

**All Church Birthday Party**  
at  
**North Springfield Church**

By Rev. Janet Lowery

One annual event that draws a lot of smiles at North Springfield Presbyterian Church is the All-Church Birthday Party. It is hosted by our deacons and takes place after worship.

We have twelve tables, twelve cakes, and decorate each table for one month of the year. People start smiling when they walk in and see the festive set up. (The table host sends an invitation to anyone in church who has a birthday in that table's month.) The hosts bring around drinks and ice cream. We sit at our birthday-month table, which means we have conversations with folks we may not know as well as others, but there's a built-in conversation starter.

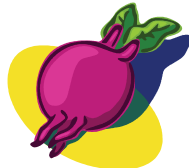


Last year, we asked everyone to bring a baby photo and had a game to guess who was who. Each year we play musical chairs until we have a prize-winner. Especially for members who don't receive much birthday fuss, this is happily anticipated - even if it's far from an actual birthday. And it has proven to be a fun way to mix children and adults in fellowship.

**Pentecost at North Springfield**

By Rev. Janet Lowery

For fellowship time after worship on Pentecost, we invite everyone to bring red food to share. The tables are decorated in red, the beverage is red, and



it's fun to see what arrives - from twizzlers to beets!



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Eastminster Presbytery

# EASTMINSTER EVANGEL

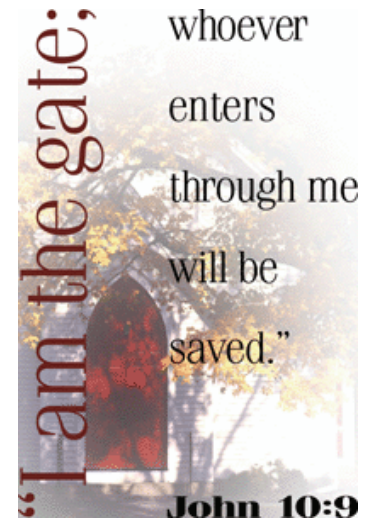
**Multicultural Church Emphasis**

By Rev. Bob Offerdahl

Sunday, March 30th is designated as Multicultural Church Emphasis. To mark this observance, several area congregations will be joining together to recognize, celebrate, and incorporate the gifts of diverse ethnic, culture and heritage in worship, ministry, and leadership. Congregations working together to organize this special service are Gibson Heights Second Presbyterian (Bob Offerdahl, pastor), St. James African Methodist Episcopal (Deborah Austin, pastor), and Unity Baptist (Rafael Cruz, pastor). Invitations have also been extended to Butler Memorial Presbyterian Church and to the Coitsville Presbyterian Church. Some members of the local Red Hawk American Indian Cultural Society will also take part in the service. We invite others to come and be a part of this multicultural service of praise and worship.

The service will be held Sunday, March 30th, 10:30 a.m., at Gibson Heights Second Presbyterian, 755 East Dewey. Directions to the church can be found in the Presbytery Directory. Following the worship service there will be a "casserole luncheon." Drinks and table service will be provided by the host congregation. Everyone is asked to bring a casserole and / or a salad or dessert that represents ethnic culture or heritage.

Information, contact Rev. Bob Offerdahl 330-207-6233 or [www.pastorbobccp@yahoo.com](mailto:www.pastorbobccp@yahoo.com).



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SPRING QUARTER 2008  
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### FRIENDSHIP & FELLOWSHIP ACROSS COUNTY LINES

By Kerry Price

“An association of people who share common beliefs or activities.” That’s one definition of fellowship in the dictionary. A church family is one of the best places to find such an association. Wickliffe Presbyterian Church in Austintown has always prided themselves in their fellowship opportunities for their members, as have the members of Columbiana Presbyterian Church. But when there are two separate associations of people who share common beliefs in two separate communities located 15 miles apart, how do you get them to share activities? Enter Reverends Scott & Elmarie Parker.

Rev. Scott Parker has been the pastor at Columbiana Presbyterian Church just over a year and a half and Rev. Elmarie Parker was installed at Wickliffe approximately 6 months later. While both are still settling in with their congregations, they’ve introduced new opportunities for the members of both churches to expand beyond their own building and community. And now, one year later, a friendship has formed between Wickliffe and Columbiana Presbyterian Churches that includes many new possibilities for fellowship.

Our gatherings have ranged from spiritual to educational to entertaining and almost always included time to fellowship and get to know each other over a meal. A trip to the YSU Planetarium and the MVR restaurant started our adventures as a united

fellowship with approximately 40 people attending. Our Spanish guests from Levante Presbytery got to know at least 50 members from both congregations at a dinner and conversation held at the Columbiana Church during their visit in February. In May, along with a few other congregations, Wickliffe and Columbiana hosted a combined Middle Eastern dinner, conversation and prayer service which was held at the Wickliffe Church. Later that month and into the summer Scott & Elmarie were gracious enough to open their home for a young singles and families Bible study, with dinner included of course. The study ran for 5 weeks with an average of 25 people per week. And most recently, Columbiana hosted an evening of concerts and desserts in support of Eastminster Presbytery’s team leaving for Spain. We were entertained by the Wickliffe Worship Quartet, the Columbiana Praise Band and Rev. Scott Parker. The proceeds from this concert benefited the mission trip to Spain. Upcoming events include combined parenting seminars and a very basic Bible study called Alpha. We’re looking forward to having a good turnout from both congregations.

## EASTMINSTER

If it weren’t for the leadership of Reverends Scott & Elmarie Parker, the members of Wickliffe and Columbiana Presbyterian Churches might never have met. And now there’s a friendship that has formed through “an association of people who share common beliefs or activities.” Fellowship... not just for single congregations anymore.

### New Venues for Fellowship

at

#### 1st Presbyterian Church of Youngstown

By Jeanne D. Goodman

First Presbyterian Church of Youngstown has found some new venues for fellowship, in addition to the continuation of some old favorites. Our newly created “*Member Care and Placement Task Group*” is fertile ground for exploring new ideas. With the intention of letting our YSU and Westminster college students know each other better and to know they are appreciated as part of our church family, an after worship home style dinner was prepared and served by some of our “older” members before Christmas.

Our congregation has been divided into 12 geographical parishes for care and oversight by our Session and Deacons and to encourage closer ties between those living near each other. Several parishes had social events in their homes, and a three parish event was held for our members and friends living at Park Vista.



## EVANGEL

Church dinners are always great opportunities for fellowship. Our Deacons host three special dinners each year: an Ash Wednesday meal followed by a Vesper Service; worship and picnic in Mill Creek Park to which we invite our friends from Butler Memorial Church; and a Community Thanksgiving Dinner which serves 700+ Youngstown area residents.

### Themes for the upcoming Evangel issues:

Summer

**LEADERSHIP, Due June 10, 2008**

Fall

**STEWARDSHIP, Due Oct. 14, 2008**

Winter

**MISSION, Due February 13, 2009**

Share the Good News of what's happening in your Congregation in 200 words or less, lifting up “Why it is great to be a Presbyterian.” A picture included will be appreciated.

A copy of The Evangel will be included in the Presbytery Packet, starting with the May 2008 Packet.

The Communication & Nurture Committee asks that your Church’s Commissioner to Presbytery share the responsibility of seeing that all “persons in the pew” have access to The Evangel.

Please mark the above DATES and THEMES on your calendar!!

Questions, suggestions, or comments contact Trella Johnson by phone at 330-792-5318 or E-mail at johnsontjp@aol.com.