

St. David's Episcopal Church

corner of SR 45 and SR 135, Bean Blossom, IN 47448
stdavidsbeanblossom.org

Pastor: The Rev. Jonathan Hutchison

Choir Director: The Rev. Joseph Ridenour

Pastors' office: 812-988-7672 chesed2@msn.com

Church: 812-988-1038 stdavids@iquest.net

Church Secretary: Tiffany Cecil - Office hours: Thursday 9-12

St. David's Bishop's Committee Members

To protect the privacy of individual members of this community, we don't put people's contact info on the Web site. You can look them up in your phone book or call the church office. Thanks!

Senior Warden: Phyllis Sindlinger

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

Pastoral Care Commission "*Promote Ministries of spiritual growth*" Steve Fitzgerald

Communications Commission "*Promotes an informed and involved membership*" Steve Fitzgerald

Education Commission "*Promotes transmission of the faith*" Laura Martin

Property Commission "*Promotes necessary improvements and repairs*" Doug Miller, Jr.

Stewardship Commission "*Promotes personal and corporate stewardship*" Jim Huber

Bishop's Committee Treasurer Sandy Ridenour

Evangelism Commission "*Promotes the spread of the gospel*" Gene Niednagel

Worship & Music Commission "*Promotes an empowered community of faith*" Pamela Grenfell Smith

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

Lent 2006

Dear St. David's Family,

Yesterday morning, I stood by my mother's sickbed. We were there for one last visit before hitting the road for Indiana. It was a difficult goodbye; the previous day, Mother had seemed her old self...still quite sick, but very engaged, far more able to talk, even joking a little. But now, she could barely acknowledge us and only briefly at that, preoccupied with things she could share only in fragments and only she could understand. Since Mother had been making slow progress over several days, and since her vital signs were still unchanged, we decided, with misgivings, to proceed with our plans to leave. Mindful that this might prove to be our final farewell, we spoke to Mother of "last things". She confirmed that she was tired of the fight, yet worried about leaving Dad behind. We reassured her that he would be cared for and told her that if she should decide to depart this world, we were ready to let her go.

In that moment, touching her face, her shoulder, smoothing her hair, witnessing her transformation by illness and aging, reflecting on my own slow transformation over time, I had a glimpse of a deep mystery. As I write this, I don't know when my mother will pass from this life to the next, but pass she will, as will my father. I myself will die, as will each and every person who reads my words. It is the way of life in this world. Strangely, I find that this does not fill me with despair. My mother's former youthful expression, her vitality, her enthusiasm have given way to...something else. We mourn this loss, but do we have eyes to see her present form as a sign of preparation for a great change, beginning a transition into something new?

Once again, it seems that God has found a way to speak to me with the coming of this mysterious season that we call "Lent". The name of this season comes from an ancient Latin word for "spring", the lengthening of days. It is a time of waiting for the emergence of new life. But first, we must pass through dwindling of the old life...in nature, we experience it in the long nights, the deathlike cold, the barren trees. In the spiritual life, we experience it in those habits of heart, mind and soul that keep us stuck in selfishness and fear, resistant to healing and renewal.

Outside my parents' home is a Japanese Magnolia tree, the gray bark cold against the gray winter sky. But at the tip of each branch is the small, furry bud that will, with warming air and soil, open into a beautiful flower. Just so, God has placed within us a promise of beauty, ready to emerge, our own resurrection from the grave of our own winter.

This season which recalls the lengthening of days, is the time for us to acknowledge that which is dying in us, so that this new life might come forth. In the words of our *Book of Common Prayer*, I invite you, 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. Our worship, our Lenten series and the spiritual disciplines unique to the season, all provide opportunities to experience this transformation from death into life, from old into new. Only when we embrace the challenge of Lent, to meditate on the mystery of death, will we experience fully the mystery of Resurrection life.

Your support through this long crisis has meant more to me than I can possibly say. I love you.

My mother might recover from this serious ailment (although the statistics are not encouraging). In that case, I will see her again in this life. , but both of us will have been profoundly changed. Or, I will not see her again in the flesh, but hope instead for reunion on some farther shore, where everything will be made new.

Jonathan

"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. And, to make a right beginning of repentance, and as a mark of our mortal nature, let us now kneel before the Lord, our maker and redeemer."

Ash Wednesday Service, *Book of Common Prayer*, p 26

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.

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.

For more definitions click on: <http://www.holycross.net/anonline.htm>

Worship Traditions during Lent

The season of Lent marks a major shift in tone and focus for the worshipping community. At St. David's, we mark that shift by varying our approach to worship. Those attending services throughout Lent will notice a number of changes, beginning – appropriately enough – with the way we begin.

Entering the worship space, we are reminded by signs on the entry door that this penitential season calls us into deeper and more frequent silence. The altar is bare of flowers. The service begins in silence, following the ringing of the steeple bell. Longer periods of silence will recur throughout our worship.

We return again in Lent to Eucharistic Prayer C. This prayer expresses our desire to live as the image of God, mourns our failure to do so, and gives thanks for Christ's redeeming incarnation that opened "for us the way of freedom and peace". This

year, we will observe silence during the distribution of Holy Communion, ending with a post-communion hymn.

Our service music changes as well. Our Song of Praise is a metrical version of Psalm 32, a hymn of thankfulness because our sins are forgiven. An agnus dei (Latin for "Lamb of God") becomes the fraction anthem. Both Psalm 32 and the agnus dei affirm our need for God's mercy and God's desire to grant it to us.

Beyond these changes in our regular Sunday worship, are a number of opportunities during Lent and Holy Week to worship in unusual and evocative ways – our Ash Wednesday services, the Palm Sunday experience of the Passion Gospel, Maundy Thursday with its foot washing, Good Friday services and the wondrous mystery of the Easter Vigil. Instead of giving up something for Lent this year, let's enrich our interior lives and strengthen our relationship with Christ by taking on the discipline of being present for the entire story as it unfolds from Ash Wednesday on March 1 through April 16, Easter Day, the Feast of the Resurrection.

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.

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

--from *Laura Martin*

What Does The Bible Say?

Much of the present controversy within the Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion centers on the question of "The Authority of Scripture". How do we read the Bible? How do we view it? Do we invest every book, chapter and verse with equal authority or are we somewhat selective? If so, how do we make such decisions? Walter Brueggeman, a noted Bible scholar and professor emeritus of Old Testament at Columbia Theological School in Decatur, GA, reflects on his own lifelong effort to answer these questions in a very readable essay. Go to:

www.progressivechristianwitness.org/pcw/pdf/Brueggemann_BiblicalAuthority.pdf

In particular, our Church has struggled to reach understanding and accord in matters of sexuality, especially same sex relations. What does the Bible really say about homosexuality? Walter Wink, a respected Christian thinker and writer, has explored this subject and the broader issue of biblical standards for sexual behavior in a comprehensive essay, "Homosexuality & The Bible". Go to:

www.progressivechristianwitness.org/pcw/pdf/Wink_HomosexualityBible.pdf

Both of the above articles are displayed in the rack near the entry door for your inspection and digestion. Feel free to take them home with you, but please return them when you have finished. --
Jonathan Hutchison

Evangelical Leaders Call for Action on Global Warming

86 evangelical Christian leaders have launched a major initiative to fight global warming, saying "millions of people could die in this century because of climate change, most of them our poorest global neighbors." Among signers of the statement are presidents of 39 evangelical colleges, leaders of aid groups, like the Salvation Army, and pastors.

The statement calls for federal legislation requiring reductions in carbon emissions through "cost-effective, market-based mechanisms" — a phrase that could appeal to evangelicals, who tend to be pro-business. The statement is the first stage of an "Evangelical Climate Initiative", including television and radio spots in states with influential legislators and informational campaigns in churches and Christian colleges.

To learn more, contact the Vicar at chesed2@msn.com

With Every Choice

People often think of Christian morality as a kind of bargain in which God says, "If you keep a lot of rules I'll reward you, and if you don't I'll do the other thing." I do not think that is the best way of looking at it. I would much rather say that every time you make a choice you are turning the central part of you, the part of you that chooses, into something a little different from what it was before. And taking your life as a whole, with all your innumerable choices, all your life long you are slowly turning this central thing either into a heavenly creature or into a hellish creature: either into a creature that is in harmony with God, and with other creatures, and with itself, or else into one that is in a state of war and hatred with God, and with its fellow-creatures, and with itself. To be the one kind of creature is heaven: that is, it is joy and peace and knowledge and power. To be the other means madness, horror, idiocy, rage, impotence, and eternal loneliness. Each of us at each moment is progressing to the one state or the other.

- C. S. Lewis in *Mere Christianity*

The Awesome Miracles of Lent and Life

Jesus' survival in the desert without eating for 40 days has always seemed like a miracle to me. It is an inspiration as I have struggled to overcome many years of eating disorders. I praise God that he heals me one day at a time!

I would like to share with you some other miracles that have caused me to have such a deep faith and trust that the Lord Jesus Christ is truly the Great Physician.

Two of these came from the late Sister Paula Irene who lived at the Convent of the Transfiguration (Episcopal) in Cincinnati. Sister told of her work at their mission in the Dominican Republic with the children. She related that one day, one of the children's fingers was caught in the gate. When the gate was opened, the child's finger was barely attached by a small piece of flesh. She said that she put the finger back into place, covered it with her hand, and prayed. When she removed her hand, the finger was attached as though it had never been injured.

A few years later, after a retreat about Intercession at the convent, Sister Paula passed around a wicker basket with little blank sheets of paper. She asked us to write on them a prayer request. I had just begun collecting pictures of the Missing Children that came in the mail and had five of the post cards in my Bible. As I wrote my request, asking the Lord to please find these children, I unbelievably looked up, shook my head, and thought to myself..."This is impossible, even for God." Five months later, I called the Missing Children hotline and inquired as to if any for whom I'd been praying had been found (I'd collected 25 at that point). All five of the ones that had been in my Bible at the time of the retreat had been found and brought to safety. God is AWESOME!!!

Through the years, I've attended fifteen Order of St. Luke national conferences. There have been many teachings and witnesses of healing. All have been faith-builders for me. Perhaps the most profound was from a pastor in Ohio who told of grandparents who came to visit him asking for prayer for their grandchild who had been born with Down's Syndrome. These grandparents had great faith. As the three prayed together for a miracle, the child became normal as he was nursing at his mother's breast. The child grew to normal adulthood. From this, I learned to believe what is written in the Scriptures, "With God, all things are possible!" Matthew 19: 26 NEVER LIMIT GOD!!!!

One day, as I was tutoring a learning disabled first grader in an inner city parochial school, I made another attempt to encourage him to write the alphabet, to copy the letters

that I had printed on the page. For months, he had been able to make it to Dd and then, would become discouraged and run out of steam. This day, he spotted a Bible next to the teacher's desk. He placed it before me, opened it to the story of the Division of the Kingdom of Israel in the Old Testament, patted the page, and asked me to read to him. After I was several paragraphs into the story, I glanced up to see my pupil slowly but surely printing perfect letters from Aa to Zz. Now I knew what it meant, "The Word of God is living and active, ..." Hebrews 4: 12

My right ring finger has had very poor circulation lately. The other night, as I was doing my exercises, trying to warm up from being outside, I looked at this finger and it had turned blue with no feeling. I held it with my left hand, prayed in the Spirit, and thanked Jesus for healing me. When I removed my hand, the finger had become normal in color with feeling returned. Now, even when it is cold, the finger remains normal.

Healing can take place in different ways: 1. Instantaneous healing, the least common. 2. Gradual, over a period of time, the most common. 3. Phase in, then a little more. 4. Delayed. Nothing seems to happen. Then, a period of time later, God allows you to see that the power of a former prayer caused this healing. 5. Recurrent healing. Healing occurs. Then, after a time, there is a relapse. Such temporary healings are meant to build strength of faith. With exertion of faith, healing may become permanent.

If we believe that Jesus is Who He said He was, then we have to believe that HE HEALED WHEN HE WALKED THIS EARTH (check out the Gospels of Matthew and Luke) and **HE WILL HEAL ALL TODAY ...one day at a time...IF THEY WILL ONLY BELIEVE!**

--Becky Morrison

Upcoming Activities

Service of Confirmation & Reception On the Feast of the Ascension.

At **6:30 pm on Thursday, May 25**, Bishop Waynick will preside at a special service of Confirmation and Reception at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Evansville. All members are urged to save this date to support members of the congregation who will present themselves for these sacraments of membership. A carpool will be arranged.

What is Confirmation? What is Reception?

Confirmation is an opportunity for those baptized as children to express a mature commitment to Christ, or for those baptized as adults to take an additional step into the life of discipleship. Reception is a rite of welcome to the Episcopal Church for those who may have been baptized and confirmed in some other Christian denomination. Candidates for Confirmation and Reception receive instruction prior to the service (see item below) and strength through the prayers of the congregation and the laying on of hands by the Bishop.

Inquirers' Class begins in Easter Season

An Inquirers' Class will be offered after Easter for anyone interested in learning more about The Episcopal Church. It is open to all members and will serve as formal preparation for any members intending to be Confirmed or Received this spring. 4 classes will be held immediately after Sunday service, **April 30 through May 21**. We are really fortunate to have Tim Fleck return as our teacher. The primary textbook, *Welcome to the Episcopal Church -An Introduction to Its History, Faith, and Worship*, by Christopher L. Webber, is available through Tim. For more information, email Tim Fleck at tflect@woollenmolzan.com or call 317-883-2323.

Lenten Season Discussion Group after Worship

To provide more opportunities to form and inform our faith, we will have a brief (45 min.) discussion group following each of the 5 Sunday services of Lent, **starting March 5**. These conversations will provide a connection between our Sunday Lenten scripture readings and resources for congregational and personal transformation. We will be using "Groundwork", a National Church resource. The focus of this program is personal growth and congregational mission, and promises to help us "dig deeply into the soil of our mission and context" and engage in "serious and joyful learning about evangelism, invitation, and welcome." Materials for each meeting will be available the preceding Sunday so that those interested in participating in the discussion can prepare. For more information, email Laura Martin at lsmartin@bloomington.in.us or call 988-7037. To see explore "Groundwork" on the web, go to:

http://www.episcopalchurch.org/groundwork_56529_ENG_HTML.htm?menu=menu56536

Instructed Eucharist

Have you ever wondered why we worship the way we do? Are there certain words, gestures or patterns of action that you wish you understood more fully? In the Easter season, we will devote two consecutive Sundays to an "Instructed Eucharist", exploring the history and meaning of this most ancient form of Christian worship. First, we will carefully examine the first part of the service, known as the Ministry of the Word, pausing from time to time for explanation of key points, while proceeding without interruption through the celebration of Communion. On the following Sunday, we will reverse the process. You'll be amazed at the richness of our liturgy and the depth of our tradition.

All the World's a Stage!

The Bishop's Committee has asked Judy Huber to plan more theatre trips for the upcoming season. She is considering the first play of the Brown County Playhouse season, "Smoke on the Mountain." This show runs from **June 8th to July 2nd** and is a family musical about a Southern Baptist Church with lots of gospel hymns.

If you are interested, please contact Judy at 988-4007; we have to plan far ahead to make sure our seats are reserved. We are hoping 20 people will sign up. We will secure seats for a Sunday matinee. Is there anyone in our congregation who would like to make dinner for us theatergoers, perhaps in the Parish Hall after the performance?

For Hurricane Katrina Victims

The Diocese of Louisiana in New Orleans is in urgent need of bottle water and bleach. Apparently, it is difficult to obtain these items, especially bleach because so much bleach is needed to get a handle on the mold problem. We will be collecting these two items until the middle of March. Bring these items to church and put them under the table in the vestibule. Relief teams from our diocese are needed in Long Beach, Mississippi during the months of April and May. Groups of persons age 18 and over are invited to participate for 4 to 7 days. All types of skills are needed. Not all work requires heavy lifting. For more information contact Judy Laffin (988-8768).

Hot Cross Buns for the Great Vigil

If you're in Bloomington on the **15th of April**, feel free to stop by the Smiths to help make hot cross buns for the Great Vigil that night. Bun-making will commence around 1 pm and wind up around 4; feel free to drop in at any point in the process. Bun makers of all ages will be welcomed - for details, speak to Pamela Smith, 323-1817.

St Theresa's Prayer: May today there be peace within. May you trust God that you are exactly where you are meant to be. May you not forget the infinite possibilities that are born of faith. May you use those gifts that you have received, and pass on the love that has been given to you.

May you be content knowing you are a child of God. Let this presence settle into our bones, and allow your soul the freedom to sing, dance, praise and love. It is there for each and every one of you.

St. Theresa is the patron saint of flowers and growers with roses being her symbol.

--from Marilyn Day

Funny Pages

Looking back through some older submissions for a short bit of filler I found this gem from past parish member Barbara Blair. The Stewardship Commission might want to appropriate it for the next pledge drive:

This bumper sticker was made and passed out at a parish in Augusta GA. during their pledge drive. **If you love Jesus tithe. Anyone can honk.**

The Pastor's Cat

This particular story just made me laugh. Every time I think about it, the vision of that poor cat just amuses me. Hope the story leaves a bright spot in your day. Whoever said the Creator doesn't have a sense of humor?

Dwight Nelson recently told a true story about the pastor of his church. He had a kitten that climbed up a tree in his backyard and then was afraid to come down. The pastor coaxed, offered warm milk, etc. The kitty would not come down. The tree was not sturdy enough to climb, so the pastor decided that if he tied a rope to his car and drove away so that the tree bent down, he could then reach up and get the kitten. He did! All the while, checking his progress in the car frequently, he then figured if he went just a little bit further, the tree would be bent sufficiently for him to reach the kitten. But as he moved a little further forward, the rope broke. The tree went "boing!" and the kitten instantly sailed through the air-out of sight.

The pastor felt terrible. He walked all over the neighborhood asking people if they'd seen a little kitten. No. Nobody had seen a stray kitten. So he prayed, "Lord, I just commit this kitten to your keeping," and went on about his business. A few days later he was at the grocery store, and met one of his church members. He happened to look into her shopping cart and was amazed to see cat food. This woman was a cat hater and everyone knew it, so he asked her, "Why are you buying cat food when you hate cats so much?"

She replied, "You won't believe this," and told him how her little girl had been begging her for a cat, but she kept refusing. Then a few days before, the child had begged again, so the Mom finally told her little girl, "Well, if God gives you a cat, I'll let you keep it." (Can you see where this is heading?)

She told the pastor, "I watched my child go out in the yard, get on her knees, and ask God for a cat. And really, Pastor, you won't believe this, but I saw it with my own eyes. A kitten suddenly came flying out of the blue sky, with its paws outspread, and landed right in front of her."

Never underestimate the Power of God and His unique sense of humor.

--from Jennifer Rekers

Food for Thought

Paul Harvey and Prayer

I don't believe in Santa Claus because I'm not going to sue somebody for singing a Ho-Ho-Ho song in December. I don't agree with Darwin, but I didn't go out and hire a lawyer when my high school teacher taught his theory of evolution.

Life, liberty or your pursuit of happiness will not be endangered because someone says a 30-second prayer before a football game.

So what's the big deal? It's not like somebody is up there reading the entire book of Acts. They're just talking to a God they believe in and asking him to grant safety to the players on the field and the fans going home from the game.

"But it's a Christian prayer," some will argue.

Yes, and this is the United States of America, a country founded on Christian principles. According to our very own phone book, Christian churches outnumber all other religions better than 200-to-1. So what would you expect--somebody chanting Hare Krishna?

If I went to a football game in Jerusalem, I would expect to hear a Jewish prayer.

If I went to a soccer game in Baghdad, I would expect to hear a Muslim prayer.

If I went to a ping-pong match in China, I would expect to hear someone pray to Buddha.

And I wouldn't be offended. It wouldn't bother me one bit. When in Rome...

"But what about the atheists?" is another argument.

What about them? Nobody is asking them to be baptized. We're not going to pass the collection plate. Just humor us for 30 seconds. If that's asking too much, bring a Walkman or a pair of ear plugs. Go to the bathroom. Visit the concession stand. Call your lawyer!

Unfortunately, one or two will make that call. One or two will tell thousands what they can and cannot do. I don't think a short prayer at a football game is going to shake the world's foundations.

Christians are just sick and tired of turning the other cheek while our courts strip us of all our rights. Our parents and grandparents taught us to pray before eating; to pray before we go to sleep.

Our Bible tells us to pray without ceasing. Now a handful of people and their lawyers are telling us to cease praying.

God, help us.

And if that last sentence offends you, well ... just sue me.

--from Sydney Kelly

Parish News

“Day Dream”

After 17 years traveling as a territory manager for Jacuzzi Brothers, Inc., my newest employment allowed me the luxury of only being gone overnight 1 or 2 days a week. At last, I thought, I can now fulfill a dream I've had for a long time. I could get a pet with legs and fur and a welcoming hello when I arrived home in the evening. (I had aquarium fish, which are interesting but don't give much feedback!)

So... off to the Humane Society I went to find a cat. And find I did! A two year old male with markings similar to a favorite cat I'd had prior to my traveling days. In the quiet room where you can evaluate your pet selection, he immediately curled up on my lap and went to sleep, softly purring his contentment. We named him Amos. Gray and white with a truly ugly face, he was a sweetheart and a good cat (when up on the aquarium tank hood watching the fish, he only dipped his paws in the water a few times).

Soon, I married my wonderful husband Mike – he came with three dogs (two outdoors – Yogi and Penny, one indoors-Petrinko, or Trink for short). Then, we came to Brown County. At last, I had enough room to really have some animals. We purchased two horses – Suede and Jewel (this also included building a barn, round pen, fencing and cross-fencing 2 ½ acres for pasture, etc.) and “a friend” gave us two goats – Sammy and Rosie.

I was in heaven! I actually had furry animals with personalities! Well, some had good personalities and some did not. I was surprised that one of the horses, Jewel, had a very jealous streak. It became necessary to sell her – it was difficult as she was extremely smart, but just too much for me.

Now, we have two cats (Amos and Callie-she is a barn kitty); two dogs (Trink and Cooper-after the loss of Yogi and Penny, he is the latest); one horse; and two goats. It is time to get a new friend for Suede, the horse. They are herd animals, they say, and need a friend or two. Mike says, “The goats can be her friends.” I say, “They are too short and have horns.” Convinced (or arm twisted, he says) off we go to get a ...

...miniature donkey! He is adorable! He is five months old and will be spotted when he loses his winter coat. Right now he is 85 lbs. and 2 feet tall at the shoulders. He will get to be about 35” tall and 140 lbs. We decided on a name - Dapple (the name of the donkey Sancho Panza road in "Man of LaMancha"!)

If you want to see a cutie, come and visit him – he loves to have his back rubbed, carrots, bread, etc.

My dream has become a reality – “Day Dreamin’ Farm” – the name is just right!

--*Marilyn Day*

2006 Big Brother of the Year

Brown County Big Brothers Big Sisters is pleased to announce their 2006 Big Brother of the Year - Michael Day. Mike is the Big Brother to Vincent, a second grader at Nashville Elementary.

"Big" Mike and "little" Vincent usually get together once a week. Outings include bowling, reading at the Nashville Library, visiting Wonderlab, and (Vincent's favorite!) hunting for geodes and crawdads in Cisco Creek!

Vincent and Mike both look forward to these outings - Mike rolls up his pantlegs to wade in the creek (Vincent doesn't bother!) and they have great fun. --*Marilyn Day*

Spring Break Project

Thomas Smith, son of Eliot and Pamela Smith, will be working in Texas on house-building projects for Habitat for Humanity, with a team from his college (Carleton College in Northfield, Minnesota) over the college's spring break in March. --*Eliot Smith*

Thank You!

For pop tab donations: a thank you to all who have brought tabs in that go to Riley Hospital Ronald McDonald House. They appreciate it very much and have made over \$200,000 with your help! ...so please keep up the good work. --*Mickie Williams*

To Greeters and Snack providers: To All Those Wonderful People who have served as Greeters and brought refreshments during this past year, I would like to extend a hardy THANK YOU! I feel saying "Good Morning" to regular members is important, but greeting the visitor or prospective new member is especially important so they are not over looked and feel welcomed. Also having a little snack and coffee after the service is a good time for fellowship and getting to know one another better. These goodies are very much appreciated by all and we always love seeing what tasty morsel someone has cooked up. So Thank You, Thank you, Thank you. --*Marge Grimm*

"I believe that there is a plan and a purpose for each person's life and that there are forces working in the universe to bring about good and to create a community of love and brotherhood. Those who can attune themselves to these forces - to God's purpose - can become special instruments of his will." - Coretta Scott King, in My Life with Martin Luther King, Jr.

Pitch-ins & Potlucks--Famous Recipes

Low Fat Low Salt But Amazingly Good Spinach Pie

Deborah Hutchison

1 prepared pie crust (Bloomingfoods has a frozen whole wheat low salt version)
1 10 oz. package frozen chopped spinach
8 oz. cubed low fat cheddar cheese (Cabot 75% Light Cheddar – Bloomingfoods)
2 eggs, beaten or ½ c. Egg Beaters
½ c. fat-free milk
½ pt. fat-free sour cream
seasoned bread crumbs

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Cook spinach according to package directions. Drain well and place in pie shell, evenly covering bottom. Layer cubed cheese over spinach. Beat eggs and mix with milk (or mix Egg Beaters with milk). Pour over cheese & spinach in pie shell. Place dollops of sour cream evenly over spinach, cheese and egg mixture. Sprinkle a thin layer of bread crumbs over entire surface. Bake for 1 hour and 15 minutes, or until pie is firm and golden.

Key Lime Cake

Jane S. Herr

1 box Lemon cake mix
1 box (4 serving) lemon pudding mix
4 eggs
1 cup vegetable oil
¾ cup water
¼ cup Key lime juice

Glaze:

2 cups confectioners sugar
1/3 cup Key lime juice
2 Tablespoons water
2 Tablespoons butter

confectioner's sugar for dusting

Preheat oven to 350°. Grease and flour Bundt or tube pan. Combine cake mix, pudding mix, eggs, oil, ¾ cup water and ¼ cup Key lime juice in a large bowl. Beat at low speed with electric mixer until moistened. Beat at medium speed 2 minutes. Pour into pan. Bake at 350° for 50 to 60 minutes or until toothpick comes out clean. Cool in pan 25 minutes. Remove from pan onto plate and then return to pan. Poke holes in cake with chopstick. Heat glaze ingredients until smooth and sugar is dissolved. Pour over warm cake and allow to soak. Invert cake onto plate and dust with confectioner's sugar. 12 servings.

Loved that salad at the last pitch-in? What about those to-die-for cookies someone brought to the after service coffee hour? Send all your requests and recipes to Jane Herr --- jane@rjherr.com

My kitchen is a mystical place, a kind of temple for me. It is a place where the surfaces seem to have significance, where the sounds and odors carry meaning that transfers from the past and bridges to the future. ~ Pearl Bailey (1918-1990) American singer. --from Laura Martin

Birthdays and Anniversaries

MARCH

- 2 - Anniversary of John & Rosemary Pedrey
- 2 - Paul Nelson
- 5 - Desiree Hensel
- 5 - Tracy Green
- 5 - Gail Hyde
- 6 - Sean Cole
- 6 - Laura Martin
- 14 - Becky Meyer
- 15 - Adrienne Skirvin
- 17 - Bob Nixon
- 24 - Gene Russell
- 28 - Bess Smith
- 29 - Emma Folz

APRIL

- 3 - Anniversary of Chuck & Sydney Kelly
- 7 - Chuck Kelly
- 8 - Mary Lou Russell
- 8 - Courtney Von Stein
- 24 - Ian Fleser
- 24 - Marc Skirvin
- 25 - John Green
- 27 - Ann Niednagel
- 28 - Ian Miller
- 28 - Nickie Curry
- 28 - Charlene Folz

MAY

- 6 - Coral Hamlin
- 6 - Dana Skirvin
- 7 - Daniel Folz
- 9 - Sarah Niednagel
- 10 - Jan Halladay
- 12 - Susan Wheeler
- 12 - Anniversary of Doug & Judy Miller
- 17 - Pam Taylor
- 20 - Ray Laffin
- 20 - Scott Olive
- 20 - Arthur Omberg
- 20 - Rebecca Von Stein
- 25 - Judy Miller
- 26 - Tim Fleck
- 26 - Dona Glentzer
- 27 - Anniversary of James & Judy Huber
- 27 - Anniversary of Gene & Donna Neidnagel
- 27 - Erica Von Stein
- 27 - Lauren Von Stein
- 28 - Marjorie Wright
- 30 - Joe Ridenour
- 31 - Anniversary of Eliot & Pamela Smith

Newsletter Submissions?

Please send your news items, stories of spiritual growth, book reviews, jokes, cartoons, 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, May 21, 2006 for Pentecost

Update your Directory entry!

A directory update should be available within the next few weeks. However 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 information! Jane Herr (812)988-7611 or 4923 Stevens Road, Nashville, 47448 or (the preferred method!): jane@rjherr.com

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.

Thursdays	Yoga	6-7 pm	Parish Hall
3/1	Ash Wednesday [<i>Lent begins</i>]	7:00 am	Prayer Service and Imposition of Ashes
3/1	" "	7:00 pm	Imposition of Ashes & Holy Communion
3/5	1st Sunday in Lent with Lenten discussion group (<i>in the church, each Sunday in Lent, after worship</i>)	9:30 am	Holy Communion
3/22	Healing Service	7:00 pm	service with Holy Communion
4/9	Palm Sunday	9:30 am	Liturgy of the Palms, Passion Gospel and Holy Communion
4/13	Maundy Thursday	7:00 pm	Commemoration of the Last Supper Holy Communion and Footwashing
4/13	Gethsemane Prayer Vigil	9:00 pm ~	"Watch & Pray with Jesus" (<i>one-hour time slots concluding at 11:00 am on Good Friday</i>)
4/14	Good Friday	12:00 noon	Prayer and Meditation on the Cross
4/14	" "	7:00 pm	Prayer and Meditation on the Cross (<i>The church remains open for private prayer</i>)
4/15	hot cross buns for Easter	1 pm	the Smiths
4/15	The Great Vigil Of Easter	8:00 pm	Candlelit Readings, Easter Communion
4/16	Easter Sunday	9:30 am	"The Feast of the Resurrection" ~Festival Eucharist
5/25	Confirmation & Reception	6:30 pm	St. Paul's, Evansville
5/21	Submission deadline for Pentecost newsletter		