

MARCH
2010

the messenger

“
God
is still
speaking,

Emmanuel Congregational United Church of Christ

The Lenten Season

I have often said that Lent is one of my favorite seasons of the Christian year. Perhaps because it is a time of reflection and self-examination; both are vital to spiritual growth. We are holding a Lenten Study group on Tuesday evenings, using a book called “Gospeled Lives: Encounters with Jesus.” This past week one exercise asked us to reflect on our answer to Jesus’ question; “What do you want me to do for you?” The answer to that question can be both profound and revealing. What comes to mind when you answer Jesus – what do you want Jesus to do for you? When Bartimaeus answers, it is simply “let me see again.” The most compelling part of this healing story is what happens after Bartimaeus gains his sight. He follows Jesus.

In his story we see a new depth in his relationship with God in response to his “new vision.” How do we respond when given “new vision?” As we journey through this Lenten season, please take the time to hear and see the gospel in new and deeper ways. Be honest in your need of God and in turn be open to new insights as we journey toward the cross together.

May God bless you during this most holy season.

Shalom, Pastor Judy



One Great Hour of Sharing, as part of Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM), is the special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that carries God's message of love and hope to people in more than eighty countries. This collection will be taken on, March 14th.

The UCC works with international partners to provide sources of clean water and food, education and health care, small business micro-credit, emergency relief, and advocacy and resettlement for refugees and displaced persons. OGHs also supports domestic and international ministries for disaster preparedness and response.

From Your Executive Council

Executive Council met on Sunday, February 8, 2010, following worship with nine council members and Pastor Judy in attendance.

Pastor Judy reported that a co-worker of Lori's adjusted some of the video equipment. The announcements are now rotating on the LCD screens, with music in the background. Eventually words to hymns could be displayed.

The Missions Committee will meet the first Sunday of each month. If anyone knows of any possible program, please let them know.

The contract has been signed with Head Start. Renovations have begun and they hope to be in there by at least September if not sooner. The ceilings are being insulated and the classrooms are being rebuilt.

Jane DuBray is working with Pastor Judy on having a retreat on 02/28/10 for a Care Giving Ministry Workshop for any member interested.

Victor talked to Vance and Clyde about flooring in the bell tower; possibly will put on Fire & Ice Roofing material. There is still leakage in certain areas. The roof will need to be checked out in the spring. Most everything else is done in the church. We are still waiting for the storm windows.

We have exceeded our goal of \$70,000.00 for our fund raiser.

New Trustee nominees are Chris Szarka, George Brouse, Deb Beaulieu and Lori Blaha.

A pizza party will be held on 03/07/10 to thank Jane's dancers, who performed at our rededication.

There will be a Seder meal on Maundy Thursday April 1, 2010.

The next Executive Council Meeting will be Sunday March 14, 2010.

Respectively Submitted,

Rande Jean Ashley, Church Clerk

A Thank You For Our Contributions



St. Lawrence County
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM, INC.

NEIGHBORHOOD CENTERS

Canton (315) 386-3541 • Colton (315) 262-3175 • Gouverneur (315) 287-3370
Ogdensburg (315) 393-5561 • Potsdam (315) 265-3920 • Massena (315) 764-0050

January 4, 2010

Emmanuel Congregational Church
41 W. Orvis St
Massena, NY 13662

Dear Members of Emmanuel Congregational Church:

First of all, congratulations on the completion of your church building following the fire; it's been a long time coming and we are happy that you are back "home".

On behalf of the Board, volunteers, and families we serve, I want to thank you for your donation of food to our food pantry.

Thank you for your continued support of the Massena Neighborhood Center. The support we receive from churches and individuals allow us to assist more families. Your support continued support is greatly appreciated!

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Elaine Eggleston
MNC Director

Thank you and
Happy New Year!

The Deacon's Corner

Meeting started at 1:00PM. Present were: Jane DuBray, Mark Crosby, Jeff Stone, Cheryl Sheets, Judy Van Kennen and Wendy McLaughlin.

The meeting started as a brainstorming session discussing items like: Readers, Greeters and Ushers, communion, transportation, visitation seminar and monthly meetings.

Basic issues were covered to get some of our ideas started. The Deacon's have issued certain people to do or aid in certain areas. Communion – Cheryl Sheets and Jeff Stone Transportation – Cheryl Sheets Visitation Seminar – Jane DuBray and Judy Van Kennen Newsletter (Minutes) Readers, Greeters and Ushers – Wendy McLaughlin.

The Deacon's would like to see more people involved in the Reading, Greeting and Ushering of the Sunday service. A suggestion was brought up to have four ushers during offering. This would make this process run a little smoother.

We also would like to see more women and children help out with these items. Because we are an all inclusive church.

Continued on next page)

The Deacon's Corner (continued)

We also discussed the flow of traffic for entering the sanctuary. For us to properly greet and direct people in the proper direction we would need to have three greeters every Sunday. One at the entrance to direct traffic to the stairs or the elevator. One at the main entrance to the Unity room to direct everyone to proceed to the Narthex to receive their name tag and bulletin and one in the Narthex to give out welcome packets take down visitors names and have them sign the visitors book and help them with finding a seat if necessary.

The Ushers are to handout the bulletins and light the candles, take offering and cater to the needs of anyone who needs help.

And two final issues we discussed were to place a curtain up at the entrance to the Sanctuary at the piano to help with the flow to the Narthex. And the last issue was to gather email addresses from the Readers, so Sue can send out a copy of the reading ahead of time. We hope this will encourage more people to volunteer for readings.

The meeting ended at 2:30 PM.

Report by Wendy McLaughlin

Upcoming Events

| | | |
|------|---------|--|
| Fri. | Mar. 5 | World Day of Prayer (time & location to be announced) |
| Sat. | Mar. 6 | 1:00 Baby Shower hosted by Lisa Jones - Community Room & Kitchen |
| Sun. | Mar. 7 | Missions Committee meets during fellowship time Trustees meet after fellowship time Pizza party in the afternoon for dancer's – Community Room & kitchen |
| Sun. | Mar. 14 | One Great Hour of Sharing offering received Daylight Savings time begins Executive Council meets after fellowship time |
| Sun. | Mar. 28 | Palm Sunday |

Weekly Events

| | | |
|------------|-------|--|
| Sundays | 11:00 | Worship Service |
| Tuesdays | 10:15 | “Praying w/Scriptures” in Church Multi-Purpose Room #1 |
| | 7:00 | Lenten Bible Study |
| Wednesdays | 12:00 | Lenten Devotions @ St. John's followed by luncheon |
| 6:00 | | Choir Rehearsal |
| | 7:30 | ...at the well |

In Memoriam

Mary Ann Jordan - February, 8, 2010

Announcements

Prayer Team

During Lent the Prayer Team will become a Lenten Bible Study. It is open to all and will meet on Tuesday nights at 7 p.m. from February 23rd through Easter. Please let Sue know if you plan on participating so she can order a book for you. Call her during morning hours at the church office at 769-8523 or email her at ecucc@verizon.net.

Donations for Food Pantry

There is a basket in the entry way for donations of non-perishable food items which are taken to the food pantry at the Massena Neighborhood Center. Donations of non-food items are also needed. Thank you!

Coffee Hours

The “Cow Can” at the Coffee Hour is for donations to buy supplies for the weekly Coffee Hours. Also, we need people to sign up for a turn at hosting a Coffee Hour. The Sign Up Sheet is in the Fellowship Hall and there is a “To Do List” in the kitchen tells you what's required.

At the Well

We invite you to join us ...at the well, every Wednesday at 7:30 pm, in alternative worship to share in a “sense” of God. All are welcome!

Listening for the Word of God

Join us on Tuesday mornings at 10:15 in the Church Multi-Purpose Room #1 as Rev. Gen Dox, leads us in listening for the Word of God.

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Emmanuel Congregational **United Church of Christ**
39 West Orvis Street
Massena, NY 13662

www.uccmassena.org



“Never place a period where God has put a comma”

- Gracie Allen



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