



February 2008
Volume 19, Issue 2

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**The Presbyterian Church of
Plum Creek**

550 Center-New Texas Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15239
secretary@plumcreekchurch.com
www.plumcreekchurch.com

The Caller

February 2008 Worship Schedule

Chasing after Happiness

Text: John 17:3
Dr. Lolla, preaching
8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
February 3, 2008

Rev. Mr. Peter Goetschius, preaching
Poke Run Presbyterian Church
7:30 p.m.
February 6, 2008
Ash Wednesday
Sacrament of Communion Observed

Looking for Gratitude?

Text: Phil. 2:5-6
Dr. Lolla, preaching
8:30-11:00 a.m.
February 10, 2008
First Sunday in Lent

Reverend Lanny Mellinger, preaching
7:30 p.m.
February 13, 2008
Poke Run Presbyterian Church
Community Lenten Service

Working through Life's Labyrinth

Text: Romans 8:28
Dr. Lolla, preaching
8:30 and 11:00 a.m.
February 17, 2008
Second Sunday in Lent

Reverend Ken Chorle
7:30 p.m.
February 20, 2008
Pine Run Presbyterian Church
Community Lenten Service

Schedule continued on page 4

The Presbyterian Church of Plum Creek publishes *The Caller* monthly (with the exception of July and August). If you have an item to contribute, please email it to secretary@plumcreekchurch.com or place it in *The Caller* mailbox in the church office. To submit a newspaper or magazine article to be reprinted in *The Caller*, include the name and date of the newspaper or magazine where the article was originally published. To submit an editorial be sure to include your name. The deadline for all articles is the 15th of the month. **Please provide submissions in computer-ready (WORD 2002 or text) format when possible.** Thanks!

Church Address: Presbyterian Church of Plum Creek
550 Center-New Texas Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15239

Office Phone Number: (412) 793-4525

E-mail Address: secretary@plumcreekchurch.com

Office Hours: Monday – Friday,
9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Minister: Dr. John J. Lolla

**Praise & Worship Team Leader/
Children's Choir Director:** Kathy Grabigel

Youth Ministry Director: Jonathan Curry

Worship Services: Sundays at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m.

Church School Classes: Sundays 9:40 to 10:50 a.m.

Letter from Reverend Lolla- February 2008

Dear Friends in Christ,

If you have not come to Oasis on Wednesday nights, you are missing a nice evening of fellowship and education. Since we began this experiment with mid-week education last fall, attendance has been between 70 and 90 a week. Moving youth fellowship to Wednesday nights has allowed youth to be at home with their families on Sunday evenings and enabled the teens to be part of a larger church intergenerational experience. Adventure Club under the guidance of Jeff and Kathy Grabigel, from age four to sixth grade, has attracted 22 children through the many weeks. Seventeen parents and teachers are participating in the mid-week activity. With three adult education seminars this winter and spring, Alexis Peiffer leading *A Year with the Bible*, Larry Wood leading *Irresistible Evangelism*, and Dr. Lolla leading a study of the gospel of John, Oasis is offering a variety of topics to stimulate the spirit for all ages.

Dinners have been prepared by many different church families, with a free will offering helping to defray the expense of the meals. But the greatest value of Oasis is reconnecting in mid-week with our church family, and remembering that being part of the Lord's family lasts throughout the week – it's not just a Sunday occurrence.

This year we have a unique challenge. Now that our congregation has developed Oasis as a mid-week intergenerational experience, we will be overlapping the mid-week Lenten services that we have shared with Poke Run, Pine Run, and Union Presbyterian Churches. The session has adjusted the times for Oasis to allow participants the opportunity to worship at the other three congregations after the Lenten services begin. Oasis' dinner will begin at 5:30 p.m. but devotionals will start at 6 p.m. We are planning to have the study groups completed by 7:00 p.m. during the Wednesdays of Lent so that we can travel to Markle, Union and Poke Run Presbyterian Churches and join are friends in Christ.

Plum Creek will be hosting the Lenten services this year during Ash Wednesday's communion service. We will continue our worship tradition of imposing ashes on worshippers following the service. We are also inviting our Presbyterian sister congregations to attend our rehearsal of *Believe!* on March 5.

During a time where a few congregations have believed they were called away from our fellowship in Christ, it is a blessing to worship together with others who share our common faith in Jesus Christ's Lordship, and the Trinity as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. God continues to inspire us to find ways to unite rather than divide as we remain centered on the redeeming power of Jesus Christ, and His power alone that saves us!

I hope you arrange your Lenten schedule so that you can participate in these wonderful opportunities to join with others in gratitude for our Savior's Passion!

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Jack

February 2008 Worship Schedule-cont'd

Finding our Way to Him

Text: I Tim. 4:7-8

Dr. Lolla, preaching

February 24, 2008

Third Sunday in Lent

Annual Meeting of Congregation and Corporation

Dr. John Lolla, preaching

7:30 p.m.

February 27, 2008

Union Presbyterian Church

Community Lenten Service

BIRTHDAYS

February 13 - Dorothy Hopperstead

February 28 - Virginia Johnson

If you know anyone who is 70 or older, please let the church office know. We do not want to miss anyone.

DEATHS

Nelma Parr January 2, 2008

MEMORIALS

For Nelma Parr

Mrs. Eileen McNutt

James Doyle D.M.D.

Annual Meeting of Congregation and Corporation

The annual meeting of the congregation and corporation will be held between the two morning services during the final Sunday of February – the 24th. The session will present annual reports to the congregation and corporation from the church's boards, the 2007 year-end financial report, an audit report regarding the treasurer's books for 2007, and a proposed plan for spending for 2008. The boards are grateful for the tremendous outpouring of support for the work of the Lord during the month of December which nearly meet the overall challenge of balancing the budget by year's end.

Logging on Hillside Nearing an End

Several members of the congregation have been clearing part of the hillside above the pavilion of its trees in order to develop a high ropes course as part of the development of the Day Camp at Plum Creek. This outreach into our community seeks to provide the highest quality of youth programming to meet the needs of families throughout our region. You can help with the project by calling Joy Smith, the president of the Board of the Day Camp at Plum Creek and seeing what you might be able to contribute of your time and talents. We are currently in need of families with log splitters, chippers, and tree trimming equipment – including chain saws. Anyone who can donate a bob cat or small bulldozer to pull stumps from the cleared area is also needed.

The development of the hillside above the church for youth programming, like that of the low ropes course last summer along the creek, would not have been possible without hundreds of hours of donated labor and equipment that made the construction of the course possible.

From the generous praise offered by parents and grandparents whose youth were part of the first Day Camp at Plum Creek, the effort stood out, separating the Day Camp from other offerings throughout the area. We are looking forward to expanding the Day Camp to four weeks this summer. Registering your youth by the end of February will help the Board in its recruitment of counselors for the coming summer!

Continue to keep the Day Camp in your prayers and consider how you might make a contribution to its development!

College Scholarships Available

Many parents are unaware of the Lola G. Duff and William H. Duff, II Scholarship program. It is available to any student who has attended two academic years in, and graduated from, a high school in Allegheny County. The student must be a Protestant, and high school senior or graduate who plans to enroll, or is already enrolled in a full-time undergraduate course of study leading to a bachelor's degree at an accredited four-year educational institution.

Merit applicants must have a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale. Need applicants must have a cumulative grade point average of at least a 2.8 on a 4.0 scale.

An annual award pool in excess of \$1.5 million is distributed by the program. Renewable scholarships will be awarded for the 2008-2009 school year. If you have a student whose grade point average meets these criteria, either as a graduating senior or as a college student, application forms are available at www.sms.scholarshipamerica.org/duff. The application deadline is March 15. Only the first 1,000 applications will be considered.

YOUTH

So much has happened since we last spoke I hope that I don't forget anything,

1st off our Living Nativity was an event. It didn't involve as many visitors as it has in the past but we were able to see some fruit even from the limited number of participants. One visitor even asked for more information about our youth fellowship's new name and purpose statement.

There needs to be a huge amount of thanks given to those who braved the elements those 2 nights and stood the post assigned with little complaining and relenting consistency. The names are too numerous to mention. but the effort is great appreciated. It took the effort of a village to put forth the message of this little child born of a virgin and both He and I appreciate all of you so very much. I pray an extra special blessing to you and your family for the time served.

In addition Mi Life has entered the new year with the momentum that it was picking up at the end of the year last year. We ask for your continued prayers as it appears that the Lord is listening and moving on your behalf.

In the coming months we will looking to continue to discover more about who we are as we wrap up a series of discussions on the topic "I AM". Next we will be talking about "Parents and Children". It's not going to be a discussion of right and wrong but a time to see where God wants us to be and how we relate to our parents. After that we will be talking to about "Sex and Dating" a real honest look at scripture, culture and the opposite sex.

It is great appreciation and honor that Stacie and I continue to serve you and ask that you will partner with us in prayer as we are seeing greater and greater attacks on our kids pulling their attention further from Him.

--

Jonathan Curry

"Lenten Musical, **"Believe"** coming soon!!!!!!

Blessed are those who have not seen and yet...BELIEVE!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Plum Creek's 5th year in dramatic Lenten ministry will be coming March 7th and 8th at 7 p.m. and March 9th at 2 p.m. in the Plum Creek sanctuary. A reception in the fellowship hall will follow the ministry. If you have not been a part of this beautiful God-given ministry before, now is the time!!!!!!!!!! This year we welcome you to come and celebrate Christ's life as He touched and forever changed the lives of Pilate, Caiphas, Mary, Thomas, and John. If you have been a part of "Resurrection" or "Believe", please come back and support the ministry again this year. We are still in need of some financial help as well as people to help with set building, greeting, ushering, and help with refreshment setup and cleanup. Please prayerfully consider helping in one or more of these areas. Contact Jeff/Kathy Grabigel at (724) 339-0974 if you would like to be a part of this ministry or can help in any way. A financial donation can be made by marking the pew envelopes "Believe". A huge "thank you" to everyone in the congregation for your support in this wonderful God-given



GROVE CITY
TOURING CHOIR
COMING TO PLUM
CREEK

11:00 am
March 2, 2008

The Presbyterian Church of Plum Creek is please to be hosting the

touring choir from Grove City College on **Sunday, March 2 at our 11:00 am worship service.** The choir has 48 members. Many are music majors at the college, but many are from other disciplines. The students audition to be a member of the choir, which rehearses 4 times each week. They take many short trips throughout the year and go on "tour" over the college's Easter break. In previous years, the choir has toured in virtually every state east of the Mississippi. This year they are heading to Florida. The choir is directed by Dr. Douglas Brown, who has been a faculty member of the music department for 26 years. We are honored that they have agreed to lead our worship here at Plum Creek.

BLOOD DRIVE
February 24, 2008
7:00 AM – 12:30 PM

The Board of Deacons will be hosting a Blood Drive here at Plum Creek in fellowship hall on Sunday, February 24, 7:00 am to 12:30 pm. They will be signing folks up after both worship services on Sundays in February.

Spending a little time and giving blood is a way we can help others in need. Won't you please roll up your sleeve this winter and give the gift of life? Sign up today!!!!



"The Day Camp at Plum Creek" 2008 Registration Form



"The Day Camp at Plum Creek" is a Christian-based adventure camp for elementary aged children, which features challenge elements like a low-ropes course, a slip and slide, and mountain boarding, as well as arts and crafts, team sports, Bible study, drama, Praise and Worship, faith stories, nature education, and much more. The theme of this year's curriculum is "Real" - "Real friends, real bonds, real fun, real teamwork, real victory, real faith, real adventure." The theme emphasizes the scripture verse John 1:14 "The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth."

Final registration for the camp is due by June 6, 2008. The registration fee must be paid at the time of registration. The day camp is open to any elementary aged child (grade 1 - 6) who would like to attend. Young children must have completed first grade to be eligible to attend the Day Camp and children who have completed grade 6 are eligible to attend as well.

Please use one form per child. Copies of this registration form are acceptable.

Child's Name: _____ **Gender:** M / F

Grade Completed as of June 2008: _____ **Child's Age:** _____

Address: _____

Phone Numbers: _____

Emergency Contact (name & phone number): _____

Parent or Guardian Name: _____

Parent or Guardian's Email Address: _____

Register for one or more weeks:

- July 7 - 11, 2008
- July 14 - 18, 2008
- July 21 - 25, 2008
- July 28 - August 1, 2008

Deadlines and Costs:

- January 1 - February 29, 2008 \$80 / child / week
- March 1 - April 30, 2008 \$90 / child / week
- May 1 - June 6, 2008 \$100 / child / week

Envelope must be postmarked by cut-off date to receive corresponding price.

Registration Fee must accompany this registration form and is due by June 6, 2008.

No "walk-ins" will be accepted the weeks of camp.

Payment Method: (Please make checks payable to: **Day Camp at Plum Creek** and mail to address on bottom of page.)

Check Money Order Total Enclosed: _____

T-shirt Size: Child Small Child Medium Child Large Adult Small Adult Medium

CANCELLATIONS AND REFUNDS

- Cancellations occurring within 28 days of your session will result in forfeiture of 1/2 of the tuition fee.
- Cancellations occurring within 14 days of your session will result in forfeiture of the TOTAL tuition fee.



ADULT RETREAT February 8-10

The Adult Retreat is scheduled for February 8, 9 and 10 at Camp Crestfield. The cost this year is \$70.00 per person. Brenda Barnes will once again be our speaker and the topic is "Expectations."

Come and enjoy a wonderful weekend of fellowship, music and love for the Lord.

There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex. See you there.



**PLUM FOOD PANTRY
Office
81 Sandune Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15239-2713
Phone: (724) 327-0367**

Plum Creek United Presbyterian Church
550 Center-New Texas Road
Pittsburgh PA 15239

To: Pastor and Congregation

On behalf of the Chair, Members and Volunteer Staff of the Plum Food Pantry we extend to your church our heartfelt thanks for your participation in the Coat Drive for 2007.

We were able to provide coats for 210 clients of the Plum Food Pantry.

We thank you for your continued support of this very important ministry. What a blessing you have been to many.

Sincerely,

Dee Long and Debbie Cassel
Coordinators for the Plum Food Pantry Coat Drive