

The Bishop's Road Show - The Season of Epiphany, February 13, 2009

Dear Friends:

The Memorial Service for the Rev. Judith Ann Marlow will be held Saturday, March 7, 2009 at First Presbyterian Church, New Martinsville, WV at 1:00 p.m. The color for the day will be White. All Rostered Leaders are encouraged to robe and vest. If memory serves me, First Presbyterian is on the left hand side of the road as you travel South on Route 2. In case you missed our earlier announcement, Judy died on Monday, February 9 after a long battle with ovarian cancer.

"Rest eternal grant her, O Lord; and let light perpetually shine upon her."

Yesterday, Pastor Brian Bennett posted that his and Mary Lynne's son, Jeremiah, was in Ruby Memorial Hospital, Morgantown, WV. After his bout with RSV, it seems his antibodies turned against his platelets. His platelet count was very low. This is a condition known as ITP. It is treatable, but it has to be done intravenously, and therefore in the hospital. The first night in the hospital was a bit rough. Jeremiah was admitted into his room. Then, to quote Pastor Brian, "we ambushed him as the nurses put in his IV and drew some blood." They gave him a medicine according to his rh factor... which caused fever and vomiting. That was normal according to the doctors, but it made for a rough night for Mary Lynne. Jeremiah is two years old. Earlier today, Pastor Bennett phoned me to say that Jeremiah was still in the hospital, but much improved. Pastor Brian is fighting pneumonia and will be out of the pulpit this Sunday. Pastor Matthew Riegel will be covering for him.

During our Rostered Leaders Continuing Education event it was reported that Pastor Jim Riley would be receiving some surgery. I spoke with Jim on the phone to learn that he has a very fast growing type of prostate cancer cell. His urologist has set the date of surgery for March 5. Pastor Richard Neal will be covering all services for Pastor Riley as his recovery will take about 4 – 6 weeks.

I invite your prayers for the family and friends of Pastor Judy Marlow, for Jeremiah Bennett and for Pastor James Riley.

My travel schedule will take Terry and me to Barboursville, WV to Christ the King for the Service of Installation for Pastor Brian Nunnally at 4:00 p.m. Next week I will fly to Chicago on Monday for the Spring Assignment Process which will last until noon on Wednesday. My return flight will get me home possibly in time for dinner.

Thursday, the Region 8 Bishops will meet in Bedford, PA for some preliminary discussions prior to the Spring Conference of Bishops' meeting and to finalize the placement for the Spring Assignments for this year's Seminary graduates.

Late on the afternoon of Friday, February 20, I will return home. Then on Sunday, February 22, I will join Zion Lutheran, Jennings, MD to celebrate her 100th Anniversary. I am scheduled to return to the synod office on Feb. 24 and 26.

Yours in our Lord's service, + Ralph