

The Raleigh Court Herald



Raleigh Court Presbyterian Church "The Church of the Open Door"

Volume 41 Issue No 5

March 3, 2010



Presbyterian Homes & Family Services, in Lynchburg, has offered to provide a safe haven to approximately 65 orphan girls from Foyer des Filles de Dieu Orphanage, Port-au-Prince, Haiti, which was destroyed by the earthquake in Haiti. This mission is primarily supported by Resurrection Catholic Church in Moneta under the leadership of Pastor Chris Barrett. The mission was home to 67 girls ages 2-18. Three girls and two staff members died, but they were not at the mission at the time of the quake.

PHFS has offered to provide a place for these children to live together in order to avoid the further trauma of being split up into foster homes. If they are allowed to come, the plan is to recreate the environment of their orphanage.

Currently the challenge is in coordinating their departure from Haiti. The American Embassy is swamped with thousands of desperate people. PHFS is working primarily through Senator Warner's office to secure temporary visa status for these girls. There is no sense of when they might be allowed to leave Haiti and no guarantee they will be allowed to leave. Nonetheless, donors are lined up offering furniture, funds, food and clothing. Communication regarding contributions will be on-going on our website.

On Sunday, March 7, PHFS asked all individuals and congregations across the Commonwealth to join Presbyterian Homes as together they pray for the children of Haiti, especially the children of the Foyer Orphanage. There is little we can individually do to provide a safe haven for these girls, so they asked all to come together in prayer:

Join us as we pray this prayer together:

***Living God,
the tragedy of the Haiti earthquake tears at our hearts and fills our minds with the horror of unimaginable devastation. In our sadness we hope for ways to serve the people Haiti, that somehow we might alleviate the pain and grief of people who have suffered so much. Today, in particular, we pray for the safety and comfort of the girls and staff of Foyer des Filles de Dieu Orphanage in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. Please reassure them in their sorrow and fear. If it be your will for them to find comfort and safety living at Presbyterian Homes & Family Services, we ask you to send them quickly and securely to Lynchburg. Prepare the hearts of staff and volunteers to love those with a different language, culture and history. Show us all ways we may help the tragedy in Haiti, and love with your love. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.***





From the pastor's desk ...

Most of us would agree that the Christian message is not solely, or even mainly, about life after death. Most of us would say that the Christian message is about living (right now!) with faith in God's love, and sharing that life of love with the world. That is what I believe.

But this winter has given me a renewed appreciation for the "sure and certain hope of resurrection through Christ Jesus our Lord." We have had a long and painful string of deaths in our church, deaths of people we all knew, and deaths of people knew well. Facing death makes us ponder what this life and the next are all about, even though we may rather not think about such things at all. When we do, we often find a peculiar light in the darkness.

We might view the season of Lent that way, as an opportunity to look at what we would rather

not see, and in so doing, find wonderful, otherwise hidden, meaning in life and faith. As we approach Holy Week: Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter, I would ask you to attend all of the services, and to do so with a mind and a heart that is open to seeing things you never saw before. *What do they all mean, these familiar scriptures, and hymns and rituals of the church?*

Let me ask you to consider one thought: *Perhaps these scriptures, hymns, rituals are all meant to grab our attention.* Maybe God is fairly shouting at us, above the din of the busyness of our lives, that we should stop, and think, and feel again. Maybe it is *we* who need to be raised from death to life. Maybe *we* are those who are so busy living that we live to no real purpose. Maybe God wants to show us that there is really only one thing worth our lives, and that one thing is love. Holy Week is about God's love revealed in Christ, a love given, rejected, shared, poured out for us. *It is an invitation for us*

to imagine that the story is true, that God really does love us to the end, and really does call us to love the world for which he is willing to die. *It is an invitation to imagine that the story is true*, that the love of God is more powerful than death itself, more powerful than all the death of all the world. *It is an invitation to imagine that the story is true*, that you and I might trust what we imagine, and be vessels of God's love in this world, be possessed of that love, now and eternally.

Let Holy Week grab your attention. Don't restrict your attention to Easter Sunday. Let the whole story become a part of you. Be moved, and perhaps shattered and changed by it. Above all, be open to experience the truth that *in life and in death we belong to God.* Thank God for that.

Tupper

PS: We ought to be very thankful for the folks who make the funerals/memorial services at RCPC a time of comfort and hospitality. Particular thanks are due to Sue Basham, Camilla Cabanis and Harriet Vance, and to all those who provide a time of fellowship and refreshment for families and friends after the funerals. They are agents of caring, joy in times of grief and a living testimony to the power of God's love to shine light in the darkness.

Thank you to Debbie Graves for editing the February 17 issue of the Herald.



The Raleigh Court Herald
 a publication of
 Raleigh Court Presbyterian Church
 1837 Grandin Road, Rke, VA
Tel. (540) 343-5541
www.rcpres.org
 F. Tupper Garden, Pastor
 Josh R Robinson, Associate
 Sunday Worship services
 8:15 and 11:00 am
 Hearing impaired interpreter
 available at 11:00 am.
 Morning Communion served
 at both services on the
 first Sunday of each month.
 Morning Prayer with communion
 7:00 am Wednesdays
 in the Chapel.
 Church School for all ages
 Sundays, 9:30 am
 Visitors welcome
 Nursery available
 for infants & toddlers.
 Following children's time at 11:00,
 children age 4 through grade 2
 may leave the sanctuary for
Children's Worship,
 an age-appropriate worship service.
 Grades 1 and 2 return
 to Sanctuary after the sermon.
 Pre-school *Children's Worship*
 continues for remainder of service.
 Parents may call for these
 children downstairs in room A-3.
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Growing and Learning Together

Our preschoolers love spring and the warmer weather that it brings! We are preparing for the start of spring and anticipating the bloom of trees and flowers. Leprechauns, shamrocks, and gold coins were floating around our school this month as we celebrated St. Patrick's Day. Many of the students even went on a "leprechaun hunt". We are looking forward to our Easter egg hunts; maybe we'll spot the Easter Bunny hopping around.

Registration for the 2010-2011 school year is off to a great start! We have a few spaces open in our Mother's Morning Out program and our two year-old program. If you are interested, please call Meg ASAP, as we are filling up very quickly!

Summer Camp brochures went out the first of February, and are filling up quickly. This year's dates and themes are:

June 14-18, Mission to Space. Campers will take an imaginary journey into space. They will gear up as an astronaut and explore our solar system.

Session 2 will run **July 19 – 23.** 'Seusserrific' *Summer Camp* will have our campers going along on a Seussical adventure as we explore the wild and wacky world of Dr. Seuss.

Our last camp runs **August 9-13.** Named *Once Upon a Time*, during this camp, we will discuss fairy tales and fables, make crafts, play games and learn life lessons passed down through stories over the years.

Camps are open to children ages 2-7. Each camp costs \$90.00. If you have any questions, please call **Meg Fitzwater at 345-8035.**

Congratulations, Elizabeth Jones!

Elizabeth Jones, who cooks our delicious Thursday evening fellowship dinners, will realize a thirty year dream in May: she will graduate from Hollins University, Magna Cum Laude. Her major is in English with a concentration in Creative Writing and a minor in Theatre. All the requirements for her degree have been met. This semester she is acting and singing in the Spring musical, *Violet*, and working on an independent study about the 75th anniversary of the Blue Ridge Parkway. Her journey to graduation began when she was 17 years old, but she left school after 1 ½ years to marry and help her ex-husband through his academic career. Since then she has taken classes at five different colleges, before enrolling at Hollins three years ago in the Horizons Program for non-traditional students.

Elizabeth was a winner of a writing contest at Hollins last term, and is now competing in a national contest sponsored by the Association of Writing Programs. She was nominated for an Undergraduate Writing Workshop at Sweetbriar College where her mentor was an alumnus of the writing program at Notre Dame. To top it off, she was awarded a \$1000 scholarship from Dan Smith (Valley Business Front) of the Roanoke Regional Writers' Conference.

We are proud of you, Elizabeth, and honored that you are part of our Writers' Guild at RCPC.

Thank you ...

for all the shared empathy, concern, prayers and cards of sympathy surrounding the loss of our 16 year-old step-grandson, Robbie Hairsine. As many of know, he died due to complications resulting from his two-year battle with leukemia. His memorial service, held in Joppa MD, beautifully portrayed the remarkable young man he had been. Simply put, he was always thinking of the welfare of others, even throughout his prolonged illness. One staff member from Johns Hopkins who had cared for him from the outset, said the nurses were always "fighting" over who would get to have Robbie on their shift! ... a model for us to follow as a living memorial.

Glenna, Dennis and Glendon Fisher

Holy Week Services 2010



Sunday, March 28 Palm Sunday

Children's Easter Egg Hunts

Preschool hunt - 10:30 in the Garden
Kindergarten—Fifth Grade hunts after 11:00
Worship. (Meet in the Gathering Area)
Palm Branch Parade for 11:00 Worship



Thursday, April 1 Maundy Thursday



Friday, April 2 Good Friday

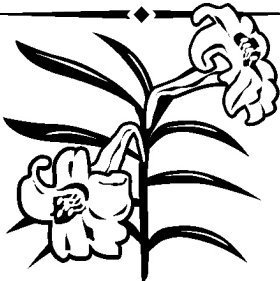
Service of Darkness at 7:30 pm
Nursery available for children under 5.

Fellowship Dinner and Communion Service:
Please make a dinner reservation for dinner at 6:00 pm. Communion will be served around the tables after dinner, starting at 7:00 pm.

- You are welcome to come for just the Communion Service without a reservation.
- Come sit with friends at the tables.
- Families are welcome.

Nursery will be available
only upon request by March 28.

Easter



Easter Sunday, April 4

and our next Sabbath Sunday!

Two identical services at 8:15 and 11:00

Nursery available for both services.

Breakfast and Communion from 9:15 - 10:30 am

Easter is a day filled with joy and excitement! Worship will be filled with fanfare and jubilee. In place of Sunday school, we will have breakfast together so we can share our joy together as a church family. Breakfast provided (not potluck) *egg casseroles, muffins, fruit and juice prepared by Maureen Castern.*

Please make your reservation by calling the church or email info@rcpres.org.

After breakfast, we will share the sacrament of Holy Communion around the tables as a family. We encourage you to join us for this breakfast, either after the 8:15 service or before the 11:00 service.

Come join us as the family of Christ, rejoicing in the Good News!

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!

Children's Ministry
 Contact: Susan Kessler
 Director of Christian Education
 343-5541 or susan@rcpres.org
 Sunday School each week: 9:30 - 10:30 am



One Great Hour of Sharing

Each year our children and families are invited to participate in the *One Great Hour of Sharing Offering*. On March 7, each child will be given a box shaped like a fish to put their coins in daily, and a calendar to guide their giving and prayers. The calendar helps to see needy people in various places around the world. For example, one day may tell you about refugees who have no way to keep warm, and ask for you to put one coin in the box for every blanket or quilt in your home. We have lives that are so abundant and rich by comparison. Seeing how needy many people are can be an eye opening activity for the entire family.

The collection boxes, shaped like a fish, remind us of the story of Jesus feeding 5000 with just two fish and five loaves. God uses all gifts for big purposes. It is remarkable what your gift will do. Encourage your child to participate in this offering, using the calendar to guide you. The boxes will be collected on Easter Sunday during Children's Time. If you will be away on Easter, you may bring the boxes on Palm Sunday.

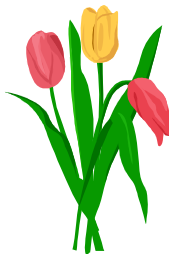
Observing Lent as a Family

Maybe you have started a CPR (**C**ongregate-**P**ray-**R**espond) group with your family or friends, but if you haven't you can still set some prayer goals for this season of Lent. The "P" in CPR stands for prayer!

Set up a quiet area of your home as a special place for family prayer. Let your children help you create this special place. Add items that represent God and Lent for you. Place a candle, something purple and your Bible. Gather some devotion ideas from our display in the Gathering Area.

As a family activity, make pretzels. You can use canned biscuit dough and paint them with egg yolk and sprinkle coarse salt on them. Say a prayer together as you enjoy your pretzels. The knots in pretzels were meant to look like arms bent in prayer. They serve as reminders to pray.

*"The Lord will keep your going out
 and your coming in from this time on
 and forevermore."*



Easter Flower Cross

Bring a cut flower on Easter Sunday, April 4, for the Flower Cross. The cross will be in the Gathering Area and you may insert your own flower.

Children's Easter Egg Hunt

Palm Sunday, March 28

(no sign-ups this year)

Just bring your basket to church with you!

Hunts for three age groups:

Preschool children –at 10:25 am
 K - 5th grade children
 (two groups)
 after the 11:00 service.





Raleigh Court Presbyterian Church
 1837 Grandin Road SW
 Roanoke VA 24015

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Congratulations to Debbie Graves!

Debbie is a December 2009 graduate of the University of Virginia with a Master's degree in Education, major in Reading. She will walk the lawn and graduate with her cohort in May. Her degree qualifies her for a Reading Specialist position. She is currently a second grade teacher at Round Hill Primary School, in the Roanoke City School system.

Thank you to everyone for the calls, letters of encouragement and your love. I am feeling fine again...just some stumbling blocks of age. Hope to see you soon.

Mike Harvey

Watch for the signs by certain light switches which remind us **to turn off the lights** when we are the last person to leave a **room or hallway**. Let us *all* take seriously the responsibility to be *good stewards* of our church facility!

R*E*M*E*M*B*E*R

We would love to help you get to church!

RCPC Ride Service

is available to bring you to 11:00 am worship.

Call **540-589-5189**

between

9:30 & 10:30 am.

Andy Corbin



Next **Herald** deadline: **March 17**

Send articles / notices / information to denglenna@cox.net