



UNITED INTOUCH

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February 2009

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SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Sunday school has started a new unit, "Called by God". We are focusing on a variety of stories in the Bible in which people are called to serve God. We learned that Jesus called his disciples to help and sometimes he calls us to help too. The Sunday school and their families experience Gods love and in turn pass that love to others. We will once again be collecting toiletries (toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, disposable razors, shaving cream, and lotions) from today until Friday, February 6th. A collection box will be outside the church office for those wishing to support our ministry. On Sunday, February 8th, the Sunday school will assemble toiletry bags to be distributed on Valentines' Day at the food bank. Amy Stires

WEBSITE UPDATE

The new and improved United Reformed Church website is up and running! Check us out at www.urcsomervillenj.org and keep informed about church programs and activities. You can visit our links to learn more about our Christian fellowship and outreach to the community. Spread the word to all your family and friends who may want to do a little "surfing".

Do you have a computer? Would you like to help serve God from the comfort of your own home? Are you interesting in being "in the know" of the church activities? If so, we could use your help! We are offering training to learn how to be a webmaster who will update the website each month with the ongoing church announcements and activities. Please consider this vital service to the church as we can only be as current as our latest update. Please contact Amy Stires at (732) 302-0516 or by email at amystires@optonline.net if you would to be trained or just need more information.

Amy Stires

**FORGOT TO SEND IN
YOUR DIRECTORY
FORM. IT'S NOT TO
LATE. FORMS WILL
BE ACCEPTED
UNTIL SUNDAY,
FEBRUARY 8TH.**

SAVE THE DATE

Another trip to the Hunterdon Hills Playhouse is scheduled to take place on May 9, 2009. The play is a comedy entitled "Over the River and Through the Woods". Mark your calendar now and please let Carol Lane know that you are interested. In attending. As always the evening begins with a wonderful dinner, delicious desserts and then the play. Give Carol a call at 908-872-0237 say yes that you would love to join your church family. More details to follow.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

A 'Waking up' church

Dear Friends,

Did you ever watch a church 'wake up' in the morning? Well I did!

As some of you know, I now spend a few nights a week in Somerville (courtesy of the Aliberto family) and since I normally arise at the crack of dawn I arrived here bright and early on Thursday morning. Here is what I found:

Pave-rite had already come and gone to put cinders and salt on a slippery parking lot (thanks, Pete!). Also, the **refuse collectors** had already made their rounds and the dumpster lids yawned open as if waiting for the next contribution.

Looking forward to a few quiet moments, I punched in the alarm code and sat at my desk – the 'few' quiet moments lasted less than five! Our **English as a Second Language** teacher arrived, unlocked the lounge, and set up for a busy morning. Right behind her our **Preschool School** teachers scurried through Fellowship Hall, arms laden with supplies. Then the door opened yet again and the **caterers** entered – lunches had to be prepared for 100 hungry children in eight area schools. Oh, and did I forget **Habitat for Humanity**? Up the steps went the Habitat staff – we welcome them every day. **Buzzzz!** The door bell sounded at the **office entrance** and in came a gentleman looking for assistance. Finally, I closed my office door to work on two different sermons and the phone rang - a clergy friend with a question hoping to find me in early. It's not even 9 o'clock in the morning and United is hopping!

The author of Psalm 92 reminds us:

It is good to give thanks to the Lord,
to sing praises to your name, O Most High;
to declare your steadfast love in the
morning, and your faithfulness by night.

At United, we declare the praises of God all day long. And what a treat it was for me to be here as our church was 'waking up' to a busy day of service and ministry!

God bless you,

Rev. Paul Walther

DO YOU HAVE A CONCERN?

If you have a concern, please let the Church Administrator, Sharon Thompson know. We want to remember them in our prayers and mention their name in the "In Your Prayers" reminders for the week in our Sunday bulletin.



Bible Readings for the Month of February, 2009

Sunday, February 1

Deuteronomy 18:15-20; Psalm 111:1
I Corinthians 8:1-13; Mark 1:21-28

Sunday, February 8

Isaiah 40:21-31; Psalm 147:1-11, 20c
I Corinthians 9:16-23; Mark 1:29-39

Sunday, February 15

II Kings 5:1-4; Psalm 30
I Corinthians 9:24-27; Mark 1:40-45

Sunday, February 22

II Kings 2:1-12; Psalm 50:1-6
II Corinthians 4:3-6; Mark 9:2-9

Ash Wednesday, February 25

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 or Isaiah 58:1-12
Psalm 51:1-17; II Corinthians 5:20-b-6:10; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21



The sympathy and prayers of the United Reformed Church are with the family of Marillyn Elizabeth Jackson. Marillyn passed away on January 15, 2009. Her daughter is Carol Davis.

Our prayers are with the family at this time. Remember all of life, from its beginning to its end, is in God's hands and through the power of Christ's resurrection, the end becomes a new beginning in God's full promise.

FROM THE WORSHIP COMMITTEE

The flower chart for 2009 is hanging on the wall in Fellowship Hall beside the door to the storage closet. Please sign up for flowers for your preferred Sundays. The cost is \$35.00 per bouquet and payment may be put in the offering plate. Thank-you.

OUTREACH MINISTRIES

The Outreach Committee thanks the congregation and friends for their support of our Christmas projects. Because of your generosity, we were able to purchase 1,800 chickens through Heifer International and delivered a van full of toys to the Jail Chaplaincy program. We raised \$700 for the Heifer International and \$200 cash and toys for Jail Chaplaincy. We are currently looking at missions we have supported in the past and at new possibilities.

SO WITH FAITH, IF IT DOES NOT LEAD TO ACTION, IT IS BY ITSELF A LIFELESS THING.” James 2:17

Raritan Valley Habitat for Humanity has many opportunities to put faith into action. Join the weekday crew to build homes in Franklin Township on Wednesdays and Thursdays; the only requirement is enthusiasm. Volunteers are also needed to teach budgeting to our partner families. Please attend our Annual Meeting where plans for 2009 will be presented, volunteers will be honored and refreshments served. It will be held on Monday, Feb. 2, 2009 at 7:30 p.m. at the United Reformed Church at 100 West Main Street, Somerville, N.J. For information and if you have any questions, please contact RVHFH@RVHabitat.org or call 908-704-0016.

OUR SUNDAY SERVERS for February, 2009

	Ushers**	Counters	Fellowship Hour**	Altar Guild	Nursery Care***
1	Deacons serving Communion Jim Phillips Kathy Phillips	Michelle Lane Rosanna Wallace	Luncheon hosted by the Youth Group	Ruth Reader	
8	Gary Spratt Elizabeth Fowler	Jim Phillips Kathy Phillips		Alice Gunzelman	
15	Toni Moore Barbara Schwarz	Marge Rowell Ruth Reader	Pat Doyle	Toni Moore	
22	Gary Spratt Elizabeth Fowler	Cathy Stires Lois Mason	Barbara Schwarz Alice Gunzelman Toni Moore	Millie Moore	

* If you can volunteer to usher, please give our Ushering Coordinator Gary Spratt at call at 908-252-8382.

** If you can volunteer to serve coffee during Fellowship Hour, please call the church office or sign up following worship during our Fellowship Hour.

There are no volunteers scheduled for the Nursery. If you are interested in this ministry, please give the church office a call.

UNITED INTOUCH DEADLINE

If you have information that you would like included in the March, 2009 issue of INTOUCH, please contact Sharon Thompson at (908) 725-4545, e-mail her at sharon.thom@yahoo.com, or put your article in the INTOUCH mailbox.

The "must have" deadline for articles is February 23, 2009

CROSSROADS XXV

Mark your calendars for the Women's Retreat at Harvey Cedars Conference Center in Long Beach Island on April 17-18, 2009. Keynote speaker will be Michelle Cavinder, Director of Women's Ministries at the Crystal Cathedral. More information in the next newsletter. See flyer posted in hall at URC for additional details.

DATES TO REMEMBER IN FEBRUARY

Sunday, February 1	10:00 a.m. Worship (Holy Communion) 1100 a.m. Congregational Meeting/Luncheon
Monday, February 2	7:30 p.m. Habitat for Humanity Annual Meeting
Tuesday, February 3	7:30 p.m. Parish Life Committee
Wednesday, February 4	12:30 p.m. Horizon Group (Lounge) 7:30 p.m. Worship Committee
Thursday, February 5	6:15 p.m. Reflection Ringers 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir
Sunday, February 8	9:00 a.m. Sunday School/Mom's Time 10:00 a.m. Worship/Boy Scout Sunday 11:00 a.m. Fellowship Hour 6:00 p.m. Youth Group
Tuesday, February 10	7:30 p.m. Administration and Finance
Thursday, February 12	6:15 p.m. Reflection Ringers 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir
Sunday, February 15	9:00 a.m. Sunday School/Mom's Time 10:00 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. Fellowship Hour 7:30 p.m. Reflection Ringers
Monday, February 16	Presidents' Day – Office Closed
Tuesday, February 17	7:30 p.m. Consistory Meeting
Thursday, February 19	6:15 p.m. Reflection Ringers 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir
Sunday, February 22	9:00 a.m. – Sunday School/Mother's Time 10:00 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. Fellowship Hour 11:00 a.m. Farm Committee 6:00 p.m. Youth Group
Monday, February 23	INTOUCH DEADLINE
Thursday, February 26	10:00 a.m. Collate Intouch 6:15 p.m. Reflection Ringers 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir
Friday, February 27	12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. Ship's Galley

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www.urcsomervillenj.org
Office Hours: Monday-Friday
9:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Lunch Hour: 12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

VALENTINE'S DAY

In the early Christian church, there were three priests names Valentine or Valentinus. Though they didn't live at the same time, each was said to be holy and each had been martyred for his faith. All three priests were designated as saints. Around the year A.D. 498, Pope Gelasius declared February 14th as St. Valentine's Day.

Valentine's Day came to be associated with love, romance and marriage. The day is now so popular that only during the Christmas season do people mail more greeting cards.

No matter how many cards, flowers, or sweets you receive this Valentine's Day, be assured that God loves you with an "everlasting love" (Jeremiah 31:3, NRSV).

VALENTINES TO GIVE YOUR CHILDREN

- Acceptance – Teach kids that you love them for who and what they are. Give this gift with a kiss.
- Self-confidence – Help children understand that they can trust themselves. Give this gift with a hug.
- Life without needless fears – Don't let your kids see you as a worrier. Give this gift with laughter.
- Appreciation – Help children acquire a spark of gratitude and enjoy all of life. Give this gift as they go out the door.
- Faith – Introduce your children to God, the best friend they'll ever have. Give this gift by taking them to church every Sunday.

