

THE WITTENBERG



MARCH 2011

VOLUME 12, NUMBER 3

Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

People of Wittenberg:

I find that one of the most poignant moments in a funeral service occurs at the graveside. Often the pastor or priest takes earth and places it on the casket while declaring, “We commit our brother to the earth; ashes to ashes, dust to dust.” This is a declaration of faith! We make a bold claim: if God can create life out of stardust, than surely God can resurrect us from what seems to be the finality of the grave. Or, said another way, God holds the power to accomplish what the best of human ingenuity cannot accomplish.

In a few days we begin our Lenten journey together. The Way of the Cross is a walk of humility. With ashes upon our foreheads, we acknowledge our frustrations, our anger, our limitations, our limited time – our humanity. *Ashes to ashes, dust to dust.* Yet, in that location of humility, God shows up and announces to us, “You are mine forever!”

May the disciplines and discernment of Lent show you anew that God breathes life into dust and decay.

Peace be with you.

Michael

SERVING IN MARCH

ALTAR FLOWERS

- 3/6- Ervin & Annette Caughman
3/13- Tracy & Dawn Bedenbaugh
3/20- Bill & Ginger Caughman
3/27- Brett & Marissa Spradley

SUNDAY SCHOOL OPENING

Brent Shealy

NURSERY—

SUNDAY SCHOOL

- 3/6- Rebecca Reed
3/13- Michael Reed
3/20- Paula Miller
3/27- John Oxner

2-3 YR. OLD SUNDAY SCHOOL

- 3/6- Catherine Oxner,
Myra Cantrell
3/13- Crissie Kirby,
Scarlett Summers
3/20- Scarlett Summers,
Crissie Kirby
3/27- Chrissy McNabb,
Susan Shealy

GREETERS

Narthex:

Ross & Sonya Cary

Commons Area:

Dorothy & John Mullins

WORSHIP ASSISTANT

Connie Kramer

LAY READER

Todd Davis

ALTAR GUILD

Marti Burns, Wendy Epting,
Sue Ruff, Betsy McEwen,
Crissie Kirby

USHERS

Ira Ruff, Tony Meetze,
Ervin Caughman, Rondoll Watson

NURSERY

Rebecca Reed, Chair

- 3/6- Jennifer & Chip Spradley
3/13- Chrissy & Scott McNabb
3/20- Freida Banks,
Rhonda Bedenbaugh
3/27- Linda Almgreen, Paula Miller

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

- 3/6- Barbie & Dean Rodgers,
Freida Banks
3/13- Kayce Shealy, Toshia Banks
3/20- Brandee & Jeff Quarles,
Debbie Sawyer
3/27- Dawn & Tracy Bedenbaugh,
Rhonda Bedenbaugh

TELLERS

- 3/6- Marti Burns, Bill Caughman
3/13- Ervin Caughman, Cher Davis
3/20- Torry Dickey, Robert Epting
3/27- Billy Rauton, Rebecca Reed

ORDER OF ST. JOHN

Jennifer Spradley, Advisor

- 3/6- Acolyte: Emma Bellflower
Almsbearer: Payton Quarles
Crucifer: Rachel Creech
- 3/9- Taylor Davis
- 3/13- Acolyte: Brett Spradley
Almsbearer: Lane Bedenbaugh
Crucifer: Zane Bedenbaugh
- 3/16- Aubrey Rodgers

- 3/20- Acolyte: Mason McInnis
Almsbearer: Parker McInnis
Crucifer: Brandt Shealy
- 3/23- Tate Feaster
- 3/27- Acolyte: Emma Osment
Almsbearer: Wills Swygert
Crucifer: Nevin Rodgers
- 3/30- Matthew Reed

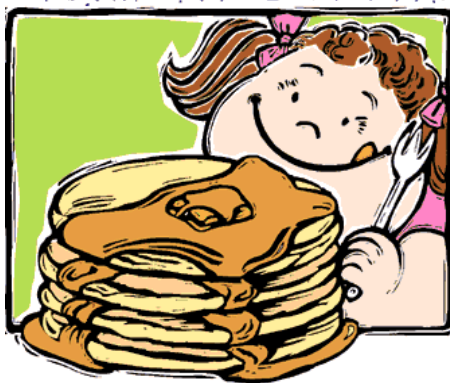
FAT TUESDAY PANCAKE DINNER

By Rachel Creech

On March 8, Fat Tuesday, the confirmation class hosts a pancake dinner and fund raiser from 5 to 7 p.m. The dinner is \$5 for adults 11 & up, \$3 for kids 10 & under, and kids under 3 are free. The menu is pancakes (plain, blueberry and chocolate chip), sausage, ham and fruit cocktail. To drink there will be milk, orange juice and apple juice.

The money earned will go toward the confirmation class's service project. For the project the class will get animal food to add to the food pantry. The class will also raise money to send to ELCA's "Feed The World." For 50¢ a pound of seed for growing food can be provided. \$1 can provide a chick. \$10 can provide a fruit tree seedling. \$40 provides an orphan with food for a month.

Plan now to join us for pancakes and help feed others at home and across the world.



Congratulations

to Chancie and Todd Frick on the birth of Skyler Guy Frick at 7:30 a.m. on February 15. He weighed 6 lb. and was 19.5 inches long.

Everyone is doing well.



Congratulations to Samantha Leaphart and Trevor Connolly on their marriage February 25 at Wittenberg.

The newlyweds will reside in Pelion.

Dear Friends at Wittenberg Lutheran Church,

Thank you so much for hosting Operation Reach Out once again. The egg & sausage casserole was great. It's so nice to have breakfast for dinner on a cold winter night—It's comforting. Thanks for your continued support to us. Thank you for all you do for others in our community!

Love, Operation Reach Out





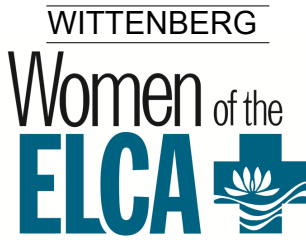
Wittenberg Building Loan Report

By Brent Shealy

Total paid in February 2011	\$9,414.75
Interest portion of payment	\$2,414.75
Principal portion of payment	\$7,000.00
Balance of loan at 2/28/2011	\$425,000.00

STATISTICS AS OF FEBRUARY 20

DATE	SCS	WORSHIP
2/6.....	74	164
2/13.....	94	185
1/20.....	78	157
YTD Regular Offering.....		\$31,741.01
Needed		44,364.64
Difference		(12,623.63)
YTD B.F. Offering		11,467.00



Western Conference Meeting

The Western Conference of the SC Women of the ELCA will meet at 3:00 p.m. Sunday, March 20, at St. Mark Lutheran Church in Prosperity. So mark your calendar and plan on attending. If you would like a ride just let Connie Kramer know and she will be glad to give you a lift.

Annual Convention

The SC Women of the ELCA Annual Convention will be held June 25-26, 2011, at the North Charleston Convention Center. If you are interested in attending please let Connie Kramer know as soon as possible. Reservations must be made by March 15.

February Circle Meetings:

- ◆ **The Morning Circle** meets at 10 a.m. March 1. Barbara Nivens is leader.
- ◆ **Circle V** meets at 1 p.m. March 1. Joan Caughman is leader.
- ◆ **Circle IV** meets at 10:30 a.m. March 7 at the church. Tissy Price is hostess. Myra Cantrell is leader.
- ◆ **Circle L** meets at 7 p.m. March 7. Leader and hostess is Betsy McEwen.
- ◆ **The Hannah Circle** meets at 10 a.m. March 12. Brandee Quarles and Jennifer Patrick are leaders.

March 6 First Sunday Lunch Benefits Relay for Life

The B-L Relay for Life is Friday, April 29, at Leesville College Park.

The opening ceremony starts at 7 p.m.

The American Cancer Society Relay For Life is a life-changing event that gives everyone in communities across the globe a chance to celebrate the lives of people who have battled cancer, remember loved ones lost, and fight back against the disease. At Relay, teams of people camp out at a local high school, park, or fairground and take turns walking or running around a track or path. Each team is asked to have a representative on the track at all times during the event. Because cancer never sleeps, Relays are overnight events up to 24 hours in length.

The Wittenberg Relay team kicks off its fund raising with the First Sunday Lunch on March 6. You are invited to come enjoy a great lunch and support this international movement to end cancer. Robbin Swygert is leader of the Wittenberg Team. Please contact her if you have questions or to register for this year's Relay.

ITALIAN NIGHT AT WITTENBERG—BRAVO!



The Parish Life Committee is sponsoring “Italian Night” on Saturday, March 19. Bring the family and come join us in the fellowship hall at 7:00 p.m. for **Special Entertainment**, an **Italian Meal** and **Games** for the kids. Sign up sheets are located in the Narthex and Sunday School buildings. Please contact Dean Rodgers at 532-1190 or Billy Rauton at 532-6504 with any questions.

Thrivent Members: Designate Your Choice Dollars

This is a reminder to Thrivent members who have not designated their Choice Dollars. You have until March 31 to designate your Choice Dollars to Wittenberg or any of thousands of organizations to choose from. Don't let this opportunity to direct money go down the drain.

It's very easy to direct your Choice Dollars. Just call 1-800-847-4836 and when prompted say, "Thrivent Choice." Say or enter your Social Security number. Next, Press 1 to help direct Choice Dollars. Then a representative will help you direct your Choice Dollars. Or you can visit Thrivent.com/thriventchoice and log in or if you haven't registered click "register now." Then look for the "Direct Choice Dollars" box on your MyThrivent page. So take a few minutes and direct your Choice Dollars.

Identity Theft Workshop with Free Shredding! Sponsored by the Lexington/Saluda Chapter of Thrivent

WHEN: Monday, March 7, 2011

WHO: For Thrivent Financial for Lutherans and guests

WHAT: Free Workshop (Tim Langfitt) 3-5 p.m.
Free Shredding (SHRED360) 2-4 p.m.

WHERE: Cedar Grove Lutheran Church
1220 Cedar Grove Rd, Leesville, SC 29070
Church phone: 803-532-3543

We need to get a headcount! We can accommodate up to 150 folks.

Please register by March 4, by calling or e-mailing Dean Ganis (President) 803-532-3293 or ganis@bellsouth.net. Please provide your name and the name of your guest If you leave a message.

BRING YOUR PAPERS TO SHRED!

KICS Lunch and Trip to



Sunday, March 20

Noon – 4:00 p.m.

Lunch is provided at the church.

We need help with transportation to the zoo!

Please call Cher Davis (892-6965) if you
are willing to drive.

Thank you!

VBS PLANNING MEETING MARCH 27

Come join us as PandaMania breaks loose at Wittenberg. This summer our Vacation Bible School will be running wild, and we need your help!

PandaMania will be held June 12-17 in the evenings. Our excursion through the bamboo will provide fun, memorable Bible learning activities for all ages. Bamboo Blast Games and Crazy Crafts are just a few of the PandaMania activities that help faith grow into real life.

An interest meeting is being held Sunday, March 27, in the fellowship hall immediately following the 11:00 service. Would you like to be a leader? Do you like to sing? You could even be in a skit to kick off each night! Prayerfully consider your time and talents and join us for this week of fun. Please contact Torry Dickey at edickey001@sc.rr.com if you have any questions.



Wittenberg Lutheran Church

Council Minutes

January 9, 2011

Members Present: Bob Wiley (Pres.), Robert Epting, Bill Caughman, Rebecca Reed, Betsy Shealy, Billy Rauton, Ervin Caughman, Dean Rogers, Torry Dickey, Cher Davis, Marti Burns, Erin Thomas, Pastor Sherman, , Furman Cantrell, (Sec.), Brent Shealy (Tres.), Connie Kramer (Fin. Sec.)

Members Absent: none

The meeting was **called to order** by President Bob Wiley at 7:02 p.m.

Pastor Sherman gave a brief devotion.

Bob W. welcomed the four new members to Council.

The Minutes of the December Council meeting were approved. M: Robert E.; 2: Bill C.

Pastor Sherman gave his monthly **Pastor's Report:**

Western Conference LMM at WLC: Jan. 12

Deadline for Yearbook items: Jan. 30

March Events:

March 6: First Sunday lunch-Circle L- Relay for Life

March 8: Fat Tuesday pancake supper

March 9: Ash Wednesday

Plans to revise the Inclement Weather Policy

Committee Liaison assignments

President's Report: Bob W. reported on the annual evaluation meetings with paid staff members. The discussions were beneficial.

Bob W. also announced the upcoming teller training sessions (1/12 @ 6:30 p.m. and 1/16 @ 5p.m.). He commented that the S&F Committee is attempting to improve/streamline the telling process in an effort to reduce the amount of time required to count offerings.

Treasurer's Report: Brent S. reviewed the December 2010 financial report and pointed out several items of interest:

The Food Pantry expenses (\$23,630.58 vs \$13,342.19 in 2009)

The Pre-school income: \$6,680.00

Paid \$90,000.00 on loan

Church utilities have increased

The report was approved. M: Bill C.; 2: Ervin C.

Financial Secretary Report: Connie stated that her report should have included an amount of \$0.27 for interest income.

Committee Reports:

Bob W. asked that Committee Chairs give reports as necessary during the monthly WLC Council meetings.

Rebecca reported that Evangelism has arranged Sunday lunches as follows:

Feb.: MSG

March: Circle L (proceeds to Relay for Life)

The report was approved. M: Rebecca; 2: Billy R.

Bob W. noted that Brian S. does a great job with Stewardship & finance as Chair.

Other Business:

Marti suggested that a coat rack is needed in the hall near Gathering Space.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Furman Cantrell, Secretary

**Children's Church
has been moved back to the
Kindergarten Classroom
in the Education Building.**

WITTENBERG LIBRARY

The Wittenberg Library is moving to the archival area in the Education Building. This move will eliminate some of the clutter in the basement and provide a quiet area for the perusing of books and Wittenberg's historical treasures.

The first of several "moving days" is Saturday, March 19, from 9 a.m. until noon. Breakfast is provided! Please contact Joan Caughman if you would like more information.

LENTEN WEDNESDAYS AT WITTENBERG

Lent begins on Wednesday, March 9, with the observance of Ash Wednesday. Ash Wednesday worship is held at 7 p.m. For those unable to attend the evening service, Imposition of Ashes (ashen cross on the forehead) is offered in the sanctuary from 9 -10 a.m. on March 9. On subsequent Wednesdays in Lent, dinner is served in the fellowship hall at 6 p.m. with worship to follow at 7 p.m.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

A Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, March 6, after the 11 a.m. service. At this meeting, congregational officers present annual reports. 2011 Yearbooks are published and are located in the narthex, commons area and educational building.

CLEANING FOR A REASON

If you know a woman undergoing chemotherapy, please pass the word to her that there is a cleaning service that provides FREE housecleaning - once per month for four months while she is in treatment. All she has to do is sign up and have her doctor fax a note confirming the treatment. Cleaning for a Reason will have a participating maid service in her area arrange for the service. This organization serves the entire USA and currently has 547 partners to help these women. Our job is to pass the word and let them know that there are people out there who care. Be a blessing to someone and pass this information along.

CHECK IT OUT AT: <http://www.cleaningforareason.org/>

WITHIN THE WITTENBERG FAMILY

March Birthdays

- 2- Betsy Shealy
(323 Mallet Cir-Bates),
Sara Reed
- 3- Wyatt Summers
- 5- Sarah Creech
- 7- Sue Schaum
- 8- Bucky Johnson
- 9- Myrell Epting
- 10- Andrew Creech
- 11- Nixie Wheeler,
Hannah Creech
- 12- Margaret Caughman
- 13- Ann Nichols
- 14- Ginger Furtick,
Rachel Creech
- 15- Mabry Jane Mull
- 22- Jaycob Banks,
Jayden Banks
- 24- Tissy Price
- 27- Julia Shealy
- 28- Jerry Price
- 29- Dennis Bedenbaugh,
Arthur Howard
- 30- Dr. Jim Crumley,
Jennifer Caughman McInnis
- 31- Brandon A. Long



Let Us Pray

MEMBERS:

Marti Burns, Dorothy Curran, Jim Curran, Evetta George, Eleanor and Jane Hare, Ed & Leila Hoover, Bucky Johnson, Dannie Kaiser, The Kirby Family, Ramona Langford, Jeff Long, Wes McNabb, Brady Nichols, The Family of Anne Oswald, Debbie Reynolds, Ralph Riley (husband of Pat Crickenberger Riley), The Family of Dot Ruff, Sue Ruff, Anne Shealy, The Family of Bobbie Shealy, Walter Shealy, William K. Shealy, Bobbie Smith, Jennifer Spradley, Wills Swygert, Merlyn Watkins, Eva Watson, Benjy Watson

FAMILY & FRIENDS:

Laura Ashleigh (friend of Emily Finger), John Bedenbaugh (father of Tracy Bedenbaugh), Judy and Doug Benton, The Mother of Debbie Black, Wyatt Boatwright (Lexington 3 student), Patrick Burns (nephew of Marti Burns), Peggy Buzhardt, Ruby Caughman, The Family of Jane Speaks Cochet, The Family of Taylor Cox, The Family of Donnie Duncan (brother of Myrell Epting), Pastor Mitch Evans, The Family of Mike Fallaw, Mike Gunter, Audie Jennings (brother-in-law of Wyman & Freida Banks), David Kneece (cousin of Wyman Banks), Ann Lewis, Thelma Lorick (mother of Larry Lorick), Eileen & Jimmy Mitchell, Mike Nichols (son of Brady & Sue Nichols), The Mother of Landis Price, Tobie & Chester Plunkett (in-laws of Debbie Reynolds), Melanie Sharpe (friend of Sam & Crissie Kirby), Mildred Shealy (mother of Michael Shealy), Kim Smith (daughter of Libby Carswell), The Family of Elsie Speaks, Diane Spradley, Aaron Stewart, Duane Swygert (nephew of Melvin Swygert), The Family of L.G. Whitman, and members of our Armed Forces.