



# SAINTS ALIVE

## Newsletter

St. Andrew's  
Presbyterian Church

March 1, 2009



## CONGREGATIONAL HAPPENINGS

### ORDINATION OF NEW ELDERS FOR THE SESSION OF ST. ANDREW'S

The process for nominating, electing, and ordaining new ruling elders to serve on the Session of a Presbyterian church takes several months. Back in the Fall of 2008, the Session of St. Andrew's determined that we need some more elders and began the process by calling for nominations from the congregation. We have had a few elders move out of town recently, and with quite a few new members, our current active elders are having to carry a much heavier load.

As you may know, each member or adherent of a congregation is placed on an elder's list. Your elder is someone with whom you can talk, someone to whom you can bring any concerns, and someone who can answer your questions and provide pastoral care. Your elder commits to connect with you

throughout the year, either through visits, phone calls, or other contacts. At the moment, we have a number of new members who have not yet received an elder. We are looking forward to revising the elders' lists and making sure that everyone is included once we have our new elders in place.

The Session has set Sunday, March 22, 2009 for the ordination of our new elders. Unfortunately, this newsletter is being published a little too early for the names of the new elders to be listed here. However, we look forward to celebrating the ordination of several new leaders in our congregation whom God is calling to serve as ruling elders on our Session.

### FEBRUARY SCHOOL BREAK PROGRAM – “MEETING FIRST NATIONS FRIENDS IN CANADA”

For three mornings during the February school

break a group of 16-18 children and 6-7 youth and adults met at St. Andrew's for a special program of stories, songs, games, crafts, and bible study. We used the mission and learning study prepared by Ken Borden and Dorothy Henderson for the Presbyterian Church in Canada in 2002. We heard stories of Cree and Ojibway friends at Mistawasis and in Winnipeg, learned a little about their culture and language and some of the challenges that they face. We welcomed a special guest, the Rev. Stewart Folster, who taught us several First Nations dances. Thanks to Stewart and to the others who offered their time and talent to make the program possible: Jen Bell, Judy Chow, Eva Anderson, Samson Swan, Logan de Bruijn, Annie Tervelde, Gwen Ament, and Amanda Currie.

■ continued on P2

### Inside this issue:

*Congregational Happenings* 2  
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*News & Events* 4

*Together We Can* 6

*Passing the Peace of Christ* 7

*Milestones* 7

*Calendar of Events* 8

*“St Andrew's exists to proclaim the Gospel and to share the love of God in our church and in our community.”*

**EDITOR:** Brooke Klassen

### Special Points of Interest

- Giving Up Chocolate Won't Cut It
- This Old House
- Kids' Corner



**Giving Up Chocolate Won't Cut It**

By Mirko Petricevic

KAIROS-Grand River, an ecumenical social justice group, urges Christians to attempt a 'carbon fast' for Lent

Christians who year after year give up chocolate or other guilty pleasures during Lent are probably scratching their heads about now, wondering what to forgo this season. For Rev. Phil Heinze, the answer is a no-brainer. As Lent approaches, beginning Feb. 25, he and fellow members of a faith and social justice group called KAIROS-Grand River are serving up tips to help people curb their energy consumption.

Dubbed a Carbon Fast, the project is designed to help people adjust their lifestyle and reduce their "carbon footprint." Many scientists believe carbon emissions into the Earth's atmosphere -- emissions from car exhaust, from burning fossil fuels to create energy and from other  
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**CONGREGATIONAL HAPPENINGS** ■ Continued from P1

Also, thanks to parents, grandparents, and friends who drove children to the church and returned them safely home at the end of the morning.

**FRIDAY NIGHT KIDS' CLUB – "LIVING IN GOD'S CREATION"**

Children in grades 4-8 meet at the church in Friday evenings about three times each month. Judy Chow, Amanda Currie, and others lead the group in bible study, games, singing, crafts, drama, and more. We are thrilled to report that our group continues to grow. We regularly have 15-17 children participating each week, and many of the kids are bringing friends along to join the group.

At the moment, our curriculum for Kids' Club is the mission study prepared by the Presbyterian Church in Canada each year. This year's theme is "Living in God's Creation" – a study that is encouraging us to treasure our environment as God's wonderful gift, to give thanks for creation, and to commit ourselves to caring for and preserving the earth and all that is in it. We welcome your prayers for our Friday night group; both for

the children and for the leaders. Please pray that our Kids' Club will continue to be a safe and fun place to grow in loving relationship with each other and with God.

**PROFESSION OF FAITH CLASSES**

Profession Of Faith Classes will be offered on Sunday afternoons during the Season of Lent this year. If you have faith questions, if you are thinking about becoming a member of the church, if you would like to explore the basics of Christian faith and what it means to be a Presbyterian, then please speak to one of the ministers about this class. The classes will be after church on March 15, 22, 29, & April 5. We'll begin with lunch together, finishing by about 2:30 pm.

**EARTH HOUR 2009: SATURDAY, MARCH 28TH @ 8:30 PM**

In 2008, 50 million people in 370 cities and towns, in more than 35 countries worldwide switched off their lights for Earth Hour. KAIROS is inviting us to participate in Earth Hour 2009: as a symbolic pause to reflect on our use of fossil fuels, to think about the impact of our activity

on people and ecosystems around the world, and most importantly, to pledge to make a difference as individuals, communities, and as a nation.

Our dependence on fossil fuels is fuelling climate change, deepening human rights abuses around the world, and contributing to conflict and economic inequality. It doesn't have to be this way - a more just and sustainable energy future is possible. But we must act now.

Leading climate scientists assert that that we must reduce our greenhouse gas emissions to at least 25% below 1990 levels by 2020 to avert global climate disaster. The Canadian government's current targets fall far short of this recommendation, and if unchanged will lead to only a 3% reduction below 1990 levels.

Historically, we in the industrialized North bear responsibility for most greenhouse gas emissions, and we should be first in line to make significant reductions. It's a question of global equity.

At St. Andrew's, we are planning to observe Earth Hour 2009 by holding a worship service

■ continued on P3



**CONGREGATIONAL HAPPENINGS** ■ Continued from P2

during Earth Hour: Saturday, March 28th at 8:30 p.m. We hope that you will join us for a candle-light worship. But even if you are unable to attend, you can observe Earth Hour at home by turning off your lights and appliances for the hour and saying a prayer for the preservation and protection of the earth God made.

**GREETINGS FROM THE OUTREACH COMMITTEE**

We are having a Food Drive during the Season of Lent ending on Palm Sunday. We are encouraged to "Give Something over for Lent" in that we are inviting donations of the 10 most wanted items including: Baby Food, Infant Formula, Canned Meat, Canned Beans, Whole Grain Cereals, Canned Soup, Canned Fruit, Canned Vegetables, Peanut Butter, Pasta. These donations will be gratefully received at the front of the church throughout the season of Lent and dedicated on Palm Sunday.

Mark May 24th on your calendar for our ever popular 'Bring A Friend to Church Sunday' more widely known as 'Sundae Sunday'. Invite a neighbour, friend, or relative to join with us in worship after which

we will enjoy ice cream sundaes. Further information to follow.

**NEWS FROM CAMP CHRISTOPHER**

Future leaders take note: Camp Christopher is offering you a wonderful opportunity to develop your leadership skills. If you are in Grade 9 or older, take advantage of our Skills Week. Our \*NEW\* Leader-in-Training program will be offered July 2-10 at beautiful Camp Christopher. Please visit [campchristopher.ca](http://campchristopher.ca) for a registration form. Enrolment is limited, so register today! You can find brochures at St. Andrew's 20th Street entrance.

Are you looking for meaningful summer employment? Camp Christopher is looking for staff for this summer. We need a Program Director, Waterfront/Recreation Director, Leadership Director, Maintenance Manager, Kitchen Manager, Kitchen Assistant and Camp Counselors. Staff application forms can be found at St. Andrew's 20th Street entrance. For more information, visit [www.campchristopher.ca](http://www.campchristopher.ca).

**PRESBYTERIANS WORSHIPPING TOGETHER IN HOLY WEEK**

**Thurs. Apr. 9th:** Maundy Thursday Supper & Wor-

ship at McKercher Drive Church (925 McKercher Dr.) We will gather at 6:00 pm to share a worship experience, remembering Jesus' last supper with his disciples. The program will include sharing a meal together. Please RSVP by Sunday, March 29th (242-0525 or [office@standrews-saskatoon.net](mailto:office@standrews-saskatoon.net)).

**Fri. Apr. 10th:** Good Friday Worship at St. Andrew's. We will gather with the Presbyterians of Saskatoon to remember the day that our Lord Jesus was crucified, died, and was buried. We worship together at 10:30 a.m., followed by a time of fellowship. There will be a joint choir for this worship service. Speak to Gerri Madill (477-0066 or [dg.madill@shaw.ca](mailto:dg.madill@shaw.ca)) or Gillian Lyons (242-6642 or [gillianlyons@sasktel.net](mailto:gillianlyons@sasktel.net)) about rehearsals beginning soon if you would like to join the choir.

**Sun. Apr. 12th:** Early-Morning Easter Worship & Breakfast (in Kiwanis Park, across the street from St. Andrew's). We will gather in the park at 8:00 a.m. for an early-morning worship service in celebration of the resurrection of Christ. Breakfast will be served at about 9:00 a.m. by our Presbyterian Youth in the lower hall of St. Andrew's. A free will offering will be received to send our youth to Canada Youth 2009. ■

**Giving Up Chocolate Won't Cut It**

*continued from P2*

industrial activities -- contribute to rising temperatures that are predicted to have catastrophic effects in coming years.

Lent is a roughly 40-day period leading up to the Easter weekend. In the Western church, it begins on Ash Wednesday, which this year is Feb. 25. In the Lenten season, many Christians contemplate Jesus' Crucifixion. "Traditionally it's a time of reflection and repentance," explains Heinze, a minister in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada. The Hebrew word for repent means "turn around," he said.

"So you look at the way your life has been going and you say, 'What do I need to turn this around so it goes more . . . in the way that God would have it go.'" The Hebrew notion of repentance urges a change to your actions, Heinze said, whereas the ancient Greek notion of repentance → →



**Giving Up Chocolate Won't Cut It**

*continued from P3* urges a change in thinking.

Fasting is also a tradition among Christians.

"Fasting is a way of denying yourself something so you keep it in your mind how important the sacrifice of Jesus was,"

Heinze said. Giving up chocolate, he said, is trivializing the meaning of fasting. Genuine fasting involves changing your life-style.

The idea of a Carbon Fast might be hard to swallow for a society that gulps energy in huge amounts.

Consumption has become the hallmark of how well we are doing as a society, Heinze said. It will be difficult, he added, to transform that belief into thinking success "has to do with how fair we are in the distribution of resources."

Heinze said he hopes people will try a couple of carbon suggestions  
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**NEWS & EVENTS**

**NEWS FROM SASKATOON NATIVE CIRCLE MINISTRY**



Hallelujah! Thanks be to God!

Saskatoon Native Circle Ministry as it has been known since 1994, is a project of Canada Ministries with the Presbyterian Church of Canada and, until recently, they have been operating out of a rented space.

In late October of 2008 a property was purchased at the corner of 20th Street and Avenue E South. With this purchase, Native Circle Ministry now has a permanent home from which to do outreach, provide food, offer counselling, hold worship, and offer a Healing Circle.

**The Board of Saskatoon Native Circle Ministry and the Presbytery of Northern Saskatchewan invite us to celebrate at the Worship Dedication and Grand Opening taking place on Sunday April 26 at 4 pm.**

**PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S BREAKFAST NEWS**

~Submitted by Bernice Shih

At our last two Women's Breakfasts in November, 2008, and January 31, 2009 we met at Mulberry's on Third Avenue. They have a very pleasant room with glass doors closing it off from the rest of the restaurant. The food was good and reasonable. The service was excellent! The only disadvantage in meeting downtown is the parking restrictions. Meters are set for 90 minutes, and tires are marked by a commissionaire. However, the Bus Mall is right across the street and very handy for anyone traveling by bus.

We have checked with a number of restaurants. It appears most restaurants are already booked for Saturday mornings; or unwilling to book any rooms they have because of the large volume of clientele they serve on Saturday mornings.

Everyone who joined us for breakfast seems very pleased with having our Women's Breakfasts at Mulberry's on Third Avenue. If we limit our breakfast and program to 1½ hours, we will be able to be in and out within the 90 minute meter restriction (meters are activated at 9:00 a.m.). This would mean having a shorter program, say approximately 20 to 30 minutes.

We had 18 women join us at our last breakfast. There is room to accommodate at least 35 women. **We welcome you to join us at our next breakfast on March 28, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. Come and bring a friend and share in fellowship and fun.** If you need a ride, please phone Bernice Shih at 244-1327.

On Sat. March 28, 2009, 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

McKercher Dr. Presbyterian Church women will be in charge of the program.

■ continued on P5



**NEWS & Events** ■ Continued from P4

**WORLD DAY OF PRAYER** ~ Submitted by Adela MacDonald

Friday, March 6th is the World Day of Prayer. An ecumenical celebration on the theme “*In Christ there are many members, yet one body*” will be held at St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Church on Friday, March 6th at 2:00 pm.

Join the downtown churches and share in a service written by the women of Papua New Guinea, a land of many intricate cultures. Rev. Amanda Currie will be giving the reflection and special music is planned. The service will be followed by fellowship and refreshments in the lower hall. Come and join us!

More information can be obtained from Helen Foss (373-2969) or Adela MacDonald (664-2878).

**SHARING CIRCLE ON MARCH 18th** ~ Submitted by Rev. Gwen Ament

As one of our Lenten mid-week gatherings we will be hosting a Sharing Circle led by the Rev. Stewart Folster with special guest the Rev. Gordon Williams. Gordon is travelling in the West at this time having been invited by the congregation of Riverside in Medicine Hat, Alberta to revisit them. Gordon served in ministry with them for several years almost 40 years ago.

He is a member of the Peguis First Nation in Manitoba and married to Karen Jacobs from Kahnawake of the Mohawk Territory of Quebec. They have two children who are on their own pursuing careers in medicine and law, and of whom they are very proud. They do all that they can to support them in their endeavours.

Gord is now retired from the federal government and does various contracts with different departments but a great deal of his time is working on the Indian Residential file. He writes, “As a survivor, the powers that be seem to think that I have something to offer in that field. I have done papers on the issue of Truth and Reconciliation as well as missing children. It is very time consuming and many of the survivors are still having problems with dealing with their residential school experiences.”

Our evening will begin at 6:00 pm with our traditional light supper of soup and bun (in this case bannock) for which a free will offering will be gratefully received. Then, at 6:45 pm we will transform our gathering space into a circle of chairs and the Rev. Stewart Folster will lead us in a sharing circle which will begin with our guest, the Rev. Gordon Williams. This will be an opportunity to learn and perhaps better understand our aboriginal brothers and sisters. All are welcome!

**KNOCK, KNOCK WHO’S THERE? MEETING GOD IN PRAYER**

The Synod Youth Committee invites youth and young adults from grade 9 – age 25 to participate in our next weekend conference. We will be gathering at the Presbyterian Church in Grenfell, SK from Friday April 17th – Sunday April 19th. The committee is planning for a fun and spiritually uplifting weekend together. Watch for more information about this event coming soon, but book off the weekend now so that you won’t miss out! ■

**DID YOU KNOW?** You can find us on the web! [www.standrews-saskatoon.net](http://www.standrews-saskatoon.net)

**Giving Up Chocolate Won’t Cut It**

*continued from P4*

each week. He also hopes some energy-saving habits will continue after Easter. The Carbon Fast could also connect with people who describe themselves as spiritual, but not religious, he added. "It strikes a chord with people who have a sense of spiritual connection with others and with the planet," he said. "I think it has potential to reach far beyond faith communities."

KAIROS-Grand River has tips for carbon fasters. Organizers suggest trying two steps each week. For ideas, visit: <http://sju.ca/centre/speakers/SeljakMiniCrsJan09.htm> ■





## Together We Can<sup>1</sup> ~ Submitted by Dineke Kraay

The national WMS has launched two worthwhile projects for the year 2008-2009.

### *School supplies for Eastern Europe*

Since 1992, the Hungarian Reformed Churches in Eastern Europe have been working hard to reclaim and re-establish the Christian Schools they lost during the Communist era. The buildings need to be repaired, equipment to be updated. In addition, the schools need financial support to buy supplies for the students.

*\$15 buys school supplies for one elementary school student for one year.*

*\$25 buys school supplies for one secondary school student for one year.*

I went on a Mission Exposure Tour to Eastern Europe last fall and saw first hand the needs of the Reformed schools. Let us help build a brighter future for the children and youth in Eastern Europe!

### *Buy a Brick for Jobat Hostel*

Students at the Christian School in Jobat, India are unable to return home each evening after classes, because they live too far away. They stay in hostels on the school property. These dormitories, however, are nothing but old concrete buildings with no furnishings, little ventilation, cold in the winter time and very hot in the summer. You can assist the school by raising funds for a new hostel.

*\$25 will buy a brick to build a new hostel at the Jobat Christian School – a rough estimate is that it will take about 4000 bricks!*

The members of the Hildur Hermanson WMS Group are inviting the congregation to assist them in raising funds for the Eastern Europe project.

We are planning a lingering lunch of free ***goulash and buns*** on Sunday, March 15, 2009. After lunch we will show a short video on the projects and take up an offering. For those who would like to receive an income tax receipt, we will provide WMS envelopes.

If you are unable to attend, but still want to donate money to these mission projects, you can give your contribution to any member of the Hildur Hermanson WMS Group. Or, you can send your donation directly to the office of the WMS. The address is:

*Office of the Women's Missionary Society  
50 Wynford Drive  
Toronto, ON  
M3C 1J7*

Please indicate the project you support:

***School Supplies for Eastern Europe or A Brick for Jobat Hostel. ■***

### **This Old House: The Renovation Of The Christian Church In The 20th Century**

An Ecumenical Lenten Study of five reforms that will shape the church of the 21st Century. Join Sandra Beardsall and Nick Jesson as they examine the bricks and mortar of Christ's church and plan for the years ahead. This is a community-build; everyone has a part in building the house of God. This Lenten Study will take place five Monday evenings beginning March 2nd at St. James' Anglican Church (corner of Dufferin & 12th Street). Sessions begin at 6:45 pm. No registration required. Each evening will include prayer, fellowship, an introduction to the theme, and group discussion.

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<sup>1</sup>Based on an article in the November/December Glad Tidings, p. 22, 23





## Passing the Peace of Christ ~Submitted by Dineke Kraay

Sometimes during a worship service, we are asked to turn to each other and share the peace of Christ. Have you wondered why we are doing this? Is it something new? What does it mean? You may even have felt that this action is not quite appropriate. It is noisy and it seems to interrupt the flow of the worship service.

Passing the Peace of Christ is a liturgical act; it is more than just greeting each other with a friendly hello. This custom has been around for a long time and other denominations use it probably more than we Presbyterians. It goes back to the biblical custom of greeting each other with a holy kiss. The first letter of Peter ends: "Greet one another with a kiss of love. Peace to all of you who are in Christ." (1 Peter 5:14)

When we are invited to turn to the other person to say: Peace be with you or The Peace of Christ be with you, how do we respond? We should accept this offer of peace by repeating the phrase or by simply saying: And also with you. A friendly Good morning is not the liturgically correct response. But why is that so?

Sharing the Peace of Christ often takes place after Confession and the Assurance of God's Love and Grace. This helps us to understand the meaning of the liturgical act. When we accept God's forgiveness, we commit ourselves to live by the peace of Christ, to live a life of reconciliation.

Passing the peace of Christ reminds us of our relationship and our mutual responsibility. In reaching out to the other, we pledge to imitate God who has reached out to us and embraced us in Christ.

Passing the peace of Christ is a very serious act; one could almost say it is a risky gesture. To say the words of peace might be easy; to live up to them is much more difficult. ■

## MILESTONES

### Baptisms:

*January 11, 2009*  
Ellyn Paulina Jean Flett

### St. Andrew's Directory Addition

Shawn & Janet Flett  
Ellyn  
502 Denham Way  
Saskatoon, SK S7R 1E7  
242-6601

### New Members:

*December 14, 2008*

|                |                  |               |
|----------------|------------------|---------------|
| Eleanor Berg   | Fran Gordon      | Mirian Peters |
| Katie Bleakney | June Harder      | Jan Procter   |
| Tim Gabruch    | Bud Horseman     | Joan Sande    |
| Tina Gabruch   | Elma Horseman    | Bill Wilson   |
| Jean Geddes    | Melissa Marshall |               |

*January 11, 2009*  
Janet Flett

Would you like to receive our 'Saints Alive' newsletter by e-mail? If you would like to be on the list, e-mail us at [office@standrews-saskatoon.net](mailto:office@standrews-saskatoon.net)



**This Old House:  
The Renovation  
Of The Christian  
Church In The  
20th Century**  
*continued from P4*

Mar. 2 • Checking the Blueprints -- Listening Anew to the Word of God in Scripture

Mar. 9 • Firming Up the Foundation -- Rethinking the nature and mission of the church

Mar. 16 • Moving the Walls -- Re-imagining the life of worship

Mar. 23 • Barn-Raising Together -- Searching for Christian unity

Mar. 30 • Meeting the Neighbours -- Inter-religious relations ■



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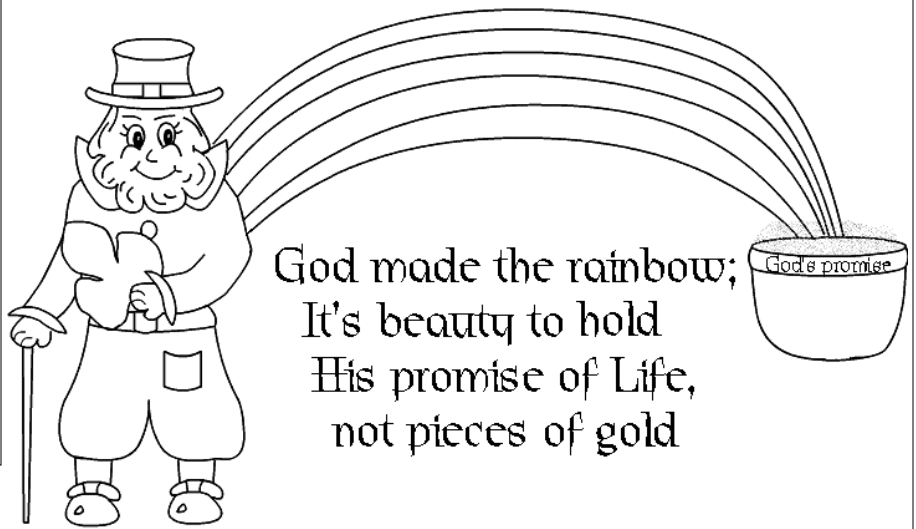
E-mail: [office@standrews-saskatoon.net](mailto:office@standrews-saskatoon.net)

Web: [www.standrews-saskatoon.net](http://www.standrews-saskatoon.net)

*"St Andrew's exists to proclaim the Gospel and to share the love of God in our church and in our community."*

**KIDS' Corner - St. Patrick's Day**

Colour in the rainbow. Do you know the order of the colours?



**CALENDAR of Events**

**Friday, March 6** -- World Day of Prayer Service at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church at 2:00 pm.

**Sunday, March 8** -- Annual Financial Meeting in the Lower Hall. Lunch is provided by the Youth Group. Donations are greatly appreciated.

**Sunday, March 15** -- Profession of Faith Classes Begin. They will be offered on four consecutive Sunday afternoons, ending April 5. We'll begin with lunch together and finish at 2:30 pm.

**Sunday, March 15** -- WMS goulash lunch and presentation on School Supplies for Eastern Europe.

**Wed, March 18** -- Sharing Circle with The Rev. Stewart Folster & The Rev. Gordon Williams at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church. A simple supper will be served in the Lower Hall at 6:00 pm and the Sharing Circle will follow at 6:45 pm.

**Thursday, April 9** -- Maundy Thursday Supper & Worship at McKercher Drive Presbyterian Church at 6:00 pm.

**Friday, April 10** -- Good Friday worship at St. Andrew's at 10:30 am.

**Sunday, April 12** -- Early morning Easter worship and breakfast in Kiwanis Park at 8:00 am.

**Saturday, April 25** -- Women's League Spring Tea & Bake Sale in the Lower Hall from 2:00 - 4:00 pm. Donations of baking would be greatly appreciated.

**March 2009**

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
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| 15  | 16  | 17  | 18  | 19  | 20  | 21  |
| 22  | 23  | 24  | 25  | 26  | 27  | 28  |
| 29  | 30  | 31  |     |     |     |     |

**April 2009**

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
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|     |     |     | 1   | 2   | 3   | 4   |
| 5   | 6   | 7   | 8   | 9   | 10  | 11  |
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| 19  | 20  | 21  | 22  | 23  | 24  | 25  |
| 26  | 27  | 28  | 29  | 30  |     |     |

**ANSWERS to Kids Corner:**  
From top: Red, Orange, Yellow, Green, Blue