



THE KIRK NEWS

Volume XXX No.2

February 2008

The Nor'kirk Presbyterian is the 2004 recipient of the Katharine Hawes Award for Effective Youth Ministry, given by Union Seminary in Richmond, Virginia

What Is Lent?

"Lent" is derived from the Middle English "Lente" which means "Springtime." It's the 40-day period (excluding Sundays,) of repentance and renewal preceding Easter. Lent begins with Ash Wednesday and ends with the Easter Services. Holy Week commemorates Christ's last week of life on earth. It's the final, most important part of Lent.

The Lenten period allows us time to recall the Easter story and absorb its meaning. Christ lived and died to redeem the world from sin. Because of Christ's death and Resurrection, our lives can be renewed: we can renounce sin and begin to live for God.

Lent and its emphasis on penitential practices evolved slowly over the centuries. In the early Church, baptism and penance were key Lenten themes. During Lent, candidates prepared for Easter baptism and people did public penance for serious sins. In later years, the emphasis gradually shifted to private penance. Lent became a time of forgiveness and reconciliation for those who acknowledged their sinfulness.

During the Middle Ages a strict 40-day fast (abstinence from meat and other foods), not attending Sunday festivities, were obligatory for Christians. Gradually these practices became less rigid. Today emphasis has shifted from long periods of fasting to prayer, meditation and reflection on the meaning of Easter. Lent remains important as a time of preparation for and renewal of baptism.

Ash Wednesday

Once again we will have an opportunity to begin our season of Lent by worshiping together with the saints of St. Andrew Christian Church. This tradition has brought our congregations together for over a decade, and together we begin our time of study leading up to the Easter event. This year we will celebrate Communion and Ashes here in our sanctuary. On Wednesday evening the 6th of February, at 7:00p.m., we will host this special service of worship. Our choir will join together with the choir of St. Andrew to present our first Lenten Anthem. Please plan to attend this wonderful tradition of worship.



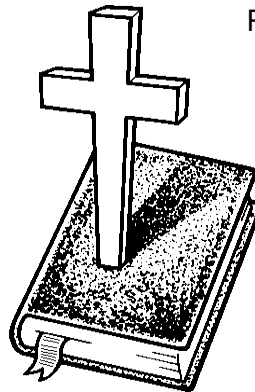
February Lectionary

Transfiguration of the Lord Sunday February 3, 2008 - Communion Sunday

Exodus 24:12-18; Psalm 99;
II Peter 1:16-21; Matthew 17:1-19

1st Sunday of Lent February 10, 2008

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7; Psalm 32;
Romans 5:12-19; Matthew 4:1-11



2nd Sunday of Lent February 17, 2008

Genesis 12:1-4; Psalm 121;
Romans 4:1-5, 13-17; John 3:1-17

3rd Sunday of Lent February 24, 2008

Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 95;
Romans 5:1-11;
John 4:5-42

Worship and Music Ministry

The Worship and Music Ministry meets monthly to discuss... yep, you guessed it, worship and music here at The Nor'kirk. If you have questions or suggestions concerning these areas, please come to a meeting! I always have a spot near the top of the agenda for visitors, and any member is welcome to speak.

Better yet, join the committee and help us regularly! There are many tasks involved with music and worship, and we can always use more help. We usually meet the morning of the first Saturday of the month, but check the church calendar for any changes. See you there!

Ben Ewart, W&M Elder



As we begin our Lenten Season of introspection, I wanted to give you some words of inspiration to apply during your time of study and prayer. My first thought is how hard it is for any of us to truly spend time examining our lives. We don't want to look at who we are, what we've done, and what we have not done.

A recent letter from my High School classmates encouraging me to attend our Reunion this summer, mentioned spending time with those whom you spent a moment in time with, a long time ago. "Why not spend a couple of evenings catching up with those with whom you shared a part of your life." "Because I don't want to think about what all has happened in the intervening years!"

Lent is just such a time. To think about all that has happen in the intervening year. But before you begin this process, let me give you some words of encouragement.

- A). Six very important words: "I admit I made a mistake."
- B). Five very important words: "You did a good job."
- C). Four very important words: "What is your opinion?"
- D). Three very important words: "If you please."
- E). Two very important words: "Thank you."
- F). One least important word: "I."

Remember these words this Lenten season and people will remember you. God bless. Bill

Thank You from the Pastor

It's always amazing to be remembered during the holidays. Angi and I want to thank all those who thought of us this past Christmas. The cards, the notes, the gifts were morale boosters for us both. With all the stress and busy activities, we were overwhelmed by the support of our church family. Thank you all.

Dear Nor'kirk Family,

I was overwhelmed with the generous Christmas bonus and with all the little sacks, boxes, goodies and cards that "appeared" on my desk during the holidays. Thank you for your generosity and also for reminding me of how blessed I am to be working for, as well as a member of, such a loving church family.

Nancy Harper

Coordinating/Personnel Committee

Do you have an HR background? Interested in organizing and looking out for the general organization of activities at the Nor'kirk? The Coordinating/Personnel Committee needs you! The goal for 2008 is to meet once a month at a mutually agreeable time. Current members of the committee are Paula Fadke, Joe Selby, Diane Kiattinat and Ben Ewart. We would love to have you join us!

Lenton series & potluck dinners

Do you ever wonder, during some particular part of worship, "Why do we say that?" or "Why do we have that particular item in the chancel?" Well, you'd be surprised how many of our worship elements date back to the very early church or to the reformers of the 16th century or are a result of Vatican II which happened during the 1960's and had a profound, rather unexpected, impact on Protestant denominations.

Join us during Lent for a series of potluck dinners (you don't need to ask why we have potlucks!) on Sunday evenings, when we will explore, via drama, song, and discussion, the way we worship today and the differences we would have seen if we attended worship in the early centuries, the Middle Ages, the reform period, or even on the American prairie!

We'll meet each Sunday evening during Lent at 6:00 pm in Price Hall. Bring a potluck item to share with the group and bring your curiosity about all things Presbyterian! We'll eat, share fellowship time, learn a little bit, and probably be finished by 8:00 pm. Everyone is included in this meal and discussion: children, youth, and adults!

Here's the tentative schedule: February 10: Early Church; February 17: Middle Ages; February 24: Reformed Period; March 2: American Frontier; March 9: modern changes. By the way, this will help me fulfill the requirements for a paper that is due for the Worship & Sacraments class I just completed. So thank you in advance for your attendance and your questions. I think you'll find the subject matter interesting – I thought it was the best class I've taken in the series of Educator Certification courses. My mother and I talked late into the evenings just about every night last week when I would return from class. She found it fun and interesting – I hope you will too.

See you for dinner on Sundays during February and early March! Nancy Pratt

Men's Breakfast 2008

Join the Men of The Nor'kirk on the first Saturday of every month for the Men's Breakfast. Each month will feature a great breakfast, fun and fellowship along with opportunities to discuss current events, study the Bible and provide a great outreach for the Nor'kirk. Bring your friends and neighbors! We can even provide wake up calls for you Saturday snoozers! Join us Saturday, February 2, 2008 from 8 – 9:30 a.m. for the next Men's Breakfast! Food & fellowship RSVP to Tim McNutt at tim@ciloconsulting.com or 214-215-4065.

Craft night at The Nor'kirk

Mark your calendars for these future dates:

February 9th from 10am til whenever we get tired!—this is a Saturday—you can use it to really catch up on some projects!

March 28th from 7pm-midnight

April 18th from 7pm-midnight

Hope to see you! For questions, contact Susan Overstreet (susanlynn3@verizon.net or 972-939-0652)

Calling All Kids!



Preschool News

Jesus said "Let the children come to me"

Our preschool will begin registration for the Fall, 2008-Spring 2009 school year. Nor'kirk families and current enrolled families may register beginning

January 28. Registration is open to the community beginning Feb. 4th. We offer two days per week for our toddlers, 2's and just turned 3's, three days for our 3's and just turned 4's and four day

Prekindergarten classes for our 4 years olds and 5 year olds. In addition to their class room activities, all of the children enjoy music and creative movement classes. Our four day 4-5 year olds also have a weekly Spanish class and a monthly Chapel time with Rev. Parr.

Our program is licensed to serve 65 children by the Texas Dept. of Family & Protective Services. We are all excited to begin registration for another fun school year and to continue to provide a quality program to our community. Diane Haist

Spiritual Retreat 2008

Plans are tentatively being set for this year's Spiritual Retreat at Lake Texoma in late spring. Last year over 30 youth and adults joined for dinner on Friday night, evening fellowship and Saturday Bible study and small groups. We would like to offer babysitting at the resort this year to encourage families with younger children to attend as well. If you are interested in attending, please contact Tim McNutt at 214-215-4065 or tim@ciloconsulting.com.



Ministry with Adults

Colossians 3:12-17

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.

In verse after verse of the New Testament we hear of the amount of time Christ devoted to teach his followers. Ministry with Adults offers many opportunities to teach, participate and assist in the spiritual growth of all our adult members at The Nor'kirk.

Programs include Sunday School, Small Groups, Men's Group, Presbyterian Women, Spiritual retreats, Bring your own Beef, Men's Breakfast and other venues to study, fellowship and grow.

Our committee meets monthly and your participation is needed to help! We typically meet at the church on the third Thursday of the month and meetings rarely last more than an hour. If you would like to serve on this committee, please contact Tim McNutt at 214-215-4065 or tim@ciloconsulting.com.

Church Quiz

This is an easy church quiz suitable for all members. If you have trouble, look in your heart for the answers. If that doesn't help, the correct answers are given.

Question # 1: What is the best thing that has ever happened in your life? **Answer:** Jesus Christ

Question # 2: What is the first thing you want to do when something good happens in your life? **Answer:** Tell someone!

Question # 3: What is evangelism? **Answer:** See numbers 1 and 2.

It's that simple: Jesus Christ. Tell someone.

If you answered any of the following for question # 1: the birth of a child, your wedding, getting into the right college, a great score on the SAT, or anything else at all, don't feel badly. You still got the right answer. In some way, Jesus had a hand in there.

For # 2, if you said, "Celebrate", right again. Do you want to celebrate alone? I don't think so. You want to share in celebrating your good news.

As you think about how you will serve Christ with your time and talents through The Nor'kirk this year, consider being on the Outreach and Evangelism committee. The opportunities include: delivering bread to or phoning first-time visitors, maintaining the first-time visitor bags or updating the church brochure in them, or advertising. I am sure there are many of you with ideas as well. Outreach and Evangelism will be working in tandem with the Deacons in this area.

Come join us. It's that simple: Jesus Christ. Tell someone. Call elder Charlotte Moellering at 214-796-4086.

The Faith of Little Children

I Corinthians 13: 11-12 "When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see fact to face."

Many of you have met or have seen me with Isaiah (age 9) and Ebonee (age 10), two children with whom I spend several evenings each week. The conversations I have with them, with the CCA children I care for each morning, and with our great Nor'kirk children, all help me to sometimes look at things from that child-like perspective. I thought I'd spend some space in the next several newsletters sharing some of these thoughts with you.

Last week, Isaiah and I left a Cub Scout meeting and crossed town to pick up Ebonee at gymnastics. During the rather lengthy drive, Isaiah asked me questions about heaven and about God. I tried to answer his questions as best I could. Suddenly, he came up with the following: "You know how little babies can't see things very well and how kittens and puppies have their eyes closed when they are first born? Later the babies grow up and can see things. I think heaven must be like that." I asked him what he meant and he absolutely wow'd me with his answer: "I think when we die and go to heaven it will be like a baby who can suddenly focus on things. He's heard his mama and daddy's voices but hasn't seen them. We hear God talking to us, but we can't see Him and we can't see heaven. But someday it will be like the clouds go away and we'll be able to see God and see heaven."

Notes from Nancy:

You will read elsewhere in this newsletter about our Lenten potluck series. The idea for the lessons and the dramas that will be presented on those Sunday evenings came as a result of the course I completed in January, "Worship and Sacraments." This was the final course in my work toward becoming fully certified as a Christian Educator and I think I enjoyed it more than any other! There were only seven students in the class, which made for a comfortable learning environment, and our professor had the gift of teaching as well as the gift of music: he spent one entire afternoon explaining the history of hymns and helping us to look at the hymnal in a manner I had never even thought about before. There were three worship services each day, and the time spent in prayer and in song with my class and with others who "dropped by" added to the classroom experience. I found the subject matter fascinating and it provided me with new insights as to why Presbyterians and Protestants worship the way we do, and what has happened throughout history to create changes in our worship style. I hope you will have the opportunity to understand a little of this during the Lenten series, when we try to explain Christian worship in the first century, the Middle Ages, the reformed period, on the American prairie, and in the time since the 1960's and the changes brought by Vatican II.

Next for me? I have a paper to write for this class and once I learn that I have passed the class, I'll request the certification exam. I'll have six months to complete that – and I'm sure you'll all have the chance to be guinea pigs for some of the ideas I'll have to formulate for the exam papers! I hope to be fully certified sometime in late 2008 – your prayers are appreciated! Nancy Pratt

Young Women to the Rescue

If this were a news tabloid, this headline would read: **“Young Women With Knives Chop Everything!”** But as this is a church publication, the headline may read: “Recent Graduates Serve the Needy.” Either way, the back story would read as follows: The Nor’kirk was scheduled to prepare a hot meal of turkey and rice stew for the Austin Street Centre. A volunteer cook was secured and all the food stuffs were purchased for the January 7th meal. We were set to go. On Sunday, I received a phone call notifying me that the volunteer cook had a last minute change of plans. It’s the day before and now I have 400 people to feed and NO COOK.

But our God is a God of provision. Megan Kinkade was still home from college. She had cooked a hot meal for the homeless shelter before. She became COOK #1. After the church made sandwiches, Anne Thomas asked if I had everything. I needed hard boiled eggs and a cook! Jesse Thomas agreed to help. She became COOK #2. Brittany Forsythe heard of the growing service project. She became COOK #3. Brittany Bara had not yet returned to work with her theatre group. She would volunteer. COOK #4. The girls met at Covenant Presbyterian and began to tackle the mountain of vegetables required for a meal of that size. 75 lbs of onions. 50 lbs of carrots. 25 lbs celery. Also ready to be chopped-100 lbs of donated turkey. Then 100 servings of white rice had to be added.

But God wasn’t done yet. Steve Kennedy stopped by with fresh stock and more turkey. MASTER CHEF on board. Soon thereafter, Angi Parr came by to lend a hand. By 5pm, there were two full pots of turkey and rice bubbling away on the stove. By 7pm, it was being served at the shelter. We fed 358 people and there was enough for “seconds.” All thanks to the young women of the church that “stepped up” and answered God’s call: “Here I am Lord.”

Our next meal will be served on Monday, February 4th. We need hard-boiled eggs and bananas.

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for the Christmas bonus! I’m not certain yet how I am going to use the money, but I can assure you that it is much appreciated. I’ll enjoy just shopping for something that I want – and not that I need!

I spent a wonderful Christmas in Austin with my parents and the Heflin family, and our great Nor’kirk friends and family were constantly a subject of our conversation and our joy. All of you mean so much to me – thank you for adding to my Christmas.

Love,
Nancy

Greetings Nor’kirk Family,
Thank you for the generous Christmas bonus. I take such pleasure in serving God and you, my church family, as your Director of Music, and I hope the music at The Nor’kirk helps inspire worshipful praise for everyone.
Thanks again,
In Christ, Eric Moellering

Thank you so much for the generous Christmas bonus that I received from the congregation! And thanks for all the gifts, cards and goodies that I would find on my desk each day. Your support and friendship is very much appreciated!

I am very blessed to work with such wonderful people and I truly cherish my church family.

Mimi Forsythe



This is from Rynn Lombard, who was the girlfriend of Mark Servis:

I would like to thank all of The Nor’kirk congregation for their support and love during this difficult time. Mark really loved his church. All of the card and emails were greatly appreciated, along with the donations.
Thank you. Rynn Lombard

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

The *Kirk News* is published by
The Nor'kirk Presbyterian
3915 N. Josey Lane
Carrollton, TX 75007

We invite you to worship with us
each Sunday Morning at
8:30 and 10:45 for Worship and
9:30 for Sunday School.
Pastor: Dr. Bill Parr
Church Office :972-492-1578

www.norkirkpresbyterian.org

Church Officers

Elders:

Building & Grounds - Robert Hopper
Clerk - Kathy Wyman
Coordinating/Personnel - Joanne Bara
Fellowship - Anne Thomas
Finance & Stewardship - Neal Harper
Ministry with Adults - Tim McNutt
Ministry with Children - Sandy Haltom
Ministry with Youth - Stan Parr
Missions, Local - Peg Kinkade
Missions, World - Donna McGrath
Outreach & Evangelism - Charlotte Moellering
Worship & Music - Ben Ewart

Deacons:

Misty Baptiste, Lawrence Clinton
Dora Hilburn, Lisa McClanahan
Jan Mattson, Tiffany Wylie

Ryan Kinkade - Youth Deacon
Mandy McNutt - Youth Deacon

Trustees:

John Bara, Craig Courson,
Tom McGrath



Kirk Orchestra Spring Semester 2008

Rehearsal Schedule

Wednesday nights 6:00-7:00 pm in church sanctuary
January 23, 30; February 13, 20, 27 (No rehearsal Feb. 6-Ash Wednesday);
March 5, 12, 26 (No rehearsal March 19-Spring Break); April 2, 9

Please notify director, Charlotte Moellering, if you have to miss a rehearsal.
moelleringc@cfbisd.edu OR orchmo1@verizon.net or 214-796-4086.

Performance Schedule

Sunday worship-April 13, both services.
Sunday evening concert-April 13, 7:00pm
Corelli Concerto Grosso Op.6 No. 8 - 2 mvts
Fanfare for the Common Man-Copland
Finale from the Farewell Symphony-Haydn
March of the Meistersingers-Wagner
Rhosymedre-Vaughan-Williams

The Kirk News is published once a month. The deadline to submit articles is the 2nd Wednesday by 7 p.m. Articles can be submitted on disk or by email. All articles require the name of the submitter.