

THE

FELLOWSHIP INFORMER

Stephens City Mennonite Church
March 2008

Christ the Lord is Risen! He is Risen Indeed!



SOUL CARE for Christian Educators

Worship Schedule

Christ above you,
Christ beneath you,
Christ behind you,
Christ beside you,
Christ be in you, Christ be with you.
AMEN
(prayer attributed to St. Patrick)

- March**
- 2 - Into new sight
 - 9 - Into new life
 - 16 - Into new depths (Palm Sunday)
 - 23 - EASTER
 - 30 - Ekklesia
- April**
- 6 - Phoebe Hershey will preach
 - 13 - Marriage Covenant Sunday
Christopher & Maria
ClymerKurtz - 5 years
Jim & Joan Kulp - 25 years
Mike & Pat Spory - 30 years
Irvin & Ann Heishman - 50
years
 - 20 - TBS
 - 27 - Child dedication service for Allison
Groveen Neff & Noemi Clymer
Kurtz.

Will take place on March 29 at 8:30 am. All Teachers are invited to a space where the focus will be on the care of your soul. This is a time created especially for teachers to evoke awareness and response to the movement of God within. Conversation about how we can be companions with one another on the journey with God. It is a time to help create a culture of reflection. Learning how to notice and attend to the spirit of our classrooms & the congregation.

From the Christian Education Commission

The Commission is reviewing the Mennonite Vacation Bible School curriculum for 2008. Listen Up! Messages from God is the title. It introduces children ages 4 through grade 8 to five prophets from the Hebrew Scriptures: Isaiah, Ezekiel, Jonah, Amos, and Daniel. Through stories, drama, worship and Listen Up links, children will learn about God's messages of hope, transformation, mercy, justice, and faithfulness, and discover how these messages still hold true for people today.

EASTER SUNDAY MORNING - March 23

- Sunrise service @ 7:00 am
- Breakfast @ 8:00 am
- Egg Hunt @ 9:00 am
- Sunday School @ 9:30 am
- Worship Service - The God of victory transforms our fear into joy. @ 10:30 am

AGAPE MEAL

*Thursday, March 20, 2008 at 6:00 pm
The meal will include soup, bread, fruit & cheese. We will share the Lord's Supper together. There will be an opportunity for you to participate in foot washing as Jesus taught us in John 13.*

Birthdays and Anniversaries

- 3: Anna Snodgrass
- 5: Robert Phillips
- 7: Carlin Kulp
- 7: Gemma Snodgrass
- 9: Groveen Neff
- 10: Luke Drescher
- 10: Audrey See
- 12: *Craig and Sheri Reed*
- 13: Ben Spory
- 15: Lloyd Horst
- 18: Ben Fleming
- 18: Colleen Neff
- 25: Daniel Garcia
- 26: Chrissy Neff
- 31: Floyd Kulp

An Easter Reflection

By Sister Catherine Walsh

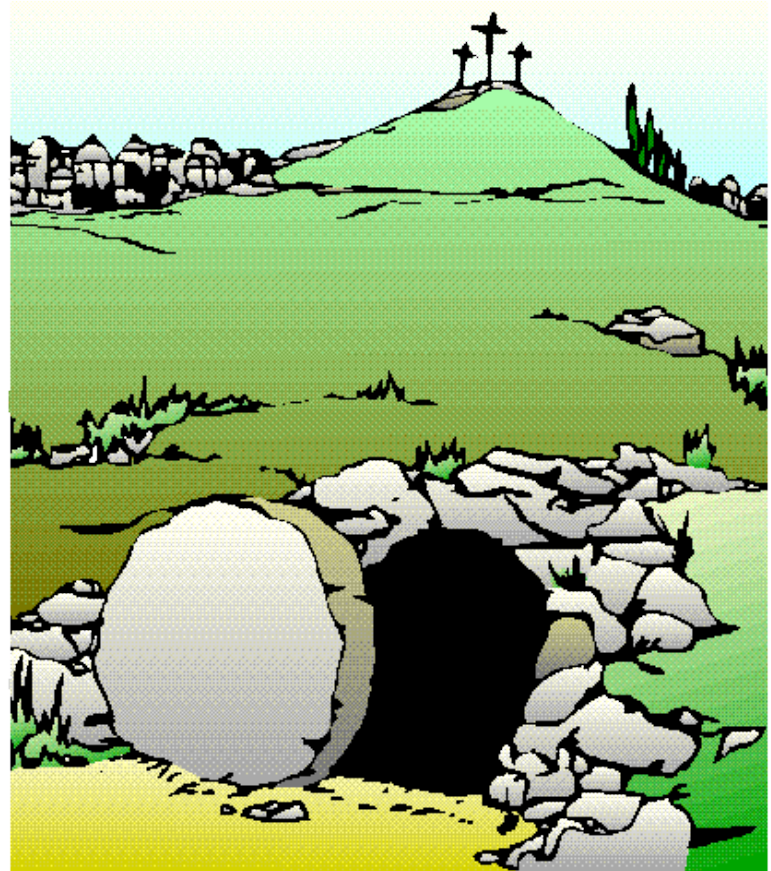
During the Easter Vigil we are witnesses to the panorama of God's creative and redemptive acts. We celebrate deliverance and redemption, the movement from darkness to light, from dryness to free-flowing water.

I invite you to look at a symbol of this season—not at the lily or the candle or the egg; rather, I invite you to look at the stone. We hear in the Scriptures how the women found the stone rolled back from the tomb. Perhaps we, also, are invited to roll back the stones from our own tombs and face the empty places of our being to let the light of God's transforming love come in. We are invited to walk into our empty, vulnerable selves and find the freedom to go beyond the tombs into new life.

That is the message of Easter, the message given to all we meet in the readings of the season. Did you ever notice that no one seems to recognize Jesus after the resurrection? Had he changed so much that Mary, the disciples on the road to Emmaus, the apostles on the beach, don't know him? Or is it, rather, that each of them was caught in his/her own preconceptions of how he should have been? They wallowed in their grief, confusion and dashed hopes—the stones of the reality of the death of Jesus. How often do you and I miss Jesus in the garden for the same reason? We are wallowing in our own reality, preoccupied by it and miss the Jesus among us. The stones of ill health, anger, jealousy, or perhaps change, seal us in. To see and experience new life we have to roll back these stones. But we do not do it alone. For Ezekiel tells us God promises to give us a new Spirit and remove our hearts of stone and give us hearts of flesh. All we need do is to desire to roll back the stones that keep us from entering the emptiness of the tomb. For in going into the emptiness we free ourselves to do what needs to be done. We free ourselves to let new life come in.

Then we will hear the voices saying, "Why do you seek the living among the dead?" For new life is always trying to emerge, but we often ignore it because we cling to parts of life that have died. Until we are willing to bury what should be dead and walk to new life we are sealed by those stones.

So, I invite you this Easter to spend time with the witness of the stone. Go and find one, take it, name it. Call it pain, change, give it person's name if you must. Perhaps it will be called anger, guilt, challenge, weakness, or fear. Hold it. Experience it and begin to roll it back. Work at moving it over. Eliminate your preoccupation with it. Then when it is rolled aside go out into the garden; and, if you are no longer sealed by that stone, Jesus and new life will be recognized and you, like the disciples, will be amazed at what has happened. And the very stones will cry out with you, "Alleluia, alleluia. I have risen. I am with you once more. Alleluia."



Mark your calendars:

- March 20th - Agape meal @ 6:00 pm
- March 23rd - Easter Breakfast @ 8:00 am
- March 29th - Soul Care for Teachers @ 8:30 -
10:00 am
- April 13th - Marriage Covenant Sunday Potluck
after worship service
- April 27th - Child dedication potluck meal after
worship service

The FELLOWSHIP INFORMER is a monthly publication of Stephens City Mennonite Church. Submissions can be made to Doug ZehrVogt via church mailbox or at dougzv@verizon.net by the last Sunday of each month.

To view past issues, please visit www.stephenscitymennonite.com