

CrossRoads

*Thus says the Lord: Stand at the crossroads and look,
and ask for where the good way lies and walk in it...*
- Jeremiah 6:16

News from Springfield Presbyterian Church - April, 2008

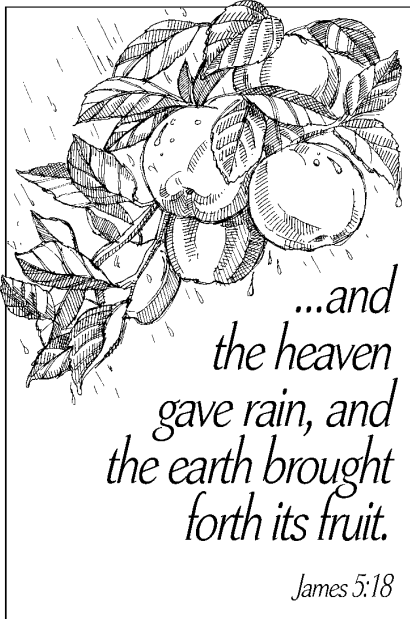
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For the May newsletter is April
20. Please forward all
contributions to the church
office.

Special Themes in April:

Normally the month of April is full of special services leading up to Easter – this year, however, by the time you receive this newsletter we will already be in the 2nd or 3rd week of Easter. Which gives us some time to look at other themes of new life and resurrection. There will be four special theme services that we will focus upon:

- ✦ April 13 – Earth Day also called Good Shepherd Sunday. A good time to reflect on our shepherding of God's gifts to us - the good earth and all creatures and plants that live upon it.
- ✦ April 27 – Rural Life Sunday and Ascension – the latter lifts up the dignity of all humans - and the "Rural Life" theme reminds us of our roots.

- A peek into May:

- ✦ May 4 – Yom HaShoah also called Holocaust Sunday. A time to look at the roots of anti-Semitism within our faith – Sermon: "Lest We Forget"
- ✦ May 11 – Pentecost – the Gift of the Holy Spirit. (Also Mothers' Day)

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month

Across the country April is being recognized as Sexual Assault Awareness Month to educate citizens about sexual violence, honor the many victims, raise awareness of the resources available in our community, and promote prevention of sexual violence. Some local events are :

- ✦ April 2: Rape Crises Intervention Service (RCIS) Open House 6pm-8pm An introduction to the RCIS
- ✦ April 12: Healthy Kid's Day @ YMCA Westminster RCIS will have a information booth educating kids on staying safe
- ✦ April 22: Dine-Out Carroll County 4 pm-9pm Restaurants all over the county will donate 10% of the night's proceeds to RCIS

For more information, call the church office or RCIS at 410-857-0900.

*Our
Presbyterian
Community*

Pastor Nominating Committee

We are meeting weekly to review Pastor Information Forms, conduct phone interviews, or hold face-to-face meetings with candidates. Behind the scenes there are also reference checks and arrangements coordinating tours of the church and area. These meetings are a real time of introspection and discovery of who we are as a congregation and the direction we feel God is leading. Continue to pray for the wisdom, openness, compassion, understanding, and guidance of the Holy Spirit.

52 ÷ 8 = Hear Ye, Hear Ye! Church openers needed

For the 52 Sundays in the year, we have only **8 people** who rotate constantly to open and close the church for services (this includes 2 couples who each open church separately). So those couples must open church and close 4 out of every 8 weeks of the rotational schedule. **We need some additional help!** We open the church usually 1 ½ hours prior to church services to accommodate the monthly early service and bible studies, and close after the service. Please help with this necessary endeavor, WE NEED YOU!!!! Call Kay Freas on 410-795-5496 or e-mail kfreas@msn.com. Many thanks, Kay

Session Notes:

- ✠ Approved new program for our web site.
- ✠ Approved communion service at Fairhaven chapel at 11:00 am on Maundy Thursday.
- ✠ Approved participation in Carroll County Energy Pool for lower electricity rates.
- ✠ Approved our next concert and reception for June 1 at 3:00 pm with Jared Denhard and his daughter, Harper.
- ✠ Approved new board members for the RGEF: Sharon Ridgely - Sobus, Juliette Butterfield; Steve Baumgardner (current member), to serve an additional 2-year term. An audit was conducted for the last year finding all in order; special thanks to Ron Holmes for his tireless dedication.
- ✠ RGEF loans for 2008/2009 were awarded to Stephanie Esworthy, Karissa Grant, Diane Shoup, and Jill Vasbinder.
- ✠ Agreed to study the Deep Shift report and meet March 30th to discuss our next steps in the transformation program.
- ✠ Elected Beth Oates as our commissioner to the April presbytery meeting.

CrossRoads

Springfield Presbyterian Church, PC
(USA)
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Sykesville, MD 21784
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e-mail: office@springfield-church.org
www.springfield-church.org

Sunday School for all ages
9:15 - 10:20 A.M.

Sunday Morning Worship
10:30 - 11:30 A.M.

Reverend Jack Sharp, Interim Pastor
Directors of Music: Linda Caviglia &
Susan Gubernatis
Sunday School Coordinators,
Charlie and Deb Sperling
Sandy Newsome, Secretary

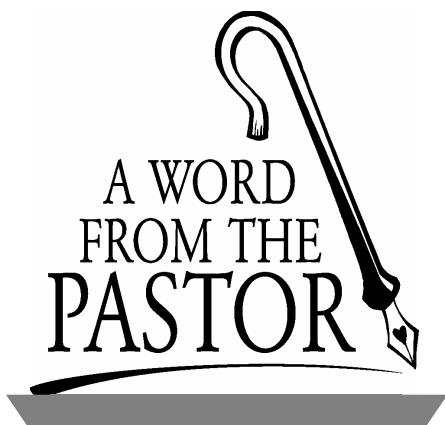
CrossRoads is published monthly.

We encourage all to contribute.
Deadline - third Sunday of month.
Mark Stinson, Editor
(410) 549 - 3912
e-mail: mostinson@comcast.net

Congregational Care Team

We have a wonderful, caring team in place to help with meals when needed. Call Sharon Pappas at 410-795-5623 for more information.

Pastor's Message – April Fool!



Years ago – more than I care to remember – the most controversial film of the day was being shown at the World's Fair – in New York. Not a word was said in this silent, but colorful film, but its depiction in "The Parable" of Jesus was as a clown, and it was swiftly condemned by many traditional Christians. I've often wondered if the church clown movement sprang from that production – and think about it on April the 1st, as Dotty and I try to outdo each other – although we're both forewarned, after more than forty years of marriage together, that whoever can fool the other - is king or queen for the day.

Dotty learned this early on – her father, a strong, iron worker with flaming red hair, would go to great lengths to "fool" his children. "No school today, kids! It snowed last night!" he might call up the stairways at five am (before they could even remember the day) - and as Dotty, her sister and brother would spring from their beds with delight – their loud complaints upon looking out at the bright sunny, and dry, day - brought loud laughter from below.

Over the years I've rushed to the window to see the "woodpecker," "the red fox on the lawn," or a "big package" that was delivered overnight – maybe from Dell. I've gotten in my share of foolishness on this strange day as well. And who knows, in the midst of this tom-foolery, laughter rules and "homo-ludens" [humans as players] comes to the forefront again.

The Apostle Paul was the inspiration for that controversial film – it was he who lifted up the foolishness of Christianity. In a famous passage to the Corinthians he wrote that the cross of Jesus was "moria," – foolishness:

"For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved, it is the power of God. For it is written: 'I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.' Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world...? For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength." (I Corinthians 1:18-25)

Dr. William Willimon, Dean of the Duke University Chapel reminds us, in a sermon that:

"One of the earliest of crucifixes shows Jesus on the cross with the head of an donkey. The Letter to the Hebrews says that Christ was crucified "outside the gate" (Heb. 13:12). He was "outside" in more ways than one. He, who entered Jerusalem on a donkey, died as an apparent failure, outside our definitions of success."

There is wisdom in folly, the same as there is wisdom in not taking ourselves so seriously that we miss the joys of life.

Sunday Lectionary

Apr 6	Acts 2:14a, 36-41; Ps. 116:1-4, 12-19; 1 Peter 1:17-23; Luke 24:13-35
13	Acts 2:42-47; Ps. 23; 1 Peter 2:19-25; John 10:1-10
20	Acts 7:55-60; Ps. 31:1-5, 15-16; 1 Peter 2:2-10; John 14:1-14
27	Acts 17:22-31; Ps. 66:8- 20; 1 Peter 3:13-22; John 14:15-21

Communion

Sunday, April 6: Sue Holmes,
Barbara Nickell, Beth Oates and
Kathy Russ

Special Events

Date	Day	Time	Activity
1	Tuesday	11:00 am	Morning Circle at Fairhaven
6	Sunday	11:45 am	Confirmation Class
10	Thursday	7:00 pm	Session Meeting
13	Sunday	10:30 am 11:45 am	All choirs at Oaklands Confirmation Class
20	Sunday	10:30 am 11:45 am	Oaklands choirs here Confirmation Class
25	Friday	TBA	Youth Retreat to Ocean City (return on Sunday)
26	Saturday	10:00 am	Presbytery at Mt Hebron
27	Sunday	9:15 am	Family Service

Weekly at Springfield

Sunday	9:15 a.m.	Sunday School
Sunday	10:30 a.m.	Worship Service
Sunday	11:30 a.m.	Fellowship
Wednesday	4:45-7:45 p.m.	Wonderful Wednesday/Choir Rehearsals
Thursday	7:00 p.m.	Stringband USA

Assisting on Sundays	6	13	20	27
Children's Activity Beth Oates 552-1491	Beth Oates	Joy Barwick	Deb Sperling	Connie Robinson
Fellowship Barbara Cornell 549-9397	Debbie & Charlie Sperling	Jessica & Andrea Lane	Karen Stinson Fran Pobletts	Connie Robinson Lindsey Amos
Lay Leader Barbara Nickell 848-5710	Esther Doyle- Read	Ruth Ann Kegel	Karen Stinson	Linda Black
Sunday Opener Church Office: 795-6152	Jennifer Wise	Phil Salmon	Carl Anderson	John Freas
Ushers & Greeters Barbara Nickell 848-5710	Connie & Patrick Robinson	Ed & Sandy Newsome	Don Vasbinder Charlie Sperling	Duke Harrison Bob Rogers

Our
Presbyterian
Community

RGEF 2008 Loan Results

The late Ruth Gosnell, a former Baltimore County teacher, principal, and a long-time member of this church, wanted to provide interest-free loans to college juniors, seniors, and graduate degree students. The Ruth Gosnell Education Fund was established in 1982 by the Springfield Presbyterian Church's Session. The amount of the loans to disburse each year fluctuates, because the principal is invested, leaving the principal fund earnings, i.e.; the interest-income, as the available loan amount. On March 11, 2008, the Board met to consider the individual applications.

After extensive advertising campaigns, the Board received 5 applications for loan consideration. On March 13, the Session approved the Board's 2008 four-loan recipients listed below:

- † Stephanie Esworthy, Sykesville, MD; Johns Hopkins or Duke University, \$3,000
- † Karissa Grant, McDonald, PA; Slippery Rock University, \$3,000
- † Diane Shoup, New Windsor, MD; Mt. St. Mary's University, \$1,000
- † *Jill Vasbinder, Southington, CT; SUNY Purchase College, NY, \$2,000

The fund will disburse the loans in two equal payments directly to the students' colleges for the 2008/2009 fall and spring semesters.

***Present loan recipient**

MEMBERS OF THE SESSION

Class of 2008

Tony Caviglia
Barbara Nickell
Esther Doyle Read

Class of 2009

Kay Freas
Beth Oates
Charles Sperling

Class of 2010

Sharon Pappas
Fran Pobletts

Moderator of Session:
John R. Sharp, Interim
Pastor

(Continued from page 3)

We could call it "outside the box thinking." There is wisdom in folly, the same as there is wisdom in not taking ourselves so seriously that we miss the joys of life. And yet, even as good comedy can be a serious commentary of society, the foolishness of Jesus - Son of God - dispatched as a common criminal on a cross - defies all common wisdom - and says volumes about human sin and God's lavish love. Erasmus said it this way in his "In Praise of Folly" (sent to Sir Thomas More - because he could think of no one more serious, less open to folly - and the name More was very close to "moria," (folly).

"No morons so play the fool as those who are re-obsessed with the ardor of the Christian piety to the point that they distribute their goods, overlook injuries,...make no distinction between friends and enemies,...What is this if not insanity? No wonder that the apostles appeared to be drunk with new wine and Paul seemed to Festus to be mad."

So, in this month of April's Foolery - are you ready to be a fool for Christ?

Pastor Jack
Interim Pastor

Christian Education & Mission

Ocean City, a Musical and Ice Cream!

April 25—27. Annual Ocean City Youth Retreat. More info to come. Please let the Sperlings know if you plan to attend.

May 4th. Youth Sunday. This is for all youth, not just those involved in the spring musical. Planning for this events takes place during the Ocean City retreat.

June 8th. Ice Cream Social. Isn't it amazing how fast time flies! This is our last day of Sunday School. We will be thanking our teachers (and kids) for a great season. We also have two high school graduates to recognize this year.

Plan Ahead—Vacation Bible School:

For those parents who need to plan ahead, vacation Bible School will be held July 20th—24th. For more information, see Deb Sperling or Connie Robinson. Watch the newsletter for more info as well.



Hey Bud! - Plant Sale

The Christian Education Committee will be holding a plant sale to benefit the Camp and Conference Fund. The Camp & Conference Fund has helped many of our youth and adults to have enriching experiences in the past year and we need to replenish the fund. This year we plan to get our plants through Bupperts in Eldersburg. You can pick up your forms at the church mid-April and **Plants arrive on Mothers Day week-end!** Please see Connie Robinson or Barbara Cornell with any questions.

Supporting the Hungry:

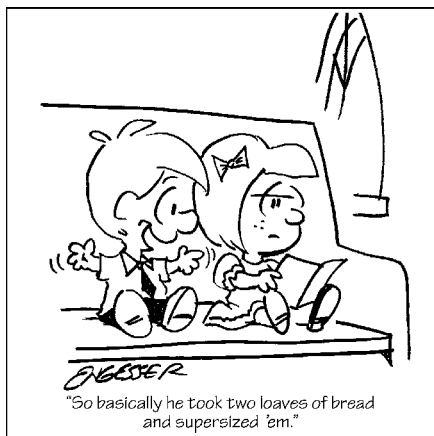
Many thanks for your response to the Local Hunger Relief collection received last month. Your generosity will provide food to the Carroll County Food Sunday program and the Woodbine Food Pantry. Your gifts will also provide transportation vouchers to enable our neighbors to travel to get the food. A BIG thank you to Mary Rhodes who volunteered to be our "grocery shopper" for this mission. Thanks, Mary!

They had a (Basket) ball:

Thanks to all of you who provided a filled Easter basket for the Shepherd's Staff of Westminster. The folks at Shepherd's Staff are always very grateful for the donations they receive. It's good to help out!

Take me to the River Road:

River Road is calling your name! Mark your calendars for Saturday, April 12th to come out and help clean up River Road. We'll meet in the church parking lot at 2:00pm. Bring your own gloves and let's help out Mother Earth on (hopefully) a beautiful Spring day!



PRAISE BAND



Red Sea Parting

Spotlight on Kelsey Robinson

Kelsey Robinson plays an important role in the Red Sea Parting vocal ensemble. Her vocal ability and ready smile make her easy to work with. She was born in Howard County, and has lived in the same house for her entire life! She attended Freedom Elementary, Oklahoma Road Middle School, and she is currently home-schooled. An 8th grader, Kelsey is eagerly looking forward to high school and is hoping for some challenging writing courses.

A happy person who loves music, Kelsey loves to sing and chorus is another favorite class of hers. She is a fan of all types of music, especially rock and alternative music. While she enjoys hanging out with friends, she describes herself as family oriented and loves to be with her family. She is thrilled that some extended family members will be relocating to the area this summer.

Kelsey is excited to be a member of Red Sea Parting. She says it is fun and a good experience. She enjoys singing about God and thinks that music is a great way to reach young people. She says she has learned a lot about God and faith through her participation. She has several favorite songs, and mentioned “Awesome God” as one of them.

When asked about a role model, Kelsey quickly said that her mom was her role model. Kelsey’s mom is a very giving person. She says that her mom will do anything for anyone without anything expected in return. Kelsey also says that she wants to be the same type of mother that her mother is – that she takes wonderful care of Kelsey, Patrick and their Dad.

Though college is distant for her, Kelsey does have a goal to travel the world. She has done some ‘island hopping,’ but she wants to see other countries. She can’t wait to travel to France and visit Paris. Kelsey closed our interview by saying how much she loves her church. She has grown up as part of the congregation and is now a member of the 2008 Confirmation Class at Springfield. Red Sea Parting loves having Kelsey with us!



What a Site! - New Church Website:

Our new website has the same address, www.springfield-church.org, but a new look. Even though it is “under construction,” our new website and its interactive calendar are awesome and worth taking a look at. In the coming weeks, we will be putting more information and as many pictures as we can on the site. Check it often!

One Sentence Sermon	Before God, we are all equally wise and equally foolish. —Albert Einstein
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Our Music Ministry



Choir Notes

The children's choirs and youth are starting to get serious about the spring musical for this year, *Elijah! God's Faithful Servant*. We have scheduled some extra rehearsals, developed our cast list and are working on all the songs. Dylan Vasbinder will be playing the leading role of Elijah this year. We will present our musical on Youth Sunday, May 4th during our regular worship service.

If you have time and any special talents with costumes or building simple props and you'd like to help us out, please call me (Linda Caviglia at 410-549-1582).

The adult choir is working now on the pieces we will be singing with Oaklands on April 13th and 20th along with some music for the ESCAPE sing which will take place on May 18th at St. Paul's United Methodist Church on Main Street in Sykesville. This event is always fun with area choirs coming together to share music with each other and the community. We always have a good time with a hymn sing at the end of the evening. The offering taken during the concert goes to support the work of ESCAPE - helping the homeless and hungry in our area.

The Presbyterones bell choir is also working on music, which will be presented on the Sundays, we are with Oaklands... we MAY have the theme from a popular movie ready to share with you. (You might have to wait 'till next fall... the rhythms are REALLY tricky!) Either way, we'll have some wonderful music to play for you on Sunday the 20th during our regular worship service.
- Linda Caviglia

Concert Series

We have decided to try starting a concert series here at Springfield Presbyterian. The concert committee is working on lining up afternoon concerts for the first Sunday of every other month. We will begin our series on June 1st at 3:00 in our sanctuary with a concert presented by Jared Denhard and his daughter, Harper. We are happy to welcome them back to Springfield! We enjoyed their music back in October of 2006 when they played and sang for us during our 170-Anniversary celebration.

The concert committee hopes to have concerts on August 3rd, October 5th, and December 7th. When we have finalized these arrangements, we will publish a full list of the artists. I hope to have that list in next month's newsletter.

If anyone is interested in joining the committee, we'd love to have your input and help, just let me (Linda Caviglia) know that you'd like to be involved.



Our Joys and Concerns

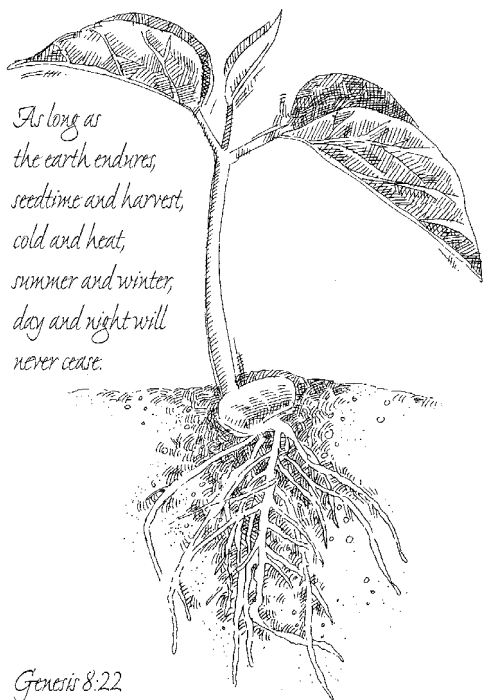
Our Thoughts & Prayers.

- 1 Lois Woodwell
- 3 Barbara Cornell
India Oates
- 7 Wes McClung
- 8 Fran Pobletts
- 10 Cynthia Lukyanenko
Michelle Newsome
- 13 Kelsey Robinson
- 15 Libby Frothinghan
Belle Vasbinder
- 19 Debbie Sperling
- 20 Nicklas Anderson
- 23 Morgan Mazer

- † Springfield's leaders and programs
- † The Stinson Family
- † Emma LaBrosse, health concerns
- † Kay Freas, health concerns
- † Norma Stem, at home
- † Robert Beaver, health concerns
- † Tara Hulbert, health concerns
- † Kelsey Robinson, health concerns
- † Lisa (Ann Lawson's daughter), health concerns
- † Nate McRae (7 year old grandson of Jim & Mary Rhodes) behavior/discipline issues
- † Bill Rosier (friend of the Sperlings), stationed in Iraq
- † Family and friends of Joan Mulvihill, who passed away in March
- † Cheryl Degenhardt, recovering from a serious car accident

Celebrating *An Anniversary This Month*

- 7 Frank & Nancy LePage
- 20 Alan & Fran Pobletts



Our Sympathies:

We extend our heartfelt sympathies to the family of Mary L. Cook. Mary passed away, Sunday March 16th. She was a member at Springfield for almost 25 years. Before moving to be with her son she was an active member of the congregation, teaching Sunday School and being a good friend to all.

We also extend our sympathies to the family of Joan Mulvihill, a dear friend of Kay Freas who passed away after a long bout with cancer. She is now at peace with the Lord.

Thank you to:

- † Connie Robinson and Barbara Cornell for coordinating the successful bake sale to replenish the Camp and Conference fund
- † Linda Caviglia and Alex McClung for arranging the Easter Vigil
- † Barbara Cornell for coordinating the Easter breakfast (and all of her helpers!)
- † Barb Nickell, Linda Caviglia, and all those behind the scenes people who made our Easter services flow smoothly
- † Deb & Charles Sperling and the Youth Group for preparing the Easter Egg Hunt
- † John Freas for cleaning the church prior to Holy Week services
- † Pastor Jack for finding the new church software program and Kay, Sandy, and Belle for entering our data
- † Pastor Jack for arranging a new website program that we will run
- † Henry Hornung for continuing to keep our grounds picked up.
- † Bob & Lisa Rogers for watching our buildings as they walk their dog.
- † All those who have called another member just to chat and say hello.

CrossRoads

News from Springfield Church

April 2008



OUR MISSION

*Our mission is to proclaim God's word as written in the Bible.
We do this through Worship, Sacraments, Study and Service.
We rejoice in forgiveness and a new beginning through our
faith in
Jesus Christ.*

*We support in prayer and service our congregation,
community, nation and world.*

*We treasure the warmth of our church family, their time and
talents, the youth and our history.*

We eagerly extend our hand of friendship.

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