

Dovetales, a newsletter of Gladwyne Presbyterian Church,
1321 Beaumont Drive 19035 610-649-2235 www.gladwynepres.org
P. Todd Stavrakos, Pastor
January 2008 edition

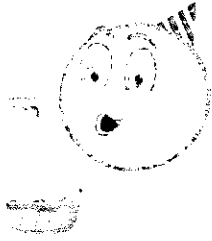


"I have a dream..."

On January 20th, during our morning worship service, we will celebrate the life and ministry of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. It was Dr. King's strong belief in the gospel that propelled him to call for a just society, a society resembling the Kingdom of God in which people of different backgrounds, cultures and beliefs could live in peace and prosperity. On the 20th we will celebrate his vision and reflect upon the Word of God that inspired this vision.

In addition to this worship service, GPC is partnering with Broad Street Ministry to provide an opportunity to spend the MLK weekend in service. Those interested in helping with 315 South, BSM's ministry to the homeless, can assist by working from 9 pm until midnight any night of the weekend. In addition, on Monday, January 21st, during the day, several work projects will be offered to help prepare the building for the homeless ministry. For those interested in working the nights, there are slots available for five to six people, while there are unlimited opportunities during the day on Monday the 21st. You can sign up after worship or by contacting the GPC office.





January 2008

- 3 Ethan Markman
- 8 Charles Lambdin
- 9 John Weisgerber
- 16 Barbara Holmes
Tom Richards

Upcoming dates and activities:

- Tues., Jan 8 11:00 am Bible Study resumes
(Every Tuesday at 11 a.m.)
7 p.m. Deacons meeting
- Wed., Jan. 9 7:30 p.m. Session
- Thurs., Jan. 10 7 p.m. Women's Book Group
- Sat., Jan 12 4 - 7 p.m. Central Presbyterian Church
Dinner serving (rescheduled from 1/5)
- Tues., Jan. 15 7:30 p.m. Knitting Group @ Sandra
Drayer's house



JOIN OTHERS FOR AN EVENING MEAL

The Church Life Committee has selected Friday **January 18** for our first excursion to an ethnic restaurant. Suggestions welcome for future excursions.

We have selected Memdee's, a simple Liberian restaurant in South West Philadelphia near 54th and Linberger Blvd.

Call Ann Guise 215-748-5454 or Palmer Loux 610-449-5942 to reserve a spot. Food is well prepared, fresh, interesting served in a friendly, family style restaurant. Check out this review: http://www.philly.com/inquirer/columnists/craig_tabor/2007/10/25/memdees.html

Some of us can meet at the church at 6 and carpool.

Let the light shine

For some reason, Sam, our son, has taken a liking to turning out all the lights in our family room and playing in the dark. Considering that he still likes to sleep with a light on, this is a rather interesting development. The other day, wanting the family room to be dark, he turned out all the lights, only to find out that it was too early in the afternoon for the room to be dark. I looked at the clock and noticed that it was after 4:00 pm, yet there seemed to be plenty of light outside. While this was a source of frustration to Sam, it was a cause for silent rejoicing on my part.

I really enjoy winter. I don't mind the cold, eight years in Chicago thickens the blood, and I certainly don't mind the snow. The one thing I hate about winter is the early sunset and the darkness that covers the land by 4:30 if not earlier. It is just so depressing to return home in darkness. So as I noticed that at 4 pm on that day that the sun was still out, I realized that the days were lengthening and this is truly a reason to rejoice.

It is fascinating that creation itself seems to testify to the truth of scriptures as the light of the day increases after the holiday in which we celebrate the Light entering the world. "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it." (John 1:5) This is the season of Epiphany, where we celebrate light, the light of the star, the light of Jesus and nature seems to be celebrating it as well.

The repeated challenge within the Gospel of John is to live in the light, to reject the darkness of this world and live in the light of the Lord. It is appropriate that January is the month that we celebrate the life and work of Martin Luther King, Jr, for if ever someone, besides Christ, has testified to the Light, it was Martin Luther King, Jr.

In his famous *I Have a Dream* speech, King refers to two scriptural passages, the first in Amos 5: 24 when he refers to "justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream." The second in Isaiah 40: 4-5, "Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low, the uneven ground shall become level and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken." King is using his light to testify to the Kingdom and calling us to live in the light of that kingdom. His dream was that our lives would reflect the Light that has come into this world. His dream was that we would live in that light. His challenge then and his challenge to us today is to live in the Kingdom; to live as God wishes us to live.

This is the season of light, let us each shine our light, the light that we have received as a gift from God; a light that shows the way to the Kingdom.

Peace





C.O.A.L.E.S.C.E.

(Also known as Adult Forum©)

WANTS YOU!...

to consider the following quotes:

"Today, there are approximately six million Muslim Americans. There are as many Muslim Americans as Presbyterians and Episcopalians combined, two of the historically most influential Protestant denominations." (Diane Eck, *A New Religious America*)

"The religious landscape in the United States is rapidly changing. We have historically been Christian, Jewish, and secular, with the first far outnumbering the second and third. But in the last thirty-five years, we have become the most religiously diverse nation in the world." (Marcus Borg, *The Heart of Christianity*)

"Religious pluralism is one of the greatest challenges facing the world today...rejecting religious intolerance and working for the common good is the only way the world can avoid growing fanaticism and violence." (Jim Wallis, *God's Politics*)

"We are experiencing religious pluralism more than any generation of Christians since the early centuries of Christianity...Understanding other religions can enrich our understanding of Christianity and what it means to be Christian. Religious pluralism can help us to see our own tradition better." (Marcus Borg, *The Heart of Christianity*)

Come join C.O.A.L.E.S.C.E.

Sunday Mornings in January and February

(Community Of Adult Learners Eagerly Seeking Christian Education)

as we consider the following:

- 1. Religious pluralism in the United States**
- 2. Studying other faiths as we enrich our understanding of Christianity**

Religious pluralism can help us to see our own tradition better!

Please join us---the atmosphere is warm, welcoming and informal, one that allows for an exchange of a variety of viewpoints, as we grow in community.

Put it on your calendar, beginning Sunday January 6 at 9:45 AM...the coffee is on and a seat is waiting for you!



Women's Book Group

Our next meeting is January 10 at 7 PM. Barbara Kanzinger will lead us in discussion of *Dragon Bones* by Lisa See. There are limited copies in the library. If you have a copy you are willing to share, please let me know.

From Publishers Weekly

The controversial construction of a massive dam on the Yangzi River is the backdrop for the latest adventures of Liu Hulan, inspector in the Ministry of Public Security in Beijing, and her husband, American lawyer David Stark, familiar to readers of *Flower Net* and *The Interior*. Many years in construction, the Three Gorges Dam will benefit millions of people, but it will also bury untold archeological wealth. At the start of this complex, atmospheric thriller, Hulan is emotionally estranged from David after their young daughter's death from meningitis, for which she blames herself.

Officially, she is scrutinizing a reactionary cult, the All-Patriotic Society, when she is sent to investigate the murder by drowning of a young American archeologist, a man who may have stolen ancient artifacts from the dam site. David accompanies her and they begin to repair their relationship, but the body count mounts and the sinister All-Patriotic Society leader, Xiao Da, rallies his followers against the dam. The tension reaches the breaking point at an auction in Hong Kong at which the most precious artifacts are offered for sale; soon after, Hulan and David are fighting for their lives in dark, slimy-walled caves alongside the Yangzi. The melodramatic conclusion has none of the elegance of the prologue, which casually but exquisitely notes the progress of the archeologist's decaying body along the river, through narrows and bays beyond the magnificent gorges. But See succeeds in widening the reader's knowledge about the politics and culture of contemporary China while racing along with an absorbing story.

Future books:

February - possibly Debra Sutton leading -
Lamb: The Gospel According to Biff, Christ's Childhood Pal by
Christopher Moore

Amazon.com

While the Bible may be the word of God, transcribed by divinely inspired men, it does not provide a full (or even partial) account of the life of Jesus Christ. Lucky for us that Christopher Moore presents a funny, lighthearted satire of the life of Christ--from his childhood days up to his crucifixion--in *Lamb: The Gospel According to Biff, Christ's Childhood Pal*. This clever novel is surely blasphemy to some, but to others it's a coming-of-age story of the highest order.

Joshua (a.k.a. Jesus) knows he is unique and quite alone in his calling, but what exactly does his Father want of him? Taking liberties with ancient history, Moore works up an adventure tale as Biff and Joshua seek out the three wise men so that Joshua can better understand what he is supposed to do as Messiah. Biff, a capable sinner, tags along and gives Joshua ample opportunities to know the failings and weaknesses of being truly human. With a wit similar to Douglas Adams, Moore pulls no punches: a young Biff has the hots for Joshua's mom, Mary, which doesn't amuse Josh much: "Don't let anyone ever tell you that the Prince of Peace never struck anyone." And the origin of the Easter Bunny is explained as a drunken Jesus gushes his affection for bunnies, declaring, "Henceforth and from now on, I decree that whenever something bad happens to me, there shall be bunnies around."

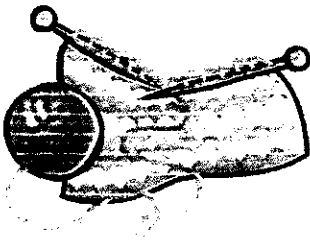
March - *A Thousand Splendid Suns* – by Khaled Hosseini - this may be changed if most people have already read it.

Later:

Mama Day by Gloria Naylor - to be done after Martha Ann gets back

I Choose to Stay by Salome Thomas-El - Ann

Lin Hall



Knitting Group

The 1st meeting of the newly organized Knitting Group will meet Tuesday, January 15th from 7 - 8:30 p.m. at Sandra Drayer's home. **No experience necessary! All are welcome.** If you have #7 needles and/or worsted acrylic yarn, bring it along. Otherwise, some materials will be available.

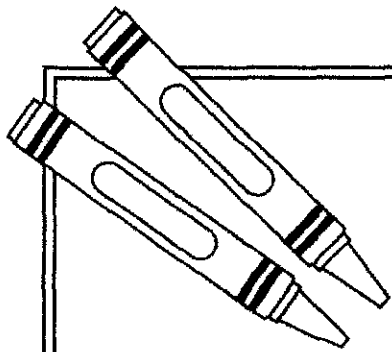
Join us as we 'cast off' this new activity!!

Sandy Drayer
Jana Mossey



THEY NEED YOUR HELP

Presbyterian Children's Village is in need of gently-used warm winter coats and jackets. If you can help, please bring to the church or let Kathleen Troncelliti know. Thank you.



Just for KIDS

In our world today, the rulers of nations have many titles. There are kings and queens, presidents and prime ministers, and many others.

In biblical times, there were also many kinds of rulers. Let's find some kings and queens in the Bible. Use the graph below to figure out their names. To find out more about them, look up the verses listed.

1	N	I	M	A	U
2	R	S	D	O	L
3	V	E	T	H	B
4	K	J	Z	C	G
5	6	7	8	9	
Example: 1,5 = N					

1. The first king on earth. $\frac{1,5}{1,5} \frac{1,8}{1,8} \frac{1,7}{1,7} \frac{2,5}{2,5} \frac{2,8}{2,8} \frac{2,7}{2,7}$
(Genesis 10:8-12)

2. Anointed king by Samuel. $\frac{2,8}{2,8} \frac{1,8}{1,8} \frac{1,9}{1,9} \frac{2,9}{2,9}$
(1 Samuel 8-10)

3. Beloved king of Israel. $\frac{2,7}{2,7} \frac{1,8}{1,8} \frac{3,5}{3,5} \frac{1,8}{1,8} \frac{2,7}{2,7}$
(1 Samuel 16)

4. Very wise king of Israel; a writer. $\frac{2,8}{2,8} \frac{2,8}{2,8} \frac{2,9}{2,9} \frac{2,8}{2,8} \frac{1,7}{1,7} \frac{2,8}{2,8} \frac{1,5}{1,5}$
(2 Samuel 12:24-25)

5. Jewish girl, became queen of Persia. $\frac{3,8}{3,8} \frac{2,6}{2,6} \frac{3,7}{3,7} \frac{3,8}{3,8} \frac{3,6}{3,6} \frac{2,5}{2,5}$
(Esther 1-2:17)

6. Xerxes' queen; means "beautiful women." $\frac{3,5}{3,5} \frac{1,8}{1,8} \frac{2,6}{2,6} \frac{3,8}{3,8} \frac{3,7}{3,7} \frac{1,8}{1,8}$
(Esther 1:11)

7. David's wife; Solomon's mother. $\frac{3,9}{3,9} \frac{1,8}{1,8} \frac{3,7}{3,7} \frac{3,8}{3,8} \frac{2,6}{2,6} \frac{3,8}{3,8} \frac{3,8}{3,8} \frac{3,9}{3,9} \frac{1,8}{1,8}$
(2 Samuel 12:24)

8. Bad queen of King Ahab. $\frac{4,8}{4,8} \frac{3,6}{3,6} \frac{4,7}{4,7} \frac{3,8}{3,8} \frac{3,9}{3,9} \frac{3,8}{3,8} \frac{2,9}{2,9}$
(1 Kings 16:31)

9. The ruler of all of the earth. The $\frac{2,9}{2,9} \frac{2,8}{2,8} \frac{2,5}{2,5} \frac{2,7}{2,7}$
(Zechariah 14:9)

