

WHAT'S GOIN' ON!

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February 28, 2009

CLIFTON PRESBYTERIAN NEWS SERVICE

Letter from Pastor Lynn

As we journey this season through Lent, which began on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday, we are reminded that this six week season was traditionally a time in the church when new converts were prepared for baptism and communion on Easter morning.

The English word "Lent" comes from the German word for "long" because it occurs in the spring as the days are lengthening. Lent is a season of forty days excluding the Sundays which are always "little Easters" throughout the year culminating in the great celebration of Easter Sunday and the resurrection.

Just as Jesus spent 40 days in the wilderness fasting, praying and turning away from temptation before he began his public ministry, we are invited in this season to renew our lives and faith through "Holy Habits" or

"spiritual practices" as we call them in the BLAST and adult education study, *Beginnings: The Spiritual Life*.

These habits and practices are actions like those of Christ that Mark describes in his gospel in our Sunday morning Scripture readings. Mark emphasizes what Jesus DID rather than what he SAID.

Habits and practices keep us focused on and attached to Christ and open our lives to the work of the Holy Spirit. These include worship, courage and risk, love, centering and prayer, simplicity and fasting, giving, serving, trusting, studying and questioning and engaging with others locally and around the world.

I hope you take the opportunity to invite the Holy Spirit to empower you to adopt a few of these habits and practices that may be new to you, or

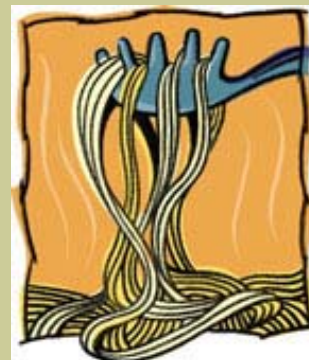


that have simply fallen out of your daily routine.

I also encourage you to enjoy this year's Lenten journey, for we are Easter people who know that after every Good Friday in our lives, there's always God's gift of new life because of Christ's death and resurrection.

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CPC Ski Trip 2009: Sarah Lanier

Being one of the twenty-some odd youth who went on the "CPC Ski Trip 09", I can tell you it was definitely a blast! Not only was the weather beautiful enough to allow us to leave behind the bulky clothes, but all of the slopes were still open! From February 6-8, CPC Youth traveled up to Massanutten Ski Resort for a weekend of skiing, snowboarding, snow tubing, games, friendship, and learning more about Jesus Christ.

With the help of Pastor Jen, Dale Stanton-Hoyle, David Wright, and previous youth group member Amanda, the current CPC youth were in great hands. Many of the youth brought out friends to share the experience with, and as the friends told others, they were very glad they came! The youth gathered each night to learn about Joseph's perseverance, and how his stories in the Bible truly relate to our everyday lives. Topics such as: Jealousy, grief, family problems, honesty, suffering (among many others) were the lessons we focused on, while traveling through Joseph's story in Genesis. Before our Bible lessons each night, we played a few games led by Pastor Jen and truly had an amazing time. New friendships were quickly formed, and by sharing personal experiences with each other, all of us bonded and shared our faith with each other.

The skiing and snowboarding was awesome! The youth split off into small groups with friends of the same expertise level, and while some were having an awesome time on the green slopes, others were pushing it up to the black diamonds. As always, races took place, along with a few falls here and there... but overall, (as always) it was really fun! If you haven't had the opportunity to go on one of the CPC Ski Trips yet, next year is the year for you! It really is a blast and something I always look back on with a smile. I know I speak for all of the youth when I say thank you to everyone who made this possible for us!

Clifton Presbyterian Church

Annual Spaghetti Dinner and Silent Auction

"All You Can Eat!"

Saturday
March 7, 2009
5-8 p.m.



Adults: \$9; Children 5-12 \$6.50
(4 and under eat free!)

Letter from Pastor Jen

One of the great blessings of my call here at CPC is the opportunity to be inspired by the youth of this church. I have often said that the youth at CPC are our great evangelists, and even a partial list of the friends CPC youth have invited to church events over the last three years.

Whether the youth have grown up here or have only attended a few years or months, the commitment to mission by this church is lived out by all of our youth. They take seriously the words of the 14th Century nun, St. Teresa of Avila, that "God has no hands but our hands to do his work today."

Many of our youth events, from Club 56 to the Senior Highs, are centered on mission to others: fleece blanket tying, emergency kits for church world service, serving at SOME, trips to SERVE for Christmas parties and trips to WFCM, volunteering at Clifton Day and the Spaghetti Dinner.

When we serve, we know we are following the commandment of Jesus in *John 13:34*: "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you." *It is because we are loved by God that we are called to love others, and we show our love to others when we serve those that Jesus did: the*

hungry and the forgotten.

On March 6th and 7th, the youth (and many of their friends!) will once again participate in the 30-hour famine. It is a shocking and upsetting statistic, that 18,000 children under the age of 5 will die every day due to solely hunger and malnutrition, and another 8,000 will die every day due to preventable diseases that rarely affect us in America.

Every year we hear this statistic (last year we made 18,000 thumb prints to represent each death as one of our famine activities) and each year it just takes the breath out of us.

Our youth will fast, many for the full 30 hours, and ask for sponsors from the church, family and friends. The funds raised will go to World Vision. Last year we raised \$1,000, enough money to keep three children alive for an entire year, which is something to celebrate! This year we hope to raise \$1,800, enough money to keep five children alive for an entire year.

Our youth also want to raise awareness about hunger by doing the 30-hour famine, and know this is a chance to witness to their friends and neighbors about why they do the famine, because of God's love for each of them!

Please keep these amazing, inspiring youth in your prayers as they fast for, pray for, and serve those who go hungry in our world.



Dispatch #2 from Kenya

Date: Mon, 23 Feb 2009 10:22:21 -0800
From: reimersmkdi@yahoo.com
Subject: Reimers Update

Greetings All,

Our time here is growing short. Still lots to do. Feel good about progress. Early morning visit to a primary school. Very bright cheery students. Lots of water activities--our rain harvesting tank was complete, still need work on the collection (gutter) system. They had a hand-dug well and bucket on a rope. It has continuous water--not for drinking. There is a future potential to tie into piped water, but it will not be dependable, so a storage tank is still needed.

We visited a Women Group of 12. They completed small tanks between 2003 and 2007. All were working with pretty good gutters. They had water even after a fairly long dry period. Two older sons of one household had built, on their own, two new tanks. The women are now working on a poultry raising project. All and all, it is just what we would hope for in sustainability and development.

Tomorrow is our close out then travel to Nairobi on Wednesday.

It is a special privilege to provide much-needed housing, food, and water assistance to people in areas and countries poorer than ours.



Prayer Request Corner

Intercessory Prayer is an important part of worship at Clifton Presbyterian Church. Please feel free to tear off and return this form so we can add your prayers to ours.
