

OGHS Sample pastor letter

Dear members,

Lent is traditionally a season of fasting and prayer. During this time, Christians pay close attention to spiritual disciplines that deepen our understanding of what God is doing in our lives and in the world. As a church, we spend time together hearing about and praying for the ministries of compassion and justice done through our support of One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS).

Jesus' ministry was among those who were most vulnerable. He preached good news to the poor and release to the captives. One Great Hour of Sharing helps us share this same good news to those same vulnerable people in our world today: those who are hungry, who are suffering from disaster, who are dealing with oppression and injustice in society.

Every gift made to this offering will meet the needs of people, and you will hear about just a few of these individuals over the coming weeks — in bulletin inserts and minutes for mission. These stories will help us to see the face(s) of those whose lives have been changed by our gifts, but they are only a few of the thousands and thousands of people served in this important ministry. I'd like to invite you to look at the minutes for mission and consider being the person to share one of these stories during an upcoming worship service.

I'd also like to invite you to visit the OGHS website

(www.presbyterianmission.org/oghs) to find out more information on how your gift helps people all over the world, and offer prayers for the people and projects who receive this support. We will be having a potluck on **???** where the children will read a new story about Gracie the fish, and then **???** will lead a discussion of how, by making relatively small changes in our lifestyle, we can radically increase our gifts, which will make huge differences in the lives of our sisters and brothers.

That brings me to the challenge, which also relates to our support of One Great Hour of Sharing. While we trust our OGHS programs to respond to the needs of our most vulnerable neighbors, those programs can only do so to the extent of our generosity. Like last year, I challenge each of you to give strong consideration to increasing your gift to the offering — you'll see how giving opens your heart to God's work in your own life. So I hope that you'll join us on Sunday, **???**, and that you'll join Christians all across the country in opening their hearts to witness tangibly to the abundant love of God through One Great Hour of Sharing.

Yours in the love and grace of Jesus Christ,

Rev. _____