

from the
Pastor

“My, how time flies. We’ve finished Christmas and here comes Ash Wednesday!” Time does fly when you are having fun. The fact is, Ash Wednesday is roughly six and a half weeks before Easter and Easter may occur as early as March 22nd or as late as April 25th. Easter is the first Sunday after the first full moon following the vernal equinox. Have you got that? To make it even more confusing, our friends in the Eastern Orthodox churches often celebrate Easter much later. Don’t worry about it. Your biological clock isn’t playing tricks. Easter is somewhat early this year, April 8th and so, Lent begins earlier.

In the early Church, Lent was a time when candidates for membership in the Christian Church prepared for baptism. They fasted and studied for forty days, the same length of time Jesus spent in the wilderness. Today, some people still fast by giving up something during that forty days. Although many of the practices of Lent are no longer observed, we still see this season as a time for renewal and strengthening our faith.

On Ash Wednesday, February 22nd, the season of Lent will begin. Join us for our service of worship and communion at 7:00 p.m. this may be a time of renewing your whole outlook on life.

Pastor Brandon



Be sure to check the bulletin board for the thank you notes we received from Feed My People and St. John’s Community Services Ministry. We have received several over the past month.

KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS

Our shut ins – Ann Davis, Helen Wright, Vernon Hornung, Jacque Walker, and Oscar Wenk and Jean Mullgardt.



CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES



We extend our congratulations and best wishes to Claire Schillinger and Adam Rubemeyer who were united in marriage on Saturday, January 7th here at church. Claire and Adam will be moving to Kansas City to start their married life. We wish them both the best.

MEET OUR NEW MEMBERS

Here is some brief information on our newest members. Please welcome them and let them know how happy we are to have them with us.

Jeremy and Jessica Freeman

Jeremy grew up in Maplewood and Jessica grew up in south St. Louis city. Both were raised in the Christian faith: Jeremy in the Baptist church and Jessica in the Catholic church. After marriage, they visited several different Christian denominations and quite a few churches over the years until they visited St. Philip’s after being invited through the preschool program. They were excited to find what feels like home.

Jeremy and Jessica are proud parents to Andrew, age 7, Ethan, age 4, and Aiden, age 2 and eagerly anticipating the imminent arrival of their daughter Emily. Jeremy is a Customer Service Manager at US Bank, and Jessica is the Administrative Assistant to the CEO of the Boy Scout Council. They enjoy reading, hiking, camping, photography, and watching movies.



Welcome
Our New
Members

Sue Myers

Sue was married to John Altenbernd, the first full-time pastor of St. Philip's Church, for thirty-seven years until he passed away in 1992. At that time she was working at St. Louis University Medical Center as the Operations Manager in the Department of Surgery. She was there for eighteen years. In 1997, she married David Myers. They were married for ten years until he passed away in 2008.

Sue has three daughters, five grandchildren, four great-grandchildren and one dog. She currently teaches piano lessons part-time.

Recently she has been a member of St. Mark UCC in Arnold and feels as though she has come back home.

Joe and Paula Williams

Paula and Joe Williams have transferred to St. Philip's after being longtime members at Grace UCC, where they were married thirty-eight years ago (and have two sons, Jay, 33, and Todd, 28.) Paula had been at Grace since birth and was, in fact, baptized as a baby by Pastor Brandon's father (cue The Lion King's "Circle of Life"). It is so meaningful to her, then, to join St. Philip's on the current Pastor Brandon's watch.

Joe and Paula like to spend time with their family and enjoy a variety of interests. Joe, who this past year celebrated 40 years with Famous Barr/May Company/Macy's, likes to golf when he gets the chance and is a big Cardinal's fan. Paula enjoys the Cardinals too but no one specific thing qualifies as "the" hobby for Paula, except maybe gardening, which she enjoys with Joe, one of them wielding a pencil more than a shovel.

On January 15, they found it so satisfying and right to check the "members" box on the pew sign-up pad and thank all for the warm welcome, both that day and over the past several months, as they made so many new and caring friends. They thank their friends, Terri and Gary Karcher, for helping them find such a warm and loving church home.

LENT WILL BE HERE SOON.....

Our Lenten Outreach project will focus on Church World Service, with educational programming, a service project, and an International Pot Luck.



- 1.) Mission moments and videos will tell us about Church World Service projects worldwide.
- 2.) Offering boxes will be distributed for contributions to buy hygiene items. Sunday School children will package the items into kits to be distributed by Church World Service. The kits will go where they are needed most, to refugee camps, or to help those recovering from natural disasters.
- 3.) An International Pot Luck is scheduled for after services on March 25th.

The kits can really make a difference. Thank you for partnering with Church World Service to help those in need around the world.

The Outreach Committee

LYDIA'S HOUSE COMMUNITY MEAL

It's time again to provide a meal for the ladies and children of Lydia's House. We will keep the same times as we have had in the past – the first Wednesday of February, April, June, August, October, and December. Please see the bulletin board for items needed. Thanks in advance for your usual support.

This is a belated thank you for the wonderful meal you provided for Lydia's House in December. They had turkey and ham purchased with monies donated by Nancy Krenning, Shirley Ashton, Alice Noland, Connie Moelm, Lou Mohesky, and the 50+ Group. Perhaps others contributed also, but failed to sign the envelope. Thank you all! There was not only enough money for the meat but also to purchase some of the other items that had not been signed up for. The rest of the meal was provided by the following people who did their usual wonderful job of sending plentiful and delicious food: Joan Schumacher, Kathy Shelton, Shirley Nottelmann, Nancy Krenning, Lois Decker, Merle Schuette, Mary Lou Farrow, Carole Armistead, Virginia Hladnick, Pat Siewing, Frances Kalbfleish, and Joyce Brand. Also, thanks to everyone who purchased Lydia's House pins before Christmas. I hope you or the persons you gifted them to enjoy wearing them and realize that you have also helped a very worthwhile cause.

CAPE ALBEON MEETING

St. Louis Association Women will have its Spring Gathering at Cape Albeon on Thursday, March 29th. The day will include a tour of the facility, lunch served by their culinary staff, a presentation from Parish Nurses, some stations set up by them so you can see what they do and get some brief health screenings and a closing worship. All of this is only \$10.00. The information will be on the bulletin board soon and the last day to sign up will be March 11th. Save the date!!

50+ GROUP

The 50+ Group will be going to Frankie and Johnny's restaurant on February 18th. We will meet at church about 11:15 a.m. and will carpool. There will be a sign-up sheet. Hope you can join us.

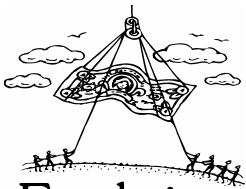
WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The Women's Fellowship activity for February will be a Bake Sale. Be sure to check the weekly bulletins to see when it will be held and if there is anything you can do to help.

LUNCH BUNCH

The next meeting of the Lunch Bunch will be on Wednesday, February 8th at noon. Please let Sandy know if you plan to attend.

UPCOMING FUNDRAISERS



Fundraiser

those days:

Friday, Feb. 24th – Preview Night – 5 p.m. – 8 p.m. - cost \$5 plus cost of books
Saturday, Feb. 25th – 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

The following events will be held in late February and early March:

Book Sale

The Women's Fellowship annual book sale will be held on Friday, February 24th through Sunday, February 26th. Listed below are the times, etc. for

Sunday, Feb. 26th – 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. half price sale; 1 p.m. – 2 p.m. \$5 a bag

If you have any books you would like to donate to the sale, please bring them to church and place them along the back wall of the MPR room. Many thanks for helping to make this a worthwhile project.

21st Annual Trivia Night

It's that time again! This year the Annual Trivia Nights will be held on Friday, March 9th and Saturday, March 10th. The cost is \$100 for a table of eight (8) as it was last year. This is St. Philip's biggest fundraiser of the year and YOU can be a part of making it a huge success. How? There are many ways. One, you can gather a group of eight of your family, friends, neighbors – or strangers – and reserve a table. If you do not have eight people for your table, please let us know as we may know of other church members that would like to play but do not have enough people for a table. Second, you can donate gift cards, tickets to area events (i.e. theater, baseball games), etc. Third, you can sign up to help at one or both evenings. Sign up sheets will be put on the bulletin board later in February.

We will have raffle prizes and silent auction items of sports memorabilia as we have had in the past.

If you have any questions, please feel free to email or call us. Thanks to everyone for making the Trivia Nights a big success for St. Philip's.

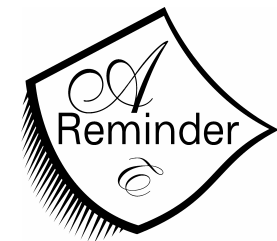
Jim and Connie Caldwell
Bob and Linda Kammerer

GIRL/BOY SCOUT SUNDAY

Any girl or boy scout or former scout be sure to mark your calendar for Sunday, February 19th. That will be the Sunday that we recognize and honor all the scouts of the congregation. Be sure to wear your uniform that day.

COMING EVENTS

Feb. 1 Meal for Lydia's House
Feb. 5 Communion
Youth Sunday
Pizzas delivered
Feb. 6 Council 7 p.m.



- Feb. 8 Lunch Bunch – noon
- Feb. 12 Birthday Sunday
Book Club after worship
- Feb. 19 Girl/Boy Scout Sunday
- Feb. 20 Crier articles due
- Feb. 22 Ash Wednesday Service 7 pm – communion
- Feb.24-26 Book Sale

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- Feb. 1 JoAnn Leber
- Feb. 2 Bud Leonard
- Feb. 3 Gary Gutjahr
Rachel Fischer
- Feb. 4 Brian Werner
- Feb. 6 Dylan Gutjahr
- Feb. 7 Danielle Kelly
- Feb. 8 Kirk Thurmond
- Feb. 9 Elizabeth Vogt
- Feb. 14 Dustin Knoll
Eleanor Morris
- Feb. 17 Kathy Vogt
- Feb. 18 Harrison Fischer
- Feb. 20 Gavin Armistead
- Feb. 21 Cara Holdener
- Feb. 23 Virginia Hladnick
Hayden Werner
- Feb. 24 Jerica Gordon
- Feb. 26 Chloe Gutjahr
- Feb. 27 Emily Mikusch
Luke Siewing
- Feb. 28 Joan Hemingway
James Kelly
Dave Schiele
- Feb. 29 Tiffany Walsh



December General Fund Summary



Receipts

| | |
|------------------------|---------------|
| Weekly Offering | 13,771.30 |
| Grocery Certificates | 118.35 |
| Early Childhood Center | 2,500.00 |
| Avon Fundraiser | 1,000.00 |
| Cookie Sales | 233.00 |
| Vendor Night | 100.00 |
| Hall Rental | <u>325.00</u> |

Total 18,047.65

Expenses

| | |
|--------------------------|-----------------|
| Learning Ministry | 69.46 |
| Financial Ministry | 1,640.52 |
| Church Property Ministry | 4,323.83 |
| Personnel | <u>6,579.45</u> |

Total 12, 613.26

December Surplus 5,434.39

Previous Balance 7,781.79

Current General Fund 13,216.18

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December Building Fund Summary

Beginning Balance 8,428.15

Building Fund Offering 939.50

Loan Payments (601.97)

Ending Balance 8,765.68

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USHERS, ACOLYTES AND CHILDREN'S TIME FOR FEBRUARY

Liturgists

| | |
|-------------|------------------|
| February 5 | Youth |
| February 12 | Sandy Stevenson |
| February 19 | Harry Jennings |
| February 26 | Carl Schillinger |



Welcoming Teams



| | |
|-------------|---|
| February 5 | Youth |
| February 12 | Jim and Connie Caldwell, Sue Myers, Merle Schuette |
| February 19 | Sharon Jackman, Alice Hillyard, Susan Cochran, Betty Moore |
| February 26 | Mike and Kathy Shelton, Bob Leber and Tom Nottelmann |

Children's Time

| | |
|-------------|-------------------|
| February 5 | Youth |
| February 12 | Sandy Stevenson |
| February 19 | |
| February 26 | April Schillinger |



Acolytes

ACOLYTES



| | |
|-------------|--------------------|
| February 5 | Jamie Kotthoff |
| February 12 | Elizabeth Vogt |
| February 19 | Lucy Vogt |
| February 26 | Victoria Hemingway |

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Wrong Funeral at the Right Time

Consumed by my loss, I didn't notice the hardness of the pew where I sat. I was at the funeral of my dearest friend – my mother. She finally had lost her long battle with cancer. The hurt was so intense; I found it hard to breathe at times. Always supportive, Mother clapped loudest at my school plays, held a box of tissues while listening to my first heartbreak, comforted me at my father's death, encouraged me in college, and prayed for me my entire life. When mother's illness was diagnosed, my sister had a new baby and my brother had recently married his childhood sweetheart, so it fell on me, the 27-year-old middle child without entanglements, to take care of her. I counted it an honor. 'What now, Lord?' I asked sitting in church. My life stretched out before me as an empty abyss. My brother sat stoically with his face toward the cross while clutching his wife's hand. My sister sat slumped against her husband's shoulder, his arms around her as she cradled their child. All so deeply grieving, no one noticed I sat alone. My place had been with our mother, preparing her meals, helping her walk, taking her to the doctor, seeing to her medication, reading the Bible together. Now she was with the Lord. My work was finished, and I was alone. I heard a door open and slam shut at the back of the church. Quick footsteps hurried along the carpeted floor....

An exasperated young man looked around briefly and then sat next to me. He folded his hands and placed them on his lap. His eyes were brimming with tears. He began to sniffle. 'I'm late,' he explained, though no explanation was necessary. After several eulogies, he leaned over and commented, 'Why do they keep calling Mary by the name of Margaret?' 'Because, that was her name, Margaret. Never Mary, no one called her 'Mary,' I whispered. I wondered why this person couldn't have sat on the other side of the church. He interrupted my grieving with his tears and fidgeting. Who was this stranger anyway?

'No, that isn't correct,' he insisted, as several people glanced over at us whispering. 'Her name is Mary, Mary Peters.' 'That isn't who this is.' 'Isn't this the Lutheran Church?' 'No, the Lutheran Church is across the street.' 'Oh.' 'I believe you're at the wrong funeral, sir.' The solemnness of the occasion mixed with the realization of the man's mistake bubbled up inside me and came out as laughter. I cupped my hands over my face, hoping it would be interpreted as

sobs. The creaking pew gave me away. Sharp looks from other mourners only made the situation seem more hilarious. I peeked at the bewildered, misguided man seated beside me. He was laughing too; as he glanced around, deciding it was too late for an uneventful exit. I imagined Mother laughing. At the final 'Amen,' we darted out a door and into the parking lot. 'I do believe we'll be the talk of the town,' he smiled. He said his name was Rick and since he had missed his aunt's funeral, asked me out for a cup of coffee.

That afternoon began a lifelong journey for me with this man who attended the wrong funeral, but was in the right place. A year after our meeting, we were married at a country church where he was the assistant pastor. This time we both arrived at the same church, right on time.

In my time of sorrow, God gave me laughter. In place of loneliness, God gave me love. This past June, we celebrated our twenty-second wedding anniversary. Whenever anyone asks us how we met, Rick tells them, 'Her mother and my Aunt Mary introduced us, and it's truly a match made in heaven.'

REMEMBER, God doesn't make mistakes. He puts us where we are to be.



LENTEN CALENDAR

February 22 - Ash Wednesday Service 7 p.m. – communion

March 25 – International Pot Luck Luncheon after worship

April 1 – Palm Sunday Service 9:30 a.m.

April 5 – Maundy Thursday Service 7 p.m. – communion

April 6 - Good Friday Service noon

April 8 - Easter breakfast 8:30 a.m.

Easter Service 9:30 a.m. - communion