world. He split the Adam and made Eve. Adam and Eve were naked, but they weren't embarrassed because mirrors hadn't been invented yet. Adam and Eve disobeyed God by eating one bad apple, so they were driven from the Garden of Eden. Not sure what they were driven in though, because they didn't have cars.

Adam and Eve had a son, Cain, who hated his brother as long as he was Abel. Pretty soon all of the early people died off, except for Methuselah, who lived to be like a million or something.

One of the next important people was Noah, who was a good guy, but one of his kids was kind of a ham. Noah built a large boat and put his family and some animals on it. He asked some other people to join him, but they said they would have to take a rain check.

After Noah came Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Jacob was more famous than his brother, Esau, because Esau sold Jacob his birthmark in exchange for some pot roast. Jacob had a son named Joseph who wore a really loud sports coat.

Another important Bible guy is Moses, whose real name was Charlton Heston. Moses led the Israel Lights out of Egypt and away from the evil Pharaoh after God sent ten plagues on Pharaoh's people. These plagues included frogs, mice, lice, bowels, and no cable. God fed the Israel Lights every day with manicotti. Then He gave them His top ten Commandments. These include don't lie, cheat, smoke, dance, or covet your neighbor's bottom (the Bible uses a bad word for bottom that I'm not supposed to say. But my Dad uses it sometimes when he talks about the President). Oh, yeah, I just thought of one more: Humor they father and they mother.

One of Moses' best helpers was Joshua who was the first Bible guy to use spies. Joshua fought the battle of Geritol and the fence fell over on the town.

After Joshua came David. He got to be king by killing a giant with a slingshot. He had a son named Solomon who had about 300 wives and 500 porcupines. My teacher says he was wise, but that doesn't sound very wise to me. After Solomon there were a bunch of major league prophets. One of these was Jonah, who was swallowed by a big whale and then barfed up on the shore.

There were also some minor league prophets, but I guess we don't have to worry about them. (Cont'd on page 6)

After the Old Testament came the New Testament. Jesus is the star of the New Testament. He was born in Bethlehem in a barn. (I wish I had been born in a barn, too, because my mom is always saying to me, 'Close the door! Were you born in a barn' It would be nice to say, 'As a matter of fact, I was.')

During His life, Jesus had many arguments with sinners like the Pharisees and the Republicans. Jesus also had twelve opossums. The worst one was Judas Asparagus. Judas was so evil that they named a terrible vegetable after him.

Jesus was a great man. He healed many leopards and even preached to some Germans on the Mount. But the Republicans and all those guys put Jesus on trial before Pontius the Pilot. Pilot didn't stick up for Jesus. He just washed his hands instead.

Anyways, Jesus died for our sins, then came back to life again. He went up to Heaven but will be back at the end of the Aluminum. His return is foretold in the book of Revolution.

There! Now you understand it.

Thanks to Ruth Prentice for sending this to the church.

Evening Women's Fellowship

will meet on
Monday, March 3, 2008
at 7:00 p.m.

The program will be line dancing
with Elsie Peel.

Come and join the fun. No experience
necessary.

Women's Fellowship News . . .

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Women's Fellowship

luncheon and meeting

Thursday, March 6, 2008

12:00 Noon Pot Luck luncheon

Bring food to share and table service

President: Lea Bissell

Hostesses: Mary Lou Sheller
& Gail Herrilko

Devotions: Vi Downer

**A cloudy day is no match for a
sunny disposition.**

William Arthur Ward



The Softball Team will be hosting their annual Pancake Breakfast on Sunday March 16th. Serving

hours will be from 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m., then after worship service until 1:00 p.m. There will be no Coffee Hour on that Sunday. Proceeds will go to pay for the softball team fees to play in the league.

Tickets will be available at the door.

Adults - \$5.00;
children 10 and under - \$3.00. Any questions, please see Roni Prentice or Gayle Davet.



March Schedules



March 9, 2008

Tara Schilling
Sophie Keith

March 23, 2008

Vivian Weiss
Kayla Bensie

March 2, 2008

Doug Verbic
Jared Verbic

March 16, 2008

Emma Link
Seth Richner

March 30, 2008

Gwen Richner
Melissa Schilling

The families of the names in **bold** have Acolyte Coordinator Duty and should light the sticks and assist the acolytes.

If you are unable to serve on your assigned week, please find a replacement and notify the church office of the change. Thank you!

March Servers

- Judy Turk
- Bonnie Williams
- Dan Richner
- Rick Sheehan
- Dave Schilling
- Cody Roberts - Bread
- Ken Prentice - Greeters
- Judy Turk - Lay Readers



Communion will be
March 3rd this month and
March 23, Easter Sunday

Holy Week

Schedule of Events

Palm Sunday Service will be held on Sunday, March 16 at 10:30 a.m.

Maundy Thursday Service will be held on Thursday, March 20 at 7:00 p.m.

Youth Group Prayer Vigil will be held on Friday, March 21 from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Good Friday Service will be held here on Friday, March 21 at 7:00 p.m.

Sonrise Service will be held on Sunday, March 23 at 7:30 a.m.

Easter Sunday Service will be held on Sunday, March 23 at 10:30 a.m.

Please be sure to pick up your Easter Lily after the service on Sunday, March 23rd.

**Kathy Lessman's
Piano Student Recital
Saturday, March 15th,
1:30 p.m.
in the Church Sanctuary**

Refreshments following the performances in Fellowship Hall. Everyone is invited to attend. There are some very talented people in this community!



Happy Birthday to:

- Tom Adams
03/04/08
- Olivia Dolfi
03/05/08
- Debbie Dolfi
03/11/08
- Luvette Irvin
03/11/08
- Jan Cook
03/13/08
- Steve Murphy
03/14/08
- Alicia Van Gilder
03/17/08
- Morgan Murphy
03/18/08
- Jonathan Williams
03/19/08
- Robert K. Davet
03/20/08
- Mark Holzwarth
03/20/08
- Sharon Beck
03/20/08
- Sarah Muir
03/20/08
- Cayla Van Gilder
03/22/08
- Isabelle Franks
03/25/08
- Bryan Bensie
03/27/08
- Natalie Nichols
03/28/08
- Kevin Murphey, Sr.
03/30/08
- Seth Richner
03/30/08



If we missed your birthday, please call the church office so we can update our records.

**Lockup Trustee for the
month of March - Ron Valentine**

Celebrating

An Anniversary This Month

Rich & Terri Bissell 3/22/1980

Bob & Bonnie Mayfield 3/21/1981

If we missed your anniversary, please contact the church office to update our records.

ATTENDANCE

Sunday School Worship Service

Jan 27th	47	108
Feb. 3rd	N/A	90
Feb. 10th	29	N/A
Feb 17th	34	80
Feb 24th	58	98



IRISH BLESSING

May you always have. . .
Walls for the wind; a roof for the rain;
tea beside the fire; laughter to cheer you;
those you love near you;
and all your heart might desire.

Inside this issue:

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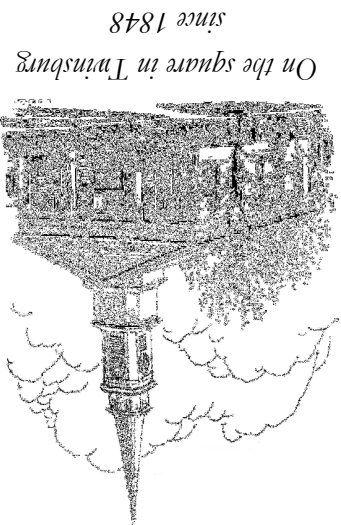
Come worship with us
and bring a friend!
Sunday School 9:15 a.m.
Worship Service 10:30 a.m.

Tower Submissions

Articles for the *Tower* may sent via e-mail directly to the church at firstcongregational.church@windstream.net. Hard copies, CD's, or diskettes may be dropped off at the office.

Tower deadlines are posted on the monthly calendar and in the Sunday worship bulletin. For questions, or to be added to or taken off the mailing list, please send an e-mail or call the church office at 330-425-2181.

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Dated Material—
Please Rush!



e-mail: firstcongregational.church@windstream.net

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