

Reflections

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from
the
Valley

Valley Presbyterian Church
Newsletter

Volume 26, Number 4

May '07

EASTERTIDE

As you come into Valley's sanctuary, you will note that our "Allelujah" banner is still up;


Our communion tablecloth is white, as is the minister's stole. We are in the season of Eastertide until Pentecost Sunday on May 27. What would it mean, if we truly celebrated an Easter Season in the way we have a Christmas Season?

It means, for me, that Easter is not over and done with on one Sunday a year. True, we celebrate the risen Lord every Sunday, but in these 8 weeks of Eastertide, I try to reflect particularly in my prayers, and in my experiences, what it really means for me that Christ is risen. Not surprisingly, then, Eastertide becomes, by the leading of God's Spirit, a time of new beginnings, new hopes, new-found courage. As spring finally dawns in Connecticut after a difficult and unusual winter, so the Resurrection creates dawn in my heart once more. How great to celebrate this light for more than one day!

How can this Easter season make a difference in your life?



MAY WORSHIP

May Scriptures	
<p>May 6th Communion Sunday Scripture texts: Leviticus 17:8-13, 18:1-5; Acts 11:1-18 Communion meditation: "When Faith Takes You to Unexpected Places"</p> <p>Third graders receive Bibles in church. All children/youth remain in worship. Pancake breakfast offered by the youth workcampers before church, beginning at 9:00 A.M. (freewill offering.). Staff recognition after church, during coffee hour. Parents' meeting after coffee hour.</p>	<p>May 13th Mothers' Day Observed Scripture texts: Psalm 67, Revelation 21:22-22:5 Sermon, "No More Night"</p>
	<p>May 20th Youth Sunday!!!! Parents' meeting at 11:30 in the big room downstairs</p>
	<p>May 27th Memorial Day Observed Scripture lessons: Genesis 11:1-9, Acts 2:1-21 Sermon, "God's Language in our Hearts"</p>

Adult Education, the 9:00A.M. class, will continue to meet through Memorial Day Sunday, and then break for the summer. Elder Addie Sandler will lead the class, as outlined below:

Adult Sunday School

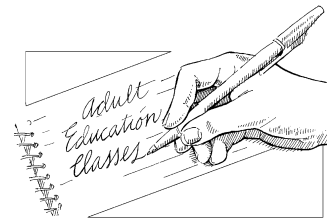
"Hunger Awareness and our Response as Christians"

A voice from Pakistan... "We poor people are invisible to others---just as blind people cannot see, they cannot see us."

A voice from Latvia... "Poverty is humiliation, the sense of being dependent on them, and of being forced to accept rudeness, insults, and indifference when we seek help."

I will be leading an adult Sunday School program on "Hunger No More" on Sunday mornings before worship on **May 6th, May 13th, and May 27th**. The class is open to everyone, even our older youth. The purpose of the class is to initiate a discussion about hunger in the United States and world-wide, and begin to see the human face of hunger in new ways. I would like to begin a social justice sub-committee to the mission committee and I am hoping that the class will be the catalyst to make that happen. If you are interested in being involved in a social justice committee, but cannot attend the Sunday School class please let me know.

Addie Sandler



The **Tuesday** Lectionary Bible Study continues to meet **Weekly at 7:30**. They even meet in the summer!
All Welcome

SAVE THE DATE!! the Congregational Relations Committee is planning springtime small group dinners for Saturday evening, **May 19!** Come and get to know your brothers and sisters in Christ a bit better. More info to follow in church.

DEACON NEWS

The Deacons will continue to help those in need within our congregation as well as those we are connected within our extended community. Unto that end, we ask you to remember all of those in need both at Valley and within our extended family the first Sunday of each month with the envelope that is in the bulletin. We have helped families during times of duress, we have helped young people who are using their talents and energy to make a positive mark on this earth, and we want to continue with these requests for assistance. We thank you for the generous help you provide each month.

It seems our freezer is a bit vacant and among us we have put a plan in place to address this, however, we could use help as well. If you happen to have an extra serving or two of a favorite meal, feel free to bring it to the church and we will make sure it makes it to the freezer or a family in need.

We would be very grateful if you would take a minute to fill out the questionnaire below and place it in the offering the next Sunday you attend. The Deacons are making sure that all families are included in a listing that will be shared among the Deacons only. This will not be published; we simply want to make sure we can reach you in the manner you find most comfortable.

This month through the leadership efforts of Lori and John, our college students will receive a goodie box to get them through finals. This has been an ongoing project and we hope those we don't have a chance to see as often will remember the "good" things about Valley! This year Valley will celebrate college graduations for a number of individuals. Congratulations to Owen Beams, Brian Aher, Mark Harrison, and Bill Franks.

Family Member Names (Full names)	Birthdates (Mon./Day/Yr)	E-mail	Home Phone	Cell Phone

Respectfully,
Sandy Zuvanich

MISSION REPORT

MISSION AUCTION: THANK YOU TO EVERYONE who contributed items and purchased items. I had hoped for some 5 to 10 items and we ended up with 14! Proceeds amounted to \$400.00 and will be used for local missions. Thanks also to Jeff Henriques for my, our "treasurer" for this event.

HOUSATONIC HABITAT: The **THIRD Saturday** of each month from May to September at the Tower Road, Brookfield site will be the Brookfield churches workday. There's a sign-up sheet on the Mission easel. Up to three people per church can sign up for a particular Saturday. The dates are: May 19, June 16, July 21, August 18 and September 15. Questions? Contact Bud Adams who is the site supervisor for this build.

DOROTHY DAY SANDWICH DATES FOR MAY are the 13TH AND 27TH. Many thanks to all the "Caring Hands" who prepare these sandwiches. The last two times we have been at Dorothy Day, the sandwiches were a "sell out". Thanks also to those of you who save the plastic grocery bags to recycle for the bread and lunches. Dorothy Day can go through upwards of 100 bags a day!

Do what you can, with what you have, where you are.

Judy Cunningham, co-chair

VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN NEWS

The new lightweight tables seem to be a big hit. Another one was recently purchased and used the day it was brought to church! Thank you for supporting our fundraiser that make it possible for us to purchase items such as the tables and to support our mission projects.

During March, Dan and I were in Albuquerque, NM for PW Churchwide Coordinating Team Training of the PW Synod leadership team. Over the rest of this year you will hear, from time to time, some new ways of doing things and some new programs. It was nice to meet the faces behind the names of the Presbyterian Women staff in Louisville. We have some great women "behind the scenes", some 18 of them. Also, in April, I was at Stony Point to debrief the New Mexico gathering and establish a timeline for training of the Presbyteries in the PW Synod of the Northeast.

Presbyterian Women is also active in Church Women United. Locally, we will have a May Friendship Day on the 4th at the United Methodist Church of Danbury from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30. If you are interested in attending, please let me know. In addition to the program on Friendship, we will have a silent auction, a plant sale and a No Bake Bake Sale to raise funds to support a young women delegate to a conference in Georgia.



BIBLE STUDY will be ending on May 6th.

"SIT AND STITCH" will next be held on Friday, May 4th at 9:30 a.m.

If you are interested in a women's dinner and/or brunch get together, please let me know.

Judy Cunningham, for the Coordinating Team

HISTORIAN REPORT

On March 31st at the invitation of the Presbytery of Hudson River, I attended a presentation by Marjorie Sly of the Presbyterian Historical Society at Stony Point, NY. It was time well spent. Of importance to all of us keeping records is the fact that there is currently no digital permanent record system available. It is being worked on. It is still recommended that any discs made be backed up with paper (hard) copies and/or microfilm. It is also recommended that sticky notes not be used on permanent records or paper clips. The sticky notes leave a residue that damages the paper and requires a special process to remove. Many topics were covered, including Disaster Preparedness and the suggestion that insurance coverage be obtained not just for replacement but restoration. As I debrief the whole presentation, I will be passing along other items of information.

ORAL HISTORY: I will also be attempting to put together a program to do some oral history from some of the older members of our congregation. If you would be interested in helping, please give me a call (or an e-mail).

AN UPCOMING JOY IS THAT ON **JUNE 23RD** THIS YEAR, VALLEY WILL BE CELEBRATING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF OUR CHARTERING IN HARTFORD, CT. (1982). I WILL HAVE A DISPLAY OF SOME OF THE ITEMS FROM THAT TIMEFRAME.

Finally, thanks to all of you who pass along to me pictures you find when you move, when you find a box and it contains some items of historical interest or you take additional pictures of recent events.

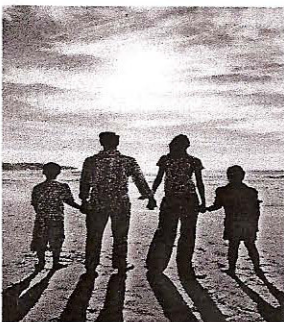
Dan Cunningham, Historian

Family & Children's
AID
...For Every Child, a Home



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There are children in your area in need of a caring foster parent. These children have been victims of abuse and neglect and need a loving, stable environment in which to thrive.



Our **Treatment Foster Care Program** trains and supports you every step of the way. Become an integral member of our Family Support Team and help a child in need. You will be reimbursed up to \$27,000 per year, for expenses if you are approved.

Who is Family & Children's Aid

FCA is a 200+ year-old, award-winning agency providing safe homes for abused children and shelters for homeless mothers and their children. Operating a number of programs that have become models state-wide, we are now a licensed foster care placement agency.

Come join us for information on how to become a foster parent;

May 20, 2007 @ 11:15am

Hosted by:

Valley Presbyterian Church

21 West Whisconier Rd.

Brookfield, CT 06804

Contact: Rev. Ann M. Beams

203-775-2624

75 West Street, Danbury, CT 06810 203-748-5689
