

Wayside Presbyterian Church Of Erie

1208 Asbury Road
Erie, PA 16505-1304

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Wayside Presbyterian Church

Inside Wayside

VOLUME 48, NO 3

MARCH 2009

FROM OUR PASTOR

Dear Friends:

At the very end of January more than forty Waysiders gathered for the annual Officers' Retreat. Once again that event proved to be a significant day in the life of our church.

Part of our discussion at the Retreat focused on the new set of circumstances that the church encounters in the world. Terms like 'post-modern' and 'post-Christian' highlight the fact that the world has changed dramatically and, if the church is to remain vital and alive and ready to meet needs, it must adapt accordingly.

Both the Board of Trustees and the Session spent time at their respective meetings in February following up on ideas from the Retreat. My guess is that those conversations will continue into the foreseeable future. If you have opportunity, ask one of the Trustees or Elders to fill you in on their thoughts and where they see things headed.

Initially both boards will review the current mission statement and strategic plan that was adopted in 2000. Individual committees will study portions that pertain to their specific areas of ministry. We may need to make revisions; we may determine that we need a new plan altogether; or we may determine that what was approved nine years ago is still a pretty good guide for our work as the church.

In any case, it is generating some lively discussion and genuine thought about who we are as this particular people of God and where we want to be going. All of which is good for the church. I would welcome your input as we move forward.

May God continue to bless us as we seek together to be faithful to Jesus Christ.

See you in church.

Peace.

Jim

This month

at Wayside:

- Lenten Inter-Generational
- Lenten Luncheons Thursdays at Wayside
- Soup Sunday, March 15th
- Talent Auction, March 28th

Inside this issue:

Lenten Services	2
Music News	2
Talent Auction	3
Worship in March	6
March Calendar	7
WOW & WaYouth	8
PW News	8
Lenten Devotional	9

**ASH
WEDNESDAY
SERVICE
FEBRUARY 25TH
7:00 P.M.**

**WEST MILLCREEK
FOOD PANTRY**
Suggested items for
March:
Baked Beans, Bar Soap,
Tuna, Fruit, Spaghetti
Sauce, Cereal, Peanut Butter,
& Toilet Tissue
All non-perishable items are
always welcome.



Phone: 814-833-7653
Email: wpc@wayside-erie.org

1208 Asbury Rd.
Erie, PA 16505
James Haas, Senior Pastor
Keith Sundberg, Associate Pastor
Dawn Weborg, Director of Music/Organist
Ernie Ennsle, Sexton
February Newsletter volunteers:
Sally DeVitt, Shirley Diller, Jane Hess, Annette Rothschild

WAYSIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

"MISSION STATEMENT"
Wayside Church is a welcoming, caring community of God's
people committed to developing Christian disciples.
We gather for worship, study, fellowship, and prayer. We
seek to reach out with Christ's love to our community and
the world.

MANY THANKS

The Board of Trustees would like to express its genuine gratitude to several people who have gone out of their way to meet one of the specific needs of the church. Special thanks to:

- Shawn Babcock, who continues to do excellent work as our Church Treasurer and recently agreed to another one-year term
- Kitty Menges and her helpers, who regularly prepare our soup on Deacon- sponsored "Soup Sundays" and get it delivered to the Emmaus Soup Kitchen

There are many others who contribute generously of their time and efforts in support of the church; we are grateful to all of them.

COMMUNITY LENTEN SERVICES

It is Wayside's turn to host the community Lenten services and lunches. The service begins at noon each Thursday throughout the season (until Holy Week) with a light lunch following at 12:30 p.m. The cost of the meal is \$4. Preachers for the services come from various churches in the West Millcreek area and, members of the pastor's congregation prepare and serve the meal.

This has been a wonderful tradition in the West Millcreek area for a number of years. Please plan to join with other Waysiders and friends from neighboring churches as we worship together in preparation for the great good news of Easter.

OGHS

For years Wayside has been a generous contributor to the One Great Hour of Sharing. The Offering supports the work of the Presbyterian Hunger Program, the Self-Development of People Program, and the work of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.



Last year our gifts totaled more than \$7000, with the bulk of that coming through the annual Talent Auction. With faith we can do even more this year to alleviate the suffering and grant hope to more of God's children.

There will be several "minutes-for-mission" and bulletin inserts during worship services to help raise up the needs, which this year are greater than ever. Please give as you are led.

FAITH BUILD IN JUNE

One of the ministries that we work with closely has a special project planned for this summer. Habitat for Humanity is sponsoring a "Faith Build" for the first three weeks of June. A complete house will be constructed in 20 days and dedicated on the 21st.

Obviously this is an ambitious undertaking that will require the efforts of many churches. Wayside has signed on as a "core" church in that process, meaning that we will support it financially (which we have already done) and with volunteer workers.

Wayside will commit to providing a group of volunteers for several days or perhaps even a week. We will advertise those dates as we get closer to time. But as you look at your calendar, consider setting one or several days aside to commit to this great project. Pray about your availability and watch for sign-ups as we get closer to the summer.

MUSIC NEWS

A very special thank you to the WaYouth Singers and to all who generously supported the brunch of February 22nd.

The Chancel Choir welcomes new members who would be willing to be a part of the group during the Lenten season, through Easter. Rehearsals are at 7:15p.m. on Thursday evenings.

The White Chapel Hand Bells have arrived safely back at Wayside after being refurbished - special word of thanks to Linda Pentz who repaired the felt storage bags for the hand bells. The Wayside Sanctuary Bell Choir, under the direction of Ron May, rehearses on Sunday evenings at 5:00 p.m.



Schedule Wayside on Wednesdays (2nd—5th grade)

4:00 Snack & Check in Time
4:15 - 5:00 Choir
5:00 - 6:00 WOW Club Program
5:30 - 6:00 Primary Choir

- March 4 Visit Russian Orthodox Church: No choir today
- March 11 Bowling: Bring \$5.00
5:30 Primary Choir with Linda Pentz; No WOW choir
- March 18 "Mali" with Penny Porter
- March 25 Plant seeds for the church gardens

MIDDLEL WAYOUTH

WEDNESDAYS:

6:00 -6:30 Dinner/ \$2 Donation at church

6:30-7:30 Program: Recreation, Service Project or Game & Discussion

March 4 The Book of Job and Struggling with

March 8: Ice Skating from 1:00 to 3:30 at the Rink \$10

March 11 No Club today

March 18 Service Project: Eggs-perience Preparations

March 25 Service Project: Eggs-perience Preparations

SUNDAYS: 12:00 -1:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

March WaYouth Senior High Calendar

March 1	Dinner & Speaker Sudanese Men at Duskas' home
March 7	Second Harvest Food Bank
March 15	Care Packages for College Students
March 22	City Mission Dinner (3 - 6pm)
March 29	Dinner & Speaker Dr. Dan McFee - Sundbergs' home

SR HIGH SUNDAY SCHOOL

March

- 1 Lenten Inter-generational
- 8 When and Why the Bible was Written
- 15 Types of Literature in the Bible
- 22 Tools for Bible Study
- 29 Great Themes of the Bible

Adult Bible Study

Don Worthington leads a weekly study of the lectionary readings each week.

Family, Faith, and Fellowship

March

- 1 Lenten Intergenerational
- 8 The Shack by William P. Young
- 15 Feminism and the Church
- 22 & 29 Teaching Spirituality to our Children

Issues of Faith

March

- 1 Lenten Intergenerational
- 8 "Nonviolent Resistance" Sr. Anne McCarthy, OSB
- 15 "Thinking with Jesus: Putting the New Testament and Qur'an in Conversation." Dr. Robert VonThaden
- 22 "The Next Generation of the Church" Rev. Rebecca McFee
- 29 "20th Century Painters and Spirituality" Jamie Borowicz

WOW for ADULTS continues the series entitled "Living the Questions." It is an excellent series with contemporary theologians who discuss openly the most difficult questions of our time. The study is led by Rev. Jim Haas.

MEDS, meets each Monday at 7:00 in the parlor. The group, led by Rev. Tom McLaren is continuing their exploration of a book by Bishop John Shelby Spong, entitled, Liberating the Gospels.

PW NEWS

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN MISSION UPDATE

Presbyterian Women at their first quarter business meeting discussed the current economic situation and decided to start the year giving donations to organizations that focus on hunger and emergency relief. The following contributions were approved:

\$100 Erie City Mission
 \$100 Second Harvest Food Bank
 \$100 West Millcreek Food Pantry
 \$100 Emmaus Soup Kitchen
 \$100 Inner Church Ministries
 \$100 Bread for the World
 \$100 Presbyterian Women
 \$100 Red Cross - Erie branch
 \$100 Red Cross - International

In addition, \$500 was approved to be given to the Trustees to help with fund for projects at Wayside. We requested the money be considered for updates to the Parlor.

STAMP OUT HUNGER EVENT

Join us on Monday, March 23rd at 6:00 p.m. for this worthwhile event. Debbie Peterson will be giving us tips on "light" suppers. Please bring your appetite, a dollar contribution and a canned good item, which will be given to the Millcreek Food Pantry.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

FRIDAY, March 6, 2009

Papua New Guinea!

*"In Christ, there are many members
yet one body"*

Elmwood Avenue Presbyterian Church
 2816 Elmwood Avenue, Erie, PA
 2 Ecumenical Services at 1 PM and 7 PM

BLANKET SUNDAY

Contributions surpassed our goal of \$1000. We received \$1179 in generous donations for this worthwhile cause. Thanks to everyone who participated in this special request offering. A special thank you the 4th and 5th grade Sunday School class for cutting out all those hearts!

PW MISSION

Our PW Mission Giving \$10 special donation request has had a wonderful response. To date, we have collected \$1400. Thank you ladies for your generosity and commitment to Presbyterian Women Mission Giving. Donations are still being accepted.

SAVE THIS DATE

The PW Spring Banquet on Monday evening, May 4th, will be a celebration of and for women. Plan to join with the women of Wayside for this special evening of good food and good fun. Bring your sister, mother, children, and/or your friends for this time together.

LENTEN DEVOTIONALS

Children

NEW! "Stories on the Way to Jerusalem" - a game for families to play at home that lead to understanding Easter.

"Leap Into Lent"- an action based devotional for children and families

"Gather Around the Cross" - a daily sticker devotion for children during Lent

"My Very Own 'I am Jesus' Little Lamb'
Lenten Mobile - limited number

"It's a Miracle" - Lenten activity book

Teens "A Gardener's Guide to Lent"
"Snapshots in the Shadows"

Adults

NEW! "Christ Our Hope" - daily Lenten devotions by Henri Nouwen

NEW! "The Cry of the Prophet: A Call to Fullness of Life" by Sr. Joan Chittister

"Blessed Are You; Overcoming Evil with Good"
- Sr. Joan Chittister

FAMILY NEWS

RECUPERATING:	13th	Gary Christensen, Eva Duska	24th	Marcy Goodwin, Joey Kocan, Nolan Martin	
Ray Weber			26th	Jeff Brinling, Alice Duer, Matt McGill,	
John Veenschoten	14th	Morgan Anderson, Barb Richardson, Bethany VanHelden	28th	Scott Jackson, Aaron Garrity	
BIRTHDAYS:			29th	Bonnie Tansey, Riley Lorah	
1st	Peggy Bules, Alice Edwards, Elaine Glass, Ken Haag	15th	Neil Harris	30th	Pam Weaver
2nd	Heidi Utley	16th	Chris Hoyt, Joan Moore, Justice	31st	Mike Anderson
3rd	Dick Cross, Bob Henderson	17th	Karen Sewell		
4th	Colleen Abbott	19th	Matt Popson, Cheryl Sealy		
5th	Jan McEllroy, Tom Momeyer	20th	Jennifer Taylor	ANNIVERSARIES	
6th	Rita Weaver	21st	Zachary Dulabon, Erik Hamza, Ian Hamza	1	Jim & Mardy Marsh
8th	Rachel Martone			2	Bill & Linda Bremmer
9th	Harry Eighmy, Hal Harrington, Char Popson, Bob Wagner	22nd	Ramon Watkins, Carrie Bastow	14	Ed & Bonnie Tansey
10th	Mary Marsh, Jack Tower	23rd	Jane Hamza, Don Lasher, Mardy Marsh, Betsey Miller, Richard Warnaka	19	Judd & Dot Smith
12th	Susan Harris			26	Richard & Marilyn Spensley

TALENT AUCTION

Spring will arrive soon which means it is almost time for Wayside's twelfth annual Talent Auction! This year's event is scheduled for Saturday, March 28. We'll have an evening of fun and fellowship featuring the opportunity to bid on a variety of items donated by Wayside's members. Proceeds from the auction will be evenly distributed between One Great Hour of Sharing and special projects at Wayside.

Auction donations are currently being sought. Please consider your talents and sign up at the Information Table. Examples of items donated in the past include baked goods, car washes, meals, handmade crafts and clothing items, quilts, donated home improvement services, and gift certificate "boards" donated by area businesses. A preview list of auction items will be available after church services on March 22. All those attending the Talent Auction are asked to bring an appetizer or dessert to share. The committee will provide sandwiches and beverages to accompany the appetizers and desserts. Auction registration will begin at 4:45 p.m. Appetizers will be served beginning at 4:45 p.m. The auction will begin by 5:15 p.m. At 6:15 p.m., we will take a break from the auction and enjoy sandwiches and dessert. We will resume the auction between 6:45 and 7:00 p.m. in anticipation of completing the event by 8:30 p.m.

The "Pound Auction" has been a popular auction feature in past years. This year's Pound Auction is designed for the children of the church. As in the past, you are invited to contribute a creatively wrapped package containing 16 ounces of any item appropriate for a child. Silent bids can be made if you are unable to attend the auction. On Sunday, March 22, there will be silent bid forms on the Information Table. Complete the form after previewing the list of talents and place it in the box on the Information Table or submit it to the church office. Bring your whole family and plan to attend.

Let's fill Fellowship Hall and enjoy an evening of fun, fellowship and stewardship!

A NOTE FROM THE TRUSTEES

As probably everyone has noticed, the main doors into the church from the parking lot have been put on an automatic opener. Depending on whether you are entering or leaving the building, you need give the door only a slight pull or push and the electric opener will take it from there. The door will stay open for about ten seconds, and then will automatically close itself.

That last part seems to throw people off a bit, for there is the tendency to pull on the door and try to make it shut more rapidly. Unfortunately it doesn't work that way and such efforts only serve to throw off the electronic memory. So please just let the door close by itself.

Additionally, the memory device seems to have a hard time when several people are entering or leaving in succession. If the door is in the closing process and someone tries to open it during that brief time, the closing mechanism tends to turn itself off completely, and it becomes a fully manually-operated door. So, if you can spare the extra few seconds, let the door complete its cycle before being opened again.

All of which is to say – the door now has a mind of its own!

SCRIP PROGRAM

Wayside's Scrip program continues! This program allows you to order gift cards through the church. You get your gift cards and the church gets a small percentage from your purchase. Keep this program in mind for birthdays, showers and everyday shopping and dining out. A list of participating retailers is available on the Information Table or at www.glscrip.com Contact Bobbi Jo Fye at 449-1808 with any questions.

WEDNESDAY DINNERS CONTINUE....

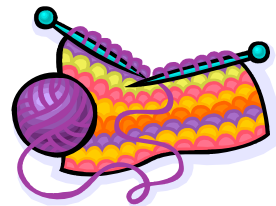
Please join us for our weekly Wednesday dinners at 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Throughout Lent we area having weekly soup and salad potluck suppers. Please bring either a soup or salad to share. Beverages are provided. No reservations necessary!

LUNCH BUNCH IN MARCH

The Lunch Bunch will meet at Joe Root's Grill on Sixth at Peninsula Drive at 12:30 p.m. on March 14, 2009. Wear your Lunch Bunch sweatshirts. To make reservations call Peggy Bules, 836-0096, or Annette Rothschild, 836-0835.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

The Prayer Shawl Ministry is celebrating its third year of work and the dedication of its 100th shawl. The 100 shawls were completed by knitters: Jean Moore, Pam Monaco, Sally DeWitt, Mary Marsh, Jane Hess, Virginia Edwards, Liz Steen, Alice Edwards, Linda Weber, Nancy Alberico, Betsy Payne, Miriam Kneller, Maria Desaro, Gretchen Kelley, Kelly Craig, Marjorie Masse, Lynn Lewis, Karen Potocki and Barb Sundberg. The group, which meets on the second Thursday of each month in the parlor at 7:00 p.m., invites new people to join us for prayer, knitting and conversation.

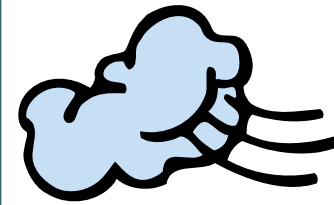


Financial Report

Financial Statement as of
January 31, 2009:

Receipts:
Month 37,440

Expenses:
Month 37,568



MARCH 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 8:30 a.m. Early Celebration of Worship 9:30 a.m. Chancel Choir 9:30a.m. Inter-Generational 11:00 a.m. Celebration of Worship 12:00 p.m. Fellowship Time 5:00 p.m. Bell Choir	2 7:00p.m. MEDS	3	4 4:00 p.m. WOW NO WOW or PRIMARY CHOIR 6:00 p.m. Dinner Middler WaYouth 6:45 p.m. Study with Rev. Haas 7:30 p.m. CDN	5 12:05p.m. Lenten Service/ Lunch	6	7 Sr. High WaYouth Second Harvest Food Bank
8 8:30 a.m. Early Celebration of Worship 9:30 a.m. Chancel Choir 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Celebration of Worship 12:00 p.m. Fellowship Time 5:00 p.m. Bell Choir Sr. High WaYouth	9 Noon - Trustees 7:00p.m. MEDS 7:30p.m. Outreach	10	11 4:00 p.m. WOW NO WOW CHOIR 5:30 p.m. Primary Choir 6:00 p.m. Dinner Middler WaYouth 6:45 p.m. Study with Rev. Haas 7:30p.m. Session	12 Noon - Martha Circle 12:05p.m. Lenten Service/ Lunch 7:00p.m. Prayer Shawl 7:15p.m. Chancel Choir	13	14 2nd Saturday Work Project Noon - Lunch Bunch Joe Root's Grill
15 8:30 a.m. Early Celebration of Worship 9:30 a.m. Chancel Choir 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Celebration of Worship 12:00 p.m. Fellowship Time 5:00 p.m. Bell Choir	16 7:00p.m. MEDS	17	18 4:00 p.m. WOW 4:15p.m. WOW Choir 5:00 p.m. WOW Program 5:30 p.m. Primary Choir 6:00 p.m. Dinner Middler WaYouth 6:45 p.m. Study with Rev. Haas 7:30p.m. CE Mtg	19 12:05p.m. Lenten Service/ Lunch 7:15p.m. Chancel Choir	20 NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE	21 9a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Women's Retreat
22 8:30 a.m. Early Celebration of Worship 9:30 a.m. Chancel Choir 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Celebration of Worship 12:00 p.m. Fellowship Time 2:30 p.m. Sr.Highs 5:00p.m. Bell Choir	23 7:00p.m. MEDS	24	25 Noon - Naomi Circle 4:00 p.m. WOW 4:15p.m. WOW Choir 5:00 p.m. WOW Program 5:30 p.m. Primary Choir 6:00 p.m. Dinner Middler WaYouth 6:45 p.m. Study with Rev. Haas 7:30 p.m. W,M,&F.A.	26 11:30a.m. Elizabeth Circle 12:05p.m. Lenten Service/ Lunch 7:15p.m. Chancel Choir	27	28 4:45 p.m. Talent Auction
29 8:30a.m. Early Celebration of Worship 9:30 a.m. Chancel Choir 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Celebration of Worship 12:00 p.m. Fellowship Time 5:00p.m. Bell Choir Sr. Hi. Wayouth	30 7:00p.m. MEDS	31				

WAYSIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

WORSHIP IN MARCH

March 1st First Sunday in Lent/Celebration of Holy Communion
Text – Psalm 25
Title – “Sunday Games”

During this season of Lent we reflect on what it means to journey through life as God leads us. The writer of Psalm 25 trusted that God is faithful in mercy and steadfast love. Therefore, we should all follow in God’s paths of truth. In sharing that vision the Psalmist reverted to a style that would bring a smile to the face of the editor of the entertainment section of the Sunday paper.

March 8th Second Sunday in Lent
Text – Psalm 22
Title – “Always Close”

In times of suffering or stress, we may feel that God is against us or doesn’t care. Yet in faith we know that God hears all our cries and acts to restore wholeness, not only to individuals, but to the whole community and beyond. When discipleship includes suffering and rejection, God is faithful and does not hide.

March 15th Third Sunday in Lent
Text – Psalm 19
Title – “Dear Confirmands”

In one of our first confirmation classes one of the youth asked Jim and me why we are Christians as opposed to another religion. It was a good question. We acknowledged that like them our parents chose to have us baptized. It was not a great answer. This week, hopefully, a letter to them will be more complete.

March 22nd Fourth Sunday in Lent
Text – John 3:1-17
Title – “Not a Good Banner Slogan”

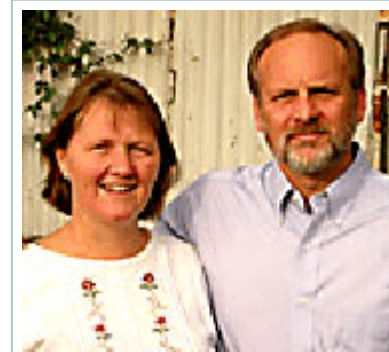
Perhaps the best known, most memorized verse of Scripture, certainly from the New Testament, is John 3:16. Its wonderful words remind us that Jesus Christ brings new life to all of us. Through him, we can know the brilliance of God’s healing love and follow in God’s paths. Still, as powerful a verse as that is, we need to keep it in context and not misuse its true meaning.

March 29th Fifth Sunday in Lent
Text – John 12:20-26
Title – “A Twelve-volt World”

The depth of God’s steadfast and eternal covenant with humankind is evident throughout John’s gospel. But choices about living in God’s way are required and judgment will be rendered. Given the nature of life in our 21st century culture makes those choices all the more difficult. Still, we have lots of help along the way.

Lenten Email Devotional

Monday through Friday, participants are invited to read a lectionary Bible passage and share a thought. We publicize the passage for each day and ask that readers reflect on it and respond with a sentence or paragraph about their insight. We collect comments throughout the day over the internet and then send out the compilation by 4:00 p.m. from the church office. Our focus this year will be on the gospel readings which are predominantly from John.



March 25 Come Hear the Wellers and Help Their Mission

Join us at the Wednesday Night Dinner on March 25 to hear Michael and Rachel Weller relate their experiences as missionaries in Ethiopia. At the same time we will be helping their mission. Even though, as traditional for Lent, we will have a simple soup and salad dinner, we are asking that you donate what you would typically spend for a dinner out. Funds raised will be used by the Wellers for the mission of their choice.

Michael and Rachel Weller were appointed in 1994 to serve in Ethiopia with the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus (EECMY). Michael is PC(USA)’s regional liaison for the Horn of Africa, where PC(USA) works with partner churches in Sudan and Ethiopia. Rachel is health coordinator for the East and West Gambella Bethel Synods of the EECMY in western Ethiopia.

Don’t miss this opportunity to hear of their challenges and accomplishments in Ethiopia.

MARTHA MOMENT

“Dust if You Must”

*Dust if you must, but wouldn’t it be better
To paint a picture or write a letter,
Bake a cake or plant a seed?
Ponder the difference
between want and need.
Dust if you must, but there’s not much time,
With rivers to swim
and mountains to climb,
Music to hear and books to read,
Friends to cherish and life to lead.
Dust if you must,
but the world’s out there
With the sun in your eyes,
the wind in your hair,
A flutter of snow, a shower of rain,
This day will not come around again.
Dust if you must, but bear in mind,
Old age will come and it is not kind.
And when you go and go you must,
You, yourself, will make more dust.
Remember, a house becomes a home
When you can write “I love you”
On the furniture.*

Author Unknown

WAYSIDE IN MISSION OUTREACH

Our Second Saturday Project each month provides the chance for Waysiders to be involved in “hands on” mission. Ten volunteers worked at the St. Martin’s Center in January and nine more worked with Habitat in February.

Please review the list below for the coming months and take note of those that interest you. New volunteers are always needed. We would love to see you there!

March	House of Healing
April	(to be announced)
May	Second Harvest Food Bank
June	Friends of the Library Book Sale

Because we try to work at the convenience of the organization, the actual work date is not always the second Saturday. Watch the bulletin for more specifics. Thanks.