

Easter Story Cookies

INGREDIENTS:

1 c. pecan halves	1 tsp. distilled white vinegar
3 egg whites	1 pinch salt
1 c. white sugar	

DIRECTIONS:

1. Preheat oven to 300.
2. Place pecans in a resealable plastic bag. Crush the pecans into small bits. Read John 19:1-3.
3. Put vinegar into medium bowl. Read John 19:28-30.
4. Add egg whites to the vinegar. Read John 10:10-11.
5. Sprinkle salt into the egg whites. Read Luke 23:27.
6. So far, the mixture isn't very appetizing. Add sugar. Read Psalm 34:8 and John 3:16. Beat with mixer on high for 12-15 minutes until stiff peaks are formed. Read Isaiah 1:18 and John 3:1-3.
7. Fold in broken nuts. Drop by tsp. onto parchment paper lined baking sheet. Read Matthew 27:57-60.
8. Place cookies in oven, close door and turn oven off. Read Matthew 27:65-66
9. Go to bed. Read John 16:20 and 22.
10. In the morning, open the oven and take out the cookies. Read Matthew 28:1-9.

These cookies are great to do with the kids. They are to be prepared the night before Easter. The spiritual preparation goes along with the physical preparation of the cookies.

Submitted by Ricky Eggleston

From the Pastor's Desk...

Spring appears to be on the verge of 'springing in' all around us! I know this is a favorite time of year for many of you because of the cessation of winter weather and the arrival of more outside friendly days. Of course, here at the church the celebration of Christ's resurrection is the focal point of ministry in these days. Lent comes to an end and Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday and culminates with the celebration of Easter the following Sunday. In addition during this week, we offer a Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Saturday Walk-to- the-Crosses experiences. Easter Sunday, the youth sponsor and early service and breakfast, followed by Sunday School and Easter Cantata for morning worship. I have to pause and catch my breath just thinking about all that!! What a privilege and opportunity to worship the Risen Christ in these varied ways.

Several years ago, I was talking with a colleague about our Easter preparations. She shared a lament on how she saw many of her 'church' people for the first time in the new year during those days. She continued her now, tongue-in-cheek lament, by looking forward to the Christmas season when she would see some of these people a second time. I thought about that a lot. I have pondered those comments ever since, and each year about this time, they come to my recall.

Are you an Easter and Christmas Christian? With that level of commitment, I have serious doubts about the Christian part. In my view, being a Christian is a year round endeavor of faith and trust in Almighty God. Each day is a new revealing of His grace and every Sunday a mini-Easter. Your presence is expected at both, if you catch my drift.

The belief, celebration and expectancy of Christ's resurrection is core and central to what it means to be Christian. Is this central in your life? What proof in your life is evidence to God that it is?

(continued on next page)

(From the Pastor's Desk, con't)

Ponder this scripture from the write of Hebrews: "...how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation? After it was at first spoken through the Lord, it was confirmed to us by those who heard,..." Hebrews 2:3 NASB

Don't neglect this great salvation! My prayer for you in the High Holy season is your desire and pursuit of the one who offered all for all. May your walk be daily toward the Risen Christ.

In Christ!

Rev. Steve Wiggers

Thank you...

My sincere thanks to all of you for your beautiful cards, your visits and most of all your prayers - prayers that you said for me because sometimes I could not. I'm now home and with the help of friends and family, I hope I can stay home. I have been assured that all is well now but I will feel a lot better when a couple more weeks have passed.

Also my thanks to all of the young and older men who came out on a Saturday afternoon to help Art get caught up with the wood cutting so that he could travel to Erie every day to be with me. We are so blessed to have a wonderful church family that we can always count on.

God bless you all,
Jeanette and Art



Easter's Special Music

This year's Easter music is a collaboration of two of Panama UM's vocal groups. The former women's ensemble, "Four Heaven's Sake", consisting of Tabetha Butler, Brenda Ireland, Paula Komarek, and Melissa Wiggers, is joined by the men of "Crossmen" notoriety - Samuel Catanese, Ricky Eggleston, Joel Keefer, and Douglas Weise. Instrumentalists are Krista Odell on the grand piano and returning percussionist, Bryce Ireland. Julie Nagel's dramatic reading brings the story all together.

Brenda sings the title song, "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" with such grace and conviction, it is sure to give you "God" bumps. The harmonies of Melissa and Joel singing "I've Just Seen Jesus" are absolutely stunning and will bring you to your feet. And Paula has reached beyond her comfort zone to amaze you with her "soul"ful addition to "Soon and Very Soon".

If we've done our job correctly, we will have you shouting "hosanna's" from the pews, waving your palm branches, and rejoicing the resurrection through song. We are definitely looking for audience participation and hope you are comfortable and inspired enough to join in this celebration.

I'm looking forward to seeing you on Easter morning. Bring a friend and enjoy.

Ricky Eggleston

Senior High Sunday School Class “Captures” Attention!

As you may remember, The February newsletter had a picture of the current High School class. The headline read, “High School Class Up to No Good.” Grace Notes Investigative Reporter states that in the late hours of Saturday, February 27, members met and finalized plans for the next morning’s escapade. Prior to Sunday School, the All-boy class, with the help of 2 adult drivers, went to four homes and “kidnapped” 4 unsuspecting male victims. Some were asleep in bed and others were having breakfast. They were all taken (as they were found) to church where there was a brief escape by the captured. Fortunately, they were quickly apprehended at the Fire Hall and brought upstairs to the Senior High Class. The “kidnappers” then shared the reasons behind the abduction. Guest/visitor Bryce Ireland (Alumnus of the class) shared his testimony. He encouraged all those in attendance to choose Christ and shared the benefits of attending the class. Kyle, Derek, Ryan, Chris, and Devin all agreed that the adventure was a success and look forward to possibly doing this again in the near future with the new members of their class.

THIS

AND

THAT...

⇒ If you are interested in playing softball for the PUMC, please sign up now at the Welcome Table. New T-shirts will be ordered so be sure to mark your size down. Weather permitting, practices will begin mid to late April.

⇒ KOK and KFC - the year end swim and pizza party at the Peak will be April 7 from 5-7 p.m. Please RSVP to Jennifer or Brynne if you are planning on attending.

⇒ Baked goods are needed for 10 a.m. Fellowship Time. Please sign up at the Welcome Table.

⇒ LADIES: Reserve October 8 and 9 on your 2010 calendars. Mary Rappole has an opportunity for you that you will NOT want to miss...more information coming soon.

MARCH STEWARDSHIP NOTES

We received \$16,494.65 in tithes and offerings during the month of March. This is an average of \$4,123.66 per week.

We received \$1,080 for Missions in March.

During the month of March, we also received the following:

- \$285.90 - Sunday School
- \$196.50 - flowers
- \$100.00 - Anderson support in Haiti
- \$125.00 - JOY Center
- \$40.00 - Royal Family Kids Camp
- \$45.00 - Tile Campaign
- \$13.00 - Music Fund
- \$50.00 - Memorials

Thank you for your faithful giving in support of the ministries of the Panama United Methodist Church.

Congratulations...

PAIGE WEISE

PCS Student of the Month

AND

Congratulations...to the cast, crew and directors of

“The Sound of Music” presented at PCS. Panama

UMC was EXTREMELY WELL represented in all ar-

reas. Special thanks to all of you for your attendance

and your continued support of our students.

United Methodist Men's Group

My Dear Friends in Christ Jesus Our Lord,

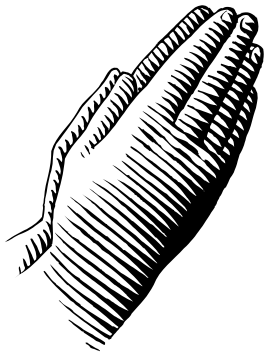
I would like everyone to be aware that the men's group is having a great time. We have talked about being an outreach church, with the men's group being the lead group. We would like some help from all of you to get this going. We need for you to be our eyes and ears around town. If you know of someone that could really use some help, let us know. If we are able to, we will certainly try to do what we can.

A group of men went over to Art and Jeanette's and helped them get the rest of their wood done. I would like to thank those men who help out. GREAT JOB, MEN!

The Cornerstone District will be hosting a men's retreat, with the theme “Draw a Line in the Sand”. We are still putting some things together and will release more information later. I do know there will be a pig roast, and that alone would be great fun. We have many other plans for the weekend. The date for the weekend will be May 7 and 8. The cost is \$45 (for food and lodging) or \$30 (if no lodging needed).

I'm very excited about this retreat and can't wait to see how God will use the “Line in the Sand” to reach out to HIS men. For more information, call (716) 665-2423. Forms are on the welcome table at the back of the church.

Your Brother in Christ Jesus Our Lord,
Howie Wheeler



Prayer Chain

If you have a concern you would like others to pray for, please call Susie Davis at 782-4611 or Jean Edwards at 782-2800. Your prayer request will be passed down the chain to 20+ others who will pray, and continue to pray, about your situation.

From the Parish Nurse....

BUFFALO CHICKEN PASTA

- 1/2 c. fat free bleu cheese dressing
- 1/2 c. reduced fat sour cream
- 1 TBSP. Buffalo wing sauce
- 1/2 c. fat free milk
- 2 tsp. olive oil
- 6 oz. boneless chicken breast
- 1 c. onions
- 1/2 c. mushrooms
- 8 oz. uncooked whole wheat pasta

Dice chicken. Cook chicken, mushrooms and onions in olive oil.
 Cook pasta according to directions.
 Combine milk, bleu cheese dressing, sour cream, and wing sauce.
 Mix all ingredients together and cook for 11-15 minutes in 350 degree oven until hot.

If you haven't tried the Mozzarella Stuffed Meatloaf from the last "Grace Notes" issue, please make sure you do. It is yummy! Thanks, Jody, for such great recipes!



Sunday Morning Worship Team

April Lay Readers

April 4

Brynne Hindsale

April 11

Jan Wheeler

April 18

Buck Seekings

April 25

Doug Hay

May Lay Readers

May 2

Jean Edwards

May 9

Melissa Wiggers

May 16

Clint Apthorpe

May 23

Tina Shaver

May 30

Bob Gleason

Ushers

April

Amy Peterson, Dan Courtine

Trudy and George Anderson

May

Don and Tabby Butler

Mark and Karen Morton

Nursery Helpers

4/4 - Tina Shaver
Corinne Edwards

4/11 - Thea Kester
Emily Waller

4/18 - Carol Hay
Brittany Lenart

4/25 - Karen Morton
Lauren Tordella

~~~~~  
5/2 - Kelly and Sara Osborne

5/9 - Yvonne Calcaterra  
Emily Waller

5/16 - Julia Nelson  
Brittany Lenart

5/23 - Adam and Tory Irgang

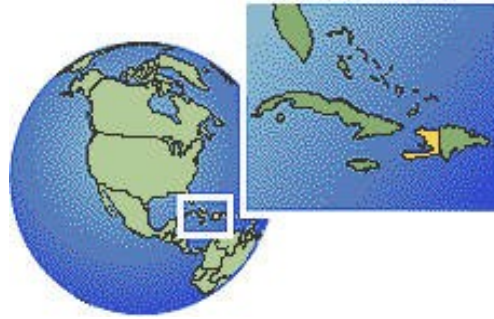
5/30 - Barb and Lauren Tordella

...from

*Bert and*

*Roberta*

*in Haiti...*



Dear Friends,

When we look at houses built here in Haiti, we see concrete block structures. Many have stone foundations. It reminds us of Jesus' words in Matthew 7 where he refers to the "wise men who built his house on the rock" (verse 24). When we base our life, our actions with Jesus as our foundation, our rock will stand the test of time and, yes, even earthquakes. While the material structures in our lives give way, our foundation in Christ provides strength, stamina, and salvation. Praise God for rocks.

There is much construction taking place here. The wall around the new orphanage is taking shape (see picture on next page), the old orphanage is transforming into a guest house, many of our neighbors are starting repairs. Lots of rocks.....Lots of praise....

Our plans for a prosthetics center are awaiting further input from the Ministry of Health. We are hoping to meet with them early in April. The clinic is starting to see an increase in patients. The increase is bringing us back to levels before the first of the year.

Later this month, we are looking forward to seeing the construction team from Bemus Point UMC along with Dr. Rappole, Mary and others who will be in country with another organization providing medical relief. It will be so good to see familiar faces.

With thankful hearts for all your support,

*Bert & Roberta*



## *Construction 2010*

### *Haiti Support*

*If you are interested in sending monetary donations in support of Bert and Roberta, the address is:*

*CSI Ministries*

*1714 West Royale Drive*

*Muncie, IN 47304-2240*

*Please note on the memo line either Health Center Haiti or Anderson support.*

# YOUTH GROUP

The "Hobo Dinner" held on March 21<sup>st</sup> was a huge success! Thanks to the hard work by Tena Dills donating and preparing ALL of the food and the dedicated kitchen crew of Joel and Jessica Keefer, Todd and Amanda Kolstee, Bob Cartwright, and Julia Nelson, this complicated dinner went off without a hitch. The extremely generous support from the congregation helped the Youth raise more than \$450 for upcoming activities, and we can't thank everyone enough for their support.

It's hard to believe that Easter is right around the corner, so remember the Youth will be leading the Early Worship service at 8 a.m. with breakfast to follow at 8:30. This service always showcases the talents of our young people and helps them to stretch their comfort zone a bit. Due to Easter and Spring Break, there will be no Youth Group on April 4, 18, or 25. Youth who are not traveling for Spring Break should plan to meet on April 11. We will be back with a full schedule of meetings on Sundays in May!



DCYM Skating and Broomball in February

## Summer Camp!!!!

- Now that spring is here, it's time to start making your summer plans. Could Camp Findley or Camp Asbury be a part of those plans? There are a few brochures in the church office for you to look through and choose the camp you would like to attend. Remember, the church will help with the cost of camp through camping scholarships. If you have any questions, please see Bob Gleason or Kathy Peck, camping coordinators.



## Children's Church

The Children's Church program has an opportunity available for someone who has a passion to share Christ with children to do just that for three Sundays over the summer. Julia must take the summer off, as it is her busy time at work. Someone will be needed to teach Children's Church the fourth Sundays of June, July, and August. This is a commitment of only three Sundays and is a good way to give Children's ministry a test run if it is something you have been considering.

REQUIREMENTS: a love of Christ, a love of children, and a sense of fun

If this sounds like you, please call Thea Kester at 782-4620 or e-mail her at [rtkester@windstream.net](mailto:rtkester@windstream.net).