Palm Sunday, April 13 At our regular 10:30 worship service on Palm Sunday we celebrate the triumphal entry of Jesus Christ into Jerusalem, when the crowds greeted him by waving, and covering his path with, palm branches. Palm Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week, which concludes on Easter Sunday. As Union we take up the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering on Palm Sunday.

Maundy Thursday, April 17 7:30 pm “Maundy” comes from the Latin “mandatum,” meaning “commandment.” On this night when Jesus met with his disciples for his last supper, he gave them a new commandment, “that you love one another.” During this special service we will share a communion meal, recount the story of Jesus’ betrayal and arrest, and darken the sanctuary, as we recall the story of his crucifixion.

Our service will begin with hand and foot washing (for those who wish) and a communion meal in the Community Room, where we often gather with friends for meals, then proceed to the garden remembering Gethsemane, and will conclude in the sanctuary.

Good Friday April 18, a service is offered by the Berea Ministerial Association at 12:15, Union Church sanctuary. This midday worship service recounts Jesus’ last hours.

The Berea College Theatre Laboratory is presenting Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice’s Jesus Christ Superstar 8:00 pm April 11, 12 and 16-19. We are happy to host Union Church on Good Friday, April 18! We will offer complimentary tickets to Union Church folks and their families. Call Deborah Martin at 859-985-3419 to make reservations for that performance. There will also be a post-show discussion following this powerful performance.

Holy Saturday, April 19, 9:00 am Gather as we clean and prepare the sanctuary for our Easter guests. We’ll dust the pews, and prepare the decorations, and spruce up the outside as we welcome a joyful Easter.

Easter Sunday, April 20 Sunrise Service, gather at 6:45 am at Berea Cemetery. The Ministerial Association hosts this all-church celebration of Easter Morning as the sun rises over Pilot Knob and the Pinnacles. Meet at the eastern-most ridge of the Cemetery for worship, song, and prayer with all our neighbors.

9:30 Songs and Easter egg hunt! For children in elementary and under, meet in Room 101. Middle and High school youth will meet at 9:00 to hide the eggs.

10:30 am Celebration of the Resurrection! Join to recall the joy and hope of that first Easter Morning, and to renew yourself by recalling that God’s love is not reserved in the past, but bursts forth in the hope of resurrection.

Treats for Easter Egg Hunt Oh grown-ups …please bring little wrapped goodies to the church office for the EGG HUNT. Fruit snacks, little stickers, and small toys as well as candy will be welcome!
April Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays!
15 Eli Hayden
16 Annie Sims
19 Madalyn Dodson
20 Howard Carlberg
22 Shirley Carlberg
26 Sebastian Clavere
26 Cody Cooper
27 Bryce Carlberg
27 Joe Jaggars

Anniversaries
1 Cheyenne & Richard Olson
6 Steve & Ann Rhodes
9 Dovie & Tom Hubbard
13 Thana & Steve Connelly
18 Bob & Carol Shaffer

If we don’t know your birthday or anniversary, we want to! Or if we’ve made a mistake please call or email the office.

News of the Family

Prayers for Linda Parsons recovering from a broken leg after a fall.

Congratulations to former Intern Mark Pettis and his wife Elena Larssen who are expecting a baby boy in July.

We hold in prayer the family of Harry Piland, who died March 12.

His life was celebrated at a service on March 29.

Union Church seminarian Naomi Schulz was able to make a brief visit to Berea in March. Naomi is completing an intensive Clinical Pastoral Education unit at 4 San Francisco hospitals in addition to taking classes this semester.

Union Church is a place where your faith can grow and deepen. Are you interested in becoming a member of Union Church, or just learning more about what that means?

We have a Newcomers’ Gathering after church on the 4th Sunday of each month, and on the 2nd Sunday of each month we’ll be inviting people to join with us in covenant as members. We’d love to have you!

The Union Church family is growing, and we are so pleased to welcome these people into our midst. Some have been around a while, some are brand new, but all are loved and cherished!

The Community Life and Growth Board hopes that you’ll make an effort to get to know each of them. They have all blessed our lives with their stories, and we know they would be a blessing to you as well.

Rebekah & Edd Easton Hogg, Tyler

Anniversaries
1 Cheyenne & Richard Olson
6 Steve & Ann Rhodes
9 Dovie & Tom Hubbard
13 Thana & Steve Connelly
18 Bob & Carol Shaffer

Prayers for
Linda Parsons

Regular Weekly Calendar

Sundays
9:30 am Sunday School Classes for all ages, Quiet Center
10:30 am Morning Worship
4:00 pm Young Women’s Spirituality Group
5:30 pm Overeaters Anonymous, Classroom
6:30 pm Living and Dying Well, How to Be Mortal, Conference Rm

Weekdays
8:00 am Zen Meditation, Cowan Chapel

Mondays
6:00 pm AIA meets, Wayside Room
7:00 pm AA, Room 301
7:00 pm Berea Classic Chorale, Choir Room,
8:00 pm Mens Big Book Study, Room 301

Tuesdays
11:30 am GED Class, Classroom
7:30 pm Berea Community Drumming Circle, Cowan Chapel

Wednesdays
Wednesday Nite Live frequently includes a program (WNL will not meet April 16)
5:10 pm Middle School Youth Group
5:15 pm Joyful Noise Choir
5:45 pm Supper
6:30 pm High School Youth, Jubilee Choir, Middle School Youth, WNL program
7:00 pm Bell Choir

Thursdays
11:30 am GED Class, Classroom
12:00 pm Bible Study, classroom
6:00 pm Financial Peace Class

Fridays
9:00 am Women’s Creative Sewing & Crafts

1st & 3rd Suns
1:30 pm ShapeNote Singers, Parlor
2nd & 4th Mons
9:30 am Berea Knitters, Classroom
2nd & 4th Tues
6:00 pm Daisy Troop #1803, Classroom
2nd & 4th Weds
6:00 pm Episcopal Canterbury Fellowship, Chapel
2nd Sundays
New Members welcomed
4th Sundays
Newcomers’ Gatherings after worship

Standing Board Meetings

Tues. April 8
3:00 pm Properties Board
6:00 pm Faith Development Board
6:30 pm Finance Board
7:00 pm Community Life & Growth Board meets

Mon. April 14
5:00 pm Pastoral Relations Board
6:00 pm Administration Board meets

Mon. April 28
7:00 pm Church Council

(Continued on page 10)
In 1985, I moved from Stratford, CT to Berea and that’s why, according to many, I talk “funny.”

While raising sons Gregory and Michael, who were avid Festival Dancers, I pursued a BA in English from EKU and then a MA in Pastoral Studies from Lexington Theological Seminary. I currently serve as Chaplain and Community Liaison at Hospice Care Plus. Otherwise, I walk my two dogs, Otis Redding and Nieve, laugh a lot with friends, and float on Lake Laurel. My favorite part of the Union Church community is all the joy to be found here!

Photos by Rachael White

Welcome

The Joyful Noise Choir

Worship & Work at Union Church

Justice and Joy

At the 161st Annual Meeting

Letter-writing for Fairness at WNL

From the Pastor

Repeating Resurrection, Over and Over

Dear friends,

The ground moves, the stars change, patterns shift and without moving a muscle, the world is suddenly a different place—a place where you may not know the rules.

Trauma can bring transitions and feelings like that: a breakup of a relationship, the sudden death of someone close, the news that your job has been terminated. Just keeping up the latest software updates can make us all feel woozy and disoriented. Why is it that by the time I learn one thing, it’s obsolete?

Jesus’ disciples may have felt the same things in those last/first days we call Passion and Easter. Just when they finally got used to wandering in the Palestinian outskirts, healing and feeding and being just radical enough to get attention but not revolutionary enough to attract the authorities, Jesus announces that they will head to Jerusalem.

In a literal riot of moral outrage he manages in one week to scuttle their low profile, enrage both Roman and Priestly castes, and get himself arrested, tried, convicted and crucified. The disciples could not have known what hit them. To boot, association with this failed Christ does not stay dead, refusing even in death to follow the rules.

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Unquestionably the modern church can claim these same feelings in our own context: just when we think we have it figured out… the world changes. And then changes again.

For us, Union Church programs are thriving and we are speaking words of life to some who have never found it possible to believe that a church could bring them hope. We’ve figured out the new building, filled it with good people, good worship, good prayers, good music, and we’ve realized the many blessings of a good staff now established and capable in their ministries.

That should mean that we’ve got this “church thing” all figured out but, alas, we don’t.

Despite kids coming out of our ears, and attendance at events increasing, financial growth hasn’t happened as expected. We have a budget gap that was supposed to close as we grew, but energy costs grew faster, too many have lost their jobs and, without asking, the world changed faster than we have.

Does that mean we are done for? Ha, hardly!

As the on-going story of the faith proves, it’s a lot harder than that to kill Good News. But, like the confused and bewildered disciples, we will probably have to learn to tell that news in new and interesting ways, supporting it from new places and with new people. In short: we are going to get to be the church. Again. Just as Jesus first followers had to figure out their world as it changed, we too will reinvent and resurrect the means for living out costly love and transformational healing in our time and place. It’s not easy, it’s not always fun, but it is worth it.

May that love be alive and well in you this month and this whole year. May it be alive in you your whole life. If we seek and serve that love, no matter how earth may tremble or sea may roll, the Good News can never stay buried for very long. It will resurrect and rise in the light of God, and I trust it will carry us along for a wild, wild ride.

May you be already rising to justice and joy.
From the Associate Pastor

April first – the Fools’ Day – finds us smack dab in the middle of Lent this year.

And in some ways, that feels very apt. We’ve been fooled over and over into thinking spring is here, only to have yet another snowfall dash our hopes. We’ve been duped out of our winter mittens and scarves, and we’re wondering where our next meal is coming from. We may be scared, anxious, and worrying about where our next meal will come from. We may be scared, anxiety-ridden, wondering about where our next meal (as a family or as a church) will come from.

We may be simply trying so hard to make it through one more day that the concept of Lent hasn’t even entered our minds. It’s been a tough winter. We’ve been fooled over and over into thinking spring is here, only to have yet another snowfall dash our hopes.

As a community, we are gradually working our way through that process together, as symbolized by the art piece that is changing at the front of the church each week. It began with the death of difficult things: together we broke a lot of pottery. Some of it was stuff we were glad to get rid of. Some had broken despite our best efforts, and we hated to let it go. Some was just collateral damage of all the pain in our lives. All of it was broken. All of it offered to God.

But that was just the beginning. After the breaking, we began to clean, and sort. We began to see the pieces not as trash, but as tools for new life, and new growth. We combined them with other tools – sticks from the earth, copper for strength and beauty. And so the art of rebuilding, the art of resurrection, begins. Together, we await the new beauty that God will reveal.

This is the journey of faith we take to and beyond the cross each year. It’s not always easy. But it’s true in so many ways.

But Lent reminds us of several things: The journey toward resurrection is gradual. Death of some things – even the very essence of what feels like life – is necessary. Resurrection still happens, and it is more beautiful than what has died.

And in some ways, that feels very apt. We’ve been fooled over and over into thinking spring is here, only to have yet another snowfall dash our hopes. We’ve been duped out of our winter mittens and scarves, and we’re wondering where our next meal (as a family or as a church) will come from. We may be scared, anxiety-ridden, wondering about where our next meal (as a family or as a church) will come from.
Union Church’s 161st Annual Meeting was held on March 16, after a delicious Lenten Luncheon. The 2013 Annual Report was presented, and Officers and Board members were elected. Annual Reports are available at church, or you can request an electronic version from Joan in the office.

**Union Church Leadership**

**Officers**
- **Treasurer:** Shirley Carberg, **Financial Secretary:** Patti Smithson, **Clerk:** Jean Boyce, **Moderator:** Gail Wolford
- **Vice Moderator & Chair of Church Council:** Doug Hindman

**Administration Board:**
- Establishes policies for office operations, in collaboration with Pastor(s), Church Administrator, Office Administrator and Custodian to ensure smooth functioning of the church, including building use and scheduling;
- Addresses office information technology, including computers, phone systems, website, and advise re: new IT needs;
- Personnel — maintains position descriptions, terms of call for Pastor(s), annual contracts for other employees, evaluation processes, and working with appropriate Boards, initiate or participate in searches and hiring of staff;
- Maintains attendance records.

Members are Patti Smithson, Nancy Hindman, Anniertte Stolte, Eric Dodson, Lauri McVicker, Clerk is an ex officio member

**Community Life and Growth Board:**
- Is concerned for and work to create within our beloved community a hospitable, safe and inclusive space for all;
- Provides fellowship opportunities such as Wednesday Night Live meals, all-church Potlucks, Lenten lunches, etc., throughout the year;
- Follows up with visitors, invite to membership, collaborate with Pastor on sessions for prospective or new members;
- Establishes policies for and oversee use of kitchen.

Members are Kevin Burke, Betty Hibler, Alice White, Susie Ritchie, Anniertte Stolte

**Faith Development Board:**
- Is concerned and provide leadership for thoughtful, inspirational and intentional faith development for persons of all ages, in collaboration with the Associate Pastor;
- Addresses the recruitment and training of church school teachers, Children’s Church leaders, Little Church leaders, adult class teachers, small group ministry leaders, and child care workers, as necessary;
- Conducts background checks as appropriate, and approve hours for paid personnel;
- Provides support for Youth Programs;
- Collaborates with Mission and Service Board to create new educational and/or service activities or programs

Members are Kim Kobersmith, Debbonnaire Kovacs, Barb Taylor, Ashley Cochrane, Alvera Perman

**Mission and Service Board:**
- Is concerned for the church’s service to the wider community through gifts of time, energy, skills, talents, and money;
- Helps meet the emergency needs of church families;
- Selects, coordinates, and promotes the church’s local, national, and international involvements in mission (including Women’s Creative Sewing and Crafts);
- Coordinates the church’s ecumenical activities related to outreach through mission, e.g. Berea Ministerial Assoc., Kentucky Council of Churches, National Council of Churches, Church World Service, etc.;
- Organizes the annual Bazaar and/or other fundraising in support of mission giving;
- Collaborates with Faith Development to create new service and/or educational activities.

Members are John Payne, Michelle Tooley, Jenny Bromley, Jessica Holly, Austin Godden, John Belanger, Sarah Belanger

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**Creativity: The Power to Connect the Seemingly Unconnected**

A Lenten reflection by Steve Rhodes

As I continue reading Brené Brown’s The Gifts of Imperfection, I’m becoming more and more convinced of how important creativity is for mental (and physical!) health, and how tied it is to faith and the spiritual journey. If we believe that God is, in the most profound sense, creative, and if we believe we’re created in God’s image…well, doesn’t that say something about how essential being creative is for us? And, let’s not forget that God didn’t just act creatively at the beginning of the world, but is continuously creating.

When I think about the recent Lenten sermons I heard and read about the temptations of Jesus in the wilderness, what stands out for me so much is that the demonic voice basically called on Jesus to surrender his authenticity—to become someone he wasn’t and to allow himself to be defined by a self-deadening conformity with “Other-directed expectations.” To paraphrase Brown, the Devil wanted Jesus to “be like everyone else, but better.” Creative authenticity pulls down Satan’s pants and dances past singing, “No thanks, I’ll be the imperfect playful creature I am.” (Okay, something more pithy, but you know what I mean.)

Steve Rhodes, Kentucky poet and long-time member of Union Church, is teaching one of our Lenten Experience classes: Writing Our Way Through Lent, Mondays 7:30pm-9:00pm, in the office classroom.

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**Bible Reading for April**

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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>April 6</td>
<td>Ezekiel 37:1-14</td>
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<td>Psalm 130</td>
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<td>Romans 8:6-11</td>
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<td>John 11:1-45</td>
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<td>April 13</td>
<td>Matthew 21:1-11</td>
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<td>Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29</td>
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<td>Isaiah 50:4-9a</td>
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<td>Psalm 31:9-16</td>
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<td>Philippians 2:3-11</td>
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<td>April 20</td>
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<td>Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24</td>
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<td>Colossians 3:1-4</td>
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<td>John 20:1-18</td>
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<td>April 27</td>
<td>Acts 2:1-4a</td>
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<td>Psalm 16</td>
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<td>1 Peter 1:3-9</td>
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<td>John 20:19-31</td>
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Here are some quotes from Brown that make me want to stop right now and write a poem—but I’m going to finish this first:

There’s no such thing as creative people and non-creative people. There are only people who use their creativity and people who don’t.

The only unique contribution that we will ever make in this world will be born of our creativity.

As long as we’re creating, we’re cultivating meaning.

If creativity is seen as a luxury or something we do when we have spare time, it will never be cultivated.

And here’s one that speaks with special power to me at the moment when I think about our often flying-sparrow and alienating world:

Writer William Plomer described creativity as “the power to connect the seemingly unconnected.”

Have fun writing!!!
Wednesday Nite Live! and Church Family Photos

Photos of The Burns Supper & Mardi Gras Brunch by Rachael White

Mission and Service Board unites prisoners with loved ones

By Willie Dodson

As people seeking to serve Christ, we are called to serve our neighbors in need. One of the most familiar passages of the New Testament can be found in the 25th chapter of Matthew where Christ equates himself to the sick, the hungry, the imprisoned and so on, describing service to these populations as service to him and God’s mission on earth. It is in this spirit that Union Church has built a relationship with the Central Appalachian Prisoner Support Network (CAPSN) over the past year and a half.

In addition to Wednesday night programs lead by myself and others associated with CAPSN, our tithes have gone to support their work. In December, the Mission and Service Board approved a $1,500 donation to CAPSN with a pledge of an additional $1,000 to be committed at a later time as the fruits of our financial contributions and the continued need becomes evident.

So far this year, that money has been used to rent a van and transport folks living in and near Richmond, Virginia to visit loved ones who are incarcerated at Red Onion and Wallens Ridge State Prisons in Wise County near the southwestern corner of the state. The money was also used to purchase groceries providing breakfast and lunch for our traveling friends. These meals were prepared and served by four volunteers from Berea and one from West Virginia who made the trek down to Wise County with financial assistance from Berea College.

“This is my 5th trip,” said Elaine Randal who made the journey to visit a friend. “As soon as I found out about it, I come every time.”

When asked what message I should convey to Union Church whose financial support helps make this project possible, Carolyn Pete who was also traveling to visit a friend offered “I wish this had been going on for years to more different areas. People in different prisons — their loved ones can’t visit them either because they can’t drive this far or they don’t have a car. So tell the church this is awesome and thank you.”

The van-pool program was initiated by a group called SPARC (Supporting Prisoners and Acting for Radical Change). It runs once a month with SPARC on the Richmond end and CAPSN on the Wise County end. In addition to serving the important purpose of helping to unite folks with their loved ones despite the obstacles of distance, money and prison bars, it also provides a space in which those visiting the prisons can meet one another, providing comfort and exchanging ideas about how to build a movement of and for those affected by incarceration.

For our part in Berea, a small working group which spun off from CAPSN is hoping to launch a books-to-prisons project for Central Kentucky within the coming year. This project is in the early stages with much yet to be done. We are currently researching protocols and programs in the prisons and seeking ideas and buy-in from others in our community (like you).

On the weekend of April 4th – 6th, a group will be traveling from Berea to the Educational Justice and Appalachian Prison Symposium at West Virginia University in Morgantown. If you would like to come on this trip or join the effort in any capacity, please contact me at willie.dodson@emu.edu. More information about the symposium can be found at http://educationaljusticeappalachianprisons.wordpress.com/author/abpp/.

Youth Group: What are we about?

What do you need from youth group? What do you want from youth group? What can you give to youth group (or the church or community)?

These are the three questions that youth, parents and community member spent some time reflecting on during the youth retreat, “What are we about?”. Much energy was present, from all parties involved and renewed direction blossomed. As a result of some reflection, we plan to spend some more time as a youth group developing a curriculum, during which we explore the various ways that youth feel in touch with God.

Creating a youth group video was also brought up as a means of telling our story and letting others know what we are about. There is much good and lovely work we are about and would like to be about which threads its way through the mission of Union Church. Please feel free to respond to these questions, whether or not you have a youth in your youth group and send the information to the youth ministers, Chris and Grace McKenzie.