

**Peckville and Bradley Memorial United Methodist Charge  
Lent 2008 News Letter**

**Church Men United Lenten Service**

**From The Pastors' Pen**

Greeting in the name of Christ,

In February we will enter the season of Lent. It is a special time for fasting and prayer. The fast is a time to set aside our needs to listen to the voice of God in our lives. Every Lenten season, we examine our lives to take an assessment of our current situation: am I happy; is something holding me back from being a complete or whole person; is family life satisfactory; do I get enjoyment out of my work? The church has traditionally offered three life-long disciplines (tools) to help us examine our lives – Prayer, Fasting, and Almsgiving. Prayer is communicating with God. Fasting is self-denial, self-control, and simple living. Almsgiving is basically Stewardship, giving our money, abilities, and time to our church. These “tools of transformation” are exercises to help work our lives into shape. Transforming our lives is the goal of this Lenten journey.

At the transformation, Jesus is also transformed, for the journey to Jerusalem, where his life will change on a Friday afternoon on a hill and then three days later on a Sunday morning at an empty tomb. Because of His transformation, we too share in this transformation from death to new life.

We ask God to help us journey closer to Him each day. We pray for our families. We ask that the Lord will bring peace and healing for the hurts of the past. We ask God to help us to be good examples for those around us and especially for our youth.

Pray and fast with sincere hearts. Pray for our hurts and our healing. When we repent we will share in the Glory and ever-lasting Joy of the Resurrection of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

May God continue to bless you and yours.

Peace in Christ,

Pastor Sharon and Fred

The 59<sup>th</sup> annual Lenten Communion service sponsored by the Church Men United will be held on The First Sunday in Lent—February 10, 2008 at 7:45am at Elm Park United Methodist Church, Scranton Pa. Speaker for the morning service is The Rev. Stephen Wilson Pastor, Hope Church PCA, Moosic, Pa. Special Music by the Gospelaire. Music and preparation for worship begins at 7:30am.

**LENTEN SERVICES**

- 2/6 – Ash Wednesday service at the Blakely Baptist Church with Rev. Ron Perry speaking.
- 2/13 – Blakely Primitive Methodist Church with Fr. Muldowney speaking.
- 2/20 – St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Archbald with Rev. Wally Koch speaking.
- 2/27 – St. Patrick's Church, Olyphant with Rev. Virginia Miner speaking.
- 3/5 – Peckville United Methodist Church with Fr. Al Wagaman speaking.
- 3/12 – First Presbyterian Church (At Holy Ghost, Olyphant) with Rev. Sharon Dietz speaking.  
(ALL SERVICES ARE AT 7:00P.M.)

*Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that made us whole, and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. ISAIAH 53:4-6*

**Fuel Envelopes**

Enclosed you will find a small envelope that says fuel fund. We ask that you prayerfully consider helping your church fuel fund any way you can. Thank You.

**GRADUATES**

If anyone knows of college or high school students who will be graduating in the spring, please let Pastor Sharon know. Thank You.

## Scranton District Praise Day

The Scranton District Praise day will be held on Sunday afternoon, April 13<sup>th</sup> at the Central UMC in Honesdale, Pa. at 4:00pm. The speaker for the day will be Bishop Susan Wolfe Hassinger. Anyone wishing to sing in the Praise Choir will rehearse on Sunday March 30 from 2:00 to 3:50. (snow date April 6)

### A word from Peckville's Finance Chair

As the newsletter reaches your home all of us are aware of the heating season. The Sunday worship service moves downstairs for 2 to 3 months every year. The cost of heating the sanctuary is enormous during the winter. It really is a lot more cozy and warm in the fellowship room. With that in mind we have included a fuel envelope in the newsletter to help with the heating costs. Anything you are able to contribute is greatly appreciated. Every dollar helps. With an early Easter (March 23), the cold weather will hopefully end with Easter. Once again, thanks for your continued support.

Respectfully yours,  
Bob Elvidge, Finance Chairperson

### Scranton District Lay Academy

**The lay Academy has announced that the spring Lay Academy will be held at the Hawley UMC Friday evening April 18, Saturday April 19, and Saturday April 26.**

**Courses are:**

**Basic – Rev. Rob Visscher**

**Prayer – Rev. Jean Blackie**

**Theology II – Rev. Marty Cox**

**Lay Visitation – Dr. Joan Carey**

**Pamphlet's should be available the end of February.**

## EASTER MEMORIALS

Peckville's Easter Memorials and honoriums should be in by Sunday March 16(Palm Sunday). Gifts and information should be given to the following people.

Memorial Fund – Bill Llewellyn

Organ & Renovation – George Kinback Jr.  
Warring-Fendick Scholarship Fund – George Kinback Jr.

Music Fund – Bonny Taylor

Flowers – Bob Elvidge or Bonny Taylor

*(To insure your memorial or honoriums will be in the booklet please have them in by the 16th. This will be a great help for the secretary. Thank you.)*

## Congratulations

**The Peckville UMC would like to congratulate Bob Elvidge on his recent retirement and thank him for his service though the flower shop keeping our sanctuary beautiful on many occasions.**

## Thank You

**The family of Ken Van Wert would like to thank all who kept "POP" and his family in prayer over the last few months. Thank You**

## Bradley Memorial UMW News

Greetings from Bradley Memorial UMW. Our UMW ended the 2007 year with a fantastic Christmas dinner, enjoyed by all, at Anna Maria's restaurant in Dunmore. We had an ornament exchange, during which we played the "Right" and "Left" game, delicious food, a lot of laughs, and great fellowship. Our Hurricane glass project turned out to be a huge success, as well as a beautiful addition to our sanctuary for the Christmas season. We are looking forward to 2008 with much anticipation. We will be selling Candles, possibly having a soup sale, and Roast Beef dinner, and taking orders for flowers for our Easter service. We have increased our pledge to the District Conference, and will be working toward supporting the Missions in the upcoming year. We are in the process of planning a Mother/Daughter Tea to be held on May 10th in our fellowship hall. We are extremely proud that, being a small group of UMW for only 6 months, we were able to present Bradley

Memorial Church, a sizeable check for upcoming projects and expenses.

As we begin our journey through the season of Lent, and on through Holy

Week, and the beautiful day of Easter, we pray for Peace in the world,

and that we may all be brought together as Brothers and Sisters in

Christ. Nancy McLain, UMW President, and Lay Speaker

### **EASTER BREAKFAST**

Reservations for Easter breakfast following the sunrise service (6:30am) should be in to Bonny Taylor (489-6093) by March 16(Palm Sunday).

### **TENEBRAE SERVICE AT PECKVILLE**

The Tenebrae Service and Holy Communion will be Maundy Thursday March 20 at 7:30p.m. at the Peckville UMC.

### **GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE'S**

The Good Friday Service will be held on Friday March 21 at 7:00p.m. at the Bradley Memorial UMC .

There will also be services at the Blakely Baptist church from 12:00 noon until 3:00p.m.

### **EVENING OF MUSIC**

The Peckville Choir will present their annual Evening of Music on Sunday evening April 27 at 7:00p.m.

### **WESLEY VILLAGE**

Brunch and Lunch will be served at Wesley Village on Sunday, April 6 from 11:00am to 2:00pm.

### **WELSH COOKIES**

Welsh cookies will be made on Monday February 11, orders should be in By Sunday February 3, and on Monday March 10 with orders in by Sunday March 2 and April 14 with orders in Sunday March 6.

Your help is ALWAYS needed.

### **MISSION TEAM NEWS**

**Next Sunday February 10 there will be a "Pass it on Party" to benefit the Mexico Mission Team at**

**4:00pm. We are asking that you bring coloring books, crayons, tooth brushes, etc. These items the team will share with the children where they will be working. There will be games and refreshments, pictures and stories from the mission team from past missions, and of course the building of marshmallow houses. Thank you for your help.**

**2/9 – Hoagie sale – orders by Wednesday February 6<sup>th</sup>.**

**2/16 – Pancake Breakfast – Pancakes, sausage, home fries and eggs. Cost \$6.00. Advance tickets or at the door.**

**2/23– Annual Spaghetti Dinner – Adults \$8.00 – Children \$4.00 – Under 3 free. Served family style. Homemade meatballs – special sauce mix – salad bar and dessert. Seating 4:00 to 6:00, takeouts 3:30 to 6:00. Advance ticket sales, also available at the door.**

**Thank you for all your support!**

**Ron Lucas (383-1611) George Kinback (383-2828)**

**Jeff and Joe Klinko (876-5598)**

**Mission Team will be in Mexico the week of March 1<sup>st</sup>. Please remember to keep them in prayer.**

*We must alter our lives in order to alter our hearts, for it is*

*impossible to live one way and pray another -- William Law*

### **Spiritual Disciplines**

Lent is upon us and I find myself thinking about how lacking I have been in my spiritual life. It is so easy to get caught up in my everyday busy life and what I need to accomplish for the day that I often put aside my devotional and prayer time till evening and anyone who knows me knows I then take a nap before I go to bed, telling myself tomorrow I will do better.

I have just pulled off of a shelf a book entitled "Soul Feast" by Marjorie J. Thompson. It's a book about spiritual disciplines from a Lay Speaking course Ron Lucas and I took.

I have decided I need to take a look at the spiritual disciplines once more and see where I am lacking the most. I'm sorry to say looking once more through this book I'm lacking in all of them. So I have decided to

spend this Lenten season taking one at a time and trying to improve them one by one.

I know when we hear the word discipline we don't think of something that is going to be enjoyable. But when we experience discipline we usually become a much better person because of it. As parents we discipline our children so they will grow into wonderful adults, and as parents we are proud of them.

So my thoughts are will not our spiritual disciplines help us grow as children of God so that our Heavenly Father may be proud of us?

Spending time in scripture and bible study, time on our knees in personal prayer, spending time in fasting, self-examination, confession and awareness, finding spiritual direction from someone farther along on their faith walk than we are, may help to discipline us. We must find ways to serve others in our daily lives and we MUST worship with others.

This past summer as Worship chairperson I asked the question "What was the worship service that stuck out in your memory as one of the most memorable to you?". I would say about 95% of my responses mentioned Holy Thursday services. To be honest this saddened me because over the last few years this service has been poorly attended. So I ask you all now to prayerfully consider how you will observe Lent this year. Whatever the spiritual discipline you chose is up to you. Myself, I plan on spending more time on my daily prayer life and spending more time in scripture these are both areas I need to strengthen along with all the others. I plan on attending the midweek Lenten services, Holy Thursday and Good Friday services.

I encourage all of you to attend at least one of the midweek Lenten services this LENTEN SEASON and consider putting Holy Thursday and Good Friday Services on your calendar to attend .I dare say we all need spiritual discipline of some sort. We need to travel the road to the cross with Christ so we can come closer to understanding the pain and suffering our Lord went through for us. So that when we wake on Easter morning we can fully share in the celebration of our risen Lord. You're Sister in Christ, Beth Taylor

### **Health Kits**

At Annual Conference on May 29-31, they will be collecting health kits for UMCOR. Following is a list

of supplies that are put into each kit. Thank You in advance for your help. Place these items inside a sealed one-gallon plastic bag.

- 1 hand towel (15" x 25" up to 17" x 27", No kitchen towels)
- 1 washcloth
- 1 comb (large and sturdy, not pocket-sized)
- 1 nail file or fingernail clippers (no emery boards or toenail clippers)
- 1 bath-size bar of soap (3 oz. and up)
- 1 toothbrush (single brushes only in original wrapper, No child-size brushes)
- 6 adhesive plastic strip sterile bandages
- \$1.00 to purchase toothpaste  
(NOTE: UMCOR Sager Brown is now purchasing toothpaste in bulk to be added to health kits before shipping to ensure that the product does not expire before they are sent.)

### **Important Kit Assembly Information**

- All items included in kits must be NEW items.
- All emergency kits are carefully planned to make them usable in the greatest number of situations. Since strict rules often govern product entry into international countries, it is important that kits contain only the requested items-nothing more.
- Do NOT include any personal notes, money or additional materials in the kits. These things must be painstakingly removed and will delay the shipment

### **Peckville Food and Fellowship**

Our February food and fellowship will be held on February 17 after worship. We are planning on having ham. Do you have a favorite dish that your family enjoys with ham? Would you like to share this dish with your church family? Please let Beth or Bonny know. Also if anyone can provide a dessert please let us know. Thank You.

## Peckville's Budget

The 2008 annual budget for Peckville is \$75,055.68. In order to meet our budget a weekly offering of \$1,444.00 is needed.

## Seen In Our True Light

There have been several occasions over the years that I have been in conversation with one person or another and during those conversations this or that name may be mentioned. Someone may recall a time when he or she really showed their "True Colors" and they saw them in their "True Light". That is to say they weren't acting in a way we would normally see them act or conduct themselves. Does one event define our entire inner being? Are we judged on that single negative event (or positive event for that matter) that may have been completely out of character for better or worst?

Are we seen in our true light? Can the world, friends and family see us as we truly are? It has always bothered me that one deviation from the norm of a person that is living an apparent good life, full of love, good works, never losing their temper, condemns that person to being defined by that one event that was out of character. Whether the fall from grace comes from losing one's temper, a hurtful word or act, he or she is now accused of having shown their "true light", their "true nature". If that is true, then logically the opposite should be true. It seems that a person who has been hurtful, deceitful, and ill tempered all their life is showing their "true light" when they do one good deed. They were really a good person all along. If the former is true then why not the latter? The world doesn't seem to work that way. For some reason we think that once there is a negative, there can never be a positive come from the same being again.

Everyone makes poor choices now and again, it is human nature. We must be careful not to judge. As Christians we need to look at each other, (Christians and Non-Christians alike) as illuminated by the Light of Christ. As Christians we are called to be "Christ like" this may seem like an impossible task, but remember Jesus was both fully human and fully divine. He knows our human limitations, our pain, and our hearts. Thankfully through Jesus' death and resurrection our sins have been forgiven (past, present and future). A stumble on the road does not end the journey. The traveler gets up shakes of the dust,

dresses the wound and continues on. Remember this, worldly eyes are watching and waiting for us to stumble so they can say that, see how Christians really are. Let's not do the same to each other.

As we enter into this Lenten season there will be ample opportunities to dress our wounds from the stumbles on our journey of faith: Sunday Worship, Ash Wednesday, Weekly Lenten Services, Holy Thursday, Good Friday or personal daily devotions. Take these worship opportunities to heal, strengthen, and explore your True Light.

Tom Taylor

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Bible study at PUMC every Tuesday at 8:30am & 7:00pm

Lenten services every Wednesday during Lent at 7:00pm – see schedule

Choir Rehearsal at Peckville every Thursday at 6:45pm.

2/6 – Ash Wednesday Service at Blakely Baptist Church at 7:00pm

2/9 – Mission team Hoagie sale

2/10 – Mission team pass it on party

2/11 – Welsh cookies (YOUR HELP IS NEEDED)

2/13 – Lenten service at Blakely PM Church at 7:00pm

2/16 – Mission team Breakfast 8:00 – 11:00am

2/17 – Peckville food and fellowship

2/20 – Lenten service at St. Luke's at 7:00pm

2/23 – Mission team spaghetti dinner 4:00 to 6:00pm

2/27 – Lenten service at St. Patrick's, Olyphant at 7:00pm

3/5 – Lenten service at Peckville UMC at 7:00pm (Refreshments needed)

3/6 – Peckville Administrative Board meeting at 8:00pm

3/12 – Lenten service at First United Presbyterian at Holy Ghost, Olyphant at 7:00pm

3/16 – Palm Sunday (reservations for Easter Breakfast and all memorials in today)

3/20 – Holy Thursday service at Peckville UMC at 7:30pm

3/21 – Good Friday services Blakely Baptist 12:00 to 3:00 and Bradley Memorial at 7:00pm

3/23 – Easter Sunday service's – Sunrise service at 6:30 (Breakfast following), Bradley worship 9:00am and Peckville service at 11:00am

3/30 – Choir rehearsal for Praise day service, Central UMC, Honesdale – 2:00 to 3:50pm

4/6 – Brunch at Wesley Village 11:00am to 2:00pm  
4/13 – Scranton District Praise Day service, Central UMC, Honesdale at 4:00pm  
4/18-19 & 26 – Scranton lay Academy at Hawley UMC  
4/27 – Peckville Choir Evening of Music at 7:00pm  
5/1 – Peckville Administrative Board meeting at 8:00pm  
5/29-30 & 31 – Wyoming Annual Conference

***TO HERE GOD'S VOICE TURN DOWN THE WORLD'S VOLUME.***

***AN EASTER PRAYER***

***O God of Easter,  
God of resurrection power,  
Bring heavenly life to our  
Earthbound souls;  
Thou, who did'st call Lazarus forth  
From his tomb,  
Call us forth from dead works, and let our hearts be  
aglow  
With immortal glory and power.  
Call us out of the tomb of hollow profession,  
Of cold creeds, and wordy ritual,  
And let Thy life abundant permeate and  
Saturate our stagnant souls.  
Bring joy where there is heaviness of heart;  
Bring peace where there is confusion;  
Bring love where there is bitterness;  
And may we henceforth live in  
The glorious glow of The Life  
Which that first Easter poured  
Forth upon a world of darkness.  
And may we always be mindful of the  
Source of this life-giving power,  
And come to Thee regularly to be fulfilled.  
In the Savior's name. Amen.  
Author Unknown***

***This time of year renews our hope in all God has  
ahead, For we were blessed eternally when Christ  
rose from the dead.***

***So may your trust in Him remain constant, strong  
and true,***

***For He is working out His best as He lives His life in  
you.***

**Because the hospitals no longer call a pastor  
because it interferes with the patient's right to**

**privacy, the pastor asks that the family of anyone in  
the hospital please call her. It will be the only way  
she will know. Thank You.**

**Pastor Sharon is in her home office Monday thru  
Thursday 10:00am to 1:00pm. The phone number  
is 489-0713. She can also be reached at home  
anytime at 282-0104.**

**You may reach the charge secretary (Beth Taylor)  
at 383-2119, [edt1157@yahoo.com](mailto:edt1157@yahoo.com)**

**The Peckville United Methodist Church is  
now on the World Wide Web at  
[www.peckvilleumc.org](http://www.peckvilleumc.org) with updates made  
weekly.**

**The mission statement of the Peckville and Bradley  
Memorial Churches:  
To Glorify God by sharing  
The Gospel of Jesus Christ,  
Nurturing disciples,  
And reaching out to a world in need.**

***FAITH IN CHRIST IS NOT JUST A SINGLE  
STEP--- IT'S A LIFELONG WALK WITH HIM.***

***IF WE COULD MERIT OUR OWN SALVATION,  
JESUS WOULD NOT HAVE DIED TO PROVIDE  
IT.***

***HE RESTS WELL WHO RESTS IN JESUS.***