



# Northminster GAIT

## Children and Worship in the Old Testament

*Pastor Stacey Jones*

In the Old Testament, worship was generally for adult males. However, there are references to the role of children and to the image of children. Children were to be involved with the entire community in learning about God's relationship with the people. Young children were involved in significant ministry. The praise of all peoples would result in the world coming to know and praise God.

The Old Testament called God's people to involve the entire family in learning. In Deuteronomy 21:12-13, as the Hebrews approached the Promised Land, Moses commanded the people to assemble. All were to gather, including women, children, and strangers, so they could learn about God's law. Moses said, "Their children, who do not know this law, must hear it and learn to fear the Lord your God as long as you live in the land you are crossing Jordan to possess."

Young children in Old Testament times were involved in significant ministry. For example, 1 Samuel 3 tells the story about the ministry of the boy, Samuel, before the Lord under the direction of Eli. 2 Kings 5 tells about a young slave girl who

suggested to Naaman's wife that if Naaman would see the prophet in Samaria, his leprosy would be cured. And 2 Chronicles 31 records that free-will offerings made to the Lord were distributed to the males, including males three years old, who would enter the temple of the Lord daily to perform their responsibilities.

The Psalmist emphasized that it would be the praise of God by all peoples that would cause God's ways to be known among all nations. The result of carrying out this duty would be that others then would come to know and praise God. (Ps. 67:1-3)

Writers and prophets of the Old Testament used the image of child or son to describe the relationship between God and God's people. This is a powerful metaphor that can draw out profound feelings and responses from those who hear it. "But I have stilled and quieted my soul; like a weaned child with its mother, like a weaned child is my soul within me" (Ps. 131:2). See also: Isaiah 9:6, 11:6-9, 66:12-13.

To describe someone as the son of someone else was to suggest that he belonged to that other person. Children illustrate these powerful metaphors. How will we be able to understand these images if the children are not with us?

Next month . . . Children and Worship in the New Testament.

## One Great Hour of Sharing

*Submitted by Jeff White*

Like many Presbyterians, I grew up with the annual offering called the One Great Hour of Sharing. Remember, as a kid, the paper banks that we loaded with pennies, nickels, and dimes? As a child, I only knew that we were giving money to help people.

Now, as an adult, I know the story of the offering. In 1949, a group of Christian leaders saw the devastation that remained after World War II. They recognized a responsibility to our brothers and sisters as well as an opportunity to witness to our God. They organized an hour-long, nationwide radio broadcast on the last Saturday evening in March in which well-know stars of the day highlighted the needs and invited people to give through their churches the next morning. The response from Christians across the nation was overwhelming, so the offering was held again the next year....and the next...and this year too.

Many Christian denominations support this offering, although it is called by different names. For example, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) calls its offering Week of Compassion. Each denomination decides how its gifts will be used, although each denomination also gives some of the gifts for shared ministry through Church World Service. For the last 10 years, the offering has received about \$20 million per year among the various Christian denominations.

The PCUSA gives roughly a third each to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Presbyterian Hunger program, and Self-Development of People. The PCUSA offering has received \$9 million -\$11 million for at least the last 20 years.

On Palm Sunday, March 16, please give generously to the One Great Hour of Sharing, an offering that is more than just a part of our Presbyterian tradition. Our gifts support a worldwide Christian system of assistance for disaster victims, the hungry, and the needy.

## Want to go South in Winter? Next winter?

*Submitted by Jan Beran*

Yes, there will be an opportunity next winter to go south. Plan to join the North Central Iowa Presbytery Mission Trip to Douglas, Arizona to participate in learning about the work of Frontera de Cristo US Border-Mexico Mission January 3-8, 2009.

Northminster applied for and received a grant from Presbytery for this wonderful opportunity to learn about the situation of people who live on both sides of the border. Joyce Garton-Natte of Fort Dodge and current NCI moderator wrote this about the experience she and her husband had with Frontera de Cristo, "Having been on nearly 25 other mission trips to many Latin American countries I can truthfully say that the Border Ministry trip was at the top." Costs for the week long experience will be quite low. It is anticipated that it will be in the range of \$125.00 to \$150.00 which will include food, lodging and transportation during the program. Each person is responsible for his/ her transportation to and from Douglas, Arizona. Some people might like to carpool. Others might want to make it part of a longer trip to the south. We hope that university students might want to be part of this during their winter break, snowbirds already in the area, and others who might want to have a new experience in a sunny clime and learn about the work of one of PC (USA) missions will be part of this unique opportunity.

Jan Beran, planning committee which includes Sandra McJimsey of Collegiate Presbyterian Church and Anne Volker of First Presbyterian Church, Boone.

## **GNEA Fundraiser**

*Submitted by Mary Jo Larsen*

March is proving to be a busy month. Along with Holy Week, Spring break, Easter and Game Night, NPC will be hosting a fundraiser for Good Neighbor Emergency Assistance. The NPC Outreach committee will be working with the Community Relations and Fundraising committees of the GNEA board.

The plans are to hold a spaghetti supper March 30th in the gathering space from 5:00-7:00. Special music will be provided by the Ames High Jazz Band. A free will offering will be collected to support the works of Good Neighbor.

Make NPC the place to be on March 30th. The building will be bustling because in the old sanctuary Fellowship Committee will be hosting a Game night. There should be time for both. Thank you.

## **Millennium Development Goals**

*Submitted by Karen Thompson*

In September 2000, the United States joined with 188 nations to affirm the Millennium Development Goals. The eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) – which range from halving extreme poverty to halting the spread of HIV/AIDS and providing universal primary education, all by the target date of 2015 – form a blueprint agreed to by all the world's countries and all the world's leading development institutions.

The eight MDGs are:

1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger by reducing by half the proportion of people living on less than a dollar a day and reducing by half the proportion of people who suffer from hunger.
2. Achieve universal primary education by ensuring that all boys and girls complete a full course of primary schooling.
3. Promote gender equality and empower women by eliminating gender disparity in primary and secondary education preferably by 2005, and at all levels by 2015.

4. Reduce child mortality by reducing by two thirds the mortality rate among children under five.
5. Improve maternal health by reducing by three quarters the maternal mortality ratio.
6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases by halting and beginning to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS.
7. Ensure environmental sustainability by integrating the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programs, reversing loss of environmental resources, reducing by half the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water, and achieving significant improvements in lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers by 2020.
8. Develop a global partnership for development.

While the Millennium Development Goals seem quite ambitious, the world IS financially and structurally capable of achieving them.

The ONE Campaign recently reported on two stories of progress in Africa:

In Rwanda, programs funded by American initiatives, including the President's Emergency Plan For AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), have helped to increase the number of people on lifesaving antiretrovirals by eight-fold from only 4,000 in 2003 to 34,000 in 2006. PEPFAR funding is also making possible a revolutionary new program called TRACnet that uses mobile phones and the web to help patients stay on their drug treatment plans and even track regional drug shortages.

In Zanzibar, an island off the coast of Tanzania, an aggressive partnership between the government of Tanzania, the Global Fund, USAID and the Presidential Malaria Initiative lets families sleep at night without worrying about being bit by deadly, malaria-carrying mosquitoes. Today, 90% of the people living in Zanzibar go to bed under insecticide-treated, anti-malaria bed nets in insecticide-sprayed homes. And, since 2003, the number of malaria cases there has dropped by 86%.

Unfortunately, the United Nations' 2007 Update on Africa notes that at the midway point between the adoption of the MDGs in 2000 and the 2015 target date to achieve them, sub-Saharan Africa is not on track to achieve any of the Goals. While there have been major gains in several areas and the Goals remain achievable in most African nations, even the best governed countries on the continent have not been able to make sufficient progress in reducing extreme poverty in its many forms.

So...there remains a lot to be done. Here are just a few websites where you can learn more or take action yourself:

- Official United Nations site – [www.un.org/millenniumgoals/](http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/)
- Excerpt from Jeffrey Sachs book, *The End of Poverty* -- [http://www.pcusa.org/hunger/downloads/feature\\_sachs.pdf](http://www.pcusa.org/hunger/downloads/feature_sachs.pdf).
- Bread for the World – [www.bread.org](http://www.bread.org)
- The One Campaign – [one.org](http://one.org)
- Presbyterian Hunger Program -- <http://www.pcusa.org/hunger/>
- Self-Development of People -- <http://www.pcusa.org/sdop/>

## World Day of Prayer, March 7<sup>th</sup>

World Day of Prayer unites Christians all around the world. Church Women United of Ames invites you to join other Ames Christians in a service of prayer "God's Wisdom Provides New Understanding" prepared by Women of Guyana. The event will be held at First Christian Church, 611 Clark Avenue and will begin with fellowship at 9:00 a.m. before the 9:30 worship service.

World Day of Prayer is a worldwide ecumenical movement of women of many faith traditions. Each year a different country serves as the writer of the worship service. This year it is women of Guyana in northern South America, the only English speaking country in that continent. A wonderful fellowship has developed around the fact that women all around the world are praying together on one day, all united together to work to promote God's work on this earth.

## Cents-Ability Update

January 13: \$123.40

February 10: \$105.33

Because this winter has been so harsh, and the effort to house and feed the homeless of Ames is under enormous pressure, the Deacons voted to send 100% of this quarter's collections to the Emergency Residence Project to use for food right away. Thank you for sharing!

March 9 will be the next Noisy Coin Sunday!

*Your cents, my cents,  
Put them all together,  
We can make our world  
A whole lot better.*

Deacons

## The Hunger Site

*Submitted by Karen Thompson*

Do you know about the "Hunger Site?" It is found at [www.thehungersite.com](http://www.thehungersite.com) and all you have to do is click once a day. It costs you nothing! Just visit the webpage, click on the button, and a corporate sponsor donates cups, pounds, or tons of food daily. (You may only click once a day.)

When you click, the site displays ads from store sponsors. 100% of the money from the advertisers go to charities that fund programs that offer food to the hungry. A portion of every purchase made from the Hunger Site Store also goes to support these charities.

This great use of the internet is also supported by the Presbyterian Hunger Program.

## March Accolytes

The upcoming schedule for candle lighters is as follows:

March 2 Emily Helmer & Andrea Daley

March 9 Tierney & Claire Rogers

March 16 Ben Sulzberger & Ben Perrin

March 30 Connor Olson & Andrea Daley

April 6 Steven & Natalie Lawrence

GREAT JOB EVERYONE!! THANKS FOR YOUR HELP.

## Wonderful Generosity

*Submitted by Jan Beran*

A couple of weeks ago I received a phone call from Dan Cronin, Ames Tribune Carrier Manager. He said he wanted to send a check for \$240.00 to the Networkers Presbyterian Women's project. What a delightful surprise! He explained that he had challenged his carriers to recruit some new subscribers and for each new subscriber he would donate \$10.00 to a worthy cause they would decide upon. A parent of one of his carriers said he donated to the Presbyterian Women Networkers project and so the group chose that. They had learned that for \$10.00 a bed net would be provided to expectant mothers or to a child. The nets are coated with mosquito repellent which repels malaria carrying mosquitoes. As Dan said, "Just to think we could save an infant's life with ten dollars is amazing". Everyday malaria kills 3000 children in Africa. Last year through the purchase of Networkers Mother's day cards, 10,000 mosquito nets were placed in the Democratic Republic of Congo and 10,000 in Malawi in addition to training of volunteers to bring

malaria prevention and God's word to 25,000 people in northern Malawi where the Presbyterian Church had been in mission for more than a hundred years.



- **GAME NIGHT!**
- **SUNDAY MARCH 30<sup>TH</sup> 5:00PM**
- **Jan Beall for the Fellowship Committee**
- **The annual NPC game night will soon be here. Put it on your calendar and join us for a night of playing your favorite games. Be sure and bring a friend! Bring one of your favorite board or card games. The Korean congregation has been invited to join us. Pizza, popcorn, drinks and cookies/bars will be provided. We will be in the old sanctuary and youth area.**

## Meet Your NPC Youth

*Submitted by Lori Sulzberger*

Now is your chance to become better acquainted with the dynamic children and youth of Northminster Presbyterian Church. Did you know our youth are involved in sports, drama, music, Girl Scouts, community service projects, mission trips, and more? Check out the bulletin board next to the east doors to meet your Noteworthy, Positive, Caring (NPC) children and youth. The display will change every few weeks, so stop by often.

## Vacation Bible School Scheduled

Submitted by Lori Sulzberger

Save the Date: Vacation Bible School is scheduled for the evenings of August 3 – 7, 2008. This year's curriculum is "Holyland Adventure: Jerusalem Marketplace", which immerses learners of all ages in Bible-times culture. The children will taste and smell new foods, explore new traditions, and discover new talents as they try their hand at arts and crafts projects. A church-wide potluck dinner will kick off the week's festivities. Volunteers are needed as teachers, shopkeepers, storytellers, music leaders, and more. Look for more information soon.

## Maundy Thursday

Our Maundy Thursday worship service will be a Tenebrae Service or Service of Lights. We will experience the last days of Christ on earth as a human being. This service is intended to prepare us for the celebration of Easter morning. I remember as a young seminary student I was doing my year long internship in Cedar Rapids and the church decided to have a Tenebrae Service. This was the first such worship service I had ever attended and I cannot begin to tell you what a difference it made in my life. Never before had I experienced the pain, sorrow, and depression of the final days of Jesus as I did that night. The emotions I experienced that night gave me an entirely new understanding of the joy of Easter Morning. I invite you to come have your heart and mind prepared for Easter by being part of our Tenebrae Service on Maundy Thursday.



## Spring Sunday School Curriculum

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

### 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

### Happenings in March

**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

**March 7<sup>th</sup>:** World Day of Prayer - Church Women United service at First Christian Church 9:30am .

**March 9<sup>th</sup>:** 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent; Ezek. 37:1-14; Psalm 130; Rom. 8:6-11, John 11:1-45

Noisy Coin Sunday

**March 16<sup>th</sup>:** Passion/Palm Sunday  
Matt. 21:1-11; Ps. 118:1-2, 19-29; Isa. 50:4-9a; Ps. 31:9-16; Phil. 2:5-11; Matt. 26:14-27:66

**March 23<sup>rd</sup>:** Easter  
Acts 10:34-43; Ps. 118:1-2, 14-24; Col. 3:1-4; John 20:1-18; Luke 24:13-49

**March 20<sup>th</sup>:** Maundy Thursday

Exod. 12:1-4 (5-10), 11-14; Ps. 116:1-2, 12-19; 1 Cor. 11:23-26; John 13:1-17, 31b-35

**March 21<sup>st</sup>:** Good Friday

Isa. 52:13-53:12; Ps. 22; Heb. 10:16-25; John 18:1-19:42



**March 30<sup>th</sup>:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:1-14a, 22-32; Psalm. 16;  
1 Peter 1:3-9; John 20:19-31

Regional Worship, 4pm First Presbyterian Church 703 Greene St. Boone, IA

Annual Game Night at NPC - 5pm in the Old Sanctuary and Youth area

GNEA spaghetti fund raiser at NPC 5pm-7pm in the gathering space

**March 31<sup>st</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup>.** Lombard Peace Institute Conflict Resolution Seminar - Curtis Malone is looking for volunteers to host people in their homes to supplement motels

## Church Cancellation Policy

We now have a church cancellation policy in effect. The decision to cancel church services will be made by the Pastor and Building & Grounds by 7:30 a.m. and the notice will be aired on KASI & KCCI.

## March Birthdays

2<sup>nd</sup> Jacob Maffett  
8<sup>th</sup> Mike Meetz  
13<sup>th</sup> Holly Helmer  
16<sup>th</sup> Nick Johnson  
17<sup>th</sup> Marla Lepper  
19<sup>th</sup> Toby Larsen  
20<sup>th</sup> Caleb Rogers  
23<sup>rd</sup> Sue Wuhs  
Marty Behrens  
26<sup>th</sup> Logan Maffett  
27<sup>th</sup> David Vigil  
29<sup>th</sup> Don Schulze  
30<sup>th</sup> Nic Briseno

## March Anniversaries

2<sup>nd</sup> Forrest and MaryAnn Barnes  
5<sup>th</sup> MaryJo and Leonard Larsen

GAIT Deadline for April is Thursday, March 20<sup>th</sup>. Please e-mail your articles to [rpcykp@msn.com](mailto:rpcykp@msn.com) or put them in the GAIT editor's box next to the church office