

MARS MEMO

Mars United Presbyterian Church
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APRIL 2009

SUNDAY WORSHIP:
 8:30 A.M.
 11:00 A.M.

9:20 A.M. JR. CHOIR
 9:45 A.M. SUNDAY SCHOOL
 FOR ALL AGES

“NATE’S NOTES” A MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR

Allow me to introduce...the VISION TASK FORCE (VTF) for Mars United Presbyterian Church. Serving on this task force are the following Church members: Ruth Wilson, Michele Baumgartel, Alma Staskiewicz, Mac Purvis, Jr., Alice Leonberg, and Sandy Wahl.

The VTF has been working on developing a vision for our Church. Developing a vision required that we examine the Church’s history, current identity, and goals and hopes for the future. The task force discovered that Mars U.P. Church has a rich history. In fact, the story of Mars U.P. Church mirrors the story of the Gospel, for at every stage in our life God continues to bring NEW LIFE.

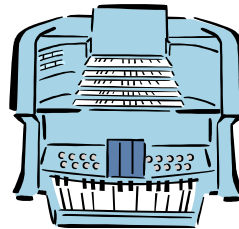
The VTF has identified the following areas as tasks for the coming year:

- Develop a slogan for our Church that offers a glimpse of our Church life,
- Design a logo or symbol associated with Mars U.P. that is recognizable to our Church, and
- Update entrance areas, signage, and fellowship areas to better inform people who we are as a Church and how we go about our ministry.

“Updating Entrance Areas” has already begun. In ‘Tarry N Talk’ there is a drawing of our plans to renovate the Tarry N Talk area. The details, such as carpet color etc., have yet to be determined. Being that fellowship is one of our many strengths as a congregation, updating the Tarry N Talk area will help our Church *build on its strengths* and move toward the vision for our congregation. How exciting!

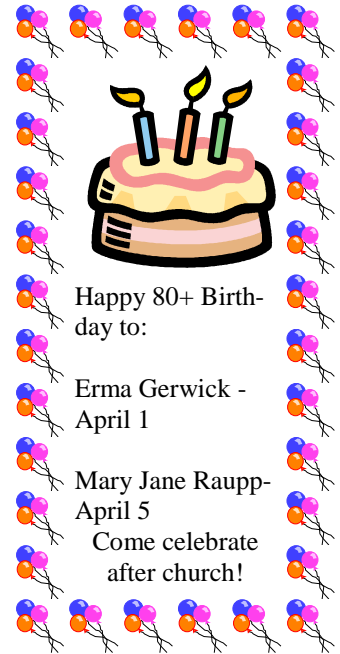
The Vision Task Force has also developed a slogan for our congregation that is being worked into a mission statement. You will begin to notice the slogan appearing throughout our Church and in our newsletter and bulletins. The slogan for our congregation, created by the VTF and endorsed by Session is:

Mars U.P. is Your Hometown Church...
 ...faithful to tradition,
 ...loving in fellowship,
 ...and reaching for tomorrow.



ORGAN RENOVATION FUND ESTABLISHED . . .

As some of you are already aware, our church pipe organ needs extensive renovations to restore its function. Current estimates are at \$200,000. The Session has authorized the establishment of an Organ Renovation Fund with a targeted date of first quarter 2011 to begin the renovations (provided no major breakdowns before this date). Any funds not in hand will be obtained by a bank loan. Your gifts to this fund will be much appreciated for generations to come.



Happy 80+ Birthday to:

Erma Gerwick - April 1

Mary Jane Raupp - April 5

Come celebrate after church!

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MARS MEMO

30-HOUR FAMINE

About 600,000 people participated in the 30 hour famine this year, and I had the opportunity to be one of them. To make it a little easier to last 30 hours without food, our church along with a few other churches, held a lock-in. At the lock-in, we played some group games, had a Wii tournament, and played Frisbee outside to help pass the time. We also had an

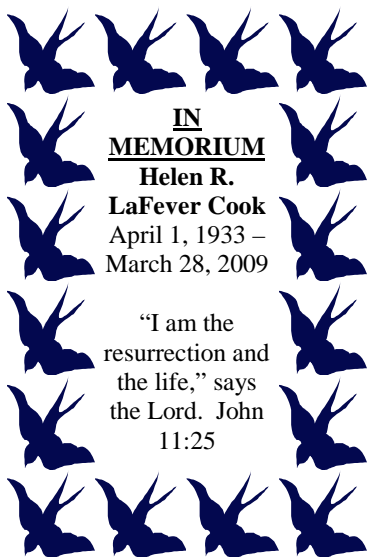
awesome speaker come in and a great band played some songs for us. In the morning, half of our church group went to Foodland and the other half went to Adams Ridge for a food drive. We did this food drive to help the people in our area who are starving and don't have the money to pay for food. When this was over, everyone came back to our church for the best tasting lunch ever! After this, it was time to go home and catch up on the sleep that we did not get

the night before.

Although not eating for 30 hours was difficult, the lock-in was not the only thing helping us through it. We learned about the children in Africa who starve (like we were) every day. Knowing this made me think that if they can go days without food, I think I can go 30 hours without food. We also asked God to help us through it. It was great to connect with God and made me realize that He is there for me and helps me through everything that I experi-

ence in my life. This lock-in helped me make new friends and connect with the people I was sharing the experience with. I know it was not easy, but I survived, and I'm really glad that I could help not only the kids in Africa but the people here that are starving just like I was for that 30 hours. Overall, it was a great experience and I encourage everyone to participate in the 30 hour famine next year with me!

Elana Matthews



CHURCH VOLUNTEERS

Tarry and Talk Muffins:

April 5- Tom & Pam Kennedy, Linda Lees
April 12 -
April 19-Tom & Pam Kennedy, Linda Lees
April 26—

Tarry and Talk Hosts:

Christian Education Committee:
John Ivory, Alma Staskiewicz, Mike Bocheff

Greeters:

Elder: Alice Leonberg
Deacon: Angela Guesman

Van Driver: Paul Lubbert

Altar Flowers:

April 5-
April 12– Easter Flowers
April 19
April 26– June Stirling

Nursery:

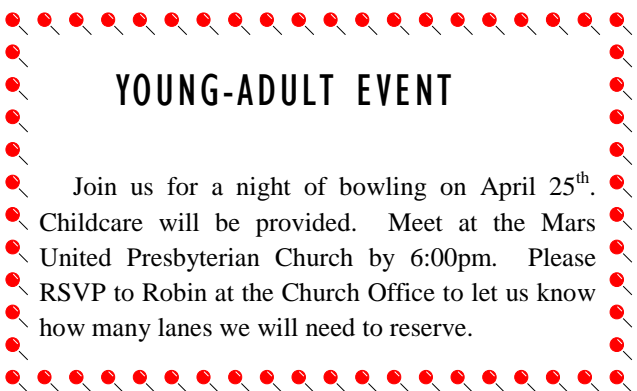
April 5– Bonnie McElhinny
April 12– Jennifer Osburg
April 19– Lisa Aaron
April 26– Jenny Ivory

CHURCH SOFTBALL LEAGUE

This summer Mars U.P. will field a coed softball team. We will play once a week, Monday-Thursday evenings. If you are 16 or older and would like to play, talk to Sean or Nate. No one is too old. Also, if you have any equipment, such as bats or extra gloves, please let us know. Here is our team roster so far:

Sean Brubaker
Walt Schiller
Addam Snow
Andy Lubbert
Keith Nichols
Rick Foster
Mary Snow

Nathan Esser
Dave Kennedy
Jack Harrison
Christi Augustine
Steve Carpenter
Bruce Golden
Justin Houck





Glade Run Food Pantry Collection is the First Sunday of the Month. Please remember

FUN FOR ALL AT FUN FORE ALL

The evening out shared by church friends and family was a great success. Almost 40 people showed up to battle it out in ballistic and play video games for a nickel. Pastor Nate broke a sweat at "dance nation"; Betsy Gerthoffer and Mary Snow got dizzy with the kids on the twisty slide and many dads and lads enjoyed shooting game on "deer hunter".

The group came together at 8:00 p.m. to pray. The prayer list included: Holly's dog, Phillip getting a job, Mars firemen, Children's Hospital, the Waid family, Vince Kline's heart, Jim Govan, and Bassilon cleaners. We were thankful for the fun and fellowship we had at Fun Fore All. Many children brought friends and new friends were added to the group during prayer

time. We are looking forward to next family event coming in April..... Easter Egg Hunt at Adams Park at 1 p.m. on Palm Sunday.

Tri-Rivers Surgical Associates, Inc.

Dr. William Abraham, an orthopedic surgeon will talk to the community regarding knee and hip arthritis here at Mars Church on Wednesday, April 22 at 1:00 p.m. The discussion is free and open to the public

SUMMER CAMP 2009—APPLY NOW!

Summer is approaching fast and now is the time to sign up for summer camps. Camp Lambec and Westminster Highlands offer great programs for kids going into 1st grade through High School graduates. There are 2 day camps for beginners and 5 day camps for older kids who are ready for a full week, and even a camp for kids who want to try it out along with their parent.

Most of the camps have themes, like "Wet & Wild", "Special Ops", or "Sports Extravaganza". If this is the first time your child attends camp, Mars U.P. will cover \$310 of your cost (almost everything). We will pay for \$155 every time after that! If you'd like more information, contact Sean for a brochure, or look it up online at www.capnw.org. Also, we will be planning a "3-2-1

Day" for our church to see what camp is like. We will travel to Camp Westminster Highlands and enjoy 3 activities and 2 camp meals together. Talk to Sean if you are interested in attending.



SESSION HIGHLIGHTS FROM MARCH

- Church Vision Committee presented plans to renovate the Tarry and Talk area; post our new mission statement; repaint and re-carpet the sanctuary in mid-2009 were all approved.
- A Church softball team is being formed for those aged 16 and above.
- Lois Renick is moving to Butler with her daughter.
- All future memorial gifts will be considered non-restricted unless designated by the grantor.
- Mary Jane Raupp's birthday will be celebrated in the Fellowship hall on April 5 after worship.
- Amy Seelbaugh will conduct weekly Latin classes for Mars Area students afterschool on Thursdays.
- \$500 received from the Rich-Mar Rotary will be placed in the organ fund.
- Mars Women's Club has moved their doll making supplies back to the Library. They thank us for the use of our church during Library renovations.

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PROGRESSIVE DINNER
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 Once again we are having a Progressive Dinner on Saturday, April 18. Sign-up sheets are in the Library Area. Cost is \$5 per person. Entrée will be Cornish hens. We really need Host homes!! See Alice Leonberg, Bea Moore or Ruth Wilson for further details.
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**MARS UNITED
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**
P.O. BOX 805
232 CROWE AVENUE
MARS, PA 16046

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US POSTAGE PAID
MARS, PA PERMIT #8

We're on the Web:
www.mars-up.org

Easter at Mars United Presbyterian Church

Sunday, April 5 - Palm Sunday Worship:
8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

Maundy Thursday: 7:00 p.m.

The Lord's Supper—a youth led Worship Service
Lamb Stew dinner at 6:00 p.m.

Good Friday: Noon Lenten Luncheon
1:00 p.m. Worship

Sunday, April 12 – Easter Celebration:
6:30 a.m.—Sunrise Service at Mars Home for Youth
8:30 and 11:00 a.m.



He is Risen!