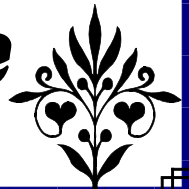




# The Village Voice



VOL XII NO. III

March 2008

## Cazenovia Village Baptist Church



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### We are Praying for:

Mary El-Amir, Ellen Clarke, Carol Bentley, Janice Dell, Elizabeth Mansfield, Marcia Parker, and Rosemary Strohl. Please remember these, and others who come to your mind, in your prayers throughout the weeks ahead.

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## Letter from the Pastor

*But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb, and as she wept she stooped to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had lain, one at the head and one at the feet. They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." Saying this, she turned round and saw Jesus standing, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom do you seek?" supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabboni!" Jesus said to her, "Do not hold me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to my brethren and say to them, I am ascending to my Father and your father, to my God and your God."*

*John 20: 11-17*



Dear Church Family,

With great joy and hope we will shortly be celebrating Easter together. John's passage captures the real glory of the resurrection. The coldness

and blackness of death could not have kept Jesus in the tomb; he rose and ascended. He paid the full penalty of death. And he is now seated at the right hand of the throne of God the Father.

Yes, we have burdens and difficulties in life, sometimes with great sorrow; we also have times of refreshment, with great joy. But our greatest treasure, our greatest hope, is that we too will attain the resurrection of Christ. He is ours; we are his. He has made us his own through uniting us to himself in his death and in his resurrection. Where he is, we shall be also!

We will be preaching on some of the great Easter passages this month, as well as coming together for Maundy Thursday. Let not your hearts be troubled nor afraid, Christ has opened paradise. As Paul said, "Christ the Paschal lamb has been sacrificed; let us celebrate the festival with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth."

Much love to all in Christ,

Pastor Richard

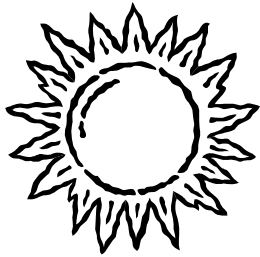
## CHURCH CALENDAR

- \* MONDAY MARCH 17TH— Happy St Patrick's Day!
- \* SUNDAYS— 10:30 a.m. Sunday Morning Worship Service
- \* THURSDAYS —7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal
- \* WEDNESDAYS MARCH 5, 12, 26— 7:00 p.m. Bible Study at the Church
- \* SUNDAY MARCH 16TH— Palm Sunday
- \* WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19TH— 7:00 p.m. All Boards Meet
- \* MARCH 20— Maundy Thursday Service, 7 pm
- \* SUNDAY MARCH 23— Easter Sunday
- \* MARCH 27, 12:30 PM— Senior Luncheon, see Page 3

## CHEERFUL NOTES

This month's column has a twofold purpose. It is both a tribute to the ailing and recently widowed evangelist, Rev. Dr. Billy Graham, and an exhortation to all of us who sing hymns and anthems to pay more attention to the message of those songs as we sing them.

It is interesting that, though Billy Graham is famous for preaching the Gospel to more people than anyone else in human history and for leading nearly 3 million people to receive Jesus Christ, he first became widely known in the Chicago area when he embraced a radio music ministry. In 1943, when he was the young pastor of Western Springs Baptist Church, he was approached by a fellow pastor, Torrey Johnson of Midwest Bible Church. Johnson had founded "Songs in the Night," a Christian music broadcast heard on station WMBI, of Moody Bible Institute (on which I also performed from 1960 to 1962); but the program was about to be cancelled for lack of financial support. Realizing that Christian music often



reached into the hearts of people who wouldn't listen to a sermon, Graham convinced his church to take over support of the broadcast. Graham recruited bass singer George Beverly Shea (a native of Central New York who still sings concerts at the age of 99!) as his Director of Radio Ministry. The revitalized "Songs in the Night" was successfully launched on January 2, 1944, and was still the one of the most popular evening broadcasts on the entire Chicagoland radio dial during my student days at Moody. It was surpassed in the next decade only by Bill Pearce's award winning "Nightsounds" broadcast.

Although Billy Graham's declining health has severely curtailed his preaching, he still writes his daily newspaper advice column, "My Answer." Recently he received this letter: *Dear Rev. Graham: All my life I've heard that old spiritual about Ezekiel, and how "them dry bones" came together and made a whole skeleton. What is that supposed to mean? I enjoy singing it, but it never made much sense to me. – B.T.*

Dr. Graham answered: *Dear B.T.: One reason I wanted to answer your question is to point out how easy it is to sing hymns or songs we've known most of our lives – but never stop to think about their message. The next time you go to church, ask God to help you to pay special attention to the words of each hymn or song. (Ironically, it was my privilege to do this very thing on a few occasions at Great Valley Presbyterian Church, in Malvern, Pennsylvania, while sharing a hymnal with Billy Graham's beautiful daughter, Bunny Deinert!)*

*This grand old spiritual is based on a vision God gave to Ezekiel, recorded in the 37<sup>th</sup> chapter of the book that bears his name. In it, God showed Ezekiel a valley filled with bones (such as might be seen after a terrible battle). God asked Ezekiel if he thought the bones could ever live again; and almost in despair he replied, "O Sovereign Lord, you alone know." But then God told him to preach God's*

*Word to them – and in the vision, the bones came together and became living persons once again!*

*Ezekiel had been living during a very difficult time. His nation had been invaded, and God's people were in despair. But God wanted them to know that, just as those bones came back to life, His people could also have new life as they heard God's Word and obeyed it.*

*And God also changes our lives when we hear His Word and respond in faith and trust. What is the Word? It is the message of God's love for us – a love so deep that he sent His Son, Jesus Christ, into the world to forgive us and give us new life. And this is God's message to you – one that will change your life. Respond today by confessing your sins and committing your life to Jesus!*

As I read and then copied Dr. Graham's letter for you, I was struck not only by its timeless and true message, but also that the major part of it was echoed by the very message Pastor Richard Dickinson preached in our Village Baptist pulpit last Sunday morning. Think about how much God must want us to hear and obey Him!

And think deeply also about the words and messages of the Christian music you hear and sing. As our Chancel Choir presents Joseph Martin's beautiful *Pieta* on this first Sunday morning of March, and then sings, in the weeks leading up to Easter, anthems like Mozart's *Jesu, Word of God Incarnate* (written while Mozart was in poor health and near death), ask God to send the message of the music deep into your hearts and minds and bring you closer to Him in love and trust. Do the same before each hymn that you sing; and pray that our singing, fellowshiping, and worshipping together will draw others to join us – especially those around us who still need to know Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord.

Let us also pray to God that, as Pastor Billy Graham and his little church revitalized "Songs in the Night," and as Ezekiel saw God cause the dry bones to live again in perfect human flesh, He will also revitalize our church and make it known as the place to come to know salvation, blessing, and eternal life in Jesus Christ!

From Your Minister of Music,  
Warren Ottey

*Tomb, thou shalt not hold Him longer; Death is strong, but Life is stronger; Stronger than the dark, the light; Stronger than the wrong, the right... ~ Phillips Brooks, "An Easter Carol"*

## Monthly Volunteer Schedule

### CHILDREN'S CHURCH

- 2— Roxy Spano  
9— Sylvia Hopkins  
16— John Dickerson  
23— Pastor Dickinson  
30— TBA

### WORSHIP LEADER

- 2nd— Jamie Evans  
9th— Raquel Huckans  
16th— Greg Baldwin  
23rd— TBA  
30th— Cherry Ottey

### USHERS

- 2nd— Will Lamb & Greg Baldwin  
9th— Pat & Jeff Dinard  
16th— Lucy Higgins & Ruby  
Brady  
23rd— James Evans & Roxanna  
Spano

## BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

- 1— Stacey Jones  
3— Becca Blair  
5— Joan Benson  
21— Jamie Evans  
Paul & Em Rathbun  
24— Arlene Balenske  
Jessica Hyatt  
George & Martha Daggett  
28— John C. Huckans



## DIACONATE BOARD

Diaconate Board Feb. 20, 2008

Present: Jamie, Warren, Will and Glynn.  
We started with old business; working on the topic of the length and quality of the morning worship service. We had been given some new thoughts that were discussed, but did not settle anything definite with 4 members.

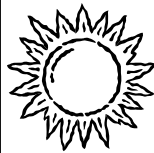
We also were given information about li-

censing a member of our congregation for the time that we might need such a person.

It was decided that Pastor Richard would call Barney Freeborn and Dan Maxfield to see if they would be available to fill in during the week if there was a pastoral need in Richard's absence.

Submitted by Glynn Cook

*Dear Church Family*



*There are no words to express our heartfelt gratitude for the outpouring of your love expressed to us during this darkest hour of our lives. Your visits, meals, hugs and tears, prayers, cards, money to Steve's music memorial, food and flowers brought so much comfort to us. Only eternity will tell how much your compassionate and caring hearts have blessed our lives.*

*~With grateful hearts, Glynn, Marti and Jim Cook and family*

## ST. PATRICK'S DAY SENIOR LUNCHEON

The Cazenovia Area March Senior Luncheon is on the 27th at 12:30 at St. James Church. The menu includes corned beef and cabbage. If you decide to attend, please bring a dish to pass and your own table service.



As a special entertainment, Carl Bentley and Warren Ottey will be singing Irish music in honor of St. Patrick's. We hope you can attend!

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Present at the Christian Education Board meeting were Bill and Ruby Brady.

They met with missionary comm. to discuss holding a joint program with the New Woodstock church. As the founders of CVBC it would be historical event celebrating our anniversary, or something of that nature, with the New Woodstock church. Ann Berlew, our historian, would work with organizing the event.

Following that discussion, the Pastor joined us to discuss possible outreach and worship programs. No decisions were made.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ruby Brady Secretary



## TRUSTEES BOARD

Minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting, 2/20/2008

There were four members present at the Board of Trustees meeting for February. The Board reviewed the financial status of the church through January. At this time, we are on budget for income and ahead on the expenses (that is, we've spent less than budgeted). If we continue on the current path, we could make up most, or all of the \$5,000 budget deficit planned for this fiscal year. Thank you for your support!

The Board then discussed the next steps to be taken on the heating system for Darling Hall. We have not had a heating failure since the last service call in which the technician discovered a loose wire deep within the burner system. Now that this has been fixed



the boiler seems to be working fine and there is no immediate need to replace it. Consequently the Board has decided to table further action until the boiler fails again. Since the boiler is no longer an immediate issue, we are going to proceed with the rug in the choir loft/top of the stairs. There was a brief discussion of some other repairs to the property and when they should be completed. These include the ceiling in the choir loft and the door to Darling Hall (March), painting the Pastor's office (need volunteers), the ceiling in the Narthex (April), the basement doors outside Darling Hall (June), and sealing/

striping the parking lot (date to be determined).

We've had several requests to use the church for various activities in the community. Young Life will be doing an all-day event on March 8, and the CAVAC student corps will be using the building on the second Tuesday of each month from 7:00 – 9:00 pm. There is a calendar in the office that shows activities for the whole year, as well as monthly calendar on the bulletin board outside the office for those who are interested.

Respectfully submitted  
Cheryl Baldwin, Secretary

*Our Lord has written the promise of the resurrection, not in books alone, but in every leaf  
in spring-time.* ~Martin Luther