



Lent: Restoration for God's People

Within your temple, O God, we meditate on your unfailing love. (Psalm 48:9, NIV)

In a July 28, 2006 USA Today article, Kitty Bean Yancey wrote of a new phenomenon that is, or at least was at that time, sweeping across corporate America.

The article addressed the ways in which executive and management leaders are handling the stress of their jobs. An increasing number of executives are escaping from the cares of this world in less conventional ways. Instead of simply retreating to the beach, to the mountains, or a golf outing, many adults are, well, acting like children.

At California's Camp GetAway, an adult can participate in sing-alongs, water balloon fights, kickball, s'mores around the campfire, and a sneaky excursion out of the cabin to toilet-paper the cars and cabins of other campers. Some adults opt for the increasingly popular Rock 'n Roll Fantasy Camps where even unskilled participants can join in a jam session with real rock musicians.

Helene Oseen founded The Ultimate Pajama Party, a camp where older women can don their pajamas, pillow fight, and sit on the bed and share confidences late into the night. Oseen began the camp after "identifying in my own life that I worked a lot and didn't play very much."

Author Christopher Noxon coined the phrase "rejuveniling" in his book *Rejuvenile: Kickball, Cartoons, Cupcakes, and the Reinvention of the American Grown-Up*. A father of three living in Los Angeles, Noxon said: "In a world where pressure and problems pile on non-stop, more grown-ups are seeking a vacation from their adult side."

As life crushes in upon us, perhaps a get-away is exactly what we need. Perhaps one of these might be great therapy for us. The church, however, has had a restorative plan for centuries. The season of Lent is designed as a means of helping God's people pull back from all the stresses, pressures, and busyness of life. During this season of contemplation and meditation, Christians focus attention on the suffering, passion, and death of Christ as God's ultimate plan for our redemption. Lent is not intended as an escape from life, but as a means of re-centering our lives in Christ so that we might live more fully in all of life.

Therefore, let me encourage you to take advantage of the Lenten activities in our church: beginning with Ash Wednesday, February 25 and continuing through Good Friday, April 10. In addition, on each of the Sundays in Lent we will think about the people who witness the death of Christ and what we see of ourselves in them, and as a weekly reminder of what God has done for us in Christ, we will also receive the Lord's Supper each Sunday of Lent.

Despite the negative issues surrounding us and pressing in against us, God has not changed: He is still our truly reliable source of strength and help. May the season of Lent lead you to His grace and peace.

In Christ,
Pastor Wes

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME begins Sunday, March 8. Please turn your clocks ahead one hour.

CHURCH SERVICES ON THE INTERNET: You may access our worship services on the church website (www.hwchurch.org) or on iTunes (www.itunes.com). Most weeks the services are available on iTunes by late Sunday afternoon and on our website by late Monday morning.

CHURCH SERVICES ON THE RADIO: All of the sanctuary services of the Houghton Wesleyan Church are available to the Houghton area at **89.9 FM**.

Sundays in March

- March 1** (8:20 am / 11:00 am)
a.m. *The Unseen Face at the Cross* (Mark 15:33-41)
p.m. Small Groups
- March 8** (8:20 am / 9:40 am / 11:00 am)
a.m. *The Hypocritical Faces at the Cross* (John 18, 19)
p.m. Small Groups
- March 15:** (8:20 am / 9:40 am / 11:00 am)
a.m. *The Grieving Face at the Cross* (John 19:17-27)
p.m. Small Groups
- March 22:** (8:20 am / 9:40 am / 11:00 am)
a.m. *The Nearest Faces at the Cross* (Luke 23:26-43)
p.m. Small Groups
- March 29** (8:20 am / 9:40 / 11:00 am)
a.m. *The Unreliable Faces at the Cross* (Matthew 21:1-11)
p.m. Small Groups

FROM THE ASSISTANT PASTOR

“I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone...”
– 1 Timothy 2:1

Someone once said, “When man works– man works, but when man prays– God works.” If this is true, then one of the most important ministries of our church happens each week on Wednesday evening at 6:30 PM when members of our congregation gather in the church sanctuary for a brief devotional and a time of prayer. We would love to have you join us as we give thanks to God and lift up to Him the needs, burdens, and concerns of our church, community, and world.

One especially meaningful component of this prayer meeting, added this past year, is the opportunity to assist the Boys AWANA group with their Bible lessons and Scripture memorization. Each week at 7:15 PM, under the direction of Mrs. Pam Pelletier, the boys come upstairs to the sanctuary and recite their verses to the adult with whom they’ve been partnered. It’s a great blessing to see this connection between the generations, and it’s a joy for the adults involved to be able to help these boys grow in Christ!

Leadership of this Wednesday evening prayer meeting rotates each week among Pastor Wes, Pastor Laurie, me, and once a month, a ministry volunteer from the congregation.

I invite you to join us for this time of prayer on Wednesday evenings. I believe you will find it a blessing – both to pray with your brothers and sisters in Christ and to have the opportunity to encourage a young boy in his relationship with Christ!

In His Love,
Pastor Todd

ELECTRONIC HIGHLIGHTS

We are grateful for your support of the Houghton Wesleyan Church, particularly in these difficult economic times. In order to take seriously the mandate to be responsible stewards of God’s resources, we continue to look for ways to eliminate costs and reduce waste. We are, therefore, once again asking for your help.

Many of you already receive the *Highlights* electronically. If you do not and you have email access, would you be willing to give it a try? We are happy to send the electronic version of the *Highlights* to as many email addresses as work best for you. For example, if each member of your family has a separate email address, we can send the *Highlights* to each address so that no one misses it.

Distributing the *Highlights* electronically has the potential to save more than \$2500 in paper, printing, and mailing costs, and because we use less paper, it helps lessen our energy footprint. In addition, because of the new postal regulations that mandate all local mail to be routed through Buffalo, you will receive the *Highlights* much more quickly than regular mail. If you desire to print the electronic edition, it is designed for standard 8½ x 11 paper.

If you are not currently receiving the *Highlights* electronically and would like to give it a try, please contact Patty Stalker (pstalker@hwchurch.org). Thank you for your help. If you have questions, please feel free to contact Patty or me.

Pastor Wes

YOUTH GROUP: Relationships

All students 6:30 – 8:00 pm

March 4th – Mirror, Mirror on the wall...

11th – Porn... what's the big deal?

18th - "I kissed dating goodbye...but why?"

25th – Sex

PRAYER BREAKFAST: Tuesday Mornings:

March 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th, and 31st.

7 AM in the Community Room.

We are studying the book of James (feel free to read ahead.)

YOUTH COMMITTEE MEETING -

Monday, Mar. 9th 6:30 – 8:00 pm (Youth Room)

MARCH 1st – Super Sunday School – All Junior and Senior High Sunday School Classes will meet at 9:40 in the Community Room for a unique Sunday school experience. Refreshments will be served.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Spring Fling April 3-4th – Featuring: "The Skit Guys!"

30-hour Famine April 24-25th

ORGAN RECITAL:

The final organ recital of the inaugural series will take place on Friday, March 20, at 8:00 p.m. This date is very close to the birthdate (in 1685) of Johann Sebastian Bach, and the program will be devoted exclusively to organ works by this phenomenal composer. The performer will be Dr. Judy Congdon, Houghton College Professor of Organ.

Congratulations to Jan and Stephan Schilke at the birth of their daughter, Julia Claire, on February 4 at 3:41 p.m. Claire weighed 7 lbs. 10 1/2 oz. and was 20 1/2 inches long. God's blessings to her siblings Anna, Tess, Micah, Lydia, and Eben as well.

We offer our condolences to the families of Ginny Olsen (JoAnne Young's mother), Ruth Luckey, and to Ndunge Kiiti whose mother died unexpectedly.

SHORT TERM MISSION APPLICATIONS (RETURN TO THE OFFICE BY MARCH 27) FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE ARE AVAILABLE IN THE CHURCH OFFICE AND ONLINE AT WWW.HWCHURCH.ORG/SHORTTERMMISSIONAPP2009.PDF

District Women's Event

Come Experience...A Walk With Jesus In The Garden

This year's District Women's Event will be held on Saturday, April 4, 2009.

Featured Guest Speakers: Anita Eastlack, Javene McCabe & Robin Schera.

Registration forms and further information about this event are
on the bulletin board outside the office

and on the District Web-site: www.wnydistrict.com.

Location: Eastern Hills

Time 9:30-2:30

Cost: \$25

Lunch available for \$6.00

Please register by March 21st.

For more details, call (716) 646-0282

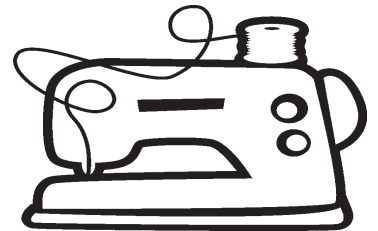


Palm Sunday

On Palm Sunday, April 5, children are invited to be a part of a processional into the sanctuary at the 8:20, 9:40, and 11:00 worship services. Each child will carry a palm branch and will lay it on the altar. Notes will be sent home with the children from Sunday School giving more details about this special morning. Thank you.

Invest in the life of a refugee woman in Buffalo.

Hope Refugee Services is offering once a month sewing workshops for refugee women. Upcoming workshops will be held on the following Saturdays from 1:00 pm – 3:30 pm: March 21, April 25, May 16 and June 13 at Jericho Road Ministries, 184 Barton St., Buffalo, 14213. We need sewing teachers to work one on one with refugee women. We also need new or used sewing machines in working order, fabric and sewing notions such as thread, buttons, needles, seam rippers, etc. For more information about how you can support this effort, please contact Bonnie MacBeth at 716-491-5157 - bonniemacbeth@yahoo.com or Laurie Smalley (567-8302).



W.K.F.M. Korner

Did you know that the DOTYS (Wycliffe missionaries) offered your child either a fried, dried caterpillar or cricket from Thailand last month? Some of us tried, some did not, but all of us were blessed to learn about Thailand.

We continue our study of Thailand this month on Sunday, March 15 at 9:40 a.m. Come all 1st to 5th graders! Our offering will go to the EL SHADDAI ORPHANAGE in Chiang Rai, Thailand, and toward the support of the CARINGALS, our missionaries in the Philippines. Please give your child an opportunity to take part in these monthly offerings. They are old enough now to learn the tithing concept of 10% of their money. February's offering was \$28.50, a wonderful gift from the children to God's work.

HOUGHTON AREA SENIOR CITIZENS

March 6, 9:00 a.m. Senior Coffee Hour at Subway

March 12, 12:15 p.m. Monthly Luncheon Meeting

1:00 p.m. Program: Readers Theatre Class

under the direction of Dr. Doug Gaerte

Food Guide for Potluck Dinners - *Please bring your table service and the dish designated*

by the initial of your last name:

A-F, Casserole

G-O, Salad

P-Z, Dessert

H2S Game Night: April 16

THE LIBRARY CORNER

God must have a wonderful sense of humor. In the 17th century when many learned monks fasted, prayed and studied long hours, they did not write the great devotional classic of that period. Instead it came from a kitchen. Brother Lawrence wrote, "The time of business does not with me differ from the time of prayer. In the noise and clatter of my kitchen...I possess God in as great tranquility as if I was on my knees at the blessed sacrament." Perhaps, during the Lenten season Brother Lawrence's book, *The Practice of the Presence of God*, will help you draw closer to "His Presence."



Sing Down the Moon is a Junior fiction book by Scott O'Dell. It is the story of the forced migration of the Navajos from Arizona to Ft. Sumner, New Mexico, in the mid 1860s. The review tells us that it is "beautifully written, immensely moving, a memorable reading experience for any age."

An American Library Association Best Book for young adults is *Lyddie* by Katherine Paterson. Lyddie is a young rural New England girl who takes a mill job in the sweat shop environment of Lowell, MA, in the 1800s. The Horn Book calls it "a superb story of grit, determination and personal growth."

New DVD's include *Prince Caspian*, in the Chronicles of Narnia series, and the *Story of Jesus*. We are assured that the *Story of Jesus* is for children from 5-105. This might be a good DVD to share with the whole family during the Lenten season.

New adult fiction include three books by Lucy Maude Montgomery who is, perhaps, best know for her book, *Anne of Green Gables*. The new books are: *Tales of Avonlea*, *Anne of Windy Poplars*, and *Anne of Avonlea*. Another new series is called the Oxford Chronicles by Malanie Jeschke. These books are called: *Inklings*, *Expectations*, and *Evasions*.

Vine's Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words has been added to the New Book shelf.

All-you-can-eat
HVFD SPAGHETTI DINNER

Tuesday March 10, 2009

5-7:30 PM

Houghton Wesleyan Church Community Room

\$6.00 / Adult \$25 / family of five or more

[Spaghetti / salad / garlic bread / delicious desserts / beverages]



HVFD Dinner

March 10

DESSERT REQUEST !!!

We are preparing to feed approximately 300 and would very much appreciate your contribution of a dessert (or two). We encourage chocolate as well as non-chocolate desserts. Please bring these items to the church kitchen / community room in time for them to be displayed on the serving tables. (Make sure to indicate your name on the underside of the platters) Please notify me, **Joy Morris**, if you can help out with a dessert, by e-mail

(Joy.Morris@houghton.edu) or phone (603-505-2724).

On behalf of your firemen and the entire Houghton community.

Thank you.

-Joy Morris

Donations wanted for Toy Library opening soon in Belfast!

The Belfast Toy Library will be opening in the next few months at the Sojourners Mennonite Fellowship. Donations of various toys appropriate for ages 0-8 yrs. would be appreciated. Ideas range from puzzles, dressups, alphabet & math toys, science & dinosaurs, lacing & fine motor skills, outdoor play yards and more. We're also looking for baby items like car seats, boosters, exersaucers, slings, pack-n-plays, and more. For more information or to volunteer, contact Ginny Routhe at agrouthe@hotmail.com.

WEBSITE with PAINTINGS
and other art for sale
by Eila Shea
www.Windymeadows.com
(prices have recently
been reduced)

We wish to thank the people of the Houghton Church for your prayers and financial assistance in our recent six- week trip to Zimba Mission Hospital and three Rural Health Centers in Zambia. It proved a busy and rewarding experience for us as we worked in the hospital and in the local churches. We were greatly aware of God's presence and enabling.

As members of the Houghton Medical-Dental Team's 33rd annual trip to Haiti in January and 6th trip to the Macieux Wesleyan Church in the southern mountains of Haiti, we are deeply grateful for your prayers and financial assistance. It was one of the team's busiest and most rewarding trips.

Storer & Wilma Emmett



**COMMUNITY
GARDEN**

Plots now available for the Houghton Community Garden

Plans are underway for the 2009 growing season in the newly formed Houghton Community Garden. Grab a friend or family and reserve your plot(s) now! Rent an individual plot on sunny Tucker Hill and/ or join the large group effort to grow corn and tomatoes together. Plots are first come first serve so don't delay! Contact Ginny Routhe at agrouthe@hotmail.com or Brian Webb brian.webb@houghton.edu for a garden application and details.

PLEASE JOIN US AT THE

WELLSVILLE ^{TO} HOUGHTON *exchange*



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COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS
IN ALLEGANY COUNTY

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Representatives from Wellsville Businesses and Organizations will be on campus to provide a glimpse of their products and/or services in the following areas: civic, cultural, health and human services, shopping, and recreation. Stop by for information, coupons, discounts and to enter drawings for gift certificates.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 2009

11:30 A.M. - 6:00 P.M.

**VAN DYK LOUNGE, REINHOLD CAMPUS CENTER
HOUGHTON COLLEGE**

COMMUNITY PAGE

FREE TAX PREPARATION:

For the sixteenth year, IRS certified Houghton College business students are offering no-cost tax preparation. This program is offered in cooperation with the IRS Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA).

- Tax preparation services for Federal and New York State tax returns for taxpayers with income of \$42,000 or less
- Available **Wednesdays, February 11 through April 8, from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.** (Except February 25) and **Saturday, March 7, from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.** at Houghton College in Chamberlain Center — Room 122
- Make an appointment by emailing Heléna Oden at helena.oden@houghton.edu or by calling the Houghton College Public Events Office at 585-567-9210, Monday – Friday from 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

IMPORTANT: Please bring:

- Proof of identity
- Copies of all W2, 1098, & 1099 forms
- Social Security cards for all individuals on your tax return
- Banking information if you want your tax refund direct deposited
- Copy of 2007 tax return, if possible

For Sale: sewing machine. Call 365-2158

For Sale: Loveseat, vacuum cleaner. Call 567-8354

Houghton Wesleyan Church
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Houghton, NY 14744

Address Service Requested

CHURCH STAFF

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