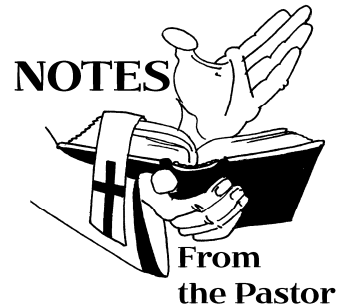


Lent is that season of the church year that begins forty days before Easter, not counting Sundays. It is not what we would call a festive season but one that is set aside for fasting, penance and to be reminded of Christ's suffering. We often ask why it should be necessary to go through such a dismal and painful observation. Why not just go directly to the celebration and joy of Easter?



Perhaps this is a reminder that without Jesus' suffering and the pain of the cross, there would have been no resurrection. Without the solemnity of Lent, the power of Easter is reduced to a shallow rite of spring. In our own lives, we wonder why we are sometimes forced to go through periods of darkness and despair. Why can't life be filled with only light and joy? Yet, it is in those moments of darkness that God is most with us. Then, as only God can do, we are lifted out of our despair and know the real fullness of joy.

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, on March 9. May we use our Lenten journey to focus on how God enters our lives. If we faithfully make that journey, then we may also enjoy a feeling of personal renewal at Easter.

**ASH WEDNESDAY IS MARCH 9  
WORSHIP AND HOLY COMMUNION  
7:00 PM**

January 2011



Dear Friends:

The mission of Feed My People is to *show God's love and compassion to all of His people, particularly His people in need.* As you know, Feed My People is the largest food pantry in the area. We continue to see an increase in clients coming to us for food and other needs. January brings more cold weather, increased heating expenses, and puts more strain on those we help. It is harder for our clients to meet their basic needs and keep food on hand.

Thank you for your donation of food to help restock our shelves. It is because of people like you that we are able to continue to provide much needed food to our clients at this challenging time.

We are very thankful for your support.

God's blessing to you.

(signed) Carol and John DeGuire, Executive Co-Directors

~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~  
January 18, 2011

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the Joint Neighborhood Ministry Board of Directors, staff, volunteers, and people we serve, I would like to thank you for your generous contribution of \$797.00 during the 2010 calendar year. Because of your kindness, Joint Neighborhood Ministry's Food Pantry has helped over fourteen thousand people this year by giving them emergency food supplies, assistance through our Family Advocate Program, which help with utility bills, prescription drug cost and bus passes, through our Parish Nurse Program, which assists our families with their health care, and our Representative Payee

Program, which helps individuals to manage their SSI or SSD payments. Your gift also supported our Back to School Program, Adopt-a-Family Christmas Program, Senior Food Delivery Program, and our summer youth programs, such as Urban Mission Experience and our Intern Program. Because you supported JNM this year, we were able to provide hope and compassion to those in South St. Louis City.

I want to thank you for your support during the 2010 calendar year and hope that Joint Neighborhood Ministry can count on your support during **2011**.

Yours in Christ service,  
(signed) Joan E. Hensley, Executive Director  
~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Thank you to the youth of St. Philip's UCC for their very thoughtful gift of cookies and a valentine card. It is so nice to be remembered in this special way. The cookies were delicious and much appreciated.

Vernon Hornung  
~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Thank you for the prayers, get well cards, phone calls and visits during my knee replacement surgery recuperation. Also, thank you to Pastor Brandon for his visits and prayers. I am doing good, and looking forward to getting back to church.

Jan Freese  
~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

**KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS**



Our shut-ins, Helen Wright, Vernon Hornung and Jacque Walker, Ann Davis, Elvira Rebiegne at The Quarters at Des Peres; Oscar Wenk at Delmar Gardens – Meramec Valley.

**SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER**

On March 8<sup>th</sup>, we will have the annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. Plan on having pancakes, sausage, applesauce, and doughnuts for a tasty breakfast supper. We will serve from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. for a price of \$6.00 (adults) \$2.50 (children). Plan to come and enjoy! The money will go toward the mission trip to Back Bay Mission at Biloxi, Mississippi this June. A sign-up sheet will be available to donate applesauce, doughnuts, or money for pancake mix, syrup, and sausage.

**SPRING HAS SPRUNG!**

At least it should have by Saturday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, the date of the annual St. Philip's Women's Retreat. It's again at Camp Fenwick and will start at 9 a.m. and last until about 3 p.m. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. Please sign if you plan to come (and we hope you do) so we'll know how many to prepare for. You'll receive more information later.

**TRIVIA NIGHTS – MARCH 4<sup>TH</sup> AND 5<sup>TH</sup>**

Can you imagine? This is the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our Trivia Nights. This year's will be held on Friday, March 4<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, March 5<sup>th</sup> beginning at 7 p.m. The doors will open at 6:15 p.m. If you want to reserve a table of 8 for \$100 a table, contact Jim Caldwell at 314-894-0760. Again this year we will have the silent auction, raffles, and Sports Memorabilia and of course, attendance prizes. Help will be needed to set up the tables and help the nights of the games so please let Jim know if you would be willing to help either night or both in any capacity. Thank you for your support of this big event of the church.

**HABITAT FOR HUMANITY**

The congregations of the UCC in St. Louis have pledged \$50,000 and the help of volunteers to build another home for Habitat for Humanity in 2011. Sometime in the spring we will be assigned a workday to help with the house and we hope to have

a group of hard working volunteers again this year. During Lent we will be raising money to help with the cost of the house. The Sunday before Ash Wednesday (March 6) everyone at St. Philip's will be given a bank. It will be collected the Sunday after Easter (May 1). You can fill your bank anyway you want. Maybe you will put a dime or a quarter or a dollar in each day. You could put your loose change at the end of each day into the bank. You could give up something for Lent and put the money you would have spent in the bank. Or you could simply write a check and put it in the bank. Last year we collected over \$700 for Habitat with our banks. Our hope this year is to collect \$1000. Think about your bank and the difference it will make in providing a hope for a Habitat family.

Your Outreach Ministry

### **SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY RESULTS**

On Super Bowl Sunday we collected donations in soup pots for Feed My People. Everyone had his or her choice of voting for the Steelers or the Packers by placing some money in the pot designated for their favorite team. There was also a third pot for "I Don't Care" and that's the one that received the most money! Whoever you voted for, thanks to you Feed My People has an additional \$60 to use toward food for their clients. Thank you for your generosity!

### **LYDIA'S HOUSE COMMUNITY MEAL**

Due to threatened snow and ice, instead of prepared food for the February community meal, we collected cash donations so they could have a pizza and salad supper. Guess what? The weatherman was right and the roads were terrible! Thanks to the wonderful people at St. Philip's they had \$120 to spend toward the food. I know they liked the pizza but missed our usual abundant and delicious home cooked meal. We'll have our next chance to provide their community meal on April 6<sup>th</sup> and we shouldn't have to worry about winter weather – I hope!

### **WEDNESDAY LUNCH BUNCH**

The next Wednesday lunch will be at Sandy's house on March 9<sup>th</sup>. Please let Sandy or Virginia know if you plan to come. All are welcome!

### **JNM TEA**

Be sure to save Saturday afternoon, May 14<sup>th</sup>, for the Joint neighborhood Ministry Tea. The appraiser will again be here and you're invited to bring an item to have an expert give you its replacement value. She's good and she's also entertaining, plus we'll have tea and plenty of food! The details will be provided later.

### **FORMER STUDENT PASTOR TO BE ORDAINED**

Michelle Torigian is going to be ordained on Sunday, March 6<sup>th</sup> at Clearwater, Florida in Faith United Church of Christ. Michelle will begin her ministry at St. Paul UCC on Old Blue Rock Road in Cincinnati, Ohio on Ash Wednesday, March 9<sup>th</sup>. We wish all the best to Michelle and God bless her as she starts her ministry at St. Paul UCC.

### **ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

The congregational meeting is scheduled for Sunday, April 10<sup>th</sup>. Committee chairpersons are asked to have their report in to the office by March 28<sup>th</sup> so that copies of the reports can be given to the congregation a week before the meeting. Thank you.

### **COMING EVENTS**

- March 1 Bell Choir 7 pm
- March 3 Yoga Class 6:30 pm
- March 4 Trivia Night 7 pm
- March 5 Trivia Night 7 pm
- March 6 Communion



- March 7 Council Mtg. 7 pm
- March 8 Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
- March 9 Free lunch noon
- Ash Wednesday Service 7 pm
- March 10 Yoga Class 6:30 pm
- March 13 Birthday Sunday - Daylight Savings Time begins
- March 15 Women's Fellowship – Sappington Barn Tea Room
- Bell Choir 7 pm
- March 17 Yoga Class 6:30 pm
- March 19 50+ Group – O'Leary's Corned Beef Dinner
- March 21 Crier articles due
- March 24 Yoga Class 6:30 pm
- March 29 Bell Choir 7 pm
- March 30 Lenten Soup Supper/Service 6:30 pm
- March 31 Yoga Class 6:30 pm

**MARCH BIRTHDAYS**

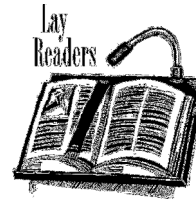
- March 1 Pam Tangeman
- March 2 Karen Moran
- March 4 Pam Schiele Stang
- March 5 Joyce Thuston
- March 10 Jeanne Piffel
- March 11 Ruth Adams
- Dawn Knoll
- March 12 Dave Schiele
- Debby Wodicker
- Jeff Gutjahr
- March 14 Scott Karcher
- March 15 Frances Kalbfleish
- March 21 Jason Karcher
- March 24 William Brill
- March 25 Susan Rohlfing
- Carlie Fischer



- March 26 Ellie Blum
- Clara Hornung
- March 27 Meghan Mikusch
- March 28 Jeanne Hickman
- Elaine Kimker
- March 29 Shirley Nottelmann
- Kali Hladnick
- March 30 Bob Kammerer

**USHERS, ACOLYTES AND CHILDREN'S TIME FOR MARCH**

**Liturgists**



- March 6
- March 13
- March 20
- March 27

- Lois Decker
- April Schillinger
- Gary Karcher
- Bob Leber

**Welcoming Teams**

- March 6
- March 13 Joy Lopez, Joan Schumacher
- March 20
- March 27



**Children's Time**



- March 6
- March 13
- March 20
- March 27

- Rev. Brandon
- April Schillinger
- Sandy Stevenson
- Bob Leber

**Acolytes**

- March 6
- March 13
- March 20
- March 27

- Scott Karcher
- Ashley Kulich
- Carley Nickel
- Sarah Witte



**COMMUNITY EVENTS (see bulletin board for further info)**

Sun. March 6 – Ordination of Michelle Torigian in Clearwater, Fla.  
1625 Union Street – 33755

Fri/Sat/Sun March 11,12,13 – Lenten Musical “Every Knee Shall Bow”  
– Christ Memorial Lutheran Church – 7:30 pm on Fri/Sat; 2:30  
pm on Sunday – 5252 S. Lindbergh

Sat. March 12 – Trivia Night – Our Savior Lutheran Church – 7 p.m. –  
1500 San Simeon Way – Fenton, MO

Sun. March 13 – Installation of Rev. Carole Barner – Grace UCC  
Church and Mt. Tabor UCC – 5700 Leona – 3 p.m.

Sat. March 19 – Sausage Supper – St. Paul UCC – 4 – 6:30 p.m. -  
adults \$9 – children \$4 – under 5 free – carryouts available  
3510 Giles Ave. (at Potomac)

Mon. March 21 – 9 am – “Spring Fling” – Parkway UCC – 2841 N.  
Ballas Road

Fri. March 25 – 7 pm – Feed My People Trivia Night – St. Margret  
Mary Alacoque Church – 4900 Ringer Road



**LENTEN SCHEDULE**

March 8<sup>th</sup> - Shrove Tuesday Pancake/Sausage Supper 5 – 7 p.m.

March 9<sup>th</sup> – Ash Wednesday Service – 7 p.m.

March 30<sup>th</sup> – Lenten Soup Dinner and Service – 6:30 p.m.

April 21<sup>st</sup> – Maundy Thursday Service – 7 p.m.

April 22<sup>nd</sup> – Good Friday Service – 12 noon

April 23<sup>rd</sup> – Easter Egg Hunt – 10 a.m.

April 24<sup>th</sup> – Easter Breakfast - 8:30 a.m.

Easter Service – 9:30 a.m.

## **FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

### **TWINKIES AND ROOT BEER**

A little boy wanted to meet God. He knew it was a long trip to where God lived, so he packed his suitcase with Twinkies and a six-pack of Root Beer and he started his journey.

When he had gone about three blocks, he met an elderly man. The man was sitting in the park just feeding some pigeons. The boy sat down next to him and opened his suitcase. He was about to take a drink from his root beer when he noticed that the man looked hungry, so he offered him a Twinkie. The man gratefully accepted it and smiled at the boy. His smile was so pleasant that the boy wanted to see it again, so he offered him a root beer. Again the man smiled at him. The boy was delighted! They sat there all afternoon eating and smiling, but they never said a word.

As it grew dark, the boy realized how tired he was and he got up to leave, but before he had gone more than a few steps, he turned around, ran back to the man, and gave him a hug. The man gave him his biggest smile ever.

When the boy opened the door to his own house a short time later, his mother was surprised by the look of joy on his face. She asked him, "What did you do today that made you so happy?"

He replied, "I had lunch with God" But before his mother could respond, he added, "You know what? God's got the most beautiful smile I've ever seen!"

Meanwhile, the elderly man, also radiant with joy, returned to his home. His son was stunned by the look of peace on his face and he asked, "Dad, what did you do today that made you so happy?"

He replied, "I ate Twinkies in the park with God." However, before his son responded, he added, "You know, he's much younger than I expected."

Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around. People come into our lives for a reason, a season, or a lifetime. Embrace all equally!

~ author unknown ~