
Elk Grove Presbyterian Church

Proclaiming Good News...
Nurturing Spiritual Growth...
Celebrating God's Love...
Praying for God's World...
Serving God's Children...
A Caring Place to Grow...

*Elk Grove
Presbyterian
Church seeks
to:*

*Help people to
discover and be
good stewards of
their God given
gifts of time,
talents, and other
treasures;*

*Build on our
strengths in
education,
mission, and
membership
care;*

*And develop
programs to
address the
spiritual needs of
youth and
seekers, as well
as current
members.*

“It’s Still about Jesus”

By Ann Weems

No matter how we dilute the word of God,
It’s about Jesus.
No matter how we cover the dangerous Truth of the gospel,
It’s about Jesus.
No matter how we pretty up the story,
It’s about Jesus.
No matter how many times we go to our national assemblies and vote,
It’s still about Jesus.
No matter how many times we distract ourselves with meetings
And church work and the good ole Stewardship Campaign,
It’s still about Jesus,
Jesus, the Lamb of God,
Jesus, The Light of the world,
Jesus, the Bread of Life,
Jesus, the Prince of Peace,
Jesus, the One chosen to bring good news to the poor,
Jesus, the one sent to proclaim liberty to the captives
and to set free the oppressed.

Jesus is my shepherd
I shall not
I shall not want.

As you continue your Lenten journey, may you grow more and more in the knowledge that no matter how, no matter what, it is in fact all about Jesus. As you enter Holy Week, may your focus be all about Jesus. As you awaken on Easter morning and live out the rest of your life in the Good News of the resurrection, may you always know the truth, the power, and the hope that is yours just because it is still all about Jesus and in Jesus, we do not want!

In his steps,
Rev. Lynne

Session Highlights

At its regular monthly meeting on March 15, 2011, the Session...
 ... went so well I forgot it was the first meeting of the new Session!
 ...reviewed and approved monthly reports
 ...approved current Mission plans for the year
 ...discussed various worship concerns for the upcoming seasons



Holy Week

Holy Week will begin on **Palm Sunday, April 17**. Join us for worship as we remember that day of ironies. Our **Good Friday service will be Friday, April 22 at 7:00 p.m.** Once more, we will have a surprise visit from an eyewitness to the events of that fateful day so long ago. We will gather again on **Easter Sunday, April 24** for worship at 10:15 when we will rejoice at the miracle of the resurrection! May this Lenten journey and Holy Week itself hold God moments for all of us!

Annual Banner/Sanctuary Clean-Up

On Good Friday, April 22, all the banners are removed from the sanctuary. This is a great time to clean them with a good vacuuming. (Would you believe spider webs on the crown of thorns?) On **Saturday, April 23 at 9:00 a.m.**, we will be having our annual banner/sanctuary "clean-up." Anyone with a dust buster should bring it along so we can do several at a time. At the same time, we polish the pews and take care of some other cleaning items in the sanctuary that are not part of the janitorial service. We'd really like to see people of all ages there. This is definitely a case where many hands make light work. There will be donuts. Pink frosting. Chocolate. Now there's a sweet deal!!



April Celebrations!

Birthdays:

01 – Steve Curtin
 04 – Chris Curtin
 14 – Gil Wishon
 17 – Carol Ortner

Anniversaries:

24 – Johnston
 25 – Jasutis/McKillop



Update for your Directory – Again!

Oops – few things need to be "exact," but email addresses do. Please change your church family directory to show the following email address for Sandy Doerr:

srdoerr1@sbcglobal.net

...and for the Clarbour's

bertnmike@gmail.com

...and for Bob Miezio:

robertmiezio@yahoo.com



Pastoral Care

I am again reminded of the visible and invisible angels among this congregation, as I saw **Joyce and Walt Stempien's daughter Jan** while shopping in Elk Grove. She got teary-eyed several times as she wanted me to thank all of you who visit her parents and their caregiver, Charlie. "I don't know how I could have handled the last 3 years without this wonderful congregation." Your love, visits, cards and prayers are a joy to all who receive them.

Our committee has approved another **Life-Line Screening** to be held at our church this coming November. More info will follow. Heartfelt gratitude to this committee who has agreed to stay on for this year: **Kathy Lopez, Bert Clarbour and Crissy Johnston.**

GIVING UP (At a loss for Lent)

Let's see, what will I lose for Lent?
 Enthusiastic, I'll consent.
 No chocolate treat or coffee drink
 Till Easter comes? Let me rethink.

Let's see, what could I do without?
 Exceptions riddle me with doubt.
 No TV, internet or game
 Till Easter's here? I bow with shame.

Let's see, what sacrifice is best?
 Endurance is a lofty quest.
 No great ascetic goal can hold
 Till Easter sun, the truth be told.

Let's see, why do I yet fall short?
 Each promise I may yet abort.
 No sacrifice; I'm at a loss.
 Till I fall down, there at the cross.

Let's see, what does the Savior do?
 Embracing me, He sees me through.
 No giving up, save all my sin,
 The Lord has made me new again.

Linda Ann Nickerson

Lenten Blessings,
Arlene Dean
 Pastoral Care Chair



Food Pantry

Many thanks to **Jan Fall** and **Donna Stall** for substituting for me while Bert and I were on vacation. They had great back-up from the day crew.

One notable donation came in after our return--the organizer of the Little Boots Foundation has an "in" with Pepperidge Farm. Little Boots puts on a rodeo for 3-12 year olds every year in Elk Grove Village. On March 10, 45 cases of Pepperidge Farm products were delivered, including Goldfish, cookies, and crackers. It was a bit overwhelming, but we got most of it shoe-horned into the pantry. We will share some with Pine Avenue Presbyterian's food pantry and continue to provide our clients with some tasty treats.

Nancy Clarbour
 Food Pantry Coordinator

Missions

Many thanks for making the Bread Sale such a success. We collected \$146.50. I trust you have enjoyed the baking talents of our congregation. Bread Sale proceeds and monetary donations will go to Bread for the World.

Check the Mission Board. There are thank you letters from Pine Avenue Food Pantry, Elk Grove Township, and the Ronald McDonald House.

As we look ahead to April and Easter, you will be hearing about the annual One Great Hour of Sharing offering. Each week during April there will be inserts in the bulletin telling about the donations to OGHs at work here in the United States and other parts of the world. Also there will be offering envelopes and boxes for the children.

One Great Hour of Sharing is an ecumenical program which originated after World War II. The Presbyterian Church USA has three divisions of funds—Disaster Relief, Hunger, and Self-Development of People.

Nancy Chamberlin
 Missions Committee Chair



Worship Committee News

In April we celebrate the most important holiday of the church year: Easter. The death and resurrection of Jesus is central to Christianity and to our individual salvation. The contrast between the utter dejection of Good Friday and the overwhelming triumph of Easter within three days is the greatest change one can experience. Please put **April 17, Palm Sunday; April 22, Good Friday; and April 24 Easter** on your calendars and plan to spend time in worship with your Elk Grove Presbyterian family.

In a week or so there will be a form in the bulletin to order Easter plants. You can order lilies in memory of someone or to be given to one of our current pastoral care recipients. The lilies will be in church Easter morning, brightening the sanctuary and giving it a pleasant smell. You may pick up your lily after the service on Easter.

Marge Frens
 Worship Committee Chair

Christian Education

We are into the "Spring Break" of Sunday school, in between Christmas and Easter, during Lent. In the coming months the children will be focusing on Lent, Palm Sunday, Easter, and then the culmination of the year with a program during Worship.

There are many upcoming events for the children:

4/3 – distribution of the One Great Hour of Sharing fish banks during Children’s Time

4/10 – making palm crosses with Eve-Muir Wilson during Sunday school time

4/17 – handing out palm crosses to members/guests as well as a palm processional during Worship

4/24 – Easter Sunday – turn in fish banks and Easter egg hunt upstairs immediately following class/worship

6/5 – Celebration Sunday – Children’s Program during worship and Walking Taco lunch

The teachers and I are in the middle of looking at new curriculum for next year. There are many choices available to us so it is not an easy decision. We are confident thought that we will find something for our unique situation. We are also setting the slate for teachers for next year and are always looking for new ideas and talent in this field. If you are wanting to work with children teaching them God’s word or are interested in the administration side of it, please contact me for more information.

Betsy Curtin
Christian Ed. Chair



Hospitality Committee

Hospitality is a strong, yet warm word that we express as we extend our hand of welcome to all as they enter our church doors. As we serve as Greeters/Ushers we need to be conscious of visitors who choose to worship with us. They may be "church shopping". We have been known to be a very friendly church and we certainly are. Introduce yourself and ask their name(s). Offer them an information packet that is on the table near you, direct them to the sanctuary, point out the coat rack and Fellowship Hall where they are welcome to share time and refreshments with the Elk Grove Presbyterian Church family after worship. If possible, give their names(s) to Rev. Lynne so she might have the opportunity to introduce herself and greet them before the worship service begins.

Our committee had a meeting on March 1. We had some good discussions and talked of future activities. We will be having another "Gathering" on Saturday, May 21. A sign-up sheet will be posted by May 1. Think of joining your church

family for an enjoyable evening of **Fellowship, Faith, Friendship, Food and Fun.**

As always, keep in your thoughts – a joy to serve – and sign up as a Greeter/Usher or a Fellowship Host/Hostess. A three-month sheet is on the board for your convenience in planning ahead. Individual church committees have signed up to be a Fellowship Host/Hostess one Sunday per month. Thank you to all who have served in these roles.

Our next Hospitality Committee meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, May 3 in the meeting room following our Tuesday morning Bible Study.

Barbara Britton
Hospitality Chair

Evangelism – it’s for Everyone!

I have a request to make of you. Please think back, maybe a week or two, and see if you can find a time or situation where you took an opportunity to share your faith with someone else. It might have been in a very small way, maybe large. But you took that time to be a witness for Christ in your life. Please jot down a few lines about it, and leave it in my mailbox. You don’t have to sign it...

I’d like to share some of these in future “tidings.”
Thanks!

Donna Rice
Evangelism Chair



Working Toward a Greener Earth

Continued from last month’s “tidings”:

- 26. Share rides or use public transportation.
- 27. Buy a fuel-efficient car. Aim for 35 miles per gallon.
- 28. Read labels and research the products you buy.
- 29. Don't use excessive amounts of detergent. Presoak dirty laundry.
- 30. Insulate your basement to save 1/3 on your heat bill.
- 31. Buy products packaged in recycled paper or cardboard.
- 32. Caulk and weather-strip doors and windows.

33. Ask your utility company for an energy audit to assess energy waste in your home.
34. Install water-conserving showerheads and sink-faucet aerators.
35. Insulate your water heater. Turn it down to 121 degrees F.
36. Limit or eliminate your use of "disposable" items.
37. Close off unused areas of your home. Shut off or block heat vents.
38. Compare Energy Guide labels when buying appliances.

Barbara Britton



Treasurer's Report

Information thru February 28, 2011:

February 2011 Financial Summary				
	Feb. Budget	Feb. Actual	YTD Budget	YTD Actual
Pledge Income	\$7,807	\$5,623	\$15,614	\$12,154
Total Income	\$8,294	\$7,685	\$16,588	\$14,665
Total Expenses	\$8,850	\$8,681	\$17,700	\$17,932

Our Pledge Income for February was **under** budget by over \$2,300 and **under** budget by **over** \$3,500 for the Year To Date! *This is not a very good trend.* Our Total Income was **under** budget by a little over \$600 for the month and **under** Budget by a little under \$2,000 for the year.

Our Expenses are still looking good, **under** our \$200 monthly budget. Our Year To Date figures are a little over \$200 **over** budget for the year – not too bad, considering the weather in February.

PER CAPITA: February was an excellent month for contributions to our per capita requirements. We are now at over 80% of our nonbudgeted amount. If you have not paid your per capita yet, please do so. We should pay the Presbytery by the end of March. For those who have turned yours in, **thank you.**



Once again, I thank you for your generosity toward this church and its various missions.

Bob Russow
Treasurer

As we go through Lent
and toward Holy Week,
may you be blessed
by Christ's presence in
your life.
May this be a
very special time
for you and your
family.



April

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
					1 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Alexian Bros. Labyrinth	2 7:30 a.m. – Men’s Break- fast at the Rose Garden
3 10:15 a.m. – Worship Service with Communion	4	5 9:30 a.m. – Women’s Bible Study	6 9:30 a.m. – Interfaith Mtg. 6:45 p.m. – Lenten Study 7:30 p.m. – AA Meeting	7 1:00-2:00 p.m. 7:00-8:00 p.m. Food Pantry/ 3:00-8:00 p.m. Interfaith Labyrinth at Christus Victor/ 8:00 p.m. – Choir Practice	8	9 7:30 a.m. – Men’s Break- fast at the Rose Garden
10 10:15 a.m. – Worship Service	11	12 9:30 a.m. – Women’s Bible Study / 1:00 p.m. – Presbytery Mtg. at Chicago First	13 6:45 p.m. – Lenten Study 7:30 p.m. – AA Meeting	14 1:00-2:00 p.m. 7:00-8:00 p.m. Food Pantry 8:00 p.m. – Choir Practice	15	16 7:30 a.m. – Men’s Break- fast at the Rose Garden
17 Palm Sunday  10:15 a.m. – Worship Service Food Pantry Collection / <i>tidings</i> articles due	18	19 9:30 a.m. – Women’s Bible Study 7:00 p.m. – Session	20 7:30 p.m. – AA Meeting	21 1:00-2:00 p.m. 7:00-8:00 p.m. Food Pantry	22 Good Friday  7:00 p.m. – Worship Service / Choir rehearsal after Service	23 7:30 a.m. – Men’s Break- fast at the Rose Garden 9:00 a.m. – Banner/ Sanctuary Clean-Up
24 Easter  10:15 a.m. – Worship Service with Communion	25	26 9:30 a.m. – Women’s Bible Study	27 7:30 p.m. – AA Meeting	28 1:00-2:00 p.m. 7:00-8:00 p.m. Food Pantry 8:00 p.m. – Choir Practice	29	30 7:30 a.m. – Men’s Break- fast at the Rose Garden

Please email *tidings* articles to Donna Rice at drice@schiffhardin.com and ohhdonna@aol.com, plus a copy to the church office at egpreschurch@sbcglobal.net. Please use EGPC in the subject of your emails. Articles for the **May tidings** are due on Sunday, **April 17**. (Note this is one week earlier than normal.)