

We eConnect

Marcellus First Presbyterian Church

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This is an occasional publication edited by Bill Grossman, the Minister of Marcellus First Presbyterian Church and emailed to anyone who would like it. Since it is email, it is free of cost to us. Feel free to send this to friends. They can join the subscription list by sending an email to Bill at bgrossman@marcelluspc.com. You can also change your address or cancel by emailing Bill at that address.

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GREETINGS FROM BILL . . .

Today I led the worship service at the Villas of Summerfield. I decided to talk about the beginning of Lent since this is Ash Wednesday, that start of Lent. I chose a passage from Paul's letter to the Colossians (parts of 3: 12-14)

- clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience.
- make allowance for each other's faults
- forgive the person who offends you.
- the most important piece of clothing you must wear is love

Most of us carry some burdens from our past with us wherever we go. We let resentment, anger or revenge take over for us. And any of that just leaves us beat down and discouraged. Lent is a time that can encourage this kind of looking back. Traditionally, we have asked people to give something up for Lent. But the things we need to leave behind may be more than candy or meat — they may be real burdens.

Paul directs our thinking a new way. He suggests we don't need to give things up as much as we need to put things on. We need to "clothe ourselves ..., make allowance ..., forgive ... and wear" We can use this time to set new directions for ourselves and to focus our thinking on others rather than on ourselves.

The local minister's met with Rev. Greg Wright of Habitat yesterday. Greg said we have raised virtually enough money to be two shares (1/6) of the cost of a new Interfaith Build. We will be breaking ground in the spring. And the wonderful thing about Habitat's projects is that it helps us focus on others and what we can do for them. We can certainly work toward doing that this year.

Grace and peace, Bill

NEED YOUR RESERVATIONS FOR COOKING CLUB

Our next get together for the cooking club is this Sat, Feb 25th. We will feature will be hearty soups & breads; Matt will have two soups, butternut squash bisque and baked potato, along with a loaf or two of Italian bread. Please bring some ingredients to help us make some other soup or bread or bring them already made. Dinner will be served afterwards. Please bring containers for leftovers. RSVP to me at 657-8198 or mmurphy2@twcny.rr.com.

TONIGHT IS OUR ECUMENICAL ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

If you get this in time, join us for our ecumenical Ash Wednesday service at 7:00 pm this evening at St. Francis Xavier Church. Some of our people will be singing in the joint choir and Pastor Lee Williams from the Methodist Church will bring us a special Lenten message.

CALENDAR

Wed, Feb 22nd —

7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service at St. Francis

Thu, Feb 23rd —

10:30 am Bill's Coffee Hour at 1st Cup Coffee Cafe

3:00 pm Website Design Team

7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal

Sat, Feb 25th —

8:00 am Men's Devotions

Sun, Feb 26th —

9:00 am The Gathering with Allene Grossman

10:00 am Morning Service with Bill Grossman preaching

10:30 am Sunday School

Mon, Feb 27th —

7:00 pm Session Meeting in the Fireside Room

Tue, Feb 28th —

9:00 am—11:00 am Bill's Open Office Hours

Sun, Mar 5th — COMMUNION

This Sunday, February 26th

Bill Grossman will be preaching on "Ready for Anything" using [1 Peter 3: 8 - 11](#) and [Mark 1: 9 - 15](#). The Time for Young Disciples will be "Cereal Boxes and the Real You."

The scripture readings can be found on www.biblegateway.com and are taken from *The Message* by Eugene Peterson.

*The economy is so bad,
McDonalds is selling the
"Quarter-Ouncer"!*



Love Month Mission — Supporting Vanderkamp

Our Sunday School is sponsoring Vanderkamp, the campground we share with the Evangelical Lutheran Church north of Oneida Lake. Each week this month, we invite you to share a financial gift with the camp. We will pool our money and assist them with many new projects. If you haven't given yet, please bring a check this Sunday and mark it "Love Month" or "Vanderkamp."

You can also make a contribution electronically by going to <http://www.marcelluspc.com> and clicking on the button to "Help Support our Church Online Donation." Follow the instructions to [Download and Print an Electronic Donation Authorization Form](#) or [Sign up Online](#). That will take you directly to a page where you can fill out a form or you can actually make your donation electronically. Follow the instructions and where it says "Purpose..." put in Vanderkamp or "other" and Vanderkamp. If you have any questions, please call Bill or Sue in the office at 673-2201 and they can walk you through the process.

Christian Women's Retreat

An exciting opportunity for a Christian Women's Retreat is coming up in March and Allison Ray is organizing a group to attend. The 2nd annual *Day of Joy for Women* will be held in East Syracuse on Saturday, March 24th from 8am-4pm. This year's conference theme is called *"God's Got You Covered,"* with a focus on letting go of worry, being thankful, and presenting our requests to God through prayer. There will be worship, three speakers and a chance for education, fellowship and fun with hundreds of other attendees.

It is interdenominational, and held at the Church of the Resurrection in East Syracuse. Tickets for the event are \$25 each and include breakfast and lunch. For more information, you can visit their website at <http://dayofjoy.org/>

It would be fun to get a group of women together from MFPC to attend this event. Last year, over 500 women from Upstate NY attended and it was very well received by those who were there. If you are interested after looking over the web site, please talk to Allison Ray or e-mail her at allison_m_ray@hotmail.com to have your name added to the list and she will register everyone as a group if we have at least 15 women who are interested. Please feel free to pass this information along to anyone you know who might be interested in attending! Allison would like to submit registrations by early March, so please contact her soon if you are interested.

LENTEN LUNCHEONS

The Marcellus Ministers will be sponsoring a weekly devotional time with a light lunch at each of our churches during Lent. We will begin next week at the Methodist Church and continue through March. Our schedule is as follows:

- Wed, Feb 29 — 12 noon at the Methodist Church, Georgina Hegney speaking
- Wed, Mar 7 — 12 noon at St. Francis, Bill Grossman speaking
- Wed, Mar 14 — 12 noon at St. John's, Fr. Dan Muscalino speaking
- Wed, Mar 21 — 12 noon at the Presbyterian Church, Lee Williams speaking
- Wed, Mar 28 — 12 noon at the Methodist Church, Bill Grossman speaking

OVERHEARD

Several days ago as I left a meeting at our church, I desperately gave myself a personal TSA pat-down. I was looking for my keys. They were not in my pockets. A quick search in the meeting room revealed nothing. Suddenly I realized I must have left them in the car. Frantically, I headed for the parking lot. My wife, Isabel, has scolded me many times for leaving the keys in the ignition. My theory is the ignition is the best place not to lose them. Her theory is that the car will be stolen. As I burst through the doors of the church, I came to a terrifying conclusion. Her theory was right. The parking lot was empty. I immediately call the police. I gave them my location, confessed that I had left my keys in the car, and that it had been stolen. Then I made the most difficult call of all. "Honey," I stammered. I always call her "honey" in times like these. "I left my keys in the car, and it's been stolen." There was a period of silence. I thought the call had been dropped, but then I heard Isabel's voice: "Tito," she barked, "I dropped you off!" Now it was my time to be silent. Embarrassed, I said, "Well, come and get me." Isabel retorted, "I will, as soon as I convince this policeman I have not stolen your car!" [from Nina Wickett and Pat Masten]

A lady who was speeding had an officer pull her to the side of the road. She didn't have her seat belt on so as soon as she stopped, she quickly slipped it on before the officer got to her window. After talking to her about speeding, the officer said, "I see you are wearing your seat belt. Do you believe in wearing it at all times?" "Yes, I do, officer," she replied. "Well," asked the officer, "do you always do it up with it looped through your steering wheel?" [www.crosswalk.com "You Make Me Laugh"]

Wisdom is the quality that keeps you from getting into situations where you need it. — Doug Larson