

April 2009

*First Presbyterian Church*

# The Good News

## **This Holy Season...**

Wednesday morning the faithful will gather to honor an event that only happens once every 28 years. For millions of Jews, the sun will rise in the same position as when it first appeared on the fourth day of creation - a phenomenon called **Birkat Hachamah**. This year is extra special in that the event falls on the first day of Passover. Jews lucky enough to see the sun will say "Blessed are you Lord, our God and King of the Universe, who performs the work of creation". These lines can only be recited if the sun is spotted on Wednesday morning and "the outline of the sun is seen through the clouds".

Across Johannesburg, worshippers from many synagogues will be gathering in car parks or in nearby fields to watch the sun rise. The presence of a number of stars would add to the glory of the sunrise. Every 28 years the sun returns to the exact position in relation to the earth, according to Judaism, as it was on the fourth day of creation.

According to Jewish belief there have been 206 28 year cycles since the dawn of creation. In 1953, one Rabbi was so determined to see the sun he hired a plane to fly above the clouds of Boston. The last time Birkat Hachamah was recited was in 1981, and before that in 1953. Sunrise in Johannesburg will be at 6.20am.

May the Son rise from the darkness of the tomb for you again this coming Easter Sunday, and every day.

*Our Easter wishes to all of you.  
the people of Africa Upper Room Ministries.*

## Maundy Thursday and Good Friday...

- **Maundy Thursday worship service 7:00pm in the sanctuary.**

It will include a wonderful musical presentation by our own Greg Sherman. We will also be receiving communion by intinction. Please join us for this special worship service.

- **Good Friday Prayer and Meditation 11:00am in the Parlor in Jones hall.**

Pastor Norm Story will lead this time of prayer and reflection.



## Easter Sunrise Service...Easter Breakfast...



Please join us on Sunday for a very special Easter Sunrise service. The service will begin at **6:30am** on the lawn outside of the east entrance to the sanctuary.

Coffee and hot chocolate will be available. So bundle up and come and celebrate Easter and the beautiful gift of the sunrise !

**\*Breakfast will be served from 7:30am to 8:30am**

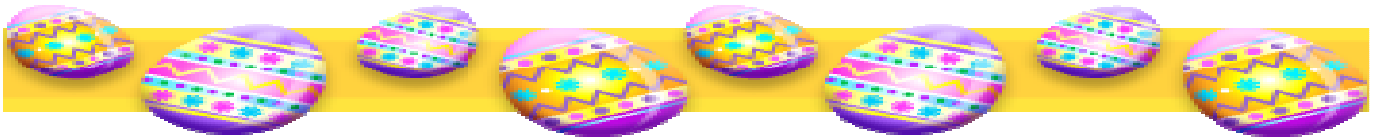
## Easter Celebration Service...One Great Hour of Sharing

The Easter Worship service will be at 10:30am and include a “Hallelujah Chorus”. Everyone is welcome to participate in the chorus.

The collection for the Presbyterian Church “One Great Hour of Sharing” will be taking place during the offertory. Thank you to those who have already given to this important ministry.



## Easter Egg Hunt...



The Easter Egg Hunt will begin after the 10:30 worship service. All children are encouraged to bring a basket to collect the eggs.

*Congregational Life Ministry Team*

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## ALL CHURCH WORKDAY...

**Saturday April 18th  
8:00am-12:00pm**

**Buildings and Grounds ministry is planning the first semiannual workday event of 2009. All are invited to participate. If you don't feel up to cleaning or painting or the like, come anyway and enjoy the fellowship. There will be coffee and munchies. We are expecting beautiful weather.**

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