

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH



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Remember man
that you are
dust and into
dust you shall
return.

A View from the Big Pew

Dear Friends,

Egad, Lent is upon us!

I don't know about you, but in the Tourangeau house it seems like the Christmas stuff was just tucked away. We think we got it all this year on the first sweep. In the parish office we are still recovering from the Annual Meeting. Now Lent!

Let's turn our minds to the invitation of that Holy Season and let it do its magic on us. Each of the seasons of the liturgical year does indeed have its unique way of calling our daily living and faith practices into that season's vantage point and perspective on the mystery of Christ and our redemption. We might as well take advantage of that wisdom.

Let's first remember that Lent calls us to renewal not to groveling. Those preparing for baptism at Easter move through Lent as a time of preparation. The ancient church used the time before Easter for the reconciliation of "notorious" sinners. All Christians are called in Lent to self-examination and repentance, to renewal of the practices of prayer, fasting and self-denial; and to reapply themselves to the disciplines of reading and meditating on God's holy Word.

Lent invites us to a seasonal check on how we live out self-examination and repentance, how we keep our prayer and other spiritual disciplines fresh and meaningful, and how we do at placing ourselves into God's presence through scripture. Our Sunday liturgy helps us.

The Lenten liturgy begins differently from other seasons: we begin with confession by using the Penitential Order (BCP p. 319 or 351). We start our worship with a blessing on the Lord who forgives our sins: then a scriptural text that reminds us of Jesus' summary of the Law, of the reality of our sin and the reality of God's receiving our confession of that sin, or of the confidence we can have in Jesus, our great high priest. This is followed by a general confession and the pronouncing God's pardon of our sin. After all, if Lent is about self-examination and repentance, let's put that up front where everyone can see it.

During Lent in place of the usual *Gloria* in praise of God we say or sing the ancient Greek refrain, *Kyrie, eleison* (Lord, have mercy upon us). Don't be fooled though, for that too, is an act of praise to God. It is as if we are saying "Lord, you promise do to this. Remember us and do your thing."

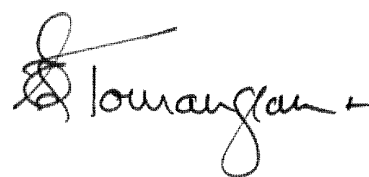
The Lenten lectionary gives us great, though longer, readings from scripture. From the Old Testament we'll read of the serpent and Eve, the beginning of Abraham's story, the Israelite's complaining in the desert and God's provision of their need for water, the anointing of David to be king in place of Saul, and the vision of the valley of dry bones. The psalms are well-known and strong: 32, 121, 95, 23, 130, each speaking from the human heart in the midst of the human condition. For the second lesson we'll read from Romans, Paul's great exposition of the faith (the first book of Christian theology, some say). The gospel readings will tell of Jesus' temptations in the wilderness after his baptism, of his conversations with Nicodemus about being born anew and of the woman at the well (in Nablus) about living water, of the man born blind and of the raising of Lazarus. These are profound readings and can serve you well as sources of reflection or discussion, using the Sunday bulletin (and your sermon notes?) throughout the week.

Lent and baptism are linked together. Our Intercessions will follow the structure of our baptismal promises. The question to ponder is, "How does the covenant made by us or on our behalf at baptism [*to continue in the Apostles' teaching and fellowship, the breaking of bread, and the prayers; to proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ; to seek and serve God in all persons, loving our neighbor as ourselves; to strive for justice and peace among all people and to respect the dignity of every human being; as well as to give thanks to God for all things and to remember that we are made in the image and likeness of God*] relate to those joys and concerns, those questions of conscience and morality that we place before God in our prayer?"

At the later service in Lent we will use Eucharistic Prayer D, which prays quite explicitly for Christ's Body, the Church, us. We pray specifically that God will remember the Church, reveal its unity, guard its faith and preserve it in peace. We need that.

Beyond the liturgy proper there are the props. In Lent we use plain vestments, meant to recall “natural” unbleached or un-dyed fabric. There are no flowers, though we do use bare branches behind the cross. We set the sterling silver aside and use simple glassware for communion. All of these changes are meant to help us remember the call of Lent to simplify our lives, to consider what is truly needful (and, conversely, the beauty of those things we set aside for a time), and to live to a degree a “fasting” from some of our most favorite communal things. If we are asked to do this in our private lives, we can do it in our corporate life as well.

May we hear the invitation of the Church this Lent, and may our faith and practice be enriched and blessed by the One who calls us each by name.



Now if we could just apply Lenten discipline to the eighth sacrament and our favorite sacred cow, the Coffee Hour. Here’s a thought – how about pretzels during Lent, and we could give the money saved on donuts to our companion dioceses of Bor and Brasilia?



Prayer for the good of the soul
Fasting for the good of the body
Alms giving for the good of our neighbor

2nd Wednesday Lunchtime Concert

12:10pm – February 13, 2008

Margot Marlatt, cello

The artist at our monthly lunchtime concert in February will be St. John’s member Margot Marlatt. She will play music written for cello and piano by Francois Couperin, Claude Debussy, Max Reger and David Popper. Enjoy a simple lunch following and catch up on each other’s Christmas happenings!

Acknowledgements

In 2007 we acknowledge, with thanks, these gifts to St. John's,
given beyond pledges to the operating budget

A monthly gift as a thank offering and one individual gift to the **Building Fund**;

Gifts from ten individuals or parish families and cash offerings to support the **Diocese of Jerusalem**;

Gifts from eleven individuals or parish families and cash offerings to support **Episcopal Relief and Development, including Darfur**;

Evensong offering to benefit **Big Brothers and Big Sisters and CASA**;

Gifts in memory of Ann Rankin, Dorothy Day, Duvall Jones, Edward Elliott, Frances Phillips, Glenn Schoenhals, Helen Watts, Jack Burns, Jackie Thomas, James Smith, Marjorie Walker, Michael Matthews and Ralph Nicholson;

Gifts from sixteen individuals or parish families to the **Rector's Discretionary Fund**;

Gifts from eleven individuals or parish families to benefit the **St. John's / LUM Food Pantry**;

Gifts from two parish families to underwrite expenses and many cash offerings to support **U2Charist**;

Gifts from twenty-seven parish families and cash offerings as well as gifts of labor for the **Habitat for Humanity Apostles' Build**;

Gifts from five parish families and cash offerings for the **Episcopal Fund for Human Need**;

Gifts from eight parish families or individuals and cash offerings for **Hunger Hike**;

Gifts from three individuals and a parish family to the **General Endowment Fund**;

Gifts from nineteen parish families or individuals and cash offerings for the **United Thank Offering**;

Gifts from twenty-eight parish families or individuals for forty-seven **Wish Tree Gifts** including books, puzzles, blocks and theme play sets;

Gifts from fifty-five parish families or individuals and cash offerings to **Jubilee Christmas**;

Two gifts for use within the **Music Department**;

A gift toward a **computer for St. George's College, Jerusalem**;

A gift to ensure the enjoyment of **Music for Everyone** at St. John's;

Several gifts to the Trinity Church, Bloomington **in memory of Bishop Ted Jones**;

A gift to maintain the **Memorial Garden**;

Special Offerings including Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas from sixty-five parish families or individuals.

UTO



This is a month of thanksgiving and Blessings. February is here! We each receive so many blessings that we are able to share with others.

Pat Tourangeau has been a member of the national UTO Committee for a number of years. This committee is responsible for determining the grants given by the United Thank Offering. Remember that every penny received goes for grants!! The coins and bills we give in thanksgiving help others have their needs met.

Have a great month!
Yours in Christ,
Mary Louise Davis

Nursery News

Help keep our nursery sparkling clean! We will be thoroughly cleaning the nursery on Saturday February 2 at 9:00 AM! Your help will be greatly appreciated. If you are able to join us please email Angela Mosier (ajmosier@insightbb.com) or Annie Schreiber (annieschreiber81@yahoo.com).

Busy Moms looking for a break?! There will be a Mom's Morning Out on February 19 from 9:00 – 11:00 AM. Let your little ones enjoy our nursery while you take some time for yourself!

Habitat for Humanity's 2008 Cover Indiana Bike Tour

Get out your bikes and start training for the "2008 Cover Indiana Bike Tour." Habitat for Humanity of Lafayette invites you to join them as they 'Cover Indiana' during the week of May 11 to May 17. The goal is not only to help raise many walls but to also raise awareness of Habitat's mission of ensuring that every man, woman and child has a decent place to sleep at night. For additional information about 'Cover Indiana' please contact Hailey Dady at 765-447-8401 x2404 or visit www.habitatindiana.org/biketour. See Teresa for entry forms.

Property Committee Information and Quiz

The St. John's Property Committee meets the first Saturday of every month at 9:00 a.m. in the Commons. A monthly update meeting is followed by working on necessary projects for that month. The next meeting is scheduled for February 2, 2008 at 9:00 a.m.

Top 5 Work Projects List

- #5 - repair upstairs hallway ceiling near west stairway
- #4 - caulk and paint around new upstairs windows
- #3 - scratch and dent removal on pews
- #2 - re-glue baseboard trim (all over)
- #1 - New Property Committee Members (we like the ones we have but we want more!)

If you're interested in assisting with one of these projects, please contact Tony Bailey at: tktbaily@earthlink.net or 463-7263 for information and supplies.

So, you think you know St. John's??

How many exterior entrances/exits (ground level) does St. John's have?

- A. 5
- B. 8
- C. 10
- D. 12

Watch this space next month for the answer. (you can still work with others)

January's Question & Answer: So, you think you know St. John's??

How many furnaces does St. John's have?

- A. 1
- B. 3 (Nave, Commons, offices)
- C. 5 (Nave, Commons, offices, upstairs classrooms, Food Pantry)
- D. 14

The answer is D.14 I didn't believe it either but it's true.



Expergefaction – The action of awakening or rousing; the state, condition or fact of being awakened or aroused. Adopted from Latin *expergene*, to awaken, and *facere*, to make, cause; [hence] *expergiscence*, an awakening from sleep.

Sir James Murray's *New English Dictionary*, 1897