

OPEN PRAIRIE UCC – February 2004 News

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

"We've come this far by faith, leaning on our God, trusting in God's holy word, God's never failed us yet."

Dear OPUCC Family,

Katie and I feel so blessed not only to have finally made it to Princeton, but to have received such a warm and wonderful welcome from all of you. We are so grateful to all of those who helped prepare the house for our arrival and to all of you who loaned us dishes, ice chests, and brought scores of beautiful casseroles to our rescue. An extra special thanks to the members of the Search Committee who invested countless hours, endless energy and much spirit into this lengthy Call process. We are gradually getting settled in our new home and are looking forward to hosting many meetings, dinners and general church related frivolity. Please know that you are always welcome to swing by for a visit.

My first Sunday worshiping with OPUCC was spirit filled, enriched with tears, laughter wonderful music and flowers made by our young folks to celebrate Women's Week.

As we prepare for Lent and the promise of Easter, I look forward to the opportunity to gather in small groups for discussion and prayer. I will facilitate two small groups focusing on deepening spirituality. Beginning in March the two groups will gather at our home on Tuesday evenings from 5-6:30 and Saturday mornings from 10-11:30. There will be sign up sheets at church on Sunday.

I look forward to worshiping God and growing in spirit together,

Rev. Curran Reichert

WORSHIP TEAM

Lent begins at the end of this month and we are planning to have an Ash Wednesday Service on February 25 at 6:30 p.m. We will announce where the service will take place at a later date.

Hymnals for Open Prairie have been ordered! Donations to cover the cost can be placed in the offering basket, clearly marked for hymnals, or we will have a separate container at the church doors.

The worship team will place 'Prayer Request' slips at the church doors. On these slips, there will be room for your prayer request and how you would like us to respond. Rev. Curran can bring the request to the congregation during the service. We can pray silently for your joy or concern. You may also request to meet with Rev. Curran or a member of the worship team for added support. You may submit the requests anonymously or provide us with contact information.

The worship team will meet after church services on Sunday, Feb. 22nd at Linda Ernst's home for lunch and a work session to plan Lenten and Easter services. This meeting is open to anyone who would like to attend.

We will also meet Tuesday, March 16th at 7:00 p.m. at the Ernst home.

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

Wednesday, February 25th
6:30 p.m.

Watch the bulletin for more details!

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

A reminder that the Stewardship Committee will need to call members for their pledge sheets if they have not turned them in yet. Therefore, we ask that you please follow up with sending in your pledge sheets.

The church office has copies of Rev. Gene Kraus' trilogy of sermons. If you would like a copy, give Marcie a call or send her an e-mail.

REMINDER that our worship services on February 22, 29 and March 7, 14 will be held at the Prouty Building in Princeton.

PRAIRIE CIRCLE

Prairie Circle was formed early this year for two purposes: to provide a social group to meet monthly and to serve as a liaison to Princeton Church Women United. All women in OPUCC are members of this Circle, participating as they choose. We will meet on the first Wednesday of each month for supper at 6:00 p.m. Our next meeting will be March 3rd. Watch the Sunday bulletin for details as this date approaches.

CORRESPONDENCE

December 15, 2003

*Dear Sisters & Brothers at Open Prairie UCC;
Our thoughts and prayers here at St. John's UCC in San Francisco are with you all in Illinois. Congratulations on your call of Curran to be your pastor!*

Please keep in touch! We'd love to hear how the spirit continues to move through you. Put us on your snail-mail or e-newsletter list.

*Shalom,
Rev. Kyle Lovett*

MISSION TEAM

The Mission Team is meeting for the first time on Tuesday, February 10 at 7:00 pm at Rev Curran's house – 308 Park Avenue West. Anybody wishing to participate please join us.

FELLOWSHIP TEAM

Thanks to all the people who have helped with the "coffee times". It has provided us with a time for fellowship both before and after the church service. If you have not helped and would like to do so, please contact either Becky or Lynette.

UPCOMING COFFE HOUR SCHEDULE

Feb. 15:	Barb Schiff
Feb. 22:	Susan Hale
Feb. 29:	June Harmon
Mar. 7:	Marilyn Calvert
Mar. 14:	Lynette Ivey
Mar. 21:	Terri Zearing
Mar. 28:	Beth Bickerman

Our team would like to plan a get together with Sheffield UCC. If you have any ideas please contact someone on the Fellowship Team

Please let Curran know if you, or someone you know, needs to hear from her, i. e. in the hospital, has a personal crisis etc...

We want to inform everyone that once they see the new carpeting at Pilgrim Park there can be no more coffee, juice or food in those rooms. We will have coffee in the gray room and spill into the large dining hall.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, February 24 at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Becky Perkins.

**AN OPPORTUNITY FOR
SPIRITUAL GROWTH**

Tuesdays from 5-6:30 p.m.
Saturdays from 10-11:30 a.m.
In March

308 Park Avenue West
The Pastor's Place

Small group discussion of
Scripture and prayer with a
focus on deepening spirituality
and getting to know one another.

CHRISTIAN ED

9 youth along with Cherie Miller, Kathy Hornbaker, and Mimi Cofoid, got up very early to put together 160 super bowl sandwiches on Sunday, February 1 in the Pilgrim Park kitchen. We made approximately \$420 on this sale!

Church members picked up their sandwiches and loaves of bread following the church services. Deliveries were made to those unable to pick up. 7 a.m. was a little early to be hungry for salami, so we ate blueberry muffins instead!

MUSIC

The Open Prairie choir will be singing in the Community Lenten Choir Festival on Sunday, February 29th. The Festival begins at 6:00 p.m. at the Covenant Church. A free will offering will be taken to benefit the Faith in Action program. Mark your calendar now and plan to attend to show your support for our outstanding choir!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, February 15

9:15 am pick-up for Sunday School
9:30 am Sunday School @ Pilgrim Park
10:30 am Worship @ Pilgrim Park

Sundays, February 22 and 29

9:30 am Sunday School at Prouty Building
10:30 am Worship at Prouty Building

2/10 7:00 pm Mission Team at Currans
2/11 7:00 pm Church Council at Forristalls
2/12 6:30 pm Choir at Webbers
2/19 6:30 pm Choir at Webbers
2/20-21 Confirmation Retreat
2/22 12:00 pm Worship Team at Ernsts
2/24 7:00 pm Fellowship Team at Perkins
2/25 6:30 pm Ash Wednesday Service
2/26 6:30 pm Choir at Webbers
2/29 6:00 pm Community Choir Festival

CHURCH INFORMATION

Temporary Church Office:

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