

LJ's LETTER

It's March...the month that marks the beginning of Spring (or at least we HOPE so!), the change in times and length of days, and Lent. That's a lot for one month!

Lent is one of those weird, in-between times for us as Christians. It is a time of discernment, of listening to God, of repentance and prayer, of forgiving and forgiveness, and of discipline. Usually it is marked by people giving up or taking on a discipline as a way of remembering or reminding ourselves what Christ gave up for us on the cross.

So...what have you decided to do for Lent? A friend of mine called on Saturday during the 1st week of Lent to tell me that she had given up shopping, chocolate and caffeine – AND to confess that she'd already broken all three. Her question was...how much longer until Easter?

I laugh even while reading this, and yet know how incredibly difficult it is to keep spiritual disciplines. I can count on my fingers the number of times I've actually made it through Lent maintaining that which I'd sacrificed. The year I gave up all sweets or caffeine were both HUGE disasters, and I found myself feeling guilty and unworthy. Not fun, and I realize now, not the purpose of sacrifice.

Christ sacrificed and gave His life so that we may have life. Our sacrifices don't or won't save us. They won't make us more worthy in God's eyes. What they can do is help us understand a little better the extent that Jesus went to in living God's unending love for us. They remind us of our need for Christ. They remind us that it is truly by Christ's sacrifice and God's love that we are saved – not anything we do.

So...while there are years that I am unable to be strong enough to make it the entire length of Lent without giving into the call of chocolate (or whatever my

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sacrifice for the year), my comfort comes in knowing that God – the God who saves and creates – also forgives and knows that I'm trying. Thanks be to God!!

(And it's not too late to give us or take on something...have you done this?)

Blessings,
Lauri Jo

United Methodist Women

The United Methodist Women were "snowed out" in February. However, we hosted the Johnson City District UMW officers and Unit Presidents on February 20 for a noon luncheon. It was a great success thanks to Jean Cosgrove, who coordinated the event, and to the splendid assistance of Gaye, Margo, Marietta, Linda, Diane, Pat, Dona, Darlene, Betty, Gwen!! It was a lot of work, but the fellowship was beyond measure. Thank you all for a job well done.

Our next meeting will be March 11. A film, "Loving the Forsaken" will be shown.

Mark your calendar for April 17. The Johnson City District Mission Trip will be to the Holston Home for Children in Greeneville, Tennessee. We will meet at Wesley Memorial Church at 9:00 a.m. and take the bus from there. Cost to ride the bus and have lunch at the Home will be \$21.00. If one prefers to drive her car and/or carpool, cost will be \$11.00 for the lunch. Reservation Deadline is April 5. Reservation Forms and the Home's Needs List are available from Jean Cosgrove and Phyllis Lovette. This trip is for anyone who is interested in visiting Holston Home, not just United Methodist Women.

The UMW Day Apart will be March 21 at Cherokee United Methodist Church, 2:30 p.m. Speaker will be Rev. Michelle Buckles.

Coming up in May is the Spiritual Enrichment Experience and Young Women's Retreat at Lake Junaluska.

Those who attempt to search into the majesty of God will be overwhelmed with its glory. Thomas `a Kempis

The Runabouts (Adult Ministries)

The Runabouts activities for the month of March are again deferring to the winter weather that still seems to be with us. Hopefully we'll be able to get involved in some more outdoor activities in April.

Therefore, we are having another movie afternoon on Palm Sunday, March 28th. We'll be showing the movie "The Robe" at 2:00 PM in the fellowship hall. We feel this movie will be an appropriate showing at this time since the central theme is the aftermath of the crucifixion and resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We encourage everyone to make plans to join us for this movie.

We will be playing BUNCO again on Monday, March 22nd, at 1:00 PM in the fellowship hall. This will be a special event for everyone in that we will be celebrating "Sniff's" birthday. Who is "Sniff" you say? Well I guess you will just have to join us on March 22nd to find out.

Donations

Thanks again to our family and extended family for their contributions as well as for honoring and remembering their loved ones.

MEMORIALS GIVEN TO:

MEMORY GARDEN

Hazel Schuettler by Dick and Linda Raley

MISSIONS

Hazel Schuettler by Carsie Lodter

MUSIC MINISTRY

Hazel Schuettler by Don and Joanne Blair

Virginia Alexander by Don and Joanne Blair

Hazel Schuettler by John and Peggy Geagley

MUSIC SCHOLARSHIP

Pam Johnson by Dr. and Mrs. David McNeely, Jr.

Frank Harrill by Dr. and Mrs. David McNeely, Jr.

Children & Youth News

March 2010

Children & Youth Activities

- Wed. Mar. 3: Coolagers (3:15-4:45)
Snacks: Austin Canter
- Sun, Mar. 7: UMY (6:00-7:30)
Snacks: Hannah
Acolytes: Katie & Chelsea
- Wed, Mar. 10: Coolagers (3:15-4:45)
Snacks: Kechter family
- Sun, Mar. 14: UMY BAKE SALE
UMY (6:00-7:30)
Snacks: Chelsea
Acolytes: JJ & Will
- Wed, Mar. 17: NO Coolagers (Spring Break)
- Sun, Mar. 21: UMY Fun Expedition outing
Acolytes: Hannah & Karter
- Wed, Mar. 24: Coolagers (3:15-4:45)
Snacks: John and Will Schaff
- Sat, Mar. 27: Children's Easter Party**
Time: 1:00-3:00
For Pre-K to 5th grade
- Sun, Mar 28: PALM SUNDAY
Children & Youth wave Palms
UMY (6:00-7:30)
Snacks: Briana
Acolytes: Emily & Julia
- Wed, Mar. 31: Coolagers (3:15-4:45)
Snacks: JJ & Will Livingston

Individually, wrapped candy needed by March 21st for Children's Easter Party.



Children's Easter Party

There will be a Children's Easter Party for our church kids and those from Rose Hill Apartments on Sat, Mar. 27th from 1:00-3:00. Candy, snacks and Helpers are needed for this event. We will learn the real meaning of Easter, have fun playing games, search for Easter eggs, and enjoy snacks together. We are anticipating a large crowd this year so if you can help in any way please let Debbie know in advance. Thanks!!!



UMY Bake Sale Fund Raiser Sunday, March 14 In Fellowship Hall

Whole homemade items and snack items will be on sale after church on this Sunday.

Our Mission Notes

Jubilee Project Trip Saturday February 6th, five members of the young adult class...along with Jim Hardin...helped deliver clothes, food, blankets, toiletry items, and other basic necessities to Jubilee Project in Sneedville. The back of the church bus, a couple of the bus seats, and Jim's Honda were full of these items that we've been collecting since December. Thanks to Wes Bradley for driving the bus. Also, a special thanks to Amy Byington, a friend of my fiancée's who we picked up along the way in Hawkins County. The folks at Jubilee were much appreciative of your efforts.



With unemployment in Hancock County approaching 20-percent, Jubilee is doing a whole lot more than just Christian ministry to youth. They are trying to help people survive. The family of one youth lives in a home with dirt floor and several don't have running water or a car to drive.

Thanks again--your generous donations will help our neighbors less than 2 hours away here in East Tennessee meet some basic needs that we take for granted.

The needs list that Jubilee gave us is pretty extensive. To help keep it simple, the young adult class would like to focus on just a few needed items between now and the end of March. If you could purchase a few of these items the next time you're shopping, it would be appreciated. We'll again use the back corner of the fellowship hall for a collection point now through the end of March. The needs list is as follows:

- | | | | |
|--|----------------------|------------------------------------|----------------|
| Toilet Paper | Paper Towels | Paper Towel Holders | Facial Tissues |
| Tall Kitchen Trash Bags | 55 Gallon Trash Bags | 40...60...and 100 watt light bulbs | |
| Feminine Hygiene Products (pads and tampons) | | | |



We are accepting memorials and honorariums, minimum \$5.00 each, for the Resurrection Cross. We will have beautiful flowers on Easter that will be placed in the cross by the members of the congregation. There will also be a special acknowledgement insert in the bulletin on Easter.

Amount Given \$ _____

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

Given by: _____



Mark your Calendar

	USHERS	SOUND	VIDEO	SCRIPTURE	ACOLYTES
03-07-10	Team 3	Richard Lovette	Rachel Hulshult	Doug Canter	Katie & Chelsea
03-14-10	Team 4	Richard Lovette	Doug Hulshult	Jen Bradley	JJ & Will
03-21-10	Team 5	Richard Lovette	Sage Geagley	Margo Bentley	Hannah & Karter
03-28-10	Team 6	Richard Lovette	JD Livingston	Randall/Jancy Bennett	Emily & Julia

03-02	SPRC Meeting 6:30 pm in the Conference Room Mission Committee Meeting 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall
03-04	Lenten Lunch in Fellowship Hall Bring your own lunch 12:00 devotional 12:30 pm
03-09	Europe Trip Meeting in the Fellowship Hall 7:00 pm
03-11	Lenten Lunch in Fellowship Hall Bring your own lunch 12:00 devotional 12:30 pm UMW in the King's Daughters Class Room 1:00 pm Worship Committee Meeting 7:00 pm
03-14	UMY Bake Sale after church in the Fellowship Hall
03-18	Lenten Lunch in Fellowship Hall Bring your own lunch 12:00 devotional 12:30 pm Circle 6 Meeting
03-22	The Runabouts' BUNCO in the Fellowship Hall 1:00 pm
03-25	Lenten Lunch in Fellowship Hall Bring your own lunch 12:00 devotional 12:30 pm
03-27	Children's Easter Party 1:00 pm—3:00 pm
03-28	LENTEN OFFERING BOXES DUE TODAY!! Movie in the Fellowship Hall "The Robe" 2:00 pm

*All the Coolager and Youth Activities are not included in this schedule, please refer Children and Youth section of Newsletter each group's schedule of events.



The Holsten's



Filler Items
for
Shoebboxes
**crayons, colored pencils,
coloring books**
(remember they must fit in a shoebox)

Happy Birthday to....

Ashley Birchfield Blevins 2nd
Jane Dugger 4th
Maryetta Elliott 7th
Kay Jones 11th
Darlene LaPorte 11th
Sid Davidson 12th

John Gillespie 17th
J. D. Livingston III 20th
Sophia Bremer 23rd
Julia Schubert 23rd
Bill Longmire 25th
Jody Nichols 26th

Carolyn Peters 27th
Sam LaPorte 29th
Lynn Hulshult 30th
Julie Bentley 30th



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STATED MEETINGS

Weekly

Sunday

Morning Worship	9:55 a.m.
Children's Church	
Fellowship Time	11:00 a.m.
Sunday School	11:20 a.m.
United Methodist Youth	6:00—7:30 p.m.

Wednesday

Coolagers	3:15—4:45 p.m.
Mid Week Adult Bible Study	6:30 p.m.
Handbell Choir Rehearsal	7:00 p.m.
Chancel Choir Rehearsal	8:00 p.m.

Monthly

Administrative Council	2nd Sunday, 7:00 p.m.
Trustees	2nd Sunday, 6:00 p.m.
Worship Committee	2nd Thursday, 7:00 p.m.
United Methodist Women	
	2nd Thursday, 1:00 p.m.
Circle #6	3rd Thursday, 7:00 p.m.