



Growing in Christ, sharing God's love.

Community Connection

A Newsletter from **Church of the Redeemer Moravian Church**

February/Lent 2012

Rev. Jeff Van Orden, Pastor
www.redeemermoravian.org

Pastor's Corner:

In this presidential election year, we can be confident that between now and November, politics will dominate the public discourse. Unfortunately, we can also be confident that hundreds of millions of dollars will be spent by partisans, over that same time period, in an effort to paint a picture of one candidate or another in as miserable a light as possible.

It's a mess, but I must confess that I love it. It's part of why this country of ours is such a great place to live. As citizens you and I have the right – many would argue, the responsibility – to sift through all the rhetoric and help decide who will be President. And as Christian citizens we have the even greater privilege and responsibility to do our sifting with the filter of our values and principles at the core of the process.

The question, of course, is this: What are Christian values when it comes to the political process? I think most people think that all “values voters” are on one side of the political aisle. But in my experience, nothing could be further from the truth. No political party has a monopoly on Christian values.

Christians – particularly Moravian Christians – are called to let our faith be the driver of the decisions we make. Every day, including the day we cast our ballots. Our *Covenant for Christian Living* outlines this responsibility: “Considering it a special privilege to live in a democratic society,” it says, “we will faithfully fulfill the responsibilities of our citizenship, among which are intelligent and well-informed voting...”

I've had the privilege of hearing Jim Wallis, the Editor of *Sojourners* magazine, speak on a couple of occasions. One of those times, he told the following joke:

Two US senators – one a Republican and the other a Democrat – were eating together in the Senate Dining Room. The Republican senator said, “You Democrats know nothing about religion.” “That's not true,” insisted the Democrat, “we know a lot about religion.” So the Republican issued a challenge. “I'll bet twenty bucks you can't recite the Lord's Prayer.” “You're on,” the Democrat responded, and began, “Now I lay me down to sleep, I pray the Lord my soul to keep.” The Republican then reached for his wallet and replied, “Darn. I didn't think you could do it!”

Jim's point – and mine – is that for people of faith, deciding who should merit our vote needs to go way beyond party affiliation. We need to dig deeply into the message of the candidates and decide which one more closely aligns with the message of the Gospel.

So enjoy the election year, my friends. And don't forget to dig.

Blessings,

Jeff Van Orden

Adopt-a-Village

The worldwide AIDS epidemic has crippled Africa. Nearly two thirds of those infected with this horrible disease live on this continent, which is home to only 10% of the earth's population.

In the year 2000 eight percent of adult Tanzanians were infected with this fatal virus. Superstition combined with misinformation to facilitate the spread. There was a conspiracy of silence; the word "AIDS" could not be used in public.

Working through the Sikonge Moravian Hospital, a comprehensive approach to the AIDS epidemic was begun in 2000. One major component of this plan was to develop support for the ever-increasing number of orphans.

From its inception, the program has been able to provide care for less than \$20 per child, not per month, but per year! This remarkable accomplishment is possible for three reasons. First, Tanzania is one of the ten poorest countries in the world. The cost of living is very low; two adults can eat well for less than \$3 per week. Second, the program does not supply all the children's needs. It supplements what their caregivers are already providing to keep the orphans on par with their peers. Third, there is no overhead for the program; 100% of every dollar donated goes to Tanzania where it is spent by Tanzanians for Tanzanians.

Our Board of Elders has decided to support this important effort by "adopting" a Tanzanian village. We are hoping to raise \$1,000 over the course of this year, so we can partner with one of the participating villages.

In the upcoming weeks, you will hear more about our opportunity and the ways we will

be raising funds to make our shared dream a reality.

Watchword

In early January we chose our congregation's Watchword for 2012. It is Romans 12: 12. The following is text from which the Watchword was taken:

Romans 12: 9-21

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. **Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer.** Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

It would be good if all of us would read this passage again and again, allowing its message to penetrate our consciousness.

Ash Wednesday

On February 22nd we will begin the Lenten season with a traditional Ash Wednesday service. Our time together will begin with a simple meal of soup and bread and will conclude with a solemn service of prayer, confession and the (voluntary) imposition of ashes.

Ash Wednesday reminds us that we are sinful by our very nature, unworthy of the free gift of salvation in Jesus Christ. It also reminds us of the circle of life – beginning and ending with ashes.

The soup and bread supper begins at 6:30 PM, in the Fellowship Hall. The worship service begins at 7:00, in the Sanctuary.

Midweek Lenten Services

Our Lenten period of preparation will again be greatly enhanced by the practice of gathering each Wednesday evening (Feb. 29, March 7, 14, 21 and 28) for a period of fellowship followed by a time of prayer, worship and study.

At 6:30 PM we will gather in our Fellowship Hall for a soup and bread supper, followed, immediately thereafter (at 7:00), by a service of prayer, praise and study.

The focus of this year's series of worship/study sessions will be the Apostle Paul's focus on the Crucified Christ. Materials for each session will be available the previous week and on the prior Sunday.

**Lenten Sunday Communion Service
February 26**

As is our tradition, we will celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion as a part of our morning worship on the first Sunday in Lent.

Palm Sunday, April 1

Our celebration of the holiest week of the year begins triumphantly with Palm Sunday worship. Palms will be distributed; there will be special music, and our liturgy will include the singing of the traditional Hosanna!

**Holy Week (Passion Week) Reading
Services**

Do not miss this opportunity to re-experience the final week in our Lord's life by participating in these traditional Moravian services of reading and song. The services will be held at 7:00 PM on Monday and Wednesday, April 2 and 4.

Maundy Thursday Communion, April 5

Just as we begin our Lenten worship with Communion, we draw it to a close with the most powerful Service of Holy Communion in the year – Maundy Thursday (at 7:00 PM). We remember that Jesus gathered on a Thursday evening with his disciples for the Last Supper.

St. Paul's words, "as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim The Lord's death until he come," ring in our ears as we reenact that holy evening's events.

**Combined Good Friday Evening Service
of Tenebrae, April 6**

On this most solemn evening of the year we will again join with our brothers and sisters from St. Andrew Christian Church to remember Jesus' final hours – and his last words from the cross – with a service of reading, music and silence. The service begins, in silence, at 7:30 PM. This year St. Andrew will host this service in their Sanctuary at Swansford Drive and Smokey Row.

Easter Sunday, April 8

Remembering the event that changed the world forever, we gather for three events:

Sunrise Service, 6:30 AM

The Lord is risen! He is risen indeed! Those words, the reading of our Easter Morning Liturgy and the music of our choirs – brass and vocal, mark this wonderful, joyful celebration of our confidence that ours is a Risen Lord. We begin at 6:30 in silence and conclude outside in joyful song.

Breakfast

Following our Sunrise Service, all those in attendance are invited to our Fellowship Hall for breakfast. A fitting way to warmly extend our Easter joy.

Easter Worship at 10:30:00 AM

This is the climax – the conclusion of our Holy Week and Easter events. A joyous service of song, traditional brass music, readings and an Easter sermon by Pastor Van Orden.

Fun Fest, Saturday March 12

Our annual St. Patrick' Day Family Fun Fest will be held at the church from 1:00 to 4:00 on March 10, 2012 following the Dublin St. Patrick's Day parade. Depending on the weather, participation in the parade will be offered and we will march with Ms. Deanna's Dance Academy.

The Fun Fest will include music and some Irish Dancing, along with other fun activities for children and adults alike.

Children will enjoy games, art activities and prizes that are based on St. Patrick's Day. Food and drinks will be available for all.

A silent auction will be held to raise money for the missions our church supports, both locally and globally.

Don't miss it. After all, everyone is Irish this time of year, particularly in Dublin!

Easter Egg Hunt

The children of the congregation are invited to enjoy a traditional Easter Egg Hunt on Sunday, April 1st (Palm Sunday), following worship. Naturally, Food will be a part of the festivities.



Desire to sing in the Choir? We are currently seeking individuals to sing in the church choir who may not be able to commit to choir rehearsals on an annual basis. We are looking for singers who could commit to "Seasonal" choir membership. In other words you would share your voice in the choir for shorter periods of time like during the Lenten/Easter or Christmas seasons. Please let Susan Heeter know if you are interested. We would love to have you.

Women's Fellowship

Our monthly Women's Bible Study this month has been moved to Monday, February 6 at 7:00 P.M. We are still collecting sheets and blankets for Friends of the Homeless. You may leave any donations in the Church Library.



Honoring Dave Blum

On Sunday, Feb. 5, we will honor Dave Blum, our long-time choir and band director, for his many years of service to our congregation. There will be a special presentation during the service, a special anthem by the choir and a potluck lunch following the service. Plan to be present and offer Dave your blessings.

Wedding Shower Invitation



Zach Albaugh and Stephanie Baldwin are heading toward their spectacular wedding on April 28, 2012. We invite all family and friends to join us on **Saturday, February 25 at 7:00 P. M.** for supper in the **Fellowship Hall of The Church of the Redeemer Moravian Church** to celebrate their up-coming life together. Let us shower them with love.

Please RSVP 614-766-5030

Stephanie and Zach are registered at:
Target and Bed, Bath & Beyond.
For more goggle Zach Albaugh and Stephanie Baldwin's Wedding.

Submissions for next month's newsletter
are due by the 25th of each month.
Please send to: redeemerdublin@yahoo.com

Moravian Unity Offering 2012

Four and a half years ago, Hurricane Felix passed through the Autonomous Region of Nicaragua, destroying entire communities and the ecology of the region. The hurricane also killed hundreds of loved ones, mothers, fathers, sons and daughters. The event, on September 4, 2007, caused a very painful situation in the region.

From then until now, the time has passed and the consequences of that fatal moment have not yet been adequately addressed, neither have the lost materials been recovered. The conditions of life of those, who have become widows and orphans, are difficult, as they are still living in precarious conditions.

Therefore, the purpose of this year's Unity Offering is to serve the widows and orphans from the church as a Christian duty. Three specific objectives will be addressed:

- To provide opportunities for widows and orphans of Hurricane Felix for improvement of their homes with the resources of the community in new or refurbished buildings
- To help orphans to have access to education in order to provide access into the labor market through vocational technical institutes' scholarships.
- To promote young widows and orphans to discover their capabilities and skills to make them feel useful to society by availing pastoral guidelines

We will be receiving our Unity Offering, this year, on the first Sunday in March (March 4). Please plan to generously support this cause.

Children's Church And

Sermon Church

Our congregation has made a commitment to providing quality programming for children during the morning worship hour on Sunday. Teachers for the rest of the year are as follows: (CC = Children's Church, SC = Sermon Church)

February: CC Elizabeth Albaugh; SC Andy Saunders

March: CC Joyce Garrett; SC Volunteer needed

April: CC Nancy Carpenter; SC Claire Yoder

May: CC Jill McLoughlin SC Jean Kopp

Church of the
Redemer
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Community Connection

3883 Summitview Road
Dublin, Ohio 43016

Change Service Requested

Sunday School 9:15 am

Worship 10:30 am

Phone: (614) 766-5030

E-mail: redemerdublin@yahoo.com

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

WWW.REDEEMERMORAVIAN.ORG

HELP SUPPORT THE CHILDHOOD ARTS PROGRAM

On February 12, eat at Powell City Barbeque,
3758 W. Powell Road.

Present a flyer and The Childhood Arts Program
will receive 25% of your purchase.



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