



Saints Alive!

www.AvonLakePC.org

Avon Lake
Presbyterian Church
Volume 8, Issue 2
February 2009

Sunday, February 1st



The Confirmation Class is collecting for the SouperBowl of Caring. Give a \$1 and/or a can of soup to put in the pot in the church foyer to help battle hunger right here in Avon Lake.

Love Shrub Luncheon Sunday, February 8 At Noon in Hart Hall

For those of you who have signed up for the Love Shrub this year, we will be having a luncheon on Feb. 8th in Hart Hall after the 11:00am service. At the luncheon, you will reveal your identity to your valentine.

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Family Promise/Interfaith Hospitality Sunday, February 22 through Sunday, March 1, 2009

It's time for trained volunteers to sign up to help with our guest families the week of February 22nd. This is a perfect opportunity to lend a hand to a family in need. If you need additional information please contact Julie Smith at 930-5665.



Ash Wednesday

February 25, 2009

Avon Lake Presbyterian Church

7:30 pm

Our church will host the Ash Wednesday service on Wednesday, February 25th at 7:30 pm. Lake Shore United Methodist Church and the United Church of Christ will be joining us. Rev. Nancy Manner from Lake Shore United Methodist Church will preach and there will be a combined choir from all three churches. Please plan to attend this moving service.

Message from Pastor Tom

Judging by the popular culture, it would be easy to see February as the month of love. After all, we have Valentine's Day in the middle of it, a day to remember the loved ones in our lives with sweets and flowers and whatever else we feel called to shower upon them.

But as February ends in the Christian calendar, it does so with a very unusual Sunday. The 22nd of this month is not only George Washington's birthday; this year it is also "Transfiguration Sunday." This is the last Sunday in the Epiphany season, the Sunday before Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent.

Lent is the six-week period in which we reflect on our sinfulness and our need for God's grace. Ash Wednesday (Feb. 25th this year) is the day that starts it off, as we will gather in our Sanctuary with our brothers and sisters in Christ from Lake Shore United Methodist and the United Church of Christ. It's a special service, one in which we join with others in hearing that "from dust you have come and to dust you will return." Not exactly happy news – unless you keep in mind that God's loving hands are always upon us, even after we have taken on dust. But before you get to Lent, you have Transfiguration Sunday. It is the time when we hear the story of the 'inner-circle' of the disciples – Peter, James and John – going up to the mountain with Jesus, and there something strange happened. Jesus was 'transfigured' – his clothes shone like the sun, his radiance proclaiming to all that this

is God Incarnate, God in the flesh. In Transfiguration we see Jesus for who he is. We need that, because as I said, Lent is coming. And for many of us, it seems that Lent is already here. We are in the midst of tough economic times; many people are out of work, including several of our family of faith. Many others are not sure what the future holds for their employment, or their dreams for the future. We have seen our property values diminish considerably, along with our retirement plans and stock portfolios. When you hear how much some people have lost, it's enough to make you cry.

I hope it does, anyway. Because in the tears we see each other for who we are – brothers and sisters in Christ, those who are on the journey up the mountain (or down in the valley) with us. We are called to rejoice with those who rejoice, to weep with those who weep, to join our hearts together in the journey of life wherever it takes us. For in so doing we see each other for who we really are.

As the calendar moves another page, and we move into another month, we see each other for who we are as we extend ourselves out to others with the love of the Transfigured One. In the light of his shining countenance we find our sense of direction – not to despair, but to hope; not to death, but to life.

Grace and peace,
Tom

The Ecclesiastical Meeting of

ALPC was held immediately following the 11:00 worship service on Sunday, January 25 for the purpose of hearing a report from the Nominating Committee to elect church officers. The Congregation approved the following:

For a three year term as Elder, class of 2012: Dick Francis, Karen Francy, John Kneiss, Ruth Weeks

For a three year term as Deacon, class of 2012: Cindi Dansizen, Jay Knox, Cris Till, Marcy Uhl, Ruth Valtierrez

For a one year term as Youth Deacon, class of 2010: Megan Eisaman

To fill an unexpired term as Deacon, class of 2011: Mary Lou Klier, Dave Taylor

To fill an unexpired term as Deacon, class of 2010: Dave Littell

For a three year term as Trustee, class of 2012: Mike Richardson

Congratulations new officers!

New Deacon and Elder Officer Training

Officer Training classes for New Deacons and Elders that begin their term in May 2009, will be held in the Session Room 3, at 7:00 pm, on February 12, 26, March 12 and 26, 2009. Please call the church office for more details.



Please join us in our brand new West Shore Networking and Support Group, Friday's in the Session room at 3pm. The

Networking Group is a small but powerful group of individuals who support and network with fellow job seekers.

This is a very difficult time in our economy and many are unemployed due to circumstances beyond their control. This group offers advice and counsel on job seeking, resume and cover letter writing, interviewing techniques and best practices when searching for new employment. It is open to seekers, persons who fear they may be next in rounds of layoffs and others who may wish to help as job contacts.

We will also hold a once a month meeting to have guest speakers, experts, contacts and other presenters - time to be determined (a weeknight after work hours).

This is another example of how Avon Lake Presbyterian Church offers a place of fellowship and support for those in need within our community.

Please pass along to anyone - of course you don't need to be a member of ALPC to take advantage of this excellent opportunity and there is no cost - just your time, commitment and effort to attend.

Contact: Mark Bennett if you are interested or have questions - home 933-9298 email: sbmb@oh.rr.com

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

Stewardship is not just about how we use our time, talent and treasures. Stewardship is about a right relationship with God and how that relationship affects the way in which we live our lives. In Luke 22:20 we read: “And he did the same with the cup after supper, saying, ‘This cup that is poured out for you is the **new covenant** in my blood.’” In Galatians 4:4-7 we read: “But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying “Abba!” Father!” so you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.” Before Jesus we were living under the law. Our relationship with God was based on what we “should” do. We had duties and obligations. We should be kind and generous and we should follow the Ten Commandments.

Jesus changed all that. Jesus came and fulfilled the law for us. He completed all the “shoulds” in our stead and set us free to experience the unconditional and perfect love of God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. As we grow in our understanding of this free gift, our gratitude grows and all our “shoulds” become “joys.” Our obligations become opportunities; our chores become adventures; and our work becomes play. Imagine the joy of never having to do anything you do not want to do. And yet, when we choose to follow Jesus and receive the help of the Holy Spirit that is exactly what happens. The Holy Spirit transforms us so that our will lines up with God’s will. We find ourselves wanting to give up our own selfish ways and our own personal kingdom to be a player in His. We yearn to forgive others as we follow His law. We desire to be kind and generous.

My prayer for all of us at ALPC is that as we experience God’s amazing love and deepen our understanding of stewardship in more and more imaginative ways, that we will continue to be transformed and freed up to share that unconditional love with each other in even more creative ways.

Arlene Strauch on behalf of the Stewardship Ministry

Dale Griffen

Penny Helbig

Lee Lohr

Carolyn Rudd

Deacon's Sponsored Chili Cook-Off



Cooks, crocks, cake and kids made for a fun evening of Chili-tasting and fellowship. 80 people attended the first annual ALPC Chili Cook-off on January 18th. It was such a great mix of people enjoying the food, of course; but enjoying time with each other even more.

Thanks to Jay Knox for setting up the inflatable TV. It was a site to behold.

There were 17 different Chili recipes to try.

Each batch more delicious than the last.

**The "official" ALPC
Chili Champ of 2009 is**

Jackie Day!

Her recipe can be found on the Deacons' Bulletin board in the main hall. Thanks go to everyone that made chili, helped with set up and clean up. Also thanks to Sandi Ciarrone for treating some of the children to her special grilled cheese sandwiches.

Calling All Saints!

Do you want to live your faith? Are you looking for ways to serve Jesus and your church? We have two ministries here at ALPC that offer that opportunity and are looking for additional members.

The Dorcas Ministry consists of four teams of people who offer assistance to church members who need meals or other extra help in times of health or family need.

The Driving Ministry are members who provide rides to church members, mostly to church services but sometimes for other issues such as doctor's appointments.

If you feel called to be God's helping hand, call Leslie Knox at 930-7287 for the DORCAS ministry or Scott Hay at 933-8346 for the Driving ministry. The needs are few but your service is priceless.



Dear fellow church members,

Thank-you all so much for your prayers, cards and encouragement after my cervical spine surgery. Healing is truly accelerated by prayer and the support of friends.

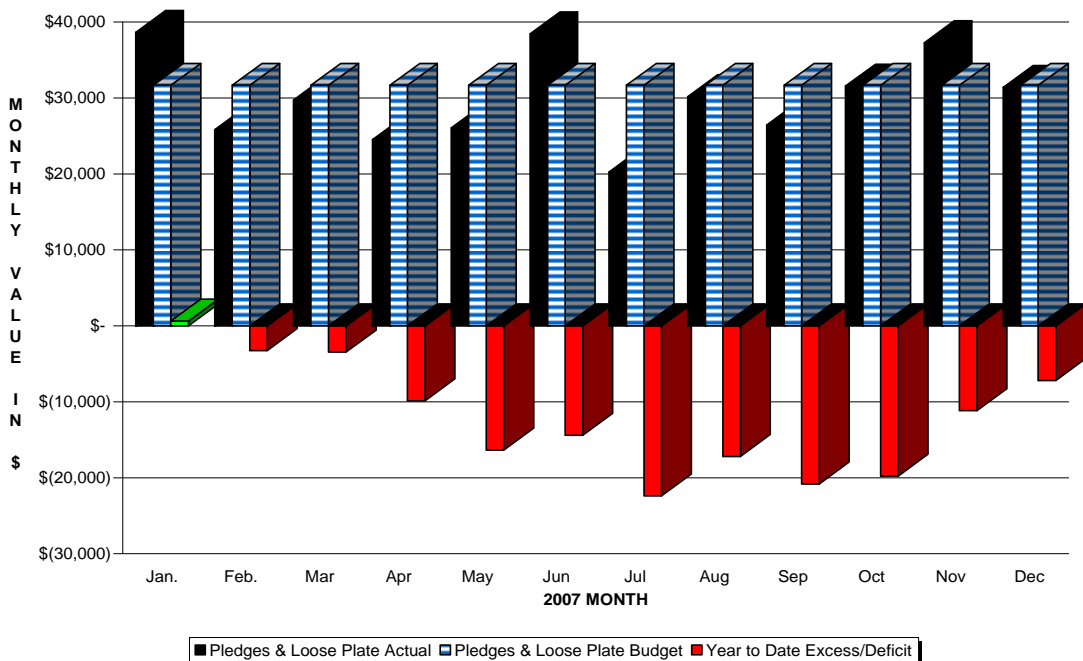
Thanks again, Dave Joyce

Financial Report

2008 was a challenging year for our church financially. We ended the year with a deficit of \$7,198. This is the first year in my memory where we actually ended the year with a deficit. As you can see from the graph below our deficit was a result of us not hitting our planned income from pledges and loose plate offerings. We exceeded our monthly goal in only three months last year and were close in only 2 months. Good spending control by staff and the committees helped lessen our deficit as we were over \$19,000 behind in our giving. This is the third year in a row we have been under our projected giving and the second consecutive year we have taken in less in the general fund than we did the year before. This makes the tough economic times even more foreboding for 2009. It is lucky for us we do not go this alone but have God to fall back on. In Him all things are not only possible but likely.

Please be open to the Spirit moving within us as session proposes new ways to respond to our mission as God’s church. To repeat a funny but true quote, “The good news is we have the money. The bad news is that it is in our pockets!”

2008 ALPC FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE



Christian Education – Adult Sunday School

The Christian Education Ministry is pleased to feature the research of many of our congregation members in our next upcoming Adult Study series. These church members have studied chosen topics as a part of the Transformative Leadership Coalition (TLC). The series will cover 10 consecutive weeks of Adult Study hour beginning at 11:00 am. The title of the series is "*Leading Change in the Congregation - A Conversation.*"

These are the Individual presenters:

- February 1 : Art Hook and Friends: It's All About Change! An Overview
- February 8 : Shirley Hook, Discernment? My will or God's will?
- February 15: Art Hook, Can We Talk? Communication at ALPC
- February 22: Gary Matthews, The Humble Leader: Impossible or Necessary?
- March 1: Arlene Strauch, Stewardship? Can I really do it?
- March 8: George Dzuro, Prayer
- March 15: Mark Bennett, What's the Point? The Purpose Driven Church
- March 22: TBD
- March 29: Rae Matthew: Heal and Be Healed
- April 5: Chris Benavides: The Emerging Church: What does it mean?

We thank the Transformative Leadership Coalition for working with us to make this series possible. It is our belief that our whole church can benefit from the discernment the Transformative Leadership Coalition is doing. Many have been curious about this work. Now is your time to find out.

Usually there will be presentations (some media-assisted and some team-led) from individual members of the TLC, either their independent study or some aspect of congregational life followed by conversation. Each series presentation will have prayer, Bible Study, Presentation, Vocabulary of the study, Q&A, and handout with resources for further study and Community Reflection think pieces.

All the Adult Study offerings will be held in the Session Room - Sundays at 11:00 am.

The C.E. Ministry sincerely hopes you enjoy these offerings and find them meaningful to living a Christian life.

Youth Director's Page

Youth – Our Future or our Present?

We tend to go about our daily lives working around our youth. We can sometimes see them as a hindrance, or a chore that interrupts our progress in the present. The youth are our future and the future of the church, it is true – but they are so much more! They are our present!

The youth are an integral part of this church – they are a cornerstone. Many people forget that youth beyond grade 9 that have participated in our Confirmation Class here at ALPC are also church members. Right now we have an awesome group of 10 youth that are working hard to examine their faith on a daily basis, yearning for that relationship with Christ that we all strive for. In May, we will welcome that class into our halls as members with all the same opportunities as all other members of this church. Their road is longer and harder to become a member than that of an adult, and it is an optional one. These youth want to be here...they want to be one of us. They are interested in the progress and health of the church as much as you are, though in different ways. They want to see us thrive, and they want to see us grow. They long for a great worship experience and interesting classes. They long to grow their relationship with God, just as we adults do. They help at events, they sit next to you in worship, they are with us every step we take.

So next time you come across that surly teenager in the halls of our church, give them a smile. They are your brother or sister in Christ. They are your friend, and they are His followers. Don't be afraid to ask them what they want to see in a church, what they want to hear, and how they feel about God. Some of them may surprise you!

But when all is said and done, they are your peers, they are your cornerstone to build from and the mortar that holds us together now.

They are your present.

Beau Dansizen
Youth Director, Int.

If you get the chance, consider donating to the youth budget this year. We have a wonderful mission trip planned for August, but the cost – though not as expensive as last year – is considerable. I would love to tell the youth that their trip is paid for so that we do not need to further pull the purse strings of their parents. I'd love to make it so that they would not have to choose between school sports and a mission for Christ. You can give directly to the youth programs by putting "Youth Mission Trip" on your offering envelope or check. If you would like to support the entire youth program, including the summer trip, you can simply put the words "Youth Programs." God bless.

Blanket+ Sunday February 22

We can provide “warmth and protection to victims of a disaster, seeds and tools to struggling farmers and water and health to impoverished communities” by making a donation to Church World Services, aka Blanket+ Sunday. Wow all that with one donation!

Although the name has changed from Tools and Blankets, it still means the same thing:



helping people worldwide to recover from disasters and begin the challenges of creating (recreating) self-sufficient lives. A new program has been initiated to

extend micro loans to individuals and groups, as well as marketing education to help them start their own businesses. The goal is to assist in creating sustaining income in communities in need.

Please read the information in the upcoming bulletins and consider making a donation on February 22nd. Checks may be made payable to ALPC with the notation Blanket Sunday. Questions may be directed to Beth Janis 933-5621 or any member of the mission committee.

Lenten Materials for the Whole Family

Ash Wednesday is on February 25th this year. So beginning on Sunday February 22nd, copies of Jesus in Jerusalem, Symbols of the Season, and Lenten Flash Cards will be available on the table in the foyer. These are wonderful resources to use for family time during this special time of year. Please help yourself to as many copies as you can use and have a blessed Lenten Season!

Big Brothers Big Sisters Children's Mission Project

The children have been bringing in their offerings during their Sunday school classes to raise funds for the organization, Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS). It is the largest youth mentoring organization in the United States, serving 255,000 children in 2007. BBBS receives 75% of it's funding from private donations so support from individuals like you is vital to provide mentors for children in the community. In fact, 92.2% of every dollar the children give goes directly to making and supporting matches.

PARENTS - Please encourage your children to bring in their offering each week when they come to Sunday school. So far, we have raised \$200 but we would really like to reach \$500 by the end of May. Your support is needed – Thanks.

Carolyn Dzuro,
Christian Education Director



Join us for scrapbooking in Hart Hall on February 21st, from 9:00 am until 9:00 pm. No frills, just space away from home. Set-up a table, bring your own snacks, converse with friends and scrap. Call Cindi at 933-6240 or e-mail alpresby@centurytel.net if you are coming. Hart Hall has plenty of space! We will provide fellowship!

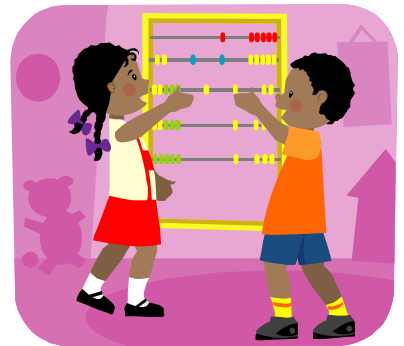
Cornerstone Preschool

Cornerstone Preschool is so excited to announce our new Enrichment Program! Our class is held in Room 5, Thursday mornings and afternoons and is taught by Julie Erker. The program is offered to any of our currently enrolled four-year-olds as a fourth day of preschool. The purpose of this class is to offer additional challenging activities which include science experiences, studying different artists, learning different types of literature and much more! With our Enrichment Program, we hope to not only introduce and challenge the children to new possibilities and knowledge, but to most importantly foster a love for learning.

Cornerstone purchased some new tables and chairs. Julie Erker's brother donated a large storage cabinet and an interior decorator donated flame retardant fabric to cover all the bookcases. We also added new wall decorations, a bulletin board and a freshly painted blackboard!

This new class would not have been possible without the help and cooperation of Cindi Dansizen, Carolyn Dzuro, Beth Janis and Marjorie Lind-Mills. A big thank you to all of them!! We are so excited about our new classroom. Please walk down to Room 5 and take a peak.

Nancy Bruder, Cornerstone Preschool Director



The 3-Didget Club

Have you noticed that everyone in our church has a member number. Do you know what your number is? We will have a Special Recognition Sunday, May 3rd for the 3-didget Club. Everyone who has a number of 999 or less will be recognized. Mark your calendars to attend!

Presbyterian Women



Circles continue to meet monthly. Their schedule is listed below.

If you are someone who might be interested in joining a Circle, please call Lee Lohr (934-6757) or the church office (933-6240).

- Tuesday, February 10, at 12:30 pm at Athena's..... Care & Share
- Wednesday, February 11, at 7:00 pmSarah Circle
- Tuesday, February 17, at 6:30 pm at Carol Nussle'sRuth Circle
- Tuesday, February 17, at 7:00 pm in the church officeSerendipity Circle
- Wednesday, February 18, at 9:30 am in the church libraryCircle of Hope
- Thursday, February 19, at 7:00 pm Circle of SMILES
- Thursday, February 19, at 7:00 pm in Room 3.....Presbyterian Women Board**
- Tuesday, February 24, at 7:30 pm in the church library Circle of Friends
- Thursday, February 26, at 7:30 pm, at Juanita Brookshire's Circle of Love

Hats Off!

Presbyterian Women's Winter Retreat

Please join us! This event is always a wonderful escape from the winter blahs and offers a time for spiritual reflection and supportive camaraderie for all. Delicious continental breakfast and hearty lunch will be provided.

Saturday, February 21st from 8:30 am to 2:30 pm
 Rocky River Presbyterian Church
 21750 Detroit Road, Rocky River, OH 44116
 440-333-4888



Contact Cindi Dansizen in the church office 933-6240
 if you would like to carpool!

Lorain County Food Co-Op PW Circle Donations

Presbyterian Women have been providing food for the Lorain County Food Co-op for many years. Each month the Co-op provides a lunch for the needy in the Lorain area and a bag of groceries for each family. For the past couple of years, the Co-op has requested donations of desserts for these lunches, and our Circles have answered the call. We intend to support the Co-op again this year with donations of ready made desserts. Please note that the desserts do not need to be homemade.

Below is a list of Circles and the month that you are asked to donate desserts. Donations are due before the second Wednesday of each month and are to be placed in the Food Co-op box in the church foyer.

Thank you for your continued generosity!

Circle of Friends

February

Circle of Hope

March

Circle of Love

April

Circle of Smiles

May

Care and Share

June

Serendipity Circle

July

Sarah Circle

August

Celebrate the Gifts of Women Sunday, March 8, 2009

The Avon Lake Presbyterian Women will celebrate the *Gifts of Women Sunday* to honor women who contribute their talents to the church. This date was selected to embrace the worldwide celebration of International Women's Day, March 8, which this year falls exactly on that second Sunday. This year's celebration also comes during the year of Calvin's Jubilee, commemorating the 500th birthday of John Calvin, Protestant Reformer and fore-parent of the Presbyterian Church. The women of our church will be leading worship on that Sunday. Please plan to attend.

Avon Lake Presbyterian

Women will host the Stated Meeting of Presbytery on Monday, March 23, 2009 here in our church. Space will be needed to serve 150-200 dinners. The food policy for Stated Meetings was adopted and is given to each church for guidance in planning and preparing the meal. The Mission Council has set the price of the meal. Our church will provide tickets and arrange for persons who will collect dinner money. Rooms will be needed for committee meetings and pre-Presbytery events before the Stated meeting time. We may be asked to coordinate audio visual equipment, parking attendants, childcare, sound equipment, lights, temperature, etc. Please plan to volunteer. We'll be calling you!

Session Highlights January 19, 2009

Learned that:

- Plans by Presbyterian Women are well under way for ALPC hosting the March 23, meeting of the Presbytery of the Western Reserve. Lots of help will be needed since 200 + Elders and Pastors will be with us for the meeting and dinner.
- 184 persons received Communion on January 4th.
- There will be a report on the work of the Transformative Leadership Coalition (TLC) in the 2008 Annual Report.
- The Christian Education Ministry plans to fund some Youth Programs, Youth Mission Trips, and the Beulah Beach Family Retreat with Fund Raising Events this year.
- Our next Family Promise Week of hosting homeless families is coming up in February, and 50 volunteers will be needed to provide hospitality to these families. The foyer sign-up board will give you the opportunity to share in this wonderful mission outreach.

Approved:

- Moving three members from the Active Roll to the Inactive Roll, at their request.
- Two Baptisms for February. That's two more children for us to love and nurture. Hallelujah!

Heard that:

- The MOM (Meaning of Membership) Gatherings will be mandatory for those desiring to become members of Avon Lake Presbyterian Church.
- Cornerstone Preschool will be added to our computer network at no cost to us.
- Custodian, Bryan Crow, did an outstanding job of painting our main kitchen floor. Take a look at its shine!
- A number of our youth and adults plan on working at the Homeless Stand Down at Trinity Cathedral on Feb. 16th.

Sound Room Technicians



Feb 1	9:30	Lee Lohr
	11:00	Mike Richardson
Feb 8	9:30	Paul Selvage
	11:00	Scott Seipel
Feb 15	9:30	Gary Alshouse
	11:00	Larry Madson
Feb 22	9:30	Jerry Ruffner
	11:00	Gary Uhl

Feb 25—Ash Wednesday—Please call the church office if you can volunteer in the sound room on this evening at 7:30 pm.

February Greeters

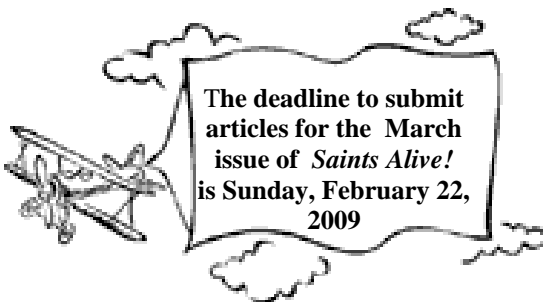
Feb 1	9:30	Selvage's
	11:00	Dawe's
Feb 8	9:30	Francy's
	11:00	McCarbery's
Feb 15	9:30	Dansizen's
	11:00	Becky Betts
Feb 22	9:30	??
	11:00	Dallas'

Feb 25—Ash Wednesday—Please call the church office if you can volunteer to Greet on this evening at 7:30 pm.

Coffee Servers



Feb 1	Chris Chase
Feb 8	Sandi & Mike Ciarrone
Feb 15	Julie & Steve Dawe
Feb 22	Cheryl & Mike Dean



Prayer Concerns

Serving in our Armed Forces:



Derek Fabry, Jennifer Homer, Matt Homer, Josh St. Clair, Jamie Waddell, Derek Weeden, Wes Wiblin, Aaron Angel (Scott Hay's niece's husband), Brandon Abrams (son of a co-worker of Marian Conn), Joshua Asire (Fran and Allan Asire's grandson), Bill Brown III (Sue Tompos' nephew), Tony Carosella (Carolyn Dzuro's nephew), Ben Donberg (a nephew of the Monjots), Robert Glover (Carol Egna's brother), Patrick Harris (Betty Harris' grandson), Richard Hebert (father of Waverly, Grace and Mallory), Ian Houston (a friend of Scott Simmons), Todd and Brett Kirwan (friends of the Wiblin's), Michael Marron (Dina Doughtry's son-in-law), Mike Medvic (friend of Becky Betts), Mark and Cheryl Monjot's nephew, Kevin Poyer (friend of the Lawson family), Joshua Reichlin (Ken Reichlin's nephew), Ryan and Kevin Tinsley (Nancy McBride's grandsons), Adam Usher (Kay Usher's grandson), Brad Wagner, Ryan Randal (friends of Sara Jungermann) and Stephen Yoda (Nick Yoda's brother).

Mission Statement

In awe, we Receive God's Grace and Gospel. In gratitude, we Respond with Worship and Servanthood. In love, we Represent Jesus Christ as we minister to transform lives in family, community, and the world.

Avon Lake Presbyterian Church
32340 Electric Blvd.
Avon Lake, OH 44012
Return Service Requested

Non Profit Organization
BULK RATE
U.S. Postage
Avon Lake, OH 44012
Permit No. 29

Sunday Worship
9:30 and 11:00 am
Sunday School for all ages 11:00 am
(440) 933-6240
www.AvonLakePC.org

Pastor Tom Robinson
Pastor Emeritus Alfred A. Hart
Dir. of Music Muriel Homer
Dir. of CE Carolyn Dzuro
Treasurer Marcy Uhl
Financial Secy Sharon Pervo