

To Members and Friends of Oakland-Cambridge Presbyterian Church,



Hunger in Our Schools and in Our Community E-News Edition.

"I was hungry and you gave me something to eat..." Matthew 25:35

As you read through this edition of the Oakland-Cambridge E-News, you will find several upcoming mission activities that deal with hunger in the Cambridge Area Schools and Community. If we really paid attention, we would find that it also is a concern in area churches too. We profess a faith in Jesus who said: "I am the Bread of Life." We "love to the tell the story" of Jesus who fed 5,000 men, women and children with an abundance of food.

Last week, we participated in the Souper-Bowl-Of-Caring, collecting food items for the food pantry. We will be serving the free community meal on March 7. We will be delivering "Meals-On-Wheels" to area elderly residents. We are collecting food for the Blue Jay Backpack Weekend food program. We also have a new opportunity to participate in a new fundraiser called "Everybody Eats Cambridge". All of these important community events are aimed at helping to address the growing issue of hunger in our schools and community.

We as a people of faith, followers of the one who said: "I was hungry and you gave me something to eat," have a calling to participate more fully in addressing the issue of hunger and food scarcity in our schools and community. While we tend to keep things brief in this issue, I would like to share with you an article I wrote several years back when I was supervising the lunchroom at McFarland High School. I would ask you to take the extra time to read this article and then continue to read the mission opportunities that we hear at OCPC can join the larger Cambridge Community in tackling the issue of hunger.

Pastor Scott

"Walter Cunningham was sitting there lying his head off. He didn't forget his lunch, he didn't have any. He had none today nor would he have any tomorrow or the next day."
(To Kill A Mockingbird; Harper Lee, Chapter 2)

With the arrival of August, summer vacation from school is ending. Each Monday seems to bring a whole new round of Facebook posts from parents, who like me, share pictures of their kids heading back to school. I love looking at all the bright, smiling faces of these young scholars dressed in new outfits, backpacks slung across their shoulders, and lunch boxes held tightly in their hands, posing for that annual family photo.

Yet, there is another picture we all need to see as we send our nation's children back to school. However, this one you will probably not find posted on Facebook. It is the face of Hunger. It's presence in our schools and in each classroom of every grade is growing at an alarming, some would say, epidemic rate, that is threatening our nation's future!

According to No Kid Hungry: Share Our Strength website: www.nokidhungry.org more than 48.8 million Americans—including 16.2 million children— live in households that lack the means to get enough nutritious food on a regular basis. As a result, they struggle with hunger at some time during the year. That is 1 out of 5 kids in America.

22% of kids under the age of 18 (16 million) live in poverty.

Nearly half of all people who use Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP or food stamps) are kids.

On an average day - 9.8 million students receive a free or reduced priced breakfast.

Another 10.6 million eligible kids go without such a meal.

You do not need to tell teachers or lunchroom staff about the face of hunger in our schools. They see it every day in their classrooms and in the school lunchroom. They know hunger has a major impact on a student's ability to learn as well as effecting classroom behavior. I know from my own experience working in a school; many educators and lunchroom staff quietly spend their own money to buy students food during the school day. According to one report: "Fifty-three percent of teachers spend an average \$26 of their own money each month providing snacks for their students." (Ava Wallace, August 24, 2012 - <http://neatoday.org/2012/08/24/child-hunger-in-schools-a-growing-problem>)

Sadly, there is also a stigma attached to hunger in our schools. Many students do not want to let their peers or even their teachers to know they are going without food. In Harper Lee's classic American novel, To Kill a Mockingbird, Scout's new teacher, Ms. Caroline, asks the students for a show of hands of those who go home for lunch and those who have brought their lunch. Every student did so, save for one, Walter Cunningham. When Ms. Caroline asks if he forgot his lunch, he hesitates. She asks again. A bit embarrassed, Walter answers: "Yes'm." Ms. Caroline offers him money so he can buy some lunch, but he declines her offer. Harper Lee writes: "Walter Cunningham was sitting there lying his head

off. He didn't forget his lunch, he didn't have any. He had none today nor would he have any tomorrow or the next day." The Cunninghams were dirt poor and they were proud. They did not want to take a hand-out, even if it meant they went hungry. There are still far too many "Walter Cunninghams" in our schools.

As a pastor, I have been aware of hunger, or thought I was aware of it. I have helped collect food for local food pantries. I have served meals at soup kitchens. I have shared money with people looking for a meal. Yet, until I started working in a school, I had not come face-to-face with hunger on a daily basis. Teachers, support staff, kitchen crew, and school administrators know the face of Hunger. A growing number of students know its face as well. They see it each time they look in a mirror. Tragically, there are a growing number of students each year who see the image of Hunger reflected back to them.

There many organizations, community groups, and individuals, who having seen the increasing need in our schools, are working to find a solution.

So the next time you see the face of a student walking to school, or waiting at the bus stop, or studying in the public library, or playing on the playground, or bagging your groceries, or passing you on the street, or in a picture posted on Facebook, I would invite you to look beyond the face - and see if you can see something more - the Face of Hunger. And if you do, tell me if you can catch a glimpse of one more thing - the face of Christ.

"Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry...and did not take care of you?' Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.'" Matthew 25:44-45

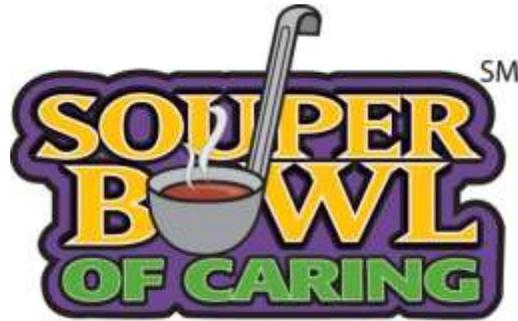


RESCHEDULED!! CAMBRIDGE "EVERYONE EATS" CHILI DINNER

FUNDRAISER: A new program has been introduced in the Cambridge Community to provide funding at the Cambridge Schools to subsidize meal accounts for children that may

not be able to afford a hot lunch. The program is 100% community funded and they continue to look for ways to fund this important program.

As a result the Cambridge School District and Badger Bank are hosting a **Chili Dinner at the Cambridge High School Commons on Thursday, February 14th from 5:00 – 6:30 p.m.** Chili bowls provided by CHS art students are \$5.00. Chili dinner is a free-will donation.



tacklehunger.org

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING... Last Sunday, February 3, OCPC members participated in the national Souper-Bowl-of-Caring. Thank you to everyone who donated non-perishable food items or made a financial contribution! Both will be donated to the Cambridge Food Pantry. Our totals of \$153.00 and 49 food items will be reported to the national site.



MEALS ON WHEELS... Volunteers are needed to deliver meals from February 18 to March 1. If you can help, please contact Cheryl Stitz clstitz@charter.net or 608-695-1838.



COMMUNITY MEAL: OCPC will be joining Rockdale Lutheran and London Moravian Churches in serving the Cambridge Community Meal. A signup sheet for volunteers and food donations is in the Fellowship Hall, posted on the bulletin board.

BOWLING ANYONE?! The youth of OCPC will be going bowling on Sunday afternoon, February 17.

CHILDREN'S LIBRARY... The Annual Reading Program began in the Children's Library on January 27. This program will last ten weeks and will end on April 7. All children in the church are welcome to sign up. Those who participate and reach their goal will be eligible to attend a movie outing at the end of the program. Prizes will be given out throughout the ten weeks as incentives. Sunday School students need to turn in their reading slips often. Their progress charts will be updated regularly and posted on the bulletin board in the library. The goal for each child will be to earn ten credits. More credits can be earned and will result in bonus prizes. For more information, contact Cathy Thiltgen.

COMING SUNDAY, MARCH 3 – Mardi Gras Celebration and Jazz Worship complete with Cajun Food and a King Cake!

ASHES-TO-GO ON ASH WEDNESDAY (MARCH 6) ... Pastor Scott will once again be joining with some of the Cambridge area clergy to mark the beginning of Lent with "Ashes to Go" on March 6 in Downtown Cambridge. Watch for more information about this Ash Wednesday event.

WINTER WEATHER POLICY... As we head into the winter weather months, the Session would remind you of inclement weather policy. If due to bad weather we need to cancel worship, we will post to our Facebook page, send out an email, and make calls to those who do not use the internet. Please make sure to check your email, Facebook page or answering machine. There may also be a rare occasion when, due to poor driving conditions, Pastor Scott is unable to make it safely out to Cambridge. On those Sundays, he will share his sermon with an Elder to read and worship will go on as scheduled.

CAMBRIDGE FOOD PANTRY & RESOURCE CENTER: The items most needed at the Cambridge Food Pantry at this time are: Cereal, Ramen Noodles, Microwavable Mac & Cheese, Pop Tarts, Pancake Mix and Syrup, Diapers sizes 2, 4, 5 & 6, Shampoo and Conditioner, Tampons, Regular Feminine Pads, Toilet Tissue and Paper Towel, large Women's Depends. Thank you!

OUR CHURCH CALENDAR:

(If you are able to volunteer to fill an opening, please call the church 608-423-3001. Thank you!)

- **Sunday, February 10 –**
9:00 a.m. LIBRARY DAY – Children's Library open
10:00 a.m. Worship and Sunday School
Liturgist: Judy Pearson
Ushers/Greeters: The Letos
Fellowship Hosts: Sylvia & Larry Jensen
11:00 a.m. Session
11:00 a.m. Children's Library open
- **Saturday, February 16**
9:30 a.m. John Knox Presbytery meeting at Covenant PC, Madison
- **Sunday, February 17**
10:00 a.m. Worship
Liturgist: OPEN
Ushers/Greeters: Stan & Kay Lund
Fellowship Hosts: Ann & Dale Febock
11:00 a.m. Deacons
- **Sunday, February 24**
9:00 a.m. LIBRARY DAY – Children's Library open
10:00 a.m. Worship and Sunday School
Liturgist: OPEN
Ushers/Greeters: Larry & Sylvia Jensen
Fellowship Hosts: Melanie Rumpf
11:00 a.m. Children's Library open

- **Sunday, March 3 – Transfiguration of the Lord; Mardi Gras Celebration**
10:00 a.m. Worship and communion
 Communion Servers: OPEN
 Liturgist: OPEN
 Ushers/Greeters: OPEN
 Fellowship Hosts: Deacons (2 people) with help from Session
- **Wednesday, March 6 – Ash Wednesday**
8:00-9:30 a.m. Ashes-to-Go in downtown Cambridge, near the coffee shops.
After 10:30 a.m. Stop at OCPC to see Pastor Scott for a blessing and ashes.
- **Thursday, March 7 – Community Café Meal at Cambridge High School**
5:30 – 6:30 p.m. Meal is served. Volunteers needed! See signup sheets in Fellowship Hall.

MILESTONES

Birthdays

Michael Kennedy February 5
 Megan Meier February 5
 Cori Traeder February 6
 Mary Olson February 8
 Tyce Bettenhausen February 12
 Jenine Spack..... February 14

Jeremy Porter February 15
 Ruth Poole February 20
 Jerry Thiltgen February 25
 Virgil Runge February 27

Anniversaries

Jack & Jenine Spack February 11

PLEASE HOLD THESE MEMBERS AND FRIENDS IN PRAYER THIS WEEK —

Griffin Clark (grandson of Bill & Patty Strobusch)
 Don Hawkins (husband of Margaret Hawkins)
 Linda Johnson (mother of Randy Johnson)
 Jayne Kilian (daughter of Judy & Monty Pearson)
 Wade Kubina (son of Jo Kubina)
 Shawn Spack (son of Jenine & Jack Spack)
 John “Jack” Swank and his family (birth father of Renee Roland Johnson)

The family of Joan Spaulding, and other families who are grieving the loss of loved ones.

If you would like to be added to our weekly prayer list, please leave word in the church office or contact the pastor. Permission to be included in this publicly posted list has been obtained from those listed or their families.

STANDING DATES – These are regularly scheduled events

- Pastoral Office Hours – Generally 9:00 a.m. to Noon Tuesdays
- Business Office Hours – 8:00 a.m. to Noon Monday through Thursday
- Sundays – 10:00 a.m. Worship;
Communion first Sunday of each month
Sunday School 10:00 a.m. on 2nd & 4th Sundays from September through May
Fellowship & Refreshment following worship service each week.
- Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings at 8:30 a.m. – OA
- Thursday evenings at 7:30 p.m. – AA
- Second and fourth Wednesdays of each month at noon – Community Activities Program
Senior Meal

TELEPHONE/FAX: 608-423-3001 EMAIL: Office@OCPChurch.com or Pastor@OCPChurch.com

WEB: www.OCPChurch.com

 Visit us on Facebook: Oakland-Cambridge Presbyterian Church