



The Pastor's Connexion

A Publication of Reverend Terry Goodman

Wednesday February 7, 2007

Pastor's Thoughts

The year keeps moving along and now we about to enter into the season of Lent. In this issue, you will find a scripture and prayer emphasis chart for the first 5 weeks of Lent. In the next issue I will include a special emphasis for Holy Week.

Lent is that time for us to begin focusing inward and thinking about all that God has done for us through his Son Jesus Christ. We will have several special worship opportunities during Lent and I hope you will avail yourself of these times to focus and draw near to God.

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LENTEN WORSHIP



The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 21st, at 6:00 p.m. with a traditional Ash Wednesday service that will involve the imposition of ashes, made from palm branches, onto your forehead as the pastor says, "From dust you came and to dust you shall return."

On the First Sunday in Lent, February 25th, we will celebrate Holy Communion during the worship service. We will also begin a fuller order of worship with more responsive readings and prayers to begin focusing our thoughts for the Lenten Season.



The Bluefield Ministerial Association invites you to worship with the other churches of the community each weekday during Holy Week (April 2-6). We will have a worship service and then join together for a time of fellowship as we eat lunch.

On Holy Thursday, April 5th, we remember the last night of Jesus life on earth as he washed his disciples feet. We will do likewise. We will then celebrate Holy Communion.



Prayer Emphases for Lent

<p>Ash Wednesday February 21, 2007</p> <p>Scripture: Joel 2:1-2,12-17 Psalm 51:1-17 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10 Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21</p>	<p><i>Theme for the Day: Repent and be reconciled. Don't show your piety by outward works, but by the inward desires of your heart.</i></p> <p><i>Prayer: Lord, as this season of Lent begins, open my heart, mind, and spirit so that I might grasp anew all that you have done for me. By your grace I have been saved. Let me come to truly know what this means.</i></p>
<p>Week 1: Feb. 25-Mar 3, 2007</p> <p>Scripture: Deuteronomy 26:1-11 Psalm 91:1-2,9-16 Romans 10:8b-13 Luke 4:1-13</p>	<p><i>Theme for the Week: How to pass the test?</i></p> <p><i>Prayer: Lord, though temptation may come my way, I believe that you are with me helping me to resist. Let me live a pure and holy life that honors you, respects others, and allows me to be a faithful witness for your kingdom.</i></p>
<p>Week 2: March 4-10, 2007</p> <p>Scripture: Genesis 15:1-12,17-18 Psalm 27 Philippians 3:17-4:1 Luke 13:31-35</p>	<p><i>Theme for the Week: Will we recognize the signs of God's presence in our lives and be able to respond appropriately?</i></p> <p><i>Prayer: Lord, I don't always have eyes that see and ears that hear when you are near. This week, let me see and hear your presence in the world around me and let me find ways to respond that bring glory and honor to you.</i></p>
<p>Week 3: Mar 11-17, 2007</p> <p>Scripture: Isaiah 55:1-9 Psalm 63:1-8 1 Corinthians 10:1-13 Luke 13:1-9</p>	<p><i>Theme for the Week: Words of warning and words of invitation. Will we heed one and accept the other?</i></p> <p><i>Prayer: Let me heed to warnings that Scripture puts before me. Give me strength to resist temptation and to accept your invitation to fullness of life in Jesus Christ.</i></p>
<p>Week 4: March 18-24, 2007</p> <p>Scripture: Joshua 5:9-12 Psalm 32 2 Corinthians 5:16-21 Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32</p>	<p><i>Theme for the Week: The season of Lent is half over and many find a time for rejoicing in the Lord's forgiving grace that is available to all.</i></p> <p><i>Prayer: O Lord, how can I do anything but rejoice as I seek to understand your amazing grace that was provided freely to me. Hallelujah! Amen!</i></p>
<p>Week 5: March 25-31, 2007</p> <p>Scripture: Isaiah 43:16-21 Psalm 126 Philippians 3:4b-14 John 12:1-8</p>	<p><i>Theme for the Week: The week of passion is dawning and we must begin to prepare ourselves, even as Mary prepared Jesus by anointing his feet.</i></p> <p><i>Prayer: Lord, begin to mold my heart so that I can be in the proper frame of mind as Holy Week begins next Sunday. May the events of that week speak to me and enrich my relationship with you.</i></p>
<p>Palm/Passion Sunday April 1, 2007</p>	<p><i>Holy Week will be covered in the next Pastor's Connexion.</i></p>

By clicking on the scripture links, it will take you to a copy of that scripture on BibleGateway.



Prepare to Enter the Lenten Season with by Attending Our Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

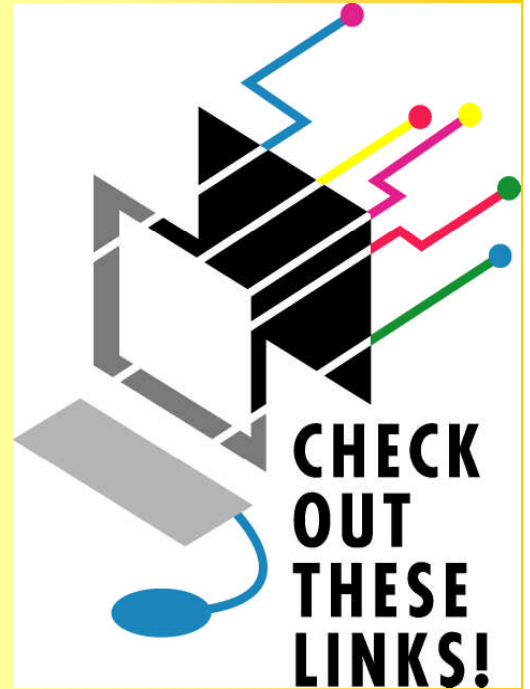
The Tuesday night prior to Ash Wednesday is known as: Fat Tuesday and/or Shrove Tuesday. This has been a time of celebration and partying – i.e., Mardi Gras!

Christians have traditionally used this final day before Lent begins as a time to rid their homes of leaven and sweets. Through the years, this has evolved into the beloved Pancake Supper on Shrove Tuesday. This year, we continue that tradition as our United Methodist Men prepare pancakes and sausage for us on Tuesday night February 20th from 6:00-7:00 p.m. in the church fellowship hall. Donations will be accepted for the meal and everyone is encouraged to come out and join us for this time of fellowship and fun.

I Invite You to View Some of the Web Pages that I Find Interesting

I have established an account at a place called del.icio.us.com. This site allows me to bookmark web pages that I find interesting and categorize them. It then allows anyone else to view those book marks and click through to the pages that are marked. If you want to view this page, then all you need to do is click on the link that is posted to the right.

One of the types of pages I will mark will be references I make in sermons. As you might have guessed, I get a lot of sermon information from the web. I'll start book marking some of those pages so that you can follow up. For instance, last week I talked about the Earth Capsule. Visit my favorite list and look under the sermon topics and find a link that takes you to that page so that you can include your own information in a time capsule.



[Virginia Avenue UMC Web Page](#)

[Our Church Online Calendar](#)

[The Pastor's Blog](#)

[RevTDG's favorites on del.icio.us](#)

(Please note: Neither I, nor the church, are responsible for the content of the following sites.)

[Holston Annual Conference](#)

[The Official United Methodist Church Web Site](#)

[Sacred Space](#)

The online prayer center of the Irish Jesuits.

[ScreenIt.com](#)

If you are looking for reviews of recently released movies and DVD's check out this site. You don't have to join. Scroll to the bottom of the page on click on NO THANKS

Share This Newsletter With Your Friends

You know that the information that is contained in this newsletter might be of benefit to people other than members of the church. I encourage you to forward this email newsletter on to a few of your friends. Perhaps they might learn more about the church when they read it. They might even want to come and see what is happening at the church. The links could be of interest to lots of different folk. So if you like what you read, then feel free to pass it on to others.

Web Site Update

I have found some time to update the web site. I encourage you to check out the pages. The look is different and some of the content has been changed. I'm always open to suggestions as to how we can make the web site better. I am also open to getting help in keeping it updated. Contact me if you have those skills.

One Great Hour of Sharing Offering to Be Taken on March 18th

"Being there" is UMCOR's priority. On behalf of the United Methodist Church, United Methodist Committee On Relief provides relief wherever catastrophe strikes. Coordinating efforts with faith-based partners around the world, the agency rushes to disaster areas with aid such as food, clothing, shelter and medicine. After immediate needs have been met, UMCOR stays to help survivors rebuild.

Every dollar given to a UMCOR Advance goes directly to aid for the affected region. Such 100 percent giving is possible because UMCOR's administrative costs come from other, undesignated sources, including the annual One Great Hour of Sharing offering collected in local churches.

UMCOR receives no World Service funds or any other apportionments. United Methodists' gifts to this special offering keep UMCOR's delivery system in place so we can respond quickly and effectively to disasters such as South Asia Tsunami Relief or Hurricane Katrina Relief.

Gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing underwrite UMCOR's costs of doing business. Gifts over and above those used to cover administrative costs are channeled where they are most needed — to assist the most vulnerable people whose need is greatest. The administrative costs equal 2 percent of the relief agency's total budget, according to UMCOR.

So you are encouraged to support UMCOR through the One Great Hour of Sharing offering that will be taken on March 18, 2007.



Valentine's Meal

Don't Forget Our Special Valentine's Meal This Sunday

The Ewilda Whitenack UMW Circle is sponsoring a Valentine's Meal following the worship service on Sunday February 11th. This will be a fund raising meal to help the circle with their projects.

Cost

\$5.00 ages 13 and up

\$2.50 ages 6-12

Free ages 5 and under

Menu:

Spaghetti and Sauce

Tossed Salad

Bread

Desserts

Drink

Here's a Reminder About the One Call Now System

With the system now in place, the leaders of various groups within the church have been given access codes so that they can send out messages as they need to their group. Messages that need to go to all members of the church will be sent by Leisa or the Pastor. So far, the feedback on this system has been positive. Everyone enjoys being kept up to date on last minute decisions. Let me know what your impression of the system is and if there are any changes that you think we need to make with the usage of the system.