

# The Wyoming Tower

## March and April 2011

The Wyoming Presbyterian Church  
432 Wyoming Avenue, Millburn, New Jersey 07041  
Tel: 973.376.3066 fax: 973.376.0196

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### THE CHURCH AT WORSHIP March and April 2011

We worship every Sunday  
at 10:00 a.m.

#### Sunday Highlights

#### March 13

*First Sunday in Lent*  
Children's Choirs and  
Praise Ensemble  
Communion

#### April 17

*Palm Sunday*  
10 a.m. Service of Worship  
Procession into the Sanctuary  
One Great Hour of Sharing  
Offering will be dedicated.

#### April 24

*Easter*  
9:30 and 11 a.m.  
Identical Festival Services  
Chancel Choir and Brass

Children begin the worship hour in the sanctuary with their families. Following the children's sermon they are dismissed to their Sunday School classrooms.

No Sunday School on Palm Sunday, April 17 or Easter Sunday, April 24.

### WELCOME TO LENT, 2011

ASH WEDNESDAY, March 9 to EASTER SUNDAY, April 24

#### THEME: "THE LORD'S PRAYER FOR LENT"

Worship and Sermons will focus on phrases of the  
'Prayer our Lord taught us.'

#### \*Ash Wednesday, March 9

7:30 p.m. Worship in sanctuary

Come, commence the season in a meditative manner.

or

Attend a "Candlelight Prayer Vigil" at the Elizabeth Detention Center  
6:00 p.m. (followed by supper at Elizabeth Coalition)

#### \*Palm Sunday, April 17

10 a.m. Worship

Expanded Fellowship and Children's "Egg Hunt" to follow.

#### \*Maundy Thursday, April 21

7:30 p.m. Worship and "Upper Room" meal in Fellowship Hall.

#### \*Good Friday, April 22

8:00 p.m. "Tenebrae" Worship in sanctuary

Come recall, in serious tones, Jesus' last earthly hours.

#### \*Easter, April 24

9:30 and 11:00 a.m. — Identical Services of Worship

The Lord is Risen, Indeed!

### LENTEN BIBLE STUDY FOR ADULTS

#### *"Lord Teach Us to Pray: Six Sessions on Spirituality and The Lord's Prayer"*

Two opportunities to participate, led by Nick Van Gombos,  
anchored in a study text from Kerygma  
(lesson book available for \$10).

Choose Wednesdays (March 16 through April 13)  
*supper at 7 and study at 7:30 p.m.*

OR

Sundays (March 13 through April 10)  
From 8:30 – 9:30 a.m.

# *Pastor's Note*

## *A Lenten Invitation to Pray the Lord's Prayer, three times a day!*

As you read this we are quietly moving toward *Lent* in this year of our Lord, 2011. *Lent* is the church season, which begins on Ash Wednesday, March 9, and will flow for 40 days plus Sundays, culminating in the great and wondrous celebration of Easter Sunday, April 24! This is a time to muster increased attention to the spiritual dimension - such things as prayer, study, intentional devotion - in preparation for embracing the great gift at the center of our faith.

A personal anecdote from my past illustrates the significance of this reminder... It was Spring, 1997, in my first year of non-parish based ministry as Executive Director of The Kerygma Bible Study Program. It had been a vigorous time, learning new ropes and moving to different rhythms. On a mid week morning I fielded a phone call, when the pastor remarked she was preparing for that night's Ash Wednesday service.

*GULP and STOP RIGHT THERE!*

It was the gateway to Lent all right - and for the first time in 17 years I had not noted it. The shock of that mid day stays with me, and the realization that outside of my pastoral role how easy it was to get swept along by the regular marking of time - a regular guy, just like most of the rest of the world.

So, here's the punch line and the pitch - in my pastoral role, I encourage you to remember that underneath the passing of days, there is another way to mark our moments. We call it the church calendar, God's time, which has as a prominent season, this term in which we now find ourselves. I encourage you to make note. Plan ways to keep more diligently attuned. In this season set aside for personal preparation - do some! Be in worship without fail. Join in our Lord's Prayer study. Take on the discipline of 'giving something up' to remind you of who and whose you are.

Pray more regularly. In fact, why *not take on the discipline of praying the Lord's Prayer three times a day*. Our Roman Catholic friends remind themselves with the sign of the cross. Our Islamic neighbors pray toward Mecca five times daily. The disciplines help anchor them in their expressions of faith. And this season you can be anchored too: *pray The Lord's Prayer - in the morning, at noon and at night*. Pray with slow attention to the phrases. If you get distracted, stop, and start over. Let our Lord's spirit speak to you, settle into you, to shape and mold the day and the season.

As you read this we are moving quietly into *Lent*. I invite you to pray the Lord's Prayer three times a day. You will grow closer to God, and to your own best self, as you do!

Faithfully yours,  
*Nick Van Gombos*

## *From the Finance Committee*

- Don't forget **Per Capita Apportionment** payment for each confirmed member of your household is \$22.50. Blue Per Capita envelopes were mailed to each household and are in the sanctuary pews in church for your use. As of Monday, February 28 we have received \$2830.50 in apportionment payments. Thank you.
- **Support the \$200 to \$500 solution!** Session invites you to support the 2011 budget by providing an extra gift of \$200 to \$500 per household. Letters and emails have been sent to the congregation outlining our budget needs. We've received \$15,925 towards our goal of reducing the deficit by \$24,000. Have we heard from you?
- Thank you, members of Wyoming Church, for your generous giving and support of the ministries and mission of the church.

# Christian Formation . . .

We have a lot going on in Christian Formation as we move toward spring! Already, many of our summer program dates have been set so be sure to mark your calendars!

## In Sunday School:

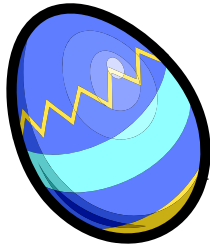
The Winter Season of Sunday school continues now through March 6. The second and third grade students are working to memorize the Gloria Patri, the Doxology and the Lord's Prayer.

Teachers are needed for the Spring Season starting March 13 in these classes: 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>, and every other week in the 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> class. A pre-K teacher team is needed to teach March-May on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month. Please prayerfully consider whether you are able to teach this spring.

There will be no Sunday school classes on Palm Sunday, April 17 or Easter Sunday, April 24. Children are encouraged to attend worship with their parents.

An Egg Hunt will take place following worship on Palm Sunday (weather permitting).

One Great Hour of Sharing Fish Banks will be distributed in Sunday school classrooms on Sunday, March 20. Each bank will be accompanied by a calendar that includes great suggestions on offerings for each day. Banks will be collected on Palm Sunday, April 17 during the children's conversation.



## In Mini Missionaries:

Thank you, thank you, thank you! The Souper Bowl collection was an amazing success with 334 pounds of food and \$679 raised to support Elizabeth Coalition.

Look for information about our upcoming spring project in the church bulletin and in your email.

## In PYC:

We had an awesome time bowling in January and had a successful bake sale on Souper Bowl. A Snow Tubing trip is planned for early March. For Valentine's day, we made cards that went out to the local Veteran's Hospital.



We continue to meet weekly in the Youth House from 4:30-6:30 p.m. each Sunday, sharing food, fellowship, games, Bible stories and activities.

In April, PYC is happy to prepare one of the Lenten Soup Suppers on April 6 (in lieu of Sunday programming that week).

Looking way ahead to summer: we will be going to Six Flags Great Adventure on Saturday, June 11 for the Summer Launch Party (sponsored by the Christian radio station Star 99.1). It will be a day full of rides, food, and music by the Christian rock group *Mercy Me*.



## In Adult Education:

We will have a guest speaker from Interfaith Dialogue Center (IDC) join us on Sunday, March 13 following fellowship time at about 11:30 a.m. to speak about basic faith practices of Islam.

On Sunday, April 3, we will be joined by Julia Thorne, immigration attorney for PC(USA). Following fellowship time, she will be speaking about "just-immigration policy" and what that means for the PC (USA).

A Lenten Bible Study will be ongoing throughout the season, led by our Pastor, Nick Van Gombos: Wednesday evenings at 7:30 (dinner at 7) starting March 16 and Sunday mornings at 8:30 starting March 13.

## In Confirmation:

The Confirmation class concluded its study of "We Believe" in February and students have completed their statements of faith. In March and April, confirmation students and adult chaperones will visit a number of churches in the area including First Baptist Church of South Orange, St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church in Union, Riverside Church, NYC, and St. Rose of Lima in Short Hills. In addition, Confirmation students will participate in the Interfaith Dialogue Center visit to WPC on March 13. Confirmation this year will be held on Sunday, June 12 (Pentecost).

(Continued on Page 4)

## CHRISTIAN FORMATION

(Continued from Page 3)

The Confirmation Class will take part in the Prayer Vigil at Elizabeth Detention Center on Wednesday, March 9 (Ash Wednesday). This vigil takes place outside of the Elizabeth Detention Center where immigrants are held pending status hearings, often without adequate access to medical care and legal counsel. Following the vigil, there will be a soup and bread supper served at the Elizabeth Coalition.

### In Friday Frogs:

The Friday Frogs will go bowling on Friday, March 11 at Hanover Lanes in East Hanover. We will meet at the church at 5:45 and carpool to the bowling alley. Cost is \$17 which includes shoe rental and 2 hours of bowling plus pizza and soda. RSVPs should be sent to [jess.wpcusa@verizon.net](mailto:jess.wpcusa@verizon.net) no later than Tuesday, March 8.

In February, the Frogs made some beautiful Valentine cards that were sent to seniors at WPC as well as to the local Veteran's Hospital.

### In Appalachia Service Project Youth Mission Trip Set for July 2—9, 2011:

The preparations for the summer 2011 trip are underway. There is still room for both youth and adult participants. Appalachia Service Project is a non-profit organization that utilizes the work of 13,000 volunteers per year to make homes 'safer, warmer, drier' for people and families in the Appalachia region.

Mark your calendars: fundraisers for ASP begin soon. We will have our annual Mother's Day Cake Auction on Sunday, May 8 following worship, Stock Certificates will be sold through-

out May, and a Yard Sale on Saturday, June 4. Last year our church sent 20 participants to Buchanan County, Virginia – one of the 100 poorest counties in the country. While there, our 3 work teams repaired a kitchen floor, insulated and put new walls in a kitchen, a put up new dormers and vents on a roof. All this in just 5 days of work!

Let's make this year equally successful.

Deposits are due in March; want more info before you commit? Please visit the ASP website at [www.asphome.org](http://www.asphome.org) or call the church office for more details. This year we are slated to work in West Virginia.

### Vacation Bible School:

Vacation Bible School 2011 will be held August 1 -August 5 from 9:30-12:30 p.m. This year's programming will be open to all children 2 ½ years to entering 5<sup>th</sup> grade. The theme is "Shake it Up" – all about cooking, food, and fun!

Registration for VBS will open mid-April. Cost for this year's program will be \$30 per child for the week.



*Jessica Crane Munoz*

Interim Director of Youth and Children's Ministries

## Staff

### Pastor

The Rev. E. Nicholas VanGombos  
Email: [nvangombos.wpcusa@verizon.net](mailto:nvangombos.wpcusa@verizon.net)

### Children's Choir Director

Kathy Innis  
Email: [kylinnis@gmail.com](mailto:kylinnis@gmail.com)

### Interim Director of Youth and Children's Ministries

Jessica Crane-Munoz  
Email: [jess.wpcusa@verizon.net](mailto:jess.wpcusa@verizon.net)

### Administrator

Judy Tharaud  
Email: [jtharaud.wpcusa@verizon.net](mailto:jtharaud.wpcusa@verizon.net)

### Director of Music

Steven Shellman  
Email: [stevenshellman@yahoo.com](mailto:stevenshellman@yahoo.com)

## DID YOU KNOW?

- LUNCH BUNCH is set for Wednesday, March 16 and Wednesday, April 6 at 11:45 a.m. in Fellowship Hall — Are you retired, working from home, or just free for lunch? Please join us for good food & conversation. Lunch Bunch is sponsored by the Deacons; Mitzi Horton and Nancy Rock are the chefs. RSVP to the church office, please: 973-376-3066.
- Happy Birthday to Tom Thomas on March 2.
- Congratulations to grandparents George and Judy Gross on the birth of new grandson Nicholas, born to daughter Tammy and Joe Dingraudo on February 15 in Arizona.
- We pray for Steven Shellman whose father, Clyde “Jake” Shellman, died on February 26 at the age of 86. Memorial service plans are being made in Pennsylvania. Memorial contributions may be made in honor of Clyde “Jake” Shellman, to Messiah Lutheran Church, 324 S. Howard Street, South Williamsport, PA 17702.

## From the Deacons

There is a Deacon of the Week who may be contacted with any pastoral needs. Please call:

### MARCH Deacon of the Week

March 6—Elisabeth Meyer 973-376-4752

March 13—Sue Butler 973-762-0103

March 20—Judy Custer 973-762-2883

March 27—Judy Reese 908-464-3816

### APRIL Deacon of the Week

April 3—Yeon Shin 973-738-9620

April 10— Linda Berry 973-701-9021

April 17— Dick Innis 973-379-7723

April 24— Leigh Porges 973-379-6241

In addition, Deacons are prepared to help members with small chores of any kind around the house. Call the Deacon of the Week; we are ready to help.

### Joys and Concerns:

**Please notify a Deacon or the church office with joys to celebrate or concerns to carry.**

## FROM OPEN DOOR NURSERY SCHOOL

Winter has been a fun and busy time at Open Door Nursery School. The children participated in the annual Christmas Program and did a wonderful job singing songs and listening to Pastor Van Gombos tell the Christmas Story. The school also collected many toys for the annual Christmas mission project.



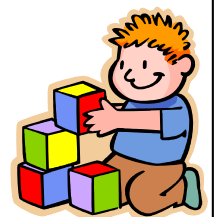
School registration was held in January for the 2011-2012 school year. We are happy to see so many people enthusiastic about returning to Open Door, as well as many new families eager and excited to join our school community.

Open Door's Parent Advisory Committee is busy making plans to redesign and upgrade the school website, as well as gearing up for our Annual "No Frills Fundraiser" to be held in March.

The children continue to make social, emotional, and academic progress while having fun, by reading stories, singing songs, and doing fun projects. They celebrated Valentine's Day while exchanging Valentine's with their special school friends.

Our door is always open to anyone who is interested in visiting and seeing firsthand what our children are busy doing. Please contact the Director, Anne Griffiths, at 973-376-9303 if interested in a visit.

Stay warm and think Spring!



## REPORT FROM THE SESSION CLERK

Presented at the 2011 Annual Meeting of the Congregation and reprinted here.

2010, A year of abundant and profound changes in the life of Wyoming Church.

We are truly blessed to have a Mission committed congregation that supports our surrounding communities, as well as the world. Locally, we served over 400 meals at Thanksgiving, sent bags and bags of clothes to Elizabeth Coalition, sent Christmas gifts to the Cleveland school, supported the House of Mercy Mission, the Greater Abyssinian Church. Made countless lunches for our monthly feeding program for Clinton Avenue Church, our endless meals and overnights in support of IHN, Camperships to Camp Johnsonburg, *Operation Warmheart*, a program for homeless men, the countless hours in the Pumpkin Patch and our commitment to Living Waters, for after all, clean water is a basic right of all people. And the list goes on and on...

Christian Formation ran a successful Sunday School program serving 123 children and Confirmed seven new members in May. PYC and Friday Frogs met regularly for games, bowling, movies, discussions and dinner. 20+ attended the Mission trip to Virginia, then in early August a Veggie Tale themed VBS attracted 42 children, a record number. There are two Women's Bible studies that meet faithfully on Wednesdays and our Adult Education program was infused with some new energy this year with several stimulating speakers. A new group, MiniMissionaries was formed by Katrina Elia and Cynthia Tratnyek to help nurture the giving spirit in our preK to 5<sup>th</sup> Graders.

Our Deacons provided an ever present refuge in the lives of those in our congregation who faced need whether from loss, sickness or joy. They served at three funerals and provided countless meals and conversations as well as shoulders to cry on and extra hands to pray. If you are not sure who they are, you can greet them each Sunday in the Narthex.

Our Open Door Nursery School continues to fill the church on a weekday basis with smiling and laughing children. This past summer, they also completed the surface of the playground so that our littlest members have a safe and secure place to play.

In June, we explored the relevancy of our relationship with the Presbytery and hope to continue our dialogue with them.

WPC is currently supporting a grass roots effort by Min

Lee to develop a Korean ministry within WPC with the hope that it can develop.

Each Sunday we enjoy beautiful music from our Chancel Choir, led by Steven Shellman, soloists both vocal and instrumental and, of course, our ever popular children's choirs. We are grateful to Debbie Jacoby, Victoria Haas, and Judy Reese for so ably keeping these programs alive in the fall as Kathy Innis took a leave of absence.

The women of the church, Soulfood, held their annual retreat in Spring Lake. For 24 women, it was a weekend of rest and renewal, fun and fellowship.

Our Celebrations committee was very busy supplying opportunities for all of us to get to know one another better. A Progressive dinner, a barbecue to welcome Nick and Franny, a delicious Stewardship Brunch, an applefest to kick off the fall season, Sights and Sounds of Christmas are just a few of the wonderful events in which this dedicated group is involved.

We want to thank our staff, Judy Tharaud, Jessica Crane Munoz, Steven Shellman, and Kathy Innis for their continued care of our congregation. We said good bye and thank you to our sexton, David White. We also wish to thank our many volunteers who perform necessary tasks behind the scenes. Without you, we would not be the Wyoming Presbyterian Church we are.

And to you, our faithful members, we sincerely thank you. You truly exemplify the definition of discipleship by taking part in the common life and worship of our church, by supporting the work of Wyoming Presbyterian Church both financially and with your time.

In 2010, the hard work of the PNC came to an end with the installation of our Pastor Nick Van Gombos on October 24. For the first time in 36 years, WPC has a new installed pastor. We are thankful for the interim preaching of Lou Kilgore who wrapped up his time with us on July 25. We are grateful to him for helping us to see that we are a congregation ready for change, ready to do new things.

On the front of our bulletin there is a quote from Isaiah "See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?"

And now, we have done a new thing and we are ready to take the next step. We are indeed blessed and grateful to have a caring and dedicated Pastor Nick Van Gombos and his wife, Franny, to lead us in our endeavor to find what God has in store for us.

May God continue to bless us this year.  
Sandy Kramer, Clerk of Session

# From the Organ Bench

Calling All Singers and Players!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

There is always a need for new members within each of our musical groups. There is a place for everyone, please prayerfully consider a commitment to one of these groups. It simply cannot run without singers and players! See me or any choir member!

## REHEARSAL SCHEDULES

**CHANCEL CHOIR** - THURS 8-9:30 - Age High school and up

**BELL CHOIR** - THURS - 6:30-7:30 - All ages

**PRAISE ENSEMBLE** - Flexible Schedule - Age High school and up

**YOUTH CHOIR** - Sundays after Worship 'till noon - Age 7 -12 Gr.

**INSTRUMENTALISTS** - Flexible - All ages.

**CHILDREN'S' CHOIRS** - See Mrs. Innis or Mr. Shellman

## Upcoming :

**SUNDAY, APRIL 17** Palm Sunday Service at 10 a.m. with Procession with Handbells

**SUNDAY, APRIL 24** Easter Services at 9:30 and 11 a.m. with Brass

**SUNDAY, MAY 22** Hymn Service w/Brass

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Thank you for your prayer and support at the passing of my Father, 2/28/2011.

"Softly and tenderly, Jesus is calling: Come Home!"

Love and Blessings.....

Steven Shellman 

## Worship and Discipleship

Do you know what activities and functions are part of the Worship and Discipleship Committee? Well, read on!

- Steven Shellman is Director of Music and leads the Chancel, Youth and Bell choirs. The Children's Choirs are under the direction of Kathy Innis. There's always room for more in all areas of music.
- Debra Craighead is Membership chairman and welcomes the opportunity to speak to prospective members.
- Flowers on the Communion Table are a lovely way to remember a special person or celebrate good news. The cost for an arrangement is \$55.00. Speak to Sandy Kramer or fill out the form below for a given Sunday. Also, see the back page of this Tower for Sanctuary decorations for Easter.
- Isn't coffee hour great! Chris MacIntyre would love to have you help on Sunday mornings. Sign up to set up, clean up, or pour one Sunday a month or find out how you can help in other ways.
- We have Berit Peri to thank for all the wonderful Celebration events that are planned throughout the year.
- Robin Yuschak makes sure the Sanctuary is in good shape and Audrey Larsen changes the Liturgical colors representing different seasons in the life of the Church year and makes sure the candles on the Communion Table are ready for use each Sunday.

- Eric Spurrier makes sure we have ushers each Sunday.
- Communion is prepared by Renee Lines.
- Jon Reese and Sandy Kramer are Chancel Choir liaisons.

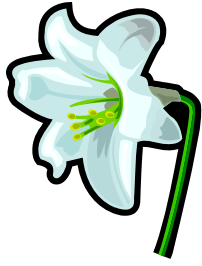
Now that you know who's who, and now that you see all the ways in which the Worship and Discipleship Committee serves, wouldn't you like to be a part of this important committee. Call any of the people listed above or call me at 973-822-0181 to find out how you can volunteer to help?

Betty Braunschweiger, Moderator

I would like to place flowers on the Communion Table on Sunday, \_\_\_\_\_, in Memory/Celebration of



Name \_\_\_\_\_



## Sanctuary Decorations for Easter, April 24, 2011



Would you like to contribute to the sanctuary decorations for Easter? Please complete this form and return it to the church office no later than April 18, 2011. An assortment of spring plants will be used to decorate the church and potted plants will be available for you to pick up after the 11:00 a.m. service on Easter.

From: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

In memory/celebration/honor of (Circle one)

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The Wyoming Presbyterian Church  
432 Wyoming Avenue, Millburn, N.J. 07041

