



THE LAMPLIGHTER

Volume 61, Issue 3

March 2011

Traveling Light

Beginning March 13, 2011

The road to the Cross; living out the Christian Freedom we have, as a gift we can offer to the world.

Northlawn United Methodist Church
1157 Northlawn Street NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49505

Sunday Worship Celebrations:

9 am Traditional and 11:15 am Contemporary

Sunday School Classes for everyone 10:15 am

Here's what we'll be talking about;

March 6, 2011 NECOM (Holy Communion)

March 13, 2011: "Freedom for Everyone to Live"

March 20, 2011 "Freedom to Change the Ordinary"

March 27, 2011 "Freedom to Fail Within Success"

This series will include the Sundays leading up to Easter Sunday, April 24.

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Special points of interest:

- Silver Senior Luncheon
- Clothing Drive
- NECM NEEDS
- Connection Corner



3-2011

2-10-11

SPRING training is about to get underway. The time when the baseball players report and begin their preparation for the long baseball season. During Spring Training the excitement builds, "maybe this will be the year" and "hopefully we hold together and don't have too many injuries". But you know, for today's professional athlete the training never ends. The fact is, every one of them have been working hard since the final game of last season in hopes that this year would be better.

The optimism of look ahead and the preparation for doing one's absolute best, so much rides on these things. Is this not similar to our Christian life? When we come to know Christ and to accept the gift of salvation, we are pumped up and ready to face the world. Then, as the season (life) wears on, we tend to fade in our zeal. How can we make every day of the year, and every day of our faith life seems as exciting and anticipating as Spring training? Maybe the Apostle Paul has the answer for us.

In Galatians, the Epistle we will be looking at this month, Paul writes; *I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. (Galatians 2:20 NIV)* If we were to look at that verse as if it were a sandwich. The two slices of bread are Christ, "...crucified with Christ..." and "...gave himself for me." And the best part of the sandwich, the inside, is what? "The life I live in the body," . That tells me life is good and life is best when it is lived with Christ.

So, our Spring training is all year round and the World Series, Super Bowl, or the Stanley Cup, or even the NBA Finals (did I touch them all?) is every day. As the hymn says; *"Everyday to us is Easter, with its resurrection song. When in trouble move the faster to our God who rights the wrong."*

SEE YA IN CHURCH!
JIM NOGGLE

The Northlawn Nugget

Are you receiving the weekly email from Northlawn? If not, please go to www.northlawnnumc.org and click on "join our mailing list" and you can sign up. Or, write your email address on a Connection Card Sunday morning and drop it in the offering. Or, call the office and let us know. Or, stop by during office hours and give us your email. Or, (isn't this monotonous?) you can send an email to either catsdesk@northlawnnumc.org or therev@northlawnnumc.org.

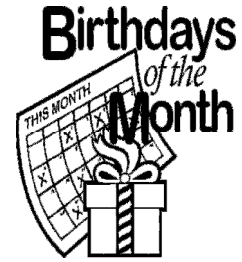
DEADLINE FOR THE APRIL 2011 LAMPLIGHTER IS **MARCH 10**. ALL ARTICLES MUST BE RECEIVED BY THIS DATE! YOU MAY EMAIL THEM TO:
catsdesk@northlawnnumc.org

WORSHIP LEADER

- 6 Pastor Jim
- 13 Don Chandler
- 20 NONE
- 27 NONE

MARCH USHERS:

- Tom Thompson (head usher)
- _____
- _____
- _____
- Warren Buschert II



March 2011

CHILDREN'S SERMON

- 6 Pastor Jim
- 13 Terri Chandler
- 20 NONE
- 27 NONE

GREETERS

- 6 Bob & Barb Morton
Susan Smith & Ivan Mellema
- 13 Bob & Jody Hamilton
Pat Wyatt
- 20 Brian & Kay Smith
John & Sharon Applegarth
- 27 Hamiltons 4

COFFEE TIME

- 6 Chris & Sharon Longstreth
- 13 Doris Black
- 20 NONE
- 27 NONE

- 1 George Betoia
- 3 Kyle Spahr
- 5 Jean Kieft
- 6 Charlie Roberts
- 7 Josh Hamilton & Eric Peterson
- 9 Shannon Schoonmaker
- 11 Christian Alcumbrack
- 12 Carol Bailey
- 14 Clarabelle Cline
- 14 Irene Reed
- 16 Joe Black
- 21 Lillianna Duyck
- 21 Riordan McPhail
- 24 Cindy Raquet
- 24 Marshall Salzemnieks
- 25 Alicia Kanai
- 25 Staci Renkema
- 26 Janice Bertoia
- 26 Pat Wyatt
- 27 Betty Beck
- 28 Mary Black
- 28 Eva Sneathen
- 30 Rithann Buschert
- 31 Don VanVaulkenberg

We apologize if there are any mistakes in this list. Please notify the office of updates and if there are names to be added to the list or removed.

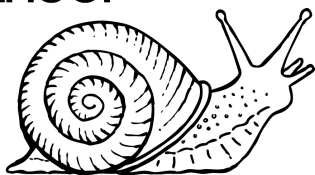
CAN YOU HELP?

We always need volunteers to fill the various positions on Sunday mornings. If you would like to volunteer, please sign-up at "clipboard central".



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL (VBS)

Although there is still some snow on the ground, now is the time to start thinking about summer and Vacation Bible School. Sharon Longstreth has stepped up and agreed to lead the VBS once again. So, please pray about how God is leading you to help. We will need leaders, snacks, supplies and cheer leaders for the whole week.



Address Change


Elsie Montie
6680 Nicholson Rd.
Hubbard Lake, MI 49747

The Northlawn Vision:

Connecting through God's power, *learning* through *love* and *service* to live like Jesus Christ.

Core Principles:

God 1s... *everything begins with and is in God's care, including all of us. (Genesis 1:1)*

Walk  **His way...** *live like Jesus Christ, love and serve the world. (Matt. 25:40)*

God³ *...God creates, Jesus loves, the Spirit guides all of us. (Matt. 28:19)*

Potluck Lunch

SILVER SENIOR'S POTLUCK
WEDNESDAY MARCH 2, AT NOON

Join us for a Lunch and conversation. Bring a dish to share and a friend and come enjoy some fellowship!



Passover Seder March 27

Plainfield UMC, 214 Spencer NE in GR will host a Passover Seder presented by Congregation Ahavas Israel on Sunday, March 27th, 5:30-7:30 pm. Cost is \$18 per couple or family. A Seder is an experience of inter-generational storytelling by means of questions and answers prompted by the symbolic and ritual foods. Each table will have a Seder guide to assist and answer basic questions. This is a time to remind ourselves and our children about the Biblical story from which we learn: 1) the value of freedom to worship God according to our tradition; and 2) our obligation to treat all human beings with the dignity given them by virtue of being created in the image of God. Imagine yourselves 3,500 years ago, as slaves in Egypt...imagine yourselves as Israelites trapped between the Red Sea and the Pharaoh's army...imagine yourselves standing at Mount Sinai, hearing the Voice of God - "I am Adonai your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt"...imagine yourselves on the verge of entering the land of Israel, telling your children how their grandparents were slaves in the land of Egypt, and God redeemed them with a strong hand and an outstretched arm. Join us in this Passover Seder. Reservations are needed by March 7th. Please call Plainfield UMC at 616.454.7625.

NECM SUPPERHOUSE -

Northlawn is sponsoring NECM Supperhouse on Tuesday, March 29. We are asking for 10 volunteers to serve dinner to approximately 100 adults and children.

Please contact Lee Grey, 361-8458 if you would like to join us at St. Al's (corner of Lafayette and Leonard), on Tuesday, March 29 from 4:30 to 7:00 p.m. You will be blessed!!

NEWS ON OUR CLATTER OFFERING

- December Clatter of \$340.82 went to Gods Kitchen.
- January Clatter of \$129.27 went to Domestic Shelter

This Year's Clatter Offerings will be donated to:

- February Clatter is going to St. Johns Home
- March Clatter is going to Health Intervention Services



UMW MET AND MADE THE FOLLOWING DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS:

TITHE TO CHURCH (MORGAGE FUND).....	\$796.00
UMCOR	500.00
NECM	500.00
METHODIST COMMUNITY HOUSE.....	500.00
CHURCH WATER HEATER.....	200.00
CLARK HOME BENEVOLENT FUND.....	200.00
NORTHLAWN VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL.....	400.00
BETHANY CHRISTIAN SERVICES CHAPLAIN....	200.00
FUND COUNCILING FOR TROUBLED BOYS	

WE HAVE A WORKING BALANCE OF.....
\$1,536.38

SAVE THESE DATES:

MARCH MOVIE MADNESS	MARCH 11
EASTER EGG HUNT	PALM SUNDAY
GOODWILL TEA AND FASHION SHOW	MAY 10
GOD'S SONS LUNCH	JUNE 5
AAA AUCTION	SEPT 12
CRAFT SHOW	NOV 5
CHRISTMAS TEA	DEC 5

\$1,000.00 HEARING LOOP FUNDS ARE RE-DESIGNATED FOR CHAIRS
FOR THE SOCIAL HALL.

EYEGASSES NEEDED

The Women's Group at Northlawn will be collecting gently used eyeglasses during the month of March to be donated to Health Intervention Services. This group of Christian doctors and nurses offer free medical, optical, dental, counseling, and spiritual care to the uninsured in Grand Rapids. For this particular service, community eye care professionals volunteer their time to take the donated glasses and refurbish and refit them to people in need. There is a box located in our Narthex for you to drop your donated items in. Please consider making a donation to his wonderful cause. Also, please remember our Clatter Offering on March 27 will be going to H.I.S. for additional healthcare items. If you have any questions, please contact Jaime Guinn or Cherie Roberts.

THE WORSHIP CELEBRATION NEEDS YOU TO BE A WORSHIP LEADER.

Openings are available every week for people to help lead the congregation in the 9 am Worship Celebration. The worship leader duties include being the "liturgist" (reading announcements, leading the opening prayer, responsive reading, and scripture reading for the day) and leading the children's sermon. **Two people CAN share these duties in one service.** If you are interested in being a liturgist and/or a children's sermon leader please sign up on the Worship Leader clipboard at Clipboard Central. If you have any further questions, please ask Sharon Longstreth or Jamie Guinn.



Now is the time to clean out your closet!! The church circuit that Joe Beavens was assigned to have a Free Store that supply gently used clothes to those in need. He has asked if we could do a clothing drive here at Northlawn for them. We will be collecting gently used clothing in any size infant/children through adult to help with this ministry. **Please note: infant and children sizes are highly needed.**

Connecting-Learning-Loving Serving

Have you been wondering; how can I fit into the vision of the church? Well, we're so glad you wondered! Do you have a passion or interest in technology? If so you could help with the computer and/or sound board on Thursday nights and Sunday morning services. There will be an informational training session Thursday, March 3 at 7 pm. If interested please call Eric Alcumbrack (914-0814) for details.

Welcome and Connection Corner

We are planning a new area in the Narthex (area behind the Sanctuary) to welcome newcomers and to help all of us connect. Tentative plans are for the "Corner" to provide welcome gifts for newcomers, house sign-up clipboards, accept donations of food for NECOM, collect clothing for Joe Bivin's church up north, answer questions, and have information about activities and volunteer opportunities. We are looking for volunteers to help organize and staff this area so sign up by emailing Northlawnumc@gmail.com, calling church office, using your Connection Card on Sunday morning, or signing up at Clipboard central.

On a related note, in our ongoing effort to make Northlawn a welcoming and attractive place for everyone and take care of God's house like we do our own, a team will be working to clean, de-clutter, organize and rearrange the main floor entrance, Narthex, and other main floor areas of the church. If you would like to help or if you have strong feelings about placement or removal of any of the items in these areas, please let one of the "Porch" members know (Tammy Diebold, Christine Wright, Sharon Sumner, Sharon Applegarth, Ed Cavanaugh, Alan Claybaugh, and Sue Cleveland) or email northlawnumc@gmail.com.

NECM NEEDS FOR MARCH: CEREAL MONTH



Please bring boxes of cereal to church for March—April will be canned fruit month.

- Potatoes
- Stuffing
- Pasta
- Pasta sauce
- Cereal
- Vegetables
- Dry milk
- Macaroni & cheese
- Condiments (ketchup, mustard, mayo)
- Canned spaghetti (like spaghetti o's)
- Diapers
- Toothpaste/brushes
- Soap
- Shampoo
- Deodorant
- Bathroom tissue

NECM always needs grocery bags. They may be paper or plastic

March 2011

Apologies in advance if we have missed anything. Substitutes sometimes make mistakes. (Cathy we miss you!)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>EVERY Sunday: 9:00 am Worship Celebration 10:15 am Sunday School 11:15 am Worship Celebration</p>		<p>1 10 am Ladies Bible Study 7 pm Bible Study 7 pm ZUMBA</p>	<p>2 12 pm Silver Seniors Luncheon 6 pm Bell Choir 7 pm Chancel Choir</p>	<p>3 6 pm SPRC Committee 6:45 Nominations 7 pm Prayer Shawl Group Praise Team w/ sound tech train-</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5 9:30 am DecoTec</p>
<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8 6 pm Finance 7 pm Living Room Office (meetings may be changed) 10 am Ladies Bible Study 7 pm Bible Study 7 pm ZUMBA</p>	<p>9 6 pm Bell Choir 7 pm Chancel Choir</p>	<p>10 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 6 pm Porch mtg 7 pm Knit with a Purpose Praise Team ZUMBA</p>	<p>11 6 PM March Movie Madness</p>	<p>12</p>
<p>13</p>	<p>14 6:30 pm Talitha Koumi</p>	<p>15 10 am Ladies Bible Study 7 pm Bible Study 7 pm ZUMBA</p>	<p>16 6 pm Bell Choir 7 pm Chancel Choir</p>	<p>17 6:30 pm Trustees 7 pm Knit with a Purpose Praise Team ZUMBA</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19 9:30 am DecoTec</p>
<p>20</p>	<p>21 6 pm Education 7 pm C.O.R.E. Team</p>	<p>22 11 am Assemble Newsletter 10 am Ladies Bible Study 7 pm Bible Study 7 pm ZUMBA</p>	<p>23 6 pm Bell Choir 7 pm Chancel Choir</p>	<p>24 7 pm Knit with a Purpose Praise Team ZUMBA</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>
<p>27 Bell Choir Plays</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29 10 am Ladies Bible Study 7 pm Bible Study 7 pm ZUMBA</p>	<p>30 6 pm Bell Choir 7 pm Chancel Choir</p>	<p>31 7 pm Knit with a Purpose Praise Team ZUMBA Class</p>		



Dear Friends,

Bishop's Day 2011 is Saturday, March 12 from 8:45am (registration opens at 8:15am) to 2:45pm at GR First UMC. The theme for Bishop's Day is Imagine. Special guest Bishop Thomas Bickerton will speak about the future of the church as well as his work as spokesperson for the Imagine No Malaria campaign to end Malaria, which is a partnership between UMCOR and the United Nations Foundation.

A **variety of workshops** are planned that **will appeal to all people**. Bishop's Day is **especially important** for **local church leadership** including **SPRC, Finance and Trustee committee members** along with **youth groups and confirmation classes!**

Childcare will be provided for kids ages 0 through grade 5, but the **childcare registration deadline is February 25**, so don't delay, register your kids today! To register your children, please use either the printable brochure, online adult registration, call or email the GR District Office at 616.459.4503 grdistrict@wmcumc.org.

NEW THIS YEAR AT BISHOP'S DAY...

- ➔ **GR District Conference will take place during the lunch break**
- ➔ **SPRC, Trustee and Finance workshops for local church leadership**

The cost, which includes continental breakfast and a box lunch, is \$15 for adults. **Youth & children are FREE**

- PLEASE PREREGISTER BY GOING TO THE DISTRICT WEB SITE grdistrict@wmcumc.org OR CALL THE DISTRICT OFFICE. 459-4503

Youth grades 6-12 are FREE (food provided) and have a special day planned just for them

Make plans now to bring a group from your church! **Questions?** Call or email Liz in the District Office 616.459.4503 or grdistrict@wmcumc.org.

NORTHLAWN COMPLETES VISION SEMINARS:

On four consecutive Saturday mornings an average of 32 dedicated members of the Northlawn congregation gathered in the Fellowship Hall for one purpose. That purpose was to listen to God and allow God to reveal to us the vision for this church. It was an interesting, challenging and, perhaps for some, fun time. But ultimately what happened in that room will have an unfathomable impact on the church.

Through a process of identifying the true definition of vision we focused on the fact that God's vision is true. The group approached, with great specificity, a careful and objective look at the present state of the church. For some it was difficult to face the truth, for others it was therapeutic to finally name the issues and for still others it was refreshing to hear what others had to say. The entire process was a sort of assessment session and ended with a great celebration of God's love. What came out of these meetings? Well, here it is, the Northlawn Vision:

Connecting through God's power, learning through love and service to live like Jesus Christ.

This simple statement now gives Northlawn direction because it did not come from within, this statement came from above. God's vision will outlast the congregation, the pastor and even the building therefore it is now our charge and duty to carry this vision out, for future generations. You may be thinking, "how do we do that?" Well, the process has already begun. No doubt you have noticed a renewed enthusiasm for ministry and more people getting involved. You may even be feeling a desire to get on board yourself. That's where it starts! The various ministry teams of the CORE are now reflecting on this vision and preparing to launch new efforts to fulfill it. There are new dreams and visions which this primary vision has spawned and Northlawn is on the path to reenergize the community around us.

These Saturday morning seminars also produced three very clear Core Principles to help us carry out the vision:

God 1s... everything begins with and is in God's care, including all of us.
(Genesis 1:1)

Walk  *His way...Live like Jesus Christ, love and serve the world.* (Matthew 25:40)

God³... God creates, Jesus loves, the Spirit guides all of us. (Matthew 28:19)

These are the principles that will now guide our thinking, our decisions and our actions as a Body of Believers. Please join with those who tapped in to God's vision and produced these statements and **pray that all we do will be to God's glory.** There's no avoiding the fact that we have much to overcome but now we have a very clear path on which to move. May God bless these efforts.

Sincerely in Christ's Name;

Jim Noggle



Northlawn United Methodist Church
1157 Northlawn St. NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49505

Phone: (616) 361-8503
Fax: (616) 361-2878

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Connecting, Learning, Loving, Serving



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Label Here



PRAYER CORNER

Please remember the following people in your prayers this month:

- Rhea Glazier
- Elsie Montie
- Fran Hunt
- Bob & Emmie Clawson
- Don VanValkenburg
- Linda Meinke
- Clare Loveless
- Cathy Renkema



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