



The Grapevine

February 2010

“Does Lent Make Any Difference In Our Lives?”

“If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given to him.”

- James 1:5

Most of us have been observing Lent for a long time. But have we ever asked ourselves “Does Lent really make any difference in my life?” Does this particular Lent have any special significance for me? Will I be different in any respect after Lent is over? Will this Lenten season prepare me to experience Good Friday and Easter in a more powerful way. Will Lent help me to push away the stones that keep me trapped in a personal tomb—stones that prevent me from seeing the light and from breaking out of my secure hiding place so that I can start facing life and human need with something of the courage, daring, and faith of Jesus?”

When I was a young Catholic boy, Lent primarily seemed to involve giving up something for the entire season—from Ash Wednesday until Easter Day. For me it meant giving up something I really enjoyed, like ice cream or chocolate chip cookies. This was supposed to symbolize the sacrifice and self-discipline which every follower of Jesus should exhibit. Later on, when I was in seminary, Lent involved fasting one day a week (for some reason I always chose Wednesday) as John Wesley advised all of his ministers to do. I gave the money I would spend for the three meals that day to “Bread for the World”. In a time of widespread hunger throughout the world—fasting seemed to be an appropriate and symbolic gesture. I wanted to experience hunger for at least one day a week—as if skipping three meals for one day would really raise my consciousness of what it means to be poor, hungry and homeless. I’m not sure it accomplished that. I can think of many things I would like to give up for Lent--hopefully for the rest of my life. Prejudice, for example, which lurks just beneath the surface, causing me to prejudge people or groups or events. The apostle Paul writing to the churches of Galatia, listed a whole array of vices that he urged the church people of his time to give up—including idolatry, jealousy and anger.

Certainly not idolatry--that is such an old fashioned word, reminding us of stories about bowing down to idols and creating graven images. An idol is anything we worship with all our heart as a substitute for God. Can you think of certain idols that are being worshiped today? Nationalism? Sports? Winning the jackpot up at Central City/Blackhawk. Idolizing certain movie, T.V. stars, sports figures, and rock music stars? The cult of success at any price?

What can we do in a positive way to accept Jesus’ challenge and change our life-style to make room for him in our thoughts and deeds? Jesus came into Galilee preaching the gospel of God, saying: “Repent, and believe in the gospel.” The word “repentance” seems to be so “old-fashioned”, doesn’t it? How often do we really repent? By repenting, perhaps Jesus wants us to face up to our real selves, to be honest about our mistakes and false values, and to stop passing judgment on others. Jesus also asked us to “believe in the gospel”. What does that mean? Does it not call for trust, faith, and obedience? A willingness to listen to what God may be trying to say to us? A greater sensitivity to situations which confront us with human needs that requires us to respond in some concrete ways?

- Continued on next page -

The Food Basket committee reports they are in need of the following items for the food bank:

- Peanut Butter
- Cereal
- Desserts (cookie or cake mixes)

Two Opportunities For Worship Every Sunday

- 8:00 a.m. Casual Worship Service
- 9:15 a.m. Adult Sunday School
- 9:15 a.m. Children’s Sunday School (1 hr)
- 10:30 a.m. Worship service w/ short Sunday school
- Holy Communion 1st Sunday of each month

Does Lent Make Any Difference In Our Lives?

- continued -

I find it interesting that Jesus invited common lay people to become his disciples—not the religious leaders. He didn't try to recruit the learned scholars and influential philosophers of his day. He chose ordinary people. And what was their response? Did they say, "Sorry, I'm just too busy to leave my work?" Or "I just don't have the time or energy?" Or "Why don't you ask someone else? I'm not qualified. Simon and Andrew didn't offer excuses. Christ called, and they were obedient to his call. They left their nets immediately. I believe that Christ still calls us to commitment two thousand years later. During Lent this year, let us do what we can to help our church become more loving and more supportive of one another, so that we weep with those who weep, rejoice with those who rejoice, and celebrate joyfully the life enriching experience of being members of the Body of Christ.

We need the church, and the church needs us. In the midst of the loneliness, the disillusionment, the cynicism and despair that we see all around us today in the midst of horrible acts of terrorism, earthquakes, and a global recession, don't we need the healing and saving spirit of Christ we find in the fellowship of the church now more than ever?

Christ calls you and me to commitment and to community. And he does this so we may also hear his call to serve others outside the church with concern and compassion. How can we begin to heal and reconcile and help bring justice to all of God's children?

Christ gives each of us the freedom to obey or disobey his call. We are free to drop our nets and follow and we are equally free to stay in our comfortable little boats and refuse to get involved. During the season of Lent may we become especially aware of the fact that Jesus needs us for the working out of his mission and ministry here on earth, in our own time and place just as much as we need Him for guidance, for inspiration, for perseverance, and for strength.

I encourage all of you to make this a more meaningful Lent by participating in our Special services — Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Sunrise — and by attending our Lenten Series on three Sunday evenings.

We will be participating in these with the Erie, Niwot, and Lafayette United Methodist Churches. The Seder Haggadah Service and Meal will take place in our fellowship hall with just our own congregation because it is such a popular event and we only have room for people from our own congregation. It will be led by Rabbi Rose. See the complete schedule in the calendar insert in this February newsletter. May this be a season when significant spiritual growth will take place for each of us.

Wishing you God's richest blessings,

Pastor Bob

Caregiver Assistance

Mary Boven, longtime church member, is starting a new career in private duty nursing on her own. She is interested in working with our church older individuals who are care givers and need a respite day off, or she can offer private duty for husband or wife who needs to work and must hire someone to be with the person at home. She has been a nurse for 40 years and works mainly with older individuals. She has home health care experience as well, so she can provide assistance with bathing, food preparation etc.

Please contact her for pricing and availability.

Youth News

Janeen is back! "Mamma J" decided that she missed working with the youth and is back as the Youth Leader. We missed her, too!

Some upcoming events:

Our first meeting of 2010 is Sunday, February 7th after the 10:30am service. The youth will be filling up Valentine's Day care packages for our college kids. They should bring things they think that the ex-youth would appreciate receiving. We'll be sending the packages to 7 youths, so please bring 7 of whatever you are donating. Thanks!

Also, the chili cook-off will be Sunday, February 21st at 5:30PM. There will be the usual People's Choice awards, as well as mystery judges selecting the prestigious Judge's Choice awards. Start dusting off your chili recipes!

On Saturday, January 30, the youth (Grant and Courtney) joined other youth groups in Greeley to play broom ball. A big thank you to Alan Hill for driving!



Grant Hill (yellow sleeves) anticipates the oncoming ball



Courtney Peverley and Katie Gray (FUMC Greeley) are clearly not crucial to the success of their team..

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WANT TO GET A HEAD START? The newsletter deadline for the next issue is February 25. Please email any articles, pictures, or suggestions, to our editor:

courtney_peverley@hotmail.com

Send mailing address changes to:

sheilaspanglar@earthlink.net

A Biblical Times Geography Lesson

The Garden of Eden was located in Iraq

Noah built the ark in Iraq.

The Tower of Babel was located in Iraq.

Abraham was from Ur, which is located in southern Iraq.

Isaac's wife Rebekah is from Nahor, a town in Iraq.

Jacob met Rachel in Iraq.

Jonah preached in Nineveh—which is a city in Iraq.

The ten tribes of Israel were conquered by Assyria, which is in Iraq.

Daniel was in the lion's den in Iraq.

Belshazzar, the King of Babylon saw the 'writing on the wall' in Iraq.

Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon, carried the Jews captive into Iraq.

Ezekiel preached in Iraq.

The wise men were from Iraq.

The disciple Peter preached in Iraq.

The "Empire of Man" found in the Book of Revelation is called Babylon—a city in Iraq.

No other nation, except Israel, has more history and prophecy associated with it than Iraq. Israel is the nation most often mentioned in the Bible, but Mesopotamia, which is now present day Iraq, was the cradle of civilization! The name "Iraq" means "country with deep roots" – and it certainly is!



It's Not Too Early To...
RELAY!



Sure, the annual Relay for Life isn't until August, but it's not too early to start planning! This year, our very own Janeen Hill is the co-chair of the event. As exciting as this is, she is unable to be the leader of our LUMC team. Caroline and Courtney Peverley are volunteering to captain the team again, but we need participants! See Courtney for more information.

Also: Necklaces for sale! \$5 each, and revenue goes to support the American Cancer Society. Contact Janeen Hill, or a Peverley sister if you are interested.

Jefferson Street Preschool Update

What an exciting time for the preschool. Our enrollment continues to increase. We now have 8 students in our Monday, Wednesday, Friday class of 4 year olds, three of which are full day students, yeah!! We have 5 students in the Tuesday, Thursday class of 3 year olds. That means we have added 4 new students since September. Our count for the fall is now at 17 students and we are still doing daily tours. Children and parents alike seem to fall in "love at first sight" with the school and the staff. One such parent liked the school so much that she brought her daughter back the very next day for class. It has been a slow start but things are looking up for our fall session. God has had his hand in this preschool and all the people involved can feel it. He started us slow so that we would not be overwhelmed. As in our Christian faith, he is guiding us as we take baby steps so that our preschool and church can be blessed with the knowledge that we are making a difference in the community. Now that we have our feet wet, we better look out because God will want us to do great things with our blessings.

The preschool is planning an amazing summer program. Summer can be a difficult time for preschools due to decreased enrollment, so we decided to try to stimulate interest and enrollment by offering six 2-week summer camps. The themed camps will offer music, games, academics, socialization, special guests and lots of fun. The details have not all been worked out yet but will coming in the next few weeks. Be sure to look for them on the bulletin board and in upcoming newsletters.

On behalf of the preschool committee and staff, we want to thank you all for all the support you have given us this first year. We hope you will continue to keep the preschool in your prayers as we go into the summer months and our second year.

If you have questions or would like more information regarding the preschool, please call one of the committee members- Nancy Holloway, Sheila Newton, Claire VanMeter or Sandy Gormley.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

- The Worship Committee is needing volunteers to help with the preparation, serving and clean-up for the Seder Meal. All wishing to help please call, email, or see Sheila Newton and come to the Worship Committee Planning Meeting March 7 at 11:30 a.m upstairs.
- Packing of food baskets will be done Friday night, March 12, at 7:00PM. Persons with extra energy and strong backs are encouraged to arrive a little early to help haul food up from the basement.
- Delivery of Food Baskets is scheduled for Saturday morning, March 13th, at 9:00AM.

Haiti – Operation Resurrection

OPERATION RESURRECTION 2010:

A Compassionate Response to the Earthquake from the Western Jurisdiction

The bishops and other leaders of the Western Jurisdiction of The United Methodist Church call our people and our churches to honor the spirit of the Haitian people and our staff who were caught in the earthquake. United Methodist Committee on Relief staff, Rev. Sam Dixon and Rev. Clinton Rabb, died in the earthquake, and Rev. Jim Gulley was rescued. Help us reach the following goals by Easter, 2010. Gifts already received will count towards the goals.

GOAL # 1

Plan to learn about Haiti's history, culture and economy.

GOAL # 2

Gifts totaling \$100,000 for recovery and relief through UMCOR

HOW CAN I HELP?

- Remember the people of Haiti in worship and receive a special offering
- Encourage a discipline of Lenten giving
- Make a personal contribution
- Host a Haiti relief fundraiser with your neighbors

For more information or to give on-line go to www.umcor.org. Gifts through your local church should be marked for "UMCOR Advance #418325."

GOAL # 3

25 Volunteer in Mission (VIM) trips to Haiti over the next 5 years

HOW CAN I HELP?

- Schedule and organize a team from your local church, district or conference
- Join a group that someone else is planning
- Sponsor a young person to join a VIM team

Contact Heather Wilson, Western Jurisdiction UMVIM Coordinator at www.umvimwj.blogspot.com/

GOAL # 4

Replace 23,000 Health Kits that have already been shipped from UMCOR West Depot

HOW CAN I HELP?

- Ask members of your Sunday School Class, Youth Group, or UMW to assemble health kits and send to UMCOR West (1479S 700 W, Salt Lake City, UT, 84104) or send \$12 per kit to UMCOR West marked #901440 for Health Kits
- Schedule a VIM team to travel to Salt Lake City to help assemble kits

Bless our acts of obedience that in some small way we might be used to restore hope, increase faith and widen the pathway to peace.

100% of gifts through UMCOR go directly to relief. In order to track progress and for more resources go to www.westernjurisdictionumc.org.

Original message forwarded from the Western Jurisdictional Leadership Team, the Western Jurisdiction College of Bishops through the Western Jurisdiction Communications Team to the members of the annual conferences of the Western Jurisdiction.

Skip Strickland

Director of Mission and Ministry

Rocky Mountain Conference

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303-733-3736

Ad Council Report

The LUMC Ad Council meets at 7:00 PM on the second Tuesday of every month. Each committee chairperson is invited to attend and present status for their committee. All persons associated with the church are also invited to attend, participate, and vote on issues that affect our church. Each meeting lasts approximately 1 1/2 hours (some more, some less). The meetings are always informative, usually quite lively, and sometime entertaining, so please attend.

The Ad Council met on January 12th and I'll highlight and summarize the proceedings. Full notes are available at the next Ad Council meeting, or by request.

Norman Anderson discussed the selection of music for the services and a consensus was reached about how, when, and by whom the music would be selected. Also, congregation members are encouraged to submit favorite hymn requests in the suggestion box in the narthex.

Eric Guerrero presented a status report on the Preschool. Increasing attendance and the holiday auction proceeds helped stabilize the income/expense figures for December. More information on the preschool can be found on page 5 of this newsletter.

Eric Shaffer presented the church financials. December was a strong month as we received several year end donations and had the additional Christmas Eve Services. The hole left by the previous preschool leaving continues to be a concern, until such time as the Jefferson Street Preschool can begin paying rent.

Rev. Bob presented the Pastor's Report, focusing on the Lenten Series and Easter service schedules. Additional information on the Lenten Series and Easter Services can be found elsewhere in the newsletter and in the church calendar.

Ann T. presented the Sunday School report. Attendance is generally lower than expected, and varies from week to week.

The Ad Council voted to pay church apportionments for January, for the first time in the last six months. Louisville United Methodist Church has been proud of paying apportionments to the conference for years but we have not had the funds to do so. Once the decision was made to not pay the scheduled apportionments, we now vote monthly as to whether we can pay them for the current month.

The next Ad Council meeting is February 9th at 7:00 PM.

Bob Peverley, Ad Council Chairman

Worship Committee Report

We are in the Season of Epiphany: Jan. 6 - Feb. 17.

Liturgical color(s): Epiphany: White Epiphany Season: Green to signify the growing Church and the spreading of the Gospel.

Feb. 17 is Ash Wednesday and the Service will be at Erie United Methodist Church. This is also the beginning of the season of Lent.

At Sunday worship services there will be Lenten Candles on the altar table. These will be lit by the acolytes who light the altar candles. We ask church members of the older children who serve as candle lighters to help with the education of the children in understanding that they are symbolically bringing in "God's Light" to the worship service. Please mention also to those who might be serving any given Sunday during Lent that there will also be other candles to light.

We also ask the Ushers to assist in being sure the children lighting candles understand the symbolic gesture of "bringing in God's light" and give instruction for lighting the added candles during the Sundays of Lent.

There is always continuous need for usher/greeters. We hope you will volunteer. If you have questions regarding what is involved there is a printed USHER/GREETER RESPONSIBILITIES sheet on the table at the Sanctuary entrance. Chris Shaffer maintains the volunteer schedule and can answer your questions.

Louisville United Methodist Church
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Special Sunday Evening Lenten Series

Niwot, Lafayette and Louisville United Methodist Churches will be joining together this year to offer three Lenten Series programs.

- On February 28, our church will have a program on Peace Efforts in Iraq, Afghanistan and Israel presented by Rabia Roberts.
- On March 7 Lafayette United Methodist will have a program presented by Rev. Paul Howard of Redemption Fellowship in Denver on ministry to men and women who have recently been released from prison.
- On March 14 Niwot United Methodist will have a program presented by Dr. Don Messer, International President of the Global AIDS Project. our church will have a program on Peace Efforts in Iraq, Afghanistan and Israel presented by Rabia Roberts.

Each program will begin with a light soup and sandwich supper at 5:30 p.m. Children's activities are planned while the adults are attending the programs. Let's join together with our sister churches in the area for a very meaningful series of three Lenten educational events! There will be fun, food, and fellowship along with some great learning opportunities!