



STAFF

March

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Blessed to Be a Blessing

This month I share with you my sermon from February 20, (Lent 2). I share with you the journey we are on as a congregation and alert you again to the Gospel in Our Cultural Network, which will soon be part of our opportunities to seek out new and exciting ministries together.

Grace to you and peace from God our father and the Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Our first reading begins with the story of Abraham, who is still called Abram at this point in the biblical narrative. Abram is living with his father, wife, and nephew and with all that they had, it was probably a very comfortable life for that time in history. Genesis tells us that Abraham's father Terah set out with Abraham to go to Canaan, but they settled in Haran. The move was initiated by God's call, but Terah refused to go beyond his comfort zone. He stopped short of the journey, settling instead in a place where he could continue to live according to the ways of his fathers. Haran folks worshipped the same god Terah was familiar with—a moon god.

Dear Partners

by Pastor Prochaska

God's invitation to Abram required more than just a brief journey to another place. God told Abram to leave his country, his people and his father's household. He was not to just leave a place but to give up everything he knew and loved. He was to go to an unknown place, to face unknown people for a promise from an unknown God. Abraham was called to see the world differently and act differently than anyone else before him. This was journey of faith. He began his journey with his wife, his nephew, and their entire household, which included servants, possessions, and livestock. It was not just some pilgrimage into the wilderness to discover his identity; it was the beginning of a completely new nation. The nation would be set apart for a purpose, blessed to be a blessing. It could not have been an easy journey. The sun beat harshly on their bodies by day and the cool of the night

brought its own dangers.

Thieves, wild animals, and lack of water were constantly a risk. They were vulnerable, but Abram had heard a voice he trusted and he was going to follow that voice despite the dangers.

The confidence, which Abram entered into his journey, required seeing the world through the eyes of faith. Abraham saw things differently and he left his old life to follow God into something new. He was also willing to act differently in response to God voice that was leading him. Paul writes, **"Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness."** He was blessed not because he was doing everything right or because he was obeying the right laws. Abram was blessed because he believed God and followed God's voice. Abraham was made the father of many nations. The God of Abraham, the God in whom we also believe, brought a nation out of one man who walked by faith. Abraham was blessed to be a blessing. Israel was blessed to be a blessing. We are blessed to be a blessing.

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Member News

Birthdays

- 1 Eric Behn
- 2 Jim Rempe
- 3 Anne Rosenbaum
- 5 Monica Benbow
- 6 Annette Slusser
- 7 Janet Tackis
- 12 Helen Filcik
Sandra Moore
Mary Ann Sauer
Paul Williamson
- 13 Ann Schmidt
- 15 Diane Miller
Jennifer Weiner
- 16 Martha Pruitt
- 20 Barbara Hobbs
- 21 Wil Johnston
Laura Stroud
- 23 Judy Treadway
- 25 Jim Liesenhoff
Sue Pearson
- 26 Herman Bergstedt
- 27 Judy Graham
- 28 Karin Haroldson
- 29 Louise Mildrum
Robert Spitz
- 31 Gary Rosenbaum

Thank You

Received from

... Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for the donation to Disaster and Hurricane Relief

Thank you for your dedicated efforts in support of My Brothers' Keeper Quilt Group - Friendship Chapter. With winter weather upon us, getting the sleeping bags finished and into the hands of those in need is our #1 concern. The assistance

you provided by knotting the layers together has allowed us to speed up our charitable efforts. Thanks also for your generous donation of hygiene items.

It's encouraging to know that there are dynamic young people in our community who are concerned about social issues and the need to help those who can't always help themselves. It gives us all hope that the future of our country - and our world - will thrive in the hands of today's youth.

Mother Teresa of Calcutta is quoted as saying: "in your service to others keep to the humble works because they are works nobody else will do. It is never too small for God. For there are many people who can do the big things, but there are few people who will do the small things."

Be assured that a simple sleeping bag or a single toothbrush in the hands of someone less fortunate is one of the small things that she speaks of.

We are all "our brothers' keepers" and it's obvious that spirit is alive and well within your organization. Be proud of your efforts and keep that spirit active in all that you do!

God Bless You!

Valerie R. Quinn
Chapter Volunteer
My Brothers' Keeper Quilt Group

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Seeing ourselves as blessed to be a blessing is a radical change in the way we often see ourselves and the world in which we live. We may look at life and think that we deserve all that we have because we have truly worked hard for it. Sure, we have worked hard and we are blessed, just look around and see the wonderful opportunity that is ours, and yet, the message of faith calls us to look at our lives and the life of our congregation with a new vision, through eyes of faith.

I will be interviewed this week on Wednesday afternoon by a woman from British Columbia who is the executive secretary to the director of a project called the Gospel in Our Cultural Network. Good Shepherd has been chosen to participate with twelve to fifteen congregations from four geographical synods of the ELCA.

What I am going to make clear in the interview is that we need to receive on sight training to do specialized ministry in our immediate community. We must discover as soon as possible, right now in fact, how to let more people discover how wonderful this congregation is as we risk doing things differently. It is a journey of faith.

We seek to attract more people to our congregation because we have a great

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GSLC Welcomes New Members

Michael Blevins, originally from Dayton, lives in Kettering and works at The Home Depot. He enjoys foosball, fishing, and coaching sports. Michael is very involved in his community. He coaches multiple sports teams and is a part of or leads several committees. He strives to make a difference in the lives of children through his volunteer work.

Pamela Blevins, originally from Dayton, lives in Kettering. She is a certified Veterinary Aid, but currently is a full-time mom. She enjoys gardening, bowling, and cooking. Pamela is very active in the Indian Riffle Elementary PTO. She enjoys volunteering to meet new people and see her help make a difference.

Richard Kellstrom, originally from Warsaw, Indiana, lives in Winona Lake, Indiana. He currently works for Papa John's Pizza, but is looking to find a new job and move to the Dayton area. Richard attended Anderson University. He enjoys bicycle moto cross (BMX), baking, and woodworking. He looks forward to working with children and helping others once he moves to the area.

Brian Purdin, originally from Cedarville, lives in Springfield and works at Yamada North America, Inc. He enjoys football, video games, board games, movies, and yard work.

Tom & Lynn Mays. Tom is originally from Charlotte, North Carolina. Lynn is originally from Grand Rapids, Michigan. They live in Dayton. Tom works for T.A.M. Communications and has degrees in communications, business administration, and Social and Applied Economics. He enjoys computers and web development. Lynn works for Lexis Nexis and has a degree in Hearing and Speach Sciences. She enjoys quilting.

Kathy Seim is originally from, and currently lives, in Dayton. She works at the US Postal Service and has degrees in Counseling and Political Science. She enjoys reading and golf. Kathy likes assisting children on their faith journey.

Laura Stroud, originally from Morristown, New Jersey, currently lives in the Dayton area. She is an Audiologist at Dayton Head and Neck Surgens and has degrees in Hearing & Speech Sciences and Audiology. Laura enjoys her dog, reading, exercise, and cooking.

Emily Winkler, originally from Lewisburg, lives in Cedarville. She is an Administrative Assistant at the Family Beginnings Birth Center at the Miami Valley Hospital. She attended both Wittenberg Universtiy and the University of Dayton. Emily enjoys her puppy, movies, sports, and games.

Be sure to read the April STAFF to learn about the rest of our February new member class.

Easter Celebration Schedule

Maundy Thursday

12 noon Worship w/Comm.
7:00 pm Worship w/Comm.

Good Friday

12 to 3 pm Church open for prayer
8:00 pm Worship
9:00 pm Prayer Vigil begins

Easter Sunday

8:30 am Classic Praise Worship
9:30 am Youth Pancake Breakfast
11:00 am Contemporary Worship

Holy Saturday

1:00 pm Easter Egg Hunt
4:00 pm Prayer Vigil ends



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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
March 2005					
6 Lent III 8:30am Classic Praise 9:45am LLL 11 am Contemporary Worship 6pm Huddle Team Meets	7 10am Staff Mtg. 4:15pm GS Troop #746 6pm Cub Scouts 7pm Bethel Bible	8 9:30am Ruth Circle (Lg.) 7pm Esther-Naomi Circle (Maxine Yike's) 7pm Alzheimer's 7pm Boy Scouts	9 12pm Lenten Worship 12:30pm Dorcas Circle (Lg.) 6pm Soup Supper 7pm Lenten Worship 7:45pm Chancel Choir	10 6:30am Bible Study (Bob Evans) 9:30am Mary Circle (Lg.) 7pm Shepherd Bells	11 4:15pm Ringers & Singers 8pm Sq. Dancing
13 Lent III 8:30am Classic Praise 9:45am LLL 11 am Contemporary Worship 6pm H2H Meets	14 10am Staff Mtg. 6pm Cub Scouts 7pm Bethel Bible	15 STAFF Deadline 7pm Alzheimer's 7pm Boy Scouts 7pm Council 7:30pm Ultreya	16 12pm Lenten Worship 6pm Soup Supper 7pm Lenten Worship 7:45pm Chancel Choir	17 6:30am Bible Study (Bob Evans) 7pm Shepherd Bells	18 4:15pm Ringers & Singers
20 Palm Sunday 8:30am Classic Praise 9:45am LLL 11 am Contemporary Worship	21 10am Staff Mtg. 4:15pm GS Troop #746 6pm Cub Scouts 7pm Bethel Bible	22 7pm Alzheimer's 7pm Boy Scouts	23 7pm Chancel Choir	24 Maundy Thursday 6:30am Bible Study (Bob Evans) 9:30am HIS Day 12pm Worship / Comm. 7pm Worship / Comm.	25 Good Friday 12-3pm Church open for prayer 8pm Worship 8pm Sq. Dancing (Fellowship Hall) 9pm Prayer Vigil begins
27 Easter 8:30am Classic Praise 9:30am Youth Pancake Breakfast 11 am Contemporary Worship	28 Office Closed 6pm Cub Scouts	29 10am Staff Mtg. 7pm Alzheimer's 7pm Boy Scouts	30 7pm Chancel Choir	31 6:30am Bible Study (Bob Evans)	

GSLC Has Many "Special" Members

Megan Pietrantonio, the talented granddaughter of **Norah Menchhofer**, is a Springboro High School student, and aspiring actress and has appeared in a number of local stage productions; "Annie Get Your Gun", "Grease" and plans to try out for "Once Upon a Mattress" at her school. Megan, working with the Muse Machine, participated in the production, "On the Town", which ran in January at the Victoria Theatre in Dayton. In addition to the other productions she has performed in three productions at La Comedia Dinner Theatre, "Wizard of Oz", "Annie" and "Peter Pan".

For her future plans, Megan wants to pursue musical theatre in college and she would like to double major or minor in Spanish. She also is considering auditioning for the Young Americans, a performance group that travels throughout the country. Megan is knitting and selling scarves to raise money to go to Europe next summer as part of the Ohio Ambassadors tour. Needless to say, her Grandmother Norah is very proud of Megan.

Bob and Peg Harrold have been active members of Good Shepherd since 1963 and prior to that, were members of St. Marks Lutheran Church. They met at Ohio State. (Ask Peg how

Graham Crackers

by **Bea Graham**

they met), got married July 3, 1947 and will celebrate their 57th anniversary this year. They have a daughter, Karen who lives in Sidney, OH, a son, Scott who lives in Miamisburg and five granddaughters.

Bob was born in Wooster, OH. He served in the U.S. Army for 31/2 years in Alaska. He attended Ohio State and Cleveland Technical School. Bob worked at Wooster Experimental Station and later was employed by Tool Die and Multislide as a designer. Bob partially retired after 30 years. He likes to play golf and enjoys working with wood. For Christmas he made oak jewelry boxes for his five granddaughters. Bob has been an active member of Kettering Kiwanis Club for many years. He served on Good Shepherd Board, and Usher for years and he and Peg are Greeters, and volunteer for Coffee Fellowship.

Peg is a native Daytonian. She graduated from Stivers High School and attended A.I.B. Banking School. She was employed by 3rd National Bank for six years as Bookkeeper, operated the Calculator and head of the Analysis Dept. Peg also was employed by Dayton Contracting Service as typist for

eight years. Peg was a member of the Dayton & Players, where she performed at the Base Hospital. She and Bob are active Square, Round and Ballroom Dancers and have danced at Festivals, and Nursing Homes. They also like to travel and have Visited Bob's brother in Germany and took tours to Italy, France, Switzerland, and England. They have visited friends in Germany and enjoyed a cruise on the Rhine River. Peg and Bob toured the Maritime Provinces, Hawaii and most of the states. For their 50th wedding anniversary they took a trip to Alaska and visited places where Bob was stationed during the war. They flew to the Caribbean and island-hopped to three islands. They visited Puerto Rico, St. Thomas and St. Croix where they experienced a severe tropical storm.

Peg has served on the Alter Guild, a Lay Reader, Treasurer (twice) for the W.O.C., taught Sunday School, sang in the choir, a member of the Hospitality Committee and a long-time member of Dorcas Circle, where she has held many offices. She also assists members and non-members in many ways, such as taking them meals, driving them to the store or doctor and helping people when needed.

Bob and Peg are fine Christians and active members of Good Shepherd Church. Be sure to greet them.

Project Blessing

Project Blessing is a food and clothing program carried out at St. Paul Lutheran Church each Monday and Wednesday (except on those days which fall on a legal holiday). Food is served between 12:30 and 1:15 p.m. each of those days. Clothing is available on those same days.

Meals are prepared by a variety of churches throughout the Miami Valley, including Good Shepherd. Serving churches are located in an area bounded on the north by Laura, Ohio; south by Waynesville, Ohio; east by Beaver Creek, Ohio; and west by Phillipsburg, Ohio.

On a day when a given church is scheduled, a team of approximately five or six people arrive between 9:00 and 9:30 a.m. to start preparations for the meal. That team will work between 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. preparing and serving the meal. Each meal must be a balanced meal, containing meat, vegetable, fruit, pasta and drink. Project Blessing provides the following meat items: ground beef, ground turkey and hot dogs. In the vegetable line green beans, corn, tomatoes, instant mashed potatoes and mixed vegetables are provided. Fruit that is provided consists of peaches, pears, fruit cocktail and applesauce. Other items provided are macaroni, spaghetti, noodles, catsup, mustard, dried parsley, dried onions, salt and pepper.

The church scheduled to prepare the meal does only the preparation and serving of the food. All other activities related to the meal, such as dish washing, clean up, table setting, are done by other volunteers. One group of volunteers for these activities serves on Monday and a different group serves on Wednesday. Some volunteers serve on both Monday and Wednesday. There are no paid personnel in the service of Project Blessing.

The clientele receive food and then may visit the Clothing Room. Free clothing is another part of the Project Blessing program. The Clothing Room is operated from approximately 12:45 - 1:30 p.m. on the days that the meals are served. The Clothing Room serves anywhere from 45 - 90 people per week. Clothing distributed from the Clothing Room is from donated items. Churches and families who know of the clothing program provide the donated items. Some items must be purchased, such as underwear and socks, and in the winter thermal underwear. Some churches have yearly clothing drives for such items as gloves, hats and scarves. Currently there is a desperate need for men's clothing, and there always seems to be a need for winter coats and clothing items for large size people. At the present time donations of women's or children's clothing are not being accepted.

A card system is maintained on each person receiving clothing. This provides a record of what individuals receive each time they come into the Clothing Room. Clothing items people can take depend on what we have in stock, as well as what the individual has received previously.

New underwear and socks are given out two times a month, if available.

Those people who work in the Clothing Room are a separate group of volunteers. One group serves on Monday and another on Wednesday. The coordinating volunteers serve both days.

Project Blessing, is the current name. The program has existed since 1978 and has had several name changes since its conception. During the period of time (since 1978 until the end of 2003) 339,175 first time meals have been served. The term *first time meals* is used because that is the official number that is reported for those groups wanting numbers. The clientele may come back for seconds, thirds, etc. as long as the food lasts. Project Blessing is operated on what is known as a Feeder Pantry under the guidance of the Emergency Food Bank. In this type of program all food is required to be consumed on the premises. Food is not permitted to be sent out of the building with our

Continued on next page

The STAFF

March 2005

Continued from previous page clientele. When there is left-over food, it is given to other feeding programs.

Source of Funds

Money for the operation of this program comes from the following sources:

1. Project Blessing is a budgeted line item in the St. Paul Lutheran Church annual budget.
2. Some foods are obtained through the Emergency Food Bank.
3. A grant request is made to FEMA each year.
4. Several churches have Project Blessing as a line item in their yearly budget. Some of these churches who do not spend all

the budgeted money in that line item will forward the balance at the end of the year to Project Blessing.

5. Personal gifts from churches and individuals come designated specifically for food. If no designation accompanies the gift, a contact is made with the donor to determine if the gift is for any part of - Project Blessing. The treasurer of St. Paul Lutheran Church carries different appropriation codes for all Project Blessing money. One code is for food only, another for any expense for Project Blessing and the third is specifically for FEMA funds.

Edgar Kislig, Director of Jeremiah's Letter, Inc., does visit each Monday and

Wednesday. It gives him and the people in need a common meeting ground to receive the services provided by Jeremiah's Letter, Inc.

Other community groups who work with the same clientele that we serve are:

- Department of Veteran Affairs
- The Other Place
- Good Samaritan Mental Health
- Miami Valley Housing Opportunities
- Jeremiah's Letter, Inc.

Since we are in a location where many with common needs gather, Project Blessing is a good contact site for the above groups.

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message to share and a congregation where people really do care for each other. We need to discover more ways to connect more people to us as we continue our journey together. We need to do this now, we can't wait. We will discover that we will need to go beyond our comfort zones (both as individuals and as a congregation) so that we can be the blessing that we have been called to be for people who may or may not be like us.

Is this scary? You bet it is, because it no doubt will mean that we will need to make even more changes in addition to the changes we are already making in the area of worship, education,

and small group opportunities and specific outreach in our neighborhood. We also need to change the way we perceive that things are or should be at Good Shepherd. I look forward to sharing with you what the Gospel in our Cultural Network will mean for Good Shepherd as we get involved in this special project and as we interact with other congregations who will be doing the same.

As we journey together through Lent, it is not merely a time to give up chocolates, meat, alcohol or something else. Our ultimate journey is to see that we are to be a blessing. That means

moving from a heart centered on our needs, to a heart concerned with God's love for the mission of the world. When I speak of the world, I am thinking especially of the people right in our own neighborhood. Please pray about this. We are blessed to be a blessing. We need to look at the mission of our congregation in new ways. We need not worry if the journey is difficult or dangerous—for God is with us. God will keep our going out and our coming in from this time forth and forevermore.

Thanks be to God Amen.

Pastor Thomas D. Prochaska

Bulletin Board

WELCA Notes

The March Circle meetings are as follows:

Ruth Circle will meet Tuesday, March 8 at 9:15 a.m. in the church lounge.

Esther-Naomi Circle will meet Tuesday, March 8 at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Maxine Yike.

Dorcas Circle will meet Wednesday, March 9 at 12:30 p.m. in the church lounge. Carol Rismiller will be hostess. The Bible study will be a group discussion format.

Mary Circle will meet Thursday, March 10 at 9:30 a.m. in the church lounge.

All Good Shepherd women are invited to attend a Bible study led by Pastor Prochaska. The event will take place on Saturday, April 16 at 10:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. A salad and sandwich lunch will follow the Bible study. A free will offering will be received. Watch for a sign up sheet in the Narthex. We want to ensure an adequate amount of food is prepared.

Every female member of Good Shepherd is a member of Women of the ELCA. Please join your sister members for a special time of study and fellowship.

Prayer Vigil

Again this year we will be holding a Prayer Vigil beginning at 9:00 pm on Good Friday, March 25 and lasting through 4:00 pm on Holy Saturday, March 26.

For each hour throughout the Vigil, we need prayers, doorkeepers, and hosts. Doorkeepers watch the door and hosts provide handouts materials, coffee, and support for all the prayers. There is a sign up sheet in the Narthex for anyone wishing to participate.

Don't miss this opportunity to enrich your Easter experience!

Submit STAFF articles to gslchurch@woh.rr.com by the 15th of each month

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