



He isn't here,
but has been

Raised

Luke 24:6

Resurrection is the lynch pin of faith; without a risen Jesus, faith is futile. Without a risen Jesus, the disciples would have drifted away, broken and disillusioned. But the resurrection produced a faith that truly changed the world.

The "they" who took spices to the tomb were the women who witnessed the burial of Jesus in 23:55-56. These women returned to finish the duty of burial. In the time of Jesus, there was no funeral industry. But, burial of the dead did not depend solely upon loved ones and caring neighbors. Burying the dead was seen as an act of social charity; scholars speculate that burial societies existed to help carry out this important social function. There was even a rabbinical debate whether burying the dead was more important than feeding the poor! Hence, we can assume the women returned not only out of love for the Master, but out of a sense of social responsibility.

When they approached, they did not find what they expected: an empty tomb followed by two heavenly messengers. The experience produced puzzlement and a surprise that terrified the women so much they bowed in a worship position; the atmosphere indicated a reaction to the presence of God. With God's presence came His revelation (through the voices of the angels); the "living one" (a title for God himself) was raised and not among the dead. His words from Galilee onward predicted the events. With the resurrection, Jesus' words and God's revelation were one. The "two" angelic witnesses indicated the truth of that revelation; the testimony of two witnesses was required to establish a fact in a Jewish court of law.

When the women remembered Jesus' words, their remembrance was more than memory as a psychological phenomena; it was a social experience that brought a past reality into the present. The women experienced the revelation, the past words of Jesus were now fulfilled in the here and now. With the remembrance came a divine commission to proclaim what they had witnessed. But, typically, the women were not believed.

Peter's amazement (awe from uncertainty, not from entertainment) from the sight of the empty tomb was like that of the women who were puzzled and fearful. His amazement set up the revelation he was to receive in Luke 24:36-42.

Faith is a risk; the women experienced the uncertainty and terror of risk. More than an "intellectual assent," faith is a challenge to our comfort zones. Faith is meant to be experienced and shared on the edge.

LECTIONARY FOR MARCH

March 3

Isaiah 55:1-9; Psalm 63:1-8
I Corinthians 10:1-13; Luke 13-5

March 10

Joshua 5:9-12; Psalm 32
2 Corinthians 5:16-21; Luke 15-3,11b-32

March 17

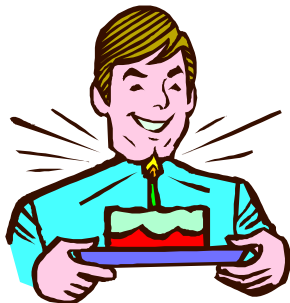
Isaiah 43:16-21; Psalm 126
Philippians 3:4b-14; John 12:1-8

March 24

Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16
Philippians 2-5-11; Luke 22:14-23:56

March 31

Acts 10:34-43; Psalm 118:1-2,14-24
I Corinthians 15:19-26; John 20:1-12



HAPPY MARCH BIRTHDAY TO:

<i>Jeffrey T. Scott, Jr.</i>	2
<i>Steven Curtin</i>	7
<i>Andrew Moore</i>	8
<i>Lois Burns</i>	9
<i>Joseph Cocco</i>	9
<i>Virginia Chavan</i>	10
<i>Leona Parker</i>	11
<i>NancyJane Baldwin</i>	16
<i>Kenneth Long</i>	19
<i>Laura Schickel</i>	19
<i>Cynthia Mannino</i>	21
<i>Christopher Beyer</i>	22

Leonard Parker	23
Christopher Cocco	26
Keith Burns	27

.....and many, many more!!!!!!



PLEASE RESERVE THE FOLLOWING # _____ OF
EASTER LILIES FOR OUR SANCTUARY ON
EASTER SUNDAY

IN MEMORY OF _____

IN HONOR OF _____

GIVEN BY _____

The price is \$7.50. Put the money & reservation in an envelope and give to Gertrude Baldwin, or put in a pew envelope marked "Easter Flowers" and put in the offering plate on Sunday.



INTERFAITH BIBLE STUDY

The following Sundays at 3:00 p.m. in the Reformed Church will be held on:

March 3, 2013 March 10, 2013
March 17, 2013

All are encouraged to attend. Please use the handicapped entrance on Wood Avenue at the Reformed Church.



It was a sad day when Rev. Roger Swanson sent us an email telling us of the death of his wife of 56 years, Beverly Swanson, on January 17, 2013. They had left the Florida area where they had lived in retirement for a number of years, and moved to Iowa which was the state where they had originally met in college many years ago. Their daughter, Rachel Faidley and her husband had bought a farm in the area and Roger and Bev settled in Newton, Iowa, not too far away from them. Bev died of pneumonia brought on by a fungus infection of the lungs. In her last days she was surrounded with love by her husband, Roger, and children Rachel Faidley and Philip Swanson. The Swanson's served our church from 1962 to 1967. They were wonderful, happy years for everyone and it was during this time that we added our Education Building to make room for the 300 children of Sunday School age. Our active Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops, the Methodist Youth Fellowship and Junior Fellowship, the Couples Club and Kum Double Club, the Wednesday Workshop, Kiwanis Luncheons, Clown Ladies, Sunday School, Fairs, Rummage Sales, and programs for the needy kept our church busy and enjoyed the support the City of Linden gave us. The memories keep coming back! One day my husband was leaving choir and he heard Bev

calling their dog – “Here Honey! Come here Honey!” And Al answered – “I’m coming!” Or soon after they moved into our parsonage that was next to the church where our Memorial Garden is now. Bev called to Al who, once again was leaving after choir rehearsal, and asked him what that smell was. Al, who worked for Exxon, replied “That’s MONEY, Bev. MONEY!” So many good memories, funny stories, sad and happy events – they all come back and some we will never forget.

So many visits over the years with Roger and Bev. They were never too far away and even when they moved to Florida, we still managed to visit, enjoy lunch with them and spend a few very special hours with them on our vacations to Florida – trips with my husband and Betty and Charles, and the women’s annual trip south (Betty Lamont, Bobbie Bogard, Norma Mac Alpine and Doris Henel).

This is a long article, but It was important that we try and tell the story of a family that was so important to us and that you feel the loss just as we do.

We send our deepest sympathy to Roger, their children and grandchildren. We will never forget Beverly and the joy and love she brought to our church and its members.



THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Members of the United Methodist Women spent Feb. 5th cleaning the Aldersgate hall kitchen. It is not completely finished but well on its way. they hope to finish it on Tuesday, March 5th when they meet again. it is looking great and we ask everyone to keep it that way!!!

Come, Share, Rejoice

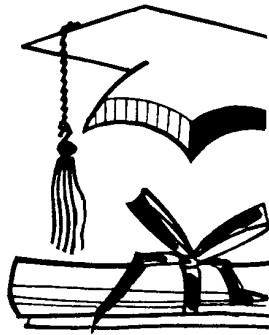
WORLD DAY OF OF PRAYER

WHEN? Friday, March 1, 2013
WHERE? 1ST Baptist Church, Dill Avenue
TIME? 7:30 P.M.

The women of the local churches of Linden will take part in the World Day of Prayer as scheduled above. Some of the choir members of the various churches will also take part in the service.

Please reserve the date for the World Day of Prayer – it is always a lovely service and the 1st Baptist Church of a beautiful church!

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SCHOLARSHIPS

Thanks to the generosity of MaryJean Barnes who gave a scholarship gift to the committee for 2013 in loving memory of her mother, Mary Barnes, we will be able to give scholarships this year.

The applications are available in the church office. Please call Doris Henel, 908-486-5571, or email her, Djhenel@aol.com, and she will see that you receive an application. There is only one application to fill out and the guidelines explain everything. It is due by April 30, 2013.

Grants are open to members of the United Methodist Church of Linden who are

pursing the goal of meaningful vocation through vocational and technical schools, colleges at the undergraduate level, or other continuing education institutions. Previous recipients may re-apply for consideration.

The scholarships will be presented on one of the Sundays in June that is convenient for the recipients and MaryJean Barnes who will present the scholarships.

The committee selecting the recipients consists of the Lay Leader, Chairperson of the Administrative Council, and chairpersons or representatives of the Nurture and Outreach Committees.

If you have someone in your family that qualifies for a grant, please get in touch with Doris Henel as soon as possible.

BABY SITTER NEEDED!

Recently, a young woman rented Aldersgate Hall and was impressed with the cooperation of those church members she had contact with. Her family is new to Linden and since she is a working mother, she has need for a baby sitter during the following hours - 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. SPEAKING SPANISH WOULD BE AN ADVANTAGE ALTHOUGH IT IS NOT REQUIRED. THE CHILDREN ARE 2 1/2 AND 13 MONTHS.

You can contact Melissa Marrero, 1208 Mopsick Ave., Linden (201-675-2141) and she will answer any questions you might have.



EASTER SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, MARCH 28, 2013 – 7:00 p.m. (Maundy Thursday)

All are invited to the church as we serve Communion on Maundy Thursday.

FRIDAY, MARCH 29, 2013 - (Good Friday)

5:00 p.m. -We will have a Good Friday service in our sanctuary at a time that it is not dark yet, and will end by 6:00 p.m. so that most will be home while it is still light out. Let us see how this works out!! If possible, we will ask the Reformed Church to join us.

SUNDAY, March 31, 2013 – (Easter Sunday)

9:00 a.m. A short period of devotions will be held in the Memorial Garden as we have been doing in previous years. Even though we do not have a large turn-out for this service, it is very meaningful to those who attend.

9:30 a.m. Breakfast will be served in Aldersgate Hall following the service in the Memorial Garden. We thank Lorraine and Bob Carhart, and their daughter, Donna Mugavero, for cooking and serving a delicious breakfast. Last year it was great, and we look forward to more of the same! A free-will offering will be available for those who wish to contribute just to cover the cost of the breakfast.

10:30 a.m. Our Easter service will be in our sanctuary. The beautiful Lillies will decorate our altar, given in memory and honor of loved ones. If you ordered a Lily, you may take it home following the service.

MARCH, 2013

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
3 3 PM – Interfaith Lenten Bible Study At Reformed Church 9:30 a.m. – Choir 9:30-Choir Rehearsal 10:30-Worship service	4 7 pm –Board of Trustees (D.Beyer,T.Henel,J. Stamer,G.Baldwin, B.Losyk.C.Ettel, M.Curtin, C.Franz) 4:30-9:30 – Fencing School	5 12 Noon-U.M.W. will finish cleaning the Aldersgate Hall kitchen 10:30- Bible Study 4:30-Weight Watchers 4:30-9:30-Fencing Sch.	6 4:30-9:30-Fencng Sch.	7 4:30-9:30-Fencing Sch.	1 World Day of Prayer-1st Baptist Church 7:30 p.m. 5:30-Champion Youth 8 5:30-Champion Youth	2 9:30-1:30 Fencing School 9 ----- 9:30-1:30 Fencing School
10 3 PM-Interfaith Lenten Bible Study at Reformed Church 9:30-Choir Rehearsal 10:30Worship Service	11 <i>4:30-9:30 PM - Fencing School</i>	12 10:30-Bible Study 4:30-Weight Watchers <i>4:30-9:30 PM - Fencing School</i>	13 10 AM – Administrative Council Meeting 4:30-9:30-Fencing Sch	14 <i>4:30-9:30 PM - Fencing School</i>	15 5:30-Champion Youth	16 <i>9:30-1:30 PM - Fencing School</i>
17 3 PM – Interfaith Lenten Bible Study at Reformed Church 9:30-Choir Rehearsal 10:30-Worship	18 <i>4:30-9:30 PM - Fencing School</i>	19 10:30-Bible Study 4:30-Weight Watchers <i>4:30-9:30 PM - Fencing School</i>	20 <i>4:30-9:30 PM - Fencing School</i>	21 <i>4:30-9:30 PM - Fencing School</i>	22 5:30- Champion Youth	23 <i>9:30-1:30 PM - Fencing School</i>
24 Palm Sunday 9:30-Choir Rehearsal 10:30-Worship	25	26	27	28 7 PM – Maundy Thursday HOLY THURSDAY Communion	29 5 PM – Good Friday Service in our sanctuary	30
31 Easter Sunday 9 a.m. Memorial Garden Devotions 9:30 a.m. Breakfast 10:30-Easter Worship						