

# The Tower Call

Vol. 47 No. 4

The Newsletter of Zion United Church of Christ

April 2008

## From the Ram's Den

This message is going to be like my Easter sermon -- an "up," then a "down," then another "up."

"Up" number one for me is one I hope you are already sharing: *Wasn't our Easter service just wonderful?!!*

Like the Resurrection itself, the music was "out of this world" while being thankfully very much "in Zion's world." Thanks to Sarah Leamy for pulling it together and directing it, and thanks to all the musicians for all they did.

Communion seemed to go smoothly as always, despite the extra number of people to serve. Thanks to our communion ushers for managing the process and special thanks to Doug Hilyard for his special role. I am particularly thankful to Nora Cilurso. She prepared the communion elements and utensils for us. She may not have thought it was special, since she does it almost every month. I'm sure the rest of us think it is pretty special every month.

There were many other "behind the scenes" contributions to the service. I'm thinking now particularly of all the work that went into making the sanctuary so lovely. Liz Ruckel ran the lily donation process. JoEllen Berryman arranged the lilies and the other decorations in the church. Our sexton, Jim Morgan, provided the cleaning. And many other volunteers pitched in to help.

Of course, it was neat to have so many people in our sanctuary (Tony Trunzo's count was 147). It was even better to feel the swell of presence as I looked out at you all, and to see the active responsiveness in your faces and posture as I preached. You were a wonderful congregation.

After that joy, I come to the unrelated "down" in this message; I feel something like a Scrooge for bringing it up. I get many emails that are not directly related to Zion or to my various volunteer responsibilities. They come from several friends and from some of you. Sometimes they pass on an email that has been received, and sometimes those include the instruction (or "promise" or sometimes even a veiled "threat") to pass it on to others. I

confess I never do, except when I use a story in a sermon.

I wrote that off as my knee jerk reaction remaining from early days of being turned off to "chain letters." Then last month I received another email from a friend, with an attached report from Snopes (that's the web-site specializing in "urban myths"). It pointed out that most emails that ask the recipient to pass them on are originally put together with tracking "cookies" that gather the email names and addresses of all the people to whom they go to sell to vendors to use for email sales attempts. So my Scrooge says to you, only forward such emails to people you are willing to put on somebody's sales list. You and they are being used by an unseen hand that is not interested at all in your welfare. If you know the person sending it to you, and you know they actually are the initial creators of it, that doesn't apply. But I don't think I've ever received one of which that was true. That gets me to my concluding "up." I really appreciate most of the emails I receive. I am awed by some of the pictures, amused by some of the jokes, amazed by some of the events reported, entertained by some of the stories and inspired by some of the poems. As you know, I not infrequently find sermon illustrations among them. I'm grateful when you send them along to me. Indeed, if you think they might be good sermon material, please send me those chain letter emails you get. I'll run the risk of spam to get a good story I can use.

*Bill*

## Doing Theology Together

*By Norman Kansfield, Resident Theologian*

The date for Easter this year was especially early – almost as early as it can be. This has raised the question of why the date for Easter varies so much. The answer to that question begins with the First Council of Nicea – a gathering of Christian leaders from throughout the Roman Empire called by the Emperor Constantine in 325 A.D. This Church Council decided that Easter should always be celebrated on a Sunday – the *day* of the week

being given importance, rather than the *date* within any year. The Council also decided that Easter Sunday should be kept close to the celebration of Passover – the Jewish holiday being celebrated at the time of Jesus’ crucifixion and resurrection. Passover always begins on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of Nisan in the Jewish calendar. The month of Nisan usually occurs during March-April in the Gregorian Calendar – the internationally accepted civil calendar that we still use, introduced by Pope Gregory XIII in 1582. With all of this in mind, Gregory established a formula for determining the date of Easter so that it would always fall on a Sunday within (or close to) the Jewish month of Nisan. Easter was decreed to be the first Sunday, after the first full moon, after the Vernal Equinox (the first day of Spring – March 21). Therefore, Easter can occur as early as March 22 and as late as April 25.

**Lynn’s Lines...**

- Daily email prayers getting to your inbox??? Don’t worry if they’re not! They may be stuck in someone’s “drafts box.” Have the faith. They’ll get there in a day or two.
- Wrapping up our Wednesday Lenten series with *St. John’s Lutheran* and *Christ Episcopal*. A super success. Thanks to all who took part.
- *Cassie* at the Regional Science Olympiad at Penn State Wilkes-Barre. Event: cell biology. More later from Juniata.
- Snowed out! The *Bats* ice cream and movie social! We’ll “reel-schedule” soon!
- Great egg hunt for our “*Pumpkins*” on March 16! Thanks, *Bats*!
- Congratulations to *Jackie VanNortwick*! Master’s Degree in Criminal Justice!
- Thanks, *Dave and Edna*, for reminding us of historical moments in Zion.
- Thanks to Brenda and Bernie Hobson and Joyce Johnson for a wonderful Exploration Session in March.
- Linger Lunch in March: green, green, and more green! And food was great too!
- Signing off from sunny Florida! The Phils have won, the weather is hot! And by the time this edition of the Tower Call reaches you, I’ll be back in Pa. just in time for the Phils game with the new AAA team in Allentown, the Iron Pigs! Hopefully, the Phils will be able to pull off a

victory. The *Moyer Family* will be there to tell us all about it!

**PENN NORTHEAST CONFERENCE  
PRESENTS.....**

**COME TO THE WELL EVENT**

Saturday, April 26, 2008

9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Dryland UCC, 4415 Newburg Road, Nazareth

\$12.00/participant (includes lunch)

**Theme: Leadership Development .....**

**Encouraging people to discover their spiritual stories and journeys.**

Promises to be a great day! **It would be great if Zion could take a team to the event!** Please contact me if interested! Lynn

**A Look Ahead: March Into May**

*by Lynn*

Spring is right around the corner, and with the bloomin’ flowers and (hopefully) warmer weather come lots of special stuff on the church calendar!

**Sunday May 4: Exploration Session**

Sponsored by the Church Growth Committee for anyone considering membership in Zion or anyone wishing to discover more about Zion and /or the United Church of Christ as a denomination.

**Sunday May 11: Pentecost Sunday**

**Mother’s Day**

**Sunday May 18: New Member Reception**

During the worship service, Zion receives new members.

**Prayer Power**

*by Lynn*

It started with prayer requests on Sunday mornings and continued to grow with the daily email prayer ministry. It soon flourished into a ministry of prayer that extended well beyond the walls of Zion and what a wonderful ministry it has become!

As the need for prayers continued to grow, revisions were made to accommodate the long list of requests made each week. Currently ongoing prayer concerns appear in the bulletin each week and are presented to God on the altar during the pastoral prayer. Names of those needing immediate prayers are included in the pastoral prayer time during Sunday's worship.

To assure that the new system works successfully, please be sure to indicate those concerns that should be maintained as "ongoing," and those that are "immediate" and need prayer on a particular Sunday. Please also be sure to notify Marina, Dave, Lynn, or Bill if a name should no longer be included on the "ongoing list" so that the list remains updated and accurate. Please note too that a request for the "ongoing" list of prayer concerns needs only to be made once. If you have any suggestions regarding this prayer ministry, please do not hesitate to contact any one of the pastors or any one of the members of the Music/Worship Committee.

### **Congratulations!**

Jaclyn Van Nortwick, daughter of Barbara and Bob Van Nortwick, completed her schooling at John Jay College in Manhattan and has received a Masters Degree in Criminal Justice and Investigation. Best wishes to Jackie for a successful future.

### **Yard Sale**

*By Lori Kelly*

The Zion United Church Annual Yard Sale will be held on Saturday, May 24, 2008. Time will be from 9am - 4 pm, probably in Fellowship Hall. Everyone start cleaning out their attics, basements and closets. Everyone can start bringing in their treasures beginning May 1, 2008 and put everything on the stage. If anyone has any questions, or would like to volunteer to help, please give me a call.

***The following items cannot be accepted any longer for the sale:***

Appliances (large)--freon hazard: too expensive to repair or dispose of.

Air conditioner--freon hazard

Bicycles--safety issues with equipment; new ones are usually ok.

Bowling balls--no demand

Carpeting/padding (no larger than 6x9ft)--not manageable; not able to be displayed in store

Child care seats/walkers/playpens/bassinets/baby

swings/cribs with openings larger than 2"--

Government safety requirements and guidelines, recalls.

Computers (IB comp. below 386:Macintosh below Power-Mac's)--Models prior to 386's & Power-Mac's are outdated: not enough power; not upgrade-able-no demand.

De-Humidifiers--freon hazard

Doors/screens/windows-Varian in specialty sizes makes them hard to sell; specifically made to order for owner.

Garage door openers-no way to test items

Gas containers-safety issues

Gas grills-safety issues; cannot test and gas cylinders may leak

Hazardous household chemicals & paint --safety and disposal issues

Heaters that use fuel-safety issues

Hospital beds-no demand

Magazines, textbooks, encyclopedias--outdated materials-no demand

Metal desks -too big and heavy for most to lift-no demand

Pianos/organs--too big and heavy to lift-no demand

Plumbing items, unless still in pkgs.-no way to test Small, gas powered engine items(lawn equipment)--no way to test items

Soiled, stained mattresses/metal

bed/springs/rollaway bed frames/box springs without mattress--no demand

Soiled, torn worn furniture--no demand

Stereos and TV's (console models)--outdated; not compatible with today's equipment

Tires--costs goodwill money to have them hauled away.

Venetian blinds/drapery hardware-variation in specialty sizes makes them hard to sell; specifically made to order for owner.

Wire hangers-no demand

### **Bellows from the Belfry**

The Superbowl hoagie sale was a Huge success. The bats raised approximately \$300.00. We hope everyone enjoyed their hoagies and we appreciate all of the support. We hope to put the money to good use.

The bats would like to thank everyone for all of the Valentine's cards and candy. As always, everyone was so generous.

This month the bats held an Easter Egg hunt for all of the younger children in the church. The egg hunt was held on Sunday, March 16<sup>th</sup> immediately

following Palm Sunday church service. All of the children appeared to enjoy themselves. In addition, we are collecting items to send to several soldiers in Iraq.

Next month, we are planning on getting in the kitchen again and baking a variety of cookies to be sold during coffee hour. We will keep everyone posted.

God Bless,  
*The Bats*

### **Women's Guild**

*by Nora Cilurso*

The next Women's Guild meeting will take place on April 8th at Zion at 12noon. Please bring a bag lunch.

### **New Hope Clubhouse is Now New Hope Recovery Work Center!**

Recently the New Hope Clubhouse went through a program change. New Hope no longer operates following the criteria of the clubhouse model which was geared toward vocational goals and paralleled a typical work ordered day. As many know, clubhouse is best described as a community of people working together toward a common goal. The Clubhouse environment and structures are developed in a way to ensure that there is ample opportunity for human interaction and that there is more than enough work to do.

Now operating as a site based psych rehab, New Hope is a recovery program dedicated to persons with severe mental illness develop and investigate rehabilitation strategies that make possible the individual treatment goals. New Hope has taken key ideas from various recovery programs, including clubhouse, and transformed into a program that intentionally support individuals living with the effects of mental illness. Through participation in the psych rehab people are given the opportunities to rejoin the worlds of friendships, family, important work, employment, education, and to access the services and supports they may individually need. The Recovery Work Center is a healing environment for people who have had their lives drastically disrupted, and need the support of others who believe that recovery from mental illness is possible for all.

### **Consumer Tip for Us**

You now each have a right to free annual credit report on yourself from each of the three credit-reporting agencies. You can ask for yours by using the [official AnnualCreditReport site](#). Only one report per year is free from each, but they do tend to cover the same information. So you can make your coverage come through the whole year by spacing out your requests to the three agencies -- asking for the report from a different agency every four months. The advantage is that the information will let you spot such unexpected changes as a request for a car loan in a state 3,000 miles from your home. That AnnualCreditReport.com site also provides extensive information in its [Frequently Asked Questions](#) that will help you interact effectively with the agencies.

### **Greetings from Our 2008 Budget**

What a wonderful Easter! Even a budget can enjoy great music and spirited worship. Of course, a budget also likes the way all those people in attendance show their spirit by giving.

That's the main message I have this month. Your steady giving is keeping me in great shape. In fact, the Finance Committee has been able to shift some of my operating cushion to the United Church Endowment Fund. It's still available overnight, pays more interest – and provides money to be loaned to other United Church of Christ congregations that are building new buildings or renovating older ones. It reminds me of being told that the early Pennsylvania Quakers lived by the goal of “doing well while doing good.” The committee decided they could do that because your giving is so dependable.

I thank you for that. But I'm still going to do my “budget thing” and remind you that you have opportunities every Sunday to add a little something extra, not just on Easter. So please do that when you can, so I can stretch to meet additional needs as they emerge.

For that matter, you can help me while having fun (sounds like the Quakers again). You can bring in things somebody will want for our Yard Sale. Then come and help on Saturday,

May 24. Time will be from 9am - 4 pm, the day of the sale. If you happen to be good at pricing items for such a sale, check with Lori to see when you can help. You might even find some neglected “treasure” to buy for yourself (or for re-gifting).

That takes care of my “sales pitch” for this month. I can go back to the way I feel and say again, “Thanks.”

This month is all in the Easter season in the traditional church year, and Easter is all about God’s gift of joy. So let me encourage you to find again and again the deep joy of giving.

## April Ministries

Date	Hospitality/ Greeter	Usher	Counter	Reader	Coffee Social	Child Care	Acolyte & Bell Ringer	Communion
4-6	Jean Moyer, Lori Kelly/ Mark Kelly, Vern Moyer	Bill Schmidt Mike Altemose	Jean Moyer, Leslie Berger, Barb VanNortwick	Dave Crane	Dot Hilyard Dawn Walp Nora Cilurso	Wanda DeYong Carissa Ruckel	Nathaniel Bachelder	Doug Hilyard Tony Trunzo Sherry Swisher
4-13	Nina Woodling, Karen Trunzo/Tony Trunzo, Ray Davis	Tony Trunzo Ed Flory	Keith Dierolf, Maryann Reed, Liz Ruckel	Maryann Reed	Linda Bailey Barb Dierolf	Deb Mansuso Julie Trunzo	Alex Reincke	
4-20	Sherry Swisher, Jean Moyer/ Bill Swisher, Gail Flory	Sherry & Bill Swisher	Sherry Swisher, Jean Miller, Karen Ezzo	Elaine Shuey	Linger Lunch	Dawn Walp Lori Kelly	Bethany Bachelder	
4-27	Jean Moyer, Brenda Mitstifer/ Nancy Armitage, Janet Campbell	Lori & Mark Kelly	Barb Dierolf, Linda Bailey, JoEllen Berryman	Mike Wetmore	Jean Miller Amy Snyder	Linda Bailey Lori Rike	Jesse Mancuso	

**March Attendance and Weekly Offerings**  
**Budget needs per week: \$2390.00**

Date	Last Year	This Year	Reg Env.	Other	Total
3-2	107	110	3227.00	812.49	4039.49
3-9	118	87	1514.00	462.15	1976.15
3-16	102	126 Palm Sun	2855.00	868.38	3723.38
3-23	113	141 Easter	1842.00	1933.25	3775.25

**Zion United Church of Christ Committees**

**Public Relations** Irene Smith

**Christian Education** Virginia Bachelder (chair), Staff: Lynn

**Building** Mark Kelly (chair), Barbara VanNortwick (secretary), Mike Altemose, Bill Schmidt, Bill Swisher, Dick Ezzo, Tony Trunzo, Erick Weirich, Ray Davis, Vern Moyer, Staff: Dave

**Endowment** Rob Miller (chair), Jean Moyer, Liz Ruckel, Doug Hilyard (consultant), Staff:

**Finance** Jean Moyer (chair), Keith Dierolf, Dot Hilyard, Joyce Weishaupt, Floyd LaBarre, Fay Perri, Ed Flory Staff: Bill

**Music and Worship** Elaine Shuey, Gail Stevens (chair), Arlene Altemose, Jim Ruckel, Karen Trunzo, Bill Swisher, Staff: Lynn.

**Nominating** Arlene Altemose, Liz Ruckel, Keith Dierolf, Staff: Lynn and Bill

**Pastor Parish Relations** Amy Snyder (chair), Arlene Altemose, Dave Crane, Maryann Reed, Scott Walp, Mike Wetmore, Staff: Bill

**Church Growth Committee:** Brenda Mitstifer (Chair), Linda Bailey (secretary), Larry Bailey, Jim Ruckel, Sherry Swisher, Irene Smith, Nina Woodling, Pam Reincke, Bill Ramsden, Dave Berryman, Lynn Breedy

**Youth Committee:** JoEllen Berryman, Barbara Dierolf, Dawn Walp, Becky Weirich, Deb Mancuso, Staff: Lynn

**Decorating Committee:** JoEllen Berryman, Jan Campbell, Deb Mancuso, Gail Flory, Maryann Reed, Liz Ruckel

**Bulletin Boards:** Fay Perri, Nancy Armitage

# April 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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**AA Groups at Zion: 6:30am – Main St. Group 10:00am– Eye Opener Group 8:00pm – S’burg Group**

		<b>1</b> AA 6 & 10AM AA 8:00PM Bible Group 10:30am	<b>2</b> AA 6 & 10AM Nicotine Anon 6:00 Music & Worship 7:00	<b>3</b> AA 6 & 10AM Bell Choir 6:00 Adam’s Rib, 6:45 Debt. Ann. 7:00 Choir 7:30	<b>4</b> AA 6 & 10AM	<b>5</b> AA10:00 AM
<b>6</b> Worship with Communion10:30 Coffee Hour 11:30 Children’s Choir 11:30	<b>7</b> AA 6 & 10AM Debt. Ann Noon TOPS 5:30 Keepers 7:00	<b>8</b> AA 6 & 10AM AA 8:00PM Bible Group 10:30am Finance Committee 7:00	<b>9</b> AA 6 & 10AM Nicotine Anon 6:00 Consistory 7:00	<b>10</b> AA 6 & 10AM Bell Choir 6:30 Debt. Ann. 7:00 Choir 7:30	<b>11</b> AA 6 & 10AM	<b>12</b> AA10:00 AM
<b>13</b> Worship 10:30 Linger Lunch 11:30 Children’s Choir 11:30	<b>14</b> AA 6 & 10AM Debt. Ann Noon TOPS 5:30 Keepers 7:00	<b>14</b> AA 6 & 10AM AA 8:00PM	<b>16</b> AA 6 & 10AM Nicotine Anon 6:00	<b>17</b> AA 6 & 10AM Bell Choir 6:00 Adam’s Rib, 6:45 Debt. Ann. 7:00 Choir 7:30	<b>18</b> AA 6 & 10AM	<b>19</b> AA10AM
<b>20</b> Worship 10:30 Linger Lunch 11:30 Children’s Choir 11:30	<b>21</b> AA 6 & 10AM Debt. Ann Noon TOPS 5:30 Keepers 7:00	<b>22</b> AA 6 & 10AM Bible Group 10:30am AA 8:00PM	<b>23</b> AA 6 & 10AM Nicotine Anon 6:00	<b>24</b> AA 6 & 10AM Debt. Ann. 7:00 Bell Choir 6:30 Choir 7:30	<b>25</b> AA 6 & 10AM	<b>26</b> AA10AM
<b>27</b> Worship 10:30 Coffee Hour 11:30 Children’s Choir 11:30	<b>28</b> AA 6 & 10AM Debt. Ann Noon TOPS 5:30 Keepers 7:00	<b>29</b> AA 6 & 10AM AA 8:00PM	<b>30</b> AA 6 & 10AM Nicotine Anon 6:00			

## Church Family Information

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

4/2	Florence Labar	4/4	Kyle Reed	4/6	Tracie Zirpoli
4/6	Kim Sexton	4/10	Debbie Reish	4/10	Jaclyn VanNortwick
4/12	Laura Garris	4/14	Shirley Weirich	4/14	Rebecca Weirich
4/15	Chad Swisher	4/16	JoEllen Berryman	4/17	Adam Bordick
4/22	Mary Ann Reed	4/23	Elizabeth Smith		

### HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

4/11	Kim Eddy-Larkin & Daniel Larkin	4/16	Sherry & Bill Swisher
4/16	Dot & Doug Hilyard	4/17	Debra & David Marsack
4/22	Karen & Tony Trunzo		

**Special People:** If anyone knows of any others, please place their name along with their address in the Secretary's mailbox and the list will be printed in the next Tower Call. Then you can remember them with a card.

**Hillcrest Retirement Village** 6000 Running Valley Rd, Stroudsburg, PA 18360 - Helen Keller

**Stroud Manor** Brown Street, East Stroudsburg, PA 18301- Florence LaBar

**Pocono Lutheran Village** Brown Street, East Stroudsburg, PA 18301 - Dorothy Phillips,

**Milford Manor** 2200 Milford Road, East Stroudsburg, PA 18301 – Barbara Gilpin

**Pleasant Valley Manor** 4227 Manor Dr., Stroudsburg, PA 18360 - Shirley Williams,  
B Wing, Rm 115B

**Grace Park** Main Street, Stroudsburg - Ethel & Ronnie Dickisson

**Topton Lutheran Home** 1 S Home Ave., 307 D Wing, Topton, PA 19562, Geraldine Nonnemacher

Betty Lightner, c/o Linda Horvath, RD 7, Box 7333, Stroudsburg, PA 18360

Larry Ashton, 475 Mt. Nebo Rd., E. Stroudsburg, PA 18301

Elizabeth Smith, 1055 W. Main St., Apt. 404, Stroudsburg, PA 18360

Betty Warner, 772 Bryant Street, Stroudsburg, PA 18360

Glendyr Jones, c/o Masonic Home of NJ, S-324, 902 Jacksonville Rd., Burlington, NJ 08016-3896

### Zion United Church of Christ Consistory

<b>President</b>	Arlene Altemose
<b>Vice President</b>	Brenda Mitstifer
<b>Secretary</b>	Liz Ruckel
<b>Members</b>	Arlene Altemose, Nora Cilurso, Liz & Jim Ruckel, Jean Moyer, Karen Trunzo, Barbara VanNortwick, Brenda Mitstifer, Ed Flory, Mark Kelly
<b>Pastoral Staff</b>	Bill Ramsden; <i>Senior Pastor</i> , Dave Berryman, Lynn Breedy, <i>Associate Pastors</i> , Norman Kansfield, <i>Theologian in Residence</i>