

Reflections
Rev. Barbara Gulick

Thinking About the Season of Lent While Looking Forward to Easter

As Easter people, we are always thinking about Easter, seeing life through the lens of the resurrection of our Lord and Savior. Yet Lent presents us with a time set aside for taking stock, for self-reflection, for deepening our relationships with one another and with our Lord, as we join Jesus and the disciples and turn our faces toward Jerusalem. Lent can be a somber time—anticipating the crucifixion. And in these troubling times, Lent takes on an even more serious note for us. But let us never forget that we know how the story ends. We can see beyond the way of the cross, through the darkness of that Friday noon, to the joy that comes in the morning. As the old hymn says, “How can we keep from singing?”

But we are also called to tend to the woundedness in our own lives, in our community and in our world. G.K. Chesterton, when asked to write an essay on the subject, “What Is Wrong with the World?” wrote simply, “*Me.*” Lent is a time to make it personal. On Wednesday evenings--*March 4th-April 1st*--from 6:30-7:30, we will meet for discussion and prayer. We will consider William H. Willimon’s book, “Sinning Like a Christian—A New Look at the Seven Deadly Sins,” as the jumping off point for our conversations. The setting will be informal and the coffee pot will be on. Child care will be provided upon request.

This season of Lent and this season of our lives is a time to stay close to our church with regular worship attendance, with fellowship in our church family, and reaching out to the wider community with our unique message of hope and redemption. In the coming year, we are seeking more opportunities to serve the Millersburg community. We welcome the community to such events as our annual pie auction on March 7th, our Palm Sunday pot-luck lunch and Easter Egg Hunt on April 5th, and of course to come sing *Hallelujah* with us on Easter. We are also planning a personal finance workshop soon after Easter, and community-wide family fun nights with movies, games, and a family-friendly, free supper.

And just one more thing. Lenten daily devotion booklets are available in the church narthex to help us establish new “holy habits.” Be sure to pick up a booklet for your family. May I suggest a new or re-newed holy habit of attending Sunday School each week at 9:15? Children’s Sunday School is re-charged with new stories, old truths, and fun activities under Elaine Long’s delightful leadership. (More volunteers gratefully accepted.) Youth and adults are eagerly encouraged to join the Disciples Class in the mezzanine for lively and sometimes irreverent discussion of how the Bible speaks to us in the 21st century—or does it? It is casual, open, and free-wheeling. Come join us. We need your insights.

See you on Sunday!



Many heartfelt thanks to Marshall & Amy Anderson Simmons for donating this table and four chairs to MCC, one of our items on our Wish List! Thank you also to Bill Anderson for assembling them for us!

JOYS

- We welcome Holli Johnson as our newest visitor to Millersburg Christian Church! Holli is a good friend of Aimee Landrum.
- We welcome three new members to our church family: Doug & Sarah Gehring and Bill Anderson!

PRAYERS

- Continued prayers of healing for Stephen Bryant.

President's Ponderings

Tuesday, February 17, the executive committees of Millersburg Christian Church and Millersburg Preschool met to discuss issues of mutual concern. We have provided space for the Millersburg Preschool for more than 25 years, and the preschool currently pays the church for the use of that space an amount equal to about 1/3 of the cost of utilities. They also provide some of the consumable paper goods, light bulbs, etc. We use some of their toys and furniture for children's church and other children's activities.

I want to take this opportunity to reaffirm what a wonderful community resource the Millersburg Preschool is! While no current members of the church have children in the preschool, many of us had children in the preschool in the past (and we hope that Maddie Hutchinson and her little brother will have the same wonderful experiences that our children had). Miss Sherri continues to provide excellent leadership for the preschool based on many years of academic and practical experience. Graduates of the preschool go on to other schools believing that school is a wonderful place and that teachers are their friends, not their enemies. Parent involvement in the preschool is another plus that carries on through the elementary/secondary school system. The preschool benefits by being housed in a safe, non-hostile, moral environment, and we should see it as part of our local mission effort to open our church to this sort of community institution.

During much of the week, our church is basically empty. We gladly host or provide space for community events from time to time (such as the recent Callaway Electric Coop meeting to answer questions about power production, the Pahl's 50th wedding anniversary reception, an upcoming birthday party, voting, etc.) and we are developing some community outreach events. But the Millersburg Preschool is the primary user of the church during the week, generally occupying the basement area from Tuesday through Thursday. It would be nice if we had a space that could be devoted exclusively to the preschool, but we don't. And so we must share space and share

responsibility for cleaning and maintenance of that space.

Since no member of the church has also been a member of the preschool for several years and there has been no church liaison from the preschool for a few years, we have lost some of the communication between the two groups. So, of course, one of the "issues of mutual concern" was resurrecting the position of a preschool church liaison. The preschool is also going to post information on the narthex bulletin board so that church members will be more aware of preschool programs and activities.

I hope that we can expand our local outreach efforts, and reaffirming our positive relationship with the Millersburg Preschool provides one platform for building those outreach efforts.

Jeff Moran

MISSIONS

The Missions Committee held its first meeting February 8th. Quarterly Local Outreach Projects were decided. First quarter will be CMCA (Central Missouri Community Action), second quarter will be HAVEN House and Wiley House, third quarter will be the Missouri Center for Rural Ministry, and fourth quarter will be SERVE.

A check for \$188.87 was sent to Callaway Action Network at SERVE through redemption of Moser's and Patricia's receipts.

During February we celebrated the Week of Compassion offering. This special offering is for church-wide humanitarian relief, refugee assistance, and self-help development mission funding. Donations are used through Church World Service.

During the month of March we will be collecting canned fruit for the SERVE food pantry.

THOSE WHO SERVE IN MARCH

Elders: Carol Cox and John Gulick
Ushers: Karen Ackley
Preparation: Vicki Fritz

Bread: March 1, 2009 Vicki Fritz
March 8, 2009 Karen Ackley
March 15, 2009 Tina & Mattie Arnold
March 22, 2009 Rita Adams
March 29, 2009 Lynn Reynolds

SERVE Food Pantry for the month of March: Canned fruit

Lenten Devotional Booklets

Lenten Devotional Booklets called "Holy Habits" are available in the narthex. Please pick one up for your family!

Daylight Saving Time Begins Sunday, March 8! Set your clocks ahead one hour before going to bed Saturday night!



Reminder...

Be sure to wear your special token of "forgiveness" throughout the season of Lent, not as a sign of who you are, but of *whose* you are and that you are loved to forgiveness.

Missouri 2-1-1

Call today to give or get help!

Need help? Not sure where to turn? In Missouri, try calling 2-1-1. This new toll-free telephone number is available to you twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. A 2-1-1 Specialist will assist you in finding the right health and human service resources close to your home. Services are confidential and include referrals for basic human needs, physical and mental health resources, support for older adults, people with disabilities, and help with other non-emergency situations. It is also a source for volunteer opportunities. To find help, or give help, dial 2-1-1 today or go online to 211missouri.org.

Holy Week at Millersburg Christian Church

Palm Sunday, April 5th

Celebrate Palm Sunday Worship with a procession of the Palms and special music. Pot-luck dinner and Easter Egg Hunt follows worship. Family, friends, and community welcome.

Maundy Thursday Communion Service at 7:00 on April 9th

Communion service is open to all believers and includes a dramatic reading of the "Living Last Supper."

Celebration of the Resurrection--Easter Sunday, April 12th

Come join your brothers and sisters in Christ at an Easter Sunrise Service, Easter Breakfast served by the men of the church, Easter Baptismal Service, and Easter Worship with special music. Hallelujah! Christ is risen! He is risen, indeed!



Pictured here are Errol and Hazel Pahl on their wedding day on February 14, 1959, along with their picture taken in 2009 on the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary! Congratulations to both of them and their families!



This picture was taken at Errol & Hazel Pahl's 50th wedding anniversary open house at the church on Valentine's Day. Left to right are: daughters Cheryl Pardue & Cindy Quick, Errol & Hazel, and sons Eric & Randy Pahl.

Welcome 3 New Members!

This past Sunday, Feb. 22nd, we welcomed three new members to our church family, all by transfer of other congregations. Doug & Sarah Gehring have been regular attendees both at church and by getting involved in the choir, the Christmas program, and CWF. Sarah and Doug came by transfer from Burton, KS and Centralia, MO.

Bill Anderson also transferred his membership from the Ozark United Methodist Church in Ozark, MO back to MCC after living away for quite some time. He is a dear friend of the congregation and former member, and it is a joy to welcome him home. Bill works for the MO Dept. of Conservation.

We are so happy to have all of them officially a part of our congregation and members of the Body of Christ.



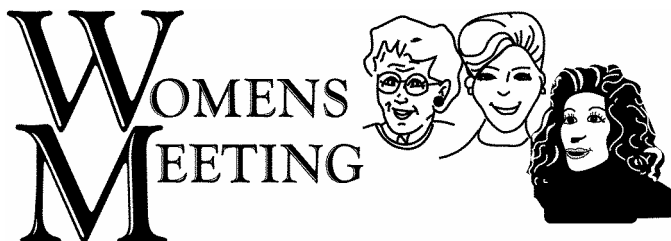
We celebrate

Lent!

It's a chance to get closer to
Jesus.

Join us Sundays
For a special Children's Sunday
School Series
Starting 9:15 -10:15 AM
March 1, 2009
(Fun activities, music, and a gift)
At Millersburg Christian Church
4527 State Road J

We'll learn about Lent.
We'll learn about Holy Week,
including Palm Sunday
(Easter Egg Hunt on April 5).
And we'll celebrate Easter
Sunday on April 12.



CHRISTIAN WOMEN FELLOWSHIP

The Christian Women Fellowship group will meet on Monday, March 16, at 7:00 PM, at Lynn Reynolds' home located at 1824 County Road 355 in Fulton. Please bring a salad to share. The program will be on Women of the Bible. You do not need to bring any materials for this - Lynn will have all the references needed. Hope to see you there!

MARCH, 2009

*Birthdays in Italics

*Anniversaries in Bold Italics

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1</p> <p>9:15 SS 10:30 Worship Baby Shower for Allison & Jesse Hutchison 2:00</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Exercise 5:45-6:30 pm JOY Choir 6:30-7:30 pm</p>	<p>3</p> <p>MPS 8-12</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Lenten Study/Prayer Group 6:30-7:30 pm</p>	<p>5</p> <p>MPS 8-12 Alumni Sch 5-8 Exercise 5:45-6:30 pm</p>	<p>6</p> <p><i>Justin Bedsworth</i></p>	<p>7</p> <p><u>Pie Auction</u> <u>6:00 pm</u> <i>Gary Eggleston</i></p>
<p>8</p> <p>9:15 SS 10:30 Worship Daylight Saving Time Begins <i>Manning Weiss</i></p>	<p>9</p> <p>Exercise 5:45-6:30 pm JOY Choir 6:30-7:30 pm</p>	<p>10</p> <p>MPS 8-12 MCC Elders 6:15 MCC Board 7:00 pm <i>David (DJ) Tucker, Jr.</i></p>	<p>11</p> <p>Lenten Study/Prayer Group 6:30-7:30 pm <i>Rachel Landrum</i></p>	<p>12</p> <p>MPS 8-12 Alumni Sch 5-8 Exercise 5:45-6:30 pm <i>Brent & Tracy Long</i></p>	<p>13</p> <p><i>Jamie Hudson</i></p>	<p>14</p> <p><i>Kim (Adams) Force</i></p>
<p>15</p> <p>9:15 SS 10:30 Worship <i>Beth (Hudson) Monson</i> <i>Courtney Moran</i></p>	<p>16</p> <p>Exercise 5:45-6:30 pm JOY Choir 6:30-7:30 pm <i>Edward Bright</i> <i>Jimmie Hoesch</i> <i>Aidan Whitworth</i></p>	<p>17</p> <p>MPS 8-12 </p>	<p>18</p> <p>Lenten Study/Prayer Group 6:30-7:30 pm</p>	<p>19</p> <p>MPS 8-12 Alumni Sch 5-8 Exercise 5:45-6:30 pm <i>Rhyan Murray</i></p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p> <p><i>Jimmie Schafer</i></p>
<p>22</p> <p>9:15 SS 10:30 Worship</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Exercise 5:45-6:30 pm JOY Choir 6:30-7:30 pm <i>Hunter Bethell</i></p>	<p>24</p> <p>MPS 8-12</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Lenten Study/Prayer Group 6:30-7:30 pm</p>	<p>26</p> <p>MPS 8-12 Alumni Sch 5-8 Exercise 5:45-6:30 pm</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> <p><i>Amber Johns</i></p>

29

9:15 SS
10:30 Worship

Jason Bedsworth
Patti Karr

30

Exercise 5:45-6:30
pm
JOY Choir 6:30-
7:30 pm
Errol Pahl
Jon Schmidt

31

MPS 8-12

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR MARCH

March 1, 2009

Genesis 9: 8-17
Psalm 25: 1-10
1 Peter 3: 18-22
Mark 1: 9-15

March 8, 2009

Genesis 17: 1-7, 15-16
Psalm 22: 23-31
Romans 4: 13-25
Mark 8: 31-38

March 15, 2009

Exodus 20: 1-17
Psalm 19
1 Corinthians 1: 18-25
John 2: 13-22

March 22, 2009

Numbers 21: 4-9
Psalm 107: 1-3, 17-22
Ephesians 2: 1-10
John 3: 14-21

March 25, 2009

Isaiah 7: 10-14
Psalm 45
Hebrews 10: 4-10
Luke 1: 26-38

March 29, 2009

Jeremiah 31: 31-34
Psalm 51: 1-12
Hebrews 5: 5-10
John 12: 20-33

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