



THE BREATH

Vol. 10, No. 2

Priest Lake Presbyterian Church

February 2010

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FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK



Dear PLPC Friends,

A friend of mine gave me an excellent analogy for church, the way it tends to work, and the way it was meant to work. He compared the church to a football game. You've got fans, coaches, and players (yes, there are officials, cheerleaders, etc- but for this we'll just stick with these three).

In many cases, Sunday morning looks like this: the pastor, worship leaders, and musicians are the players and the congregation are more like fans. The players put on the show and do the work while the congregation follows the action, sometimes with applause or a nod of approval. No coaches involved, just players and fans.

Be honest. Does this seem at least a bit true for us?

Let me suggest a different way. All of us are players along with the Holy Spirit. The worship leaders, pastor, and musicians in addition to being players are coaches. Player-coaches. We are leading and directing, but also participating. The sermon is kind of like a half-time pep, reviewing the game plan, suggesting new plays, lifting the spirit of the team.

The congregation would then be where the game is primarily played. The coaches can only do so much to bring success to a team. It's the players who ultimately make the difference.

If worship ever seems a bit drab to you, consider how you are playing your position. Are you just watching or are you involved? Are you playing the game? Because, believe or not, we have spectators and they are watching you as much as me and the other play-coaches. They are our visitors, people in the neighborhood who observe us as a community, people we work with, relatives, friends, strangers with whom we interact on the street, and of course, God.

What kind of game are they watching? Is it intriguing at all? Is it something new and unbelievable?

Let's all get in the game.

Peace be with you!

Pastor Paul



ASH WEDNESDAY
Wednesday, February 17th



Lectionary Schedule for February

Feb 7, 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isa. 6:1-8 (9-13); Psalm 138

1 Cor. 15:1-11; Luke 5:1-11

Feb 14, Transfiguration of the Lord

Exod. 34:29-35; Psalm 99

2 Cor. 3:12-4:2; Luke 9:28-36 (37-43)

Feb 21, 1st Sunday in Lent

Deut. 26:1-11; Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16

Rom. 10:8b-13; Luke 4:1-13

Feb 28, 2nd Sunday in Lent

Gen. 15:1-12, 17-18; Psalm 27

Phil. 3:17-4:1; Luke 13:31-35

Mar 7, 3rd Sunday in Lent

Isa. 55:1-9; Psalm 63:1-8

1 Cor. 10:1-13; Luke 13:1-9



The Priceless Gift

~ Helen Steiner Rice ~

The priceless gift of life is love,
For with the help of God above
Love can change the human race
And make this world a better place—
For love dissolves all hate and fear
And makes our vision bright and clear
So we can see and rise above
Our pettiness on wings of love.



WALK

~ Crystal Caviness ~

All women are invited to WALK with us during Bible Study.

WALK, the newest PLPC ministry for women, has begun a Journey of Ascent through a 7-week Bible Study. The study, titled "Stepping Up: A Journey Through the Psalms of Ascent," by Beth Moore, focuses on how study participants can voice their own petitions and praises to our God, who is always available and ready to hear us. Themes such as unity, joy and gratitude, redemption, repentance, the power of blessings, facing ridicule, and more are explored in detail. The study began Jan. 31, but women are welcome to join us at anytime. The group meets from 4:30-6 p.m. each Sunday in the High School Sunday School Room.

The story behind WALK (Women Are Love Keepers):

Women love their families. Women love their churches. Women love their friends. Women love their neighbors. Women Are Love Keepers in our society and throughout the world.

Oftentimes, however, worries, frustrations, daily challenges threaten to tear apart the love. But when we WALK together as women of faith, we form a stronghold against life's struggles, enabling one another to face each day armed with the power of love.

Women talking together. Women praying together. Women learning together. Women crying together. Women rejoicing together. Together, we will WALK victoriously through our lives, because Women Are Love Keepers.

You are invited to join at anytime to WALK with us.



“God Happens” – Praise and Worship Service

~ Nancy Diana ~

As many of you know, when you've joined our Sunday night "God Happens - Praise & Worship" service, we have an inspiring evening of lifting our voices and spirits in energetic musical worship. A common reaction to this God-given energy is that we feel our "batteries" being recharged for the upcoming week with each word of blessing and thanks for the way God happens in our lives. For those of you who haven't had an opportunity to join this experience yet, this is a "come as you are" gathering of loving individuals who seek to relate to our Creator with the gifts that he bestows. Yes, the gift of music is involved, but mostly, it's the gift of grateful appreciation that we bring to His blessed presence. While each evening follows a common format - songs, prayer and message - each evening also reveals much about the personal way God happens for us. The visible and audible joy of our musicians in the gifts they bring is evident and moving. The peace brought by the words of acknowledgement for God's bounty (even in times of trial) is felt by those in attendance. The way the Spirit moves in whoever is bringing the message or prayer for the evening then spills over to all who are listening. And while we may be lively and loud in our worship, there remains an underlying current of gentle peace and glorious grace. Let this be an invitation to share in our Sunday gifts to God. Every Sunday at 6:30 P.M., PLPC opens its sanctuary for a "come as you are" fellowship to share contemporary musical praise and worship about the way God happens in our lives. PLPC invites believers and non-believers alike. All ages are welcome.



Pastor Paul has an Adult Bible Study on Wednesday mornings at 9:15 A.M. The group meets in the conference room. Bible study is as essential to the life of a Christian Community as breathing. Come join us and together we will “Breathe in the Word.”



Seekers Class

~ Ray Handisides ~

Do you remember the old favorite TV show “Gilligan’s Island?” Did you know that the creator based the characters on the seven deadly sins? February sees the continuation of the 7-part study based on Gilligan’s Island.

Join us as we explore the seven deadly sins of the castaways. We will see the laziness of Gilligan, the anger of the Skipper, the Professor’s pride, the lustful Ginger and how Mary Ann envies her, while Mr. Howell gets greedy while watching his wife, the gluttonous Lovey Howell.



Confirmation Class

~ Andi Mosley ~

This year we have 10 kids participating in the 13 – week confirmation class. This will be the largest group we’ve had in awhile! Please keep these young people and their mentors in your prayers as they go through confirmation. Specifically, please pray for:

Clarence Mathis and Casey Walsh
Jenise Davis and Nancy Loudermilk
Jermal Mathis and Stuart Smothers
Nesha Johnson and Michele Witten
Rodriguez Arnold and Dori Hutchison
Dani Hazlehurst and Melanie Watson
Nathan Smith and Frank Horton
Ke’Andre Johnson and Andi Mosley
Moses Cornelius and Jon Loudermilk
Ronnie Waters and Mike Mosley

**Treasurer's Report
February 2010**



~ Jim Gracy ~
Treasurer

The report for January is somewhat difficult to understand, however, I will try to explain. We had an income of \$16,153.00, which is comprised as follows: \$10,695.00 is contributions and misc. income, \$4,383.00 is designated funds moved to income and \$1,075.00 is insurance from the break-in. This appears to be good, however, there was no cash involved in the designated fund being transferred and the insurance being spent on repairs. It appears we had a positive income of \$2,256.00 when in actuality we had a negative cash flow of \$2,126.00. Thank you all for your pledges. May the Lord shine his Holy face upon you.

**Revenues and Expenses for the
Period Jan 1 - January 31, 2010
(Operating accounts only)**

Revenues:	
Pledge Contributions	\$ 8,040.00
Loose Offerings	1,674.76
Other	6,438.63
Total Revenues	\$16,153.39
Expenses:	
Personnel	\$ 7,894.49
General (includes mortgage)	2,928.01
Properties	2,733.95
Committees	38.99
Other	301.27
Total Expenses	\$13,896.71
Net Income	\$ 2,256.68

DID YOU KNOW?

The 2009 church budget has a \$6,900 deficit. We need your help to clear our books as we campaign to meet this year's budget. The Stewardship Committee is requesting your contribution in helping to close our books for 2009.



Martha's
KITCHEN

We're Moving!!!

That's right...Martha's Kitchen is moving! Starting Sunday, **March 7** our FREE Sunday dinner will become a **FREE SUNDAY LUNCH!!** Our serving time will move to 12:30 each and every Sunday. It is our hope this change will make it more convenient for church members to volunteer, and still help those in our community in need. Just an extra hour or so on Sunday can make a real impact of a person's life. What a great family service project, too!!

Contact Mary Anna Simon to sign up, along with Sue Handisides or Leesa Fields for questions.

Leesa Fields



Ladies Lunch Bunch

~ Shirley Hansel ~

On February 18th the Ladies Lunch Bunch will be going to "Bicyclette" for our get-together. This café is a recent addition to our restaurant scene and is interesting because it has a French influence. The lunch menu includes soups, salads, sandwiches, quiche and entrees, and prices are from \$5.95 to \$8.95.

"Bicyclette" is located at 14801 Lebanon Rd, just barely inside Mt. Juliet. We have a reservation at 11 A. M. and so should meet at the church at 10:30 A. M. to carpool.

We hope all ladies of the church and friends will join us for this special day out. Please contact Shirley Hansel (361-8616) if you will be able to attend.



~ Leesa Fields ~

Recap of Missions & Outreach Committee

With the start of a new year, the Mission Team thought it would be a good time to remind everyone of the many activities and opportunities available.

Project JOY Our Appalachian mission project, begun in 1999, continues to go strong, now partnering with several other small churches. We collect gently used clothes, coats, shoes and blankets all year, and deliver them along with food and school supplies in October of each year.

Christmas Food Boxes This year our congregation helped needy families by delivering 72 food boxes. A big thanks to Jim Gracy and his delivery teams. They visited with families and prayed with them. They truly made this a special project. Thanks to all!

Christmas Baking Project Our high school youth took to the kitchen to bake 300 cookies for the kids at Wharton Elementary. The students at Wharton come from very low-income families and parents were unable to provide refreshments for the kids Christmas party.

Martha's Kitchen January marks the start of our second year for Martha's Kitchen. To date we have prepared/served about 500 meals. Check out the [special announcement](#) about exciting changes coming soon to Martha's Kitchen!

Big Blue Bin If you have noticed the blue bin in the Sunday School hallway (how could you miss it??), we are collecting Goodwill items not suitable for Project JOY. Each time we fill the bin, we are given a \$20 Goodwill store credit that will allow us to purchase items like little boy's jeans that we run short of each year. We are very excited about our new partnership with Goodwill. This is a great "win-win" project!! They will take any item that fits in the bin or if you have questions, lists are available on the wall next to the bin.

Paul's Pantry Coordinators Martha Cross and Cathay McAninch are doing a great job of collecting the food donated on the 1st Sunday of each month and assembling food boxes for those in need. This gives Pastor Paul quick and easy access to a food box when he has a need. Thanks to Martha and Cathay!

School Uniform Closet Starting last fall we began gathering used clothing suitable for Metro "Standard School Attire" from families and from items donated for Project JOY. (Kids in Harlan do not want polo shirts and khakis) So far we have donated about 100 pieces of clothing to Wharton Elementary and about 50 pieces to Una Elementary. We also helped Una recently by purchasing 2 winter coats using Mission funds. We currently have a big supply of larger size uniforms suitable for older middle and high school students. If you know of a need please contact Sue Handisides or Leesa Fields.

Paul's Pals Tuesday afternoons we open our gym to neighborhood kids to play basketball with Pastor Paul. This program continues to draw area kids, giving them recreation in a safe and nurturing environment.

Labels for Education and Box tops for Education

These two programs make it easy to help our area schools without spending extra money. Simply collect the coupons you clip from the labels on items that you already purchase. "Labels For Education" is sponsored by Campbell's and "Box tops for Education" is a General Mills program. Complete listing of specific items are located on the table in the hallway across from the nursery, along with collection containers.

Tutors Needed Wharton Elementary Principal Lenna Allen has a tremendous need at her school for tutors. It requires just an hour or two a week working with a child, reviewing homework, reading and doing flashcards. You don't have to be a teacher. Anyone can be a tutor! Contact Lenna at 353-2000



Walkers Wanted

~ Gloria Kimbro ~

Walking and talking in the gym. A great way to start the day. Any speed you want. Ask any friends and relatives to join us. We would love to have everyone join us Monday through Friday from 8:30 A.M. until whenever we run out of steam and conversation. The more the merrier. For questions, contact Gloria at 668-4693. No "RSVP" required.

CareS

~ Nancy Loudermilk ~
Co-Coordinator

Children really are Special at PLPC! We have started a new semester of CareS on Wednesday nights (5:30 to 8:00) with a bang. Things are going very well! We are seeing some new faces in both our children and youth AND adults helping out.

Following our fellowship time, any who want can stay for dinner at Martha's Kitchen, and then, if desired, worship at God Happens at 6:30 P.M. Childcare will be available from 4:30-6:30 P.M.

Just to let you know what we're up to this semester, we are starting at 5:30 with Music. This semester we will alternate between Choir and Chimes. Children and youth not participating in these programs will be working on homework or doing another quiet activity. At 6:30, we have Praise and Prayer time as a large group in the gym with Pastor Paul. Then at 6:45 we eat dinner and then at 7:15 we break into our age groups (elementary, middle and high school) until 8:00 pm.

Many adults are needed and are pitching in. Thanks to the following adults for stepping in and helping:

Phil Hereford – CareS shopper
Jennifer Burns – Middle School leader
Linda Anders – Cook
Karla Horton - Cook
Crystal Caviness – Cleanup help
Terry Culp – Cleanup help
Teena Smith – Co-Coordinator

Thanks to those who have been and are continuing to serve:

Diane Hansel – Elementary Leader
Leesa Fields – Middle School Leader
Mike Mosley, Lisa Witten, Michele Witten
and Andi Mosley – High School
Leaders - Paul Burns – Chimes and Praise
and Prayer

And finally, HUGE THANKS to our past CareS Middle School Leader Valerie Barton, Cook Karla Horton and CareS Leader Crystal Caviness. You three ladies have served well and deserve a rest. You have each shared your gifts with our children and for that your church family appreciates you greatly.

If there are kids/youth participating in CareS that could use a little homework assistance, please let Teena Smith or me know and we will make some arrangements to

assist in that way. Also – if you have kids/youth in your life that might benefit from a mid-week spiritual boost, please invite them to CareS. Or, if you are an adult that hasn't yet had a first-hand experience with our wonderful program, we'd love to have you join us.

I, too, believe and know that our Children are Special!



Paul's Pantry
~ Cathay McAninch &
Martha Cross ~

It's not charity, it's community. Thanks to all who continue to support Paul's Pantry on the first Sunday of each month. Many of our neighbors are having a hard time and the demand for food boxes is much greater than in the past. Your food donations provide food boxes that Pastor Paul can hand out to those in need during the week. Pastor Paul used to give out one box a month and now it's two or three boxes a week. Items can be left in the hallway across from the nursery.

Congregational Life

~ Rachel Fields ~



**Pot Luck Lunch and
Town Hall Meeting**

Sunday, February 21st

We will have a potluck lunch on February 21st.

Bring one or two of your favorite dishes to share.

During the lunch we will have a brief meeting to present the 2010 Church Budget.

Please join us for good food and information.



**February Schedule for
Worship Leaders,
Ushers, Greeters and Acolytes**

Feb 7	Worship Leader	Walt Litaker
Communion	Prepare/Usher/ Serve	Kathy Ware
	Greet/Usher/ Serve	Bob Ware Stuart Smothers
	Usher/Serve/ Cleanup	Gloria Kimbro
	Serve Choir	Joel Hutchison
Feb 14	Worship Leader	Stuart Smothers
	Greeters	Paul Saunders Telse Saunders
	Ushers	Michele Witten Crystal Caviness
Feb 21	Worship Leader	Jon Buwalda
	Greeters	Phil McGovern Marilyn McGovern
	Ushers	Walt Litaker Kristy Greene
Feb 28	Worship Leader	Nancy Diana
	Greeters	Bob Gauselman Opal Gauselman
	Ushers	Frank Horton Karla Horton
Mar 7 Communion	Worship Leader	Joel Hutchison
	Prepare/Usher/ Serve	Nancy Loudermilk Andi Mosley
	Greet/Usher/ Serve	Rachel Fields
	Usher/Serve/ Cleanup	Valerie Barton
	Serve Choir	Nancy Diana

ACOLYTES

Feb 7	Faye Garcia	Mayerli Garcia
Feb 14	Davis Hutchison	Kelly Caviness
Feb 21	Michaela Mosley	Faye Garcia
Feb 28	Bailey Koger	Brooke Stuteville
Mar 7	Mayerli Garcia	Michaela Mosley

**February Calendar of Activities,
Birthdays and Anniversaries**

1	Pastor Paul off all week
3	Bible Study – 9:15 AM
	CareS – 5:30 PM – 8:00 PM
	George Harper
	Jarrett Schrier
7	Lectionary Class – 9:00 AM – Library
	Sunday School – 9:00 AM – 10:00 AM – all ages
	Seekers Class – 9:00 AM – Sunday school room
	Confirmation Class – 2:30 PM
	WALK – 2:30 PM – 3:30 PM
	“Introduction to Beth Moore Bible Study”
	Martha’s Kitchen – 12:30 PM – 1:30 PM
	“God Happens – Praise and Worship Fellowship” - 6:30 PM
	Kathy Ware
8	Missions/Evangelism Committee Meeting – 7:00 PM
	Nancy Diana
10	Bible Study – 9:15 AM
	CareS – 5:30 PM – 8:00 PM
	Ronnie Brindley
12	Young Adults Group – 6:30 PM
14	Lectionary Class – 9:00 AM – Library
	Sunday School – 9:00 AM – 10:00 AM – all ages
	Seekers Class – 9:00 AM – Sunday school room
	Confirmation Class – 4:00 PM – 5:30 PM
	WALK – 4:30 PM – 6:00 PM
	Martha’s Kitchen – 12:30 PM – 1:30 PM
	“God Happens – Praise and Worship Fellowship” - 6:30 PM
15	Presidents’ Day
	Session Meeting – 7:00 PM
	Vic Newton
16	Lori Hazlehurst
17	Bible Study – 9:15 AM
	CareS – 5:30 PM – 8:00 PM
	Ash Wednesday Worship Service – 7:00 PM
	Mr. & Mrs. Paul Burns
	Drew Norris
18	Ladies Lunch Bunch – 10:30 AM
20	Danielle Laterza
21	Lectionary Class – 9:00 AM – Library
	Sunday School – 9:00 AM – 10:00 AM – all ages
	Seekers Class – 9:00 AM – Sunday school room
	Confirmation Class – 4:00 PM – 5:30 PM
	WALK – 4:30 PM – 6:00 PM
	Martha’s Kitchen – 12:30 PM – 1:30 PM
	“God Happens – Praise and Worship Fellowship” - 6:30 PM
23	Belle Dahlman
24	Bible Study – 9:15 AM
	CareS – 5:30 PM – 8:00 PM
	Mr. & Mrs. Bill Allen
	Cynthia Meyer
25	Mr. & Mrs. Mike Mosley
26	Young Adults Group – 6:30 PM
28	Lectionary Class – 9:00 AM – Library
	Sunday School – 9:00 AM – 10:00 AM – all ages
	Seekers Class – 9:00 AM – Sunday school room
	Confirmation Class – 4:00 PM – 5:30 PM
	WALK – 4:30 PM – 6:00 PM
	Martha’s Kitchen – 12:30 PM – 1:30 PM
	“God Happens – Praise and Worship Fellowship” - 6:30 PM

In order to keep our birthday and anniversary lists accurate and up-to-date, let the office know of any corrections and additions.



~ Sue Handisides ~

Project J.O.Y. moves ahead in 2010 to start our 12th Year of Mission Work

The Project J.O.Y. Steering Committee will meet this month to start planning for our 2010 Appalachian Mission Trip. The first order of business will be to select a date for our project this year.

Our biggest news for this year is our partnership with Goodwill Industries. There is a **Big Blue Bin** in the Sunday School Hallway that is there ready to take any items that you would like to donate to Project J.O.Y. and Goodwill. We will sort through the donated items and if there are jeans, boys clothes or coats that we could use we will pull them to use for Project J.O.Y. and all other items will be picked up by Goodwill. Goodwill will give Project J.O.Y. credit for every full bin that is picked up then we can use the credit to purchase little boys jeans or other items we find ourselves short of. Receipts are available to use for tax purposes. This partnership with Goodwill will enable us to start taking donation of items for Project J.O.Y. through out the year rather than for a couple of months before the trip date.

Note: Donations of used School Uniforms can be left in the Big Blue Bin or in the Blue Tub in the Narthex. All uniforms will be sorted out and kept on the Uniform Shelf in the Project J.O.Y. Storage Room.

If you have been thinking about getting involved with this Mission Project now is the time! Contact Sue Handisides for more information.



~ Sue Handisides ~

The Presbyterian Disaster Assistance of PC (USA) is already on the ground in Haiti giving assistance to the people of Haiti. In an effort to support the work of our own denomination you can go on www.pcusa.org and donate money to help the people of Haiti. One other way the Presbyterian Church USA is helping is to make up Hygiene Kits to be sent to the People of Haiti.

Our PLPC Mission Committee is sponsoring a drive to make up **Hygiene Kits** to be sent to Haiti. If you and your family would like to make up kits or contribute items to go into these kits your help would be appreciated. **The Deadline for the Kits is Feb 21st.**

The Hygiene Kits Contain:

- 1 hand towel (approximately 16"x28")
- 1 washcloth
- 1 wide toothcomb
- 1 nail clipper (no metal files or emery boards)
- 1 bar of soap (bath size in a wrapper)
- 1 toothbrush (in original packaging)
- 6 Band-Aids

Please do not add toothpaste. Toothpaste will be added just prior to shipment.

Seal all items in a one-gallon plastic zip lock bag. If you have any questions, contact Sue @ 847-4353 or Leesa @834-6293.



FEBRUARY 3
AL AND ELLEN SMITH
MOSCOW, RUSSIA

Dear friends and family,

Warm greetings to you all from wintry Russia. At last, after several years of mild winters, we have a real Russian winter again - cold temperatures and adequate amounts of snow. Because it has stayed cold, and we have not had a mid-winter melt, it is very pretty.

Our family spent the Christmas season in Wisconsin, applying for visas, celebrating the holidays, and making plans for Allison's October wedding. It was a busy time, but wonderful because we were all together. After Meg returned to college, I flew out to Denver to work with Dora Lodwick from Wellshire PC on a new handbook for Twinning engagement focused on trip preparation and travel to Russia. We hope to have that ready by the Russian Network Meeting, which has now been moved to October 7-9. There was a significant conflict that had to be worked around. We hope the change in dates does not inconvenience anyone.

At the end of January, I joined a group from Eastminster PC at drug rehabilitation center on the banks of the Volga – St. George's monastic community. Some of you may remember the story of our walk across the ice with a team from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary three years ago. That team came late in the season. This team came during the Kreshensky Moroz (the Baptismal Ice – a typically frigid time around the liturgical calendar's celebration of the Baptism of Christ on January 19). It was bitterly cold, so the ice was thick and we drove across. Frankly, I prefer going across by boat, but it was a wonderful visit. Father Mefodii, the other monks, and the young men in rehabilitation welcomed us warmly; we had time to worship with them, and talk deeply about theology and Russia. We watched an extraordinary film set in Soviet times and discussed the effects of those times on the Russian people. I hope to find a copy to bring back with us for itineration, in case any churches or groups would like to have such a film discussion.

Our colleague, Donald Marsden, from PFF, arrived yesterday. We are headed to Kursk on Sunday to worship with the Roma church. We are currently working with Pastor Andrey on plans for a summer camp for Roma children in August. Others have had camps for Roma children, but the significance of this camp is that it will be led by Andrei and his Roma youth team, and he is writing his own curriculum, consistent with Roma culture. It is a huge step forward and we are excited about the possibilities. The camp is scheduled for August 1-10.

Last week, the Moscow Patriarchy held the annual Christmas Readings, with a gathering on HIV/AIDS issues. It was my privilege to be present. There were many excellent

presentations, including one on burnout issues. This is a critical topic, as too many volunteers in the church are beginning to suffer from burnout. When those volunteers are new Christians, think of the implications. We are working with both the Russian and Belarusian Round Tables, as they try to build awareness of the need and develop a model for intervention. After the Christmas Readings seminar, Bob Bronkema and I had a meeting with Mikola Matrunchek about a summer camp we have been working on. It will bring together Belarusian youth from both the Orthodox and Lutheran churches, and American youth from Moscow Protestant Chaplaincy for a three-day inter-confessional camp in Belarus.

The work on the Smolensk Camp/Retreat Center continues, in spite of the cold. It took more time and effort and expense than they expected, but they finally managed to get the roof frame in place and the buildings sealed for the winter. Now that both buildings are sealed, they are working on plastering in the smaller building, and will soon begin work on the floor heating system. Thanks to the generous donations of many Presbyterians at the end of the year, they now have sufficient funds to buy the windows for both buildings. The churches in Smolensk continue to give sacrificially to this construction, and so many of you have come alongside them in their efforts. We are deeply grateful for your gifts and for your prayers. We have seen the Lord's provision again and again, as needs have arisen and been met. The reconstruction will continue throughout the spring and summer. We hope that the construction will be done by November, for a conference on post-orphanage ministry. With support from the Outreach Foundation, we will be gathering folks from churches across Central Russia to share experience and help develop a guide for others that are interested in engaging in this vital ministry.

Just to remind you, our family will be returning to the States in August for ten months of itineration. We will be living in Green Bay, Wisconsin during this time, as we have family in that area. If you would like us to visit sometime during those months, it is time now to be getting on our calendar. We already have several visits planned. It will be helpful if we can group visits regionally. Please let us know if there is a time that you are interested in.

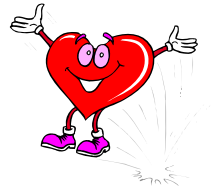
We would ask for your prayers in several areas. Please pray for the work in burnout recovery. It is a critical piece. Please pray for the work in developing a Roma camp model. Please pray also for Pastor Andrey's family. We just got word that his brother died in the Ukraine. Please pray for those working at the Smolensk Retreat Center as well. The cold and snow are wonderful, but it does add real challenges. Unfortunately, we continue to have visa challenges. We would ask for your prayers for this as well.

We wish you all the peace of our Lord in these rocky times. We will hope to see many of you when we return to the States next year.

Love and blessings,

Ellen & Al

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