

# CONSIDER...

The Church of Christ, Union  
CPO 2105  
Berea, KY 40404



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Berea, KY 40403

## Village Harmony to visit Union Church!

This unique group presents a remarkable range of different singing styles, from the hearty and ultra bright Bulgarian "hard voice" to the equally powerful, but darker and more sonorous Georgian timbre, from the rich, mellifluous South African style or the wild and unrestrained American shape-note sound to a delicate, pure, early music timbre. Their honest and heartfelt singing never fails to draw enthusiastic response from their varied audiences.

The 2013 tour program will include traditional singing from South Africa, Georgia, Bulgaria, and Corsica, American shape-note and quartet gospel songs, and a set of fourteenth century sacred pieces.

They will be with us for Wednesday Nite Live on March 6 and present a fundraiser concert at 7:30 pm on March 7. Don't miss it!!

## Adopt a Potato



Sustainable Berea is sponsoring a project to test 10 potato varieties under Berea's growing conditions.

Potatoes are a nutritious, high-yielding staple crop that adapts well to back yard gardens and provides a measure of food self-sufficiency. Sustainable Berea will provide you with two pounds of seed potatoes if you agree to grow the potatoes, keep some simple management and yield data, and report the results back to Sustainable Berea. Information on the available varieties and a sign-up form are in the church office.

For more info: PO Box 1302, Berea KY 40403, email [info@sustainableberea.org](mailto:info@sustainableberea.org) or call 859-985-1689.

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Sunday Mornings!  
Sunday School, 9:30  
Worship, 10:30

### About Us...

- All who seek and serve the love of God are ministers of Union Church
- Rev. Kent Gilbert, Pastor
- Rev. Rachel Small Stokes, Associate Pastor
- Merlin Kindel, Moderator
- Larry Brandenburg, Director of Music Ministries
- Dave Kobersmith, Church Administrator
- Joan English, Office Administrator
- Youth Directors, Chris & Grace McKenzie
- Hope Hounshell, Woman's Industrial Director
- Bea Chasteen, Dorie Chasteen, Childcare



## Lenten Opportunities

You can still sign up for these great events!

### Intergenerational Challenge Course

March 10, 1:00—5:00 pm, Meet at Church.

Certified Ropes Course instructor Kim Kobersmith will lead an intergenerational challenge course emphasizing community building and being the body of Christ. ALL ages welcome. We will make it safe for all. Cost is \$20 per person, with some assistance available. Must RSVP: 859-985-0185 or [kimkobersmith@gmail.com](mailto:kimkobersmith@gmail.com)

### Retreat: Healing Through Art

March 15 & 16th, 6:00—9:00 pm, 8:30 am—6:00 pm, Union Church Community Room.

This two-day retreat will offer space, inspiration and some direction for exploring wounds and healing them through artwork. Our theme will be the triptych, and each participant will create one for themselves, and also be part of a communal triptych creation.

Requested donation per participant is \$20. RSVP: 859-986-3725 or [rsmallstokes@union-church.org](mailto:rsmallstokes@union-church.org)

### Outdoor Meditation Hike

March 17, 3:00 pm, Meet at Church.

Join amateur botanist Chris McKenzie on this walk through Anglin Falls at the beginning of wildflower season. Let nature draw your breath for you! R S V P : 6 7 8 - 9 8 2 - 1 7 3 1 or [christopher\\_mckenzie@berea.edu](mailto:christopher_mckenzie@berea.edu)

### Shake Your Soul: The Yoga of Dance

Fridays, 7-8pm, starting March 8<sup>th</sup>, Cedar Haven (925 W. Jefferson St.)

A combination of dance and yoga techniques to allow a freedom of the soul. It's really fun! No dance experience or talent necessary! Questions: 708-341-0916 or [kate.grigg@yahoo.com](mailto:kate.grigg@yahoo.com)

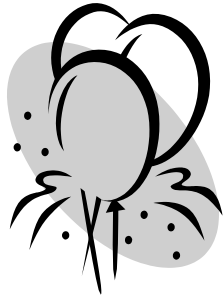
*(Continued on page 3)*

## Save the Date: Union Church's Annual Meeting, March 17, 2013

Members will be elected to Boards and Committees, the Annual Report is presented, and other special business of the church conducted, including reports on our constitutional revision process, capital campaign, construction, and Rev. Kent's upcoming Sabbatical.

The meeting will be right after worship and a special St. Patrick's Day Lenten luncheon of corned beef and cabbage.

# March Birthdays & Anniversaries



**Birthdays!**

- 2 Maurice Hibbard
- 3 Amanda Bates
- 3 Brielle LeMaster
- 3 Rita Barlow
- 5 Jenny Bromley
- 7 Tom Frazier
- 7 Judy Royalty
- 8 Betsy Hofer
- 10 Judy Rowell
- 11 Melissa Neal
- 12 David Shroyer
- 14 Paul Wells
- 16 Sarah Vaughn
- 22 Carla Gilbert

- 23 Nancy Jones
- 23 Harry Rice
- 24 Anne Vaughn
- 26 Cron Carpenter
- 31 Colin Perman

**Anniversaries!**

- 14 Kevin Burke & Carla Gilbert
- 22 BG & Maurice Hibbard
- 24 Steve & Teresa Gowler
- 28 John & Marlene Payne
- 29 Bill & Rebecca Baker

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

Union Church is a place where your faith can grow and deepen. We are actively looking for those who would like to explore discipleship with Jesus in this congregation. If you'd like to formally join Union Church, please call the office or either pastor.

**Our Fellowship Principles:**

*"Union Church welcomes all followers of Christ and works with all who work with Him; respecting each person's conscience; working by love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace."*

**Rev. Rachel** has completed the second of three sessions of the "Clergy Clinic: family systems training for pastors." She will return to Chicago one final time in April to complete the course.

**Madalyn LeLe Dodson** was named student of the month at Berea Community!

**Union Church members** visited the Dead Sea Scrolls exhibit at the Cincinnati Museum complex. The exhibit includes scroll fragments and more than 600 artifacts never before exhibited. It's open until April 14.



**Emma White and Della Walters** are our latest additions to our Sunday morning media team. Along with Nick and Rusti Mullins, these folks are running the sound and camera for our services. Please thank them for their service!

Office Administrator **Joan English** thanks the Union Church family for their generous gifts on the occasion of her 20th anniversary of employment here!

**Ruth Wesley**, long at home with Parkinson's has relocated to

the Terrace Nursing Home for additional care. Our prayers are with her.

Baby **Whitney Wellinghurst** is now over 5 lbs, and, while still at UK hospital, is growing by leaps and bounds. Praise be to God!

We were honored to welcome back environmental theologian and performance artist, **Tevyn East**, who performed her new work, "Blood on the Cedars" for worship on Sunday morning March 3.

**Paul Wells** is recovering well from heart valve replacement surgery.

**Jan Hamilton** is recovering at home from knee replacement surgery, and says that she feels blessed to have been showered with TLC from the Union Church family!!



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Sunday Mornings — 9:30 am, Faith Development classes 10:30 am—Morning Worship			See p. 1 of the newsletter for further details of Lenten activities.			2 9:00 am—Restart Commu-
3 11:45—Lenten Lunch 4:00—5:30 pm—Shape Note Singers, Parlor	4 6:00 pm—Alhonn, Parlor, Mens Big Book Study, Com. Rm. 7:00 pm—AA, Classroom	5	6 <b>Wednesday Nite Live</b> Special Opportunities for service, study, worship & fellowship:	7 12:00 noon—Bible Study 6:15 pm—Union Church Choir 7:00 pm—Village Harmony Fundraiser Concert	8 9:00 am—Woman's Industrial 6:00 pm—Music Vespers 7:00 pm—Shake Your Soul	9
10 11:45 am—Lenten Lunch 1:00 pm—Intergenerational Ropes Course	11 6:00 pm—Alhonn, Parlor, Mens Big Book Study, Com. Rm. 7:00 pm—AA, Classroom	12 6:00—FD Board 6:30 pm—Stewardship & Finance Board 7:00 pm—Admin, Mission	13 4:30 PRC • help with children • cook supper • help with dishes • New Testament study, Conference Room, 6:30 • Monasteries of the Heart study, Cowan Chapel, 7:00	14 12:00 noon—Bible Study 6:15 pm—Union Church Choir	15 9:00 am—W I 6:00 pm—Music Vespers 7:00 pm—Shake Your Soul	16
17 11:45 am—Lenten Lunch 12:15—ANNUAL MEETING 3:00 pm—Meditation Hike 4:00—5:30 pm—Shape Note Singers, Parlor	18 6:00 pm—Alhonn, Parlor, Mens Big Book Study, Com. Rm. 7:00 pm—AA, Classroom Council meets	19	20	21 12:00 noon—Bible Study 6:15 pm—Union Church Choir	22 9:00 am—Woman's Industrial 6:00 pm—Music Vespers 7:00 pm—Shake Your Soul	23
24 Palm Sunday See page 10 for Holy Week activities and services	25 6:00 pm—Alhonn, Parlor, Mens Big Book Study, Com. Rm. 7:00 pm—AA, Classroom	26	27 • ring with the Handball	28 12:00 noon—Bible Study 6:15 pm—Choir 7:30 pm—Maundy Thursday Service	29 9:00 am—W I 12:15—Good Friday service 6:00 pm—Music Vespers 7:00 pm—Shake Your Soul	30
31 Easter Sunday			Every weekday at 8:00 am—Zen Meditation in Cowan Chapel, all welcome			

## Holy Week events and services at Union Church

**Palm Sunday, March 24** 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. At Union we take up the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering on Palm Sunday.

**Maundy Thursday, March 28 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 retell 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, March 29**, a service is offered by the Berea Ministerial Association at 12:15, Union Church sanctuary. This midday worship service recounts Jesus' last hours.

**Holy Saturday, March 30, 9:00 am** Gather with Pastor Kent 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, March 31** Sunrise Service, Berea Cemetery (rain site—Berea United Methodist). 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. (call the office for the time as the date approaches—details not settled at press time).

**9:30 am** Easter Activities for kids, beginning in 101 and moving on to the Easter Egg Hunt!

**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 that long-ago time. This is a lovely time to invite guests, new neighbors, and any who've ever wondered what Union Church is about!



*Lilies for Easter* Would you like to dedicate Easter lilies in memory or in honor of loved ones this year?

You can bring your lilies to the hallway outside the office before noon Friday, March 29.

If you would like your dedication printed in the bulletin, please call, email, or leave a note in the office by noon, Thursday, March 28 - please note that the florists deliver only, they don't inform the office of dedications.

*Treats for Easter Egg Hunt* Oh **grown-ups** ...please bring plastic eggs and little wrapped goodies to the church office for the EGG HUNT.

## From the Pastor

### "Get Thee To A Nunnery..."

Inspired by lecturer Joan Chittister a few of us at Union Church have founded a monastery as part of our Lenten journey. It's not a Roman Catholic one, nor does it have any walls, and it isn't even really in one place. You also don't have to shave your head, wear a wimple, or give up all worldly possessions and relationships. This is a monastery of the heart, one in which we are experimenting with the idea that we can come close to God by coming close to our commitment to community and a commitment to community needs. We don't need walls. We're discovering it is more a matter of will.

I read an interesting article recently on the topic of will, and will power. It seem that in humans, at least, there is something of a limited supply. If we engage our faculties toward some goal or challenge, it depletes our store of will power making somewhat less available for resisting other temptations or for taking up other challenges.

Benedictine spirituality, the traditional monastic movement upon which our union church experiment is based, affirms that with only so much time and will power, we might want to choose more carefully what we put our energy towards. It is not that monks or nuns chose to *absent* themselves from the responsibilities of the world. Rather they choose to direct their energy *toward* those responsibilities more consciously and more conscientiously.

So instead of bypassing the care of others, Benedict recommended that the care of others ought to be the focus of our will. Rather than using all our willpower for the increase of personal gains, a monastery of the heart provides communal support for aligning our willpower with the will of God.

Our little group has so far only committed to a few things: a few moments of prayer, three times a day, and to look for ways we might serve our friends, our church, our families with authentic contributions of time and skill. The prayer, however, is that "the ear of our heart might be open." Deceptively simple, and an incredibly powerful ally in just asking: to what should I

be dedicating this minute of my living? Where should I best focus my limited, human will power?

Just asking the question for me has already begun to change how I experience my day. When I pray by name for others in the group and all of you in the church, asking that the ears of our hearts be open is tantamount to asking that we pay attention to God and receive God's attention to us. It is a way of asking "am I sorting my tasks with an ear toward the divine? How could I do that more and better? What do hope to hear?"

These questions do not require a change of religion or a cloister. They require me to use my will to seek God' will, to use my love to seek God's love. As we travel through this next month to Easter morning, I hope that whatever you have set your willpower toward is nourishing you with similar questions. If so, you, too may be well on your way to joining this monastery, too. With no wall, there's always room. And where there is a will, there is a way. Believe.

*Rev. Kent*

(Continued from page 1)

### Youth! Attend Sunday School at a Coffee Shop

9:30 am Sundays, Meet at Church to walk to Berea Coffee & Tea. For youth in grades 6-12, we will study the intersection of the gospel, commitment, and caffeine! Questions: 859-353-7594 or [alveraelisabeth@yahoo.com](mailto:alveraelisabeth@yahoo.com)

Other ways to challenge your spirit! Call or write the church office for details:

- \* Zen Meditation, M-F at 8:30am
- \* Bible Study on Thursday at noon or Wed at 6:30

- \* Handbell Choir
- \* Church Choir
- \* Sing Shape Notes
- \* Acolyte
- \* Greeting and Ushering
- \* Assisting in Children's Church, Sunday School, or on Wednesday Nights
- \* Wash dishes after Wednesday Night Live or Lenten Lunches
- \* Play an instrument in worship
- \* Volunteer with the food bank
- \* Volunteer with hospice

## The Pursuit of Not-Busy-ness

As I write, I am three weeks into my Lenten commitment of Giving Up Busyness. When I realized how many amazing things we were able to offer for Lent, and how I didn't feel like I had time for any of them, I decided that this was the commitment for me. As it turns out, it is far less about not having enough time for things as it is about the perception of time, the sense that the world is controlling me, rather than me seeking God's direction for my priorities.

Busyness is our cultural addiction – it's both a false sign of status and a way to avoid meaningful interactions and productive work. I am certainly an addict to busyness. Its root is similar to many other addictions –

fear that what I have is not enough. It is an act of faith to believe that what we have is enough, and that God will provide what we need.

The changes so far have been subtle, but potent. I've been starting with baby steps. When I am starting to freak out about not having enough time for something, I've been pausing and saying, "Wait! You're *not* busy! You just have to decide if this is one of your priorities!" The relief has been instantaneous (even if it only lasts until my next freakout!). Being not busy, I hope, will lead to me being more direct, less rude, and generally more grounded. Right now, it only happens for about 30 seconds each hour, but I do see progress! After all, it started out with about 5 seconds per day!

And that's what Lent is all about, I think – taking small but significant steps toward growth and change,

finding our winding ways slowly closer to God.

Halfway through Lent, how are your commitments going? What changes are you seeing? If you're not doing something specifically for Lent, how are your other commitments to self-love going?

I encourage you, though it might indeed take some courage, to talk with each other, and to ask how it's going. You might just find the inspiration you need to keep walking forward in this Lenten wilderness! And if you're still looking for something, check out the front page for Lenten opportunities!

Lenten blessings of growth in whatever size spurts may come,

Rachel



## Healing Through Art Retreat – How You Can Help!

Art has the capacity to help us delve deeper into areas of healing that sometimes words cannot. The act of creating somehow connects us to our Creator, and insights can break forth in us in ways we did not expect. We invite you to join us for an experience of touching that grace.

Our retreat will take place on Friday evening and Saturday (March 15 & 16), with ample time for sharing (or not, as you choose!), eating together, and creating together. We will have people present who can support you both artistically and emotionally, all in a low-pressure and loving environment.

Our theme will be the triptych, a millennium-old symbol of the Trinity (Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit), and one that can provide as many variations as there are artists.

We're asking for a materials contribution of \$20, but don't let that stop you from joining us if you can't afford

it. We'll meet on Friday evening for dinner, reflections, and materials gathering, and then spend Saturday creating.

Please RSVP to Rev. Rachel at [rsmallstokes@union-church.org](mailto:rsmallstokes@union-church.org) or call the church office.

We are also looking for the following donations, which can be submitted up until the time of the retreat, but the sooner the better! Just bring them to Rev. Rachel in the Church Office:

- ✓ Volunteers to cut plywood into triptychs
- ✓ Old magazines and other collage materials
- ✓ Other art supplies that we can have, or borrow and return
- ✓ Old hymnals, bibles, etc.
- ✓ Fabric scraps and other fiber materials
- ✓ Old crayons

Thank you!

Rev. Rachel Small Stokes and Michelle Hayden, organizers

## Prisoners are People

by Willie Dodson

I've recently begun correspondences with two men who are incarcerated at Red Onion State Prison in southwestern Virginia. In each case, my new friends initiated the contact having heard by way of organizers with the Central Appalachian Prisoner Support Network (CAPSN) that Union Church as well as several departments and campus centers at Berea College had contributed money and other forms of support to facilitate contact between prisoners and their families.

Jacob Shouse and Kaysi (pronounced like, "K.C.") Canada are each serving long sentences for crimes about which I do not inquire. I don't ask because, regardless of what actions in their past landed them in prison today, I do not believe that they have forfeited their humanity. Nor do I trust that the law enforcement and judicial mechanisms which deemed these men to be criminal elements are necessarily legitimate.

It is well-documented that poor people, especially poor people of color, are far more likely to be targeted and prosecuted by law enforcement and the courts than are white folks. According to the 2010 census, there are about 6 times as many black people as there are white people in U.S. prisons. This has little to do with who is committing crimes, and has quite a lot to do with the so-called war on drugs, which disproportionately targets young, black men even though the Federal Department of Health and Human Services reports roughly-equivalent

levels of drug use among white and black populations.

In this column, I am less interested in articulating the invalidity of the prison system and more interested in simply making a space for my buddies, Jacob and Kaysi to speak their minds from within the walls of Red Onion. I do so in the hopes that their voices will in some small way break down the pervasive assumption that incarcerated individuals are somehow something less than fathers, mothers, sons, daughters and friends.

In a letter I received from Kaysi on February 14th, he explained the goals that guide his life behind bars...

"My objective is to further political consciousness and alliances with people who have a sincere desire to help change the clandestine abuse, torture, and oppression that's happening inside these plantations. I realize this is an immense task, simply because there's an immense misconception about prisoners that society has been taught – which is that prisoners aren't nothing but users, liars, rapists, child molesters, heartless murderers etc. – a strategy to discourage society from supporting prisoners. I'm not saying that there isn't a percentage of prisoners that meet these above-mentioned characteristics. However, they do not define the entire plantation population. There are a lot of prisoners, such as myself, who are very contrite for their crimes and who have been self-rehabilitated."

If you take issue with Kaysi's characterization of prisons as plantations, I would like to draw your attention to the fact that the 13th amendment to the U.S. constitution did not in fact end slavery in the United States, but rather quarantined that repulsive custom to our ever-

growing and increasingly profit-driven prison system.

At the conclusion of his letter, Kaysi offered an expression of gratitude for the friends and strangers whose empathy and financial contributions have served to bridge the gaps that separate incarcerated individuals from their families, friends, and broader support systems on the outside...

"Your sacrifices and contributions are immensely appreciated. You guys have no concept of how much y'all's sacrifices mean to us. The world is a better place with people like you in it. Always remember that in the struggle, there's no progress without sacrifice."

In the most recent letter I received from Jacob, he began with a similar outpouring of thanks before imploring me to study past movements for change in order to better understand the current contexts in which folks struggle for justice, both within and beyond prison walls. He then spoke of the values and virtues at the heart of such work. I'll conclude this column by conveying this message to you, the reader...

"All our struggles are 90% past and 10% present. If we love – no, LOVE – our fellow humyns with pure heart and present 100% integrity, we can become in touch with that lost or jaded compassion and respect that is forgotten by so many. It is possible if we seize the time and take control of the power that is rightfully ours."

*Editor's note: "Humyn" as it appears above is not a typo, but an alternate spelling of "human," generally intended to remove the masculine root, "man" and to serve as a more gender-inclusive term to describe all people.*



# Hospitality at Union Church from the Worship Board

Do you like to intentionally greet old friends on Sunday mornings?

How about meeting the new folks who walk through our door...getting their names, asking if they need assistance, introducing them to another with whom to sit, and inviting them to share the after worship service time and connecting with a group of friendly folks.... making sure they feel "at home" but not intruded upon?

Beginning this month, in conjunction with Community Life and Growth, Worship Board is recruiting a Worship Team which will serve for a month. These folks will greet members and make a special welcome to visitors and guests as well as assist with the offering, and help serve communion when needed. The "nitty gritty" of set up will still be attended to be the Worship Board members, but YOU will be the primary means by which folks meet and greet each other.

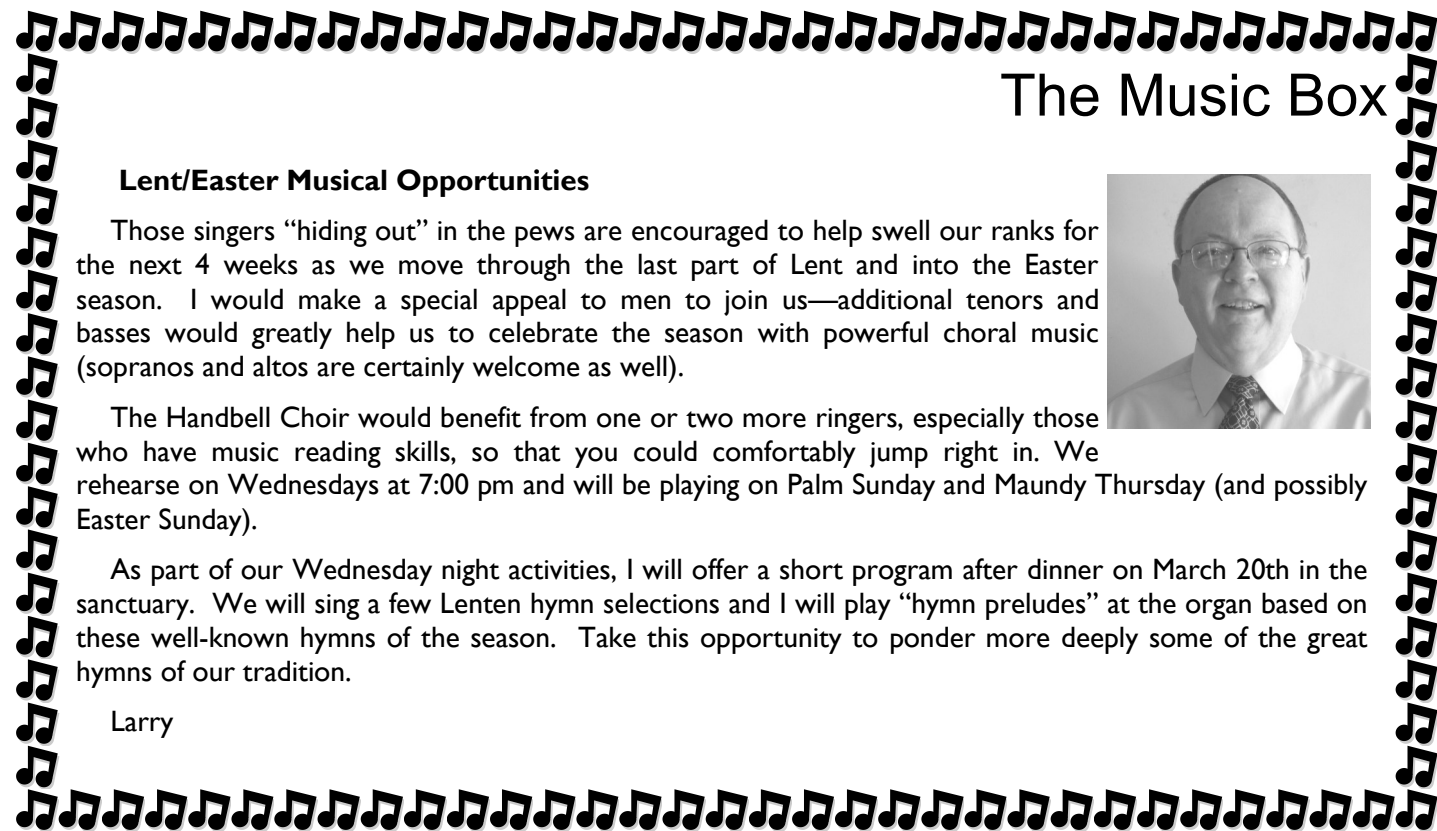
Because there will be a different "protocol" to the task, Rev. Rachel and others will be offering an orientation the last Sunday of each month for the ones who will serve the following month.

PLEASE find the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the back of the Sanctuary for this very important task...While we would like a four week commitment, if you are unable to do so, consider filling as many of those Sundays as you can and sign up. There is also a line if you are willing to be a sub.



Help fulfill our commitment to extravagant welcome and generous hospitality so that we might continue to build up the "beloved body of Christ" known as Union Church and share the Good News of what God is doing in this place. It can be a God-send for those seeking such a place.

Thank you so much,  
Carla Gilbert, Chair



## The Music Box

### Lent/Easter Musical Opportunities

Those singers "hiding out" in the pews are encouraged to help swell our ranks for the next 4 weeks as we move through the last part of Lent and into the Easter season. I would make a special appeal to men to join us—additional tenors and basses would greatly help us to celebrate the season with powerful choral music (sopranos and altos are certainly welcome as well).



The Handbell Choir would benefit from one or two more ringers, especially those who have music reading skills, so that you could comfortably jump right in. We rehearse on Wednesdays at 7:00 pm and will be playing on Palm Sunday and Maundy Thursday (and possibly Easter Sunday).

As part of our Wednesday night activities, I will offer a short program after dinner on March 20th in the sanctuary. We will sing a few Lenten hymn selections and I will play "hymn preludes" at the organ based on these well-known hymns of the season. Take this opportunity to ponder more deeply some of the great hymns of our tradition.

Larry

# Greetings from the Faith Development Board

First off, we want to thank everyone who has helped with the process of unpacking and moving back in to the Sunday School rooms. What a great team effort and everything looks wonderful. A good start to a great year of faith development, and what a blessing it is to be back in our own space.

A beautiful Ash Wednesday service kicked off our Lent season and Union Church has dozens of ways to explore this spiritual time in the life of the church. The community life and growth board, the faith development board along with Rev. Rachael have collaborated to come up with this year's lent program, 40 Days: a Lenten Challenge. Everyone on our mailing list should have received a pamphlet

outlining this program with all the different opportunities and a calendar of events. We encourage everyone to participate in at least one of these new opportunities whether it be a one time event or an ongoing class. The season of lent isn't just about giving things up but can also be a great time to take on something new. We hope you're up for the challenge!

Also for the season of Lent, the youth will be having a special Sunday School program that will take place at Berea Coffee and Tea every Sunday of the season at 9:30 am. Our intrepid youth Sunday school leader Alvera Perman is taking on the gospel, commitment and caffeine. This should make for some very active discussion!

Please bring plastic eggs and little wrapped goodies to the church office for the **EGG HUNT** on Easter morning (small stickers, erasers and toys as well as candy).

Peace to you all and have a wonderful Lent season.

## News from Youth

March 15th-16th youth are invited to participate in an overnight retreat to be held at a cabin on Dale's Hollow Lake. During this retreat, youth will start to look at a book called "Manna and Mercy". [www.mannaandmercy.org](http://www.mannaandmercy.org) describes the book as "a 100-page hand-printed paraphrase of the bible, from Genesis to Revelation -- a graphic novel of sorts, written with imagination, clarity, humor, and cartoons.



Built around the twin themes of food sharing and forgiveness, it helps us to look at scripture with new eyes and rediscover how it can become a means of life and grace rather than destruction and death." Feel free to go to the website to find out more about this exciting resource. To get a good idea of the basic ideas, watch the introduction video available on the website.

Parents are invited to join their youth in this experience by reading "Manna and Mercy" with their youth (extra copies have been purchased for parents). Also, if there is interest, parents may have their own discussion of the themes presented while their teen participates in youth group

Chris and Grace McKenzie

## Bible Reading for March

### March 3

Isaiah 55:1-9  
Psalm 63:1-8  
1 Corinthians 10:1-13  
Luke 13:1-9

### March 10

Joshua 5:9-12  
Psalm 32  
2 Corinthians 5:16-21  
Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

### March 17

Isaiah 43:16-21  
Psalm 126  
Philippians 3:4b-14  
John 12:1-8

### March 24

Luke 19:28-40  
Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29  
Isaiah 50:4-9a  
Psalm 31:9-16  
Philippians 2:5-11

### March 31

Acts 10:34-43  
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24  
1 Corinthians 15: 19-26  
John 20:1-18



## Ten Things You Need to Know This Month!

1. No matter how chaotic your life is or how you feel about it, God's grace is reaching even now to hold and heal. Believe.
2. The Annual Meeting will take place after a St. Patrick's Day lunch on Sunday, March 17. Important things to consider (with joy and faith) are our budget deficit, election of new officers, special projects from boards, and an update on our constitution revision.
3. Our construction expenses have all come in either slightly under or right at budgeted numbers. Shirley Carlberg (treasurer) reports we'll need to borrow considerably less than thought to complete the projects.
4. David Saladino has been commissioned to recreate our memorial garden with a generous anonymous gift and the help of many church gardeners and friends. Bill Stolte is overseeing the project.
5. The Lenten Experience Groups are going very well. There's still time to take part in any and all.
6. One Great Hour of Sharing is our yearly Special Offering for World Disaster Relief and Sustainable development around the world. The offering will be taken March 17!
7. Rev. Kent will be going on sabbatical for 4 months in the last quarter of 2013. He is formulating plans now. Our pastors receive 3 months of leave after every 5 years of service, to which they may add some vacation and study leave time.
8. Erik Reinhart, our faithful custodian, is concluding his service with us as of March 2. We will miss him dearly and wish him well!!
9. The Stewardship and Finance Board reports that our income is holding steady, and our expenses are at or below expected costs. We are striving to find an additional \$47,000 for the year to balance our income with our needs.
10. Over 30 different Lenten projects, experiences, prayer and study groups are going strong. You can deepen your spirit in many, many ways and in good company. Many groups will continue beyond Lent, but all are invited to partake.

## Caregiver Connection Series

### Helping Your Loved One Complete the Journey

This series offers information about later stage Alzheimer's disease and caregiving and provides an opportunity to gain a new perspective on caring for a loved one that is nearing the end of their journey. Local experts specializing in aging and Alzheimer's care will present topics on a weekly basis.

Speakers include Dr. Greg Cooper, April Stauffer, Sarah Groppo-Lawless, Sharon Wallace, Marie Smart, Shari Beth Daley, Leigh Ann Foster, and Linda Blair. Family caregivers can attend all sessions, or choose only

those of personal interest. This series includes a light lunch compliments of Baptist Neurology Center. This program is not open to professionals.

April 15: Preparing for Changes & Relating to the Person in the Late Stages

April 22: Feeding & Nutritional Challenges

April 29: Keeping Your Loved One Safe

May 6: Strength for Caring

All programs are at the **Lexington Public Library, Beaumont Branch** located at **3080 Fieldstone Way** and will take place from **11:30am-1:00pm**.

**Registration is required.** Please call 1-800-272-3900 or e-mail [infoky-in@alz.org](mailto:infoky-in@alz.org). This program is sponsored by the Alzheimer's Association, Baptist Health Lexington, and Baptist Neurology Center.

## From the Church Administrator

**Construction Update** – We are nearly done with the construction work! There are still a few items on the punch list and those will be finished as soon as back ordered materials are in stock. I will guess that we are 90% moved back into all our spaces.

The office classroom (old 204) has been a staging area for boxes but today this space was made ready for a group to use in early March!

Thanks to the wonderful group of volunteers that assist each Tuesday morning. If you have the time, please consider coming by to enjoy the company of other church folk and help us complete our move into the church and take on small projects. This group starts around 8:30 a.m. and are done by Noon. Feel free to come by to help out.

**Erik Reinhart** – In late January Erik began discussions with staff and board members about his plans to transition from work at the church.

In a letter from Erik dated February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2013 he says, "2013

appears to be a year of transition for me. My choices will take me away from my work at Union Church and most likely include a move out of state. . . . I thank Union Church for the opportunity to serve these past five years. It is my deepest hope that the services provided helped to bring life to the congregation just as I have received support and life." Erik's last day will be March 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Erik will be missed by us all! His attention to detail, knowledge of the special needs of the church, and care for our each of the groups is something we all appreciate.

Erik, you have brought your life and spirit to this place and for this we are forever grateful. Blessings on you and your plans as you step out in faith on new journeys.

**Administration Board** – With the news of Erik's departure, I have worked primarily with the Administration Board to develop a strategy for getting the cleaning work done.

After talking to individuals and cleaning services we have decided to enter into a 3 month contract with Corvus Janitorial to provide weekly cleaning services. As we evaluate the services they provide us, I would appreciate your input.

We will need to be attentive to cleaning up after our meetings and worship and are asking that we all help with this. A good example for us is the way Wednesday Night Live has begun the new year by not hiring folks to clean our dishes, but instead asking for 4 volunteers to agree to help before the meal is blessed.

We are working on systems to let folks know where cleaning equipment is to make it easier for you.

Grace & Peace,

Dave



## Financial Corner

Last month we highlighted our work to make it possible for members and friends of Union Church to loan the church money to cover some or all of our renovation costs. Since then we have begun working with Steve Connelly on the promissory note and policies we will use to guide the church in receiving money.

Lastly, we will have all the work looked over by a CPA, Steve Connelly, Stewardship & Finance Board and Church Council. We hope that in April we'll be ready to share the promissory note and policies with all who are interested in assisting the church in this way.

If you are interested in learning more about this opportunity as details become available, please contact Dave Kobersmith at [davek@union-church.org](mailto:davek@union-church.org) or call the church office.