



The Rock

"Then Samuel took a stone and set it up between Mizpah and Shen. He named it Ebenezer, saying, 'Thus far has the Lord helped us.'"

1 Samuel 7:12

The Lenten Season *by Karen Slusser*

¹"Be careful not to do your 'acts of righteousness' before men, to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven. ²"So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. ³But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. ⁵"And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. ⁶But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you..."

¹⁶"When you fast, do not look somber as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show men they are fasting. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. ¹⁷But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, ¹⁸so that it will not be obvious to men that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen; and your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. ¹⁹"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

(Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21)

By the time you are reading this, the Lenten season will have started. Typically, this season is a time when many seek a deeper, personal relationship with Jesus Christ. The scripture above comes directly from Jesus as he taught his disciples in what is now known as the Sermon on the Mount. Christ's words are just as relevant for us as his disciples.

First, we have to be careful that we are not doing the right things for the wrong reasons. When we do righteous acts, we need to be sure that we are not doing them for our own recognition. The scripture says that our giving should be in secret. If the results of what we have done can be seen by others, our hope should be that God will be glorified and not us.

Second, when we pray, we are not to pray so that everyone can see and hear us. We are to go into our rooms, close the door, and pray to our Father. Prayer should come from our hearts. Talk to God as a friend, one-on-one. Third, when we fast, we are to keep it between ourselves and God. If we are sincere in seeking to know God in a deeper experience, we want to attract God's attention, not the attention of others.

Finally, we are not to store up treasures on earth, for they will not last forever. We need to store up treasures in heaven, where our treasures will last forever. Use this Lenten season to practice the above items. In doing so, may your relationship to Christ grow ever stronger. Amen.

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Stewardship Committee

- ♦ Susan Knorr
Pastor
- ♦ Karen Slusser
Lay Leader
Membership Secretary
- ♦ Kent Slusser
Treasurer
- ♦ Carol Wall
Assistant Treasurer
Missions Coordinator
- ♦ Janet Naugle
Financial Secretary

A Moment with Pastor Susan

Well, Joe Snedeker says that spring is just a few days away, however, from the cold air and the snow showers flying, I am not so sure about that. I am so glad that I do not have to be in charge of when spring gets here, God is in charge of that. We do have a good laugh and claim that all this snow is because of some snow dancing that Sylvia and I do, but the bottom line is that no matter how well we dance, God is in charge of this too. There are many things in life that I do not have to be in charge of, I can turn them over to God and let Him take care of it, because frankly, He is so much better at being in charge than I am. That is what God wants us to do, He wants us to turn it over to Him and let Him take care of us. My prayer for you as you read this, is that if there is anything that you are struggling with, I pray that you will turn it over to God and let Him do what He does best, be God.

Blessings to you and yours,

Pastor Susan

Youth Fellowship

The Youth Fellowship will hold a Game Night on **Saturday March 14 @ 6 PM to 8:30 PM**. If you have any games you would like to play, please bring them. Invite your friends! Food will be provided.



The Youth Fellowship will meet on **Good Friday, April 10 @ 10 AM** to color Easter Eggs for the Egg Hunt.



Mark your calendars and start cleaning out your closets! **Saturday, May 30** we will hold our yard sale. Reserve a table for \$15.00.

Upcoming Special Offerings

- ✝ March 22, **One Great Hour of Sharing** - This special offering enables UMCOR to keep its promise that 100 percent of your designated gifts goes entirely to specific causes. One Great Hour of Sharing means UMCOR will provide hands-on care for persons caught in the effects of storms, war, disaster and disease. Often UMCOR is the first to arrive on the scene and the last to leave. UMCOR's ministry is all over God's wonderful world.
- ✝ April 26, **Native American Ministries** - These gifts fund urban ministries with Native Americans, provide scholarships for Native Americans attending United Methodist and other approved seminaries, and develop and nurture conference-based Native American ministries.
- ✝ May 10, **Golden Cross** - Benefits the Benevolent Homes

Easter Services



Please join us for our "Easter Celebrations"

Saturday, April 11

10:00 AM - **Easter Egg Hunt**

Sunday, April 12

6:00 AM - **Sunrise Service**, Karen Slusser - Speaker, assisted by the Youth

7:00 AM - **Breakfast**, prepared by the Youth

Offerings* & Ministry Expenses

December

Offerings: \$5,359.02

Expenses: \$7,363.70

January

Offerings: \$3,802.00

Expenses: \$3,644.24

February

Offerings: \$4,236.56

Expenses: \$3,558.02

* Does not reflect special offerings for Building Fund or Memorial Fund

Missions Update

Brighter Christmas Fund

Are you taking part in Brighter Christmas 2009? As of Sunday, February 22, you should have set aside ten dollars. **Envelopes are still available in the church vestibule.**

**Next Mission Sundays
March 29 & May 31**

Calendar of Events

All events at Ebenezer unless otherwise noted.

MARCH

- Sunday, **March 1** - Special Missions Envelopes
- Sunday, **March 8** - Food Bank Sunday
- Sunday, **March 15 @ 10 AM** - Orangeville Nursing & Rehab Center
- Sunday, **March 22** - One Great Hour of Sharing Offering
- Sunday, **March 29** - Mission Sunday
- Sunday, **March 29** - Fellowship After Worship

APRIL

- Sunday, **April 5** - Special Missions Envelopes
- Thursday, **April 9 @ 7 PM** - Maundy Thursday Service, Cantata & Communion
- Friday, **April 10 @ 7 PM** - Good Friday Service at Summerhill
- Saturday, **April 11 @ 10 AM** - Easter Egg Hunt
- Sunday, **April 12 @ 6 AM** - Sunrise Service/Breakfast
- Sunday, **April 12** - Food Bank Sunday
- Tuesday, **April 14 @ 6:30 PM** - Trustees Meeting
- Sunday, **April 26** - Building Fund Sunday
- Sunday, **April 26** - Native American Awareness Offering
- Sunday, **April 26** - Fellowship After Worship
- Sunday, **April 26 @ 10 AM** - Orangeville Nursing & Rehab Center

MAY

- Sunday, **May 3** - Special Missions Envelopes
- Monday, **May 4 @ 6 PM** - Administrative Board
- Sunday, **May 10** - Food Bank Sunday
- Sunday, **May 10** - Golden Cross Offering
- Saturday, **May 30 @ 8 AM** - ? - Yard Sale
- Sunday, **May 31** - Mission Sunday
- Sunday, **May 31** - Fellowship After Worship

Every Sunday: Worship 8:30—Sunday School 9:45

Remember Daylight Savings Time begins **Sunday, March 8.**

Do not forget to set your clocks ahead one hour before going to bed! **You would not want to miss Church!**



**Do you have items for the
Spring Issue of "The Rock"
DEADLINE: May 24, 2009**

**Ebenezer United
Methodist Church**

Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

687 State Route 93
Berwick, PA 18603



Birthdays

3/9 Betty Williams
3/16 Melonie Naugle
3/20 Katelyn Slusser
3/24 Katie Knorr
3/24 Douglas Slusser
4/2 Bart Gunther
4/11 Gene Powlus
4/15 Tami Wenner
4/15 Earl Dohl
4/23 Jacob O'Neil
5/6 Dale Whitenight
5/7 Joe O'Neil
5/8 Diane Whitenight
5/14 Sylvia Powlus
5/17 Jared Oman
5/18 Doyle Shetterly
5/21 Mavis Heller

5/22 Kent Slusser
5/22 Kurt Slusser
5/24 Mary Shelhamer
5/26 Janet Slusser
5/27 Susan Knorr
5/31 Iris Eckroth

Anniversaries

Ed and Susan Knorr 3/3/1984
Doug and Gena Slusser 5/25/1985

Prayer List

Kermit Heller
Rev. Charles Hess
Mary Gaye Kline
Lorraine Kreischer
Arlene Shaffer
William Slusser
Pastor and Leaders of Columbia
Circuit

***Is your birthday/anniversary
incorrect or missing?***

Let Us Know!