

Burlington Zion Express

April 2011

*From the
Pastor*



Last Saturday, just as we were finishing our very last Angel Food distribution, the phone rang. It was Craig Neises saying that he and Will were on their way to the church "with the food." I was so preoccupied with finishing Angel Food, that for a moment, I had forgotten. Craig was talking about the scouts' wonderful donation to Zion—all the food from Will's scout troop food drive was being given to Zion. Just as the opportunity to help the community with Angel Food ended, a new opportunity with our own food pantry, opened up--thanks to the energy and enthusiasm of our new members Craig and Lisa Neises and their recently baptized son, Will. Monday of this week, I received a call from Kaye Hanna, another enthusiastic new member. Kaye wondered when I wanted to get together to discuss the next new members fellowship which she has been organizing. And then yesterday while at lunch, I saw Judy Taylor, a friend of Zion, and she told me about the Bridging the Gap flyer she had just created. When was I going to be at the church to take a look at it?

I have only mentioned four of the many new members and friends at Zion who have been energizing and inspiring us to take on all sorts of innovative ventures. There are at least 15 other individuals who are adding to the community of Zion. They have also joined long-term committees and brought new life and ideas to those groups.

What is it that is so great about new people? New members in a church are like yeast to a loaf of bread. They raise us up and give newness to things that were running out of energy. Or a better way to put it, they add life to the community and the result is that the rest of the community is energized. We welcome them in and they are glad to join.

(continued on next page)

Pastor Jane continued ---

On occasion, married couples (who have been married many years) have come to me to “renew” their vows. Renewing one’s vows is a way to publicly say again the words of commitment to one another and to privately restore or stir up one’s commitment to one another in a marriage. It is a way to say, “I am even more committed to you today than I was 25 years ago when we first did this.”

Perhaps Easter is an opportunity for us all to “renew” our commitment to our church. I don’t mean commit MORE time to the church—some of you are already doing so much. And I don’t mean spend yet another evening at a church meeting. I mean find the thing at the church that you really enjoy—a fellowship event, working with youth, singing in the choir, a book group, a particular committee—and throw yourself into it. Are you doing a task at the church that you have done forever and are tired of it? Are you doing something because you feel that if you quit, no one else would do it? Then stop! You have fallen into a terrible “church trap”. Find your passion and enjoyment at the church—and do that particular thing. If you are a long-term member of Zion, look around at all the new, enthused people. You are a part of a thriving church. Do the fun stuff. If you are a new member, look around and know that you are welcomed with excitement.

Come to church to enjoy and love. There’s no better place.

See you in the pews,

Jane



Worship

Sunday, April 3 – Fourth Sunday in Lent

8:00 am: Gathering for Prayer and Reflection
9:00 am: Adult Sunday School
10:00 am: Worship Service
Scripture: John 9:1-41
Flowers: In honor of the 28th wedding anniversary of Chris Cowles and Mike Collentine from Chris Cowles

Sunday, April 10 – Fifth Sunday in Lent

8:00 am: Gathering for Prayer and Reflection
9:00 am: Adult Sunday School
10:00 am: Worship Service
Scripture: John 11:1-45

Sunday, April 17 – Palm Sunday

8:00 am: Gathering for Prayer and Reflection
10:00 am: Worship Service
Scripture: Matthew 21:1-11
Flowers: In loving memory of John Fickel from Flo Fickel

Thursday, April 21 – Maundy Thursday

6:30 pm: Lenten supper
7:30 pm: Candlelight Service

Friday, April 22 – Good Friday

12:00 pm: Service

Saturday, April 23

10:00 am–2:00 pm: Meditation and Prayer

Sunday, April 24 – Easter Sunday

10:00 am: Worship Service / Children's Church
Scriptures: Jeremiah 31:1-6
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
Matthew 28:1-10
Flowers: From Milt and Laurie Paule

Special activities are planned for children during Children's Church on Easter Sunday. Plan to attend Easter services with your whole family!

Worship Helpers

April church closers: Joe and Sandy Deal

Sunday, April 3

Greeters: Cathy Boeset, Lyle Gibson, Jim Levins, Marquetta Wortham
Reader: Jackie Welch
Sound System: Marcia Fraise
Tower Bell: Milt Paule
Valet: David O'Rourke

Sunday, April 10

Greeters: Dennis and Dyan Dietzman, Rich and Deb Goble
Reader: Craig Neises
Sound System: Pam Daws
Tower Bell: John, Caleb, & Jared Paulus
Valet: Milt Paule

Sunday, April 17

Greeters: Dave and Cathy Schnicker, Dick and Jackie Welch
Reader: Laurie Paule
Sound System: Nathan and Brandi Chapman
Tower Bell: Titania Reynolds and Marquetta
Valet: Bill Daws

Sunday, April 24

Greeters: Bill and Pam Daws, Joanne Mauer, Sharon Thyne
Reader: Theresa Ritters
Sound System: Jim Levins
Tower Bell: Marvin Fraise
Valet: Jim Ritters



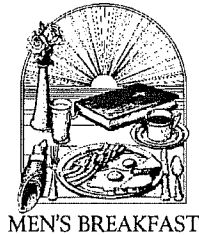
ALLELUIA!
He Is Risen!

Men's Lenten Breakfasts

are on Saturdays. Serving time is at 8:30 a.m. with a devotion to follow. The theme this year is "Come to the Table."

Locations of the remaining breakfasts are as follows:

- April 2: Denmark Cong. UCC
- April 9: First Christian DOC
- April 16: Danville Cong. UCC
- April 23: St. Paul UCC



Journey through Jerusalem

Wednesday, April 13

6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Plan now to come and bring your family and friends with you to "Journey through Jerusalem" on Wednesday, April 13, from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Over 40 costumed actors will present a series of scenes at various locations around the church. Visitors will be guided to the various scenes, each telling a portion of the Passion story, from Palm Sunday to the empty tomb.

Your trip will conclude at the Jerusalem marketplace where you will be able to experience Bible-time crafts, games, and food. Pottery making, basket weaving, jewelry making, learn to write your name in Hebrew, sample goat cheese and charoset---you'll find it all at the marketplace!

Join us on the Journey!!

On Sunday, April 10, following the 10:00 a.m. worship service, participants in the Journey through Jerusalem are being asked to stay to pick up costumes and run through their scenes. Other helpers are needed to set up the scenery and the marketplace. If you are willing to do this, please contact Janice Gibson or the office. Thank you!



HOLY WEEK

PALM SUNDAY:

Donkey Walk

This annual event begins at 9:00 a.m. at the bottom of Snake Alley. Join with other churches as we reenact Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem.

Children's Church Mission Market

following the 10:00 a.m. service Children will be presenting information and taking donations towards the Tsunami Relief in Japan.

THURSDAY:

Maundy Thursday Service

Candlelight Service
7:30 p.m. in the
Church Sanctuary
(after 6:30 p.m. Lenten Supper)

FRIDAY:

Good Friday Service

12:00 noon in the
Church Sanctuary

SATURDAY:

Meditation

The church sanctuary will be open from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. for meditation and prayer.



Youth Group Opening Night at the Bees Monday, April 11, 6:00 p.m.

Zion youth will attend the opening night baseball game for the Burlington Bees on Monday, April 11, out at Community Field as they take on the Peoria Chiefs. The game starts at 6:30 p.m. so please meet at the church at 6:00 p.m. so everyone can go there together. Your ticket will be provided. Just bring your own money to buy snacks. See you there!



Over the Hill Gang Wednesday, April 13

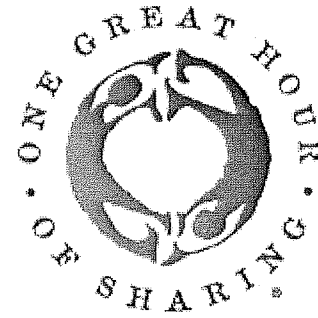
For those of you who made reservations to see "Happy Days – A New Musical" at Circa'21, please meet at the church by 9:45 a.m. to carpool up there. The plans are to be back in Burlington by around 4:30 p.m. in plenty of time for the "Journey through Jerusalem" taking place at Zion that evening.

Nursing Home Sing-Along Sunday, April 17, 3:00 p.m.



On Sunday, April 17, at 3:00 p.m. a group of volunteers will go to Bickford Cottage for a sing-along with the residents there. Please plan to join them!

A big "Thank you" to all the March volunteers who sang at Rosebush Garden: Charles Brissey, Janice Gibson, Debbie Gottschalk, Margaret Helt, Pauline Kuster, Martha Landstrom, Don Lutz, Donna Norris, Milt and Laurie Paule, Rod Reeves, Don Thie, Jane Willan, and Judy Winkelpleck.



Special Missions Offering Sunday, April 3

We will be receiving the annual UCC One Great Hour of Sharing missions offering on Sunday, April 3. A flyer is included with this newsletter, explaining how this offering helps people all over the world who need the most basic necessities of life. Offering envelopes will be in the Sunday bulletins and on the back table in the sanctuary. Please give generously.

Book Discussion Group Thursday, April 28 7:00 p.m.

The book being discussed in April will be Heaven is for Real by Todd Burpo with Lynn Vincent, a #1 New York Times bestseller. It is "a little boy's astounding story of his trip to heaven and back."

Books are available on a table in the narthex. Cost is \$9.50 each.

The meeting will take place at the home of Judy Tomkins at 1738 Deer Run Drive.

**The book for May's meeting has been pre-ordered and should be available for purchase around mid-April. It is The Help by Kathryn Stockett and will cost \$8.60 each.



Angel Food Ministries has been a thriving volunteer project for Zion. Promoted by the Outreach Committee in 2009, Angel Food has fed countless low-income individuals over the past 18 months. Unfortunately, we have decided to discontinue Angel Food Ministries here at Zion because of a recent change in their policies.

Angel Food Ministries has been hit hard by the economy, especially gas prices, and has had to change its food drop-off schedule—Zion was now going to receive its food at 6:00 a.m. on Saturday morning.

After much discussion with all the many Angel Food volunteers, the tough decision was made to discontinue Angel Food. We are instead hoping to expand Zion's food pantry. When one opportunity ends, another always presents itself! Let's throw our energy and enthusiasm into the food pantry and continue our commitment to providing food to those who need it!



Thank you to everyone who helped with the Lenten breakfast hosted by Zion on Saturday, March 12. We couldn't have done it without you!

--Rod Reeves

**There will NOT be a staff meeting in April.
The next one is scheduled for May 19.**

Adult Sunday School

April 3 and April 10

9:00 a.m.

Ken Burns, *The American Stories: the Shakers*. We will be showing this beautiful and fascinating documentary April 3 and April 10, followed by discussion. Come at 9:00 for a light breakfast as we watch the film.

<http://www.pbs.org/kenburns/shakers/>

The Shakers | PBS

www.pbs.org

They called themselves the United Society of Believers in Christ's Second Appearing, but because of their ecstatic dancing, the world called them Shakers. Ken Burns creates a moving portrait of this particularly American movement.

***There will not be an Adult Sunday School class April 17 or April 24 (Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday). We will resume on May 1st with a new topic, which is yet to be determined. Stay tuned for details.*



Be sure to read the insert sheet about ordering Easter lilies for the sanctuary if you want to honor or remember someone special. Return it to the office by April 18.

The deadline for next month's newsletter will be on Tuesday, May 24. Please get your information turned in to the office by then if you have anything you want included in the May newsletter. Thanks!

A Special
THANK YOU

Thank you for all the cards, prayers, and visits to the hospital that Zion friends did for me while I was hospitalized for major surgery. Special thanks to Pastor Jane for being with my family during the surgery hours and for visits afterwards. Also, special thanks to Dr. Bill Daws for his daily visits. I think everyone regardless of age needs a pediatrician. The number of cards I received was overwhelming, and the visits by numerous friends really helped pass the time. Thank you again.

--Joe Deal

Open and Affirming DVD Sunday, April 3 3:00 p.m.

Zion's Open and Affirming leadership team will again host a screening of the award-winning documentary "For the Bible Tells Me So" in the sanctuary at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, April 3. The film focuses on the history of Christian faith and homosexuality and the efforts to build a more accepting future. Discussion and refreshments will follow. The public is invited.

Japan Relief

Some have inquired about how to make donations to Japan after the recent earthquake and tsunami devastated their country. You may donate to a "Pacific Earthquake and Tsunami Fund" through Zion. Contributions will be forward to the UCC International Disaster Fund and used specifically for Japan Relief. Just make your check payable to Zion UCC and designate it for Japan Relief.

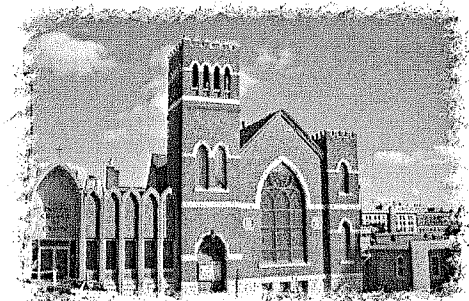
Earnest "Tee" Turner Building and Grounds Coordinator at Zion

The Consistory has voted (with great enthusiasm) to redefine the scope of the current position of Earnest Turner, Zion's custodian. He is now the "Buildings and Grounds Coordinator." In the past, the role of Buildings and Grounds Coordinator has been filled by volunteers (in the most recent past by Marvin Fraise and then by Todd Van Scoy). But in today's world, volunteers cannot adequately fill the job of buildings and ground coordinator; it is simply outside the scope of what a volunteer can do.

What does it mean that Tee is our new "Building and Grounds Coordinator? It means that the consistory has added two responsibilities to his current job description: timely maintenance and upkeep of all church property and periodic inspections of church property.

What else does it mean? It means that when the boiler overheats, or the roof leaks, or the sink in the ladies room backs up—we call on Tee and he will take the necessary steps to fix the problem. It also means that 5 hours per week will be added to Tee's present contract so he can help us maintain our beautiful and historic building. Consequently, if you have a concern about the building (burnt out light-bulb, clanking radiator, etc), you can call the church office and we will alert Tee.

Thanks Tee, for all you do for Zion church!



One Great Hour of Sharing offering – April 3, 2011

**“GOD IS ABLE TO PROVIDE
YOU WITH EVERY BLESSING IN
ABUNDANCE, SO THAT BY ALWAYS
HAVING ENOUGH OF EVERYTHING,
YOU MAY SHARE ABUNDANTLY IN
EVERY GOOD WORK.”
(2 CORINTHIANS 9:8)**

Ah! the joy that comes from giving someone just the perfect gift. Their utter delight is a gift right back.

Joy motivates us to share our resources with a hurting world through One Great Hour of Sharing. Where does this joy come from? From God! Sharing invites God more fully into our lives: As we reach out in love, we open the way for God to reach more deeply into us. As one contributor said, “Giving just feeds my soul! This is what life is about—not collecting things, but helping people.”

Giving from our abundance helps build clean water and sewage facilities in villages devastated by poverty; nurtures self sufficiency through health care, education, and job training; and brings safety, shelter, and food after natural disaster or violent circumstances have made towns uninhabitable.

Sharing brings joy to us, to others, to God. Let sharing transform you as you help transform the world through One Great Hour of Sharing.

SHARING RESOURCES.
CHANGING LIVES.



www.onegreathourofsharing.org

There is Enough!

There is enough. On this vast planet of God-given resources, we honor our Creator because there is already enough for all. We live in a world brought into being and intended by God to sustain all of creation. Yet far too many across our globe do not have all they need. Brothers and sisters near and far lack even the basic necessities of life: water, food, shelter, jobs, or peace.

So if there is, indeed, enough to go around, why are so many without?

There is enough—but for all to have access, we must share. And that's what One Great Hour of Sharing has been doing for over 60 years—sharing your resources with those who need them

most. Sharing your resources with the One Great Hour of Sharing offering literally changes the lives of those who otherwise would not have enough. Sharing our God-granted resources helps others not only survive, but perhaps even thrive as they find new ways to generate income, gain access to clean water, grow food, and live in communities where peace and justice prevail over poverty, violence, and inequity.

All that we are and have are gifts of God. Won't you join in giving to One Great Hour of Sharing? Sharing your resources really does change lives—your own life and the lives of others.

**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**

www.ucc.org/oghs

Order by
April 18th!



As we get close to Easter, Zion again offers the opportunity to recognize a family member or someone special to us by ordering an Easter lily in honor of or in memory of them. These will adorn our sanctuary on Easter Sunday and for a few weeks following Easter.

You can purchase an Easter lily for \$10 from the church. We will be listing these gifts in our Easter Sunday bulletin and also in our May newsletter.

To order an Easter lily, simply fill out this form and turn it into the church office with your payment no later than Monday, April 18. If you prefer to bring in your own Easter lily, that would be fine. Thank you.

Please list this lily as follows:

() In honor of _____

() In loving memory of _____

Given by _____

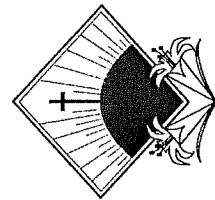
Date _____



April 2011

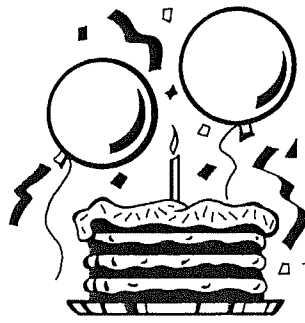


Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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Easter BLESSINGS

<p>8:00 am: Gathering for Prayer & Reflection 9:00 am: Adult Sunday School 10:00 am: Worship</p>		<p>7:30 am: Bible Study at Diggers Rest</p>	<p>8:00 am: Quilters 6:00 pm: Lenten Supper and Service 7:45 pm: Choir</p>			<p>8:30 am: Men's Lenten Breakfast at Denmark Cong. UCC</p>
<p>8:00 am: Gathering 9:00 am: Adult S.S. 10:00 am: Worship 11:00 am: Lunch & set-up for "Journey"</p>	<p>6:00 pm: Youth Group attends Bees game 6:30 pm: Zion in Stitches</p>	<p>7:30 am: Bible Study at Diggers Rest</p>	<p>8:00 am: Quilters 13 9:45 am: Over the Hill Gang to Circa'21 6:30 - 8pm: "Journey through Jerusalem" No Choir</p>	<p>7:00 pm: Consistory</p>		<p>8:30 am: Men's Lenten Breakfast at Danville Cong. UCC</p>
<p>8:00 am: Gathering for Prayer & Reflection 10:00 am: Worship 3:00 pm: Sing-along <i>Palm Sunday</i></p>		<p>7:30 am: Bible Study at Diggers Rest</p>	<p>8:00 am: Quilters 7:00 pm: Choir</p>	<p><i>Mundy</i> Thursday 6:30 pm: Supper 7:30 pm: Service</p>	 Good Friday	<p>8:30 am: Men's Lenten Breakfast at St. Paul UCC</p>
<p>10:00 am only EASTER</p>		<p>7:30 am: Bible Study at Diggers Rest</p>	<p>8:00 am: Quilters 7:00 pm: Choir</p>	<p>7:00 pm: Book Discussion Group</p>		



Birthdays & Anniversaries This Month!

April Birthdays

- 2 ---- **Joanne Oetken**, 2608 Subilbe Ave.
4 ---- **Don Lutz**, 2404 Florence Ave.
6 ---- **Robert Tiemeyer**,
1095 Silvercrest Circle - Apt. #211
Iowa City, IA 52240
Janice Gibson, 204 Crestview Dr.
Jason Gibson, 2132 SE 6th St.
Lee's Summit MO 64063
7 ---- **Jim Ritters**, 209 Curran St.
Sharon Thye, 10240 155th St.
9 ---- **Bill Daws**, 10971 Wildlife Lakes Dr.
West Burlington IA 52655
10 --- **JoAnn Oetken**, PO Box 513
Jason Schnicker, 805 Randall Lane
12 --- **Rachel Wachter**, 1028 Short Ave.
16 --- **Margaret Helt**, 12702 West Avenue Rd.
(Happy 96th to Margaret!)
17 --- **Jon Hedges**, 11774 Greenwood Drive
Kayla Elmore (13), 2202 Miller St.
18 --- **Jennifer Bell**, 732 Hedge Ave.
20 --- **Virginia Schnicker**, 1710 Jackson St.
Rita Hartman, 2405 Madison Ave.
21 --- **Genevieve Thie**, 14048 155th St.
Crystal Oetken (8), P.O. Box 513
24 --- **Nick Boeset**, 1426 Burry Drive
Iowa City, IA 52246
25 --- **Kay Jacobs**, 1024 Hagemann Ave.
27 --- **Verna Meuler**, 108 Glendale Dr.
(Happy 97th to Verna!)
Chad Ralston, 2534 Surrey Road
28 --- **Chuck Landstrom**, 1206 Madison Ave.
Greg Key, 714 S. 10th St.

April Anniversaries

- 2 --- **Chris Cowles & Mike Collentine** (28)
5254 Ferres Lane
5 ---- **Pat & Bob Parmeter** (31)
2636 Northwood Ave.
12 --- **Marcia & Marvin Fraise** (49)
1002 W. Mt. Pleasant St.,
West Burlington, IA 52655
15 --- **Jackie & Dick Welch** (39)
1228 Smith St.
Lindsey & Joe Haley (5)
904 S. Adams Place,
Mt. Pleasant, IA 52641
22 --- **Debbie & Glen Gottschalk** (39)
829 N. 5th St.
27 --- **Sheri & Brian Landstrom** (20)
2105 S. 10th St.

Early May Birthdays....

- 1 ---- **Brian Landstrom**, 2105 S. 10th St.
3 ---- **Marie Paulus**, 1326 Gnahn St.

Pastor's Report
Consistory Meeting
March 10, 2011

Worship

Ash Wednesday Service

Preached 5 sermons

Led 8:00 Gathering for Prayer and Reflection (at the 8:00 Gathering, I read my sermon)

Planning Holy week and Lenten worship

Christian Education

- Attended Board of Christian Ed meeting
- Taught 6 bible study groups (now teaching a bible study at Hope Haven)
- Youth group to Fun City
- NOIZ Nites
- Led Adult Sunday School "This Odd and Wondrous Calling"
- Women's book study

Counseling

8 pastoral counseling sessions

Membership

- New Members Fellowship event
- conversations with a potential new members
- Lunch with a potential new member

Weddings and Funerals

- No funerals
- 1 wedding

Meetings I have attended

- 2 consistory meetings
- 2 Planning Manual meetings
- 2 Staff meetings
- 4 ONA meetings
- 1 Website training session with Craig (I need more!)
- 1 Wedding meeting

- Met with Rev. Dean Graber to discuss Elders Workshop
- Met with custodian, Tee
- Met with Consistory officers (Saturday Retreat)
- Meeting with BTG coordinators
- Dinner with consistory president

Church Activities I have attended

- AngelFood Distribution
- Dinner and a Movie!
- Sing-along! At Burlington Care Ctr.

Ecumenical meetings and Conference Meetings I have attended:

- 2 Clergy Lunches
- UCC Clergy Retreat in Cedar Rapids
- February Association Meetings
- Debra Fox (WFD)

Visiting:

Joe Deal
Margaret Helt
Judy Nesius
Deb Ruble

Really good books I read this month:

The Help, Kathryn Stockett

A Widow's Story, Joyce Carol Oates

The World at Night, Alan Furst

Jane Willan
Submitted 3-10-2011



1221 S. Gear Ave.
West Burlington, IA 52655-1681
(319) 768-1000

Dear Pastor,

The Spiritual Care Department of Great River Health Systems is pleased to invite you and your congregation to our second annual, "Stations of the Cross, A Meditative and Reflective Journey". Historically, the object of the Stations of the Cross, is to help the faithful make a spiritual pilgrimage of prayer, through meditating upon the chief scenes of Christ's sufferings and death. We have once again brought that pilgrimage here to Great River Health Systems through the medium of art. We had such great success with over five hundred people journeying through the stations last year, we have decided to make this an annual event.

We have invited twelve area artists to create their expression of ten of the stations of the cross. These art pieces will be placed throughout the medical center for our guests to journey through at their own pace. The chaplains have written a meditative brochure that will lead our guests from one station to the next.

I have been able to see some of the finished pieces and I am in awe of the expressions of worship found in each art piece. I believe this event will offer a way during Holy Week for believers to experience a deeper walk with God.

Our journey will begin April 18, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. with an artist's reception in the Mercy Plaza. All of the art pieces will be available in the Mercy Plaza for viewing until 8:00 p.m. The artists will be available with their pieces to greet you. Great River Strings will be playing for the event and hors d'oeuvres will be served.

Beginning Tuesday April 19, 2011 the pieces will be stationed throughout the medical center and guests are invited to pick up a brochure at the front desk and journey through the stations. The art will be available between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. through Monday April 25, 2011.

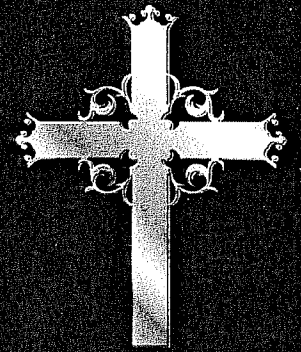
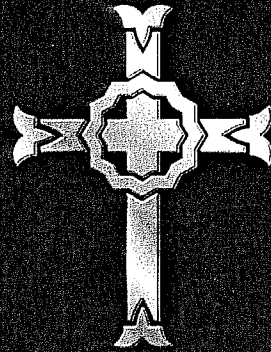
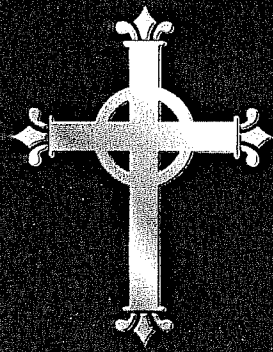
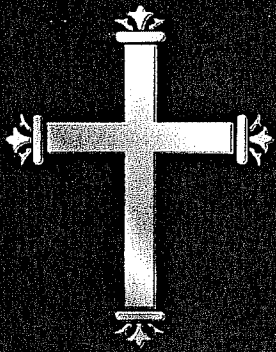
We would appreciate it if you would help us get the word out by hanging this flyer on your community bulletin board and put an announcement into your bulletin.

Thank you for your help and we hope you are able to join us for this unique experience.

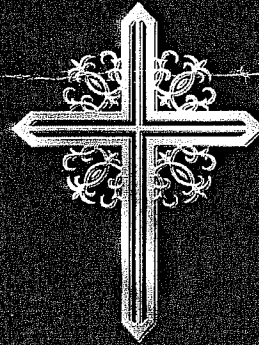
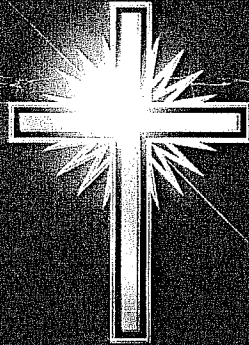
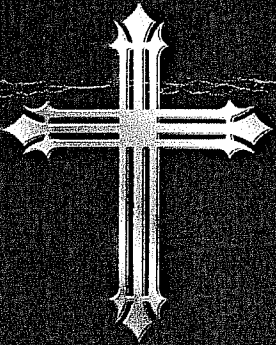
Serving Together

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Chaplain Bettyanna Bremer".

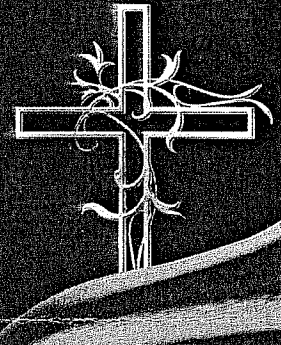
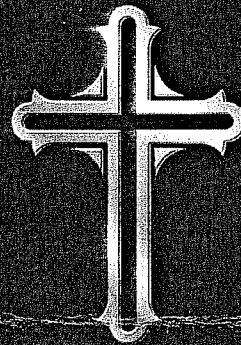
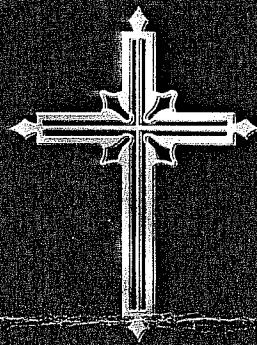
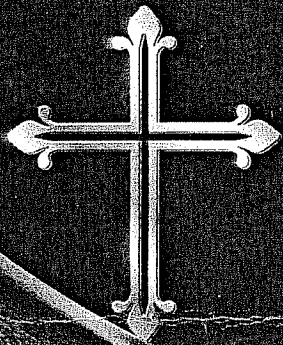
Chaplain Bettyanna Bremer
Associate Chaplain
Great river Medical Center
319-768-4067
bbremer@grhs.net



Stations of the Cross



A Meditative and Reflective Journey



Show Opening and Artists' Reception
6 to 8 p.m. Monday, April 18
Mercy Plaza Lobby
1225 S. Gear Ave., West Burlington

8 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Tuesday, April 19, through Monday, April 25
Great River Medical Center
1221 S. Gear Ave., West Burlington
Start in the main lobby

“Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live.”

ISAIAH 55:2-3

The Environment and Spirituality



JUDY CHAN

Recently, I joined a Christian environmental group on a field trip to one of Hong Kong’s most mysterious destinations – a public dump. Global Ministries missionary Judy Chan reports, a group from our Kowloon Union Church, decided it was important to visit the not-so-beautiful places in the city to understand how our lifestyles impact Hong Kong’s environment.

As we approached the landfill area, we saw large garbage trucks coming and going. Entering, we noticed off in the distance what looked like a wide open valley of plots of dirt. Much of it was covered by sea green plastic sheeting. Other areas were covered with grass and trees. We drove in our van (windows closed!) to see the landfill. To my surprise, the grassy spots were ‘restored’ areas, meaning my family’s garbage was buried underneath, covered by layers of heavy plastic, deodorizer and a few feet of soil and now greenery. The areas covered by sea green sheeting were being prepared as areas for garbage to be dumped in the future.

It is clear that the real problem is Hong Kong people produce too much garbage! It is one of the sins of an affluent society. Despite environmental education campaigns (recycle, reduce, reuse), it appears that people really need to learn the 4th “R” – repent! The only thing that has worked so far is making people pay. Plastic bag usage has dropped dramatically since stores began charging 10 cents per bag.

Our chairwoman, is a shining example of simple living. She makes a point of shopping infrequently, and tries to create no rubbish on Sundays. Most importantly, she believes, we must look within and ask ourselves why we need to buy, own and use so much stuff. Our Christian green group doesn’t have any easy solutions, but we are working on it. For you see, the environmental crisis is at heart a spiritual matter.

Global Ministries missionary, Judy Chan is responsible for communications, the ecumenical radio broadcasting ministry, English publications and ecumenical partnerships with the Hong Kong Christian Council.



You make the difference . . .

The prayers and help you provide through your local congregations make possible the work and witness of GLOBAL MINISTRIES, which is supported by Disciples Mission Fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and Our Church’s Wider Mission (OCWM) of the United Church of Christ.

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The BZ Express

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Kay Jacobs, Treasurer's Assistant

Renita Jarrett, Choir Accompanist and
Wedding Coordinator

Megan Key, Nursery Supervisor

Anita Renteria, Handbells Choir Director

Marilyn Stein, Office Administrator

Earnest Turner, Custodian and
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