

000 YOUR OLIVET NEWS 000

OLIVET UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH,
CORNER OF 12TH & NORTHAMPTON STREETS
EASTON, PA 18042 610-258-7990

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2009
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Included in
your Olivet
News

Feb. – March

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Lent**

Op Ed Page

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**Thanks to Officers, Choir
and Orchestra members**

**Photos from summer and
fall**

OYEA

News and more

Worship

February 1

Communion will be served. Annual meeting after worship

February 8

New members will be received

February 15

Service of Healing and Wholeness

February 22

Transfiguration of the Lord

February 25

Ash Wednesday service at 7:00 pm; communion will be served

March 1

1st Sunday in Lent; Communion will be served

Ash Wednesday: the Beginning of our Lenten Journey

“You are dust, and to dust you shall return” [Genesis 3:18]. Most Presbyterians, often associate the imposition of ashes on Ash Wednesday as something Catholics do. This harkens back to a time when the Protestant churches sought to highlight what was different about our Catholic brothers and sisters. However, beginning last century, many Protestant churches, including the Presbyterians embraced the idea of the liturgical calendar including the season of Lent which starts on Ash Wednesday.

While by and large, most welcome services on Ash Wednesday, the idea of imposing ashes was (and still is) resisted by some. They might ask, “What is the purpose of walking around with a smudge of black dirt on my forehead?” To understand the practice, we need to understand the symbolism of ashes and the purpose of Lent.

Ashes remind us of our mortality. The ashes remind us of our fate and begin to set the truth that ultimately we are dependent on the grace of God for deliverance from that fate. Ashes also serve as a sign of humility and repentance. In the Hebrew scriptures fasting, wearing sackcloth and sitting in ashes are often signs of contrition and a means of humbly showing a desire for true repentance. The wearing of ashes is not a means to show our piety, but a reflection of our need of God's grace to be at work in our lives.

The season of Lent is traditionally a time for those in the church to come to terms with our need for change and repentance. The gospel readings reflect on Jesus journey to Jerusalem and the cross at Calvary. Fasting, prayer, scripture reading are methods we might use to reflect on our need for repentance (see the guidelines for a Spiritual Lent in this issue).

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of our journey with Jesus to the cross. The ashes remind us of our willingness to die to our old selves and be raised to new life in Christ. “New life requires a daily surrendering of the old life, letting go of the present order, so that we may embrace the new humanity. “I die every day!” asserts Paul [1 Corinthians. 15:31]. Resurrection necessitates death as a preceding act. The church's peculiar Lenten claim is that in dying we live, that all who are baptized into Christ are baptized into his death. To be raised with Christ means one must also die with Christ. In order to embrace the resurrection, we must experience the passion of Jesus.”¹

On **February 25**, you are invited to begin your Lenten journey at our **Ash Wednesday service at 7:00 pm**. Ashes will be offered to any who would like to receive them. Following the imposition of ashes all will be invited to share in the Lord's Supper. Please join us for this important service that invites you to begin your journey to the cross.

¹ Peter C. Bower, *Companion to the Book of Worship* (Louisville, Kentucky: Geneva Press, 2003) p. 110.

March 8, 15, 22, 29
Our Lenten Journey
Continues

Guidelines for a Spiritual Lent

Fasting, reading scripture, prayer are worthy ways to make the Lenten journey. Yet if they are just practices and do not cause us to reflect on ways we might improve ourselves spiritually they do little good. Consider the following questions² to get you thinking on ways you can make the journey through Lent more meaningful for your life and the life of those whom you encounter.

- What progress am I making in sharing gladly what I have with others?
- How do I deal with those who irritate me? How can my own awareness of my own need for God's grace enable me to be gracious to them?
- How has my sense of fellowship in worship grown and how can I move ahead in appreciating the contributions and needs of other members of my congregation?
- Am I as "charitable" and thoughtful to family members as to others or do I "take it out" on my family when life at school or work gets hectic?
- Can I rearrange my financial priorities in order to have more money to give away?
- When I hear someone being unjustly maligned, do I speak up to correct the record or am I a silent accomplice?
- How can I more effectively come to help and support ministries and programs that seek to make life better for those in need?
- Am I increasing my attention span in prayer and discovering new ways of listening rather than talking and giving thanks instead of complaining?
- Am I aware of my own prejudices that lurk within me and am I able to honestly and humbly confront them in dealing with other people?
- How might I improve my prayer life to be better prepared to address and respond to the needs of the sick, the distressed, the bereaved, and others facing problems that require attention?
- Am I, by my consistent attendance at worship, a witness for others of the worthiness of the God I follow? Or am I, by my sporadic worship habits suggesting that God is worth serving only sometimes, but not others?

² The questions below are derived from the following source: Laurence Hull Stookey, *Calendar: Christ's Time for the Church* (Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 1996) p.82-83.

OP-ED PAGE

This page calls attention to current church events. Column writers may apply!

SCRIP PROGRAM

A big thank you to all who participated with the program over the past year.

We were able to give \$800 to the Church for the year!

November was the largest profit month.

Don't forget to continue to keep ordering.

Along with many restaurants there are other businesses where one might do weekly shopping including: Giant, Shop Rite, Wal-Mart/Sam's Club, Wawa, and CVS.

Orders are due the 2nd Sunday of each month (February 8; March 8)

If you have any questions, please call:

**Dorothy Ward at
610-258-7625**

Editor's Note:

Thank you Dottie, ladies, and all who participate. And, thank you SCRIP.

This program is a super way to help fund our church's ministry.

BUY GIFT GARDS!

ProJeCt WISH LIST

For Food Bank

The Food Bank's Wish List includes: tuna, jelly, cereal, and dry milk, pancake syrup and pancake mix and also, diapers (newborn and size 5), Hygiene products (deodorant, toothpaste, soap, shampoo, etc.), grocery brown bags.

Put items in the barrel in Olivet's Auditorium.

Gift cards for pharmacy, clothes and school supplies are also in need.

Volunteers needed, please
Call 610-258-4361 x 11

SAFE HARBOR

Olivet Church has a long-standing tradition of helping with

Safe Harbor. On the third Thursday of each month, a lunch is provided.

January lunch was provided by the Evening Circle, Jo Rush and John Ward.

It's the time of the year when the homeless have great difficulties keeping warm and dry. **Guests need warm clothes.** So, dig into your closets and share A coat, A hat, A pair of gloves and add boots.

Also, clean underwear, jeans, shirts, sweaters, are needed.

Homeless and hungry walk-ins eat at the Shelter daily thanks to church congregations on a regular basis.

Most of us are grateful for having a place to live, food to eat and the luxury of water, lights, TV, phone and heat, etc. If you are grateful, consider helping Safe Harbor help the homeless.

New Life

Congratulations to **Darryl Davis** on the birth of his granddaughter **Piper Davis** on January 18

Congratulations to **John and Dorothy Ward** on the birth of their granddaughter **Erin Gill** on January 22

We wish to express our thanks to everyone in our Olivet family for the cards, prayers, thoughts and well-wishers which came to us after Norm's unexpected passing. God's love and your condolences are helping us to see our way through this difficult time.

**June Wolbach
Karen, Ken, and Joe Carnes**

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

A reminder to keep alive in our minds the people we wish to remember.

Frank Zelezen, husband of Eleanor Zelezen, died on November 19, 2008.

Elsie Behn, former member of South Presbyterian Church. Elsie died on December 7, 2008.

Willard Silvius, grandfather of music director Matt Silvius, died on December 20, 2008.

Norman Wolbach came from a family of charter and very early members. Norm was an Elder and a Deacon. He died on December 26, 2008.

Ethel Pelcheck, mother of Elder John Pelcheck died on January 3, 2009.

Bea Pritchard, a member since March 1970, died on January 10, 2009.

Don Schaffer, a former member who died in Florida on January 22, 2009 after a long fight against cancer.

All of these people will be missed. Please remember to pray for the families and friends of those listed here.

MUSIC, MUSIC, MUSIC

Music is a very important factor in our lives.

Olivet Church is known for having a great deal of good music in our Worship services.

Our faithful choir musically leads Worship each week. And soloists also add beautiful music from time to time. It's a thrill to hear music director Matt Silvius' magnificent piano and/or organ selections. And now, we have a Worship orchestra. Also we sometimes hear the sweet voices of our "Sunday School Singers".

Winter/Spring Adult Education Opportunities

Adult Sunday School: The Book of Acts

		Reading	Topics
1.	1/18/2009	Acts 1	Introduction
2.	1/25/2009	Acts 2	The Coming of the Holy Spirit
3.	2/1/2009	Acts 3-4	Peter and John
4.	2/8/2009	Acts 5-7	Troubles and Persecutions
5.	2/15/2009	Acts 8	Saul, the Persecutor/ Philipp and the Ethiopian
6.	2/22/2009	Acts 9:1-31	Saul's Conversion – becoming Paul
7.	3/1/2009	Acts 9:32-11:18	Peter and Cornelius/ a Gospel for Gentiles
8.	3/8/2009	Acts 11:19-12:23	Paul and Barnabas/ The Arrest of Peter
9.	3/15/2009	Acts 13-14	Paul and Barnabas – Road Trip
10.	3/22/2009	Acts 15	The Council of Jerusalem – The Gentile Problem
11.	3/29/2009	Acts 16-19:10	Paul on the Road
12.	4/5/2009	Acts 19:11-20:38	Paul on the Road Continued
13.	4/12/2009	No Class - Easter	
14.	4/19/2009	Acts 21:1- 22:29	Paul in Jerusalem/ Paul and the Centurion
15.	4/26/2009	Acts 22:30-24:27	Paul before the Council/ Paul and Felix
16.	5/3/2009	Acts 25-26	Paul testifies to Festus and Agrippa
17.	5/10/2009	No Class – Mother's Day	
18.	5/17/2009	Acts 27-28	Journey to Rome/ Ministry in Rome

If you have missed any of the classes, your study will not be impeded. Please plan on joining for this interesting study of the early church.

Book Discussion

Who Will be Saved

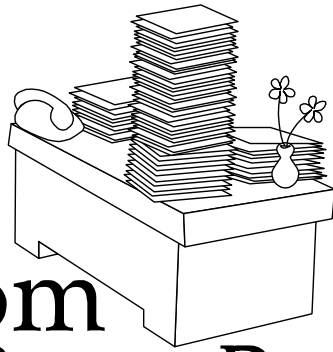
By William H. Willimon

United Methodist Bishop William Willimon offers a somewhat surprising and maybe controversial evaluation of who will be saved. Join Pastor Bob as we discuss his ideas. We will be in conversation with some great thinkers of the church, from St. Augustine, to John Calvin, to John Wesley, to Karl Barth, to Billy Graham to Pope John Paul II. Join us for the lively discussion.

Cost: **\$15.00** to cover the book or you can purchase your own copy through our churches virtual book store or at other book vendors.

Two sessions will be offered (minimum five students in each class): **Wednesday mornings at 11:00 am and Thursday evenings at 7:00 pm.** Our conversation begins on **Wednesday, March 4 at 11:00 am and Thursday, March 5 at 7:00 pm.**

If you are interested please register by signing up at our information table at church or contact the church office at 610-258-7990



From the Pastors Desk

The other day as I drove home from worship, I happened to pass a car wash on William Penn Boulevard and was a bit surprised by the large number of cars sitting their waiting their turn to get clean. It's been one of those winters where we have gotten a lot of small storms that leave us with salty roads and salt-encrusted cars. For many people to drive around in cars that look so dirty is almost sinful. Some of course are worried about the salt on their cars and what might happen to the finish. But I believe that for most people it just makes them feel good to drive a clean car. For me, I don't much worry about how my car looks. I admit the few times that I have washed my car, I feel a bit of pride, but for me waiting in a long line on a cold Sunday afternoon to get my car clean for a few days makes little sense.

For some reason the image stuck with me and I couldn't understand why. But then this morning it struck me. What an image for Lent. Lent is a season for making changes in our life. In a way we go about our lives and we pick up a lot of junk along the way. Sometimes the junk is related to the circumstances of life and there is not a lot we can do about that. But other times, the crud that builds up in our life is the result of poor choices we make, succumbing to the temptations that abound around us or neglecting to consider our spiritual beings, i.e., embracing the saving power of grace that is revealed through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

You might think of the season of Lent as a good time to begin (or continue) the process of getting rid of some of the grime we have accumulated. The good news is that unlike when you get your car washed, you don't have to wait in line for your turn. All you have to do is start working on your spiritual well-being. You might begin by worshipping regularly if that is not a practice in your life now. You can do some devotional reading of scripture. You might begin a habit of more intentional prayer. You might fast or give up something that might enable you to better focus your mind on the saving grace of Jesus Christ. The bad news (well not really bad) is that you will never really get completely clean; working toward a spiritually fit body is an on-going process. We have to rely on Jesus for our complete sanctification.

I invite you to join with me in working toward a Spirit enriching Lenten season. Within this newsletters are questions to get you considering ways you can begin to improve your Spiritual life. The good news is you don't have to wait for the season of Lent to start. You can begin right now through prayer. You can join us this Sunday and every Sunday thereafter for worship. You can begin to come to terms with a God who loves us so much that he sent Jesus Christ to save us and redeem us. You can embrace the truth that through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ you have the means to embrace the blessings of discipleship following along the path that has been set for you.

Resolve right now to start to clear away the grime from your life. Come with us as we journey with Jesus toward the cross and let the saving power of his love become a beacon of light that guides you along your daily walk

Images from the Summer and Fall

Thanks to the Following:

Olivet Worship Choir

Director: Matthew Silvius

Carlos Ayoso	Evie Gulick
Charles Gulick	Sue Jarrell
Nan Laberteaux	Dalton McGary
Katie Piatt	Bob Rindos
Nicole Vogel	Amber Wilson

Olivet Worship Orchestra

Director: Matt Silvius

Alto Saxophone: John Ward

Clarinet: Breana Imboden,
Katie Piatt, Kim Ward

Flute: Jenna Imboden

Keyboard: Bob Rindos

Trumpet: Nicholas Cochran,
Matt Silvius

Violin: Nathan Finch, Dalton McGary

Session Members 2008

Karen Carnes	Darryl Davis
Dianne DeWalt	Joan Dicker
Todd McGary	John Pelcheck
Sandy Templeton	Dorothy Ward
John Ward	Dale Wilson, Sr.

Board of Deacons 2008

Kay Davis	Winnie Giardiniere
Kelly Imboden	Christine McGary
Kathy Mindler	Arlene Wamsley
Rich Wamsley	Heidi Wilson



Senior Highs in Washington

Starting out on the CROP Walk



Bargaining at the Rummage Sale



Dinning and creating ornaments at our Tree Trim

OYEA!!!

February 1 – Souper Bowl of Caring

We will collect donations for the annual Souper Bowl of Caring during the church worship service. See any youth leader if you are interested in helping with this special collection.

February 8 – Regular Youth Meeting

6:00 – 7:30 pm

February 22 - Family Snow Tubing at Blue Mountain (tubing times – 12:30 – 5:00 pm)

Bring a bagged lunch and warm clothes with you to church. We will eat lunch after the worship service and then car pool to Blue Mountain together.

Olivet Youth (grades 5-12) – \$15

Family/Friends - \$25 each

Please RSVP by February 15

March 8 – Regular Youth Meeting

6:00 – 7:30 pm

Grab your tube!!!!

Olivet Youth are hitting the road for some fun this winter. Always one of our favorite fellowship activities, bring your friends and family and join us as we go snow tubing in February!

Join us also at our regular Sunday night Youth Meetings for more fun, fellowship, and Bible study.

Friends (grades 5-12) are always welcome!



Please call or email with any questions:

Kim Ward – 215-450-1223

kimberlydward@hotmail.com

Nicole and Chris Vogel –
610-967-9067

Tina Strouse

With the bone-chilling cold weather setting in, it's time to start planning for our annual retreat at Camp Brainerd. We want to pick a weekend when everyone will be able to join us! Please let us know by **February 8th** which of the following weekends work with your family's calendar:

March 20-22 March 27-29

April 17-19 May 1-3

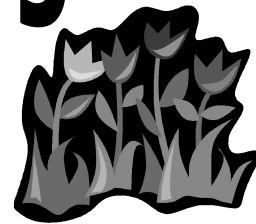
work with your family's calendar:

March 20-22 March 27-29

April 17-19 May 1-3

More details about the retreat will follow soon!

Spring Retreat



Come see what we're cooking!

Senior Highs (grades 9-12⁺) meet together on the first Tuesday of each month for food and fellowship. Suppers are a great time to gather together, to hang out, and to chat about what's important to you.

February 3 March 3

6:00 pm – 7:30ish



NEWS! SPONSORS! NEWS!

2009

FEBRUARY FLOWER SPONSORS

February 1 Mrs. Margaret Unangst
M/M Ed Hanlon
February 8 M/M Darryl Davis
Donald Snyder
February 15 Don Roberts
M/M Todd McGary
February 22 Mrs. Patricia Taylor
The Wolbach Family
February 25 **Ash Wednesday**
M/M Walter Leuenberger

FEBRUARY BULLETIN SPONSORS

February 1 Mrs. Grace Ealer
February 8 M/M Robert Wasser
February 15 Donald Snyder
February 22 Wolbach Family

NURSERY SCHEDULE

Nursery Care for infants and children to Grade 1 is available. Experienced volunteers are: **February 1**-Kelly Imboden, **February 8**-Mary Ellen Nunes, **February 15**-Nicole Vogel, **February -22**, Christine McGary, **March, 1**-Sue Cochran, **March 8**-Dorothy Ward, **March 15**-Kelly Imboden

MARCH FLOWER SPONSORS

March 1 Pinto Family
Chroust Family
March 8 Karen Carnes
Karen Werkheiser
March 15 Tim Maue & Family
March 22 Jean McClay
Open
March 29 Mrs. Bernice Morgan
M/M Pat Dragotta

MARCH BULLETIN SPONSORS

March 1 Pinto Family
March 8 M/M Robert Werkheiser
March 15 Karen Carnes
March 22 Jack and Eleanor Gardner
March 29 Robert Nansteel

DAFFODIL DAYS

Orders being taken now!!!

Pick up on Sunday, March 22

Place orders on-line at:

www.main.acsevents.org/OlivetUPC

or sign on the sheet in the auditorium at church.

All orders must be paid by Sunday February 22.

Contact Mary Ellen Nunes for more details.

While "It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35), we are very appreciative of businesses who generously offer rebates to our church. We thank them (merchants like Redners Supermarkets, Al's Cleaners and all the merchants that participate in the Scrip Program) and of course all members and friends who shop at those businesses, enabling us to receive their gifts.

REDNERS CONTINUED SUPPORT

Redners still offers the "Save-A-Tape" program at its Palmer store and all others as well. If you shop there you can help Olivet. Just use your Save-A-Tape Card. If you don't have a "Save-A-Tape" Card- -get one from the store's office. Then use it at check-out; return your entire receipt to the church office (makes sure the receipt has "Save A Tape" on the bottom and Olivet receives back 1% of your purchase.

OUR FRIEND AL'S CLEANERS

Our neighbor and friend, Al's Cleaners, offers us rebates for our business, i.e., cleaning, washing and repairing clothes and other services.

Remember to tell the person who is checking in your order that you're from Olivet Church. **It's that simple!!** We'll continue to get checks from Al if we take time to patronize his business.

Thanks Al for all you do for us.

LOOKING FORWARD TO SPRING - - - - APRIL RUMMAGE SALE

April 3rd 10 am to 2 pm, 6 pm to 8 pm April 4th 10 am to 2 pm- -BAG DAY

Set up Tables – March 23, 9:15 am

Clean closets, attics, cellars

Sorting Begins March 24 --Bring Donations In!