

The Carillon

United Church of Christ, Congregational

(585) 492-4530

Editor: Kathy May

March 2014

In looking at my calendar, getting ready for this issue of the Carillon, I noticed or maybe better stated, I recognized that there are two significant days occurring in the month: Ash Wednesday and the Ides of March. But what, you might well be asking, do the two have to do with each other? Let me see if I can make the argument for their relationship to us in this 21st century.

Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent in the Western Christian calendar. Occurring 46 days before Easter, it can fall as early as February 4 and as late as March 10. According to the canonical synoptic gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke, Jesus spent 40 days fasting in the desert, where he endured temptation by Satan. Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of this 40-day liturgical period of prayer and fasting or abstinence. Of the 46 days until Easter, six are Sundays. As the Christian sabbath, Sundays are not included in the fasting period and are instead "feast" days during Lent. Ash Wednesday derives its name from the practice of placing ashes on the foreheads of adherents as a celebration and a reminder of human mortality, and as a sign of mourning and repentance to God. The ashes used are typically gathered from the burning of the palms from the previous year's Palm Sunday.

Although generally seen as a Catholic practice, as it was mostly abandoned by Protestants except for Anglicans after the Protestant Reformation, it has become increasingly common in much of Christianity.

The Ides of March, a pagan day of celebration in the Roman World, is a little different. The Romans did not number days of a month sequentially from the first through the last day. Instead, they counted back from three fixed points of the month: the Nones (5th or 7th, depending on the length of the month), the Ides (13th or 15th), and the Kalends (1st) of the following month. The Ides occurred near the midpoint, on the 13th for most months, but on the 15th for March, May, July, and October. The Ides were supposed to be determined by the full moon, reflecting the lunar origin of the Roman calendar. On the earliest calendar, the Ides of March would have been the first full moon of the new year.

Remember the phrase made famous by Shakespeare in his play, *Julius Caesar*, "**Et tu, Brute?**" It is a Latin phrase meaning "and you, Brutus?" or "and you too, Brutus?". The phrase is often used poetically to represent the last words of the Roman dictator, Julius

Caesar, to his friend, Marcus Brutus, at the moment of his assassination. However, there is no evidence that Caesar actually said these words. The quotation is widely used in Western culture to signify the utmost betrayal by an unexpected person, such as a friend.

So, how are the two dates connected? As we begin Lent on Ash Wednesday (March 5th this year), we pledge ourselves to a 40-day journey of introspection, prayer, repentance and good works. Many of us give up something that we really enjoy for this period as a way to concentrate more fully on Christ and the cross.

But for many, unfortunately, our commitment to the practices of Lent are all too short-lived. Many fall "off the wagon" of Lenten practices and live just as though nothing special is being observed. It's at these times that I can easily imagine Christ Jesus looking down upon us and mentally saying, "and you, too, (insert your name here)?" As we profess to be Jesus' friend, his adherent, his 21st century disciple, we seem to live quite contrarily! And it saddens Jesus, in and for whom we pledge ourselves. So, what can we do about it this year?

We can pledge to make sacrifices in our living that will mean something to us. I'm not talking big and prideful sacrifices, but instead sacrifices that make us stop and concentrate on why we have made these particular sacrifices. We can pledge our commitment to Bible Study, personal devotions, prayer time, and regular worship attendance. We can commit to helping our neighbors over and above what we ordinarily do in our living. We can concentrate on living our lives in a more Christ-like fashion, filled with love and compassion and forgiveness and mercy.

I wish you a blessed Ash Wednesday that reminds you of the reason for the season of Lent. And I wish for you as well, a commitment that will NOT cause Jesus to proclaim, "and you, too, (your name here)?"!!

Shalom,

Pastor Bob



If you or someone you know would like to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion at home, please let Kathy in the church office know. You may reach the church office at 585-492-4530 or via email at arc-ucc@juno.com.



Anyone from 9th grade up is invited to share with us in our music ministry. Rehearsal is at 8:45am on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings at 6:00pm.

March Greeters

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 2 John & Carol Abel | 23 Lois Yauchzy & Gwen St. John |
| 9 Mike & Bev Giles | |
| 16 Shirley Kriedeman & Sharon Hawley | 30 Gordon & Ginger Comstock |

March Readers

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| 2 Helen Knose | 23 Tom Scott |
| 9 Sheila Vrenna | 30 Marilyn Piridy |
| 16 Liz Lowth | |

March Nursery Schedule

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| 2 Sheila Vrenna | 23 Amy Tillinghast |
| 9 Sharon Koch | 30 Kathy May |
| 16 Deb Wood | |

March Worship Coordinators

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------------|
| 2 Bill Hall | 23 Shirley Kriedeman |
| 9 Molly Holland | 30 Bev Giles |
| 16 Wally Lowth | |

March Birthdays

- | | |
|----------------|--------------------------|
| 1 Mike Tanner | 20 Barbara Comstock-King |
| 2 Bryson King | 21 Justin Romance |
| 5 Ryan Bechdel | 23 Lois Anneler |
| 17 Dan King | 24 Kelsey May |

Pastor's Fund

During the month of February contributions for the Pastor's Discretionary Fund have been given by: two anonymous donors, UCC, Congregational, Gwen St. John and Pastor Bob. This fund is used in helping area folk in times of need. Your donations are greatly appreciated and may be given to Pastor or mailed to the church, indicated for the Pastor's Fund.

March Bible Readings

- | | |
|---------------|----------------------|
| 2 Micah 6:1-8 | 16 Deut 30:15-20 |
| Psalm 15 | Psalm 119:1-8 |
| 1 Cor 1:18-31 | 1 Cor 3:1-9 |
| Matt 5:1-12 | Matt 5:21-37 |
| 9 Isa 58:1-9a | 23 Lev 19:1-2, 9-18 |
| Psalm 112:1-9 | Psalm 119:33-40 |
| 1 Cor 2:1-12 | 1 Cor 3:10-11, 16-23 |
| Matt 5:13-20 | Matt 5:38-48 |

Worship in March:

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| March 2: | Last Sunday after Epiphany
Transfiguration Sunday
Guest Preacher: Carol Wolf |
| March 9: | 1 st Sunday in Lent
The Sacrament of Holy Communion
Scripture: Genesis 2: 15-15, 3: 1-7
Matthew 4: 1-11
Sermon: God Through Thick and Thin! |
| March 16: | 2 nd Sunday in Lent
Scripture: Genesis 12: 1-4
Romans 4: 1-5, 13-17
Sermon: OK, God,
Just Show Me the Way |
| March 23: | 3 rd Sunday in Lent
Scripture: Exodus 17: 1-7
John 4: 5-26
Sermon: Whine, Whine, Whine! |
| March 30: | 4 th Sunday in Lent
Scripture: 1 Samuel 16: 1-13
John 9: 1-12
Sermon: May You be Blessed With Spit, Mud and Water! |

LENTEN WORSHIP

During Lent, we will have the opportunity for several special times of gathering in our church and in our community. Beginning on Wednesday, March 5 (Ash Wednesday) we will gather each Wednesday at Hope Lutheran Church for worship at 11am followed by a luncheon, hosted each week by one of our PAC churches. On Ash Wednesday we will be invited to share in the imposition of ashes.

Then, at Arcade UCC, we will gather **each Wednesday evening at 6:30pm** for a Soup and Bread Supper followed by a Lenten Bible Study (March 5, 12, 19, 26, April 2, 9). This study will be a focus on a Lenten theme and is intended to help us on our Lenten journey of reflection.

Everyone is invited to share with us in this time of fellowship and learning. If you have any questions concerning any of our Lenten gatherings, please call the church office.



A Reminder: The 4th Sunday of every month is designated as "Food Pantry Sunday" at which time we receive non-perishable goods for our

Arcade Food Pantry, sponsored by PAC. Please feel free to bring your items to worship with you on the 4th Sunday. Thank You.



Bible Study

Bible Study meets each Wednesday evening at 7:00pm in the Great Room and everyone is invited to join us! This study is for everyone – young and not-so-young alike. Bring your friends, your neighbors, your relatives. We have a great time of fellowship and we even learn something along the way!! How much better can it get???

Beginning on Wednesday, March 5 and continuing for 6 weeks, we will meet at 6:30pm for a Soup & Bread Supper, followed by Bible Study focusing on Lent and our journey during this Holy Season. See you there!

PAT VADNEY

Pat Vadney, a member of our church since 1981, died in Florida on February 18. She was active in a variety of committees and organizations over the years, even after she and Frank began spending their winters in Florida.

For many years, Pat used her extensive musical talent to organize and direct our popular Youth Choirs, most of whose members are now parents themselves. In the mid-1980s, Pat's choirs began presenting musicals, dinner theaters and other performances to raise money for the "Wheels for Matthew" fund. Each presentation of a new set of "wheels" to Matt as he grew was a touching occasion that was made possible in large part by Pat's efforts.

One of Pat's biggest regrets as her illness progressed during the last few years was that she was no longer able to sing in church. Pat's love of music will long be remembered and we extend our sympathy to Frank, Dawn, Scott and Kit and their families on the loss of their wife, mother and grandmother.

Arrangements for a memorial service have not yet been finalized. Frank's address is 524 Sunbird Square, Sebring, FL 33872.

Reminding You of an Opportunity!

It's painless and it's so easy – no strings, no fuss, no muss!! It's the opportunity YOU have to give to the church.

You know those refundable bottles and cans you accumulate and aren't quite sure what to do with or how to dispose of them? All you have to do is take them to *Isaac's Redemption Center* at 34 Liberty Street, Arcade, NY (bagged and rinsed clean). Tell them you wish for your refund to go to the UCC Church and instead of getting a refund for your cans/bottles, our church will get the monies AND our Church Council is considering matching these monies in some fashion. All these funds will be used for our Youth Ministry at Arcade UCC. If you are unable to get your cans/bottles to Isaac's yourself, call the church office and we will pick them up once a month and take them for you! How much easier could this be??

Won't you consider helping out our youth program? We sure would appreciate it!!! Thank you.

Potluck Luncheon

All are invited to participate in our next Potluck Luncheon scheduled for March 9 following worship. Bring a dish to pass and an appetite! Following the luncheon there will be a short presentation on health related issues.

The Buzzard

If you put a buzzard in a pen that is 6 feet by 8 feet and is entirely open at the top, the bird, in spite of its ability to fly, will be an absolute prisoner.

The reason is that a buzzard always begins a flight from the ground with a run of 10 to 12 feet. Without the space to run, as is its habit, it will not even attempt to fly, but will remain a prisoner for life in a small jail with no top.

The Bat

The ordinary bat that flies around at night, a remarkable nimble creature in the air, cannot take off from a level place. If it is placed on the floor or flat ground, all it can do is shuffle about helplessly and, no doubt, painfully, until it reaches some slight elevation from which it can throw itself into the air. Then, at once, it takes off like a flash.

The Bumblebee

A bumblebee, if dropped into an open tumbler, will be there until it dies, unless it is taken out. It never sees the means of escape at the top, but persists in trying to find some way out through the sides near the bottom. It will seek a way where none exists, until it completely destroys itself.

People

In many ways, we are like the buzzard, the bat, and the bumblebee. We struggle about with all our problems and frustrations, never realizing that all we have to do is look up!

That's the answer, the escape route and the solution to any problem...just look up!

COUNCIL CORNER

The February 25 meeting of the Arcade UCC Council was called to order at 7pm. Devotions were led by Jeff Mason. Minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

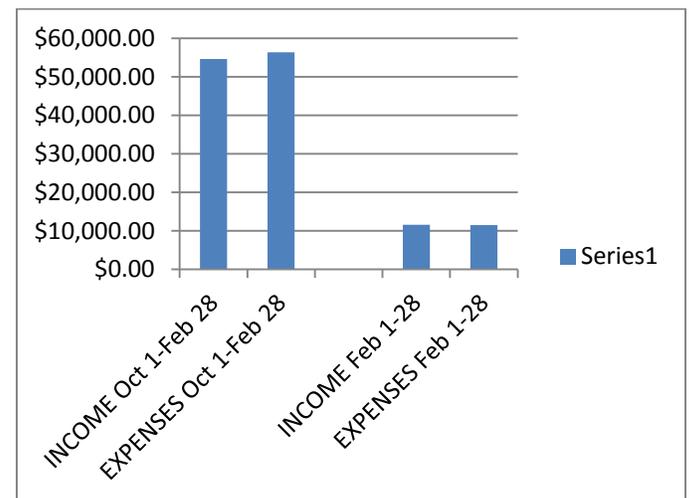
Pastor reported that the new Bibles have been placed in the pews. He will schedule a dedication for later in March. The Pork Dinner was a phenomenal success. Thank you to all who worked and to Tom and

Deb Scott for coordinating everything. The new chairs for Pastor's office have been delivered.

Jeff Mason reported that offerings continue to be a little "light." He would like to look into balanced billing for our electric bills. We have been using balanced billing for our gas bills for several years. Jeff also asked permission to hold the September 27 meeting of the Government Appointed Historians of Western New York here. His request was unanimously approved. The Annual Budget Hearing was scheduled for September 28 and our Annual Meeting was scheduled for October 26.

The new Carillon is working. The hymns that will be played need to be programmed which the Anniversary Committee is working on. The next concert in our concert series will be an organ concert by Laurie Sledge tentatively scheduled for May 18.

Several pieces of correspondence were reviewed and after closing prayer, the meeting adjourned at 9:15pm.



FINANCIAL NEWS

Our total non-pass-through expenditures for the month of February included \$5,207.03 pastor's salary and benefits; \$2,604.46 other salaries on February 14 and 28; \$836.26 cleaning; \$812.63 village utilities; \$376.34 insurance; \$332.30 gas bill; \$279.50 travel; \$259.61 copier; \$225 elevator inspection; \$125 piano tuning; \$125 pastor's discretionary fund; \$86.36 postage; \$62.98 phones; \$61.25 worship expenses; \$50 food pantry; \$34.99 computer; and \$33.92 office supplies.

Congratulations to our young people, who raised \$343.10 during the Souper Bowl of Caring. This money, plus \$50 from the church budget, has been sent to the PAC Food Pantry.

News of Our People

We extend our deepest sympathy to Sharon Hawley on the February 16th death of her sister, Phyllis.

March Gatherings

- 3 Women's Fellowship – 1pm
- 4 Worship/Music - 6:30pm
- 5, 12, 19, 26 – Lenten Worship Services @ Hope Lutheran Church – 11am with luncheon following worship.
- 5, 12, 19, 26 – Choir Rehearsal – 6pm
- 5, 12, 19, 26– Bible Study –Lenten Soup & Bread Supper @ 6:30pm, Bible Study – 7pm
- 5 Ash Wednesday Fish Fry – 4-7pm – St. Mary's Parish Hall – eat in or take out
- 6, 13, 20, 27 – "Getting to Know the UCC" class – 7pm
- 9 Potluck luncheon – following worship
- 11 Christian Education – 4pm
- 12 Workers Union – 1pm
- 12 Building & Grounds – 7pm
- 15 Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner – Arcade United Methodist Church – 4:30pm - ?
- 25 Council – 7pm
- 29 Community Dinner - 4-6:00pm

NOTE: Weight Watchers meets Wednesday evenings at 5:00pm in Wetzel Hall.

The Carillon is being compiled, printed and mailed by a committee of three – Audrey Erick, Marilyn Piridy and Margaret Homan. Please continue to watch for the deadline date for your articles and reports and give them to any of the above members. We hope to produce a quality newsletter. Any suggestions are welcomed. The deadline for the April issue is March 23, 2014.

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- Website:** arcadeucc.org
- Office Hours:** 9:00am – 3:00pm (T-Th)
- Worship Schedule:** 8:45am – Sunday School
9:00am Choir Rehearsal
10:30am Worship

One Great Hour of Sharing

Nino Kankia, 57, and her husband Aleko, who is disabled, are from Kheta community, Khobi municipality, Georgia. They have four children and three grandchildren, who all live in the same house. Their small plot of land has not provided them much income, and there are no job opportunities in the area. Nino has worked hard to provide for the family under very difficult circumstances.

At a community meeting in Khamiskuri, the family learned about a program intended to help reduce rural poverty among internally displaced people and local residents. "Thanks to this project," says Nino, "Our life is better. My husband and elder son learned how to construct a solar fruit and vegetable dryer, and I learned how to dry different fruits and hot peppers to sell for additional income. My children help to cultivate different fruits and vegetables – and all this gives us a strong chance to survive, at least to have guaranteed food for my children and grandchildren. Today we have hope for the future."

The United Church of Christ invests in the lives of everyday people by supporting sustainable programs that improve the quality of life in communities near and far.

One Great Hour of Sharing, the refugee, relief and development offering of the United Church of Christ, transforms lives through health, education, agricultural, and emergency relief initiatives in 138 countries. Please give generously.

