

the Blastoff

Official Newsletter of
The Rotary Club of Space Center
P O Box 58862, Houston, Texas 77058
Meetings Monday 11:45 at Bay Oaks Country Club
Clear Lake City Ph. 281.488.7888
Chartered 1964

April 13, 2009

Editor: Billy Smith

Photographer: Bob Mitchell



A message from Pres. Mike

Happy Easter to everyone. I hope everyone has been able to have an Easter Sunday surrounded by family members and friends, and has had the opportunity to reflect in the truly important things in life. The fact that you are a Rotarian already says a lot. You understand the concept of *service above self* and the importance of being a volunteer, and the positive impact volunteers have in the community and country overall. Having said that, I am sure everyone is full of energy and ready to complete all of our goals for the year.

High priorities we have, are to finish organizing and to register in RI the **Interact and Rotaract clubs**. These two clubs are very important because they represent the young Rotarians. They are the organizations that introduce the youth to what Rotary is and does, and maintain the in-flow to our club, not only of new members, but also of new ideas and different approaches in doing things. Anyone interested in participating in these committees, please contact me.

Another high priority, is the **blood donation drive**, which is scheduled for May 30th outside the Wall Mart in League City. This is considered an important event for the District and also for the area since the need of blood is always an issue. Please write in your calendars this day and make sure you contribute by giving blood.

Two activities that are traditional to our club are the **Excellence in Education Awards** and the **Excellence in Public Service Awards**. These two events are scheduled for our meetings of June 1st and June 8th respectively. Two teachers from CCISD will be recognized on the 1st and several law enforcement agents will be recognized on the 8th. Make sure you all attend these two important meetings. Another very important meeting we will have on the 4th of May. This will be the Memorial Meeting. Many of you may not know that our club has a memorial at Clear Lake Park with two marble monuments engraved with the names of many of our members that have passed away. On the 4th of May our lunch will be at the pavilion on the Lake side of Clear Lake Park. We will remember at that meeting our friends that have passed, and then we will move (*continued on page 4*)

Rotary International
President 2008-2009



Dong Kurn Lee



Rotary District 5890
Governor 2008-2009
Rhonda Kennedy



Chris Schneider
Alvin, Seabrook, Space Center
District Assistant Governor

Past District Governors
From SCRC

Dr. Floyd D. Boze
1981-1982



Billy Weseman
1993-1994



Suzi Howe
2006-2007

Service Above Self

Programs —

Kippy Caraway, Chair 2008-2009

**TODAY..Mike Sullivan, Houston City
Councilman**

Apr 27th TBD

*May 4th Remembering our Deceased former members
Meeting at Clear Park, Cap Landolt Pavilion*

May 25th Holiday — no meeting

June 1st Excellence in Education Awards

June 8th Excellence in Law Enforcement Awards

June 15th Club Assembly: Review of Year's Accomplishments

June 22nd Installation of Officers & Directors for 2009-2010

June 29th TBD

Bring a Guest!!

Say Happy Birthday to —

- Dick Gregg III April 4th
- Ken Gurry April 15th
- Dennis Dillon April 22nd
- Dick Meye April 30th

**CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL.
WE WISH YOU MANY MORE.**

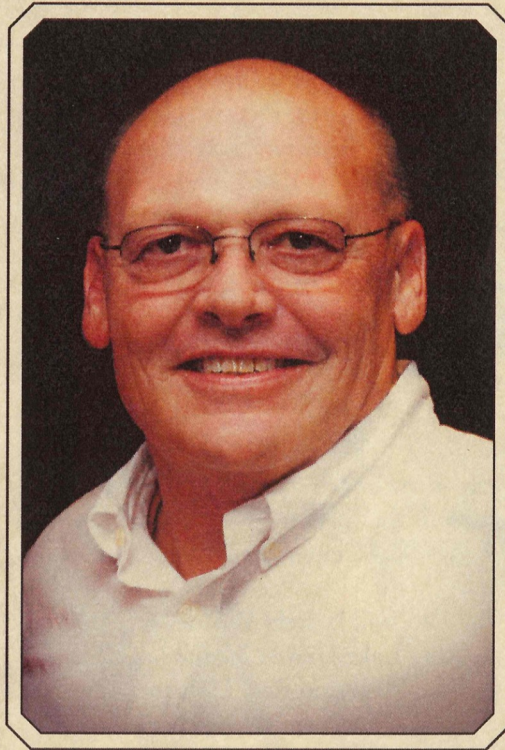
SCRC SOCIALS

Mar 31stItalian Café, 4322 NASA Plwy.

Contact Roger Donnelly.

Ridonnely@aol.com

Johnny Wayne Gibson



May 18, 1948 - April 3, 2009

It is with deep sorrow, shock, disbelief & grief that the untimely death of **Johnny Gibson**, former member of Space Center Rotary Club, is announced. At age 60, Johnny passed away on Friday, April 3, 2009, in his home. Early speculation of cause of death is a massive heart attack. Johnny is survived by his wife, Carolyn, children, Stephanie Ann Cockerham, Tommy Warren Gibson, and Holly Carol Gibson and five grandchildren. Tommy is also a former member of SCRC. There was a viewing at Crowder Funeral Home on Medical Center Blvd. on Tuesday, April 7th, and funeral at Clear Lake United Methodist Church on El Camino Real on Wednesday, April 8th at 2:00 p.m. Johnny had been a Trustee of the Space Center Rotary Club Endowment Foundation and the family requests that donations in Johnny's memory be made to the foundation. Johnny will be remembered for his unselfish *Service Above Self* to Rotary projects and to SCRC. Those of you who have been active in the Endowment Foundation Pancake Breakfasts will remember Johnny and son, Tommy, as the untiring dish washers when we did not use paper plates. Johnny will be missed by all who new and loved him, but we will take comfort in the belief that he is now a member of that great heavenly Rotary Club and was welcomed by so many members of this club and the district who have gone on before him. For this, Johnny can be envied. I wonder what projects they are involved in. Surely, they are some of the most forward thinking and sacrificial ever experienced.

(message from the president — *continued from page 1*) the street to the site of the Memorial and finish with a short final remembrance.

Traditionally we contribute to the efforts and activities of the YMCA. This year will not be different. The difference this year is that the District selected the YMCA as a key recipient of Rotary support, specifically when related to teaching children how to swim.

It was determined that drowning in local apartment pools is one of the leading causes of death to children and infants in the summer in Houston. The district, following RI President, DK Lee's lead of reducing child mortality, has requested all the clubs in the District to participate in this important project. We, as a club, are considering the option of sponsoring 10 children to receive swimming classes this summer.

Another activity coming up is the **Springoree**, scheduled for the 14th of May. I urge our members to buy a table and invite friends and business associates. This event is very much different from the Shrimporee in that attendance is limited. The items we have at the Springoree for auction, live and silent, are also limited but of high quality. We must make sure we bring to our Springoree members of the community that will be willing to spend "the big bucks". The success of our Springoree is in our hands!

The **Rotary Space Awards Dinner**, sponsored by the Rotary National Space Awards Foundation of Space Center Rotary Club, scheduled for the evening of May 8th is another activity of our club. Club members pay a reduced fee to this very important and prestigious event. If you have never been at one of these dinners, I recommend you make an effort to attend. You will find a lot of your Rotarian friends there and most of the people that make our space program move forward. It is one of the events that makes you proud to be in the Space Center Rotary Club.

And don't forget the **District Assembly** on April 18th and the District Convention April 30th to May 2nd. See you at Rotary!

Yours in Rotary, Mike

Club Meeting Agenda April 13, 2009

- Call to Order (12 noon)
- Song Leader: Debbie McBride
- Invocation by: Carlos Villagomez
- Pledge of Allegiance by Lamar Bowles
- Four Way Test by: Jerrold DeWease
- Introduction of visiting Rotarians and Guests: Bill Lowes
- RI Foundation Message of the Week by: David Coney
- Membership Moment: TBD
- Committee Short Presentation: Club History
- Induction of new member, new Fellow, etc
- Announcements: Suzanne Murdock
- Program: Introduction by Kippy Caraway
Speaker: Mike Sullivan, Houston City Councilman
- 1:00 Adjourn

DISTRICT CONFERENCE

Last minute reservations for the District Conference has led to an eventful day. Many phone calls to L'auberge du lac has resulted in the following results. They tell us that we have rooms available for Thur & Sat nights for \$169, but our block for Friday has been filled. Friday rooms may be available, but for \$229 rate. I have heard conflicting stories that there are no rooms available.

So here are two scenerios:

1. Book Thur & Sat at our block room rate of \$169, then try to book Friday night at \$229, or
2. Book rooms outside our block for Thur & Fri, \$109 & \$ 229 which is a wash. Then book Sat at our block rate of \$169

Tell reservations the block of rooms are in the Rotary District 5890 Conference name. Use the block code SROTRY These are the only options vs. finding rooms in other hotels in the area. Good luck in your efforts. Hopefully you booked your rooms earlier.

Jon McKinnie

NEW MEMBERS INDUCTED



*Top: Andrew Lewis, Attorney
Lewis & Lewis, Attorneys*



*Bottom: Mike Duckworth, Sr. VP:
Hometown Bank, League City
(former member reinstated)*

AMOCO FEDERAL
CREDIT UNION

AOVOCO
Art Oswald

BASTION
TECHNOLOGIES
Mike Hernandez

BELINDA K.
SKLOSS, LLC

EVENTS CALENDAR

Club Board of Directors 3rd Tuesday @ 7 a.m.
RNASA Committee 3rd Thursday @ 5:30 p.m.
Endowment Foundation Board..... 2nd Tuesday @ 7 a.m.
Rotary Foundation Committee last Wednesday @ 7 a.m.
Membership Committee 2nd Monday @ 1:15 p.m.
District 5890 Conference, Lake Charles, LA Apr 30 — May 2, 2009
Rotary Space Award Dinner May 8, 2009
Springoree May 14th
100th RI Convention, Birmingham, England June 21 — 24, 2009

As Rotarians and world leaders in *Service Above Self*, where do you stand? In your influence of the world, is it for liberty or for tyranny? This is what Abraham Lincoln said:

“We all declare for liberty; but in using the same word we do not all mean the same thing. With some the word liberty may mean for each man to do as he pleases with himself, and the product of his labor; while with others, the same word may mean for some men to do as they please with other men, and the product of other men’s labor. Here are two, not only different, but incompatible things, called by the same name — liberty. And it follows that each of the things is, by the respective parties, called by two different and incompatible names — liberty and tyranny.”

Which do you choose as your thesis and guide?

ORDER A SCRC SHIRT

I will be ordering polo shirts with the Rotary logo from Lands End for our new members (8). If you would like to order one please let me know your size and desired color (white or navy blue). Cost to members is ~\$30. Contact Bill Geissler at

wgeissler1@comcast.net

BEN BRIDGE
JEWELERS
Travis Vermeer

BILLY R. SMITH
Attorney at Law
Board Certified in
Estate Planning, Probate &
Real Estate Law

DELIA STEPHENS
Attorney at Law

DRDA
Olive Murphy-
Riker, CPA

PICTURES FROM THE APRIL 6TH MEETING

By Bob Mitchell, Club Photographer

*Top l to r: SCRC member, Brad Bailey, Dr. Julie Robinson & Kippy Caraway. Program Chr.
Bottom l to r: former member Robin Riley, SCRC Pres. Mike Hernandez and representatives of the Bay Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America receiving a \$1,000 check from SCRC.*



GAY & REITZ
Attorneys at Law

GREGG & GREGG,
P.C.
Attorneys at Law

GURRY
MECHANICAL,
L.P.
Ken Gurry

HOPPING EYE
ASSOCIATES
Vissett Sun

DISTRICT 5890 RAFFLE

Raffle tickets are now on sale. The prize is an exciting \$5,000 voucher to travel anywhere in the world and a Rotarian gets \$100 credit with RI for a Paul Harris Sustaining Membership. Both the winning ticket seller & the club president receive two round-trip tickets to any destination in the contiguous 48 states. See **DAVID CONEY** for more details.

HELP WANTED

Wanted - Assistant Photographer: to photograph Space Center Rotary Club events. Join existing Photographic Committee, equipment provided, minimum experience desired. Instruction available. Great working conditions among your friends and neighbors. Contact Bob Mitchell for details, 281-333-2881 or mitchell.rw@comcast.net

WATCH RAFFLE TICKETS

\$10 each or 6 for \$50



Items are needed for the live auction to be conducted at the Springoree. Trips, weekend stays, fishing trips, etc. are always good. Please see what you can do to help with very important event.

Nanci Rutledge
Direct: 713-854-0153



Silent Auction Items are needed for Springoree. Do notations of any size or value are accepted, no donated item is too small. Please bring all items or Gift Certificates to Laura Godwin call me to arrange pick up. All items must be in by May 3, 2009.

Laura Godwin
832-221-3616

Ben Bridge Jewelers, Baybrook Mall, through Travis Vermeer, has donated this watch, a Tag Heuer Carrera stainless steel silver dial chronograph with a retail value of \$3,200 to be raffled by the Springoree 2009.



HYDROCARBON
RESOURCE
RECOVERY

JSC
FEDERAL
CREDIT UNION
Mike Brown

J. PAMELA
PHOTOGRAPHY
Pam Culpepper

KIRCHOFF
PETERSON CO.
Don Kirchoff

**L. D. BOWLES
ASSOCIATES**

Lamar Bowles

**LAS COLINAS
CUSTOM
INTEIORS**

Rae DeCastro

**LEXUS OF
CLEAR LAKE**

Joey Dupuis

**EARL
&
TERRILEE
MAUDLIN**



SPEAKER APRIL 6, 2009 [see pics on next 2 pages]

Our featured speaker at the meeting on April 6th was **Julie A. Robinson, Ph.D.**, program scientist for the International Space Station (ISS) for NASA at JSC. She serves as the chief scientist for the ISS program, representing all ISS research and all scientific disciplines both inside and outside of the agency. She provides recommendations regarding research on the ISS to the ISS Program Manager and the Space Operations and Exploration Systems Mission Directorates at NASA Headquarters. She chairs the ISS Program Science Forum, made up of the senior ISS scientists for each of the primary agencies comprising the space station international partnership and represents NASA at the multinational agency ISS User Operations Panel. Dr. Robinson has an interdisciplinary background in the physical and biological sciences. Her professional experience has included research activities in a variety of fields, including virology, analytical chemistry, genetics, statistics, field biology and remote sensing. She has authored over 50 scientific publications. Dr. Robinson earned a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry and a Bachelor of Science in Biology from Utah State University in 1989. She earned a Doctor of Philosophy in Ecology, Evolution and Conservation Biology from the University of Nevada Reno in 1996. She began her career at NASA Johnson Space Center (working for Lockheed Martin) in the Image Science Laboratory. She collaborated with ecologists and conservation biologists in incorporating remote sensing data into their projects and led the initial development of the *Gateway to Astronaut Photography of Earth* on the World Wide Web (<http://eol.jsc.nasa.gov>), which distributes hundreds of thousands of images of Earth taken from orbit to scientists and the public each month. In 2004, she led a major NASA—sponsored scientific project to facilitate a distribution network for global maps of coral reefs based on NASA data and projects. She was an editor of the book: *Dynamic Earth Environments: Remote Sensing Observations from Shuttle—Mir Missions* (Wiley 2000), her textbook on *Remote Sensing for Ecology and Conservations Biology* is forthcoming in 2009. She joined NASA as a civil servant in the Office of the ISS Program Scientist in 2004, leading the development of a system for tracking ISS research and results, and providing the information to the public via the NASA Web Portal (<http://www.nasa.gov>). She has held positions of increasing responsibility in the ISS program, and was named Deputy ISS Program Scientist in 2006, and ISS Program Scientist in 2007.

Dr. Robinson presented a very interesting MS PowerPoint presentation on the *spinoffs* from the ISS, including the following:

1. Solar Panels (1980s)
2. Recycled Pavement (using old tires)
3. Thermometer Pill (1980s)
4. Invisible Braces (ceramic) to straighten teeth
5. Lasik (from spacecraft rendezvous & docking)
6. Aerodynamic Helmets (for cyclists)
7. Aerodynamic Tires
8. Cataract Detection (measuring protein levels in the eye)
9. Airocide TiO² technology to remove anthrax spores from mail
10. Atomic Oxygen O¹, O² (atomic scale restoration of artwork damaged by fire or vandalism)
11. Macroencapsulation (micro — balloons) — targeting delivery of anti-cancer drugs to shrink tumors
12. Salmonella Vaccine Development (identified the controlling gene responsible)

For more information on Dr. Robinson, visit her website at <http://asstudents.unco.edu/faculty/jrobinson/>

**MAUI WOWI
Shelley Smith**

MERRILL LYNCH

**Jerry & Bill
Smith**

**MRI
TECHNOLOGIES**

Tim Kropp

**PROSPERITY
BANK**

Mark Humphrey

SPACE CENTER
AUTOMOTIVE
Jerrold Dewease

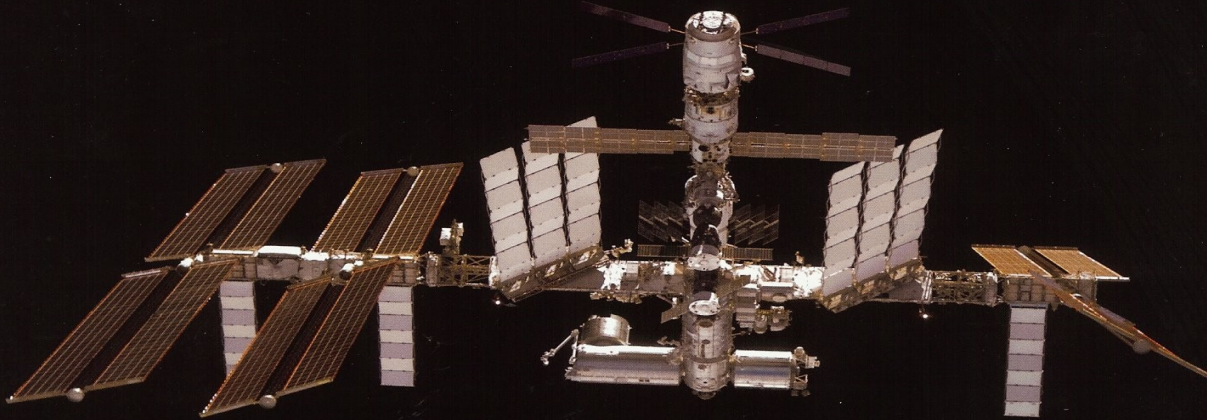
STATE FARM
INSURANCE
Johnny R. White
Agent

TEXAS
CITIZENS BANK
Mike Cornett

TEXAS WEALTH
MANAGEMENT
Mike Hesse

INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION

*All Laboratories Are
GO . . . for Research!*



GENE & DONNA
TROMBLEE

UNIVERSITY OF
HOUSTON
CLEAR LAKE
CAMPUS

WALDRON
&
SCHNEIDER
Attorneys at Law

WalMart
SuperCenter
Baytown
Al Stock, Mrg.

2009 Rotary Springoree



Bailey's American Grille
Reserve Your Tickets Now \$75.00 each

Wine Connoisseur's Club Tickets \$100.00 each



Raffle Tickets For Tag Heuer Watch



Silent and Live Auction!

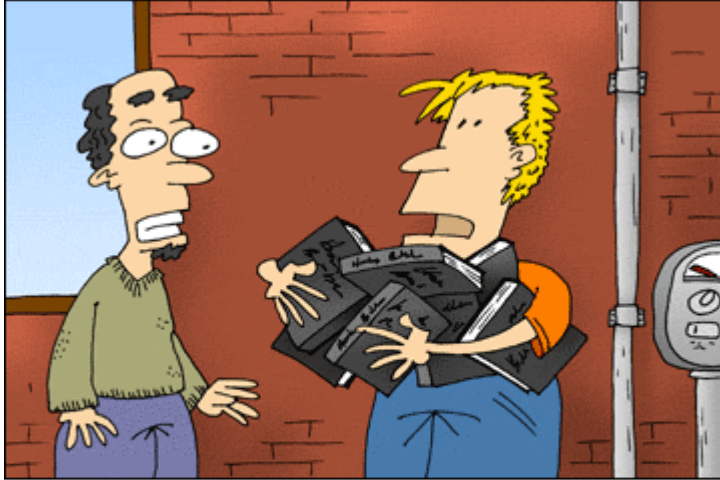
Live music by Ja'ndo
Steak & Prawn Dinner Including Table Wine
Cocktail Attire



Please contact Scott Rainey 713-724-8595 or SRams@aol.com

SOME FUNNIES

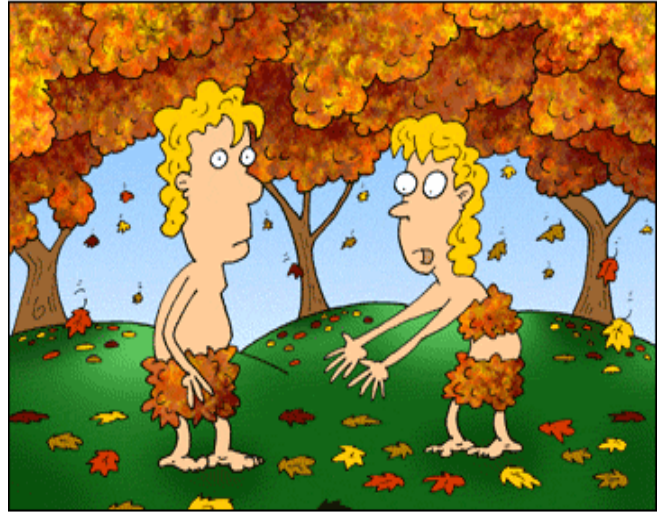
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02-18-2005

GOOD THING I FOUND YOU GIDEON ... IT SEEMS SOMEONE HAS BEEN HIDING ALL YOUR BIBLES IN HOTEL ROOMS

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10-06-2006

WILL YOU PLEASE PICK UP ALL YOUR CLOTHES?

Dan was a single guy living at home with his father, and working in the family business. Dan found out he was going to inherit an obscene amount of money when his sickly father died, so he decided he needed a wife with whom to share his good fortune.

One evening at an investment meeting, he spotted the most beautiful woman he had ever seen. Her natural beauty was so stunning that it took his breath away. He mustered up all his courage and approached her anyway.

'I may look like a simple and ordinary man to you,' he said to her, 'but in a very short time my father will die, and I'll inherit 200 million dollars.'

*When helmets
make no sense.*



© Victor Lucas 2006

*Time
to
leave.*



These items from church bulletins:

- The Fasting & Prayer Conference includes meals.
- The sermon this morning: 'Jesus Walks on Water.'
- The sermon tonight: 'Searching for Jesus.'
- Our youth basketball team is back in action Wednesday at 8 PM in the recreation hall. Come out and watch us kill Christ the King.
- Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.
- The peacemaking meeting scheduled for today has been cancelled due to a conflict.
- Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our community. Smile at someone who is hard to love. Say 'Hell' to someone who doesn't care much about you.
- Don't let worry kill you off - let the Church help.
- Miss Charlene Mason sang 'I will not pass this way again,' giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.
- For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.
- Next Thursday there will be tryouts for the choir. They need all the help they can get.
- The Rector will preach his farewell message after which the choir will sing: 'Break Forth Into Joy.'
- Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.
- A bean supper will be held on Tuesday evening in the church hall. Music will follow.
- At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be 'What Is Hell?' Come early and listen to our choir practice.
- Eight new choir robes are currently needed due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones.
- Scouts are saving aluminum cans, bottles and other items to be recycled. Proceeds will be used to cripple children.
- Please place your donation in the envelope along with the deceased person you want remembered.
- The church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment and gracious hostility.
- Potluck supper Sunday at 5:00 PM - prayer and medication to follow.
- The ladies of the Church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.
- This evening at 7 PM there will be a hymn singing in the park across from the Church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.
- Ladies Bible Study will be held Thursday morning at 10 AM. All ladies are invited to lunch in the Fellowship Hall after the B. S. is done.
- The pastor would appreciate it if the ladies of the congregation would lend him their electric girdles for the pancake breakfast next Sunday.
- Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7 PM. Please use the back door.
- The eighth-graders will be presenting Shakespeare's Hamlet in the Church basement Friday at 7 PM. The congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.
- Weight Watchers will meet at 7 PM at the First Presbyterian Church. Please use large double door at the side entrance.
- The Associate Minister unveiled the church's new tithing campaign slogan: Last Sunday: 'I Upped My Pledge - Up Yours'