



NORTH EX

FLOSSMOOR COMMUNITY CHURCH

Where Christ is Central and Diversity is Cherished

February 2012



Ash Wednesday Evening Cantata and Worship

Wednesday, February 22 at 7 p.m.

This year's Ash Wednesday service, marking the beginning of Lent, will include Chancel Choir's presentation of the hauntingly beautiful *Requiem* by Faure.

In 1902, Faure had the following to say about his masterwork, "It has been said that my *Requiem* does not express the fear of death and someone has called it a lullaby of death. But it is thus that I see death: as a happy deliverance, an aspiration towards happiness above, rather than as a painful experience."

Worship will include the imposition of ashes and a celebration of the Lord's Supper.

Lectio Divina

**Wednesday Evenings during Lent
February 29 - April 4 at 7:30 p.m. in the Parlor**

Lectio Divina is an ancient Christian spiritual practice of meditating on the Scriptures. Each Wednesday evening during Lent, join Pastor Fred to meditate on the Bible passage that is the basis for the Message during the upcoming Sunday's worship services.

Mardi Gras with a Christian Twist!



Sunday, February 19

**11:30 a.m.- 1 p.m.
in Fellowship Hall**

Join us for our Third Annual Mardi Gras Celebration with a Christian Twist! Lent is a time of looking up and letting God in. It is a reflective time of preparation for what is to come. As we prepare to enter into this reflective time, we will celebrate on the Sunday before Lent with a Mardi Gras-like festival full of fun, food, laughter, games, and cake!!! People of all ages - children, youth, and adults are invited to attend. Lunch will be provided (a free-will offering will be taken) and there will be games and activities for all! Please sign up by Tuesday, February 14 in the Gathering Space. Questions? Contact Marie Maass (922-9255 or mass929@comcast.net)

*Sponsored by Board of
Congregational Life.*

THANK YOU!



Dear Flossmoor Community Church Members:

Words cannot appropriately express my gratitude to you for extending such a warm welcome to me over the last few weeks. I have truly felt "WELCOMED." Thank you so very much for all your many expressions of kindness. The flowers, gifts, reception, invitations to committee gatherings, invitations to your homes, along with the many kind words have all made me feel most welcomed to Flossmoor Community Church.

Please know that with the help of God and the anointing of the Holy Spirit I desire to serve you with the same intentionality and kindness.

With gratitude,
Rev. Carla Jo Howlett

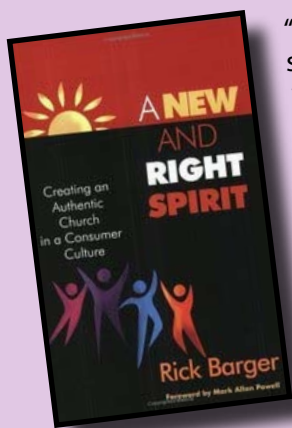


Meet the Pastor

**Come for Coffee with
Pastor Carla Jo Howlett!**

During February, enjoy an intimate gathering and chat with our new Associate Pastor at the homes of some of our members. Meetings will be no longer than 90 minutes. Please sign up at church in the Gathering Space or by calling the church office.

Be a part of February's One Book, One Church!



"The church is not ours. The church is God's. The story is not ours. The story is God's. We are simply stewards of God's story. God's story tells us what God is up to, and God is up to the work of transformation. Transformation happens in the church not because we are so smart or good at what we do. Transformation happens because God is good and is still at work reconciling the world through Christ. After all, the church's claim is not 'He *was* risen,' but rather, 'He *is* risen!'"

The passage above is quoted from Rick Barger's *A New and Right Spirit: Creating an Authentic Church in a Consumer Society*, which the Governing Board read and discussed last spring. Barger's call for renewing church life generated such fruitful and meaningful conversation among the Elders that the Governing Board decided it would be a valuable experience to share this book with the congregation using the "One Book, One Church" (OBOC) format. A *New and Right Spirit* is much more of a "why to" book than a "how to" book. Yet it is written with a clarity of insight and vision that spurs further study and inspires action.

CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE FOR AVAILABLE SPACE. The book is available for purchase at a cost of \$15. Sessions are designed to run for four weeks and will get underway at the opening of February. Please contact Pastor Fred if you have any questions at flyon@fccfaithful.org.



“Tell Them You’d Marry Them All Over Again!” Valentine Celebration



Renew your wedding vows at FCC and toast to the occasion with a reception at our Community House!

**Saturday, February 18
7 - 8:30 p.m.**

RSVP is required by February 15 to Brooke King at bking@fccfaithful.org, or call (708)798-2800, ext. 13.

Hosted by the Growth & Development Task Force



Women's & Men's Association

“AMERICAN FOLK SONG” Luncheon and Program



**Wednesday, February 8
at Noon in Fellowship Hall
Tickets: \$10**

Folk singer Mark Dvorak performs *The American Folk Song*. This program examines the roots of American music through examples from African and British Isles traditions. Mark will feature songs, oral history, demonstrations, and the music of folk artists such as Lead Belly and Woody Guthrie. Chicago Tribune says this about Mark Dvorak-“...a commanding vocalist and masterful clawhammer banjo player...”

COMING UP... SAVE THE DATES!

Wednesday, March 14

WHAT SHALL I TELL MY CHILDREN WHO ARE BLACK?

Our own FCC member, Producer/Director Nate Grant, will highlight this documentary which explores the African American Diaspora through poetry, verse, song, and dramatization.

Wednesday, April 11

THE UNSINKABLE MOLLY BROWN

The life and times of Margaret Brown, who survived the sinking of the Titanic.

Wednesday, May 9

POTLUCK TO HONOR OUR VETS

ADULT EDUCATION**DISCOVERY FORUM**

**Sundays at 10:30 a.m.
in the Family Room**

The Discovery Forum will join the church in discussing *A New and Right Spirit* by Rick Barger on February 5, 12, 26 and March 4.

On February 19, the Third Sunday Book Club will discuss: *Half a Yellow Sun* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie. The novel which won the Orange Prize and was a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award shows Biafra's struggle for independence in Nigeria in the late 1960s through the lives of five unforgettable characters.

ADULT ED - DROP-IN DISCUSSIONS

**Sundays at 10:30 a.m.
in the Parlor**

Please join the new Adult Ed offering which will be held each Sunday. Each week a different topic will be covered. The session will consist of a short video followed by a lively topical discussion. The purpose of these gatherings is to allow anyone to join us without feeling the need to do any preparation. Drop on in!

LECTIO DIVINA

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**FCC Youth Ministries**

SO SIMPLE. SO GOOD.

More than 20 years ago, the Souper Bowl of Caring began with a simple prayer from a single youth group:

*"Lord, as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game,
help us to be mindful of those without even a bowl of soup to eat."*

Since that day, more than \$81 million has been raised for local charities across the country through Souper Bowl of Caring. It has become a powerful movement that is transforming the time around the Super Bowl weekend into the nation's largest celebration of giving and serving. People are encouraged to throw a dollar into a soup pot to serve those in need.

Be a part of this movement that is sharing God's love with those in need. On Sunday, February 5 our Genesis youth will be collecting your dollars after worship and our funds will be donated to Respond Now, our 2012 charity of choice.

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING † February 5, 2012



Thirty-three of our Youth Ministries Guys headed to a snowy Tower Hill in January for a weekend of tree chopping, fellowship and male bonding!



Children's Ministries



The "Make a Joyful Noise" offering collected by Children's Ministries in December totaled \$527.27! The children voted to save the money and hold it until the end of the school year. It will be added to their monthly offering collection and they will determine which animals to purchase for Heifer International. Thank you for your "joyful noise" - pleasing to God's ears, indeed!



Children in the Promised Land rotational workshops followed the journey of Abraham and Sarah during January, and like Abraham, they too, are on a journey of faith with God. In Creation Station a topographical map was made with play dough, showing Abraham's route; in Oasis, they used their sense of touch to discover what it might have felt like to walk everywhere. Their sensory lesson provided first hand, the various terrains that Abraham and Sarah walked wearing sandals or barefoot. We discovered the land they traveled is the same land as the Middle East in the news today, struggling to find peace. The workshops followed the story from Genesis 12:1-9 and emphasized God chooses to work through people to fulfill God's mission and we should listen and obey when God leads us.

Preschoolers through tweens (5 & 6 grade) spent January learning the stories of Jesus growing up, helping us to understand that Jesus is the Son of God. Jesus demonstrated at twelve in the Temple by listening and asking questions, that Christians of every age also grow in understanding by listening and asking questions.



During Sundays in February, the **Children's Ministries Bible Class** will focus on where the Bible came from, who wrote it, what's in it and how to use it. Bibles will be awarded to children who complete the class on Sunday, March 4 at the 9 a.m. service. All 3rd graders are invited to participate; however the class is also open to older children in grades 4-6, who have not received their Bible from FCC. Please contact Belinda at kids@fccfaithful.org or call 798-2800 ext. 16 for information and/or to register your child for the class.

yum!
it is BUTTER braid time!

Once again, Weekday Preschool will be selling delicious (and easy-to-prepare!) Butter Braids. These frozen coffee cakes bake into the perfect treat for cold spring mornings and will last in your freezer for several months, too.

Each Butter Braid costs \$12 with a full 40% being retained by the school. What's more, if we sell 100 more than last year's total of 241, we will receive a 3% invoice discount that goes right back to the school.

Order forms will be available at the Information Desk and are due by Sunday, February 26.

Butter Braids will be delivered to the preschool on March 14, so plan to add one (or more!) to your Easter brunch!



With the season of Advent and the holidays behind us, the children and families at Weekday were no strangers to giving. Throughout the past month we have collected items for the Giving Tree, supported Christmas Angels and provided nearly forty children with brand new pajamas in conjunction with the Pajama Project and Scholastic, which pairs a brand new book with donated jammies to children in need. Thanks so much to all who participated!



Pictured are Children's Ministries 6th Graders, who recently volunteered to help make and serve dinner to our PADS guests on January 22. Thank you!



We Celebrate the Birth of:

Myles Jackson Bertram Graham, born January 11. Myles is the son of Jacki and Brian Graham, brother to Maisie, and grandson of Sue and Jack Bertram.



Our Sympathy and Prayers to:

Julie Haberichter and family in the death of her cousin, Jason, on December 28.

Craig and Leslie Lowry and family in the death of Craig's mother, Joyce Lowry, on December 29.

Steve Pesick and family in the death of his mother, Alice Josephine Stacy (IN), on January 22.

Karen Tapscott and family in the death of her father, Russell Wende, on January 24.

Thank You, Christmas Angels!



Thank you to all of the people in our church community who participated in Christmas Angels in any way this year. We were able to provide Christmas gifts, food and some basic needs for 48 families with your help. One family wrote in their thank you letter:

"This letter comes with much love, peace, joy and special appreciation for your generosity. The expression of kindness and love you showed by showering our family with gifts this holiday season was wonderful. We were in great need and there was much concern that Christmas was going to be bare this year due to loss of income. But thanks to you my family and I will enjoy the best Christmas ever. Keep doing what you are doing for it expresses the real meaning of Christmas."

FEBRUARY

Worship from 9-10 a.m. & 10:30-11:30 a.m.
Adult Education: 10:30 a.m.
Fellowship Time: 10 a.m. & 11:30 a.m.

Youth Groups: 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.
Promised Land Church School: 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.
Preschool Groups: 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.
Nursery Care: 9 - 11:30 a.m.

Sun	02/05	Communion Sunday	
Tues	02/07	Diaconate (PA) Children's Ministries (A2C) Personnel (FR) Outreach (Rm. 22) Adult Ed (Rm. 23)	6:30 pm 7 7:30 7:30
Wed	02/08	Women's & Men's Association Luncheon and Program (FH)	12 pm
Tues	02/14	Valentine's Day Congregational Life (Rm.22) Finance (GE) Worship & the Arts (GS) Properties (Rm.23) Christian Education (FR) Lay Ministries (A2C)	6 pm 6:30 7 7:30
Wed	02/15	March Narthex Deadline	
Fri	02/17	WLC Meeting (CH)	7 pm
Sat	02/18	Valentines Vow Renewal (CH)	7 pm
Sun	02/19	Mardi Gras with a Christian Twist (FH)	11:30 am
Mon	02/20	President's Day	
Tues	02/21	Stephen Ministry Peer Support (FR) Stewardship (SPO)	7:30 pm
Wed	02/22	Ash Wednesday Cantata & Service	7 pm
Sun	02/26	First Sunday in Lent	
Mon	02/27	Women's & Men's Association Executive Board (FR)	12 pm
Tues	02/28	Governing Board (FH)	7 pm
Wed	02/29	Lectio Divinia (PA)	7:30 pm



SPECIAL WEEKLY RECURRING EVENTS		
Tues	Bazaar Workshop (MP) Yoga with a Spiritual Vein (SC) Staff Meeting (FR) Bazaar Workshop (MP)	9 am 9:30 10:30 7 pm
Wed	Chair Yoga (SC) Yoga with a Spiritual Vein (SC) Cherub Choir (FR) Jubilate Choir (CP) Youth Leadership (CP)	11 am 12:30 pm 4 7:30
Thurs	Chancel Ringers (RRB) Chancel Choir (CP) Yoga with a Spiritual Vein (SC)	6:30 pm 7:30 7:30
Fri	Yoga with a Spiritual Vein (SC)	9:30 am
Sat	Men's Church at the Train Station (CATS) - Flossmoor Station Restaurant	8 am
Sun	PADS (FH)	6 pm

CALENDAR CODES

A2C	Acts2Crew (Rm. 10)	GS	Gathering Space	OAS	Oasis (Rm 11)	SPO	Sr. Pastor's Office
CP	Chapel	GE	Genesis Room	PA	Parlor	TR	Tower Room
CH	Community House	LB	Library	PEGs	Parent Education Groups	TP	Temple (Room 12)
CS	Creation Station (Rm. 15)	MPT	MasterPeace Theater (Rm. 14)	RRB	Rehearsal Room B	WMA	Women's & Men's Association
FR	Family Room	MPR	Multipurpose Room	SA	Sanctuary	WPS	Weekday Preschool
FH	Fellowship Hall	NU	Nursery	SC	Spirituality Center	YC	Youth Crossings

FROM FRED

February 2012

N A R T H E X

It seems like Christmas is barely over and 2012 still feels pretty new, yet already in February we are anticipating entering Lent. The word 'Lent' comes from the old English word 'lencten', which means 'spring', but more specifically refers to the lengthening of daylight throughout the season. For Christians, Lent is a time of spiritual preparation that increasingly moves us toward the celebration of Easter's amazing resurrection light. I would like to highlight our worship schedule along with the opportunity to gather for spiritual enrichment on Wednesday evenings during Lent.

FEBRUARY 5 - 5TH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

- o Worship at 9:00am and 10:30am
- New Member Invitation
- The Celebration of Communion

FEBRUARY 12 - 6TH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

- o Worship at 9:00am and 10:30am

FEBRUARY 19 - TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY

- o Worship at 9:00am and 10:30am

FEBRUARY 22 - ASH WEDNESDAY

- o Evening Ash Wednesday Cantata and Worship Service at 7pm
- Fauré's Requiem
- Imposition of Ashes and the Celebration of Communion

FEBRUARY 26 - 1ST SUNDAY IN LENT

- o Worship at 9:00am and 10:30am

FEBRUARY 29 - WEDNESDAY EVENING LECTIO DIVINA

- o Each Wednesday from February 29th-April 4th at 7:30pm in the Parlor (2nd Floor)
- *Lectio Divina* is an ancient Christian spiritual practice of meditating on the Scriptures. Each Wednesday we will meditate on the Bible passage that is the basis for the Message during the upcoming Sunday's worship services.



2012

FLOSSMOOR
COMMUNITY CHURCH
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Godspeed and Peace,

Fred

