

Word of Hope

MOUNT HOPE
United Methodist Church



Pastor Rigby Writes. . .

Will We Make This a Holy Lent?

I've been asked to submit an article or two for this issue of the *Word of Hope*. These articles I wrote twenty-five years ago for the newsletter of my church in Stroudsburg, and they seem to me to be as relevant for us, as believers, today as they were in 1996.

~ Pastor George

As I sit here I find myself rejoicing in the longer days. Every day, imperceptibly, the sun rises a bit earlier and sets a bit later. That makes for more light and less darkness. And I'm for that, now that Lent is here: longer days, more light, and less darkness.

Interestingly, the word Lent comes from the Anglo-Saxon word "to lengthen". It is also the word the Anglo-Saxons used for Spring, since the lengthening of the days was seen as God's sure sign that Winter was dying and

the earth was about to be reborn.

In a way that is what Lent is about. As a season of the Church Year it serves us as a reminder that in the darkness there is the promise of light; that in our Winter's death of sin there is God's promise of life—renewal, rebirth, resurrection.

Lent (if we keep it; if we observe and pay attention to it) can be a powerful experience for us. As we reflect on our spiritual condition—our failures in faith; our carelessness in living the Gospel—Lent can point the way to the light of God's forgiving love, the light of His love for us in Jesus.

But of course the secret lies in the practice of Lent, keeping and observing it. Like all the Church Year seasons Lent means practically nothing if all we see in

it is a color change of sanctuary paraments.

It was to make the Lenten 40 days (exclusive of Sundays) personally meaningful that the Church, centuries ago, mandated that they be spent with fasts and other special acts of devotion. By sacrifice and self-denial Christians were to confront the darkness in their lives and make a way for God to reclaim and renew them.

I wrestle with this every year: what I will do with Lent, about Lent, for Lent; what sacrifice, if any, I will make. And usually (I regret to say) I end up doing . . . well, I end up doing just about what you probably do!

I pray that for both of us, you and me, this will be a Holy Lent, because this year we make an effort to make it so.

Preparing for Lent

March 6th – Communion Sunday

Dr. McGill's message: "*The Greatest Price Ever Paid To Set A Slave Free!*"

Titus 2: 11-14

Our freedom from satan's power was extremely expensive. The price Jesus paid for us was the highest price ever

paid for a slave. You see, the ransom that Jesus paid in order to procure our freedom from satan's ownership was—His own blood! I invite you to be present in worship as we gather as the body of Christ to thank Jesus for loving us so much that He shed His precious life's blood on

the cross for you and me.

Lent 2011

The season of Lent in the church year is one of the most important and significant to God's people. It is a time of preparation, reflection, growth and change. It is

(Continued on page 2)

March 2011

Inside this issue:

Our Church Family Preparing for Lent Women's Softball 2

Prayer Shawl Acolyte Robes Confirmation Class Irish Potato Sale The Bible Talks about Life 3

"Rights" and "Choice" Children's Center News 4

Transportation Ministry The Greatest Key 5

Kids' Page 6

Calendar 7

"Rights" and "Choice" 8

Special points of interest:

- ◆ **1st: Baptism seminar**
- ◆ **4th: World Day of Prayer**
- ◆ **6th: Communion Sunday**
- ◆ **9th: Ash Wednesday, two services, dinner**
- ◆ **13th: First Sunday of Lent, Daylight Savings**
- ◆ **19th: Angel Food pickup**
- ◆ **20th: Second Sunday of Lent, Baptism**
- ◆ **25th-26th: Marriage Encounter, SrHi Retreat**
- ◆ **27th: Third Sunday of Lent**
- ◆ **31st: Emmaus Walk**



TRANSFER

Jack Goodman, to Trinity UM Church, Conway SC

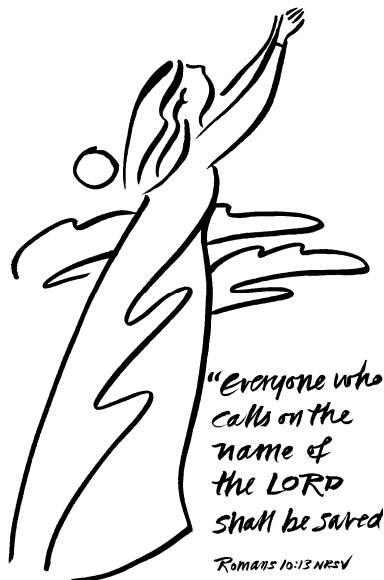
CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Ryan Funderburg

Jack Goodman

Mount Hope Church Staff

- Rev. Dr. Thomas C. McGill, Senior Pastor
- Rev. George S. Rigby, Jr., Pastor of Visitation
- Pastor Philip G. Ealy, Family Life Ministry
- Cynthia Babiak, Youth Director
- Kristine Leary, Director, Children's Center
- Sharon Kope, Director of Music
- Donna Kelly, 9:30 Worship Coordinator
- Eileen McIntyre, Handbell Director
- Larry Bakey, Cemetery Director
- Lin Heintz, Secretary
- Joan Bear, Asst. Secretary
- Leo Volmer, Building Superintendent
- Larry Miles, Asst. Bldg. Superintendent
- Bud Bostwick, Security Guard



Preparing for Lent (continued from the first page)

as common a practice for people to mark the days of Lent to help us prepare to celebrate the foundation of our faith, the resurrection of Jesus Christ, as it is to count the days of Advent in anticipation of the coming of Christ at Christmas.

Our theme during this 40 day period prior to Easter is *"The Old Rugged Cross."* We will be presenting different worship experiences to help us once again consider what the cross of Jesus Christ was really like. If we don't deliberately choose to meditate on what He went through, we will never fully appreciate the price He paid for us. How tragic it would be if we lost sight of the pain and the price of our redemption!

Ash Wednesday – March 9th

Our Ash Wednesday worship begins with our mid-day worship service at 12:30.

Later in the evening we'll have our traditional covered dish dinner at 5:45 p.m. in Habbersett Hall. Bring your favorite dish to share; beverages will be provided. Karen Owsley will be providing you with additional dinner details in the weekly *Messenger*.

Then at 7:00 p.m. we will worship in the Sanctuary. Pastor Rigby will bring

the message, and we will celebrate communion at the rail. The mark of the cross with ashes will be given to those who request it as we share the exchange of Peace at the close of the service. Mark your calendar now.

March 13th—First Sunday in Lent

Dr. McGill's message: *"Has Anyone Spit in Your Face?"* Matthew 26: 57-67. Can you think of an instance in your life when you did something good for someone, but that person didn't appreciate what you did? Were they so unappreciative that you felt as if they had spit in your face? Were you stunned by their behavior? How did you act in response to that situation? I think nearly everyone has felt taken advantage of and spit on at some point or another. Join with me at worship as we consider how Jesus must have felt as they literally spit in His face! Then let us take a few minutes to pray about the people who have let us down or disappointed us. Then forgive those people and let Jesus help us to love them the way He loved those who wronged Him. Come and see!

March 20th—Second Sunday in Lent

Dr. McGill's message: *"Golgotha: The Place of the Skull"*, Matthew 27: 32-33. The question of where Jesus was crucified is a good example of the way people tend to get distracted by unimportant issues and, as a result, miss the main point God wants to get across to them. What is vital for us to know and understand is that Jesus died for the sins of the entire human race—and that includes you and me! Thank God for the Cross!

March 27th—3rd Sunday in Lent

Dr. McGill's message: *"Crucified"*, Matthew 27: 32-37. At this time of the year let me encourage you to take a little time to remember what the crucifixion of Jesus Christ was really like. Why not plan to worship this Sunday and take time to let the reality of the cross sink deep into your heart and soul? As you do, you'll find it will cause you to love Jesus so much more than you love Him right now!

April 3rd —Fourth Sunday in Lent, Youth Sunday Communion in the pew

The Mount Hope youth will surprise you with their participation in this service of Holy Communion. Praise The Lord!

Pastor McGill

Women's Softball

It's that time of year again! The Women's Softball Team will start the season in early April. We are

looking for new players!! If you are interested in playing this year, please contact Lauren Hoot at (484) 557-1697

or Robin Powell at (610) 209-3452 or email hoot-lauren@yahoo.com.

Vacation Bible School

Scheduled for June 20 – June 24, 2011. We need an individual or a team of people to

coordinate this year's event. Contact Carolyn at 610-494-1267 or astonbarb@com

to volunteer or get additional information.



Prayer Shawl Ministry

We have had two new people to crochet contact us!! Thank you for all yarn donations!
March meeting: **Tuesday 3/1, 7:00 p.m.** at Dawn Diggins' home.

The March color of green represents: healing, prosperity, fertility, clarity, sympathy, hope, renewal, health, balance, confidence, abundance, growth, and life; this color is also mentally

and physically relaxing.
Do you know someone who could use a shawl or scarf with this color? Could you help make a prayer shawl or scarf this color? Come join us!

New Acolyte Robes

Worship Committee has purchased new acolyte robes. They will be worn for the first time on Sunday, March 13. Through the lighting of our altar candles, the light

the acolytes carry into the Sanctuary represents the presence of God with us during our worship service. During the postlude they demonstrate how the "Light

of Christ" is now taken by us to the world.
Please rejoice with us and the acolytes through their service during our worship time.

Confirmation Class

This year's Confirmation Class will be taking part in the annual field trip to historic Old Saint George's Church in Philadelphia in Saturday March 12, 2011.

During this time, students will be exposed to one of this nation's oldest active Methodist congregations. Through drama and an interactive tour we will learn first hand of our

United Methodist roots. Graduation is scheduled for Sunday April 10, 2011. Please pray for our class as they embark on this phase of their spiritual journey.

Irish Potato Time Again

St. Patty's day is just around the corner and it's time to start planting our crop of "Irish Potatoes." We will be taking orders on Sundays now through March 6th. The deliv-

ery dates are March 6th and 13th.
The cost will remain at \$3.00 for a bag of 12, payable when you pick them up. To place your orders, please use

the order form available in the Sunday Messenger or see "Farmer Bill" Cheezum.
Thanks for your participation in our fundraiser.

The Bible Talks About Life

Impatience
Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for Him; do not fret when men succeed in their ways, when they carry out their wicked schemes.

Psalm 37:7
Be patient, then brothers, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop and how patient He is for the autumn and spring rains. You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming near. James 5:7, 8

Insecurity
What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for

us, who can be against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but gave Him up for us all—how will He not also, along with Him, graciously give us all things?

Romans 8: 31, 32
"For I am the Lord, your God, Who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, Do not fear; I will help you."

Isaiah 41:13
So we say with confidence, "The Lord is my Helper; I will not be afraid, What can man do to me?" Hebrews 13: 6

Jealousy
But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or

deny the truth. Such "wisdom" does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, of the devil. For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.

James 3:14-16
Do not be overawed when a man grown rich, when the splendor of his house increases; for he will take nothing with him when he dies, his splendor will not descend with him. Psalm 49: 16, 17

Loneliness
"I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you." John 14:18



Marriage Encounter Friday evening, March 25th Saturday, March 26th

Watch for details in the Sunday Messenger and at www.mthope.org



Don't forget to order your Angel Food. Log onto their web site or stop by the church for March's menu and to order your meals.
See the calendar on page 5 for the order dates.
Call 610.459.2521 if you would like more information.



Word of Hope



"I have come that they may have life, and have it abundantly." John 10:10



"Rights" and "Choice" (continued from the back page)

yond concerns of personal rights to the greater responsibility of supporting and sustaining the spiritual family of which God has made us a part.

It was Paul, of course, who helped the early Church think of itself as a great family and—as far as we know—coined the phrase, the Body of Christ. It is Paul who helps us see that nothing we do is ever purely personal and private, that everything we do affects (in one way or another, sooner or later) the Body we are part of.

We like to think of ourselves as autonomous, our choices and decisions being strictly our own. Paul says NO. Every decision, every choice we make touches the family we are part of. And the decisions and choices we make also touch Christ, whose body we are!

Our choices are not strictly our own because, as Christians, we ourselves are no longer strictly our own. Here's how Paul puts it in I

Corinthians, Chapter 6: "You do not belong to yourselves but to God."

Seeing the matter of abortion within this framework helps us understand that while the argument of choices and rights may be enough for non-Christians it isn't nearly enough for the Christian. Indeed, rights and choices are beside the point altogether. With Christians the matter of abortion must be accepted or rejected on the basis of what is believed about our bodies belonging to God first, and to ourselves only, and very, secondarily.

This perspective therefore suggests to me that fetal human life is not our property, it too belongs to God just as we do. Irrespective of how it is conceived life in the womb is God's and any taking of it must, for a Christian, become an awesome act indeed. In the light of a million and a half abortions each year being performed I think we Christians need to wonder what we have come to in this coun-

try—wonder and lament. Surely God is calling America to be better than this and most assuredly He expects more of His own people.

What can we do to oppose this brutal business? What can we do to support those who are caught in the tragedy of abortion, those contemplating abortion? Could it be we are called by God not to condemn but to love and, perhaps, provide a better way? And what can we do to reach out to women (and men) who, in the past, have sought abortion as an answer and now find their lives scarred by guilt and regret?

This, in part, has been my experience of Lent, thinking again about the terrible tragedy of abortion and what God is calling His faithful people to be, and do: to bring light into the darkness, hope where there is despair, healing where there is hurt, life where there is death, and the Spring of Easter where there is only the Winter of Lent. Sincerely,

Pastor George

Children's Center News

March Bible Verse:

"God keeps His promise."

Genesis 9:13

We are eagerly anticipating spring this year, all of us need to get outside and stretch everything! Here's hoping that March is more "lamblike" than "lionlike" this year. March is always full of activity, the children are learning about the food pyramid and healthy eating, the older children will enjoy a trip to the supermarket this month.

Dr. Seuss' Birthday,

March 2nd will find us eating green eggs and ham. March 2nd is also "Read Across America Day", and we encourage everyone to read to a child that day.

We will be celebrating St. Patrick's Day by the wearing and the eating of the "greens". Community Helpers come to school and explain their jobs to the children. Spring begins and we learn about Noah and the Ark. We also have planned a visit with the Segal Puppet Theater, teaching the children

about taking care of their teeth.

The Fruit of the Spirit this month is "faithfulness." Chapel will be on Wednesday, March 24th and Thursday, March 25th at 9:30AM. Next month we'll begin registrations for our summer camp. We are continuing our registration, and still have some openings in our afternoon classes. Please stop up to see and feel our daily joy.

Kris Leary





Transportation Ministry

The Mount Hope Transportation Committee would like to thank the Merri-Weds Sunday School class for their generous contribution of \$100.00 towards the Transportation Ministry of Mount Hope Church. It is greatly appreciated by all concerned.

As our congregation

knows, donations, along with the Lenten and Advent offerings, go to support Mount Hope's transportation units renewal and safe operation.

Many thanks to all.
Dave Lee, Chairman

Lenten Offering

Your generous contributions to the Transportation

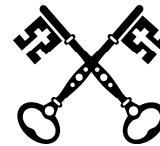
Fund ensure our ability to meet the continuation of the Church's transportation needs, now and in the future, so that we may have safe transportation for our youth, missions, Sunday school classes, retreat participants, Women of Faith, and more - all those who utilize the church vans.



Transportation Ministry

The Greatest Key You Will Ever Have:

His Name is Jesus! by Kathi Walters



The conclusion from the February Word of Hope

Jesus spoke, and the heavens unrolled themselves, and the galaxies were born. He spoke, and the streams and the rivers wound their way across the earth. The rose began to blush, and the violets cast their fragrance, and the birds began to sing. Colors wove themselves into a rainbow.

He spoke, and a handful of dust became a living soul.

He turns our mourning into dancing and girds us with gladness.

Let Me Tell You About His Voice

His voice is powerful upon the waters, full of majesty, like thunder, it breaks the cedars, divides the flames, shakes the wilderness, makes the hinds to calve, discovers the forests, and sets the mountains in their place.

His voice stilled the seas and shook the earth and melted the hills.

His voice is as the sound of many waters; He spoke and calmed the storm; He spoke

and gave life to the dead, brought healing to the sick, strength to the weak, and forgiveness to the sinner.

Herod could not kill Him. The Pharisees could not confound Him, and satan could not trick Him. Sickness could not withstand Him; devils could not stay near Him; and the waves could not drown Him.

The rabble could not disturb Him; death could not corrupt Him; Hell could not keep Him; and the grave could not contain Him!

Gravitation could not restrain Him, and God has highly exalted Him and given Him a Name above every name, and at His Name every knee shall bow and every tongue shall confess that He is Lord of all.

He led captivity captive and gave gifts to men; He brought a stream out of a rock, and fed the people in the wilderness; He fed 5,000 with two loaves and a few fishes.

He is Savior to the lost, healing to the sick; He is hearing to the deaf and sight to the blind. He is cleansing to the leper and strength to the weak. He is comfort to the oppressed, hope to the hopeless, and help

to the helpless. He is a brother to the friendless, and a friend to the brotherless, and He is LIFE to the dead.

He is infinite, eternal, glorious and full of majesty.

One day in His courts is better than a thousand; wouldn't you rather be a doorkeeper in His house than dwell in the tents of the world?

He is the Covenant Keeper – keeping covenant with covenant breakers.

He is sweeter than all the flowers; He is the Lover of our Soul; and the Keeper of our hearts.

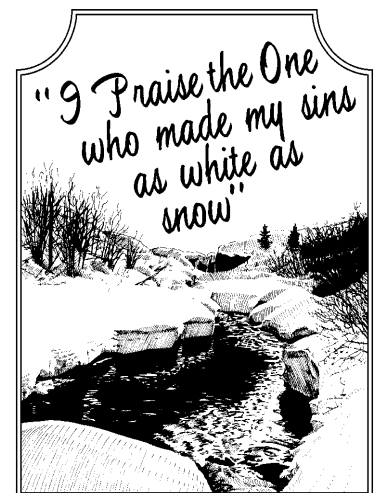
He is music to the poet, and a song to the worshiper. His Name has been whispered by thousands upon thousands of dying soldiers on the battlefields of the ages.

His Name has been the battle cry of those who fought for righteousness and truth.

HE IS THE KING OF ALL KINGS AND EVERY NATION WILL BOW TO HIM....

HIS NAME IS JESUS.

**Kathi Walters
Kathi Walters Ministry**





Forgiveness BRACELET

Jesus died on the cross to forgive our sins, and he tells us to forgive other people, too. Make and wear this craft as a reminder that you are forgiven — and should be forgiving.

What you need:

- Clear plastic bottle (about 16 oz.)
- An adult to help
- Scissors
- Construction paper
- Permanent black marker
- Glue or clear tape
- Thin ribbon or yarn
- Small hole punch

What you do:

1. Remove any label from the bottle. Have an adult help you cut the bottle in half, width-wise. At the middle, cut out two identical half-inch-wide strips.
2. Cut out paper the same size as the plastic strips.
3. On the paper, write “Forgive, and you will be forgiven” (Luke 6:37, NIV).
4. Place the paper between the two plastic strips.
5. Cut and glue the ribbon or yarn to run along the top and bottom of the verse, framing the words.
6. Punch a hole at each end, through all three layers.
7. Tie the bracelet to your wrist with ribbon or yarn.

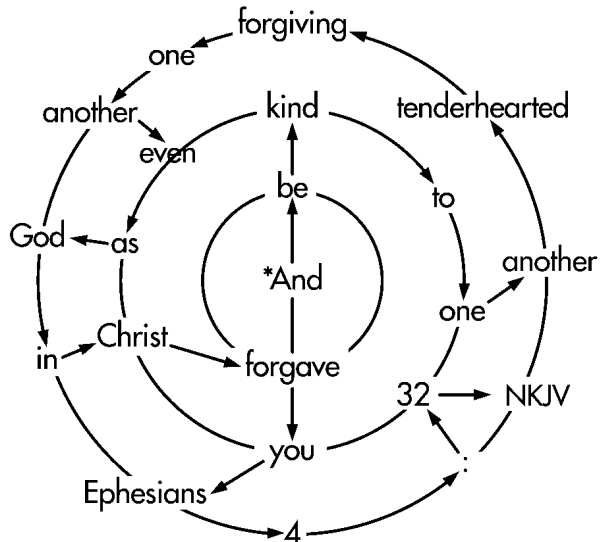


WHY FORGIVE?



This Bible verse teaches an important lesson about how we should treat others — and why.

Directions: Start with the asterisk in the center circle and follow the arrows. Write the words in order on the blanks below.



“And _____ ,
 _____ , _____
 _____ , _____
 _____ .”
 _____ , _____

Answers: And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you. Ephesians 4:32, NKJV



This Update Printed: Wednesday, February 16, 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Every Sunday morning: Worship at</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ 8:15 traditional ◆ 9:30 family, contemporary ◆ 11:00 traditional <p>Sunday School at 9:30</p>		<p>1</p> <p>9:00 AM Library Open 7:00 PM Kelli Girls BS (6) 7:00 PM Baptism Sem (L) 7:00 PM Prayer Shawl (Digging)</p>	<p>2</p> <p>9:00 AM Library Open 9:30 AM Staff Mtg (L) 1:30 PM Education (L) 6:30 PM Muddy Boots Bbl Stdy (2, 6) 6:30 PM 930 Reh (S) 7:00 PM Trustees (L) 7:00 PM Bells of Hope (101) 8:00 PM 20's Bible Study (6)</p>	<p>3</p> <p>9:00 AM Library Open 1:00 PM Ladies Bible Study (L) 6:30 PM Emmaus mtg (L) 7:00 PM Sanctuary Choir (216)</p>	<p>4</p> <p>World Day of Prayer 9:00 AM Library Open</p>	<p>5</p> <p>9:00 AM Handbell Festival (Devon) 10:00 AM Confirmation Class (L)</p>
<p>6</p> <p>Communion Blood Pressure Screening (HH) 9:15 AM- 10:45 am. Library open 9:30 AM Angel Food (HH) 10:30 AM Angel Food (HH) 11:00 AM HSTS Choir (103) 6:00 PM YF PULSE (HH, 6)</p>	<p>7</p> <p>7:15 PM Ark BS (Owsley) 7:30 PM Selah Bible Study (Brownhill)</p>	<p>8</p> <p>9:00 AM Library Open 4:00 PM WOH Dine (Ofc) 6:30 PM 930 Reh (S) 7:00 PM Ad Bd (HH)</p>	<p>9 <i>Ash Wednesday</i></p> <p>Communion 9:00 AM Library Open 9:30 AM Staff Mtg (L) 12:30 PM Lenten Service (S) 1:00 PM Angel Food order (HH) 5:30 PM Angel Food orders (HH) 5:45 PM Covrd Dish Dnr (HH) 7:00 PM Lenten Service (S)</p>	<p>10</p> <p>9:00 AM Library Open 11:00 AM Busy Beavers (Kit) 1:00 PM Ladies Bible Study (L) 7:00 PM Sanctuary Choir (216)</p>	<p>11</p> <p>9:00 AM Library Open</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Daylight Savings--set ahead one hour before bedtime 9:00 AM Confirmation (Old St Georges Phila)</p>
<p>13</p> <p>Girl Scout Sunday 9:15 AM- 10:45 am. Library open 9:30 AM Angel Food (HH) 10:30 AM Angel Food (HH) 11:00 AM HSTS Choir (103) 6:00 PM YF PULSE (HH, 6)</p> <p>First Sunday in <i>Lent</i></p>	<p>14</p> <p>7:00 PM Men's Felwshp (L) 7:30 PM Fuzzie Slippers Girls Bbl Stdy (6)</p>	<p>15</p> <p>9:00 AM Library Open 7:00 PM Friends Bible Stdy (104) 7:00 PM Kelli Girls BS (6) 7:00 PM SPR (L)</p>	<p>16</p> <p>9:00 AM Library Open 9:30 AM Staff Mtg (L) 6:30 PM Muddy Boots Bbl Stdy (2, 6) 6:30 PM 930 Reh (S) 7:00 PM Bells of Hope (101) 8:00 PM 20's Bible Study (6)</p>	<p>17</p> <p>St. Patrick's Day 9:00 AM Library Open 1:00 PM Ladies Bible Study (L) 4:00 PM Winter Jam (Reading) 7:00 PM Sanctuary Choir (216)</p>	<p>18</p> <p>9:00 AM Library Open 10:00 AM MHCC Puppet (HH) 4:00 PM Tomlin concert (Hershey)</p>	<p>19</p> <p>9:00 AM Angel Food pick-up (HH) 10:00 AM Confirmation Class (L)</p>
<p>20</p> <p>Baptism 9:15 AM- 10:45 am. Library open 11:00 AM HSTS Choir (103) 6:00 PM YF PULSE (HH, 6)</p> <p>Second Sunday in <i>Lent</i></p>	<p>21</p> <p>7:15 PM Ark BS (Owsley) 7:30 PM Selah Bible Study (Brownhill)</p>	<p>22</p> <p>9:00 AM Library Open 7:00 PM Worship Com (L)</p>	<p>23</p> <p>9:00 AM Library Open 9:30 AM Staff Mtg (L) 6:30 PM 930 Reh (S) 7:00 PM Finance (L) 8:00 PM 20's Bible Study (6)</p>	<p>24</p> <p>8:30 AM WOH Mailing (HH) 9:00 AM Library Open 1:00 PM Ladies Bible Study (L) 7:00 PM Sanctuary Choir (216) 7:15 PM Bells of Hope concert (Assisi House)</p>	<p>25</p> <p>9:00 AM Library Open 7:00 PM Marriage Encounter Weekend (HH) 7:00 PM Marriage Encounter Weekend (HH)</p> <p>YF Sr Hi Retreat</p>	<p>26</p> <p>9:30 AM Marriage Encounter Weekend (HH) 10:00 AM Confirmation Class (L)</p>
<p>27</p> <p>Camping Sunday 9:15 AM- 10:45 am. Library open 11:00 AM HSTS Choir (103) 6:00 PM YF PULSE (HH, 6)</p> <p>Third Sunday in <i>Lent</i></p> <p>YF Sr Hi Retreat</p>	<p>28</p> <p>7:00 PM Men's Felwshp (L) 7:30 PM Fuzzie Slippers Girls Bbl Stdy (6)</p>	<p>29</p> <p>9:00 AM Library Open</p>	<p>30</p> <p>9:00 AM Library Open 9:30 AM Staff Mtg (L) 6:30 PM Muddy Boots Bbl Stdy (2, 6) 6:30 PM 930 Reh (S) 7:00 PM Bells of Hope (101) 8:00 PM 20's Bible Study (6)</p>	<p>31</p> <p>9:00 AM Library Open 1:00 PM Ladies Bible Study (L) 7:00 PM Sanctuary Choir (216)</p> <p>Emmaus Walk (Men)</p>	<p>Community Events: Sundays— 5:30 p.m. Cub Den 5 (104) 6:00 p.m. Cub Den 4 (103) Monday—7:00 p.m. Boy Scout Trp 292 (FH) Tuesdays – 8:00 pm AA (FH) Thursdays – 6:00 pm AA (FH) 3rd Friday – 6:30 pm Pack 77 meetings (FH)</p>	



"God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, & there was morning — the sixth day."

Genesis 1:31

What do "Choice," "Rights" Mean to a Christian?

As I sit here I find myself pondering the darkness and chill of Winter, and Spring's promise of warmth and light. How appropriate that Easter, with its marvelous message of life and hope, should fall in Spring and follow the Winter-like season of Lent, with all of its reminders of suffering and sin.

As I write this Easter lies some weeks ahead and with twelve inches of snow on the ground I am still all too aware of Winter and the season of Lent. Also, adding to the gloom is what I am feeling as I lay down a book I've just finished reading.

The book, edited by Paul Stallsworth, is titled,

"The Church and Abortion: In Search of New Ground for Response". It contains a series of essays and a lengthy summary of a conversation on those essays by participants in a United Methodist conference on abortion.

The thesis of the book is that Methodism has avoided serious theological engagement with the issue of abortion, with the result that what reflection and discussions there's been has been framed in the choice/rights language of secular society at large.

The book calls God's United Methodist people to address abortion within the framework of faith and who

we Christians are through Jesus. If we Christians are going to understand what abortion really is we must consider it in light of the sisterhood and brotherhood we share together as children of God.

For Christians abortion "choice" and "rights" mean nothing apart from the fact of our being members of God's spiritual family. Our individuality (including our "rights" and the choices we make) is now defined by the fact that we are part of something larger, greater than our own individual selves. Being members of the body of Christ means we move be-

(continued on Page 4)

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Permit #10



YF PULSE

Reflect...

March 2011

One of my favorite places in the world is Camp Innabah. It's the place we call home when our Youth Fellowship goes on retreat to spend time with and learn more about God. And God is always faithful to help us learn about Him when we go! This past fall, our group was on retreat with other youth groups from our conference. On Saturday afternoon, I went for a walk and ended up at the lake. The trees were changing colors and the lake was so still that it looked like a mirror. I noticed that the trees that were closest to the lake cast bright, crystal clear reflections on the water, but the trees that were farther away cast blurred and somewhat distorted reflections. The trees that were still farther away cast no reflection at all. I believe that this is a good example of how our relationship with God can be.

The Bible says that we are to reflect God in all that we are and all that we do. The way we live our lives is sometimes the best example we can show to the people around us that we belong to and love God. When we reflect Him, the world "beholds" Him in us and that is one of the best ways they can come to understand Him better.

If you're spending your time in devotion, prayer, worship and learning; you're drawing close to God. When you're close to God, it's easy to reflect Him clearly. When you're focusing on God, He helps you to live a life that brings glory to Him.

But at the same time, if you're spending too much time involved in the things of the world; you may be casting a blurred or distorted reflection of Him...or you may be showing no reflection at all! When we spend too much time away from God, we start to live for other things; and we tend not to bring Him glory with our lives.

Is there someone in your life who needs to see God reflected in you?

And when they look at you, do they see a clear reflection of God...or do they see a blurred, distorted reflection....or do they see only you?

If your answer is one of the latter, I encourage you to spend some time with God. Ask Him to draw you close, to help you reflect him better. I promise He will do just that!

Look in the mirror.....who do you see?

Upcoming Concerts!!

Our youth group has the opportunity to attend two awesome concerts this winter:

WINTERJAM: featuring the Newsboys, David Crowder Band, Kutless, and speaker, Tony Nolan. March 17, 2011. This concert is at the Sovereign Center in Reading, Pa. It is a great outreach opportunity, so feel free to invite your friends. They will be rocking with some great bands, plus will hear an awesome message!

Tickets are \$10

Chris Tomlin with Louie Giglio: March 18 at the Giant Center, Hershey Pa. Tickets are \$32.

We will depart the bus garage at Mount Hope at 4:00pm on both days and we will not be home till around Midnight. Please take this into consideration as Winterjam falls on a school night. We would love to see you at the concert, but be sure to plan a nap in advance!!

Bring money for dinner—we will stop and eat on the way!



Mission Team Update:

It's not too late to sign up!! If you're entering 9th grade through 12th grade you are eligible to attend the mission trip to Mississippi July 29-August 7.

We will be working with Next Step Ministries to do housing repair for victims of Hurricane Katrina who are not yet back in their homes.

You can check them out on the web at www.nextstepministries.com



The cost is \$600 per person and can be offset through fund raising. We will be having lots of opportunity for fund raising between now and July.

A \$50 deposit is due right away. Please contact Cindy Babiak 610-659-3697 or cbabiak@comcast.net if you would like further information.