

THE TRUMPET

Vol. 12, No. 14

March/April/May 2015

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pastor's column



Greetings,

We have completed the **Season after the Epiphany**, which ended on **Transfiguration Sunday**, (February 15, 2015), recalling Christ's transfiguration on the mountain with Elijah and Moses.

The Season of Lent:

Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on **Ash Wednesday**, (February 18, 2015), and ends on **Holy Saturday**, (April 4, 2015).

The season is a preparation for celebrating Easter.

Ash Wednesday begins the season where we have an invitation to be honest with God, with ourselves, and with one another. **Ash Wednesday** provides us with an opening to the possibility of transformation. So the question is "Where will it take us?"

Good Friday, (April 3, 2015), is the day our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ was crucified. So welcome as we gather this day, this **Good Friday**, because one day the King of kings came to die that He might offer us life now, and for all eternity. That's why we call it **Good Friday**. (*Good Friday Service will be at noon at Howarth UMC.*)

Lent is a time of reflection on the meaning of our lives in the light of Christ's sacrifice on the cross. He died for us. What have we done for Him? *This Lent, instead of "giving up" a Milky Way bar, let's "take on" a ministry of love, kindness, service and forgiveness.* **Ash Wednesday** gives us a unique opportunity for bringing our lives into alignment with God's purpose for us.

We gather and remember what and who we are on **Ash Wednesday**. And while we gather to remember who we are, more importantly we gather to remember who God

is, and what God has done for us in and through Jesus Christ. **The imposition of Ashes is a powerful way of participating in the call to repentance of our sins and reconciliation with Jesus Christ.*

Perhaps this year we can go beyond trivialities as we recognize that God's desire for each of us is to come into a deeper relationship with Him as we journey through **Lent** to the promise of **Easter's** life.

Easter Season:

The Easter Season, also known as the Great Fifty Days, begins at sunset **Easter Eve**, (April 4, 2015), and continues through the **Day of Pentecost**. (May 24, 2015). *The day of Pentecost is when the Church received the gift of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2).*

It is the most joyous and celebrative season of the Christian year as it focuses on Christ's resurrection and ascension.

Happy Easter!
Pastor Tom

NEWSLETTER

DEADLINE:

May 17, 2015

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

May 14th – 17th.

CROP WALK: May 3, 2015

Be sure to get your pledge sheets. If not walking, please donate generously!

NATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

March – National Women's History Month – celebrates its 35th anniversary using the theme, "Weaving the Stories of Women's Lives." We remember women recognized as historians, scholars, activists and more for their talents, sacrifices and commitments, past and present.

The Rev. Sherry Cothran Woolsey shares the determination of many women who have chosen to detour off the beaten path. After a music career, she traded songwriting for seminary where she became fascinated with Hebrew text. Digging deeply into stories of women in the Old Testament, she found many similarities in the ways people treated women then and now.

"I wanted to unhide some of these women," she said.

Bringing biblical women like the Witch of Endor and Rahab of Jericho out into the open inspired Cothran Woolsey to pick up her guitar again. She composed songs about women of the Bible who, like herself, broke the mold.

In Mary Magdalene, Tabitha and the Samaritan woman, she found spiritual soul mates.

She grew close to Huldah, the prophet, and Deborah, a war hero, arbiter, poet and judge. Cothran Woolsey expects that names like Jephthah, Jael or Sisera will never make it on to pages describing the Women's Movement.

Yet, she said, "There's so much more to their stories."

Use Women's History Month to learn more about women of the Bible. Discover how The United Methodist Church stands strong for equality for all God's children.

PAINT CREEK NEWS:

THANK YOU:

A special thank you to those who participate in the Sunday worship service as scripture readers, doing announcements or assisting with communion. Your willingness to involve yourselves in the service truly makes this a church of the people.



Birthdays & Anniversaries: March

- Ruth Barkham Mar 3
- Bernie Gudobba Mar 4
- Susan Wood Mar 9
- Dick Bourez Mar 9
- Anthony Moggio Mar 15
- Clarke Bonten Mar 20
- Bonnie Murphy Mar 23
- Clara (Voll) Linton Mar 29
- Pastor Tom Mar 29
- Anniversaries**
- John & Judy Mars Mar 30

April

- Anna Jacklin Apr 1
- Chris Lutz Apr 3
- Carrie Barkham Apr 6
- Jessie Kinney Apr 6
- Violet Moggio Apr 7
- Trevor Barkham Apr 10
- Andy Knaack Apr 11
- Richard Poplawski Apr 15
- Robert LaFountain Apr 20
- Cal Devitt Apr 25
- Alyssa Keast Apr 28

Anniversaries (none)

May

- Betty Wilber May 2
- JoAnn Bourez May 4
- Peter Taylor May 5
- Floris Stoner May 9
- Amy Devitt May 13
- Suzu Kelly May 13
- Lois Sayers May 13
- Dottie Spitsbergen May 13
- Shirley Pennington May 14
- Bob Jackson May 18
- Caryl Chamberlin May 19
- Charlie Bonten May 21
- Luke Wylie May 22
- Allie Buchner May 30

Anniversaries

- Jean & Chris Lutz May 1
- Dick & Jo Ann Bourez May 25

PERSON OF FAITH:

Jerolyn Szuch

Jerolyn was born in Ironton, Ohio, a small town on the Ohio River near the Kentucky and West Virginia borders. This is where she spent her early years with her older brother and parents. Her father, Ray Rist, worked for Wilson's Sporting Goods; her mother was a stay-at-home-mom until Jerolyn attended junior high. Her mom then worked as a cashier in the high school cafeteria. Jerolyn's

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Person of Faith cont.

father's job resulted in moves from Ohio to Tennessee, then on to Puerto Rico where school years were interesting indeed. Jerolyn's attended college at Wheaton College in Illinois where she earned a psychology degree. Later she studied management.

Her work experiences include; bank teller, customer service representative and director at a handicapped school for adults (a job she really loved). From there she went on to work at an automotive supply company as a buyer and sales rep. Later served as sales manager at an automotive and design engineering company.

Jerolyn married Bill Szuch in 1991. They met while working together at the same company. Bill had 2 children, Erin and Brett, who moved in with Bill and Jerolyn while the children were in middle school. July 6, 2014 Bill and Jerolyn became grandparents to Olivia.

Jerolyn enjoys many hobbies and interests. She loves to cook, decorate and holding the position of Choral Director at Paint Creek. She enjoys reading, listening to country and gospel music, singing and going for walks. She has played tennis, softball and enjoyed working out at a gym.

Travel has played a big role in Jerolyn's life. She studied in Europe while in college, went on business trips and as a family there were many journey. Including a cruise to Alaska, 5 trips to Ireland, her favorite country to visit.

Jerolyn and Bill lived in the home Clarence Kramer (a

former Paint Creek member who did so many of the beautiful wooden projects around the church) built on Gallagher Road. So when The Oakland County Historical Society was hosting a program at Paint Creek to honor Clarence, they were invited to attend the program. This was Christmas 3 years ago. Jerolyn was so impressed with the church she decided to attend Sunday worship service. She liked the family atmosphere, Pastor Tom and Lois, the people, who she found friendly and caring and the smallness of the church. She then decided to make Paint Creek her church. Jerolyn now tells how supportive church members were during her father's illness.

Presently Jerolyn serves as choral music coordinator. She recently served as worship chairperson and is on the church council.

Jerolyn feels her life has been truly blessed while Paint Creek feels blessed that Jerolyn Szuch has made Paint Creek her church.

Mission Report for 2014

Our final accounting report for 2014 missions has been filed and will make us a spotlight church again. We gave \$8727 to our various missions and also provided groceries and cat and dog food to RANH and the Community House. This makes our giving to nearly \$10,000 for the year. Thank you to those who gave so generously to make this our best year ever for donations.

Missions for 2015

Our missions for this year are: UMRC Heritage Foundation (support Methodist retirement communities), Northern Michi-

gan University Wesley Foundation (support Methodist college students community centers), Rochester Area Neighborhood House, Baldwin Center, Methodist Children's Home Society, N.O.A.H. project (Detroit), Blue Water UM Free Store, Love INC, Randy Hildebrant (missionary U.P. Michigan), Medicine Box, Homelessness in the U.S., Red Bird Mission, Imagine No Malaria, Heifer Project, Society of St. Andrews, Haiti Hot Lunch Program, Bishop Judith Craig's Orphanage (Liberia) and Water for Life. We will also support 6 special Sunday collections, CROP walk, food for warming center in March, Christmas baskets and Christmas gifts through the Giving Tree program and for the Community House program and Food Pantry (RANH program).

INTERCHURCH WOMEN:

March 2, 2015 St. Andrew Catholic Church, Fr. Stanley Ulman from St. Mary "The Mission of the Vicariate"

April 6, 2015 Crown of Life Lutheran Church, Rochester Police Chief Steve Schettenhelm "Safety for Women & Rochester Greatest Needs"

May 4, 2015 *Paint Creek United Methodist Church*, Rev. Gretchen Denton.

Paint Creek welcomes our new Financial Secretary, Judy Mair. As you may know, the financial secretary deposits the offerings into our account at Chase Bank, and submits data to Sharon Rowden, secretary for Howarth & Paint Creek. Sharon keeps track of all donations and issues a report to each donor at year's end.

Judy works closely with me, the treasurer, so that I know what funds have been deposited. I then can disburse funds to pay the bills and I keep the checking account balanced.

We want to express our appreciation to our outgoing financial secretary, Becky Weger. Well done, Becky...thank you@

HOWARTH NEWS:



Birthdays & Anniversaries: March

Pat Pollitt	Mar 14
Betty Paulson	Mar 17
Kevin LaCourse	Mar 19
Erin Spencer	Mar 21
Jennifer Howden	Mar 25
Pastor Tom	Mar 29

Anniversaries (none)

April

Brianna Howden	Apr 3
John Pollitt	Apr 4
Robert (RJ) Key	Apr 6
Tim Spencer	Apr 7
Mathew Spencer	Apr 7
Christine Kim	Apr 8
Ashley Howden	Apr 13
Ashley Sandstrom	Apr 15
Stephanie Lamas	Apr 18
Nickoli Nelson	Apr 24
Barb Hill	Apr 26
Ruth Lambert	Apr 26
Hunter Lamas	Apr 28

Anniversaries

Randy & Stephanie Lamas	Apr 10
Ray & Rita Sauls	Apr 15
Dave & Sue Linsenman	Apr 19
Scott & Jennifer Howden	Apr 24

May

Dawn (Pollitt) Key	May 1
Katie Nelson	May 1
Angela LaCourse	May 7
Erika LaCourse	May 8
Lois Sayers	May 13
Thomas Spencer	May 14
PJ Sandstrom	May 15
Paul Hamman	May 19
Rick Rowden	May 30
Carl Paulson	May 30
Ray Sauls	May 30

Anniversaries

John & Pat Pollitt	May 9
Jim & Pat Staley	May 14

Thank you to...

Paul Sandstrom for organizing the Spaghetti dinner benefit for Love, Inc. Our total donation to Love, INC. was \$1,300. Thanks to everyone that helped out and those of you who were patrons!

Pastor Tom for a beautiful and meaningful Christmas Eve Service. (And all the other services throughout the year!)

Lois Sayers for being our Sunday School teacher. A lot of time goes into preparing for each week, and we appreciate your dedication.

For all the cards, phone calls, visits and food from Howarth and Paint Creek while I recuperated from a broken ankle. Truly was appreciated by both of us! Sharon

Thanks to everyone at Howarth and Paint Creek for all the cards, prayers, visits and calls. Love, Randy, Stephanie and Hunter.

HOWARTH UMW NEWS:

U.M.W. Meeting will be held on March 8th right after the church service, to discuss and make our dinner schedule. Everyone is invited to attend the meeting.

Thank you notes for the gift of money at Christmas were received from Pastor Tom and Lois, Rita and Sharon.

Marilyn Foster,
President UMW

REMINDER:

Howarth still collecting, used postage stamps, Campbell's labels and eyeglasses/and cases.

Also, don't forget to bring in your quarters for the Love, INC. Laundry Mission.

Money in the "gas can" collected at coffee hour goes to Love, INC. to purchase gas cards.

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WHAT HAPPENS IN
HEAVEN WHEN WE PRAY?

I dreamed that I went to Heaven and an angel was showing me around. We walked side-by-side inside a large workroom filled with angels. My angel guide stopped in front of the first section and said, "This is the Receiving Section. Here, all petitions to God said in prayer are received." I looked around in this area, and it was terribly busy with so many angels sorting out petitions written on voluminous paper sheets and scraps from people all over the world.

Then we moved on down a long corridor until we reached the second section. The angel then said to me, "This is the Packaging and Delivery Section. Here, the graces and blessings the people asked for are processed and delivered to the living persons who asked for them." I noticed again how busy it was there. There were many angels working hard at that station, since so many blessings had been requested and were being packaged for delivery to Earth.

Finally at the farthest end of the

long corridor we stopped at the door of a very small station. To my great surprise, only one angel was seated there, idly doing nothing. "This is the Acknowledgment Section" my angel friend quietly admitted to me. He seemed embarrassed. "How is it that there is no work going on here?" I asked. "So sad," the angel sighed. "After people receive the blessings that they asked for, very few send back acknowledgments." "How does one acknowledge God's blessings?" I asked. "Simple," the angel answered. "Just say, 'Thank you, Lord.'" "What blessings should they acknowledge?" I asked.

"If you have food in the refrigerator, clothes on your back, a roof overhead and a place to sleep you are richer than 75% of this world."

"If you have money in the bank, in your wallet, and spare change in a dish, you are among the top 8% of the world's wealthy, and if you get this on your own computer, you are part of the 1% in the world who has that opportunity."

"If you woke up this morning with more health than illness... You are

more blessed than the many who will not even survive this day."

"If you have never experienced the fear in battle, the loneliness of imprisonment, the agony of torture, or the pangs of starvation... You are ahead of 700 million people in the world."

"If you can attend a church without the fear of harassment, arrest, torture or death you are envied by, and more blessed than, three billion people in the world."

"If your parents are still alive and still married... you are very rare."

"If you can hold your head up and smile, you are not the norm, you're unique to all those in doubt and despair..." "Ok" I said "What now? How can I start?"

The Angel said, "If you can read this you are more blessed than over two billion people in the world who cannot read at all."

Have a good day, count your blessings, and if you care to, pass this along to remind everyone else how blessed we all are...

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