

# Dialog



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## An Approaching Season of Penitence in the Church Year!

Yes, we just came through one of our most glorious 'Church Year' celebrations, the birth of Jesus the Christ, the long awaited Messiah, our Lord and Savior, in Bethlehem. However, as the 'Church Year' progressed, we recently exclaimed praises in the Epiphany Season, the season that recognizes Him as the 'Light' of the World and the start of His salvific road of the Lenten Season culminating in our Easter celebrations.

At this juncture of our walking with Him in daily living I would like to refresh memories of this special season of the Church Year soon to be upon us. Having just finished with songs and scriptures relating to Epiphany, now coming upon us rapidly is the coming Lenten Season. This refreshment I will do with different symbols, colors, and meanings of the next 40 days of preparation toward the glorious Easter Alleluias.

**LENT:** Lent is an Anglo-Saxon word simply meaning "spring." The season of Lent lasts from Ash Wednesday (Feb. 21, 2007) to Maundy Thursday (April 5, 2007) of Holy week. It is used as a time of penitential preparation for the Easter Season.

**ASH WEDNESDAY:** Ash Wednesday is the day in which Lent begins, as stated, and is often observed in worship by the receiving of a cross of ashes placed on one's forehead...a solemn public reminder of our mortality and repentance.

**HOLY WEEK:** This special week includes the days from Palm Sunday through Easter.

**PALM / PASSION SUNDAY:** This celebrative day has

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contrasting names, one because of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, the other because this begins Jesus' days of suffering and death.

**MAUNDY THURSDAY:** This day during Holy Week gets its name from Jesus' 'new commandment' to 'love one another' which he spoke during the Passover meal wherein the Words of Institution for communion were given to us.

**GOOD FRIDAY:** Good Friday marks the events of Jesus' trial, crucifixion, death and burial. Some congregations observe what is called 'Tre Ore' (3-hour) observance with services. At Faith this year (as last year) we will have the church sanctuary open from 12 noon to 3 p.m. for those who wish to come to the church to observe personal silent worship in sanctuary.

**EASTER:** The name 'Easter' also comes from an ancient spring festival. It is also known as the Great Sunday celebrating the resurrection of Jesus from the Good Friday tomb...after which each following Sunday worship service is modeled.

**COLORS:** The usual color for Lent is violet, signaling repentance. Black may be seen on Ash Wednesday/Good Friday. Violet or Red on Palm Sunday and of course, White, for Easter celebrations and its continuing season.

**THE 40 DAYS OF LENT:** This time is patterned after Jesus' retreat into the wilderness before his 3-year ministry began...a time of self-denial and preparation toward Easter.

**PALMS:** These beautiful branches of the Palm tree were an ancient symbol of both Jewish and Roman victory used in triumphal processions and decorations.

**CROWN OF THORNS:** Like the cross itself, Jesus' painful crown is a sign both of His humiliation on our behalf as well as His kingship.

**PASCHAL CANDLE:** This is a symbol of our risen Savior, the 'Light' of the world. It may be lit at the Vigil of Easter services (Saturday before) or at the Sunday Easter service itself. It is lit through the entire Easter season.

Yes, the 40 days of Lent brings a special opportunity for Christians to practice penitence ... a fine tuning of our humanity wherein through the discipline of self examination, combined with reflection on the details of our Lord's passion, brings a Lenten flavor to our lifelong walk with God and prepares us for a richer participation in the celebration of Easter.

I leave you with a special KYRIE for your personal celebration in this Lenten walk:

**Hear us, holy Jesus.  
We are weak and sinful.  
Hear us, faithful Jesus.  
We need your strength.  
Hear us, compassionate Jesus.  
We are wracked with pain.  
Hear us, loving Jesus.  
We need your forgiveness.  
Hear us, holy Jesus.  
We call to you for help.  
Hear us, holy Jesus.  
We cry to you for wholeness.  
Hear us, holy Jesus.  
We need you, holy Jesus.  
Come to us, lead us and  
comfort us. Amen.**

*Always to His glory...  
Pastor J. Van Brussel*



## Library News



Have you ever been stumped by a request to participate in a program for a club or committee meeting? It's especially traumatic if you're asked to do a prayer. The next time you're asked, your library can help you with several resources. One book recently added to the library, *Good Graces: Invocations, Inspirations, Reflections for Club Chaplains and Speakers* by Patricia Warner was invaluable to me when I served as chaplain of a local group. I frequently received compliments on the clarity and relevance of my invocations and graces. The book has other helps such as Bible verses arranged by category. We also have other anthologies of prayers. To add a little humor to your presentation you might use *Holy Humor* and *More Holy Humor* by Carl and Rose Samra. The collected newsletters of the Fellowship of Merry Christians, *The Joyful Noiseletter*, containing many amusing and inspirational stories and anecdotes, are available in notebooks.

Although it hardly seems possible, the Lenten season begins with Ash Wednesday on February 21. Your library can assist you on your Lenten journey with a display of books and other relevant materials.

I'll see you in the library.

*Gloria Parker*

### Remember in Prayer...



Lowell Wolff  
Ron Loe  
Harriett Doak

## Happy Birthday to ...



Feb. 5	Lois May
Feb. 7	Karen Diller Harold Garno
Feb. 8	Jack Pohlman
Feb. 16	Tim Cole Jeanette Utter
Feb. 21	Roger Reese Glenna Scanlan
Feb. 24	Inez Reichard
Feb. 28	Susie Telljohann

### No February Anniversaries



February 13  
Good Bunch  
Gathering  
12:15 p.m.

The Good Bunch will meet on Tuesday, Feb. 13 at Alex Gardens, 4560 W. Alexis Rd., Toledo at 12:15 p.m. Please arrive by 12:15 as lunch is served promptly at 12:30 p.m. Lunch will be \$5.00.

Glenna will be the speaker and she will talk about a few things of the garden. After, if you are interested, she will give a tour of the garden.

Please phone reservations to Betty Huntebrinker at 419-754-1089 or Florence Heinig at 419-385-4585.

Hope to see you there.

# FEBRUARY

	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		<b>1</b> Office Open, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Bible Study, 10:30 a.m.	<b>2</b> Office Open, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b> Worship, 10:30 a.m. Feed Your Neighbor Choral Practice, 10 a.m.	<b>5</b> Block Watch, 6:30-7:30 p.m.	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Office Open, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Bible Study, 10:30 a.m.
<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Glass City Decorative Artists, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.	<b>11</b> Worship, 10:30 a.m. Finance, 9:30 a.m. Choral Practice, 10 a.m.	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> THE GOOD BUNCH, Alex Gardens, 4560 W. Alexis, 12:15 p.m.
<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> Office Open, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Bible Study, 10:30 a.m. <i>COUNCIL, 7:30 p.m.</i>	<b>16</b> Office Open, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. <i>DIALOG DEADLINE</i>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>  Worship, 10:30 a.m. Choral Practice, 10 a.m.
<b>19</b>  Presidents Day	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>  <i>ASH WEDNESDAY Service, 7:30 p.m.</i>	<b>22</b> Office Open, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. NO BIBLE STUDY	<b>23</b> Office Open, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> <i>1st Sunday of Lent</i> Worship, 10:30 a.m. Choral Practice, 10 a.m.	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> <i>Mid-Week LENTEN Service</i> Potluck, 6:30 p.m. Service, 7:30 p.m. 

**Wednesday**  
**February 21—**  
Ash Wednesday  
Service, 7:30 p.m.

**Sunday**  
**February 25—**  
1st Sunday in Lent,  
Worship, 10:30 a.m.

**Wednesday**  
**February 28—**  
Mid-week Lenten  
Service  
Potluck, 6:30 p.m.  
Service, 7:30 p.m.

January 2007						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

March 2007						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31



## In Honor of ...

# Faith's 50th Anniversary

We will be printing highlights from Faith Community United Church of Christ's history over the past 50 years. If you have stories or photos to share, please bring or send them to the church office. We'll try to feature something each month between now and the June celebration.

## In the Beginning

The United Church of Christ was born on June 26, 1957 when the Congregational and Christian Evangelical Reformed groups united. At that time the combined member-

ship of both churches was 2,142,000 people.

Faith Community in Toledo was only a small portion of those millions, but they began with a lot of faith, courage, con-

fidence and determination. A planning and steering committee was formed in the summer of 1956. Their first act was to locate a 5-acre property with a 2-acre adjacent piece for a parsonage. The property held a two-car garage that was envisioned as the first chapel.

A charter was granted in 1957 and steps were taken to form a church of faith. With only that faith and some real estate, the first church service was held in the auditorium at Glanzman School on March 10, 1957 with 52 people present.

During the first year, 40 people became charter members of Faith Community Church. Dick Bader is the only remaining member from that first 40 in today's church.

The first pastor of Faith Community was Rev. Arwood J. Sterrett who began his pastorate on Jan. 10, 1957.

The congregation moved into their converted two-car garage

chapel for their first service on the Day of Pentecost, June 9, 1957. The church dedication took place at the same time. This chapel was the church's initial home and was considered Phase I of a building program that would lead to the church that is found today.

The new congregation was formally organized at that first 10:30 a.m. service, where new members were formally received. The service included a baptism of adults, a confirmation, and rites of Holy Communion.

In the afternoon a service was held to install the newly organized church council. This service was conducted by Dr. Ralph Wiley, field secretary of the Board of National Missions, and Rev. Harry Zuern and Rev. Ralph Schmidt, Northwest Ohio Synod and chairman of the National Missions Committee. They also spoke a message following the installation.

The first Bible School was organized in June and the Youth Fellowship, Women's Guild and Children's Choir in September. (Excerpted from Rev. Al Schwenke's history of the church. Copies are available in the library.)



THE FIRST CHURCH SERVICE for Faith Community Church was held on March 10, 1957 in the Glanzman School auditorium with 52 people present.



IN THE SUMMER OF 1956, the steering committee, consisting of Rev. Theodore Klautdt, Rev. Ralph Smith, Mrs. Clarence Swarthsfager and Fred Buchrer located a 5-acre and a 2-acre tract of land at Byrne and Arlington in Toledo.



A CONVERTED TWO-CAR GARAGE is dedicated as the first chapel of Faith Community Church in 1957.

## SOMETHING DIFFERENT

You no doubt noticed the change in size of this month's newsletter. The *Dialog* may only be this size for a short while. The church has a couple of cartons of paper this size in the cabinets that are not being used for any other purpose. As paper does not have an indefinite shelf life, we decided to use up some of it before it becomes unuseable. We'll go to a different size when it is gone.



Now that we have survived the holidays and welcomed in the new year, we can begin

thinking about spring activities. Let's concentrate especially on gathering, sorting, stacking, bagging and boxing what we can donate to the Rummage Sale. We have changed the date to May 4 and 5, 2007 so you have another week in preparation!

It's only four months from now, so time to start looking around. Mark your calendars across the entire week so you will be free to work at the church—April 30 through May 5.

Come one, come all, men and women. Work, have fun, shop, have lunch and enjoy the feeling of goodness in your heart for the week you will have done for your church. Thanks to all.

*Phyl Rietzke*



## Scriptures for FEBRUARY

**Sunday, February 4**  
Isaiah 6:1-8, (9-13) / Psalm 138  
1 Cor. 15:1-11 / Luke 5:1-11

**Sunday, February 11**  
Jeremiah 17:5-10 / Psalm 1  
1 Corinthians 15:12-20 / Luke 6:17-26

**Sunday, February 18**  
Exodus 34:29-35 / Psalm 99  
2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2 / Luke 9:28-36

**Wednesday, February 21**  
**ASH WEDNESDAY**

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 or Isaiah 58:1-12  
Psalm 51:1-17 / 2 Cor. 5:20b-6:10  
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

**Sunday, February 25**  
Deuteronomy 26:1-11 / Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16  
Romans 10:8b-13 / Luke 4:1-13

Faith Community United Church of Christ

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