

South Park Presbyterian Church
1501 30th Street
Rock Island, IL 61201-3797

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit #70
Rock Island, IL 61201-3797

Christian Education 9:00 a.m. on Sundays

With a joyous Christmas season behind us, we move ahead to the beginning of a New year and a look ahead at the exciting events to come!

First, I would like to thank Stacy Muhs, Brenda Thompson and all of individuals that helped make the Christmas Pageant a success. It was so wonderful to see so many children and youth coming together to share the story of the birth of Jesus.

The South Park Youth program is underway. Whether a young person wants to have fun, meet new people, make a difference in the lives of others, or explore topics that will challenge them to grow as leaders; South Park Youth group is the place to be. The youth leaders are planning to hold an event the 2nd and 4th Sun-

days of each month. Youth group times for Middle school ages (5-6:30pm) and High school ages (7-8:30pm) with some events meeting as a combined group. This will be a time of fun activities and praise. Don't forget to bring a friend! We are busy preparing a youth calendar events so make sure to check your mail-boxes.

Sunday School Educators are always needed. It just takes 1 hour, 1 Sunday a month to make a difference!

Lisa Raya, CE Director



Church Office: 786-6466 Fax: 786-6470 Pastor Virginia's Cell No: (309) 716-9515
Pastor Virginia Murray's Personal Email address: vmurray1@sbcglobal.net
Pastor Virginia Murray's Church Email address: virginiam@spchurchqc.org
Administrative Assistant Email: donnab@spchurchqc.org Website: www.spchurchqc.org
Church Office Hours: Monday - Friday, 8:00-4:30 p.m.

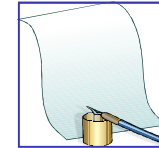
Touchpoints is published monthly by South Park Presbyterian Church
1501 30th Street, Rock Island, IL 61201-3797
No Subscription Charge to members and friends

SOUTH PARK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

TOUCHPOINTS

VOLUME 26, ISSUE 1

JANUARY 17, 2008



From the Pastor's Pen

Let's Worship!

On **January 16 at 11:00 a.m.** we will launch our new mid-week worship service. This service is designed to meet a variety of interests and needs. First of all we have some folk who simply cannot be here on Sunday. This will be a great opportunity for them to have a weekly worship experience. Secondly, there are a number of folk who would like a mid-week boost in their relationship with the Lord. And there are others who might want to come for personal reasons.

We tried having a mid-week service last summer in the evening hours which was quite successful. But since the weather is a bit tougher to manage at this time of the year we are going to schedule daytime services for at least awhile until we can gauge the level of interest.

The service will be slightly shorter than the Sunday service and it will be somewhat less formal. Kenn Logan will be here to lead our music. We will begin with traditional hymns and songs but if there are requests for other genres we will do our best to accommodate you.

After worship we will gather for a light lunch. The lunch will be catered for the convenience of all. A free will offering will cover the expense of the lunch.

If you plan to attend please give the church office a call. We want to be sure to have a sufficiency of food! Also if you will need transportation please give us a call. **If someone could volunteer to drive the church van that would be a huge blessing!!**

Rev. Virginia Murray

Touchpoints Publication Schedule

Next Touchpoints will be mailed on Thursday, Feb., 28. The deadline for articles to be submitted is Sun., Feb. 24.

Church Services Schedule

(see enclosed February calendar for all events)

Church Office Hours: Mon.-Fri., 8:00-4:30

Sunday, February 3

Communion

Parish Nurse
9:00 Church School
10:00 Worship Service Sanctuary

Wednesday, February 6

Ash Wednesday

11:00 am Mid-week Worship Service
7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service

Sunday, February 10

9:00 Church School
10:00 Worship Service Sanctuary

Wednesday, February 13

11:00 Mid-week Worship Service

Sunday, February 17

Churches United Food Pantry

Parish Nurse
9:00 Church School
10:00 Worship Service Sanctuary

Wednesday, February 20

11:00 Mid-week Worship Service

Sunday, February 24

Recycling

9:00 Church School
10:00 Worship Service Sanctuary
Touchpoints articles due

Wednesday, February 27

11:00 Mid-week Worship Service

The Dedicated Choir

The time is near when the churches throughout the land will be entering the Lenten season and celebrating the resurrection of our Lord. The need of the times calls every church and every organization of the church to work with renewed zeal and energy for the glory of God.

We have a very dedicated choir at South Park Presbyterian Church. In the life of a follower of Christ "dedication" is a solemn word and carries with it grave and far-reaching responsibilities.

To dedicate one's self means to set apart for sacred uses, to set apart or give up to a sacred duty or service. Every service that people render in the house of God should be a dedicated service. The very acceptance of responsibility in the church implies a dedication to that work. Since singing is so vital a part of every service, the need of a true dedication is apparent. The spirit of praise will sing through the lips of choir members who have been set apart for this important work.

When we sincerely dedicate our talents to the Lord, those talents become greater and richer and we are enabled to serve Christ and His church more effectively. The degree of our dedication determines the actual value of our work and service to the kingdom of God on earth. The dedication of singers is not without its precedent in the history of the church. In the Old Testament, singers were appointed for service in the worship of God. It was regarded as a holy

(cont. pg. 5 - Dedicated Choir)

Church Events Calendar

Week of February 3 - 9

Mon., Feb. 4

1:00 Circle of Faith
3:15 Tutoring (also Feb. 11 and Feb. 25)
7:00 C.E.

Tues., Feb. 5

6 a.m.-7 p.m. Election Day
9:30 Circle of Virtue in Dining Room
3:30 Stewardship
6:30 Personnel
6:30 Handbells (and every Tues.)
6:30 Fellowship
7:00 Outreach

Wed., Feb. 6 - Ash Wednesday

7:00 Ash Wednesday Service (with Choir Rehearsal following the service)

Thurs., Feb. 7

9:30 PW Mission
7:00 Covenant to Care at Jesse & Lee Evans

Sat., Feb. 9

9:30 Book Club

Week of February 10 - 16

Mon., Feb. 11

4:00 WEM
7:00 Worship/Music

Tues., Feb. 12

3:30 Stewardship
7:00 Circle of Love

Wed., Feb. 13

6:30 Church in Society
7:00 Choir Rehearsal (and every Wed.)

Thurs., Feb. 14

10:00 PP&E

Week of February 17 - 23

Mon., Feb. 18

1:00 Prayer Shawl Ministry

Tues., Feb. 19

1:30 Finance
7:30 Covenant to Care at Margaret Grossman's

Wed., Feb. 20

5:00 Meal Site

Week of February 24 - March 1

Mon., Feb. 25

1:30 PW Coordinating Team
6:30 Session

Tues., Feb. 26

12:00 VIP

Thurs., Feb. 28

7:00 Deacons



Sunday Attendance:

	Dec. 23	Dec. 24	Dec. 30
10:00 Service	75	5 pm-142 11 pm-63	100
	Jan 6	Jan 13	
	125	127	

Income:

Dec. 23	\$ 28,018.11
Dec. 30	\$ 9,919.70
Jan. 6	\$ 12,741.62
Jan. 13	\$ 3,785.40
Jan Food Pantry	\$ 110.00



Baptism:

Jayson Michael Johnson (son of Taryn Johnson)

Address Change:

Margaret McCauley
% Dr. Christine Shriner
5439 So. Farmers Dr.
Bloomington IN 47403

Telephone Number Change:

Teresa Davis
786-2559

Meal Site - Thank you to those who provided food and helped serve at the Meal Site on Wednesday, January 16. There will be a sign up sheet in the Parlor in February if you would like to help provide food for the February 20 Meal Site.



Rheumatoid Arthritis

Rheumatoid arthritis is a long-term illness characterized by joint disease that involves muscles, membrane linings of the joints and cartilage.

Sometimes the eyes and blood vessels are affected. It is 3 times more common in women than men. It begins between ages 20-60, with a peak incidence between ages 35-45.

Signs and Symptoms:

- Redness, pain, warmth and tenderness in any or all active joints in the hands, wrists, elbows, shoulders, feet, and ankles.
- Morning stiffness.
- Low-grade fever.
- Nodules under the skin.

Causes:

Unknown, but probably an autoimmune disease.

Risks increase with:

- Family history of rheumatoid arthritis or other autoimmune disorders. Genetic factors.
- Females age 20-25.
- Native American ethnicity (prevalence higher in this group).

Possible Complications:

- Impaired vision.
- Permanent deformity and crippling.
- Drugs used in treatment can induce complications such as gastric problems and those associated with long-term steroid use.

Treatment:

- General measures - gloves at night to retain heat.
- Splints at night to help support and protect joint with active disease. Relieve pain with heat including hot soaks, heat lamps, heating pads or whirlpool.
- Firm mattress - to support back or have piece of plywood between mattress and springs.

Medication - nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, including aspirin and other salicylates, gold compounds, immunosuppressive drugs. Cortisone drugs usually relieve pain dramatically for short periods, but are less effective for long-term use. Cortisone injections into joints can temporarily relieve pain.

Activity - stay in bed, except to use bathroom until fever and other signs of flare-up disappear.

Remain active but include periods of rest. Don't get over tired. Stand, walk and sit erect.

Exercise disable joints to prevent contractures. Exercise in a heated pool.

Diet - Eat a well balanced diet. Avoid arthritis diet fad. Lose weight if overweight. Obesity stresses the joints.

Joanne Stice, Parish Nurse

Churches United - Thank you for your \$1,700 undesignated contribution which will support the foundation of Churches United and ensure the continuation of all our programs that serve the community. We also appreciate your \$1,071.50 designated contribution to our Hunger Ministry which includes 24 food pantries and 3 meal sites.

We invite you to join us for our annual **Christian Unity Service** to be held on Sun., Jan. 27, 4 p.m., at St. John's United Methodist Church located at 109 East 14th St. in Davenport. The evening will include speaker, Rev. April Johnson, Assistant Dean of Students and Director of Diversity Services at Augustana College and a variety of music.

Thank you again for your continued support of Churches United.

*Melanie Jones, Financial Manager
Churches United*

Points of Interest

**Annual
Congregational Meeting
January 27, 2008
11:00 a.m.**

This Is Important!

Please plan to stay for the Annual Congregational Meeting. We will be electing new officers and reviewing the budget for 2008.

In addition we will take a look at the new Church Vision being formulated by the Session.

This is a great time for you to get your ideas before the church family and express your opinions on the ideas of others. We have a great window of opportunity before us - let us use it wisely!

A light lunch will be served after the meeting. Please bring your own tableware but the soup and goodies will be provided.

Adult Bible Study - We are currently meeting each Sunday morning in the dining room downstairs. We will be studying the book of Psalms until Lent at which time we will move once again to exploring the lectionary readings for the day.

Please join in any Sunday that works for you. Although helpful it is not necessary to be there every Sunday to follow the material.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Circle of Virtue - We will meet on Tues., Feb. 5, at 9:30 a.m. in the Dining Room.
Maxine Patterson

Ash Wednesday

Easter comes very early this year - March 23. Thus **Ash Wednesday** is almost upon us.

We will have a worship and communion service on **February 6 at 7:00 p.m.** It will not be a lengthy service but we do need to take advantage of this opportunity to begin the Lenten walk to the crucifixion and resurrection. Please plan to attend.

Book Club - We will meet on Sat., Feb. 9, at 9:30 a.m. in the South Park Church Library. Everyone is welcome. We will read and discuss the book, Playing for Pizza by John Grisham. Call Dorothy Meyer, 793-1323, if you have any questions.

Covenant to Care - We will meet Thurs., Feb. 7, 7:00 p.m. at Jesse & Lee Evans and on Tues., Feb. 19, 7:30 p.m. at Margaret Grossman's.

V.I.P. - will meet on **Tuesday at noon on February 26**, for the monthly potluck in the church Dining Room. Everyone is invited to gather for good fellowship and learning.

Our program will be "**The History of Rock Island Barracks**" given by **Kris Leinicke**, the Director of the Rock Island Arsenal Museum.

The host committee will be Barbara Weber and Maxine Patterson. Kay Pierceson will give devotions, LaNeva Birkel will be our MC. Please bring a dish to share, your own table service with a cup and/or a glass. Beverages are provided.

Anyone that is unable to attend the potluck is welcome to come for the program at 12:45/1:00. Come, bring a friend and learn more about the Rock Island Arsenal. For more information call 787-3830.

VIP/D. & B. Berg

Per Capita

Each year when you examine the church budget you find a line item labeled "Per Capita". This is a sum of money that is requested each year from the General Assembly, the Synod and Presbytery to sustain the operations of our Presbyterian denomination.

Basically "Per Capita" funds are spent on administrative costs. We have national offices in Louisville, KY, for the General Assembly, regional offices in Indianapolis for the Synod and offices in Peoria for the Presbytery. Your per capita dollars pay staff and operate these entities. This is a separate income stream from that contributed for Mission. Mission dollars are spent on the programs for which they are contributed.

But no organization can sustain itself without some administrative costs and so it is with our church organization. Compared to some of our secular not-for-profit groups the PCUSA costs are modest indeed.

This year our church will be asked to contribute \$26.00 for each member of our church. This is a one time per year request. Of that sum, \$16.86 will go to the support of our local Presbytery, \$5.79 will go to General Assembly and \$3.35 for Synod. The total for our church will be approximately \$9500.00. Some churches ask each member to make a payment to the church to cover their share of the per capita. Although we do not make that a requirement here **it certainly would help our budget for as many as can to make such a contribution - in addition to their annual pledge.**

No one likes to think about administrative costs but we do get services that justify the cost. In the next year you will get considerable help in finding a new installed pastor. You can receive materials and advice on church redevelopment, church school curriculums and fund raising. You will help support campus ministry and the Lay Ministry program. The list goes on and on. If you have any further questions about "Per Capita" please call me at the church office.
Rev. Virginia Murray

Presbyterian Women

Mission Work Days - Feb. 7 and Mar. 6 at 9:30 a.m. Come join us in fellowship. Also, following is the update from the "Mitten Tree":

- 96 pair gloves and mittens
- 6 sets of hats, scarves, gloves
- 15 scarves
- 71 hats

These were taken to the Rock Island School District for distribution. A big thank you to everyone who helped!
Harriet Plutz

Church Women United

Winter Forum - Feb. 1 at 15th Ave., Christian Church. Registration at 9:00 a.m. Chris Fouser of "Wheels for the World" will be the speaker.

World Day of Prayer - Mar. 7 at 1st Presbyterian Church, Milan. Further information to come.

Harriet Plutz

(Dedicated Choir - cont. from pg. 2)

assignment and carried out with diligence and devotion.

We thank the choir members of South Park for their dedication and for setting aside other duties for their sacred duties. We invite other members of the church to join in this dedication to sacred duty for worship and singing praises to our Lord.

Kenn Logan
Director of Music
South Park Music Ministries

Staff Changes

Pam Bateman has resigned as Church Receptionist to pursue other avenues.

Pam has been a long term employee and will be missed by the many who have worked with her over the years. Please wish Pam well as she moves in new directions.

Kenn Logan will assume some new responsibilities as "Activities Coordinator". Kenn will continue as Music Director but will join us for some additional hours of work setting up dinners, field trips, classes, and other events of congregational interest.

**Join us for worship every
Sunday at 10:00 a.m., following
Sunday School
at 9:00 a.m.**

Piano Fund - We are beginning the formal raising of money to purchase a new piano for the sanctuary.

We have received our first major donation and now it is time for each of us to determine what we can give to make this purchase a reality in time for the Easter services!

So B# and C what you can do to help!

Tutoring - After the winter intercession, it was back to school for the students at Audubon on Jan. 14. The children were excited to meet with their tutors again. They each began this semester with a new packet of reading materials. Two of our original eight students moved with their families during the fall, but were replaced with two others who will benefit from the additional help offered here. We have such a nice group of children, and our tutors tell us they find it rewarding to volunteer in this way. We are grateful to them and our drivers who keep this mission going. If you are in the building on Monday afternoons, feel free to drop in upstairs and see what's going on.
Patty Henneman and Peggy Lieblein

Thanks to Everyone - who shared in the celebration of our 50th wedding anniversary. Your many cards and wishes were appreciated!!

Jack & Jan Fitzpatrick

South Park Church Annual Meeting

**January 27, 2008
Sunday
11:00 a.m.**

**Please mark your calendar and
plan to attend!**