

OUR LENTEN JOURNEY TO THE CROSS ON GOOD FRIDAY

As you receive this issue of *Westminster News*, Lent is still a few weeks away. The liturgical season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday (March 9) with a service of worship in which we observe our own mortality. Lent ends after Good Friday (April 22) when the mortality of Jesus Christ was realized in his death and sacrifice for our sins on the cross.

As we travel the Lenten journey together in 2011, we will continue to struggle with the meaning Good Friday holds for our faith. As Christians, it is easy for us to respond to God's call to be an Easter people. However, in order to fully embrace the spiritual heights of Easter, we must also embrace the spiritual depths of Good Friday. Our prayer is that we can bring additional meaning and understanding to our Good Friday worship experience and, thus, to our subsequent celebration of the resurrection on Easter morning.

This year, one Good Friday worship service has been planned in collaboration with several Presbyterian congregations from the Madison area and Pres House. This collaboration builds upon a beautiful worship experience in 2009 in which over 700 individuals from these congregations and the community at large united for one Good Friday worship service, which was held at Christ Presbyterian Church. In the upcoming 2011 service, choral musicians from these congregations will combine to respond to Good Friday scripture with hymns, anthems, and the *Requiem* composed by Gabriel Faure. We anticipate that the service will be led by representatives of the participating congregations, a choir of approximately 65 singers, and an orchestra of 17 musicians. Although music will play an important role in the service, this is not a concert. It is, indeed, a worship service; one that will bring glory to God and draw beauty from the way in which it weaves the deep solemnity of Good Friday with the expressions of hope reflected in the inspired music of Faure and other composers.

As a sign of our continued support and ministry to the congregation of Covenant Presbyterian Church during its leadership transition, this Good Friday worship service **will be held in the sanctuary at Covenant Presbyterian Church** (326 South Segoe Road) on Madison's near west side at **7pm, Friday, April 22, 2011**. Please note that **no service of worship will be held at Westminster on Good Friday**. You are encouraged to make arrangements to carpool together to the worship service as parking at Covenant Presbyterian will be limited.

--Joe Chrisman,
Minister of Music--