

Your Olivet News

Volume: 56, Issue: 3

March & April 2007

WITH OLIVET AT CROSSROAD, WE SEEK NEW DIRECTION

Our forefathers gave us a beautiful church. The large congregation worked hard, worshiped often, and gave from their hearts. A legacy worth keeping! Olivet Church attendance once was so good people bragged about it for years and years and years.

Times have changed, and so have all of us, slowly and steadily of course. We're not the congregation we were. At present we're facing a severe financial crisis, yet we have a strong desire to be a church.

We're thankful for those who attend and support us on a regular basis. But, fewer families are coming in and our costs are spiraling upward.

Over time, we've talked and talked about our problems, but we still haven't solved them. Now as we face a financial crossroad, a decision for a new direction for the future is the only path to take.

The Elders and Stewardship committee understood this and did just that - - made a decision to do what's best for Olivet. Steps are underway to make drastic budget cuts, in as many ways as possible, and at the same time keep our church doors open.

Their work and ours is cut out for us. We cannot go on as usual. So, our Session urges us to bear in mind the importance of a new plan and to spend our energies on accepting and supporting it.

First Big Step:

Your Olivet News will now come out every two months. As much available activity information for both months will be included. Keep the office staff informed,

This issue is the last to be mailed. Rather, the May and June issue will be distributed in church monthly, or via e-mail. If you are homebound, it will be personally delivered. Please call or send your e-mail address to the Church office. Future issues will come out on a bi-monthly schedule.

Volunteers are needed to visit the homebound once a month, and to deliver the news. If interested, contact the church office.

Our staff received cuts in hours. Both Eileen and Evie will not be in the office as much as in the past. To keep our office open more hours, volunteers are needed to answer phone and do office work, or church-wide chores. Therefore, the office may be closed due to these cuts. What can you do to help? Volunteer! Help make a difference. Understand the need for the plan.

Additionally, cuts and reductions across-the board on budget line-items are taking place.

With the cooperation of everyone, WE - - TOGETHER can make the new plan work and remain on the corner on the corner of 12th and Northampton Street just a little longer. You can't expect anything more than WE - - TOGETHER can accomplish.

The Lord will lead us.

OYEA!

Olivet Youth Education Association

Sunday, March 4

Family snow-tubing at Blue Mountain

Bring lunch to eat after Sunday School

11:30 am – 6:00 pm

\$10 per youth or \$20 for 2 or more youth in a family (grades 12 and under) \$20 adults

Call or email Kim Ward by Sunday, Feb. 28

Friday to Sunday, March 16 to 18

Grab your sleeping bag and pillow!

Youth Retreat at Camp Brainerd starts

6:30 PM Friday, and ends Sunday.

\$15 per youth-(\$30 for 2 or more in a family assistance available)

Email or call Kim Ward by Sunday

March 11.

Sunday, April 1 Youth meeting

Olivet 6:00 – 7:30pm

Saturday, April 7

Lehigh Presbytery

Youth Easter Vigil (tentative - details TBA)

Sunday, April 15

Youth meeting at Olivet, 6:00 – 7:30pm

Sunday, April 29

Youth meeting at Olivet, 6:00 – 7:30pm

Bring friends (grades 5 & 6)

Watch our website at

www.olivetupc.org/oyea.htm

Keep an eye out for email, if you want to be notified by email. Contact Kim at kimberlyward@hotmail.com

Call in questions to Kim Ward 215-230-9865 or, Nicole and Chris Vogel 610-967-9067

***** SHOP FOR BOOKS*****

Olivet United Presbyterian Church
ONLINE BOOK STORE

www.olivetupc.org

Save 20% on most items. Check it out!
(discount doesn't apply to curriculum, apparel, downloads, or official denominational items)

*use Olivet website ONLY to order

\$1 a day CAMPAIGN

Last year 35 families participated in the \$1 a Day program. An additional \$3,200 was raised. Please join in!

DAFFODIL SUNDAY March 25th

Hooray! Daffodil Sunday is returning to Olivet's yearly schedule after a short hiatus.

Mary Ellen Nunes is coordinating the popular event. Look for a sign-up sheet on the Coffee Fellowship table. Full information will be available.

Daffodils in early is an encouraging sign of the warm weather, and that Spring is just around the corner.

While we enjoy our beautiful Daffodils, we're supporting the American Cancer Society as well.

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SPRING RUMMAGE SALE

April 20th and 21st

Are you ready for the Rummage Sale? It's coming fast. And again, it's time to clean out the closets, the attic, garage, cellar, etc., etc. Your junk can be someone's treasure.

Set-up begins Tuesday after Easter!

As usual, sorters, clerks, donors, and customers are needed.

Spring/Summer clothing and items are especially requested.

Can you help in any way? Contact Kay Davis and/or Joan Dicker.

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WE SAVE MORE HOURS

Daylight Saving Time arrives in very early Spring this year - remember to **PUSH YOUR CLOCKS one hour AHEAD** on **Sat. Mar. 10th**

RECUPERATING AT HOME

Members: Andrew Hand, Maya Nikolic, Mary Recchia, Charles Supers, and Margaret Unangst.

Friends: Siena Brignola, Jeanine Buzzard, and Ann Cochran.

SHARE THE GLORY OF EASTER

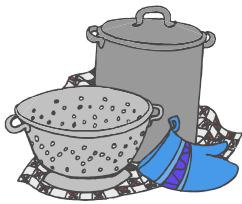
MISSION

Mission is Giving, Mission is Sharing, Mission is Important

Olivet has a history of giving. From its beginning in 1899, a line item in the budget allowed for mission money to help churches nationally and around the world grow in strength, or to start up. It hasn't changed since that time. Today, Olivet mission giving is year-round, despite our declining income.

However, Olivet is on the receiving end from two businesses, neighbor, Al's Cleaners and Redner's. Both of them share what they have by providing sales rebates. The checks are written according to how much our congregation participates.

It's important to give our business to these two caring establishments.



Safe Harbor Olivet's mission of providing lunch for Safe Harbor guests who need temporary shelter and food is on-going. The generous and caring members of our congregation deliver a delicious lunch the 2nd Thursday of each month.

March 8th Coordinator is Arlene Wamsley.

April 12th Coordinator is Barbara Boyd

We thank Nan Laberteaux and her helpers Jean McClay, Jo Rush and Jerry DeWalt for the February lunch.

Care enough to participate? Contact Eleanor Gardner, Ann Cirucci, the monthly coordinator, or the Church Office.

MILLER-KEYSTONE BLOOD CENTER

Our 2007 Blood Bank Program has

50 loyal donors over all. This year's goal is 24 donations. To date two donations have been made.

Want to participate? Contact John Ward at 610-258-7625.

Food Pantry It's a fact! The hungry must be fed on a daily basis. Many people in our community can't afford to buy the amount of food they need to feed a family. That's when ProJeCt Food Pantry jumps in to help. Pantry shelves of canned, dried, packaged foods and beverages are available to such families.

The Pantry can't do its job until folks like us start the ball rolling. Sharing what we have in donations of needed foods is one way, the other is to write a check to ProJeCt Food Pantry. Each dollar is worth \$15 of food when ProJeCt shops at Second Harvest.

Each Sunday is Food Bank Sunday at Olivet. Please notice the food barrel is now in the auditorium for your convenience.

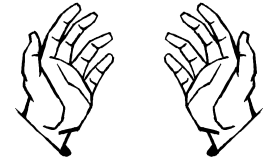
OYEA members took time to give the barrel a much needed new face. Thanks Kids!



Helping Hands

How lucky can you get? Two businesses willing to help us! How our gift of love continues is up to you.

Al's Cleaners, our neighbor, offers a 10% rebate to Olivet Church for every item of cleaning, washing, storing, etc. coming into his shop. It's easy! Just mention Olivet Church when you stop in.



Redner's rebate is 1% of your food shopping register tapes. First get a "save-a-tape" card from the store, put it in your wallet and use it at the checkout counter. Then give the tapes to Olivet. We have a box for them in the office, and it has lots of space for your register tapes.

Meals-On-Wheels

Meals-On-Wheels, serving homebound folks with lunch and dinner, is always in need of drivers and runners. Interested in helping? Contact Phyllis Kalnas at 610-258-9518 to volunteer.



Seasons of Contrast

Lent and Easter are the two seasons we will be celebrating during March and April and you will find them to be seasons of contrast. Lent is often thought of as the time when we reflect on Jesus' journey to the cross. The season began last month on Ash Wednesday and concludes on the Saturday before Easter. A major theme in Lent is the call for repentance. Lent is also a time to recognize that our salvation was costly and therefore we ought not take it for granted. In a way Lent is a time to slow down. In the words of the poet Ann Weems, "*Lent is the time to take time . . . to allow a fresh taste of God.*"¹

Easter, by contrast, is a season of great excitement, of unexpected joy as we recall Christ's victory over death and our own freedom won by that victory. Christ is raised and because of his resurrection we have life. Because of his victory we are changed once and for all. Because of this event, we are assured that nothing in life or death will separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. Yet, to fully embrace the joy of Easter, I believe you need to walk on that Lenten journey with Christ as well.

So join us in the weeks to come for the contrasts; for the Sundays of Lent, as we walk with Christ on his journey to Jerusalem, considering what he has done for us, how he has called us to follow and how we might open ourselves up to the amazing gift of grace he offers. And then join us on that glorious Day of Resurrection and the weeks beyond, as we sing, "Alleluias!!!" and celebrate the ultimate victory offered to us as a free gift, a gift that promises us blessings beyond all measure.

¹ Ann Weems, *Kneeling in Jerusalem* (Louisville, KY: Westminster/John Knox Press, 1992) p.20.

In 1899, Sunday School, Bible study, young people's activities, church dinners, sales of foods - - cooked and baked craft events, and rummage sales were projects led by the women of the church. These gals labored on family farms, but still gave freely of their time and energy doing projects to raise additional dollars for Olivet.

**WOMEN'S CIRCLE
OF OLIVET**

It's much the same today. Our women continue giving precious hours following the path of prayer, mission, and raising funds for our church, others in the nation and the world.

Once a church of numerous women's circles, just one circle is currently functioning and doing a great deal to help Olivet financially.

Join them!

Wednesday, March 14th 9:15 AM

*Eleanor Gardner, hostess

They're meeting:

Wednesday, April 11th 9:15 AM

*Hazel Edelman, hostess

*(World Day of Prayer, March 2nd, 1 PM -Faith Lutheran - -

Noon Card Party, March 23rd, Westminster Village)*

GOOD NEWS!!

Evening Women's Circle

As of this writing, a women's "Evening Circle" is being formed. Find a sign-up sheet on the Coffee Fellowship Table, if interested.

For questions, and concerns, contact Susan Sennholz at 610-559-1524.

W O R S H I P

March 4th

2nd Sunday in Lent

Worship 9:30 AM Communion

Theme: *What God Will Do*

Flowers: The Pinto Family, and
The Chroust Family

Bulletins: The Pinto Family

Greeter: Joan Dicker

Ushers: Kelly Imboden & Kathy
Mindler

Counters: Group 3 – Jack &
Eleanor Gardner, Jerry Kemmerer
and John Pelcheck

Coffee Fellowship:

March 11th

3rd Sunday in Lent

Worship 9:30 AM

Theme: *Spiritual Satisfaction*

Flowers: Karen Carnes

Bulletins: Mrs. Harry H. Maue

Greeter: Sandra Templeton

Ushers: Imboden and Mindler

Counters: Group 3

Coffee Fellowship:

March 18th

4th Sunday in Lent

Worship 9:30 AM

Theme: *Amazing Grace*

Flowers: Mrs. Harry H. Maue &
Family and Jean McClay

Bulletins: Open

Greeter: John Ward

Ushers: Imboden and Mindler

Counters: Group 3

Coffee Fellowship:

March 25th - -Daffodil Day

5th Sunday in Lent

Worship 9:30 AM

Theme: *The Great Emptying*

Flowers: Barbara & Pat Dragotta
and Mrs. Agnes Herster

Bulletins: Robert Nansteel

Greeter: Jerry Kemmerer

Ushers: Imboden & Mindler

Counters: Group 3

Coffee Fellowship:

April 1st

Palm Sunday

Worship 9:30 AM

Dramatic Reading of Passion

Flowers: M/M Scott Wamsley &
M/M Ed Hanlon

Palms: Winnie Giardiniere

Bulletins: Open

Greeter: John Pelcheck

Ushers: Winnie Giardiniere and
David Markle

Counters: Group 4 -Jerry & Pat
Kemmerer and John Pelcheck

Coffee Fellowship:

April 5th

Maundy Thursday

Worship 7:00 PM Communion

Theme: *Presenting the Gospel*

Bulletins: Mrs. Richard DeWalt

April 6th

Good Friday

Worship at Noon

Service of Word and Music

Bulletins: M/M Robert Werkheiser

April 8th

EASTER SUNDAY

Worship 9:30 AM

HE IS RISEN

Music: Brass & Piano Ensemble
and Senior Choir

Flowers: Congregation

Bulletins: Mrs. Richard DeWalt

Greeter: Robin Weisenberger

Ushers: All Deacons present

Counters: Group 4

Coffee Fellowship:

Sunday, April 15th

2nd Sunday of Easter

Worship 9:30 AM

Theme: *Doubting the Truth*

Flowers: Open

Bulletins: M/M Richard Simmons

Greeter: Dale Wilson, Sr.

Ushers: Giardiniere & Markle

Counters: Group 4

Coffee Fellowship:

April 22nd

3rd Sunday of Easter

Worship 9:30 AM

Theme: *Worthy Is The Lamb*

Flowers: Darryl Davis

Bulletins: M/M Billie Sutphin

Greeter: Susan Sennholz

Counters: Group 4

Coffee Fellowship:

April 29th

4th Sunday of Easter

Worship 9:30 AM

Theme: *A Great Multitude*

Flowers: Robert Nansteel

Bulletins: Don Roberts

Greeter: Dianne DeWalt

Counters:

Coffee Fellowship:

PRAYER BREAKFAST

Olivet Church needs your prayers. Join us in prayer at the 7:30 AM Prayer at the Forks Diner on Tuesday, March 13 and Tuesday April 10.

Sunday School is held each Sunday after the 9:30 AM Worship.(Except on Easter Sunday) Senior and Youth choir rehearsals are held following 9:30 AM Worship.

Youth and Senior Choir rehearsals are held following 9:30 AM Worship.

Easter Bible Study

Information to be announced in the near future.

REMEMBER and PRAY FOR:

Members at Care Centers:
Margaret Harmon @ Westminster Health Center, Thelma Wren & Naomi Rutkiewicz @ Gracedale, Phyllis Maue @Palmerton Eastern Assisted Living, and Tom Kalnas @ Palmerton Eastern Living.