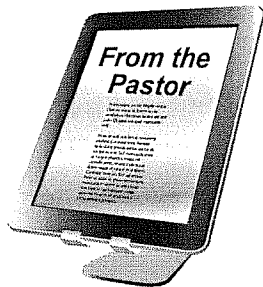


Burlington Zion Express

February 2013



At the heart of epiphany (revelation) is the promise that we are being brought into the very presence of Jesus. (Luther Seminary's blog "God Pause" <http://www.luthersem.edu/godpause>)

I would like some fulfillment on that promise of being brought into Jesus' presence. At funerals and sometimes in just regular Sunday morning sermons, I hear ministers preach about when someone will "stand in the presence of Jesus." They are generally talking about an afterlife experience; according to many Christians, it is after death that we will be united with Jesus. It's not that I don't believe that I may meet Jesus someday, it's just that I don't have a lot of concrete facts about it. My lack of knowledge doesn't mean it isn't true or that it won't happen, it simply means that I am not overly knowledgeable about the life after this one. Truthfully, none of us is. But the good news is-- I don't think we have to be. Jesus lived in the present and if I want to model my life after him, I need to live in the present also. This means that instead of waiting on the promise of being brought into the company of Jesus in the distant future, I should be seeking the company of Jesus right now. Expecting fulfillment sooner rather than later.

We don't want to make the mistake of the people of Nazareth who actually did stand in the presence of Jesus and even recognized that he was filled with God's grace. For a few short moments, they knew they were in the presence of someone sent by God. But then their cynicism kicked in. "Is he not just the son of Joseph?" And the moment had passed. The knowledge that they stood in the presence of God's Holy One, dried up and blew away like a dry leaf on the wind.

The scriptures are full of hints on how to experience the presence of Jesus. "Seek and you shall find. Knock and the door shall be opened." "That which you did for the least of these you did for me." Jesus presence could weave its way in and out of the moments of our days, if we sought to see him. If we looked into the eyes of our brothers and sisters and saw not alienation but reconciliation. If we took seriously the commandment to "love one another" and set aside the many laws and rules of the Hebrew scriptures that separate and divide.

At Annual Meeting this past week, we voted unanimously to add our ONA statement of inclusivity to our constitution. Open and Affirming is one of Zion's ways of standing in the presence of Jesus. No one was more welcoming than the One who said "Go forth unto all nations and baptize." It was Jesus' most inclusive statement—ALL nations. Not some, all.

So my words to you as we trade Epiphany for Lent--do not wait for some apocalyptic moment to stand in the presence of Jesus or to "meet" Jesus. Seek him now. Model your life after him in the present and the epiphany promise will be fulfilled.

See You in the Pews!

Pastor Jane

Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday is a day of repentance and it marks the beginning of Lent. Ashes were used in ancient times, according to the Bible, to express mourning. Dusting oneself with ashes was the penitent's way of expressing sorrow for sins and faults. The prophet Jeremiah, for example, calls for repentance this way: "O daughter of my people, gird on sackcloth, roll in the ashes" (Jeremiah 6:26).

Ash Wednesday marks the start of a 43-day period which is an allusion to the separation of Jesus in the desert when he was tempted. The 40-day period of repentance is also analogous to the 40 days during which Moses repented and fasted in response to the making of the Golden calf.

Interesting facts about Ash Wednesday:

- Fat Tuesday is the day before Ash Wednesday, formerly called Shrove Tuesday and is the day you are supposed to get rid of eggs, butter, and milk. That's why Fat Tuesday is sometimes called "Pancake Day."
- Ash Wednesday wasn't officially Ash Wednesday until the 11th century when Pope Urban II rubber stamped the event and made it official.
- The ashes used during Ash Wednesday come from burned palms that were used in worship services the previous Palm Sunday.
- In Victorian England, theatres refrained from presenting costumed shows on Ash Wednesday, so they provided other entertainments.
- Ireland has declared Ash Wednesday "National No Smoking Day."
- Genesis 3:19 – A passage in the Bible referred to by many who believe that Ash Wednesday began out of necessity (ashes to ashes, dust to dust)
- The Eastern Orthodox Church does not observe Ash Wednesday and begins Lent instead on "Clean Monday."
- Ash Wednesday is a "moveable feast," which means it falls on different calendar dates in different years. The date is dependent on Easter. The earliest it has ever fallen is on February 4th. It last fell on February 4th in 1818 and will do so again in 2285.

We will celebrate Ash Wednesday here at Zion with a Service of Word.

February 13 at 7:00 PM in the church sanctuary.



Worship

Sunday, February 3

10:00 am: Worship and Children's Church

Scripture: I Corinthians 12:12-31

11:00 am: Coffee Hour

Sunday, February 10

8:45 am: Adult Sunday School

10:00 am: Worship and Children's Church

Scripture: Luke 9:28-36 (37-43)

11:00 am: Coffee Hour

Wednesday, February 13 – Ash Wednesday

7:00 pm: Worship service

Sunday, February 17– First Sunday in Lent

8:45 am: Adult Sunday School

10:00 am: Worship and Children's Church

Scripture: Luke 4:1-13

11:00 am: Coffee Hour

Sunday, February 24 – Second Sunday in Lent

8:45 am: Adult Sunday School

10:00 am: Worship and Children's Church

Scripture: Luke 13:31-35

11:00 am: Coffee Hour

Blankets+ Offering

We will be receiving the Blankets+ offering on **Sunday, February 17**, during the worship service. It will be sent to Church World Service and will provide disaster survivors with blankets, food, shelter, and safe water – and later with tools, training, and other resources for long-term recovery. Through Blankets+ you are improving the lives of poor and hungry people around the block and around the world.

Blankets+ offering envelopes will be available in the pews and also inserted in the weekly bulletins.

Worship Helpers

February Church Closers: Rod and Barb Botts

Sunday, February 3

Greeters: Charles Brissey, Pauline Kuster,
The Neises family

Reader: Jim Ritters

Tower Bell: Will Neises

Valet: Marvin Fraise

Sunday, February 10

Greeters: Bill and Pam Daws, Deb Ruble,
Judy Taylor

Reader: Rodney Botts

Tower Bell: Marvin Fraise

Valet: Dennis Dietzman

Sunday, February 17

Communion Preparers: Lyle Gibson and
Bob Parmeter

Greeters: Dick and Patty Kerr; Stacey, Emery,
and Ethan Kerr; Paul Mehaffy

Reader: Lisa Neises

Tower Bell: Emery Kerr

Valet: Craig Neises

Sunday, February 24

Greeters: Jeanette Fisher, Rich and Deb Goble,
Judy Tomkins

Reader: Jerry Goddard

Tower Bell: Marlis Robberts and Jakob

Valet: Bill Daws



CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS

by Janice Gibson



NOIZ Nites Heads to the Beach!

Grab your beach blanket and flip flops--NOIZ Nites for Families is having a "Beach Night" on Wednesday, February 6!

We'll have a picnic meal at 5:30 pm and afterwards have a lot of fun trying to chase the winter "BRRRR" away with some beach games and activities. We don't need the Pacific Ocean—we just need to use our imagination! We'll learn a little about how Jesus spent his time at the beach, too. Don't forget to come dressed in beach attire. You wouldn't want to get too hot! Remember.... imagination!! See you on the 6th.



Scout Sunday February 3



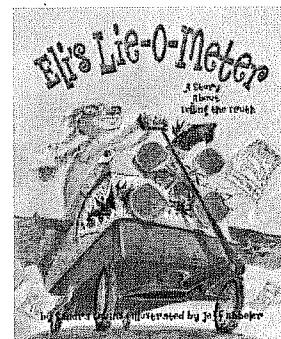
A "Service of Recognition" is being planned during our Sunday, February 3, worship service to honor the Scouts that Pastor Jane recently worked with for several weeks. They will be presented with their God and Family awards. We congratulate Tyler Anderson, Will Neises, Alyssa Parker, and Jason Workman on this accomplishment!

Children's Church continues CHARACTER COUNTS!

This month in Children's Church the students will continue the theme of *Character Counts*. We've begun learning about the Fruit of the Spirit and in January studied how Martin Luther King, Jr. and Ruby Bridges, among many others, used self-control, love and their faith to help them in the challenges of integration. We have studied the story of David and Abigail from the Bible, the art of Jackson Pollock, and will be learning some ways to deal with anger, S.T.O.P. and relaxation techniques.

In February we will explore the character traits of Honesty and Truthfulness. Sandy Levins will share her book, *Eli's Lie-O-Meter*, and a craft. Sandy has a special gift for each family, too! Then in the following weeks, the children will work at writing their own book, *If I Tell a Friend a Lie...* Hopefully, we can show the results of our writing in Children's Time in our church service. We'll also learn about a woman from the Bible who had to make decision about telling Jesus the truth!

Help your child on their faith journey by making sure they attend Children's Church regularly!



Adult Sunday School

February 3: No Sunday School

February 10: a class exploring the two gay marriage cases the U.S. Supreme Court has accepted for review this term, *Windsor v. The United States*, and *Hollingsworth v. Perry*. We will examine the factual background of each case to understand why each presents the court with remarkably different questions of standing, state's rights, equal protection, and the Defense of Marriage Act. Finally, we will consider the implications of the various ways the court might decide the two cases.

February 17 and 24: We begin a 6-8 week series called *Divinity of Doubt*. Do you believe in God? If your answer is yes or no, Vincent Bugliosi will prove you wrong. So leads off the passage on the inside jacket fold of this book. "Now, in the most controversial book of his career, he turns his prosecutorial eye on the greatest target of all, God." Bugliosi makes his case for agnosticism by indicting God, organized religion, theism, and atheism. He approaches the challenge by looking at the history and development of tenants and positions we are frequently aware of, and works to demonstrate that agnosticism (doubt) is the most intelligent and responsible position to take on God's existence.

To start off and to whet participants' interest in studying in this book, we will begin with a multiple-page handout/study guide containing abbreviated portions of the introductory portions and chapter 1 on God, with some relatively brief study questions for reflection and to produce a common basis for discussion. It will be helpful to have read these materials prior to the first session.

You can begin with reflecting on the place of doubt in your life, and whether you view it positively or negatively.

Here is our **February schedule:**



February 3: Lin Parks & John Riessen
February 10: Juanita Williams and Aly McCullough
February 17: Carol and Jerry Goddard
February 24: Bill and Ann Hummel, Paulette Upton and John Cavanaugh

Please sign up on the bulletin board in the back of the sanctuary if you would like to be a sponsor/host sometime. We will need volunteers for March. Thank you!



Bickford Sing-along

Sunday, February 17, 3:00 p.m.

A group of volunteers will go to Bickford Assisted Living on Sunday, February 17, at 3:00 p.m. for a sing-along with the residents there. Please try to join them!

A big "Thank you" goes to all the January volunteers who sang at Rosebush Garden: **Sandy Deal, Janice Gibson, Debbie Gottschalk, Don and Vivian Kellar, Martha Landstrom, Don Lutz, Donna Norris, Milt and Laurie Paule, and Pastor Jane Willan.**



Verna Meuler

April 27, 1914 – January 17, 2013

We extend our sympathy to Kay Jacobs and her family on the death of her mother, Verna Meuler. Verna was a long-time member of Zion Church. The funeral was held on Thursday, January 22, at Prugh's Chapel. Our thoughts and prayers will continue to be with Kay and the family.



I recently had the pleasure of working with four enthusiastic Scouts and their parents in an exciting program called “God and Family.”

The curriculum, developed by the Boy Scouts, helps young people grow in their understanding of the Christian faith as they see how characters from the Bible translated belief into action. Through study, games, and crafts, the Scouts explored their own understanding of God and how a love of God affects family relationships.

I enjoyed every minute with our young people and look forward to working with the Scouts again.

Pastor Jane



Sunday, February 10
4:30 p.m.

Everyone is invited to an evening of square dancing with caller Tom Manning. It will be in the fellowship hall at Zion. The Fellowship Committee will provide a light spaghetti supper before the dancing begins.

A signup sheet is on the bulletin board at the back of the sanctuary. If you plan to attend, please sign up so they will know how much food to prepare. See you all there!

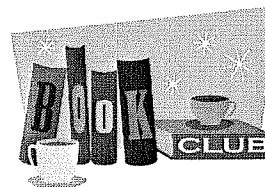


Youth Group Science Day February 24

After the worship service on Sunday, February 24, all youth from 3rd through 6th grade are invited to meet downstairs in the youth room from 11:00 am until 1:30 pm.

We will make “goop,” get messy, perform experiments, and have some fun!! We will also have some lunch.

If you have any questions, please contact Lisa Neises at 759-6737 or Peggy Wilkinson at 321-1222. Hope to see you there!



Thurs., Feb. 28
7:00 pm

The book chosen for February is Christmas in Plains written by Jimmy Carter and illustrated by Amy Carter. Paperback books are now available for only \$4.00 each. Please see Deb Ruble in the narthex area to purchase your book. This month’s meeting will take place at the home of Judy Tomkins at 628 South Leebrick Street.

If you are not receiving the Zion Church emails, please call or email the church and make sure that we have your email address on file and let us know that you wish to be included. We send out all-church emails from time to time and also send out the monthly newsletter in an email. Please also let us know if you do not have an email address.





Our Annual Meeting had to be postponed on Sunday, January 27, due to ice and freezing rain, and was rescheduled for Wednesday evening, January 30. At that meeting the list of candidates was approved, and here are the board members for this year:

Consistory

Bill Daws (President)
Laurie Paule (Vice-President)
Jerry Goddard (Treasurer)
Judy Taylor (Secretary) (new)
Sandy Elmore (Financial Secretary)
Barb Nelson-Botts
Rich Goble
Kaye Hanna
Darcy Hedges
Stacey Kerr (new)
John Riessen (new)
Judy Tomkins

We thank retiring members President Paulette Upton, Darrell Eden, and Connie Krieger for their time of service on the Consistory.

Board of Christian Education

Janice Gibson, Director
Sandy Levins, Chair
Melissa Boeset (new)
Sandy Deal
Alyson McCullough (new)
Paula Mehaffy (new)
Sandy Morris
Lisa Neises
Connie Ralston
Peggy Wilkinson (new)

Consistory Installation

We are planning an installation service for our Consistory on **Sunday, February 10**, at 10:00 am.

2013 Committees



There will be committee signup sheets out in the narthex all during the month of February. Please stop by and find a committee (or more!) that you would like to participate in.

We always ask that you sign up again each year to help keep our lists current, so please stop by the table and let us know which ones are still of interest to you.

A brief description card is with each signup sheet. Please let Pastor Jane or the office know if you have any questions, and we can direct you to someone who will give you more information about a particular committee.

Here are all the committees/teams available:

Archives/Historical
Buildings & Grounds
Chancel Arts Team
Cradle Roll
Fellowship Committee
Kitchen Committee
Pastor-Parish Relations
Social Justice Committee
Supper and Prayer Project
Technology Committee
Welcoming Committee

Don't forget to sign up during February! Next month's newsletter will include the complete 2013 list of committees and members.

Dear Zion Members:

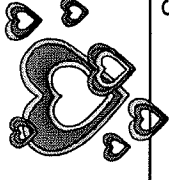


Thanks so much for the beautiful plant sent at the time of Mom's death. She loved Zion. It was her church home from the time of her marriage in 1936. Thanks for your thoughtfulness.


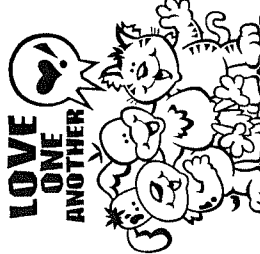
The family of Verna Meuler



February 2013



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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<p>3</p> <p>10:00 am: Worship & Children's church Scout Sunday 11:00am: Coffee Hour</p>	<p>4</p> <p>7:30 am: Bible Study at Diggers Rest</p>	<p>5</p> <p>7:30 am: Bible Study at Diggers Rest</p>	<p>6</p> <p>5:30-7:15pm: NOIZ Nites for Families  Pastor Jane's Birthday</p>	<p>7</p> <p>11:00 am: Wise Women's Bible Study</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p>
<p>10</p> <p>8:45 am: Adult Sunday School 10am: Worship & C.C. <i>Consistory Installation</i> 11:00am: Coffee Hour 4:30pm: Square Dance</p>	<p>11</p> <p>7:30 am: Bible Study at Diggers Rest</p>	<p>12</p> <p>7:30 am: Bible Study at Diggers Rest</p>	<p>13</p> <p><i>Ash Wednesday</i> 7:00 pm: Service 8:00 pm: Choir</p>	<p>14</p> <p>11:00 am: Wise Women's Bible Study 7:00 pm: Consistory <i>Valentine's Day</i></p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p>
<p>17</p> <p>8:45 am: Adult S. Children's church 10:00 am: Worship & Children's church 11:00am: Coffee Hour 3:00 pm: Sing-along 1st Sunday in Lent</p>	<p>18</p> <p>7:30 am: Bible Study at Diggers Rest</p>	<p>19</p> <p>7:30 am: Bible Study at Diggers Rest</p>	<p>20</p> <p>6:00 pm: Bell choir 7:00 pm: Choir</p>	<p>21</p> <p>11:00 am: Wise Women's Bible Study</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>
<p>24</p> <p>8:45 am: Adult S. Children's church 10:00 am: Worship & Children's church 11:00am: Coffee Hour 2nd Sunday in Lent</p>	<p>25</p> <p>7:15 pm: Board of Christian Education</p>	<p>26</p> <p>7:30 am: Bible Study at Diggers Rest 6:00 pm: Social Justice Comm.</p>	<p>27</p> <p>7:00 pm: Choir</p>	<p>28</p> <p>11:00 am: Wise Women's Bible Study 7:00 pm: Book Club</p>		



February Birthdays

- 1 ---- **Jennifer Mercer**, 10994 115th Ave. Apt. 18
 2 ---- **Ethan Kerr (5)**, 12081 50th St.
Deb Ritters, 209 Curran St.
 4 ---- **Gage Hill**, 935 N. 8th St.
 5 ---- **Briana Landstrom**, 2105 S. 10th
 6 ---- **Rev. Jane Willan**, 2404 Florence Ave.
Dan Graham, 321 Summer St.
 West Burlington, IA 52655
Caleb Burch, 1014 S. 6th St.
 9 ---- **Oran Wagler**, 2210 Charles St.
 12 ---- **Vickie Thye**, 10284 155th St.
 15 ---- **Robert Parmeter**, 2636 Northwood
Laura Burch, 1014 S. 6th St.
John Riessen, 10982 Wood Duck Cove Dr.,
 West Burlington, IA 52655
 16 ---- **Jeff Lawlor**, 101 N. Gunnison St.
Marcile Timmerman, Blair House
 1212 Indian Hills Drive
 17 ---- **Noina Workman**, 2613 Evergreen Dr.
 19 ---- **Jeff Fritz**, 5956 Hunt Road
 20 ---- **Sue Hutchinson**, 2603 Madison #212
 21 ---- **Peggy Wilkinson**, 2643 Northwood Ave.
 23 ---- **Tyler Watts**, 10994 115th Ave. Apt. 18
 24 ---- **Morgan Ita**, 1419 Cleveland Ave.
 26 ---- **Zoey Kenney (11)**, 2020 S. 14th St.
 28 ---- **David Schnicker**, 805 Randall Lane
Kaye Hanna, 2505 Gerdes Drive

Early March Birthdays

- 1 ---- **Ruth Hill**, 2830 Winegard Dr. #512
Melissa Boeset, 1217 S. 3rd St.
Will Neises (10), 2033 Osborn St.
 2 ---- **Harold Schnicker**, 1710 Jackson St.
Glen Gottschalk, 829 N. 5th St.
 3 ---- **Audrey Klein**, 2720 Bittersweet Place



February Anniversaries

- 2 ---- **Nancy and Gary Haley (33)**
 13797 90th Avenue
 5 ---- **Dennis and Dyan Dietzman (41)**
 2819 Fair Acres Drive
 12 --- **Sandra and Joe Deal (47)**
 9183 Gaslight Dr.
 13 --- **Joanne and Al Oetken (58)**
 2608 Subilbe Ave.
 15 ---- **Paula and Dennis Mehaffy (39)**,
 911 Linden St.

Early March Anniversary

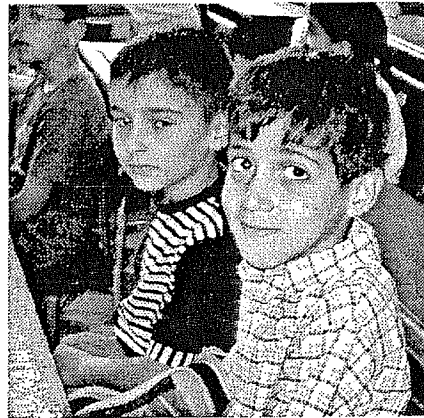
- 2 ---- **John and Diana Jay (28)**
 13524 65th Avenue

"If one member suffers all suffer together."

C O R I N T H I A N S 1 2 : 2 6 a

The Horror of Violence

The situation in Syria worsens by the day. Humanitarian needs continue to escalate as the violence spreads and deepens. Ordinary civilians – men, women and children – are the primary victims of the violence. An ever growing number of people are displaced, many for the second or third time. Tens of thousands of internally displaced persons are staying temporarily in buildings that are unsuitable for the cold of winter. Loss of livelihoods due to insecurity and market disruptions negatively impact purchasing power and leave more people without access to basic essentials, electricity, heating or fuel.



Since the onset of the conflict in Syria in March, 2011, Global Ministries has supported the efforts of our partners across the region and is today actively involved in efforts to respond to the crisis and the growing number of displaced people. Emergency food packages, hygiene kits, bedding, and portable stoves have been distributed. Psychosocial support and health care is also being provided. Warm clothing and activities for children are organized in the Za'atri refugee camp in Jordan. Gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing and Week of Compassion are helping to supply these needs.

Oh God, today we pray for Syria and all its people, even as they are scattered far and wide. In this land that was touched by the feet of our Lord, and where Paul was baptized and became the Apostle of nations, the cradle of prophets and religions, we acknowledge our link to the Christian legacy and historical churches there. We fervently pray for the Syrian Christian leadership and for the country's leaders in this precarious time. We seek to understand and respect others and pray that the Syrian nation may find a way to work together in order to achieve peace and stability in Syria. We hold the people of Syria in our prayers, asking for solace and comfort, security and the provision of basic needs. We faithfully pray, Amen.



You make the difference...

The prayers and help you provide through your local congregations make possible the work and witness of GLOBAL MINISTRIES, which is supported by Disciples Mission Fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) of the United Church of Christ.

WWW.GLOBALMINISTRIES.ORG



The BZ Express

February 2013

Zion United Church of Christ

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Pastor's email: pastorjane@zionuccburlington.org

Website: www.zionuccburlington.org

Staff

Rev. Jane A. Willan, Pastor

Janice Gibson, Organist, Choir Director,
and Christian Education Director

Marilyn Stein, Office Administrator

Kay Jacobs, Treasurer's Assistant

Renita Jarrett, Choir Accompanist and
Wedding Coordinator

Megan Agnew, Nursery Supervisor

Earnest Turner, Custodian and
Buildings & Grounds Coordinator

Deb Ruble, Director of Bridging the Gap

Judy Taylor, Heritage People Coordinator