

# Faith notes!

February 7, 2010

## Notes From Your Missions Committee

**Toiletry Kit Project** ~ The Jr/Sr High Sunday School class will be assembling toiletry kits for the Lowell Transitional Living Center on Sunday, February 28<sup>th</sup>. If you have recently collected items from your business or pleasure travel, please bring them to church in the next few weeks. We accept travel sized shampoo, conditioner, soap, lotion, and dental care products for the kits, and we also accept new cosmetics and perfume, which we donate to Alternative House, a shelter for victims of domestic violence. Thank you for your support of this ongoing project.

**Lowell Transitional Living Center** ~ Have plans for Wednesday or Thursday evening? If not, perhaps you'd like to bake brownies from 7-9pm on Wednesday in the TCC kitchen or serve a meal at LTLC on Thursday from 5:30-6:30. Sign-up sheets for both – and to supply brownie ingredients – are located on the helping hands bulletin board.

**Countdown to “Blanket Sunday”** ~ Three weeks to go.... February 28<sup>th</sup>!

## Lenten Devotional Available

A number of copies of **“From Fear to Love”** by Henri J. M. Nouwen are available. If you would like to journey into the scriptures during Lent, please pick up one of these devotional booklets. **“From Fear to Love”** contains reflections on the parable of the Prodigal Son. Nouwen was one of the greatest spiritual writers of our time. Meditative writings begin with Ash Wednesday (February 17<sup>th</sup>), *‘Create in me a clean heart, O God’*...and Nouwen writes three short paragraphs explaining that verse from Psalm 51:10. Booklets are available on the table located outside the church office.

## *Notes on worship (from the Pastor)*

**Getting to worship, especially if you have a small child, can be an effort in these cold winter months. How do you make the most of the worship experience?**

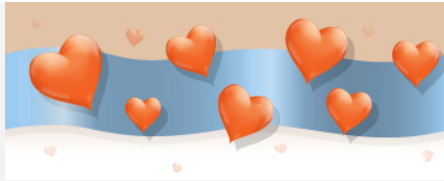
**First, it is helpful to know some of the customs of the worship service. For instance, today on a communion Sunday (these always happen the first Sunday of the month) we are using a statement of faith to remind ourselves of the ‘communion’ of mind and heart that we enjoy as we gather for this special sacrament. We also remind our friends and guests that the communion table is open to all who sense its invitation to an open relationship with God.**

**Second, it is good to remember that you do not need to do more than show up to actually experience worship. Especially for those with responsibilities, it is so good to remember that worship is about something simple, not complicated. We are here to say with our words and presence that we are available to God’s Spirit. And so we expect to receive something from God in the process.**

**Finally, we prepare for worship all week, seeking God’s presence within our lives. Like Peter, God can find us there too... if we are open. For these encounters we practice being loving and open, listening to God in prayer, and reading the sacred text. Leaving worship we open our hearts to a week of response to God’s Presence.**

“I desire to conduct the affairs of this administration that if at the end, when I come to lay down the reins of power, I have lost every other friend on earth, I shall at least have one friend left, and that friend shall be down inside of me.”

- Abraham Lincoln



Coming Soon **Valentine's Day** and with it two of our women's groups are actively engaged in Valentine activities.

Members of the **Ladies Aid** will meet **Wednesday, February 10<sup>th</sup>** at **noon** for their monthly luncheon and program. Please bring two-dozen cookies to the meeting.

Members of **Friendship Circle** will meet **Thursday, February 11<sup>th</sup>** at **9:00am** for their monthly program that includes devotions, and a Valentine card-crafting workshop. Come and join the fun!

Both **Ladies Aid** and **Friendship Circle** programs are open to **all** women in the church.

### Today

#### **CYE Rehearsal**

8:30am, Fairgrieve Room

#### **Junior Choir**

9am, Fairgrieve Room

#### **Coffee Hour**

10:30am, Fellowship Hall

#### **Cherub Choir**

10:45am, Room 9

#### **Youth Choir Festival Rehearsal**

11:00am, Fairgrieve Room

#### **Confirmation Mentor Session**

11:00am

#### **Sr. Youth Group**

5:30pm – Field Trip to Nashoba Valley

#### **Jr. Youth Group Meeting**

6:00pm – Game night!

Don't forget **Jr. Youth 'Souper Bowl Sunday'** today. Please put your spare change in their **'Souper Bowls'**! Collection will help feed the hungry.

Last Sunday's *Faith Notes* noted that **Dick Leighton** would be in full Boy Scout uniform as the Boy Scouts are celebrating their 100<sup>th</sup> year. Dick wasn't in uniform as he said Boy Scout Sunday is February 7<sup>th</sup>. Since this is my last issue of *Faith Notes*, I hope you will excuse my error and join me in wishing many more prosperous years of Scouting especially to Dick who celebrates his 64<sup>th</sup> year in Scouting. ***Congratulations, Dick!***

#### Monday

**3:30 PM**

Kids' Drama Team

**6:00 PM**

Jubellation

Ringers

**7:30 PM**

Carillon

Ringers

#### Tuesday

**6:00 PM**

Deacon's Meeting

**7:15 PM**

ABC's

#### Wednesday

**11:00 AM**

Prayer Circle

**7:00 PM**

'How to Listen to God Workshop'

**7:00 PM**

Brownie

Baking

#### Thursday

**7:30 PM**

Senior Choir

Rehearsal

**Reminder**, there are only seven days until all Annual Reports must be received by Christopher Jenkins. Christopher has asked that you e-mail him your report in *MS Word* format to

[Jenkins@gwmail.gwu.edu](mailto:Jenkins@gwmail.gwu.edu)

The report deadline is February 14<sup>th</sup>

#### **JoJo Scharmer** who leads our Jr.

Youth Group Sunday evenings and is actively involved at TCC is facilitating a workshop based on I Samuel 3. The workshop, *'How to Listen to God'* will be held in the church parlor on Wednesday evening, **February 10<sup>th</sup>** from **7:00-8:45pm**. The Religious Education Committee sponsors this program.

#### **Ash Wednesday is February 17<sup>th</sup>.**

An evening service will be held at TCC at 7:30pm in the Sanctuary. Please plan to attend. This is a time set aside for prayer, meditation and silent reflection as well as the imposition of ashes, if desired.

**2010 Applications for the TCC Scholarship Fund are available and located upstairs near the mailboxes close to the church office. The deadline for submitting an application is Sunday, May 16<sup>th</sup>.**

The month of February in the US is commemorated as **\*Black History Month**. During this month African- Americans, who have helped change the world are commemorated by people of all walks of life. Black History Month began as "Negro History Week," which was created in 1926 by Carter G. Woodson, a noted African- American historian, scholar, educator, and publisher. It became a month-long celebration in 1976. The month of February was chosen to coincide with the birthdays of Frederick Douglass (one of the foremost leaders of the abolitionist movement, which fought to end slavery within the US in the decades before the Civil War) and Abraham Lincoln (16th US president most remembered for his Emancipation Proclamation, which declared slaves free).

*\*Information obtained from the Internet*

### Sunday School Notes

We welcome Sunday School students in grades 2 and 3 and their teachers as they join us in communion today.

**Reminder:** There is no Sunday School *next* Sunday, February 14<sup>th</sup>, the beginning of school vacation week.