

St. Paul's Chronicles

March 2011 Issue

OFFER YOUR PRAYERS FOR:

The families of Lois VanderWeele and Kim Kuzma who left us in January.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

What's Happening This Month:

Sunday	March 6th
<i>First Communion</i>	
Wednesday	March 9th
<i>Ash Wednesday</i>	
Sunday	March 13th
<i>Spring Forward-Daylight Savings</i>	
Wednesdays	March 16,23,30
<i>Lenten Discussion</i>	
Thursday	March 17th
<i>St. Patrick's Day</i>	
Sunday	March 20th
<i>Spring Begins!</i>	
Monday	March 21st
<i>Congregational Council Mtg.</i>	

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME



AND SPRING ARRIVE!

Turn your clocks ahead one hour on Sunday morning, March 13th at 2:00 a.m. Then Spring arrives the next week on Sunday, March 20th!

St. Patrick's Day
Thursday, March 17th



WELCOME to the newest members of your Congregational Council. At the Annual Congregational Meeting on January 30, 2011 you elected three new council members:
Mike Schrecengost—Worship & Music Shelby Scouten—Staff Support
Kevin Thomas—Congregational Liaison

FIRST COMMUNION

Several of St. Paul's youth will be celebrating their First Communion on Sunday, March 6th at the 9:30 a.m. service. Please come and celebrate with them and their families after the service in the Social Room.



LENTEN SEASON BEGINS

The Lenten Season begins with Ash Wednesday on March 9th. Please join us for service at 7:00 p.m.

Pastor Brian will be hosting midweek discussion on every Wednesday evening of Lent beginning, March 16th. The topic of conversation will be "Heaven & Hell." Discussions are from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. each Wednesday evening, child care is provided. Please remember that you don't have to make it to every discussion. You won't miss anything if you miss a meeting or two. Just come when you can!

EASTER BASKETS FOR BETHESDA CHILDREN'S HOME

We will once again be delivering Easter Baskets to Bethesda Children's Home. We thank you in advance for your generous support. It means the world to those kids.



We will be supplying about 70 baskets this year, so your help is greatly needed. You will find information in the narthex. You may contribute any amount. Just simply include it with your weekly contribution—make sure to mark it clearly for the Easter Baskets. Every little bit helps.

CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL MTG

The next meeting of council will be Monday, March 21st at 6:30 p.m. in the conference room.

MURDER MYSTERY

We will once again present a Murder Mystery. This year's will hopefully be on Saturday evening, April 9th. Bobbi Williams is currently looking for performers. Are you interested? The theme is The Wild West. She is looking for eight speaking parts and six non speaking parts. Give her a call if you want to help out 664-8027.



YOUR CHURCH NEEDS YOU:

Due to a resignation on Congregational Council we are looking for a new council representative to head up our Service & Witness Committee. If you can help out, please call the office or talk with any member of council.

And, by the way . . . All of your council representatives are listed on the bulletin board in the narthex with their contact information. If you ever have suggestions, comments, etc. please feel free to speak with any member of the council to relay your concerns. This is *your* church and we want to hear what you think!



YOUTH GROUP

VERY Important meeting for *all students 6th grade and up and their parents* on Sunday, March 13th at 6:00 p.m. This is your chance to help us plan the months ahead. We hope you can be there to give us your input!

FROM THE PASTOR'S CORNER

It seems that this year Mother Nature has been a little cruel to all of us here in Northwester PA. Take a few nice days, sun shining, temperatures warming and follow them up with about 10 to 12 inches of snow, and it just seems cruel. A few days ago we warmed up enough to begin to see the green of the grass again only to have it covered back up and hidden from sight. Sometimes it is hard to take those few days for the gift they are when

the beauty seems to disappear quickly fading back into the gray murkiness of winter.

That is often the way that I feel about lent. We know deep down that the point of this time of year is to lead us to an empty tomb and resounding choruses from heaven. But before we get to there, we must journey to the cross. Before we can sing Alleluia, we must go to the dark murkiness of the grave.

But that is what lent is about. It is a process from here to there and back again. From light to dark to life. This season is about reminding ourselves of how sinful we truly are, the darkness of the grave we often deserve.

We delve into the darkness of lent which can often be a place we shy away from, something we ignore, turn a blind eye. But the only reason that we can faithfully go into the darkness together is because we know that the grace of God leads us back again.

As each day passes, the sun rises earlier and sets later. The darkness of winter is giving way to the light of spring, the light of creation, the light of life. We can go to the darkness of the cross and the grave with confidence knowing that the ashes we place on heads on Ash Wednesday will be wiped clean not by soap and water but by the water of baptism and the word of God. We can go the darkness of the grave knowing that the light of Christ, the light of the empty tomb restores us in the graces of a good and forgiving God. Join me this lent in our journey to the grave so we might celebrate God's gracious Easter together.

Peace
and Blessings

Pastor Brian Eiss

WE ARE LOOKING FOR:

- *Ushers for the 11:00 service
- *Family greeting and usher units for the 9:30 service
- *Assisting Ministers for the 8:30 and 11:00 services

Please give us a call in the office or see Pastor Brian if you are interested in helping at any of the services.