

The Longitude of Lent

I found it resting quietly on a back shelf in the smallish store. This particular independent bookstore had been there with little alteration for the thirty-five years I had visited or lived in Saint Louis. A note card taped to the high, wooden, front counter boasted pleasantly that the bookstore had celebrated its forty-fourth anniversary in this same location last August. Over the years, my trips there had been spaced out with periodic regularity, often enough for my face and name to be known by the current proprietor. Rarely had I ventured in without leaving with a book under my arm. This day was no exception. The book in question was Dava Sobel's *Longitude*.

Like a growing number of books on my overstuffed bookshelves, this one came to my attention on NPR. It piqued my interest as a long ago history major and as someone whose forebears were shipbuilders and sailors. What I learned about latitude and longitude in elementary school was how to remember which imaginary lines ran east and west and which ran north and south. What I learned from Dava Sobel's work is that the east west parallels of latitude were quickly and accurately established. Navigators at sea relied on the length of the day, the height of the sun, or known stars to fix their latitudinal position. However, it took many more centuries to devise an instrument that could deliver the same reliable reading of longitude. Longitude readings are not taken from nature but rather from time. To determine longitude on a ship, one must know both the time on the ship and the time at home port or another set location. The loss of life and cargo over centuries was so great that eventually the richest heads of European states established huge monetary prizes for anyone who could unravel the mystery of how to

measure longitude, the distance in time, along unseen north and south running meridians, from where one started to where one was now. It was only in the eighteenth century that the first chronometers were invented for the measurement of longitude.

Spiritual writers frequently employ metaphors for where we are dwelling and where we are journeying as they describe spiritual lives lived with intention. And Lent is often described with reference to scripture as our annual retracing of the journey to Jerusalem in the company of Jesus. Where are we in that journey? Can we take that measurement? We too wonder about the exact distance between our current location in life and the location of the life we were created for, a life lived in growing awareness of the image and likeness of God, a life of connection and service with neighbors near and far. It can be as troubling and vexing for us to get a clear read on where we are now in relationship to where we came from or where we are heading as it was for earlier mariners to know their precise degree of longitude. It was not an easy measurement for them to take nor is it an easy measurement for us to take. Similar to a flowing sea, our lives are in flux. We move forward and we slip sideways. We fear what lies beyond our experience and sometimes opt to remain where we are or to comfortably retreat back to an earlier location or understanding. Lent is all about the challenging task of grasping the distance between where we are and where we started or where we are headed in faith. We believe knowing our location is every bit as valuable as the earlier prize-laden search for the measurement of longitude. Together in worship, in the shared life of this congregation, in our engagement in the world beyond our windows and walls, we receive ongoing readings

of our longitudinal location in faith. May we
journey forth in courage and with one another.

MARTHA



March CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- | | | |
|----|----------|---------------------------------|
| 2 | 10:00 am | <i>EAT Group</i> |
| | 4:00pm | <i>Search Committee</i> |
| 3 | 8:00 am | <i>Prayer Group at Autrey's</i> |
| | 6:00 pm | <i>Prairie Circle at June's</i> |
| | 6:30 pm | <i>Choir at Webber's</i> |
| 5 | 9:30am | <i>World Day of Prayer</i> |
| 9 | 10:00 am | <i>EAT Group</i> |
| 10 | 8:00 am | <i>Prayer Group at Autrey's</i> |
| | 6:30 pm | <i>Choir at Webber's</i> |
| 16 | 10:00 am | <i>EAT Group</i> |
| 17 | 8:00 am | <i>Prayer Group at Autrey's</i> |
| | 6:30 pm | <i>Choir at Webber's</i> |
| 22 | 7:00 pm | <i>Church Council</i> |
| 23 | 10:00 am | <i>EAT Group</i> |
| 24 | 8:00 am | <i>Prayer Group at Autrey's</i> |
| | 6:30 pm | <i>Choir at Webber's</i> |
| 27 | 7:30 pm | <i>Princeton Coffee House</i> |
| 30 | 10:00am | <i>EAT Group</i> |

☺ ³ H Y M N BIRTHDAY ☺

- | | | |
|------|----|---------------------|
| Mar. | 3 | Kelly Autrey-Webber |
| Mar. | 4 | Bob Ivey |
| Mar. | 4 | Angie Hughes |
| Mar. | 10 | Don Schiff |
| Mar. | 13 | Kathy Hornbaker |
| Mar. | 16 | Nick Forristall |
| Mar. | 21 | Jim Sears |
| Mar. | 21 | Constance Deal |
| Mar. | 22 | Hazel Crain |
| Mar. | 25 | Abby Beneke |
| Mar. | 26 | Patricia Wilson |
| Mar. | 28 | Sharon Klingel |

Health Ministries

Tips for Men Concerning Prostate Health

What is a prostate gland? It is a small gland, about the size of a walnut, that surrounds the urethra just below the bladder. The prostate gland grows quite a lot during puberty and then doesn't change much until age 40, when it slowly begins growing again and, in many men, doesn't stop. Half of men aren't bothered by their growing prostate. However, the others will develop one of three prostate diseases; enlarged prostate, prostate cancer, or prostatitis, or may have more than one.

This article will focus on the most common prostate health problem among men which is the enlarged prostate, also known as BPH-or benign prostatic hyperplasia. This is a non-cancerous disorder which half of men between the ages of 50 and 60 will develop and by the age of 80, about 90 percent will have experienced BPH symptoms. Symptoms of BPH vary with each individual. They may include: frequent, often-urgent need to urinate, especially at night, need to strain or push to get the urine flowing, inability to completely empty the bladder, dribbling or leaking after urination, and a weak urine stream.

Because male urinary symptoms can also be caused by more serious conditions, such as prostate cancer, it is important to see your doctor to determine the cause of your symptoms. Typically, a doctor will take a detailed medical history, conduct a physical exam, and discuss any changes in the patterns of urination or urinary habits. Whether symptoms are mild, moderate or severe, it is recommended that an appointment be made with a physician to discuss the condition and appropriate treatment options.

Information obtained from the *Men's Health Network*

March Calendar of Prayer

Our calendar of prayer for March 2010 reflects our Lenten theme of Windows of Faith. We pray for many who envision among and beyond us at various windows of faith.

March 1 – people who envision how to right a wrong
March 2 – teachers and volunteers who envision a world where all can read and write
March 3 – health care workers who envision a state of healing and wholeness where there has been injury and illness
March 4 – children who envision a world through eyes of wonder
March 5 – elders who envision the value of what they know
March 6 – heads of state who envision world citizenship
March 7 – table setters who envision a room where there are places for all
March 8 – women and men who envision greater gender equity around the world
March 9 – spiritual leaders who envision abundance rather than scarcity
March 10 – gardeners who envision waiting green beneath the ice and snow
March 11 – musicians who envision new melodies that will make our hearts sing
March 12 – learners who envision a richness of life through new challenges
March 13 – artists who envision fresh expression of what they experience
March 14 – mentors who envision who it is that others might become
March 15 – any who envision the flourishing of life beyond death
March 16 – storytellers who envision the importance of remembering where we have come from
March 17 – saints of every stripe who envision the grace of conviction and commitment
March 18 – the quiet, unnoticed ones who envision the value of solid, small steps
March 19 – players who envision what their team might accomplish
March 20 – travelers who envision bold conversations among cultures and countries
March 21 – earth stewards who envision a whole new relationship between the human community and the wider world around
March 22 – recovery facilitators who envision pathways out of addictions

March 23 – gift givers who envision the infectious power of joy
March 24 – those who have dwelt with great grief who envision returning days of laughter and light
March 25 – people who visit the forgotten and envision the difference that human presence and touch can make
March 26 – comedians who envision the grace and health of humor
March 27 – contemplatives who envision space and time infused with prayer
March 28 – the newly diagnosed and their loved ones who can't quite envision tomorrow
March 29 – those recently released from prison who struggle to envision life after lockup
March 30 – committee members who envision that hard, tedious work brings helpful results
March 31 – fire fighters, ambulance personnel, police officers who envision the kinds of necessary support they can offer their communities

WELCOME!

We are happy to welcome Dani Bryan as our new Church Administrator. Dani moved to Princeton in May of 2009. She will be married to Andy Genandt this summer on June 19th. She grew up in the Germantown Hills area and graduated from Eureka College in 2008. Dani also works as a teacher in the before and after school program at Leepertown Elementary School in Bureau. Her office hours here at the church will be Monday through Thursday from 9 am to 1 pm during the school year. During the summer her hours will be 1 pm to 5 pm those same days.

Church Council News

The next Church Council Meeting will be Monday, March 22 at 7:00pm.



If you have time to jot a note, Dan Kuhnert would enjoy hearing from you.

Daniel Kuhnert R72534
Dixon Correctional Center
2600 N. Brinton Ave.

WORSHIP TEAM NEWS

Never pray in a room without windows.

-The Talmud

Never pray without the world in mind, in other words. The purpose of the spiritual life is not to save us from reality. It is to enable us to go on co-creating it.

Joan Chittister, OSB

With these words in mind, the Worship Team met with Rev. Martha on February 4, to firm up plans for Lent at Open Prairie.

Our season of Lent began with an Ash Wednesday service which included the imposition of ashes and holy communion. Presented in our sanctuary each Sunday in Lent will be a different "window"--in the form of a banner--through which we may view our lives. It is the hope of the worship team that these "windows" will encourage us to ask ourselves these questions: how well do we keep the windows of our hearts and lives open to the light of God? How well do we keep the windows of our hearts and lives open to the joy and anguish of the world in which we find ourselves?

The windows presented will include an inaccessible window that is too small or too high; a window that makes us vulnerable to danger; a bricked up window; a broken window; a dirty window; and an overdressed window.

During Lent, the worship table will hold visual depictions of the various Scripture lessons as outlined in the U.C.C. lectionary leading up to and including Easter Sunday.

Maundy Thursday, April 1, will include a light meal at 6:00 pm, followed by communion and a tenebrae service ending in darkness and silence.

April 4, an Easter Sunrise Service will be held at Pilgrim Park at 7:00 am, outdoors with a bonfire. Dress accordingly. The regular 10:30 am Easter Service will take place at Open Prairie U.C.C.

The Worship Team is sorry to have lost member Suzie Stalter, who moved away; but we are joyful to have added Marcie Jagers to our team. -Sarah Criner

Lent 2010 Windows of Faith

A banner will be made for each Sunday in Lent depicting the window theme. Thank you to the following church folks who will design the banners:

February 21 – Kelly Autrey-Webber
inaccessible window

February 28 – Ron McCutchan
a window that makes us vulnerable to danger

March 7 – Roger Perkins
a bricked up window

March 14 – Maggie Beneke
a broken window

March 21 – Brian Taylor
a dirty window

March 28 – Margaret Aturey
an overdressed window

Recycling Efforts Continue

Keep those aluminum cans coming. We continue to collect aluminum cans for our Heifer Project efforts.

We also have a box in the church office to collect printer inkjet cartridges for recycling. We earn up to \$4 per cartridge and keep them out of the landfills!

Prairie Circle News

The next meeting of Prairie Circle will be Wednesday, March 3rd, 6:00 pm at June Harmons' home – 517 S. Church St.
Please bring a covered dish to share.

Potato Bar Reminder:

April 18, 2010

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

The World Day of Prayer this year will be celebrated at the Hollowayville United Church of Christ on Friday, March 5th at 9:30 AM.

World Day of Prayer is a worldwide movement of Christian women of many traditions who come together to observe a common day of prayer each year, and who, in many countries, have a continuing relationship in prayer and service.

It is a movement initiated and carried out by women in more than 170 countries and regions. It is a movement symbolized by an annual day of celebration—the first Friday of March—to which all people are welcome. It is a movement which brings together women of various races, cultures, and traditions in closer fellowship, understanding and action throughout the year.



Princeton Coffeehouse

Saturday, March 27th

7:30 pm

Curtis & Loretta

Heartfelt original acoustic songs, plus traditional music from the British Isles, America and beyond.

www.curtisandloretta.com

www.theprincetoncoffeehouse.com

Enough at the Table

There is always room at our writing and study tables on Tuesday morning. If you haven't been a part of the *Enough At The Table* groups but have thought about it, know you are welcome. The morning group meets at 10 am.

Mission News

A big "Thank you" to everyone who donated items for the hygiene kits and baby kits! They are being sent to World Church Service for use in Haiti and other places in need around the world! Your generosity is AMAZING!

Your mission team is preparing for the Gateway fundraiser being held at Open Prairie Saturday, February 20 and Sunday, February 21st. Thank you to everyone who volunteered to help set up and decorate, do dishes, serve, clean up, bake cookies or prepare delicious hors d'oeuvres! Your giving spirit is AWESOME!

The mission team is busy selling tickets for another Haiti relief fundraiser February 28th from 11:00-3:00 p.m. at Italian Express. All-you-can-eat spaghetti, garlic bread and drink for \$6.00 a person. \$3.00 of every ticket sold will go directly to Church World Service for Haiti Relief! Each ticket is good for an eat-in or a carry out dinner! Tickets will also be available at the door. Come join us for lunch on Sunday February 28th!

Your mission team continues to offer fairly-traded organic coffees, teas, hot cocoa, almonds, cranberries, pecans and dark chocolate bars. You may purchase items at church in our display. If you are interested in a case of products or an item that is not currently on display, please call Susan Hale (815) 646-4118 to place an order!

Thank you for your continued support of our Bureau County Food Pantry! For the month of March we are collecting tuna and noodles .

Blessings, Susan Hale

**DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME STARTS ON
MARCH 14TH. DON'T FORGET TO SET
YOUR CLOCKS AHEAD ONE HOUR.**



From Both Sides....

An exhibit of Artists and their Admirers
Princeton Public Library
March 1 – March 21

Monday, March 1 6:30 pm
Film: Power of the Past

Tuesday, March 2 7:00 pm
Film interview featuring
Mary Winn Walter Norris

Wednesday, March 3 3:30 pm
Film: Linea & Monet's Garden

Thursday, March 4
3:30 pm Children's after school art
7:00 pm Visual Literacy, Ben Martinkus

Monday, March 8 6:30 pm
Film: Sunday in the Park with George

Tuesday, March 9 7:00 pm
20th Century Art Discussion, Melanie Rod Lewis

Wednesday, March 10 3:30 pm
Film: Monet Shadow & Light

Thursday, March 11
3:30 pm Children's after school art
7:00 pm Lecture & Slide presentation
Dana Collins

Monday, March 15 6:30 pm
Film: Girl with the Pearl Earring

Tuesday, March 16 7:00 pm
Pottery Demonstration, Anne Dittmer

Wednesday, March 17 3:30 pm
Film: Goya Awakened in a Dream

Thursday, March 18
3:30 pm Children's after school art
7:00 pm Workshop with Anne Dittmer
(registration required)

Friday, March 19th 6:00 pm
Lecture, Verne Schaffer

Monday, March 22 6:30 pm
Film: Art 21

THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who made a monetary contribution to our children's Haiti box, who ate pancakes or spaghetti, who assembled a health or baby kit for Church World Service, or who donated in any other way to our Haiti collection. We will have a final total for our Haiti offering in the next newsletter.

An Easy Way to Support Global Ministries

You can support Global Ministries as you search the internet by adding GoodSearch (www.GoodSearch.com) as your default search engine. Just be sure to select "Global Ministries Disciples of Christ & United Church of Christ" as your cause. You can do this automatically by going to: <http://www.goodsearch.com/?charityid=847213>.

Also, if you like to shop on the internet, go to www.GoodShop.com first & select Global Ministries as your cause. Global Ministries will receive a small percentage of the total you spend! There are no fees attached, but using GoodSearch will help Global Ministries serve sisters and brothers around the world!

Open Prairie UCC
25 E. Marion Street
Princeton, IL 61356



Church Office:
25 E. Marion Street
Princeton, IL 61356
(815)872-5150
Email: mail@openprairie.org
Office Open Tue. /Thu. 9:00 – 5:00 pm
Church Web Site: www.openprairie.org