



## Northminster GAIT

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Vol. XXXXII, No. 2

February 2008

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### **CHILDREN SEEK TO BE INVOLVED IN WORSHIP!**

*Submitted by Rev. Dr. Stacey D. Jones*

As promised last month, I am continuing on a series of articles about children and worship. This month I'd like to look at how children seek to be involved in worship.

Children may seem to learn at random. They absorb information and feelings through every sense. For adults who do not understand how children learn and process their experience of worship, it seems easier to reprimand children who interrupt, to scowl at them, or to grumble than to receive them joyfully and respectfully, to explain the service, to enable them to participate, and to include them in the worshipping congregation.

Children want to know what is acceptable, they want help to understand our expectations. Behavior "problems" of children may actually be clues that leaders are too verbal or too intellectual, even for adults in the congregation. Children whisper and wiggle and drop papers. They naturally act as if the congregation should be seen and heard in worship. Young children can, in fact, learn to act appropriately when their active participation is welcomed and guided in love.

When we respond to God's call and become part of the worshipping community, we may well decide to welcome children into congregational worship services. Jesus welcomed little children. Jesus directed his followers to become like little children. There is value both for children and adults in including children in worship services. Children can and do worship, and in worship, children can minister to the community

God commanded believers to lead children into faith. We cannot exactly teach faith, but we can teach about faith and provide experiences that encourage faith development. For young children, participation in worship can become an experience of the faith community. Our response to God's direction should be to welcome and enable children to participate in the congregation's worship experiences.

"Children bring special gifts to worship and grow in the faith through their regular inclusion and participation in the worship of the congregation. The session should ensure that regular programs of the church do not prevent children's full participation with the whole congregation in worship, in Word and Sacrament, on the Lord's Day." Book of Order W-3.1004.

Next month we'll take a look at what the Old Testament scriptures have to say about children and worship.

(In writing this article as well as the one on worship being caught, I used as a reference the book "Get Ready! Get Set! Worship!: A resource for including Children in worship for pastors, educators, parents, sessions, and committees. By S. Lou, J. Floyd Love, M. Meyers, and S. Washer copyright 1992 by Sharing Tree Publications & "Children in the worshipping community" by D. Ng and V. Thomas copyright 1981 John Knox Press)

## **WORSHIP IS CAUGHT, NOT TAUGHT**

*Submitted by Rev. Dr. Stacey D. Jones*

Worship is the central act of the gathered community of God. It is something the people of God do in response to God and God's acts of love on our behalf. Through worship people attend to the presence of God in their lives.

Worship is derived from the Anglo-Saxon "weorthscipe" or "worthy ship." To the Christian, it is a reverent response in thought, word, and deed to the supreme value of God's gift of Christ. Worship is central to our Christian faith. Worship is not for us, the people, but it is our service directed toward God through the words and actions of adoration, confession, thanksgiving, and commitment. Worship consists of each person's individual thoughts and actions, usually combined in a group experience. The central nature of worship does not change with the age of the person involved.

Carolyn Hardin Engelhardt, Director of the Paul Vieth Resource Center at Yale Divinity School, says that the reason worship is so important is that "One participates his or her way into the faith community. One is shaped by the liturgy in which one participates. One is shaped without necessarily knowing it and without necessarily being able to explain what is happening. No other aspect of the life of the congregation can provide this experience of being formed into the community of faith."

## **Presbyterian Women and the Presbyterian Hunger Program in Partnership Against Hunger**

*Submitted by Karen Thompson*

"Only 2¢ so everyone can participate, regardless of income. Those who have will give more, those who have little to give will have more." These were the words given to Rosellyn Calvert in Tutusville, FL, in November 1975. She and her family were praying for direction as they watched the starving people of Bangladesh on the national news on the TV. "We were shocked! We were living on \$1.00 a day for the three of us for food after a lay-off. The move and double house payments were absorbing our income. What could we do? The Lord said that 2¢ a day, regardless of race, color, or creed for 20 years would help. We could do that!"

The Calverts sent their small checks, along with an explanation of what they were doing in their family, to the Hunger Program office of the Presbyterian Church of the United States (PCUS) in Atlanta. In April of 1976, Mrs. Calvert presented the 2¢ offering plan to the Northeast Florida Spring Presbyterial and the offering was adopted. From that small beginning, the 2¢ A Meal idea has spread across the nation.

Rosellyn Calvert's idea was the basis for numerous hunger initiatives in presbyteries throughout the PC(USA) -- 2¢ A Meal, 4¢ A Meal, Nickels for Hunger, Pennies for Hunger, etc. As Mrs. Calvert has said, "We will never see world peace until we wipe out hunger. Let's stick with what we started, doing it from the heart, remembering we are doing it because of the love our Christ has given to each of us, and letting this hunger action come from within and go out into all the world."

The Deacons encourage everyone at Northminster to remember the less fortunate by setting aside just 2¢ each time we sit down to a meal. Then bring your pennies the second Sunday of each month for the Noisy Coin Offering so together we can make joyful noise!



## FELLOWSHIP TIME

February 6<sup>TH</sup> 6:00 PM

*Submitted by Jan Beall*

Join fellow NPC members and friends for a pasta dinner before the Ash Wednesday service. The Fellowship committee is responsible for the pasta dishes and NPC members A-M please bring bread or a salad, N-Z please bring a dessert. Table service will be provided. Hope to see you there.

-The Fellowship Committee

## Community Soup Supper

The First United Methodist Church is hosting a community soup supper on **Monday, February 4<sup>th</sup>, from 5-7 p.m.** in our church's fellowship to say "THANK YOU" to all the volunteers and contributors of "Food at First".

This year's Lenten season will kick-off the start of the 5<sup>th</sup> year of Food at First! We want to express gratitude to the Head Chefs, volunteers, and businesses who have contributed in some way to this meal ministry.

The "Mardi Gras" themed event will feature a menu of Lobster Gumbo or Garden Vegetable Soup with bread, choice of beverages, and a dessert smorgasbord!

Northminster Congregation is invited to join us in celebrating this blessing for our community!



## Where, oh where, did that bicycle go?

*Submitted by Karen Thompson*

Do you recall seeing a shiny, red bicycle under the church Christmas tree?

Where did it come from?

Where did it go?

As legend would have it, an anonymous member of our congregation **won** that shiny, red bike! And although he was pleased to receive it, he felt that someone else might be able to put it to better use. So it only seemed logical (and generous, we'd have to agree) to include it with the many other gifts Northminster families donated at Christmas.

The Deacons, knowing that Jan Beran had an "in" with the folks at Beyond Welfare, asked if she could assist in finding someone who would truly appreciate the bike. We knew she'd come through, and she did!

The shiny, red bike now belongs to an eleven-year-old who delivers newspapers as a way to help his family break free of poverty. Delivering papers is no easy chore any time of the year, and we doubt the bike is being used THIS month, but you can bet it will be put to good use as the weather warms up.

So keep an eye out – you might just see an eleven-year-old streaking down your street (maybe even delivering your newspaper) on that shiny, red bike next spring!

## February Open House at the Good Neighbor (GNEA) Office

*Submitted by MaryJo Larsen*

The Community Relations Committee will be host to an open house on **Feb. 28 from noon to 2pm and Feb. 29 from 4pm to 6pm at 508 Kellogg St. Ames**. You are invited to stop in, find what the initial interview is like, tour the facility, hear about some of the issues the board and directors are facing. Bring your questions and suggestions, have some refreshments and see what GNEA is all about.

## February Acolytes:

The upcoming schedule for candle lighters is as follows:

February 3 Brad and Lucas Johnson

February 10 Seth and Ben Rogers

February 17 Connor Olson and Ben Perrin

February 24 Caleb Rogers and Steven Lawrence

March 2 Emily Helmer & Andrea Daley

GREAT JOB EVERYONE!! THANKS FOR YOUR HELP



## Spring Sunday School Curriculum

Submitted by Rev. Dr. Stacey D. Jones

Have you ever said to yourself, “I’ve got no idea what they are teaching in our children’s Sunday School classroom”? If so, look no further. I’ve got our entire Spring curriculum lineup for you. At a quick glance you can talk with your child about what they learned in Sunday school or simply be a well informed church member by knowing what is being taught during that hour after worship. So that you do not have to hang on to this sheet, we will enclose the same information each month – about the month’s topics for Sunday School. Please know that your Christian Education committee is doing everything in their power to keep you informed about the Christian nurture of the children of NPC.

### Module 1 Jesus Last Days

March 2 Matthew 21:1-11

March 9 Matthew 26:17-30, 36-56

March 16 Matthew 26:57-75; 27:11-56

March 23 Luke 24:1-12

### Module 2 God’s Calling

March 30 John 10:1-18

April 6 John 2:13-22

April 13 Acts 9:1-9

April 20 Acts 9:10-22

April 27 Acts 9:23-25

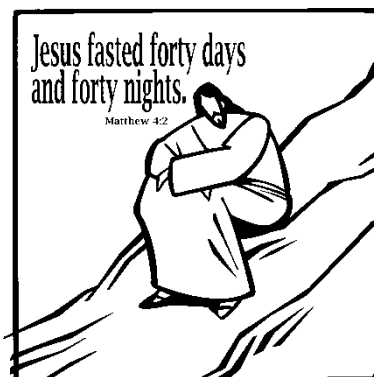
### Module 3 The First Christians

May 4 Acts 13:1-5

May 11 Acts 16:11-15

May 18 Acts 18:1-4, 18-28

May 25 Acts 27:13-44



## Happenings in February

February 3<sup>rd</sup>: Transfiguration of the Lord;  
Exod 24:12-18; psalm 2 or Psalm 99; 2 Peter  
1:16-21; Matt. 17:1-9

February 5<sup>th</sup>: Happy Birthday Marion Wallace!

February 10<sup>th</sup>: 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent; Gen. 2:15-  
17; 3:1-7; Psalm 32; Rom. 5:12-19; Matt. 4:1-11

February 17<sup>th</sup>: 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent: Gen. 12:1-  
4a; Psalm 121; Rom. 4:1-5, 13-17; John 3:1-17

February 18<sup>th</sup>: Happy Birthday Guy Helmer!

February 24<sup>th</sup>: 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent; Exod 17:1-  
7; psalm 95; Rom. 5:1-11; John 4:5-42

February 27<sup>th</sup>: Happy Birthday Charlotte  
Morrissey!

March 2<sup>nd</sup>: 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent; 1 Sam. 16:1-13;  
Psalm 23; Eph. 5:8-14; John 9:1-41

GAIT Deadline for **March** is Thursday,  
February 21<sup>st</sup>. Please e-mail your articles to  
[rpykp@msn.com](mailto:rpykp@msn.com) or put them in the GAIT  
editor's box next to the church office