

200th Anniversary of North Springfield Presbyterian Church

By: Rev. Janet Lowery

As part of North Springfield Presbyterian Church's 200th Anniversary celebration, we invited Akron Mayor Don Plusquellic to speak at the April 26 afternoon worship service. He addressed the topic: "Church as a Cornerstone of a Healthy Community." We share a portion of his remarks below.

As we are all aware, before federal faith-based funding was ever invented, churches have offered hospitality and care to residents in the neighborhood whether they were members or not. When churches cooperate, a lot of needs are addressed for vulnerable citizens.

A congregation like North Springfield has been the most stable institution around, outlasting businesses and even schools. We give tangible witness to the Gospel.

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Movies in the Park

By: Rev. Christy Ramsey

Goodyear Heights Presbyterian use the park across from the street to celebrate community. Last summer the church hosted monthly movies with free popcorn. The screen was hung from an arch in the gazebo and a video projector lit up the night with family friendly films. A sign along the street invited the passer-by to join the congregation and neighbors for the outdoor film. Church members and the pastor passed out popcorn, waved signs to passing cars, and spoke to those gathered about life in the heights. "One person talked to me about a recent death in his family" said pastor J. Christy Ramsey. "We would have never made the connection if we hadn't been out in the park."

Just a week before one of the showings, police were called to break up a gang fight in the park. But on movie nights, good people crowded out the violent and the park was safe for neighbors and church members alike. Children played in the back row and church members shared popcorn, chairs and blankets with those that wandered in through the night, very different than the cursing and fighting of the week before. Folks coming together to reclaim a park, a safe and happy place for all. Goodyear Heights Presbyterian Church is a light to the heights.

Eastminster Presbytery

EASTMINSTER EVANGEL

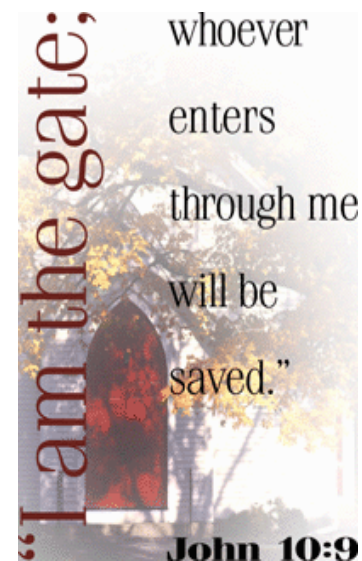
Another Way...

By: Irene Sams

Sebring Presbyterian Church

During Lent 2008 and again during Lent 2009 a group of Sebring Presbyterians committed to a 40 day e-mail study. Last year the *Purpose Driven Life* by Rick Warren was used. In 2009 *Conversations With Jesus* by Eugenia Gamble, as printed in *Presbyterian Outlook*, was our study.

Both years there were eight participants. After privately reading the day's chapter or author's writing, scripture and prayer we were free to share our own thoughts and comments with the group via e-mail. The group was intergenerational, comments were freely exchanged, and we ended feeling closer to our Lord and to each other without even leaving our homes.



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SPRING QUARTER 2009

COMMUNITY

Be an Evangel! Send Articles!

Summer: See Page 3

Fall: See Page 3



Church Walk

By: Rev. Janet Lowery

At North Springfield Presbyterian Church we often set aside the first Sunday afternoon of the month at 1:00 for walking in one of the area parks. The time allows some to go home and change clothes or others to bring their lunch and picnic beforehand. This draws quite a mixture of our members, including several who bring dogs.

Someone will read a chapter from Rev. Richard Hasler's book, *Surprises Around the Bend* (Augsburg Books, 2008) which chronicles 50 adventurous walkers of spiritual renown. We start with prayer, and then off we go, getting exercise and strengthening our community bonds.

Super 60 Luncheon

By: Rev. Marvin Barney

The Deacons of Champion Presbyterian Church recognized our Seniors with the 'Super 60 Luncheon' after worship on April 19. This was the 30th anniversary of this luncheon. More than 90 of our Senior Citizens were honored for their faithfulness to our Lord. Our Deacons prepared a wonderful

Super 60 Luncheon – Continued

meal and did the cleanup. Our Students served the Seniors at their tables.

Following the luncheon, Mr. Vernon Yoder, the father of one of our Elders, brought three of his friends and sang some old gospel hymns. They then played several more hymns on harmonicas.

BOOK SALE

By: Rev. David Joachim

It was 53 years ago that some women at Westminster Church, downtown Youngstown, got their heads together and came up with the idea of a Booksale. Church members were encouraged to bring in their used books and they did. To advertise the Sale they lined up books on the sidewalk (across the street from the Mahoning County Courthouse): "*Stepping Stones To Reading*". The Sale was a success and led to ... well, 53 more



(Continued on next page)

Book Sale – Continued

yearly sales always on the last Wednesday-Friday in April. This year's sale cleared \$18,121.70 which goes towards mission, locally and globally. The work goes on all year round. Folks all over the Valley donate books leaving them on the Porch benches all year long (we couldn't turn this thing off even if we wanted to!) Several times a month the Crew gathers to sort and discard books. Please don't bring old *Reader's Digest* books.

Though the funds raised are a wonderful thing, this year-round project builds the Body Life of Westminster Church. Folks new to the church develop relationships and are quickly assimilated into the church family. Sale Week is really hard work as hundreds come through to browse and buy, but lunches and dinners are served to the Crew and through it all friendships are deepened. There's an aspect of Evangelism to the Sale as well, for we seek to share the hospitality of Christ with all who enter our doors and buy. When the TV cameras are gone and the last customer is driving off, then the Crew tears down the tables, gives remaining books to other organizations (with their own book sales) and puts out the sign: "no more books till May 1st, thank you!"

Upcoming Issues

Summer 2009 subject:

Stewardship

Articles Due: May 27, 2009

Are you an eco-friendly church?

Any successful/unsuccessful programs?

Are you practicing good stewardship in the use of time and skills of your members.

What types of Presbytery-sponsored events would be helpful?

Have you used resources available at the Resource Center?

Lorraine Jones, Resource Coordinator is here to assist you at 330-505-2167

Fall 2009 subject:

Advent Outreach

Articles Due By: Aug. 18, 2009

Events and/or programs that invite people to come in out of the cold.

Activities/worship experiences with other Churches.

Traditions your Church may practice.

