



Focus

March 2015

www.daleheightspc.org

A Message from Pastor Roger

Dale Heights Staff

Pastor:
Reverend Roger Roberts

**Office Manager &
Director of Music:**
Maggie Rogers

Financial Secretary:
Dick Corey

Custodian:
Rick Geiger

Dale Heights Session

Moderator
Reverend Roger Roberts

Clerk
Sandy Weigt

Roy Lembcke
Gale Oakes
Caroline Pope
Rick Shannon
Wendy Weber

Toward a Meaningful Lenten Season

As I write this article, the Lenten Season is beginning, with Ash Wednesday a day away. Because of low attendance in recent years, Dale Heights will not hold our own weekday services, but instead encourage our people to attend weekday events in sister observing churches. Although we're not hosting any weekday services, we'll certainly observe the season in our Sunday services beginning February 22nd, and continuing to Easter Sunday, April 5th. I also encourage you to join me in making this Lenten Season one that's personally meaningful and possibly life-changing.

The central concept of Lent is a designated season of 40 days of preparation for Easter Sunday, a day of celebrating our new life through the risen Christ. These 40 days are reflective of Jesus' 40 days of fasting and temptation in the wilderness prior to his public ministry. Traditionally, followers of Christ observe this season by way of repentance, negation, and addition—by denying ourselves a personal luxury (such as a favorite food, drink, or recreation) and by adding a new spiritual discipline (such as Bible or devotional literature reading, or acts of charity and service).

Whatever way we choose to observe this special season, it's always good to strengthen those priorities that should characterize our lives all year round, such as personal and corporate worship, stewardship, loving service to those in need, and a disciplined lifestyle that promotes missional living (e.g. witness) and a healthy lifestyle. But it's also a good time to focus on a new aspect or additional discipline in our daily lives, such as denying ourselves extraneous luxuries such as expensive meals, and increasing our giving to the cause of Christ, either through Dale Heights or another ministry. It's a good time to join a prayer or study group that will serve to encourage you and others in your life of faith. You might also consider carving out a bit more time for your personal time of prayer, Bible and book reading, and meditation.

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(continued from page 1)

Whatever we do, we need to be mindful that the Lord desires the right motivation and not necessarily the amount of our self-denial or increased dedication. Jesus denounced the hypocrisy of those who gave empty lip service and showy observances but whose hearts were “far from me” (Matthew 15:8). This Lenten Season, I need to take a new look at my relationship with God and also with his people. I need a great amount of grace to be the patient, loving caregiver to my wife that God has called me to be. I need to take inventory of the quality of my love for and service to her. I also need to increase my investment of ministry to the people of Dale Heights Church, you dear people I’m privileged to serve. Although I’m part-time, my love and prayers must be full-time.

Sure, I can also leave off some luxuries and fattening foods, and spend more time with good reading than watching sports (March Madness too?). But the best way to prepare to celebrate the Resurrection is to seek to honor the Risen Lord by *all* my life and work.

Yours in his love and service,

—Pastor Roger

March 1 2nd Sunday of Lent

Liturgist: Otty Schaefer

Ushers: Roy Lembcke, Gale Oakes, Wendy Weber

March 8 3rd Sunday of Lent

Liturgist: Kate Dooley

Ushers: Aundrea Price, Bonnie Savonne, Otty Schaefer

March 15 4th Sunday of Lent

Liturgist: Gerry Klump

Ushers: Janice Krall, Rick Shannon, Vreni Straubhaar

March 22 5th Sunday of Lent

Liturgist: Gale Oakes

Ushers: Mike Holland, Elizabeth Ndafooka, Nathan Tripp

March 29 Palm Sunday

Liturgist: Vreni Straubhaar

Ushers: Keith Chan, Jim Tracey, Kris Tracey

March New Beginnings

The March New Beginnings Lunch will be Tuesday, March 17 at 11:30 at Hy-Vee, 675 S. Whitney Way. Please call or e-mail Mary Towne at 692-3885 or marytowne45@gmail.com for reservations. **Please note new phone number and email.** Thank you.

Transformation Journey Update From Sandy Weigt

I went to the English Conversation meeting at Christ Presbyterian Church on Friday, February 13. It was a lot of fun and I would encourage you to go sometime. It starts at 6:00pm on Fridays with a brief social time. The kids then went with a couple of volunteers to have their own time. We were then divided up into small groups of between two and eight.



My group consisted of three native speakers, and individuals from Saudi Arabia, Hong Kong, China, and India. I believe it was considered an “intermediate” group. One of the native speakers who had been to a number of these sessions led the conversation. We had guidance from handouts with idioms about Valentine’s Day (love at first sight, blind date, made for each other, have a crush), and about Presidents’ Day and other federal holidays. This small group time lasted about one

March Birthdays

March 23 Don Weigt
March 28 Elizabeth Ndafooka
Aaron Lembcke

March Anniversaries

March 1 Vreni & Willy Straubhaar
March 19 Jim & Kris Tracey

We then came together again and Jean-René Watchou had those who needed a ride home come to the front of the room. He then matched them with those who were going in the same general direction—I brought two men back to the west side. More talking, mostly about the weather, which was cold!

I plan to attend again but do not have a date yet. When I do, I will invite others to go with me. I would also encourage you to go on your own. It is a wonderful way to meet people from other cultures and to give them the opportunity to get to know us.

Reminder: There will be no weekday Lenten services here at Dale Heights this year. There are opportunities at Christ Presbyterian, Covenant Presbyterian, and Westminster Presbyterian if you are interested in participating in weekday services.

Church Women United

Kate and Ellie will meet with the Key Women and Board for CWU on February 27. The World Day of Prayer will be celebrated on Friday, March 6, beginning at 9am at Glenwood Moravian Church, 725 Gilmore St. John 13:1-17 is the basis for the service, which was written by the women of Bahama. Jesus' words were "Do you understand what I have done for you?" The service will be very meaningful and everyone is invited.

—Ellie Metzloff & Kate Dooley
Co-Key Women

Souper Bowl

Thank you to all who contributed time, energy, and money to make the Souper Bowl of Caring a success again this year. We needed to postpone it one week because of weather (it is Wisconsin, after all) but the fellowship and food were just as good the following week. \$368 was collected for Middleton Outreach Ministry.



Property & Finance Highlights

February 10, 2015

- Discussed possible updating of the Memorial Gardens plaque in the concourse.
- Learned that session has approved spending \$2860 for removal of asbestos flooring in the lounge, and \$3934 for the purchase and installation of flooring and cove base to replace the current mix of carpeting and tile.
- Heard a report summarizing the calculation of the pastor's compensation package of cash salary, housing, and retirement savings plan. A 2014 balance owed of \$2403.93 (a result of monthly payments rather than semi-monthly) will be disbursed shortly. Recommended: including on future financial status reports a separate line for Board of Pensions, even though this will not be necessary for this pastor's compensation package.
- Peace Pole garden: approval was given to the contractor to plant the boxwood when the weather is right.
- Financials: reviewed the financial status reports as of 1/31/2015. Learned that the concourse loan of \$207 per month will be paid off in March.
- 2015 budget: a revised 2015 budget reflecting the correct pastoral compensation will be sent to session.
- Other: painting has been done in the fellowship hall to spruce up the room before the Bayley funeral on Saturday, February 14. The north concourse door has been repaired.
- Next meeting: Tuesday, March 10, 2015, 7pm.

Peacemaking Bible Study Report

The title of our recent Bible Study was “The Things That Make for Peace.” This is in reference to Luke 19:42, where Jesus is weeping over Jerusalem saying, “If you, even you, had only recognized on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes.” We discussed that if Jesus was on a hill overlooking Madison, or any city, he would probably be weeping and saying the same thing.

We explored the cultural, political, and biblical definitions of peace. The study introduced the Hebrew word for peace, shalom. In the Hebrew context, shalom implies more than an absence of war; it means wholeness, well-being, peacefulness, and completeness.

The group discussed ways to deepen our spiritual lives to help sustain them for the long haul of peacemaking. Jesus often slipped away to pray at certain times in his ministry. With Jesus as our model, we discussed needing that quiet time for prayer, reflection, and connecting to God as an important part of finding inner peace for ourselves. This study has given us the opportunity to see that true Peace is not determined by external circumstances. Christ calls us to a relationship with God, ourselves, and the world that pursues the well-being of all people. We are invited to cultivate a spiritual life that can sustain us through our years of following Christ, so we may be beneficiaries and agents of peace.

Our study group learned about active non-violence. It was surprising to learn that Matthew 5:39, “But if anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other also.” was really describing a way to be defiant in the face of violence and injustice rather than meek. To understand this, we had to use one another as props to demonstrate backhand slaps with the right hand. Bonnie was a good sport about this as we “air slapped” her!

We read and discussed Bible verses that showed us examples of hospitality and the relationship between hospitality and peacemaking. Our final study has us examining the idea that Peace within, Peace with God, and Peace with others all require forgiveness.

Many of the ideas we discussed about Peacemaking present real challenges to us. Peacemaking is complicated, counter-culture, and difficult. Hopefully, the five weeks we spent pondering and discussing these things will lead to more Peace in our personal lives, in our relationships, and in our community.



Daylight Savings Time begins at 2:00am on Sunday, March 8. Don't forget to “spring ahead” and set your clocks forward one hour before bed on Saturday night.

Session Meeting Highlights

January 26, 2015

- A portion of the meeting was devoted to our Triennial Visit from Presbytery's COM representatives, the Reverends Nancy Enderle and Susan Vergeront.
- Reverend Roberts will be meeting with all Session members individually at some point in the year. There will be a memorial service with ashes for Dorothy Dietrich on Memorial Day, May 25, 2015. Office hours will usually be on Wednesday afternoons. The office hours schedule will vary.
- Session minutes were approved by the Presbytery. Each church's Session minutes are looked at each year for accuracy and completeness.)
- Rick Shannon and Sandy Weigt were welcomed to the Session. Sandy volunteered to be clerk, with the understanding that she will be gone up to three months a year.
- Caroline Pope and Rick Shannon were elected to be the Session members of the Nominating Committee.
- The Property & Finance committee minutes for January were in the January newsletter.
- Outreach and Mission is doing a five-week Bible study and there will be a potluck and speaker from the Odyssey Project on February 22.
- Care and Fellowship is hosting the Souper Bowl Sunday and we have information about a Mallards Church Night on June 28, 2015.
- Personnel Committee members met with our staff (Rick Geiger and Maggie Rogers) for annual reviews.
- Transformation Journey will continue with a planned attendance at the English Conversation Night on Friday, February 13, 2015 at Christ Presbyterian Church.
- A New Member packet draft was given to the Session with the request that it be looked at to make suggestions.
- Rick Shannon will be our commissioner at the February 21, 2015 Presbytery meeting.

February 16, 2015

- Reverend Ray Bayley's memorial service was held on Saturday, February 14.
- The Dale Heights annual meeting minutes were approved. The Mission Pledge and Statistical Report have been submitted to Presbytery.
- Committee information was shared at the meeting, and much of it is reported in other parts of this newsletter.
- There will be information about special Lenten services in other churches made available to the congregation. We will have the regular Sunday Lenten services and an Easter morning breakfast.
- Next Session meeting will be Monday, March 16, 2015 at 6:30pm.



Outreach & Mission

March **Outreach** News

First of all, we would like to mention the passing of Honorably Retired Pastor and Teaching Elder Ray Bayley on Thursday, January 29. A memorial service was held on February 14th here at Dale Heights. We will greatly miss him in the front pews, enjoying a cup of coffee and snack during fellowship time, his wisdom and leadership skills present during our Outreach & Mission committee meetings, and of course, his humor and presence in every nook and cranny of Dale Heights. We also extend condolences to Jeanie Bayley Sniff, John Bayley, and all members of the extended Bayley family. Peace and prayers be with you from us, your Dale Heights family.

Upcoming Activities

Pres House

We will once again serve supper for those at Pres House on Sunday, March 8th at 5:30pm, and also join them in worship at 4:30pm. We will gather to set up that day at 3:45pm. The Outreach Committee has been blessed to have members so generously donate food, money, and their presence and help for this wonderful activity. Thanks in advance for your continued support.

The menu will be the same (sloppy joes, chips, veggies/dip, pear salad, chocolate and white milk, and brownies and ice cream for dessert) and if you would like to help in some way, please notify Wendy Weber or Edi Chan. The majority of the meal will be prepared on Saturday, March 7th at 11:30 in the Dale Heights kitchen, and then we will eat lunch and have fellowship together. Come join us Saturday and/or Sunday!

The Road Home

The Waunakee Presbyterian Church will assist us this year with our Friday night dinner, activities and overnight commitment for The Road Home. How fortunate we are to have help and fellowship together with their members and Road Home residents as well. The 2015 dates for our Road Home commitment are January 2-11 (it was great volunteering with Waunakee members!), April 19-26 (Friday the 24th), July 12-19 (Friday the 17th), and November 29-December 6 (Friday the 4th).

Don't forget...

You still have time to donate to the Peace Pole Garden! More information is available in the concourse, as well as previous editions of the Focus.

If you are interested in attending the Madison Mallards Church Night in June, please let Wendy or Pastor Roger know.

Continued...



March Outreach News, continued

The Odyssey Project Potluck

The potluck on Sunday, February 22nd was presented by director Emily Auerbach and Tosumba Welch, a participant in the Project. The presentation was titled “The Power to Change Lives: The UW Odyssey Project.” Emily’s experiences as creator and director were brought to life as she explained the history, activities, and successes of the program participants, which was then followed by a booming oration of a portion of Dr. Martin Luther King’s “I Have a Dream” speech, done by Tosumba Welch. Tosumba then shared his story about where he came from, prior to his experiences in the Project, and he moved us tremendously. More information about The Odyssey Project is available on their website, as well as in previous editions of the Focus. Thank you to the Dale Heights members who provided food, help, and of course, attendance. Special thanks to Gale Oakes and Dale Buske for their cleanup magic!

Plans are to offer a potluck in April on the topic of environmental issues. Watch and listen for further information.

—Pastor Roger Roberts (ex officio), Kate Dooley, Barb Fleishman, Ruby Meyer, Gale Oakes, Aundrea Price, and Wendy Weber



The Reverend Ray Bayley passed away on January 29, 2015 at the age of 95. A service celebrating his life was held on Saturday, February 14. Memories were shared by his family, by Reverend Bette Duff, and a meaningful message was given by Reverend Roger Roberts. Ray wrote the words of a song which was sung at the service.

We first met Ray (and Hazel) when he came to Dale Heights as interim pastor. When he retired, they made Dale Heights their church home.

His was a generous spirit. Many of us were recipients of his words of encouragement, advice, and especially his humor. I especially remember the usual greeting of “have a nice day”, to which he would gruffly respond with “don’t tell me what kind of a day to have!” with a twinkle in his eye and a smile.

Members of the congregation are invited to share one of your memories in the April newsletter. Please feel free to submit a brief memory for inclusion. Maggie lets us know when the deadline is, so make sure it is in by then. We will all remember, and tear up, and smile.

—Sandy Weigt

Check out our website:

www.daleheightspc.org

Sunday Schedule

9:00-10:00am

Christian Education for all ages

10:00am

Worship

11:00am

Fellowship

Dale Heights

Mission Statement:

Our open-minded congregation affirms and celebrates God's gifts of love and grace. We seek to share God's love by inviting others to join us in following Jesus and by serving those in need in our community and world.

Dale Heights Presbyterian Church

5501 University Avenue

Madison, WI 53705

608.233.0134

office@daleheightspc.org

www.daleheightspc.org