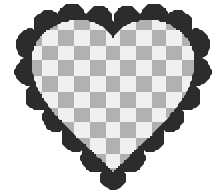




FEBRUARY 2002



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 Sunday School 9 am Communion @ Worship 10 am		5 Women's Bible Study @ Tilly's 7 pm	6 Confirmation Class 6:30 pm Choir 7 pm	7	8	9
10 Sunday School 9 am Worship 10 am	11	12 Ladies Circle @ Jigg's 12:30 Women's Bible Study @ Tilly's 7 pm	13 Confirmation Class to Ash Wednesday Service 7 pm Session and Trustees 7:30pm	14 St. Valentines Day	15	16
17 Sunday School 9 am Worship 10 am	18 Presidents Day	19 Women's Bible Study @ Tilly's 7 pm	20	21	22	23 Andes Tower Hills ski trip departs @ 7am
24 Sunday School 9 am Worship 10 am	25	26 Women's Bible Study @ Tilly's 7 pm	27 Confirmation Class 6:30 pm	28	1 Game Night 6-9pm	

****Head usher for February: Bob Gross; March: Dave Ruhnke**

Light for the Northern Plains

Presbytery of the Northern Plains

February 2002

"MOMENTS OF TRUTH" STORIES SOUGHT

Ever had an "aha!" moment? Or been bowled over by a sudden revelation? Share that "moment of truth" with the readers of Presbyterians Today magazine. In 150 words or less, describe your "moment of truth" and tell how it has made a difference in your life and shaped your Christian commitment. Send your story to today@pcusa.org by February 1. Include your name, address, telephone number and church affiliation.

WORKING FROM POVERTY TO PROMISE

Congregations who work for social justice are invited to send representatives to a "Working from Poverty to Promise" workshop on improving welfare reform, offered by Bread for the World in February. Bread for the World, www.bread.org, is a Christian citizens' movement advocating for public policies to help end hunger in the U.S. and abroad. The workshops will feature **Kathy Tomlin**, a dynamic speaker from the Office for Social Justice of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis. Two identical workshops are being held: one on Friday, 2/22/02 at Guardian Angels Catholic Church in Oakdale, MN and one on Saturday, 2/23/02 at St. Steven's Lutheran Church in Bloomington, MN. Both sessions, from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., will also offer mini-sessions to equip participants with skills needed to promote hunger advocacy in their home congregations. More info about this event is available by contacting Bread for the World at 612.871.9084 or breadmn@igc.apc.org.

NOMINATIONS SOUGHT

The Presbyterian Health, Education and Welfare Association (PHEWA), National Ministries Division, is seeking nominations for its five General Assembly Ministry Awards. They will be presented during the PHEWA event at the 214th General Assembly (2002) in Columbus, Ohio. To nominate a ministry, congregation or individual for these awards, submit the following info by Mar 1: who is being nominated, with address and phone number; the contact person for the nomination with address and phone number; a two-page description of the nominee, including why they are deserving of this recognition.

Send nominations to PHEWA, 100 Witherspoon St., Room 4617, Louisville, KY 40202-1396 or fax to 502.569.8034.

1. One award recognizes a community ministry that has been faithful and creative in its ministry to and with the community. Community Ministries and Neighborhood Organizations, a network of PHEWA, sponsor it.
2. Another award recognizes the ministry of an urban congregation that has strengthened its congregation and/or served its neighborhood through an effective outreach ministry. The Urban Network of Congregational Leadership, another PHEWA network, sponsors it.
3. The Presbyterian Network on Alcohol & Other Drug Abuse sponsors two awards.

The David Hancock Award goes to a church or church professional for their contributions in the field of addictions prevention, intervention and recovery. The Margaret A. Fuad Award is presented to a layperson who, as a volunteer or activist, has been instrumental in getting the church and/or community involved in issues related to drug and alcohol abuse, through education, awareness or treatment.

4. The Florence Iversen Kraft Award goes to a congregation that has demonstrated outstanding leadership in its ministry with those who have a serious mental illness and with their families. It is sponsored by the Presbyterian Serious Mental Illness Network of PHEWA.

PRESBYTERY NEWS

... The Light is on our Presbytery website and if you would like to receive the Light by email contact **Laurie** at pbypnp@fargocity.com.

... Upcoming workshops: Growing Christians (Jan 31-Feb 1) and Worship Works (April 12-14). ... The Moderator of the General Assembly, Dr. Jack Rogers, will be our guest at the April Presbytery meeting.

CALL ALL PARISH NURSES

As editor of our "Light" I am looking for articles on Parish Nurse programs within our Presbytery. Please tell us about your activities as a Parish Nurse in your church. Send your article to me, Barb Ault, at mbault@polarcomm.com.

From the EP.

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Dear Friends,

Recent studies show that church growth happens not when there are large active youth groups in church, but when there are faithful adults who take the study and practice of their faith seriously. That's good news for the plains! I know many churches that lament the small number of young people in their communities, but most churches have enough adults for a Bible study. A lectionary Bible study needs no curriculum or even seminary-trained teacher; the class simply studies the texts of the day. It makes the sermon much more interesting. Following my letter you will see a list of monographs on contemporary topics that can be ordered from the General Assembly. They serve as good resource material for adult classes. Don't rely on an inspirational sentence or two to be your own 'fodder' for the week. Start an adult Bible study class.

...*Arabella*

ADULT BIBLE STUDY RESOURCES

The Presbyterian Church publishes occasional papers on topics of interest or concern to the church. They are excellent short resources for pastors or adult study guides. They are available for \$3.00 by calling PDS at 1-800-524-2612.

Some are:

[The Church and Its Unity](#)

(Barbara Wheeler/Mark Achtemeier);

[Essential Tenets of Reformed](#)

[Worship](#)

(Stanley Hall);

[Biblical Authority for the Life of the Church](#)

(Office of Theology and Worship);

[The Crucified One is Lord: Confessing Christ in a Pluralist Society](#)

(Office of Theology and Worship);

[Between Millennia: What](#)

[Presbyterians Believe About the](#)

[Coming of Christ](#)

and

[Social Witness in Generous](#)

[Orthodoxy](#) (Hunsinger).

Also ...

Pastor Mark Vitalis Hoffman

(ELCA) has written a bible study

on I Peter called: "TESTED BY

FIRE: Living as a Christian in a

Post-Christian Era" (six sessions).

Copies available from Pastor

Hoffman (701-235-6629) or from

www.crossmarks.com

SOMETHING TO SHARE

I want to share this for your New Year .. Pembina County Larger Parish used it as part of their Spiritual Renewal celebration last year; I've used it as a devotion at COM this past year; and I see it as a wonderful way to begin 2002 .. This is from an old book titled [God Calling](#), edited by A.J.Russell:

"I stand between the years. The light of my Presence is flung across the year to come.

Backward, over the past year, is my shadow thrown, covering trouble and sorrow and disappointment. Dwell not on the past .. only on the present. Only use the past as the trees use my sunlight to absorb it .. to make from it in after days the warming fire-rays. So store only the blessings .. encourage yourselves with thoughts of these. Bury every fear of the future .. of poverty for those dear to you .. of suffering, of loss. Bury all thought of unkindness and bitterness, all your dislikes, your resentments, your sense of failure, your disappointment in others and in yourselves .. your gloom, your despondency. Let us leave them all .. buried .. and go forward to a new and risen life. Remember that you must not see as the world sees. I hold the year in my hands

.. in trust for you. But I shall guide you one day at a time. Leave the rest with me. You must not anticipate the gift by fears or thoughts of the days ahead. And for each day I shall supply the wisdom and the strength."

Happy New Year! ... Barb.

INTERESTING...

48% of PCUSA congregations have increased attendance over the last 5 years.

25% of regular church participants in the PCUSA are under 18.

50% of PCUSA congregations are in small towns or rural areas.

On average, 50% of PCUSA congregational budget goes for salary

Calendar

Jan 31 - Feb 1 "Growing Christians" Workshop at Maryvale

Feb 1 - Feb 3 JC Board Meeting

Feb 6 - Feb 9 COM/CPM meeting, Assisi Hgts, Rochester MN

Feb 14 Minnesota Council of Churches Meeting

Mar 4 - Mar 5 Council Retreat, Maryvale

April 12 - April 14 "Worship Works" Workshop

April 25 - April 26 Presbytery Meeting Jamestown

Light for the Northern Plains is published under the Mission Advocacy Committee (MAC) of the Presbytery of the Northern Plains. Arabella Meadows-Rogers, EP Randy Argall, MAC chair Barbara Ault, editor Other contributors: Linda Post Bushkofsky Copy deadline for the LIGHT is the tenth of the month.

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