

Buffalo Hart Newsletter
February – May, 2010

A Sense of Place

Saturday, March 27, 2-4 p.m.

It was last October when the church was filled with people interested in the geology of our area. The second in our series, “A Sense of Place” will be held on Saturday, March 27, from 2-4, at the church.

Dr. Michael Wiant, the Director of Dickson Mounds Museum, will present information about the Native American history of Buffalo Hart and Lake Fork areas.

If you have Native American artifacts in your possession Dr. Wiant will be available at 1:00 to provide comments and identification.

Be thinking of places where fliers might be posted and help us get the word out about this educational event.

Make sure to mark September 4th and 5th on your calendars. That will be the concluding weekend of this historical series. The Saturday event will focus on early 19th century settlers. We will celebrate a Church Homecoming on Sunday with a special worship service and a potluck following.

A Message from Mary:

I was able to save two thousand dollars before I entered seminary in 1975. During the first semester I developed issues with my teeth and the dentist informed me that I needed to invest \$1,500 in a new gold bridge. I'm convinced I still have that bridge because I FLOSS DAILY. It takes extra time, but I don't think about that for it is a non-negotiable daily exercise. There are other things that I know would make for good daily habits (like walking on the treadmill) but I whine and fuss and think up excuses and find other things to do with my time.

Here's where I'm going with this.....

The church offers Christians spiritual disciplines, not to add one more thing to our already busy lives, or to shame us, but to make our lives WORTH LIVING. Habits like Sabbath keeping, daily prayer, scripture reading and social justice activities. The Lenten series “The Bible and Spiritual Disciplines” is not only meant to get us thinking about good spiritual practices, but to cause us to commit ourselves to manageable, yet challenging, disciplines for our spiritual health and well being.

There will be two separate classes offered, one on Monday mornings and the other on Wednesday evenings. I believe that this is an opportunity that could actually transform our lives. And it's free.

“The Bible and Spiritual Disciplines”

A Six-week Lenten Study

Wednesday evening, 7:00 – 8:15, February 17, 24, March 3, 10, 17 and 24

Monday mornings, 10:00 – 11: 15, February 22, March 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29

Daily Lectionary Bible Reading Guide

The church has offered daily Bible reading guides that follow the 2010 lectionary. Several of the passages of the week are read during worship on Sunday and one of them is the focus of the sermon. Many in the congregation are reading these passages daily. Pick up a reading guide and use it to prepare for worship.

Working in the Name of Jesus:

--On the Fifth Sundays you are encouraged to bring non-perishable food items to church for a **local area food pantry**. In addition to the trunk loads of food items donated during 2009, the church also gave these pantries and the Central Illinois Food Bank a total of \$3, 850. Thanks for your generosity.

--May 30: Sherman's Good Shepherd Lutheran Food Pantry

--August 29: Mechanicsburg's Christian Church Food Pantry

--October 31: Riverton's St. James Catholic Church Food Pantry

--Several from our congregation are involved in providing a worship service with music and communion at **Mary Lou's Country Abode** on the last Sunday of the month.

Bud Donley, a resident of Mary Lou's, has been worshiping with us for several weeks. Please introduce yourself to him. Bud is a former long distance truck driver and is from the Pontiac area.

--Another Fifth Sunday ministry is the preparation and serving of supper to those staying at the **Helping Hands Homeless Shelter** in Springfield. The youth of the church are being asked to participate in this endeavor during the fifth Sundays of 2010.

--Our church responded to the recent **earthquake in Haiti** by immediately donating \$500 of church funds to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. Session also challenged the congregation to donate individual contributions for this cause, to be matched by Session up to an additional \$500. Currently, \$710 has been received, making the total from our church to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance for Haiti \$1710.

--Volunteers are always needed for the **Wednesday noon meal delivery** to two couples in our congregation. This effort is greatly appreciated.

Sunday School

It has been one year now since we have divided the children's Sunday School into two classes, readers and non-readers. Sixteen adults are currently serving as teachers, which means each one teaches every eighth Sunday. The Education Committee is seeking more volunteers. Speak to Gayle Jennings if you feel the call.

Mary Johnson, a veteran school teacher, is offering a short teachers' meeting following church on Sunday, March 7. She will present the theme of the materials for the next quarter and make suggestions for methods that work. All teachers, and those interested in exploring the possibility of teaching, are encouraged to attend the 15-20 minute meeting.

Women's Association

The Women's Association meets on the third Monday of the month, usually at the church, at 7:00. This year the study is "Joshua: A Journey of Faith."

- February 15: Hostess, Ellen Ingersoll
 Lesson One: Mary Jessup

- March 15: Hostess: Elaine Miller
 Lesson Two: Guyla Stevens

- April 19: Girls' Night Out
 Open to all women of the church
 It will be held at an area restaurant

- May 17: Hostess: Guyla Stevens
 Lesson Three: Ellen Ingersoll

The Women's Association is providing a collection box in the fellowship hall throughout 2010 for donations for Helping Hands Homeless Shelter. Here is the wish list. Your donations will be delivered on a regular basis.

Paper goods:

- Plates, cups, napkins, toilet paper, paper towels
- Coffee
- Deodorant (individual use size or spray type)
- Shampoo, shaving cream, razors
- Non-alcoholic mouth wash
- Feminine hygiene products
- Hand lotion
- Cleaning supplies
- Bleach, laundry soap (powder), Lysol Spray, dish detergent
- Garbage bags (all sizes)
- Toothpaste and toothbrushes
- Combs and brushes
- Socks
- Small mirrors
- Finger nail clippers
- Twin sheets, blankets, pillowcases, pillows
- Towels, washcloths, kitchen towels

White Xerox/ copy paper, colored (Variety)
Postal stamps
Scotch tape
Blank 4 x 6 index cards
White business size envelopes
Letter sized ruled tablets
Post-it notes
Manila folders

We Remember

It was on Christmas morning that Dwight Moody, long time member and Elder of our church, passed away. We continue to discover duties that Dwight quietly assumed without our knowledge. He is greatly missed.

Dwight's funeral was held at the church and a dinner was served in the fellowship hall following the burial in Mechanicsburg Cemetery.

The prayers of the church are with Mary and children Anita (Terry), Julie (Jeff) and Paul (Jenny) and the grandchildren.

2010 Session

The 2010 Session is comprised of the following Elders:

Ann Hughes (Clerk of Session), Karla Cosand, Bill Dragoo, John Hawkins, Mary Johnson, Mary Moody, Larry Young, and newly ordained Elders Chris Ley and Judy Shutt.

Session will meet following worship on the third Sunday of the month.

The 2010 Deacon body is comprised of:

Jim Johnson, Debbi Thompson and Barb Tucker

Doug Stevens continues to serve as church treasurer.

The Book Group

A group of readers continues to meet on the third Sunday afternoon of the month at the church at 4:00. A new title is chosen at the conclusion of each meeting. This group reaches beyond those who worship at our church. So encourage friends from the area to come and check out this group.

February 21: "Wednesday Letters" by Jason Wright

New books are being added to the church library each month. It is a great resource.

Maundy Thursday:

April 1 at 6 p.m.

We often read "...the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread..." This passage comes from I Corinthians 11 and is about the institution of the Lord's Supper. On Maundy Thursday we'll remember that night Jesus shared with his disciples.

In recent years we have met around the tables in a fellowship hall for a simple supper. We will do that again this year. The evening will include the meal, reflection on scripture and holy communion. There will be a sign-up sheet at the church.

Easter:

Easter morning at Buffalo Hart Presbyterian will begin with an 8:30 potluck breakfast. Prepare a breakfast item to share with others and begin the celebration of Easter with family and friends at the church.

Invite others to attend Easter worship with you this year.

Mother's Day, May 9
Blanket Sunday

You are invited:

The 90th birthday of Evelyn Theobald will be celebrated on Sunday afternoon, March 7, from 2 – 4 at the Montvale Retirement Home, 2601 Montvale Dr. in Springfield. All are welcome. No gifts please.

Vacation Bible School

July 25-29, 2010

6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Ages 3 and older

Theme: "Professions in the Bible"

This will be the tenth year we have had Vacation Bible School on the last full week in July. Mary Johnson will again serve as the director. Needed are students, teachers and helpers. The Education Committee (Mary Johnson, Judy Shutt, Gayle Jennings and Katie Zinn) is planning the event. Speak with one of them if you can help.

Parent and Children Event

Saturday, May 1 at 4:00

Richardson Club House

Scavenger Hunt and Supper

Parents with young children are invited to come to the Richardson Club House on May Day, May 1, at 4:00 for a scavenger hunt and supper. The Education Committee is planning the event. Details are forthcoming.

Upcoming Classes:

There has been a request for a class on “Varieties of Christianity” to be offered this summer.

There will be a confirmation class offered for junior high and high school youth this summer.

An invitation to participate in a church membership class is extended at all times. Speak with the pastor and she’ll find a mutually agreeable time for the course.

Upcoming Fellowship Events:

Sunday, February 14: **Valentine’s Potluck** following worship

Sunday, June 13: **Meals in Homes** following worship

Needed are volunteer hosts who will provide a simple meal in their homes. Needed as well are dinner guests to be in attendance.

Sunday, August 1: The **Vacation Bible School cook-out** and potluck following worship.

Saturday, October 23: **Wiener Roast** at the home of Doug and Guyla Stevens