



The Congregation Council

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Worship Team

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Lori Pollard
Steve Maio & Peter Ernst
Jane Slepian
Bonnie Magistrelli
Mike & Louise Wade
Vic Dal Pozzal
Pr. Dave Franks
Linda Koehn



CLIFTON LUTHERAN CHURCH - February 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1 Sunday School 9am Confirmation 9am Classrooms</p> <p>Worship 10am Sanctuary</p> <p>Troop 79 Committee Meeting 7-9pm Library</p>	2	<p>3 Troop 79 Meeting 7-8pm KH</p> <p>Bell Rehearsal 7pm Sanctuary</p>	<p>4 Confirmation 4pm</p> <p>Choir Rehearsal 7-9pm Music Room</p>	<p>5 AA 7-8pm KH</p>	6	7
<p>8 Sunday School 9am Confirmation 9am Classrooms</p> <p>Worship 10am Sanctuary</p>	<p>9 Pack 79 Committee Meeting 8pm—9pm Library</p>	<p>10 Bell Rehearsal 7pm Sanctuary</p> <p>Troop 79 Meeting 7pm—8:30pm KH</p>	<p>11 Confirmation 4pm</p> <p>Choir Rehearsal 7-9pm Music Room</p>	<p>12 AA 7-8pm KH</p>	13	14
<p>15 Sunday School 9am Confirmation 9am Classrooms</p> <p>Worship 10am Sanctuary</p>	16	<p>17 Bell Rehearsal 7pm Sanctuary</p> <p>Church Council Meeting 7pm Library</p>	<p>18 Confirmation 4pm</p> <p>Choir Rehearsal 7-9pm Music Room</p>	<p>19 AA 7-8pm KH</p>	20	21
<p>22 Sunday School 9am Confirmation 9am Classrooms</p> <p>Worship 10am Sanctuary</p>	<p>23 Musical Pajama Club 6:15-7:30pm KH</p> <p>Scout meetings Library, Music and Rundle rooms</p>	<p>24 Bell Rehearsal 7pm Sanctuary</p> <p>Troop 79 Meeting 7pm-8:30pm KH</p> <p>Scout Meetings Library, Music and Rundle rooms</p>	<p>25 Confirmation 4pm</p> <p>Choir Rehearsal 7-9pm Music Room</p> <p>ASH WEDNESDAY</p>	<p>26 AA 7-8pm KH</p>	27	28

February 2009

Clifton News



From Pastor David Franks

Thanks to John Simon (Sandy Maio's dad) for sending me this interview with Pastor Rick Warren. I think it is a good introduction to the Lenten journey we begin on Ash Wednesday, February 25. -----Pastor Dave

People ask me, What is the purpose of life? And I respond: In a nutshell, life is preparation for eternity. We were not made to last forever, and God wants us to be with Him in Heaven. One day my heart is going to stop, and that will be the end of my body-- but not the end of me. I may live 60 to 100 years on earth, but I am going to spend trillions of years in eternity. This is the warm-up act - the dress rehearsal. God wants us to practice on earth what we will do forever in eternity.

We were made by God and for God, and until you figure that out, life isn't going to make sense. Life is a series of problems: Either you are in one now, you're just coming out of one, or you're getting ready to go into another one. The reason for this is that God is more interested in your character than your comfort; God is more interested in making your life holy than He is in making your life happy.

We can be reasonably happy here on earth, but that's not the goal of life. The goal is to grow in character, in Christ likeness. This past year has been the greatest year of my life but also the toughest, with my wife, Kay, getting cancer. I used to think that life was hills and valleys - you go through a dark time, then you go to the mountaintop, back and forth. I don't believe that anymore. Rather than life being hills and valleys, I believe that it's kind of like two rails on a railroad track, and at all times you have something good and something bad in your life. No matter how good things are in your life, there is always something bad that needs to be worked on. And no matter how bad things are in your life, there is always something good you can thank God for.

You can focus on your purposes, or you can focus on your problems:

If you focus on your problems, you're going into self-centeredness, which is my problem, my issues, my pain.' But one of the easiest ways to get rid of pain is to get your focus off yourself and onto God and others.

We discovered quickly that in spite of the prayers of hundreds of thousands of people, God was not going to heal Kay or make it easy for her- It has been very difficult for her, and yet God has strengthened her character, given her a ministry of helping other people, given her a testimony, drawn her closer to Him and to people.

You have to learn to deal with both the good and the bad of life. Actually, sometimes learning to deal with the good is harder. For instance, this past year, all of a sudden, when the book sold 15 million copies, it made me instantly very wealthy. It also brought a lot of notoriety that I had never had to deal with before. I don't think God gives you money or notoriety for your own ego or for you to live a life of ease. So I began to ask God what He wanted me to do with this money, notoriety and influence, and He gave me two different passages that helped me decide what to do, II Corinthians 9 and Psalm 72.

First, in spite of all the money coming in, we would not change our lifestyle one bit. We made no major purchases. Second, about midway through last year, I stopped taking a salary from the church. Third, we set up foundations to fund an initiative we call The Peace Plan to plant churches, equip leaders, assist the poor, care for the sick, and educate the next generation. Fourth, I added up all that the church had paid me in the 24 years since I started the church, and I gave it all back. It was liberating to be able to serve God for free.

We need to ask ourselves: Am I going to live for possessions? Popularity? Am I going to be driven by pressures? Guilt? Bitterness? Materialism? Or am I going to be driven by God's purposes (for my life)?

When I get up in the morning, I sit on the side of my bed and say, God, if I don't get anything else done today, I want to know You more and love You better God didn't put me on earth just to fulfill a to-do list. He's more interested in what I am than what I do. That's why we're called human beings, not human doings.

OFFICE INFORMATION

Pastor Franks may be most easily reached in the church office Tuesday through Friday, 10 am to 3 pm (with some exceptions) and by use of the answering machine. Saturday and Monday are usually his days off.

Please check the newsletter calendar for important dates. If your committee schedules a meeting, please enter it on the church calendar in the office. Since many meetings are scheduled on Sunday after church, please be aware of conflicts with other committees.

Serving in Worship in February

	<u>February 1</u>	<u>February 8</u>	<u>February 15</u>	<u>February 22</u>
<i>Assisting Minister</i>	<i>Garry Watzke</i>	<i>Daniel Collins</i>	<i>Mike Wade Bill Walker</i>	<i>John Gergely</i>
<i>Communion Assistant</i>	<i>Ruthi Wurth</i>	<i>Mary Hall</i>	<i>Carol Lloyd</i>	<i>Pat Duly</i>
<i>Ushers</i>	<i>Robin Calahan Robin Rude</i>	<i>Chris Prouty Nathan Koplien Fox Prouty</i>	<i>Bill Finch Mary Hall</i>	<i>David Wilson Edwin Baez</i>
<i>Altar Guild</i>	<i>Robin Rude</i>	<i>Sally Skinner</i>	<i>Bonnie Magistrelli</i>	<i>Karen Pickell</i>
<i>Greeters</i>	<i>Gally Family</i>	<i>Theresa Byors Jennifer Byors</i>	<i>Koehn Family</i>	<i>Joyce Lofmark</i>
<i>Acolyte</i>	<i>Scott Walker</i>	<i>Rachael Slepian Kristina Koplien</i>	<i>Sam Pickell Jake Pickell</i>	<i>Fox Prouty Drew Gally</i>

If you are unable to serve, please arrange for someone to take your place, and report the change to the church office by Wednesday morning.

*Items for March 2009 **Clifton News** are due on Monday February 16th
Please submit them to Barbara Conlon. Email address infoclc@verizon.net*

Highlights from the January 20th Council Meeting:

The full set of minutes from the meeting and the financial reports are available in the Narthex. As always, we welcome you to join us for council meetings:

- The results from the Natural Church Development survey are back and the committee will be updating the congregation.
- We have contracted to have a new sign built for the outside of the building. This will be located in the same spot as our existing sign. We will be able to post information on special services and events that we will be holding.
- We have ordered a new baptismal font and new flower vases. Both are in dire need of replacement. The funds for these purchases will be from a portion of Jeanie Patrick and Jack Hamilton's memorial donations.
- The 2009 budget has been approved by council and will be presented to the congregation at the annual meeting.
- The annual meeting is scheduled for March 1, please put this on your calendar. — Mary Hall

From the President - Karin Ernst

2008 Average Monthly Pledge - \$8398

December Offering - \$9867

December Other Income - \$6826

Total December Income - \$16694

Total December Expenses - \$22388.44



Did You Know?????

Camp Calumet also has weekend programs designed for ... well everyone! Check out some of the following offerings and don't forget to log onto www.calumet.org and look at Calumet Year Round.

The New England Synod provides information, support, lectures and even classes throughout New England. You can find this information on the Synod website under Care Package. Or use this link: http://www.nesynod.org/resources/news/care_packet.php for a quick tour – check it out.

Presidents Letter

Probably the best thing invented in the past 5 years is Netflix. I can sit on the couch, preview and order any movie I want online, keep it as long as I want, and then return it for a new one. I have been having a blast renting older movies and new releases.

Last Monday on Martin Luther King Jr. Day, I had the opportunity to be all alone in the house for the afternoon. While my molasses dough was rising, I watch this movie called Welcome to Paradise. It is rated 2 stars, but had Crystal Bernard in it from Wings so therefore, worth the time.

This movie is about a small town church and its congregation. The church burns to the ground and the area bishop wants to close the congregation. Well as you can imagine this small group of women, men and children, started to rebuild. I am not going to tell you the rest, as I hope you will rent it.

Throughout the entire movie, if you forgive the bad acting, you can see examples of how the Holy Spirit works with people, or rather thru people. Now I know it is only a movie, but this small group of people in the small town depicted in this film is typical, in my mind, to our town and our congregation.

As we move through the next 5, 10, and 20 and yes even 50 years, we will certainly have challenges in our church and in our homes. We will become complacent, become doubtful, lose our faith and throw up our hands in defeat. But we will also have such good times too. We will be blessed; we will laugh, be touched by kindness and be given hope. We will experience all of this together, supporting one another while making sure we don't get lost.

It seems like a lot of pressure doesn't it. Well don't worry. God does provide us with everything we need ... we just need to ask for it, pray for it and seek it.

In this year of uncertainty in our country and our state it is so important to keep ourselves focused. Our job here is to be stewards of God. We will keep our faith alive with the help and support of each other. And let's not forget our friends who may not have a family like we do at Clifton. Remind them that our family is their family. The front door to Clifton is open to all who want to ask, pray and seek.

Mission Endowment Fund

The council met with an ELCA leader who spoke to us about a mission endowment fund. Other congregations in the area have a fund like this and we were interested in how Clifton could benefit from this sort of fund.

A Mission Fund emphasizes the fund's purpose: to fund mission work at home and around the world, above and beyond the programs supported through regular offerings. Examples of mission work include programs in the community, a Lutheran social ministry organization, supporting a student in seminary, and even ministries of the ELCA if we choose. Also we can use this fund to help sponsor a Clifton Lutheran student traveling to Guam to build homes or support teens and young adults who want to travel to New England to work in the inner city teaching about God's promise to us. Each year we can pick a different mission to support.

Here are some key points about this kind of fund:

- Clifton Lutheran Church is the owner of the fund and has full authority over its development and the decisions about when and how it is used.

- A set percentage of the fund's total value is used every year for its purposes. Presently, the ELCA recommends 4.5%. As a loving and giving church we should always find more ways to support missions outside the church and this is one way to ensure that happens each year.
- As Christians, just as we give proportionately for the Lord's work from our income annually, so we are encouraged to give proportionately from our accumulated resources as legacy gifts. Creating a mission endowment fund provides the receptacle not only for receiving such legacy gifts, but also memorial funds as well. When Clifton members remember this fund with a legacy gift, future generations will be equipped to make profound impacts on the lives of people in need. The possibilities are endless!"

Something to consider – don't you think????

Confirmation Program

As part of the confirmation experience, the students will be asked to pick a member of the congregation to interview. The purpose of this activity is to "get to know" another member of the church. Sometimes kids this age will know who a person is, but do not get the opportunity to "really know a person". This activity was well received last year and my continued hope is that each student will find a connection with someone other than the members of their own family. After, the students will be asked to write a 5 paragraph essay on the person they interviewed. This essay may or may not be included in a future newsletter.

The interview can take place on During the month of February and may be done during the Sunday School hour. There are 26 questions. If you are not available or are not interested in being interviewed, please let me know at karin17@comcast.net so I can take your name off of the list. Below are samples of questions the students will be asking. Thank you in advance for your time.

Tell me about the greatest thing you have done in your life?

1. What are your strengths?
2. Do you have any advice on embracing/considering new ideas?
3. What advice do you have regarding an approach to life?
5. Have you ever been a mentor? To Whom? What did you enjoy about it?
6. What is the best movie you have ever seen?

Thanks,
Karin Ernst
Pastor Dave

Got Books? Should we sign for another year? Let me know what you think.



To date this year, the Got Books Bin has raised close to \$3995.00 for Clifton Lutheran Church. That amount is equal to two mortgage payments. What a wonderful thrill and I for one never expected this kind of result. Thank you to all who participate by dropping your books in the bin. For more information on the Got Books program, please visit www.gotbooks.com.

On a related note: There is a used book store in Danvers in the same plaza as Market Basket. The books left over from the Got Books bins across the state, that don't get sent to the troops or donated to various places, get sold at this book store. I just visited and bought hardcover/soft cover books at a real cheap price. Check it out.



Flower Reminder

Thank you to all who have sponsored flowers in memory or honor of a loved one. There has been concern, however, with the amount we have received from those who have sponsored flowers. We have received about half of the amount pledged. So please, if you have not paid for your flowers — this would be a great time to do so. When you make your payment, please remember to write flowers in the memo section of your check. You can put the check right in the collection plate or send it to the church. Thank you

CHILDREN IN THE WORSHIP SERVICE — ABC's for Parents and Other Adults:

Arrive in time to find a good place to sit. Make sure your children can see the pulpit area.

Bring something for the little ones to hold or look at. Children's packets and Bibles are available from the ushers.

Call on the Lord's Prayer, songs from opening worship, and Sunday School lessons to use for grace and prayer time at home.

Direct your children to locate the hymns and scripture lessons before the service begins.

Express joy at having children worship with you. Send an occasional smile in their direction.

In Friendship, greet and welcome parents and small children to the worship of our Lord..

The Value and Importance of a Church Family

In the recent loss of my beloved Jack, followed by my own health problems, I was supported and buoyed up by our church family, as well as my own family and friends. The prayers from all kept me afloat when I wondered if I had the courage to keep on. About the worst weather of December accompanied Jack's service on December 20, yet many brave people showed up to honor him. My sons and I were so grateful. Our church friends made Jack's memorial service wonderful. Ruthi Wurth prepared a handsome program with Jack's picture, Jim Nye and Karin Ernst shoveled snow, and Karin acted as bartender for the wine at the reception. Bill Finch and Jim Rude gave the readings, Mike Wade the Eulogy, and Steve Duly and Bill Finch ushered. Susan Angrisano was the most beautiful soloist, singing Amazing Grace and Just Another Walk with Thee, and our organist, Vic, played all the music and hymns superbly. Our Pastor conducted the service with compassion. Pat Finch, Mary Hall, Pat Duly, and Louise Wade did the honors at the altar for communion, and all these lovely women, including Sarah Walker and Karin Ernst, cleaned up from the reception Henry's provided.

The Coast Guard sent a Bugler to play "Taps", from a group who honor veterans called Bugles Across America. We were able to keep all funeral home people in the background and have a truly church oriented service and reception, because of our church family taking on so much of the work involved.

Our family is grateful, and God Bless you all, and thank you!
—Bettie Hamilton

Remembering Jeanie by Louise Wade

I had the good fortune to know Jeanie Patrick for most of my life. Our families lived in the same neighborhood and we had many occasions celebrating together and supporting each other during sad times.

Jeanie lived in Marblehead for more than 80 years, first as a summer resident, then later, year-round with her widowed mother. The latter part of her 106 years was spent on the South Shore, closer to her cousins. Distance and age kept her away from Sunday service, but she never forgot her love of Clifton Lutheran church, and the almost 60 years of her membership here.

Jeanie was a member of the Women's Guild, taking great pride in heading up the jewelry table at the annual Church Fair. She had a lovely voice and sang in the choir for many years. If there was a job to be done around the church, you could find Jeanie involved, including kitchen cleaning duty. She was one of the first women to hold office in Clifton Lutheran, as secretary of the Endowment Fund Committee.

Jeanie came from a privileged background, but preferred to live a simple life. You could find her digging in her garden, planting flowers, while her beloved Kimmy and Pam, two Golden Cocker Spaniels, romped around the yard. There are so many stories which could be told of this interesting woman's life.

She has left the church she loved a very generous endowment and it now is our responsibility to honor her appropriately.

Jeanie not only gave us a gift, but she was herself a gift.

A Few Announcements:

Marblehead Food Pantry:

Thanks to everyone who shared their food with their neighbors by bringing food for the Marblehead Food Pantry.—Sally Skinner

Surviving a Loss

A free 8-week support group—two different sessions Thursdays January 22—March 12 2:30—3:30 pm or Saturdays January 31—February 21 9:00—11:00 am at The Center for Grief & Healing, 78 Liberty Street, Danvers, MA— Free and open to the public. Pre-registration is required contact 978 774 5100 or grief@hns.org

Just a Reminder:

I am in the church office Tuesday—Friday between 9 am -noon. Please feel free to call or email, or even stop by.

My email address is infoclc@verizon.net and please, if you would, cc all emails to my home address at conbarbara@gmail.com. That way I'll be sure to get them.

—Barbara



February

Bob Languedoc	February	2
Robin Rude	February	3
Liesl Fields	February	6
Alyssa Nye	February	7
Raymond Julien	February	12
Robin Calahan	February	16
Joshua Julien	February	19
Steve Maio	February	19
Jane Hufnagel Slepian	February	19
Rajko Ilincic	February	20
James Koehn	February	21
Peg Slattery	February	26
Marlys Russell	February	27
Ashley Rae Nye	February	28

Remember in your prayers those who are at home or in a nursing home



Ray Julien
273 Locust Street
Danvers, MA 01923

Doris Slattery
11 Taft St.
Marblehead MA 01945

Audrey Hufnagel
8 Taft Street
Marblehead, MA 01945

Jean Wood
3 Pioneer terrace #D
Salem MA 01970

Remember in you prayers...	
Isabelle Burns	Tonya Nye's grandmother, stroke
Anna Calitri	Friend of Sande Vesely who is fighting breast cancer
Cullen Elliott	Sarah Elliott's nephew, diagnosed with lymphoma
Josephine Gosselin	Christine Gally's grandmother in nursing home, health issues
Audrey Hufnagel	Recovering from surgery at Shaugnessey/Kaplan Rehab, Salem
Ray Julien	member, MS and Parkinsons at home
D. John Kazes	Family friend of the Nye's, battling cancer
Virginia Lathrop	Barbara Janavaris' Aunt - leg strength due to weakness after a stroke
Karen Malloy	Robert Palermo's sister, lung cancer
Susan Martins	Friend of Teddy Haughton, going blind, handicapped
Doris Slattery	Member – at home
Laudis Pena	Edwin's grandmother - fighting breast cancer
Maureen Perreault	Robin Calahan's friend having surgery
Susan Rowley	Jim Rude's niece - fighting recurring cancer
Tony Simon	Sandy Maio's uncle, recuperating from a severe infection
Derek Stevens	nephew of Ruthi's friend, 34 – needs heart transplant
Heidi Welti	friend of Stefanie Julien, fighting breast cancer
Cheryl Williams	friend of Jean Wood, medical problems
Jean Wood	Member – at home
Pam Zamore	niece of Dave & Lynda Franks, medical problems
Remember in your prayers...Serving in the military	
William Figueroa	Chrissy Palermo's nephew
Ted Korontjis	friend of Robert Palermo
Russell Stewart	
Shane Vesely	Sande & Stan Vesely's son serving in Afghanistan