



## Times and Seasons

We're in the middle of the year, yet the year is ending. Sounds strange, doesn't it? But it's true. May 2008 is the middle of the current year. However, this month marks a change in the church's programming year, too. On May 18, Sunday school goes into recess for three months, while we all vacation and take life easier. On May 25, we shift to our summer worship hour of 10:00 AM. Our teachers, and the pastor, look forward to this break in routine. The year is over! We had a successful series of worship services, classes and programs for the past nine months. We feel satisfied, and tired. So the change does us all good. *We're in the middle of the year, yet the year is ending!*

Time is an odd thing, isn't it? What it means shifts and changes as the minutes become days and the days become decades. I remember what a different life I was living twenty years ago, ten years ago, last year. Many changes have happened, big ones, small ones. Some changes happened but I never noticed them as they occurred. One day, I looked and marveled, *Oh? That's different!* Around and around the minute hand goes, and it never stops. And as much as things change, they remain the same, don't they?

You still need the same things, still enjoy life pretty much the same way as you always did. Yet you're not the same person. You've gotten better at parts of life and living. You've gotten worse in other arenas. Yet, you're about the same as you always were, hopefully a little wiser, a little more cautious about this or that, and a little more adventurous regarding thus and so. As much as we change, we all hope we're about the same as we always were. And I think, generally, we are. We mature and we understand life better than we used to perceive it. Yet we still try to be the same likable person we always wanted to be. Or whatever the good qualities are that we cherish. We hope to be as we have been, only better.

I'm not sure where all of this is leading, except that I remember a verse from the Bible: "...I trust in you, O Lord; I say, 'You are my God.' My times are in your hands..." (Ps. 31:14-15a, NIV). Here is my confidence whenever I notice how often my life changes. I hope the Lord is your confidence, too.

*Pastor Armstrong*

# Vital Statistics

Date	Worship Attendance	General Fund & Loose Offering	Sunday School Attendance	Sunday School Offering	Food Pantry
3/30	74	2,494.00	N/A	4.25	37.66
4/6	75	3,356.00	N/A	7.00	5.00
4/13	88	1,467.00	N/A	3.00	12.00
4/20	65	1,067.50	No Sunday School	- 0 -	12.00
4/27	66	806.25	N/A	6.00	12.00

Necessary Weekly Offering	\$ 3,240.13
Average Weekly Giving for April	1,841.00
Needed to Meet Adopted Budget	55,082.21
Actual Received to Date	\$ 35,483.52



## *In Our Prayers . . .*

Rob West  
 Bob Cox  
 Pat Maytea  
 Florencetta Lancaster  
 Our soldiers all over the world  
 Jeff Conrad  
 Polly Moog  
 Ginger Moore  
 Ann Billups  
 Noah Gabriel Smith, at home  
 Babies born to mothers addicted to drugs  
 Ted & Ann Stevenson  
 Timmy Fry  
 Grace Danton  
 Andy Cambuzzi  
 Ron & Betty Koebler  
 Terry Blackburn  
 Family of John Keim  
 Audrey  
 Marie Elias  
 Opal Nave's Granddaughter  
 Isabelle Sadowske, Happy 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday

People on Mission trips  
 Cindy Omler  
 Chris Barrick  
 Family of Kimberly McClure  
 The Kladnik Family  
 Justin Cortelyou  
 Michael & Lynne Leu, Happy Anniversary  
 Jessica Leu, Happy 17<sup>th</sup> Birthday  
 Amy Gordon Phase  
 Wilda  
 Rev. Robert Horstman  
 Audrey Lauffer, Happy Birthday  
 Fred Serbin  
 Laurie Recchia  
 Pap Contino  
 Jean & Bob Carver  
 Trust & have say in relationships  
 Those who are traveling  
 Gary Raviart  
 Donald Greenawalt  
 Gloria Swazuk, Happy Birthday  
 Judy

# Special Dates and Volunteer Schedules

## Birthdays May

- 5 – Keith Tobin
- 6 – Dorothy Ewing  
Justin Cortelyou
- 7 – Kristen West
- 9 – Allison Omler
- 11 – Tim Winfield
- 16 – Adam Menanno
- 22 – Rev. Larry Armstrong
- 26 – Nancy Peters
- 28 – Doreen Gaudi
- 31 – Jennifer Correll

## Anniversaries for May

- 1 – Donna & Richard Roberts
- 18 – Audrey & Paul Lauffer
- 19 – Denise & David Fait
- 28 – Jean & Frank Hartzell  
Barbara & Malcolm Henry
- 31 – Cheryl & Harry Rhea

Do we have dates for your birthday and/or anniversary? If not, please call them in to the church office if you would like to have them listed in the newsletter. We can't recognize you if we don't have dates. Thanks!

## Greeters for May

Liz Armstrong  
Mary Belle Benson  
Audrey & Paul Lauffer

## Offering Securers for May

Al & Marie Elias  
Ken Good

## EVE CIRCLE

Eve Circle will meet at the home of Ruth Cochran on Tuesday, May 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

## RADIO MINISTRY

- May 4 – In loving memory of **John Mochnick** by Alan & LaVerne Mochnick
- May 11 – In loving memory of **Bob & Emma Koebler** by the Frey Family
- May 18 – In loving memory of **Parents, Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Brown** by Valair
- May 25 – In honor of the Anniversary of **Don & Paula Frey** by Aunt Polly & Uncle Denny

The price of the Radio Ministry is \$25.00 and is payable at the time the program is aired. Thanks!

## FOOD PANTRY Items of the Month for 2008

- May & June – Paper towels
- July & August – Tooth Paste
- September & October – Kleenex
- November & December – Napkins

Baskets are in both narthexes for your donations. If you prefer to give money, that would be greatly appreciated also. It can be given to Trich Miller or you may put it in the cross at the back of the sanctuary.

**May 30<sup>th</sup>** will be the date of the next food distribution. Volunteers are to report at 8:30 a.m. Food distribution will be from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Mission and Stewardship Committee is seeking a few volunteers to assist with securing the weekly offering. These individuals will be asked to get the money after the Sunday Service and place it in the safe and then assist with the weekly deposit of this money on Monday morning. Any individual who has a few moments to spare is asked to contact Mark Menanno at 724-853-7428 to get additional information.

# SENIOR CITIZENS

The next meeting of the Sr. Citizens will be held on Tuesday, May 6<sup>th</sup> in Fellowship Hall at 12:15 p.m. Bring food to share and your own place setting. Crazy Bingo will be the entertainment for this month.

The meeting on April 1<sup>st</sup> was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance and the singing of "God Bless America" and prayer by Ed Renn with 16 members present. Following the luncheon a business meeting was held. Happy Birthday was sung to Shirley Fait. Carolyn Miller reported on our members unable to attend the meetings at this time.

An auction was held conducted by Hellen Hizer assisted by Carolyn Miller and Trich Miller. The meeting was adjourned with the singing of "God Be With You."

- Elinore Baker

## From the Deacon's Table.....

The Deacons will have a cake and punch reception after worship on Sunday, May 18<sup>th</sup> to honor our Sunday School Youth and the 2008 Confirmation Class. Let us share in fellowship and rejoice with gladness for our youth!

## SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

On Sunday, May 11<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m. the Senior High Class along with their moms will be attending a Mother's Day breakfast at the Hometown Diner in Jeannette. Also on Sunday, May 11<sup>th</sup>, our two Seniors, Bruce Contino and Bobby Nedley will be recognized during worship.

Many things will be taking place on Sunday May 18<sup>th</sup>. It will be the last day of Sunday School, the Youth and Sunday School teachers will be recognized, Emily Frey and Adam Menanno will be joining the church after completing Confirmation Class, The Believers (Junior High Class) will be performing a skit during worship and there will be a celebration in Fellowship Hall after worship.

In the event you can not attend on Sunday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, I would like to THANK all of my Sunday School teachers who have done an outstanding job this year. It would not have been as successful without all your help. Thanks goes to Don Frey, Renee Menanno, Jen Smith and Marcia Aducci. Also a special thanks to Tom Florey, Mark Menanno, Debbie Sadowske and Luanne Cortelyou for stepping in when subs were needed. To Mrs. Neubert and Joyce for all your help with Worship Hour Nursery. And a special thanks to Mike and Lynne Leu and Larry Armstrong for leading the Adult Sunday School.

- Tina Contino

## MAY 4<sup>TH</sup> IS CAMP SUNDAY

Come dressed and ready for camp and have some fun singing songs. Picnic lunch with hotdogs after church supplied by the Fellowship Committee.

Then come with us to Pine Spring Camp for our Cabin Dedication and dinner provided by Pine Springs.

## MEMORIALS COMMITTEE

Donations to the Memorial Fund have been given in loving memory of Sally Shuster by Donna, Keith and Greg Impink. In loving memory of Don Stuchell by the Eve Circle. In loving memory of Robin Lauffer by Dora Gaudi & Family, Kim Eicher, Kathy Reid, Jim & Marianne Flickenger and Dina Fisher.

New white coffee carafes and chrome serving tongs have been purchased by the Memorials Committee in memory of Loved Ones.

## WORSHIP COMMITTEE

On Pentecost Sunday, May 11<sup>th</sup>, a special offering will be received. An explanation of this offering is elsewhere in this issue. This is also Mother's Day. Come and worship with your Mother!

Sunday, May 18<sup>th</sup> Holy Communion will be served. The Confirmation Class will be confirmed and a reception will be held in Fellowship Hall after worship.

Sunday, May 25<sup>th</sup> will begin the summer hour for worship. Worship Service will begin at 10:00 a.m. for the summer. This will also be the last Sunday for the Chancel Choir to sing. We wish to thank Barry, Sherene, and all the choir members for their time and beautiful music they provide for us each Sunday. You are truly appreciated.

## REMINDER

The next issue of 'First Thoughts' will be a combined issue for June, July and August. So please have all articles submitted to the committee no later than June 22<sup>nd</sup>. Thanks!

## MOTHER

M is for the Million things she gave me  
O means only that she's growing Old  
T is for the Tears she shed to save me  
H is for her Heart of purest gold  
E is for here Eyes with love-light shining  
R means Right and right she'll always me  
Put them all together they spell MOTHER, the word that means the world to me.

## MY GRANDMA

My grandma could do anything (or so I always thought)...  
She'd sew my dress and it would look as good as if store-bought.  
From nothing much, she'd make a pie, and with her magic touch,  
It'd look and taste like finest fare (Wish I could say as much).  
And if she never had the time to stop and tie a bow,  
Or peel an apple, kiss a hurt, she never let me know.  
She always tried to ease my pain and dry away my tears...  
Oh, if I only had her now to soothe my grown-up years.  
I've asked God for a portion now, a smidgen, just a tad  
Of patience, love and wisdom like  
The kind my grandma had.

- submitted by Polly Moog

# What is the Pentecost Offering?



**THE PENTECOST OFFERING** provides a way to directly meet the needs of children at risk, youth, and young adults. The benefits can be seen all around us. Congregations are trying new ways to minister with the children at risk in their communities. General Assembly programs are advocating for children and providing leadership development opportunities for our youth and young adults. Since 1998, Presbyterians of all ages have raised over \$4.8 million for these ministries that benefit younger members of God's family.

**40%** of the Pentecost Offering is kept by congregations for use on behalf of children at risk. Page 2 lists some creative ways congregations used their portion of the 2007 Offering.

**10%** supports General Assembly Child Advocacy Ministries in 2008 to:

- Empower children on behalf of other children through the launch of the Kids 4 Kids Web site ([www.presbykids4kids.org](http://www.presbykids4kids.org)) for older elementary children.
- Facilitate the denomination's ongoing emphasis, the Decade of the Child (2001-2011). Resources and initiatives are being developed on such issues as child soldiers, child trafficking, child sexual abuse, bullying, and violent video games. Action initiatives include increasing health care coverage for impoverished families with children and advocating for a just minimum wage to help lift families with children out of poverty.

**25%** of the Offering supports General Assembly ministries with youth in 2008 to:

- Provide scholarships to faithful adult youth workers who will attend the fall 2008 Presbyterian Youth Workers' Association gathering in New Orleans, Louisiana.
- Create four new specialty resources for youth and youth leaders: *More Motion*, *Between*, *Youth Ministry and Learning Disabilities*, and a new resource for planning youth-related mission trips.
- Support the new resource *The Thoughtful Christian for Teens*, an online series geared toward youth groups engaging in powerful and provocative Christian study.
- Assist staff in preparing the Parents of Teens Initiative, a new Web site and online resource.
- Support the faithful members of the church who minister with young people through the Presbyterian Youth Workers' Association.

**25%** supports Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) opportunities, which in 2008 will:

- Prepare young adults from the United States and around the world to serve as YAVs in the U.S. The Offering funds are matched with funds that each YAV raises to participate in this year of mission involvement. These young adults serve in communities of need within the United States and explore their call to the work of Jesus Christ.
- Help pay the travel and living expenses of young adults (ages 19-30) serving overseas in the International Young Adult Volunteer program. Offering funds match those raised by the young adults as they prepare for this life-changing opportunity to experience and share God in a community of need in another culture for one year.

**Remember Your Pentecost Offering on May 11**

# May 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Chancel Choir 7:30	2 A.A. & Al-Anon 8:00	3
4 Camp Sunday Refreshments in Fellowship Hall Camp dedication at Pine Springs 2:30	5Worship & Property 6:30 Fellowship/ Church Growth 7 M & S 7:30	6 Sr. Citizen's 12:15 Eve Circle at Ruth Cochran's 7:00 parentWISE 7:00	7	8 Chancel Choir 7:30	9 A.A. & Al-Anon 8:00	10
11 Mother's Day Pentecost Sunday – wear Something RED	12 Deacons 7:00	13 parentWISE 7:00	14	15 Chancel Choir 7:30	16 A.A. & Al-Anon 8:00	17
18 Confirmation & Communion Refreshments in Fellowship Hall Following worship	19 Session 7:00	20 parentWISE 7:00	21	22 Chancel Choir 7:30	23 A.A. & Al-Anon 8:00	24
25 Worship begins at 10:00 For the summer	26 Memorial Day Office closed	27 parentWISE 7:0000	28	29	30 Food Pantry 8:30 – 12:30  A.A. & Al-Anon 8:00	31