

St. David's Episcopal Church

Corner of SR 45 and SR 135, Bean Blossom, Indiana

Pastor: The Rev. Jonathan Hutchison

Choir Director: The Rev. Joseph Ridenour

Organist: Jennifer Lawrence

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Lent 2008

Dear Friends in Christ,

"Lenten Journey". How often that term is used to articulate our experience of this season. And it's not an inaccurate description. We do move from Point A to Point B in Lent; from Ash Wednesday to Palm Sunday; from Jesus at the beginning of his public ministry, entering the wilderness for testing, to Jesus at the end of his public ministry, entering Jerusalem in triumph, the death and life events of Holy Week waiting just around the next bend in the road.

Journey it surely is. But a particular kind of journey, a passage perhaps best described by the word "pilgrimage". With pilgrimage, it's less about getting there and more about the process. Or, to put it another way, the "there" to which we get is a cumulative "there" woven of the places we stop to catch our breath or bed down for the night, the faces and stories of fellow pilgrims we encounter on the road.

When Jonathan and I made our sabbatical pilgrimage to the British Isles eight years ago, it was assumed that certain stops along the way -- the early Christian monastic communities on Iona and Lindesfarne, the great cathedrals of England -- would be palpably holy. "Thin places", in the argot of Celtic Christianity, where for inexplicable reasons it's just easier to experience the presence of God. And they did not disappoint.

But who would have guessed that one of our most undeniable and powerful experiences of God's presence would take place in a vast crowded brightly lit rest area on the M-1, the superhighway from Wales to London. Weary and cranky, we faced each other across a plastic table littered with the remains of our fast-food meal and admitted that we each felt overwhelmed by the prospect of the next leg of our planned journey - driving into London, there to take a train via the Chunnel to Paris and then on to the great cathedral at Chartres. Big cities, lots and lots of people, complicated travel arrangements some of which would have to be negotiated via my spotty high school French. It all felt like a huge exhausting burden.

Then, a strange thing happened. Despite the chatter of countless travelers and the ubiquitous presence of rest area musak, I remember that it got very quiet, very still, at our plastic table. We realized that we didn't have to follow through on our plans; that, in fact, it was beginning to feel as though God, who seemed to have pulled up a molded plastic chair and joined us at our table, had other plans in mind.

The great weight lifted. Energy bubbled up. We remembered a brochure we'd picked up along the way about National Trust B&B's in a part of England we'd never heard of before. We bought an atlas to show us how to get there. With four unplanned days before us, we drove off into a sacramental landscape of deep broad glaciated valleys, soaring ridges with peat darkened waterfalls, meadows full of flowers, miles of walking trails and very few people. It was a holy healing time.

From this I learned a few things about pilgrimage that I'd like to suggest could be applied to the experience of Lent.

1) It is good to make a plan that includes bona fide holy sites [*Commit to attending all the Sunday services in Lent. Start coming to the Wednesday night Eucharist. Decide to experience one of the Holy Week services you've never been to before. Get up 15 minutes earlier each day to read spiritual writings (Jonathan or Pamela or I would be more than happy to explain the ins and outs of the Daily Lectionary or tell you about favorite devotional texts).*]. These "thin places" will connect you with Spirit and begin to attune you to the voice of God.

2) It isn't all about forging ahead. Sometimes, it's about stopping.

3) Expect *theophanies* (appearances of God) in surprising places, and be prepared for holy detours. [*After all, the road to the cross appeared to be headed straight for hopelessness, loss, and the finality of death.*]

*Blessings,
Deborah*

St. David's Bishop's Committee Members

This is the prospective slate of candidates to be confirmed at the January 27th annual meeting:

Contact information has been removed from this online file. To reach these people, please consult your church directory or call the church.

Congregational Life - "*Promotes building of church community*" - Carol Ruffin

Outreach Commission - "*Promotes ministries of charities...local and general*" - Judy Laffin

Pastoral Care Commission - "*Promote Ministries of spiritual growth*" - Marge Grimm

Bishop's Committee Treasurer - Sandy Ridenour

Education Commission - "*Promotes transmission of the faith*" - Dave Richards

Property Commission - "*Promotes necessary improvements and repairs*" - Ray Laffin, Jr. Warden

Stewardship Commission - "*Promotes personal and corporate stewardship*" - Ralph Linscott

Evangelism Commission - "*Promotes the spread of the Gospel*" - Gene Niednagel

Worship and Music Commission - "*Promotes an empowered community of faith*" - Ed Fleming

Communications Commission - "*Promotes an informed and involved membership*" - Randy Bridges

The Reconciliation of a Penitent – "Confession" by Another Name

We confess our sins together every Sunday and receive common assurance of God's forgiveness. But, did you know that our Book of Common Prayer provides two rites for "private confession"? (The Reconciliation of a Penitent, pages 446-452) While the Episcopal Church does not require regular private confession, it has always recognized its great potential of for healing and comfort. The practice is particularly appropriate in this season of self-examination, repentance and renewal. Both forms of The Reconciliation of a Penitent feature honest conversation, spiritual counsel, prayer and the assurance of God's loving pardon, all held in the strictest confidence. The rites are designed to be led by lay persons as well as clergy. Your pastors commend this spiritual discipline to all and welcome inquiries during the season of Lent or at any time.

Learning to Feast and Fast

"I invite you therefore, in the name of the church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word." (BCP 265)

These words, intoned at the Ash Wednesday service, describe the recommended manner by which fasting may be observed during the penitential season of Lent. Lasting 40 days, omitting Sundays, the season ends with the sacred, final days of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday. Forty days, some might worry, is a long time to do without the comforts of favorite foods or to find time in an already crowded daily schedule for added reading, prayer and meditation, let alone for self-examination and repentance.

Yet, in her article "Fasting and Feasting" (The Living Church, March 1, 1998), the Rev. Kathleen V. Price, assistant rector at St. John's, Chevy Chase, MD, finds otherwise. Flatly stating, "This is a season to fast, but that's not just about not eating," she points out that Lent is about giving up control, "about letting God be in control of our lives." If we insist on being in charge, she says, then God cannot be. "Lent is about accepting the gift of grace."

Price warns that good deeds must be done for God's purpose, not our own, and that we should practice thorough self examination of our motives. "True faith" she says, "is...expressed in true worship...seeking God's approval, not our friends'...our rector's...our bishop's. True faith is...praying, whether or not we are seen, whether or not it's in the Book of Common Prayer...reaching out to those in need, whether or not it is noticed....seeking God who has already sought us."

Learn to fast and to feast at the same time, Price advises and then provides a list of suggested ways this is possible:

Fast from destructive attitudes and closed minds; feast on openness.

Fast from complaining and criticizing; feast on praise.

Fast from jealousy; feast on compassion.

Fast from pride; feast on humility.

Fast from piety; feast on holiness.

Fast from selfishness; feast on serving others.

Fast from doubt; feast on hope.

Fast from hate; feast on love.

As a spiritual discipline, fasting is considered to be cleansing, an act of contrition and preparation. What do you need to fast from before the dawn of Easter's light? And, what will be your feast? †

--from the National Altar Guild website

Some Useful Information About the Lenten Season

Lent: The season of the church year that runs for forty weekdays and six Sundays between Ash Wednesday and Easter. It's tone is penitential and the liturgical colors are purple or natural unbleached linen. Many Christians observe Lent by undertaking special programs of study and by practicing self-denial as a way of concentrating on fundamental values and priorities in preparation for Easter. Traditionally, Ash Wednesday and other days during Lent an appropriate time for the spiritual discipline of *fasting*. Those whose health permits it are encouraged to abstain from food for one or more meals during the day. Some may wish to engage in a modified fast, in which fruit or fruit juices are consumed. Fasting shifts our awareness from the needs of the body to the promptings of the Spirit. As an additional discipline, some choose to contribute the money which would normally go for food to a charity which serves the needs of the world's hungry. For information about such charities, contact the pastors.

Mardi Gras (French for "Fat Tuesday") Traditionally, this is the last day for Christians to indulge themselves before the more sober weeks of fasting which begin with Ash Wednesday. Mardi Gras has

long been a time of extravagant fun for European Christians. We will gather to have fun, eat well, dance and shout our last "Alleluias" until Easter.

Ash Wednesday: The beginning of Lent. The observances of this day set the seasonal tone of penitence and preparation through appropriate prayers and the imposition of ashes (made from the palms of the previous Palm Sunday) in the sign of the cross on worshipper's foreheads. It is especially appropriate to fast on this day.

Palm (or Passion) Sunday: The beginning of Holy Week, this service commemorates Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem as well as foreshadowing his death on the cross through the reading of the Gospel narrative of his crucifixion.

Holy Week: The last week of Lent and the week before Easter in which the events in the last week of Jesus' earthly ministry are remembered. It begins with Palm (or Passion) Sunday, includes the services of Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, and culminates with the Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday services.

Maundy Thursday: This Holy Week service commemorates Christ's institution of the Holy Eucharist. It takes its name from the Latin *mandatum novum*, or "new commandment", referring to the new commandment given by Jesus at the Last Supper, that his disciples should love one another as he loved them. The service includes the ceremony of footwashing, patterned after Jesus' own action, and concludes with the stripping of the altar and shrouding of the cross in preparation for Good Friday.

Prayer Vigil: An opportunity for personal and private devotion between the Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services. The church remains open during this time and devotional materials are provided for those who wish to "watch with Christ" in the garden of Gethsemane during the night before his crucifixion.

Good Friday: The day on which the crucifixion of Christ is remembered. The Good Friday service includes the reading of the passion narrative from John's Gospel, intercessory prayer, and a time of special devotion before the cross. Again, it is especially appropriate to fast on this day.

The Easter Vigil: The earliest and most important worship service of the early Church, the Vigil has been rediscovered in our time. The service is rich in symbolism. Taking place at any time between sunset on Holy Saturday and sunrise on Easter, it begins in darkness with the lighting of the new fire from which the Pascal candle is lighted. This is followed by the chanting of the Exsultet, an ancient hymn of praise and thanksgiving for the central acts of God in the history of God's people. These saving acts are then outlined in a series of readings from the Old Testament. Baptism, or the renewal of baptismal vows, then follows, culminating in a joyful celebration of the resurrection of Christ in the first Eucharist of Easter.

Easter: The oldest and greatest feast of the church year, celebrating the resurrection of Christ from the dead. The liturgical color is white. It is the culmination of Holy Week and its observances begin with the Great Vigil and continue with the Eucharist on Easter Day. The Easter Season runs for fifty days until the Feast of Pentecost.

A Special Lenten Opportunity for Outreach

For many years, Episcopalians in the United States have made special financial offerings to support the work of our affiliated Anglican churches in Jerusalem and the Middle East. In the birthplace of our faith, Christian communities struggle against difficult odds to proclaim the Good News. They remain faithful to the Gospel of peace and reconciliation, despite their status as a religious minority and despite the atmosphere of intense political and religious conflict. Many Anglican Churches serve Palestinian communities in the occupied territories and are subject to all of the hardships and hazards there. Those in Israel face increased competition with their Jewish neighbors over access to certain holy sites, threatening disruption of historic Christian communities dating back to the earliest days of the Church.

Each year, the Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church asks that each Episcopal congregation dedicate the financial offering at the Good Friday services to the mission of the Church in the Holy Land. Here, at St. David's, it is our practice to go the Presiding Bishop one better, combining all the offerings from three separate Lenten services; Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. A basket will be placed in the back of the church for your love offerings. Please come prepared to give generously.

Lent is a time...

Lent is a border-walking time; Death and Life, Glory and Shame, Sin and Grace, Temptation and Repentance, all littering the Lenten landscape, all halting us in our liturgical tracks for a 40 day blink of the inner eye.

Lent is a hungering, or perhaps better, a time for us to be focused about the hunger that is in us for God and the hunger that is in God for us. Perchance that is one of the reasons for fasting and abstinence during certain portions of the season. That gnawing feeling inside is not simply about 'daily bread'; it's also about a daily dose of God.

Lent is a time when the mystery of God is very near us. No! The mystery of God is always near us, but Lent is one of those seasons when we are invited to carve for ourselves a few moments, a 'leisure' we might call it, for paying attention to that mystery of God which always hovering fingertip-close, heart-chambered, nestled in ourselves and nestled in our neighbor too.

Lent is a time for taking advantage of the gifts we are offered...

author unknown

Annoyed by pop tabs?

Want to contribute to a great cause? Have a severe "soda" addiction? Forget that 12-step program, no need for counseling . . . **Help yourself and others by bringing pop tabs to church with you! Place them in the jar in the entryway or give your tabs to our own Mickie Williams.** She has sent many to the Ronald McDonald House of Indiana and they are truly appreciated. The information below is from the Ronald McDonald House website:

The idea behind the Ronald McDonald House program is simple: Provide a "home away from home" for families of seriously ill children receiving treatment at nearby hospitals. Some children must travel great distances to get medical attention. In-hospital treatment may last one day, one year or longer. For these children's families, accommodations can be hard to come by. Options often are limited to costly hotels or uncomfortable hospital chairs and benches.

The Ronald McDonald House provides a comfortable, supportive alternative. It serves as a temporary residence near the medical facility where family members can sleep, eat, relax and find support from other families in similar situations. In return, families are asked to make a donation ranging on average from \$5 to \$20 per day, but if that isn't possible, their stay is free. Many Ronald McDonald Houses work with local recycling centers to receive money for collecting tabs from aluminum cans - **including those from soda cans, vegetable and soup cans, and pet food cans. Any type of pull tab is acceptable.**

Pop Tab Fun Facts

The Ronald McDonald House Pop Tab Collection Program was established in 1987 by the Minneapolis / St. Paul Ronald McDonald House community. To date, more than 400 million pop tabs have been collected, generating more than \$4 million.

The ring-pull can was invented in 1962.

The pop tab was invented by Ermal Frazee in Kettering, Ohio.

Kettering's Frazee Pavilion, a popular amphitheater in Dayton, Ohio, is named after the pop tab inventor.

Pop Tab Measurement Equivalents

1 inch = 1 pop tab

1 foot = 12 pop tabs

1 meter = 40 pop tabs

1 lb = 1,267 pop tabs

1 km = 40,000 pop tabs

1 mile = 63,360 pop tabs

What did you do over the Christmas holidays? Eat a lot of cookies and overspend? Read this great story about what Marilyn and Mike Day's family did and start planning for next year!

The Holy Family Shelter Christmas Party

The matriarch of our family, Aunt Helen, declared, "we need to provide a Christmas for those that will miss out this year and I know just the place!"

This was 8 years ago - and our Christmas as a family has never been the same! Aunt Helen made the initial call to the Holy Family Shelter on Palmer Street in Indianapolis to ask if we, as a family, might provide a Christmas party for the shelter residents this year. The director enthusiastically agreed.

The first year it was Mike, Aunt Helen, daughters Tanya & Lara, Uncle Nick and myself. We had crafts, a piñata (what a disaster that was!), and a few gifts for the kids. There were about 35 residents in the shelter including 20 children from babies to teens. Each year, the party has grown! Not necessarily in numbers of residents at the shelter but in our family and friends that want to get in on the "action" of this fun event! This Christmas 10 family & friends helped host the party.

Holy Family Shelter is one of the few "whole family" shelters in Indianapolis that can provide housing for entire families - Dads, Moms, and children. Sometimes the resident loses their house due to financial problems, sometimes fire causes loss of a home and, of course, many times, abusive situations are the reason for leaving home.

But who receives more pleasure out of the party - us or the families? You can see from the picture, the children and parents were delighted with the crafts, games, snacks and presents and we were delighted right along with them! We set up three craft tables (decorating Christmas bags, decorating sugar cookies to put in the bags, and making ornaments to decorate their living quarters), gifts for all the children and parents, and snacks (including "good for you food") for everyone.

We hope to continue this family tradition for years to come. Our family becomes closer, we have many good memories, and we appreciate each other and our blessings during the coming year. Happy New Year!

Marilyn Day

Parish News & Notes

Yoga

Yoga at St. David's will be continuing on Tuesday evenings from 5:30-6:30 in the parish hall. See Desiree Hensel for details (988-2037).

Valentines!

Waycross Valentine Making Party, February 9th, 1 to 5PM

Beat cabin fever with the warmth of love and the creative fires we'll light at Waycross. Van, Jane and Jenny Beers will host an afternoon of family fun making Valentines. Make homemade Valentine's Day cards for those you love. Please RSVP with the Waycross office by calling 812 597 4241. Don't worry, we make it easy to be creative. Good fun and fellowship is our goal for the day. Introduce a friend to Waycross. Bring a prospective camper.

Van Beers (van_eric_beers@yahoo.com)

Volunteer Opportunity

In 2007, the Brown County Guardian ad Litem/ Court Appointed Special Advocate Program served as a voice for ninety-seven children representing their best interest in child abuse and neglect, guardianships, paternity, divorce/custody and some juvenile delinquent status offences. As the new year begins, there are seventeen trained individuals serving as court officials to advocate for children in their homes, the community, schools, and social services. A Guardian ad Litem volunteer represents one child at time and stays with that child throughout the litigation and offers hope as all strive to insure that children grow up in a safe and permanent home.

The Brown County Guardian ad Litem Program has its roots at St. David's when in 1989 a grant was received from the Episcopal Fund for Human Need. Several members including Mickie Williams, Carol Walker, Nina Baer, Karen Anderson Haldeman, and Bob Oliger have served as volunteers. Donna Niednagel has been the director of the Program since the Guardian ad Litem began in 1989.

Volunteers are needed to speak up for these children - one child at a time. Training sessions will begin in March/April. For more information and an application, contact Donna Niednagel: 988-6865.

The world is a dangerous place, not because of those who do evil,
but because of those who look on and do nothing.

-Albert Einstein

...about the Prayer Shawl Ministry

Having read of prayer shawl ministries in other churches across the country, the idea of starting one at St. David's was presented to a group of our knitters who met for a day of knitting at Yvonne Oliger's last March. Since that day, we have become rather loosely organized and have, so far, presented a dozen or more shawls to persons dealing with serious illness or the death of a loved one. The shawls are knitted in a simple but spiritually powerful pattern of three knits, three purls, as we think of the significant images of three--Creator, Christ and Holy Spirit; hope, faith and love; body, mind and spirit--and pray for God's loving presence to be knit into each stitch.

We have received some very touching notes of gratitude from the recipients of our shawls; notes that speak of feeling this presence as the shawl is wrapped around them, and being strengthened by the prayers of the knitters.

In a desire to attract knitters and crocheters from a wider area, this group has "officially" been referred to as The Brown County Prayer Shawl Ministry, sponsored by St. David's Episcopal Church in Bean Blossom. The fact is, we have attracted only a few people not affiliated with St. David's. However, we hope that reading about our activities in the Democrat has, perhaps, encouraged other churches to start their own groups. We have eight St. David's members who are currently knitting shawls, whether or not they are able to attend our monthly gatherings. We currently meet on the lower level of the Brown County Public Library on the 4th Thursday of each month at 10:00 a.m. While we are most appreciative of the use of the library, we have expressed to the Master Planning Committee our dream of someday having a comfortable space at St. David's.

We invite all knitters or crocheters to join our ministry. Help is available for those whose skills may be a bit rusty. We currently have a good stash of yarn available at a reduced price, thanks to the generosity of a few non-knitters who support us in this way. Those who work during the day are invited to ask for a pattern and do their knitting when they have time available. For more information, please contact Sandy Ridenour at 597-0135 or joeandsandy4@att.net.

Lenten Film Series

It is traditional during the season of Lent to offer opportunities for spiritual growth and continued formation. This year, we will examine issues of meaning, purpose and action in the Christian life through the medium of film. Each Sunday during Lent, we'll gather at 6:30 in the parish hall for a light supper and the viewing of certain films (or film segments), followed by a discussion moderated by Jonathan and Deborah Hutchison. The final selection of films is still in process, so suggestions are welcome. Although designed as a series, members are encouraged to attend individual sessions as their time permits.

--Jonathan Hutchison

Master Plan Committee to Share Proposal

In the last newsletter, Eliot Smith wrote an excellent article summarizing the purpose of the Master Plan Committee (MPC) and what had been done to date. To briefly reiterate: the purpose of the MPC is to provide a vision of what the church's expanded and improved facilities should look like in the future and a plan for achieving that vision. This vision should represent what we want the church's facilities to look like 10 or more years in the future in light of the ministry and mission priorities identified in the Long Range Planning process.

In our four meetings, the MPC has examined the Long Range Planning report, received additional comments from several church members, and reviewed several proposals from Tim Fleck, our consultant, regarding possible ways to expand and improve our facilities. The MPC will meet on February 4, to review proposals which have been further refined and to choose one which we believe best represents what our facilities should look like a decade or more from now. This proposed "master plan" will be shared with the Bishop's Committee and the congregation, and it may be refined yet again following feedback from the Bishop's Committee and the congregation. **The presentation to the congregation will take place in a forum following worship on February 17. Plan to be there!!**

While the MPC continues its work, the Capital Campaign Committee (CCC) will begin its work. It will conduct a “feasibility study,” with the help of a consultant, to determine what dollar amount is realistic for this congregation to raise over the next three to five years for the purpose of building expansion. This information will help us determine how much of the “master plan” can be implemented in a first phase. The MPC will then recommend a specific portion of the “master plan” to be implemented during this first phase. We hope to be ready to make this recommendation sometime this spring and, at that time, the work of the MPC will be completed.

Once the recommended “master plan” and phase one plan have been approved by the Bishop’s Committee/congregation, the CCC will conduct the campaign to raise the funds needed to complete phase one. A Construction Committee will be appointed to guide us through the building process: architectural designs, letting contracts, and overseeing the actual construction. We hope construction can begin in 2009 as we celebrate 50 years of St. David’s history and look forward to an exciting future.

The Master Plan Committee: Verne Sindlinger, chair; Jennifer Rekers, secretary; Jan Benham; Sandy Fittz; Gene Niednagel; Eliot Smith; Carol Ruffin; Jonathan Hutchison; and Tim Fleck, consultant.
--*Verne Sindlinger*

Worship and Music Notes

We have an organist!

We said a loving farewell to George Cullinan on January 6 and welcomed our new organist, Jennifer Lawrence, on January 13. Jennie holds the Bachelor of Music and Master of Music degrees from the Jacobs School of Music and has sixteen years of experience as a church organist. She has accompanied the Bloomington Chamber Singers for fifteen years and also has experience directing choral and instrumental ensembles. She’s also the assistant director of the Brown County Art Guild. Please take time to introduce yourself to Jennie and welcome her!

An early Easter...

March 23, can you believe it? We’ll all have to wear our nicest snowsuits and winter coats to church. Come to think of it, the Palm Sunday might have to be indoors. We’ll have an evening service on March 20 for Maundy Thursday, two services on Good Friday, and the Great Vigil of Easter on Saturday night – and of course Easter Sunday morning worship. Talk is underway about whether & when to have our Easter Vespers service again. Easter music is so much fun to sing, so lighthearted and joyful!

Over on the west side of the nave...

Joe, Ray, Eliot and Jenny will be doing tag-team choir directing for the next few months. Don’t forget – there’s room in the choir for you.

Prayers of the People

We got feedback from several folks and tuned up the Prayers of the People a bit. We’ll use these throughout Lent, and then ask again for revisions.

Music, music, music...

My term on the Bishop’s Committee is done, but I’m still going to be picking the hymns. If we never sing your favorites, tell me!

Thanks for letting me do all this great stuff – Pamela Smith, 323 1817

Pick Up a Name Tag before Church Next Week

Beginning with our annual meeting on January 27th, we will have name tags for everyone when you arrive. To keep things simple, we are using the peel off-stick on name tags and will supply a writing

place, markers, and a receptacle for the peelings. First names will do, visible from a distance. This will be an aid to those of us unsure of some names and a blessing to those who are new and visiting.

Funny Pages

Catholic Honeymoon

On the first day of their honeymoon, the blonde bride slipped into a sexy but sweet nightie and, with great anticipation, crawled into bed, only to find that her new Catholic husband had settled down on the couch for the night.

When she asked him why he was apparently not going to make love to her, he replied, "Because it's Lent."

Almost in tears, she remarked, "Well, that is the most ridiculous thing I have ever heard! Who did you lend it to, and for how long?"

--from Jane Herr

Holy Land

A man, his wife, and mother-in-law went on vacation to the Holy Land. While they were there the mother-in-law passed away. The undertaker told them, "You can have her shipped home for \$5,000, or you can bury her here in the Holy Land for \$150.00."

The man thought about it and told him he would just have the M-I-L shipped home. The undertaker asked, "Why spend \$5,000 to ship her home, when you can bury her here in the Holy Land for \$150.00?"

The man replied, "Well, someone else died here 2000 years ago, he was buried and rose from the dead. I can't take that chance!"

--from Jennifer Rekers

Fire and Brimstone....

A minister was completing a temperance sermon. With great emphasis he said, "If I had all the beer in the world, I'd take it and pour it into the river."

With even greater emphasis he said, "And if I had all the wine in the world, I'd take it and pour it into the river."

And then finally, shaking his fist in the air, he said, "And if I had all the whiskey in the world, I'd take it and pour it into the river."

Sermon complete, he sat down.

The song leader stood very cautiously and announced with a smile, nearly laughing, "For our closing song, let us sing Hymn #365, "Shall We Gather at the River." *--from Marilyn Day*

Inspiration

The Carpenter

Once upon a time, two brothers who lived on adjoining farms fell into conflict. It was the first serious rift in 40 years of farming side-by-side, sharing machinery and trading labor and goods as needed without a hitch.

Then the long collaboration fell apart.

It began with a small misunderstanding and it grew into a major difference and finally, it exploded into an exchange of bitter words followed by weeks of silence.

One morning there was a knock on John's door. He opened it to find a man with a carpenter's toolbox.

"I'm looking for a few days' work" he said. Perhaps you would have a few small jobs here and there I could help with? Could I help you?"

"Yes," said the older brother. "I do have a job for you. Look across the creek at that farm. That's my neighbor. In fact, it's my younger brother!"

Last week there was a meadow between us. He recently took his bulldozer to the river levee and now there is a creek between us.

Well, he may have done this to spite me, but I'll do him one better. See that pile of lumber by the barn? I want you to build me a fence, an 8-foot fence - so I won't need to see his place or his face anymore."

The carpenter said, "I think I understand the situation. Show me the nails and the post-hole digger and I'll be able to do a job that pleases you."

The older brother had to go to town, so he helped the carpenter get the materials ready and then he was off for the day.

The carpenter worked hard all that day -- measuring, sawing and nailing.

About sunset when the farmer returned, the carpenter had just finished his job. The farmer's eyes opened wide, his jaw dropped. There was no fence there at all. It was a bridge . . . a bridge that stretched from one side of the creek to the other! A fine piece of work, handrails and all!

And the neighbor, his younger brother, was coming toward them, his hand outstretched...

"You are quite a fellow to build this bridge after all I've said and done."

The two brothers stood at each end of the bridge, and then they met in the middle, taking each other's hand. They turned to see the carpenter hoist his toolbox onto his shoulder.

"No, wait! Stay a few days. I've a lot of other projects for you," said the older brother.

"I'd love to stay on," the carpenter said, "but, I have many more bridges to build."

--from Jennifer Rekers

Beer Bread

3 cups of Self-Rising Flour

2 Tbs. of sugar

1 12oz can of "room temperature" beer (any kind will do)

1/3 cup of melted butter or margarine.

Lightly whisk flour and sugar together. Slowly pour in the beer and mix until all the dry ingredients are absorbed. Put batter into a greased and floured loaf pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 10 minutes (decrease 25 degrees for glass pan or if using a convection oven). Pour melted butter over the top of the bread and continue baking for another 20 minutes (check for doneness with a toothpick or cake tester - if comes out clean, bread is done. Top will be golden brown.) Remove from oven and remove from pan and let cool. Can be served warm, but need to cool a bit before cutting.

--from Coral Hamlin

Taco Soup

1/2 lb. ground beef	1 (16oz.) can kidney beans
1/4 c. chopped onions	1 (8oz.) can tomato sauce
1 1/2 c. water	1 envelop taco seasoning
1 (16oz.) can stewed tomatoes	

Brown beef and onions. Drain. Add rest of ingredients.

Simmer 30 min. Garnish with tortilla chips, sour cream, shredded cheese and chopped avocado.

--from Carol Ruffin

My Mother's Split-Pea Soup

This soup has long been a favorite of our family. Now that we are vegetarian we have to omit the hambone, but I add more veggies and a little liquid smoke at least suggests the flavor!

1 lb. green split peas
2 1/2 qts. water
1 meaty ham bone
1 1/2 c. sliced onion
1/2 t. pepper
1/4 t. garlic salt
1/2 t. marjoram

Simmer above ingredients 2 hours. Remove bone and cut off the meat.

Add remaining ingredients:

1 c. diced celery
1 c. diced carrots
1 t. parsley flakes

Cook slowly an additional 45 minutes. Serves 8-10

--from Sandy Ridenour

A Big Bowl of Red

X 1 = Serves 4	X 8 = Serves 42	X 8 Grocery List
Sauté until tender 6 to 8 minutes:		
1 T Cooking Oil	8 T Cooking Oil	
1 Large yellow onion diced	8 Large yellow onion diced	8 Large yellow onions
2 Bell Peppers seeded/diced	16 Bell Peppers seeded/diced	16 Bell Peppers
1 Cup Celery sliced	8 C.	2 Stalks celery
2 cloves garlic – minced	16 cloves	Garlic
Add the following to the sautéed veggies:		
1-28 oz can	8-28 oz cans	8-28 oz cans
Crushed tomatoes	Crushed tomatoes	Crushed tomatoes
1-15 oz can	8-15 oz can	8-15 oz can
Red kidney beans-drained	Red kidney beans-drained	Red kidney beans-drained
1-15 oz can	8-15 oz can	8-15 oz can
Stewed diced tomatoes	Stewed diced tomatoes	Stewed diced tomatoes
3 teaspoons Chili Powder	24 teaspoons Chili Powder	Chili Powder
1 teaspoon Oregano-dried	8 teaspoon Oregano-dried	Oregano-dried
2.5 teaspoons	20 teaspoons	Cumin-ground
Cumin-ground	Cumin-ground	
1 teaspoon Paprika	8 teaspoon Paprika	Paprika
2 teaspoons	16 teaspoons	Bottled hot sauce
Bottled hot sauce	Bottled hot sauce	
.5 teaspoon	4 teaspoons	Pepper Mill and
Fresh ground black pepper	Fresh ground black pepper	Black peppercorns
<p>Simmer together 30 minutes. Let stand 10 minutes before serving.</p> <p>Serve with toppings – Low fat cheese shredded, Chopped scallions, chopped red onion, or fresh salsa.</p> <p>Don't forget the hot cornbread!</p> <p>Tastes great—I have been making this for about five years and have served it for Lenten Soup Supper before Wednesday Vespers. This Veggie receipt is good for the vegetarian eaters in our midst as well as those who are fasting from meat for lent.</p> <p><i>Ed Fleming</i></p>		

Easter Calculator

You can determine the date for Easter of any year by locating the first Sunday after the first full Moon in Spring. The first day of Spring this year is March 20, and a full Moon is due on March 21. So Easter Sunday is to easy find on a calendar this year. It is on March 23. The earliest that Easter can occur is March 22, and the latest it can occur is April 25.

Here is how you can discover the date of Easter for any given year:

List the 19 dates for Pascal full Moons:

- | | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| 1. April 14 | 8. March 28 | 14. March 22 |
| 2. April 3 | 9. April 16 | 15. April 10 |
| 3. March 23 | 10. April 5 | 16. March 30 |
| 4. April 11 | 11. March 25 | 17. April 17 |
| 5. March 31 | 12. April 13 | 18. April 7 |
| 6. April 18 | 13. April 2 | 19. March 27 |
| 7. April 8 | | |

For our example, we'll use 2008.

Divide the year by 19, and you get 105 with a remainder of 13.

Disregard the quotient; the important number is the remainder 13.

Add one to this number and get the Easter number for this year.

Now refer back to the list of dates for the Pascal full Moons and note the number 14 is across from March 22.

The Sunday that follows this date will be Easter Sunday (March 23).

These seven steps will work for any year you might choose to discover when Easter will be celebrated.

This great little gimmick was sent to me by Ed Fleming who told me "This little clipping from a Planetarium newsletter by Robert Ernst of Mishawaka, Indiana has been residing in my Bible for a lot of years and wanted to be aired again." I updated it for this year and took a look at what the internet had to tell me about the date of Easter. There are many automatic calculators (try aa.usno.navy.mil/data/docs/easter.html for the "official" calculations) and much discussion about the history of dating Easter for Gregorian and Julian calendars, as well as the dates of Eastern Orthodox Easter. Did you know that for a time the date of Easter was different depending on where you lived in the U.S.? This was due to England and France adopting the Gregorian calendar at different times. There is also a lot about when the full moon occurs and Paschal vs. Ecclesiastical full moons. Check out users.sa.chariot.net.au/~gmarts/eastcalc.htm for more than you would ever want to know about this topic! I liked Ed's little clipping myself. *jane*

Update your Directory entry!

This is an ongoing project. Want a picture? Want the one you have changed? New addresses, new phone numbers, new e-mails, new parishioners--send me your info! Jane Herr (812)988-7611 or 4923 Stevens Road, Nashville, 47448 or (the preferred method!): jane@rjherr.com.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

FEBRUARY

2 Sarah Eads
2 Eric Beers
3 Rosemary Pedry
4 Mike Day
4 Eliot Smith
4 Miranda Smith (Hassett) (Eliot & Pamela Smith's daughter)
9 Tom Smith (Eliot & Pam Smith's son)
10 Tom Hensel
11 Randy Bridges
11 Tom & Desiree Hensel - Anniversary
14 Sue & Dan Wheeler -Anniversary
15 Sandy Fittz
22 Phyllis Bailey
24 Shanna Smith (Hazel Olive's granddaughter)
26 Kjestine Woods

MARCH

2 John & Rosemary Pedry - Anniversary
5 Desiree Hensel
5 Gail Hyde
6 Laura Martin
7 Jen Beers
18 Van Beers
24 Gene Russell
28 Bess Smith
29 Emma Folz

APRIL

2 Dave & Karen Richards - Anniversary
4 Arthur & Christine Omberg - Anniversary
6 Sean Cole
8 Mary Lou Russell
12 Jeff & Deb Stone
18 Phil Rimstidt
24 Ian Fleser
27 Ann Niednagel
28 Ian Miller
28 Nickie Curry (Donna & Gene Niednagel's daughter)

MAY

6 Coral Hamlin
9 Sarah Niednagel
10 Jan Halladay

12 Doug & Judy Miller - Anniversary
 12 Susan Wheeler
 14 George Cullinan
 20 Ray Laffin
 20 Scott Olive
 20 Arthur Omberg
 25 Judy Miller
 26 Dona Glentzer
 26 Tim Fleck
 27 Jim & Judy Huber - Anniversary
 22 Gene & Donna Niednagel -Anniversary
 28 Marge Wright
 30 Joe Ridenour
 31 Eliot & Pamela Smith - Anniversary

Don't see your birthday or anniversary - drop me a line at jane@rjherr.com

Newsletter Submissions?

Please send your news items, stories of spiritual growth, book reviews, jokes, cartoons, recipes, etc. to Jane Herr (812)988-7611 or 4923 Stevens Rd., Nashville, 47448 or (the preferred method!): jane@rjherr.com.

Next deadline for submissions:
Sunday, April 27, 2008 for Pentecost

Lent and Easter Schedule of Special Services and Parish Events

Throughout the season of Lent, worshippers are asked to enter the church quietly and remain in prayerful preparation for the service. Thank you for your cooperation.

1/29	Yoga	5:30 pm	in Parish Hall
	--classes continue on Tuesdays		
2/3	World Mission Sunday		
2/6	Ash Wednesday [<i>Lent begins</i>]	7:00 am	Prayer Service and Imposition of Ashes
2/6	" "	7:00 pm	Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion
2/9	Valentine making party	1-5 pm	Waycross
2/10	1st Sunday in Lent	9:30 am	Holy Communion
3/16	Palm Sunday	9:30 am	Liturgy of the Palms, Passion Gospel and Holy Communion
3/20	Maundy Thursday	7:00 pm	Commemoration of the Last Supper Holy Communion and Footwashing
3/20	Gethsemane Prayer Vigil	9:00 pm ~	"Watch & Pray with Jesus" (<i>one-hour time slots concluding at 11:00 am on Good Friday</i>)
3/21	Good Friday	12:00 noon	Prayer and Meditation on the Cross
3/21	" "	7:00 pm	Prayer and Meditation on the Cross (<i>The church remains open for private prayer</i>)
3/22	The Great Vigil Of Easter	8:00 pm	Candlelit Readings, Easter Communion
3/23	Easter Sunday	9:30 am	"The Feast of the Resurrection" ~Festival Eucharist
4/27	Submission deadline for Pentecost newsletter		