



The Journal

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MARCH, 2008

PREPARING FOR EASTER

“So for Lent this year I am going to try to give up luke-warm hospitality, apathy in worship, haphazard growth in my faith, service designed to keep me in my comfort zone, and stinginess. Will you join me?”

My column last month ended with those words. Have you noticed a difference in me? I am afraid you have not. The truth might be that if we do all of those so subtly that no one can notice, our witness will not be such that it will draw others to worship and serve the crucified and risen Christ. We do not do them so that we are lifted up but so that others seeing Christ in us, glorify the God we serve, worship and praise. If all of us could walk the walk and talk the talk, more people would be asking us about the Christ and joining us in church.

Susan and I did not make it to Wisconsin in February. The weather seemed so threatening and afterward Dane said they had a foot and a half of snow on the Sunday we had planned to be there. When I don't have places to go and things to do, it will be wonderful to relax around the fireplace for as long as the snow falls, play games with the grandchildren, and remember the days of my youth with nostalgia. The forces of nature can remind us of the joys of being with family for an extended time. Sometimes we are reminded of the hazards, too.

Roger

BIBLE STUDIES IN LENT

During Lent our Bible Studies will continue to meet on Sunday nights at 7pm and on Wednesday mornings at 9pm in the church library. They will be one hour in length and will focus on the Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations as written by Bishop Robert Schnase. You can still consider investing an hour a week (giving up an hour of other pursuits) in this practice of intentional faith development?

Chapters to be studied are:

March 2 and 5 = Chapter 4 - Risk Taking Mission

March 9 and 12 = Chapter 2 - Passionate Worship

March 16 and 18 = Chapter 6 - Excellence and Fruitfulness

Will you come and study with us? (RNJ)

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MARCH GREETERS

(8:30) Worship

March 2 - Martha Ann Keener

March 9 - Dorothy Reed

March 16 - Annette Robertson

March 23 - Carletta Samons

March 30 - Joel & Suzanne Boren

(10:45) Worship

March 2 - Linda Ault

March 9 - Phyllis Halliday

March 16 - Bettina Moxley

March 23 - Benj. B. Moore

March 30 - Annette Robertson

Girl Scout Sunday
March 9, 2008

One Great Hour of Sharing (March 2, 2008): Share the goodness of life with those who hurt. Giving to One Great Hour of Sharing enables the United Methodist Committee on Relief to keep our promise that 100 percent of your designated gift goes entirely to specific causes.

Join For Prayer: Come join Rev. Jespersen for a time of prayer each Tuesday from 12:15 – 12:45 p.m. in the church sanctuary during Lent.

Tornado Relief: The United Methodist Committee on Relief is receiving a special offering to help in the recovery from the tornados in Tennessee, Alabama, Georgia, etc. You can contribute by marking your check “tornado” and Sally will get it to the right place.

IN EVERYTHING GIVE THANKS:
For this is the will of God. I Thessalonians 5:18a

Paul wrote this advice to the Thessalonians during a time of hardship and they responded with faith and hope. We cannot tell exactly what 2008 will bring for us, whether hardship or prosperity, but we can be sure that it is the will of God to give thanks in everything.

The theme of our stewardship campaign for 2008 has been set by the Finance Committee and the Administrative Council. It is: IN EVERYTHING GIVE THANKS.

You will receive in the mail a letter inviting you to include the church in your Thanks Giving this year. The letter will include a financial commitment card, an opportunity to renew your commitment of time, prayers and presence, and an opportunity to volunteer to work in the areas of the church where your interests and the needs of the community meet.

On Easter Sunday, a great day of CELEBRATION, we will include in worship an opportunity to bring your commitments to the church and leave them at the communion rail. If you cannot be in worship, I hope you will mail or bring them in during Holy Week so that all can be dedicated together. Susan and I look forward to making this commitment with you.

Remember, In Everything Give Thanks, for this is the will of God. (RNJ)

THE BABY PET

Have you noticed the BABY PET at the front of the Sanctuary? The note with it says, “Handle it with care and feed it green stuff (\$250) and it will grow into a full sized PET”. A PET is a Personal Energy Transportation vehicle. It is a gift of mobility for those who have lost the use of their legs. used by persons whose feet and legs make it impossible to use a tricycle. It is a hand-cranked, three-wheeled, sturdily built wheelchair with a hauling capacity.

The Missouri Annual Conference of the United Methodist church is inviting each church to bring the gift of mobility to a special offering when we meet in June. We will be receiving an offering here during the month of May.

The PET was invented by a Missouri United Methodist, Earl Miner, in 1994. Distribution began in 1995 and is now used in over 60 countries. It is a wonderful product that enables persons to be mobile and earn a living when their situation had seemed hopeless.

BURNING OUR MORTGAGE

Sunday, April 13 is the date set to celebrate the burning of our mortgage. It will be a great day of celebration. Our District Superintendent, David Norbury will preach. We will have only one worship service that day at 10:00 a.m. and Sunday school will be at 9:00 a.m. A potluck dinner will follow worship. Please mark your calendars and make plans to attend.

OPPORTUNITIES TO VOLUNTEER

Work with the food pantry to pick up food at the Boothheel Food Bank, Bring it to the Charleston Food Pantry and help with the distribution.

Residents Encounter Christ: volunteer up to two weekends a year in this program at SECC that is similar to Walk to Emmaus.

Deliver meals on Wheels for the Nutrition Center

Pack seeds for HOPE SEEDS on Thursday mornings.

Read with students at Hearn Elementary School.

Visit residents at Charleston Manor

Knit or crochet Prayer Shawls

VIM team – form one from our church or go with a team from another church

CHURCH CAMPS FOR SUMMER 2008

The schedule for our summer Church Camps is now available in the Church Office. There are camps for students as young as third grade and as close as Blue Mountain Camp near Fredricktown. Costs vary by length and type of camp. Our church helps pay for the cost of the camp.

Gifts to our camping fund are always accepted in the church office. They help with summer camps, mission trips for students, confirmation camp, WOW and other youth events that are held out of town. (RNJ)

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*Open Hearts, Open
Minds, Open Doors*

*MAKING
DISCIPLES*

*

*MAKING
A DIFFERENCE*

www.umccharleston.org



Scripture (from the lectionary) and Sermon Titles for February
(Titles subject to change daily) (Worship at 8:30 & 10:45pm; Sunday
School 9:30am)

**Theme for Lent – Five Practices of Fruitful
Congregations**

Sunday, March 2, **We will celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion**
“Extravagant Generosity: That Wonderful Feeling!”
Psalm 136 , 2 Corinthians 9:10-15, 1 Thessalonians 5:16-22

Sunday, March 9, **“Risk Taking Mission: Comfort Zones”**
Psalm 1, James 2:8-17, Matthew 25:31-40

Sunday, March 16, **“Passionate Worship: Surrounded by Jesus”**
Children’s Easter Music
Psalm 150, Philippians 2:1-11, Matthew 21:1-9

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Sunday, March 16, 6p.m., First Assembly of God Church
Charleston Ministerial Alliance Holy Week Services

Maundy Thursday, March 20, 7pm. Communion and Tenebrae
“He Loved Them to the End”
Psalm 116, Exodus 12:1-14, I Corinthians 11:23-26, John 13:1-11

Good Friday, March 21, noon-12:45pm, Prayer in the Sanctuary
“The Seven Last Words of Jesus”

Sunday, March 23, **“Excellence and Fruitfulness: Dying to Live”**
Psalm 118:1-19 , John 15:12-17, Matthew 28:1-10

Sunday, March 30, **“All Of Us Are Witnesses”**
Acts 2:14-32, Psalm16, 1 Peter 3-9, John 20:19-31

You are cordially invited to attend the Wedding Celebration
Of

Kimberly Susan Price
And
Matthew Elgin Branum
Saturday, April 12, 2008
At 1:30 p.m.
First Baptist Church
Charleston, Missouri

Reception immediately following at the Mississippi County Historical Home

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

1 - Jeff Raines, Mary Kirk & Sam Austin
2 - Julie Hankinson
3 - Susan White
4 - Josh Marshall & Whitney Delay
5 - Jane Griffen
7 - Sara Gerau
8 - Natalie Brewer
10 - Hamil Corse & Kati Luehmann
12 - Richard Frazier, Wilda DeField & Lisa Fitzgerald
13 - Samantha Ward & Bill Hunter
14 - Rabb Whitehead
16 - Faye Moxley
17 - Hetherington Story & Paige Huls
18 - Caitlyn Tinsley, Jimmy French & Lori Ann Malugen
19 - Maggie McNeary, Mari McNeary & Lorraine Stallings
21 - Bill Harper, Jennifer Moore & Leonard Cook
22 - Buck Story & Anita McInnis
23 - Mary Whitehead
24 - Riley Brown, Jr.
29 - Suellen Fenton & Tim Burke
30 - Lindsay Burke
31 - Virginia Ridings & Bobby Hearn

SCHEDULE FOR MARCH

NURSERY:

March 2 - Brittany Stack
March 9 - Chelsea Stallings
March 16 - Madeline Burke
March 23 - Chelsea Stallings
March 30 - Samantha Stack

ACOLYTES:

(8:30) March 2 & 9 - Layton Jones
March 16 - Courtney Jones
March 23 - Jane Ellen Brink
March 30 - Chelsea & Carly Stallings
(10:45) March 2 - Bryan Thurston
March 9 - Scarlett Goodin
March 16 - Gretta Goodin
March 23 - Isabella Goodin
March 30 - Will Ferrell

COMMUNION SERVERS:

(8:30) Stephen Burke, Joel & Suzanne Boren
(10:45) Corey & Meredith Adkisson & Sherry Austin

HEAD USER: William McNeary

UMYF IN MARCH

UMYF will meet at the Family Life Center on Sunday, March 2, 5:30-7pm A light meal will be served. Come and bring friends.

Through Holy Week from Monday, March 17 thru Thursday, March 20, the youth will meet at 7am at the Family Life Center for breakfast and devotions. Rides will be provided to school. All are invited to come and bring friends. Also, the Jr. & Sr. Highs will lead the Sunrise Service Easter morning.

The youth are beginning to plan to help lead a worship service using some ideas and video from WOW and EXPLOSION. (RNJ)