



Saint John's Journal

FEBRUARY 7, 2010

ANOTHER WORLD IS POSSIBLE!

ST. JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Lent Begins February 17—Ash Wednesday

We begin our Lenten journey Feb. 17 at 7 p.m. with our Ash Wednesday observance. Taking the form of evening prayer, the service will include special music, the imposition of ashes and Communion.

Ashes placed on one's forehead is a very ancient symbol of our willingness to turn to God and away from self-interest and sin. It's one of many Lenten traditions that connect us to our Jewish roots as the people of God.

During the season of

Lent we also celebrate the Communion each Sunday. Lent is the season of redemption and through Communion we come to the center of that work—Jesus' death on our behalf for our forgiveness.

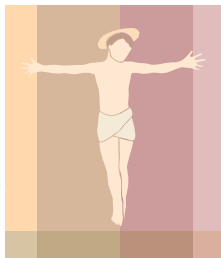
We gather for two special worship opportunities during Holy Week. On Holy Thursday (April 1) we focus on the sacrament of communion. Jesus asked us to remember him in this way when he shared a Passover meal with his friends.

On Holy Saturday (April 3) we gather for the Easter Vigil anticipating Jesus' resurrection. During this service of Scripture & music we renew our baptismal vows and welcome new members into our St. John's family. If you would like to join St. John's, we invite you to talk with Pastor about your decision. No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!

Thanks for joining us on the Lenten journey!

Words from the Cross

The Gospel accounts indicate that Jesus made seven statements from the cross. During our Lenten journey, Pastor Bill will preach a series of sermons from these texts. The sermon series begins on



Ash Wednesday (Feb. 17) with Jesus' prayer, "Father, forgive them for they do not know what they are doing." The series will conclude on Palm Sunday (Mar. 28). See the web site for more information.

Weekly Study Begins Tonight

Pastor Bill will offer a weekly Bible Study on Sunday evenings at 6 p.m., beginning TODAY. We will study passages suggested by our reading through the Bible this year. Pastor will be prepared to emphasize reading Scripture from the margins. To

find out more about what that means he suggests the book, *Reading the Bible from the Margins* by Miguel De La Torre.

Location depends on the size of the group. Please sign-up on the bulletin board or talk with Pastor Bill ASAP.

Young @ Heart

The Young at Heart Fellowship will be meeting this Wednesday, February 10, for a picnic-style potluck at 11:30am.

Hotdogs will be served, please bring a friend and a dish to pass along with your own table service. Hope to see you there!

Directory Note

Margaret Bradford has moved! If you want to keep in touch, her new address is:

Margaret Bradford
 Villa Maria
 1305 Walker Ave.
 N.W., Apt # 4306
 616.776.8494

This Week...

Today
 Living the Questions (after worship)

Weekly Bible Study, 6pm

Monday
 Worship Team, Covenant Village, 6:45pm

Wednesday
 Sew & Sews, 9:30 am
 Young at Heart Picnic potluck, 11:30 am

Next Sunday
 Choir Rehearsal, 9am
 (please be prompt!)

Worship & Worship Centers, 10am

Weekly Bible Study, 6pm

Griffins Game, Feb. 20, 7 p.m.

St. John's is going to the Griffins Hockey game on Saturday, February 20, 7:00 p.m. Join your St. John's friends, and bring along your other



friends! Lower bowl tickets are \$14.00 each. Sign-up in Fellowship Hall to attend. Minimum 20 people; bring a friend! Questions? Talk to Ron M.

Choir, Drama & Bells

The choir is welcoming new members for the Lent/Easter season. Join them by attending rehearsals at 9 a.m. Sunday mornings. The choir will sing during the Lenten Season, on Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday and Easter.



The Lent/Easter seasons also offer an opportunity for drama in worship. The bell choir is also hoping to re

form and ring for Easter. Please contact Sue Bradford if you are willing to take a role.

Dance, instrumental music, poetry and other arts provide ways for God to speak to and through us. You are invited to share your talents in our worship time. Please contact Marilyn Gillette to schedule an opportunity.

Serving Sunday:

This Sunday :

- Greeters:** Sue & Dave Bradford
- Liturgist:** Sue Bradford
- Ushers:** Jack Belke, Bill Foster, Jerry Krauss, Jim Stephens
- Coffee Hour:** Todd Krapp
- Nursery Volunteer:** Amanda Reed
- Acolyte:** Kylie Moore
- February Bulletin Covers:** Given by Doris Bauer in memory of my twin sister, Dorothy

Next Sunday:

- Greeters:** Doris Bauer & Phyllis Roh
- Liturgist:** Ron Cammel
- Ushers:** Jack Belke, Bill Foster, Jerry Krauss, Jim Stephens
- Coffee Hour:** Available! Talk to Ron C.
- Nursery Volunteer:** Tarah Tiedt .
- Acolyte:** Anthony Garza

Office Hours: Weds., Thurs., Fri., 9am—2pm

Flowers, etc.

Dates are still available for you to sign up for 2010 Altar Flowers (\$30/week) and Bulletin Covers (\$34/month). Sign-up sheets are posted on the Worship Team bulletin board. Please be sure to include your memorial or honorarium.



Scheduling for 2010 Services

The Worship Team is completing the 2010 schedules for liturgists, communion servers, and greeters. If you are willing to participate in one or more of these activities, we invite you to sign up on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall.

We are pleased that so many of you have already given your time and talent to church ser-

vices. Your continued participation contributes to a vital worship experience for everyone worshipping at St. John's.

Be sure to check the schedules to be sure you are prepared for your dates of service. Remember, you schedule your own replacements. If you have questions or concerns, please call Marilyn Gillette at 453-0456.

One Great Hour of Sharing

Remember the feeding of the 5,000: when Jesus asked the disciples to feed the hungry crowd, the disciples despaired (Mark 6:34-44). The five loaves and two fish seemed insignificant compared to the massive need. Yet when each gave sacrificially from what they had, through God's blessing, their gifts turned into a miracle of compassion for all.

Through One Great Hour of Sharing, our gifts meet compelling needs, while also bringing the blessing of compassion into our own lives. The current economic situation is challenging for many of us. For many others, it has

pushed beyond challenging to be life-threatening. I intend to increase my gift this year, and encourage you to consider doing so, also. Heed Jesus' call to feed his sheep with a generous, even sacrificial, gift to One Great Hour of Sharing. Sharing your resources, you'll change lives — including your own.

Attendance

Jan. 3	81
Jan. 10	75
Jan. 17	81
Jan. 24	101

Stewardship Update

Weekly Current Fund Need	\$ 2,800.00
Current Fund Offering Last Week	\$ 1,660.20
Current Fund Balance	-\$ 2,494.38

Read Along

Here is what Pastor Bill is currently reading. He invites you to read along:

Stony the Road We Trod, Cain Hope Felder, Editor
Reading the Bible from the Margins by Miguel De La Torre

Listening Hearts: discerning call in community by Farnham, Gill, McLean & Ward

Grounded in God by Farnham, Gill, McLean & Ward

Immunity to Change by Robert Kegan & Lisa Lahey

Mobile Food Pantry

Next Food Truck Thursday Mar. 4.

On Feb. 4, 110 families were served food which fed 364 individuals.