

Dear Partners in Ministry,

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.

Luke 4:18-19

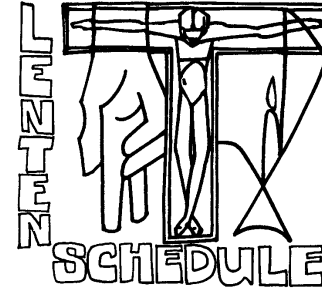
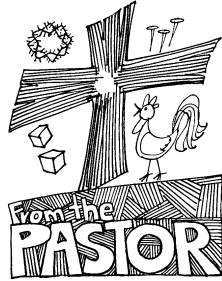
This is how Jesus describes his ministry using the words of the prophet Isaiah. On this day I can't read these words without picturing the people of Haiti and their desperate need for good news and release and recovery. Since we are Christians, this is our mission too. We can't (and shouldn't) all go to Haiti, but we can make our presence and concern known.

If you want to give cash, you can give directly to our denomination's Global Ministries, or give to St. Philip's and ask that the money be directed to the Global Ministries Haiti Fund.

You can also choose to give generously to One Great Hour of Sharing. Usually we receive this offering during Lent, but this year we will take that offering on Valentine's Day, Feb. 14. We made this decision several months ago because we want to truly experience the bringing of the light into the world during Epiphany by learning about our Global Ministries in the UCC. I am thankful that we are able to highlight missions during the time of the Haiti earthquake. We can see how blessed we are and how great the need is of our brother and sisters throughout the world. The One Great Hour of Sharing disaster relief was one of the first responders to the disaster and our many missionaries already in place have worked with other church groups to bring release and recovery.

We will continue our Global Ministries presentations and conclude with an international pot luck meal on February 14th. Let us bring good news to all God's children.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Sue



Feb. 16	Shrove Tuesday pancake dinner
Feb. 17	Ash Wednesday worship at 7 p.m. (this is a change from the usual) The Path to Lent
Feb. 21	First Sunday of Lent – Scout Sunday The Path to the Borderland/Wilderness
Feb. 28	Second Sunday in Lent – Habitat for Humanity Introduction The Path to Shelter
March 7	Third Sunday in Lent – Evangelical and Reformed Communion The Path to Repentance
March 14	Fourth Sunday in Lent The Path to Home
March 17	– Wednesday – St. Patrick's Day – 6:30 p.m. gather at church for a traditional corned beef and cabbage dinner and a St. Patrick's celebration
March 21	Fifth Sunday in Lent – collect Habitat for Humanity offering The Path to Abundance
March 28	Palm Sunday The Path to Jerusalem
April 1	Maundy Thursday – 6:30 p.m. Seder meal with communion
April 2	Good Friday – noon worship with communion
April 3	Easter Egg Hunt
April 4	Easter – worship outside at 7:30 a.m. – Easter breakfast at 8:30 a.m. – traditional worship at 9:30 a.m. The Path to New Life

Another Lent 2010 – Paths of Lent

- Feb. 17 – Ash Wednesday – Path to Lent
- Feb. 21 – 2nd Sunday – Path to Shelter (introduce Habitat offering)
- March 7 - 3rd Sunday – E & R communion – Path to Repentance
- March 14 – 4th Sunday – Path Home – DVD clip of Prodigal Son
- March 21 – 5th Sunday – Path to Abundance – collect Habitat offering
- March 28 – Palm Sunday – Path to Jerusalem – collect Habitat offering
- April 1 – Maundy Thursday – Seder meal
- April 2 – Good Friday – Communion
- April 4 – Easter Sunday – Path to New Life



THANK YOUS



Thank you for all the cards and expressions of sympathy received by all our church family. It meant a lot to all of our family after mom died.

Matt Lawler and Al and Mary Lou Farrow

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Dear St. Philip's Friends,

Thank you for all of your cards, notes, calls, prayers, words, and other expressions of support over the past several months. The things you did enables me to more easily get through a disabling health problem and the death of my sister, Marlene. It is hard to describe how your expressions of loving support touched me, but believe me when I say, "I know I have been touched by all of you." Thank you so much.

Sincerely,
JoAnn Leber

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Thank You !! Thank You !! Thank You !!

The results from our 2010 Stewardship Campaign have been finalized. As usual, St. Philip's responded above and beyond. The Finance Ministry team recommended at 5% increase. Not only did we make the 5% level, but we finished well above it. Our General Fund pledges increased by 7.6%, our Building fund increased by 2.2% and our overall combined pledge amounts increase a whopping 6.7%. As we move into 2010, it looks to be another challenging year. As you are able, please stay as current as possible with your pledges.

Thank You to each of you for your on-going support of St. Philip's and its various ministries.



Walt Miller (shut-in); the Leber family on the death of JoAnn's sister, Marlene; the brain surgery on Stacy, the daughter-in-law of Al and Mary Lou Farrow.

MO-VAL DIRECTOR LEAVING

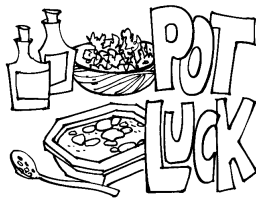
Shirley Asmussen is leaving Camp Mo-Val to become Acting Director of Outdoor Ministries at Camp DuBois in the Illinois South Conference. Her farewell party is Sunday, January 31st from 3:30 – 7:30 at St. Peter's Church in Washington. You can check the MMS Conference UCC website for details. There will be a carpool from St. Philip's. If anyone is interested contact Pastor Sue.

STAYING CONNECTED TO THE WIDER CHURCH

Last year, the Missouri Mid-South Conference discontinued our long-running newspaper The Courier. In its place, we now publish a weekly email newsletter called The eCourier. We invite you to join our mailing list by emailing a request to mms@mmsucc.org. If you are unable to receive email, then you can still stay in touch – each church office and pastor received our weekly newsletter which they may distribute to you. If you have any questions, please contact Leslie Evans in the MMS office at (3124) 918-2605. Also Shirley runs a copy of this and posts it on the bulletin board.

GLOBAL MISSIONS

On Sunday, February 14, we will have an international food potluck to celebrate our Global Mission studies and our one Great Hour of Sharing Offering. A sign-up sheet will be in the Gathering Space. If you need help in deciding what to bring for the potluck, recipes will be available. I've already heard of Jamaican and Afghan food



being cooked. What part of the world would you like to explore? Hope to see everyone on Valentine's Day!

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

During Lent, the Outreach Ministry will be sharing with the congregation information about Habitat for Humanity both on a local and global setting. The United Church of Christ sponsors a local building project each year. Traditionally, St. Philip's has pledged \$1000 and workers for a day in June toward the local project each year. With everyone working together, the Outreach Ministry hopes that we can match, or maybe even increase, the pledge of both money and workers this year.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

In his last conversation with the disciples after his resurrection, Jesus repeated the same message *three* times. If you love, take care of the people I love. Jesus had given up everything to care for ordinary people. He called on his followers to now make a tangible difference in the lives of others. (John 21:14-17)

When you make a gift to One Great Hour of Sharing, you actively participate in tending God's flock throughout the world. Your gift brings shelter, food, water, and medical supplies to disaster survivors. You help refugees find safe shelter and begin to build new lives. You aid impoverished communities in securing dependable sources of food and clean water. And you help provide medical care and education that strengthen bodies and minds and create brighter futures.

Remember the feeding of the 5,000? The disciples thought their resources could never meet the people's great need. Yet the followers of Jesus gave sacrificially from what they had – and through God's blessing, their gifts created a miracle for all. Live your love for the Good Shepherd. Feed Jesus' sheep with a generous, even sacrificial, gift to One Great Hour of Sharing, and become part of a *new* miracle of sharing.

LENTEN DEVOTIONALS

There will be a variety of Lenten Devotionals available starting February 7th. They will be on the credenza in the gathering space.

HARDEE'S FUND RAISER

Don't forget about the fundraiser we're having at Hardee's, 2580 Lemay Ferry Road, on Sunday, January 31st. St. Philip's will receive 20% of all pretax purchases but you must bring a flier with you. These fliers will be in the bulletin on Sunday, January 24th, and extra will be available in the entry space so you can pass them on to friends and relatives. This offer is valid any time on the 31st, so you can have breakfast, lunch, or dinner – or all three! Help support St. Philip's and enjoy food and fellowship at the same time.

50+ GROUP

February 20th the 50+ Group will be going to Amici's in Kirkwood for lunch. We will meet at church at 11:30 a.m to car pool. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. All are welcome to join us for fun, food, and fellowship.

NEW BOOKS IN THE LIBRARY

If you haven't checked out the library lately there are some new books on the middle group of shelving. They are:



Living the Extraordinary Life – Charles Stanley
Measuring the Days – Walter Wangerin, Jr.
Coffee Break With God – Honor Books
More God's Abundance – Kathy Collard Miller
90 Minutes in Heaven – Don Piper
The Last Lecture – Randy Panach

Hope you will check these out and any others that might be of interest to you.

BOOK FAIR

Speaking of books don't forget the Book Fair on Saturday and Sunday, February 27th and 28th. If you have any books you would like to donate to this please let Janet Remmers know. Women's Fellowship is looking for books of all kinds – fiction, historical, cooking, etc. You name it and they want it. They will be setting this up on Friday afternoon. There will be a preview night on Friday – entry fee of \$5 to see the books and any additional fee to purchase them.

THE BOOK OF ROMANS BIBLE STUDY

Last Sunday (January 17th) after worship we had 10 people signed up for this 8 week Disciples Bible Study. We will need to limit the class to a max of 12 (per class) because these kinds of study groups are all interactive. When you have too many people, that needed interactions gets restricted. We will leave



the sign up sheet up until the max number is reached or February 1st. It appears right now that Monday evening is a time agreeable to many of those signed up. We will be in touch with you before we select the day/time. If you will not be at church to sign up, call the office to do that. This is an exciting way of studying the scripture "little bites at a time" and it's easy to make the connection to our daily life as individuals and as a congregation. We hope you will try it. Remember the offer to have a class during the day and evening for those who can't make one or the other. There were even a few who signed up said they could make Sunday morning before worship too. Give it some thought. The participants

work book that will be needed costs \$10.00. Hope to see you at the ROMANS BIBLE STUDY CLASS!!!!

BULLETIN BOARD

Be sure to check the bulletin board each week after worship to see what is going on in the near future and also to sign-up for liturgist, children's time and the welcoming team and any event you might want to attend. It helps the committees a lot when they know how many to plan on, etc.

RECIPE WANTED !!

Of all the delicious desserts offered at the Vendor Night Spaghetti Dinner in November, Terri Karcher only ate one – a very moist apple cake, possibly with cinnamon sugar on top (no icing). I would love to have the recipe, but have been unable to find out who made the cake – please let me know if you were the baker! Thanks, Terri 842-8739.

ENGAGING YOUTH

The Engaging Youth Committee is looking for new adult members. Please consider bringing your enthusiasm for our high school and college church members by joining – contact Terri Karcher to sign up or to ask questions!

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP FOOD DRIVE

The Women's Fellowship will be holding a food drive during the months of February through May. They will be collecting canned vegetables during the month of February.

PANCAKE SUPPER – SHROVE TUESDAY – FEBRUARY 16TH



Come and have pancakes and sausage and doughnuts. We will have materials to make masks. Join in a parade that will follow. There is a

sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. If you can furnish syrup or donuts please indicate this on the sheet. Thank you.

SANDWICHES – FEBURARY 7TH

After church we will make sandwiches for the St. John's N. Grand Food Pantry. Plan to stay and help if you can.

COMING EVENTS

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|---------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Feb. 1 | Bible Study 9 a.m. |
| Feb. 2 | Bell Choir 7 p.m. |
| Feb. 3 | Choir 7 p.m.
Meal for Lydia's House (by noon) |
| Feb. 7 | Communion and Youth Sunday |
| Feb. 8 | Bible Study 9 a.m.
Church Council 7 p.m. |
| Feb. 9 | Bell Choir 7 p.m. |
| Feb. 10 | Choir 7 p.m.
Free Lunch noon |
| Feb. 14 | Birthday Sunday
International Dinner after worship
OGHS offering collection |
| Feb. 15 | Office closed – President's Day |
| Feb. 16 | Crier articles due
Bell Choir 7 p.m.
Pancake Supper |
| Feb. 17 | Ash Wednesday Service 7 p.m.
Choir after worship service
Outreach Team Meeting 10 a.m. |
| Feb. 21 | Scout Sunday |
| Feb. 22 | Bible Study 9 a.m. |
| Feb. 23 | Choir 7 p.m. |
| Feb. 27 | Book Fair |
| Feb. 28 | Spiritual Life Team meeting after church |



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

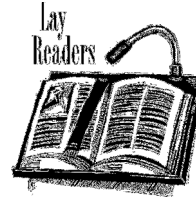


1 JoAnn Leber
 20 Gavin Armistead
 2 Bud Leonard
 3 Gary Gutjahr
 Rachel Fischer
 4 Brian Werner
 5 Allison LaMont
 7 Danielle Kelly
 8 Kirk Thurmond
 9 Elizabeth Vogt
 14 Dustin Knoll
 Eleanor Morris
 17 Kathy Vogt
 18 Harrison Fischer

21 Joseph Jackson
 21 Cara Holdener
 23 Virginia Hladnick
 Hayden Werner
 24 Jerica Gordon
 26 Chloe Gutjahr
 27 Emily Mikusch
 Luke Siewing
 28 Joan Hemingway
 James Kelly
 Dave Schiele
 29 Tiffany Walsh

LITURGISTS, USHERS, ACOLYTES AND CHILDREN'S TIME FOR FEBRUARY

Liturgists



February 7
 February 14
 February 21
 February 28

Youth Sunday
 Andrea Moran
 Sandy Stevenson
 Ellen Disseler

Welcoming Teams

February 7
 February 14
 February 21
 February 28

Carole Armistead

Children's Time

February 7
 February 14
 February 21
 February 28

Youth Sunday



Acolytes

February 7
 February 14
 February 21
 February 28

Carley Nickel
 Sarah Witte
 Haylee Thibodeaux
 Alex Balzer

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

The month of February always reminds me of love (Valentine's Day). Here is a perfect example of that (Be prepared to get watery eyes!)

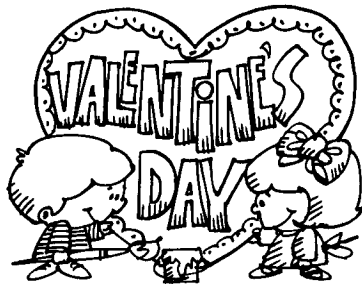
Like any good mother, when Karen found out that another baby was on the way, she did what she could to help her 3-year-old son, Michael, prepare for a new sibling. They found out that the new baby was going to be a girl, and day after day, night after night, Michael sang to his sister in mommy's tummy. He was building a bond of love with his little sister before he even met her.

The pregnancy progressed normally for Karen, an active member of the Panther Creek United Methodist Church in Morristown, Tennessee. In time, the labor pains came. Soon it was every five minutes, every three, every minute. But serious complications arose during delivery and Karen found herself in hours of labor. Would a C-section be required? Finally, after a long struggle, Michael's little sister was born. But she was in very serious condition.

With a siren howling in the night, the ambulance rushed the infant to the neonatal intensive care unit at St. Mary's Hospital, Knoxville, Tennessee. The days inched by. The little girl got worse. The pediatrician had to tell the parents there is very little hope. Be prepared for the worst. Karen and her husband contacted a local cemetery about a burial plot. They had fixed up a special room in their house for their new baby but now they found themselves having to plan for a funeral. Michael, however, kept begging his parents to let him see his sister. I want to sing to her, he kept saying.

Week two in intensive care looked as if a funeral would come before the week was over. Michael kept nagging about singing to his sister, but kids are never allowed in Intensive Care. Karen decided to take Michael

not. If he didn't then, he may She dressed scrub suit and He looked like basket. The recognized him bellowed, 'Get



whether they liked it or see his sister right never see her alive. him in an oversized marched him into ICU. a walking laundry head nurse as a child and that kid out of here

now. No children are allowed.' The Mother rose up strong in Karen, and the usually mild-mannered lady glared steel-eyed right into the head nurse's face, her lips a firm line. 'He is not leaving until he sings to his sister' she stated. Then Karen towed Michael to his sister's bedside. He gazed at the tiny infant losing the battle to live. After a moment he began to sing. In the pure-hearted voice of a 3-year-old Michael sang:

'You are my sunshine, my only sunshine,
You make me happy when skies are gray.'

Instantly the baby girl seemed to respond. The pulse rate began to calm down and become steady. 'Keep on singing, Michael,' encouraged Karen with tears in her eyes.

'You never know, dear, how much I love you,
Please don't take my sunshine away.'

As Michael sang to his sister, the baby's ragged, strained breathing became as smooth as a kitten's purr. 'Keep on singing, sweetheart.'

'The other night, dear, as I lay sleeping,
I dreamed I held you in my arms.'

Michael's little sister began to relax as rest, healing rest, seemed to sweep over her. 'Keep on singing, Michael.' Tears had now conquered the face of the bossy head nurse. Karen glowed.

'You are my sunshine, my only sunshine.
Please don't take my sunshine away.'

The next day...the very next day, the little girl was well enough to go home. Woman's Day Magazine called it "The Miracle of a Brother's Song." The medical staff just called it a miracle. Karen called it a miracle of God's love.

Never give up on the people you love.