

MESSENGER

LENT: IT JUST ISN'T THE STUFF IN YOUR DRYER

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 17, 2010. We will have a 6:30 service with the Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion as we begin this season of introspection and action. In the Ash Wednesday service we are invited to celebrate a holy Lent by fasting, prayer and Bible Study, and almsgiving. What do we mean by that?

When we hear the term fasting during Lent we normally have a couple of responses. One response is "I'm not going to do that. That isn't Protestant or Methodist." Well maybe it isn't Protestant but Jesus said, "When you fast..." So let's consider it a Christian practice since Jesus did not say if but when. He assumed his followers would fast. So okay, I'll fast. I'll give up Brussel Sprouts and Leeks. I don't like them any way. When we give up something we don't care for any way, it trivializes the idea of fasting. You don't have to fast from food. You can fast from anything that has an inordinant control on your life. For many of us that is food. Our stomachs rule us. The Early Church Fathers said when we learn to control our stomachs then we could learn to control the other things that rule our lives. With that philosophy, let me make a few suggestions to you on how to fast this Lenten season.

Level One (for people who have never fasted before)

Try taking one day (the traditional days are Wednesday and Friday) and do not eat any meat or chicken that day.

Level Two (just a little harder)

Try not eating animal products (yes, go vegan) on a Wednesday or Friday.

Level Three (the next step)

On Ash Wednesday and/or Good Friday abstain from eating until after church. Eat no animal products on Wednesday and Fridays in Lent

Level Four

*Abstain from food on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday
Eat no animal products during Lent*

It does not matter if you are at Level One or Level Four, fasting of any type opens us up to our sinfulness and to God's grace. It is a struggle on any level to fast or abstain from eating. The goal is to use the extra money we aren't spending on food as alms; to give that money away. The extra time not spent cooking is to be spent in prayer, meditation, and /or devotional reading.

Doing this is keeping a holy Lent. Its rewards: an Easter like you have never experienced.

*Blessings,
Greg*

Email:

Web: <http://www.sfstjohnsumc.org>

1200 Old Pecos Trail at Cordova Road

Santa Fe, NM 87505-0361

Main Office Phone: 982-5397

Office Fax: 983-4777

**Bring in Canned Goods for
Soup-er Bowl Sunday!**

This youth-led canned food drive benefits your church food pantry. Bring in a sack of canned goods on Super Bowl Sunday (Feb. 7) and place it in the bin marked with the team you're rooting for in the Super Bowl! While we cannot determine which team will win the big game, the bin with the most cans of food will win the SOUP-er Bowl!!

A Lenten Study

Mark your calendars for a Lenten Study, *Living the Jesus Creed*. This 40 day discipline/study will be led by Greg Kennedy on Wednesday nights beginning February 24, 2010 for 6 consecutive weeks. **Advance registration and payment for the book is required by Feb. 10th to ensure curriculum delivery.**

The Jesus Creed helps us to see that the most important commandments in the entire Bible are two: to love God and to love others. Please join us for this thought provoking spiritual journey through Lent.

A simple meal of vegetarian soup and bread for \$ 2.50 will be served @ 5 PM before each Wednesday night class.

Pancakes and all that jazz!!

Plan on joining us on February 16, from 5:00-6:00 for a Shrove Tuesday pancake dinner and jazz concert. The dinner is \$5.00 for adults and \$2.50 for children 10 and under. Please signed up by February 14. The UMM will be cooking the dinner and the Santa Fe Youth Symphony Miles Davis Jazz Ensemble will provide the jazz. You don't want to miss this.

Mission Possible

The God Squad, is going to partner with the Outreach Team during the month of February. The children wish to educate and increase awareness of how Malaria can be prevented in the African Congo. The God Squad has been learning about Malaria and the effective use of mosquito nets. Malaria is the number one killer of

children under the age of five years old in Africa. Ten dollars can buy one mosquito net and save the life of a child.

The **African Children's Choir** is coming to St. John's on Wednesday, March 24. They will eat dinner with us then have a concert a 6:30. We will need to provide 8-10 host homes. A chaperone will accompany each group of children. Please email Wendy if you are interested in hosting some of these fine elementary aged children.

Did you Know...

That St. John's UMC-TLC and Pre-school has extremely low Student/Teacher ratios? That means more Teacher time for each student!

We still have limited openings in some classes, and appreciate the personal referrals from our families.

Thank you to everyone for the warm welcome to St. John's TLC and Pre-school. It is such a pleasure, and honor to work with such amazing children, teachers, families and church staff.

Warmly, Maggie

The Knitters for Peace

invites the congregation to disperse shawls, baby blankets and lap blankets to those who might appreciate having one to work through grief, illness, or celebration. All we ask is that you sign the book telling us who the recipient is, a few words about the reason it is being given, and who is giving it. Two large tubs filled with these hand-knit and hand-crocheted items are in the closet in the chapel, with a sign-out book and letters you can use if you wish. If you cannot find them, please ask in the church office.

Join us the first Sunday of each month in the Parlor from 4:30 to 6pm as we meet to share a time of knitting/crocheting. We would love to have you share in this unique ministry.

A Great Week at the Homeless Shelter

St. John's members responded with great enthusiasm to the request to help at the Interfaith Community Shelter the week of January 10 to 16.

Sixty-five volunteers came to the shelter at night to receive the people who come to spend the night and eat a hot meal. Eight people volunteered for two nights. Ten or more who were not volunteers contributed food to the shelter.

Many members also contributed money, toiletries, and clothing. These contributions were very welcome and are important to those coming to shelter.

The shelter reported that we served 457 persons during the week. In addition, more than fifty came for the meal, even though they did not stay at the shelter. So we served more than 500 persons for the week.

We are especially grateful to the Flying Tortilla and the Pantry Restaurant for contributing meals for two nights. When we consider having breakfast or lunch, or going out to dinner, we should remember the generosity of these two restaurants. Thanks to Max Myers and Stan Singley, two St. John's members, for arranging these contributions.

We are grateful that our pastor, Greg Kennedy, has supported this ministry in many ways, including spending two nights as a volunteer.

Many of the volunteers talked with some of the persons staying at the shelter and found it to be a rich experience. We are going to have a "debriefing session" so that people can share their stories and experiences. Suggestions about improving the shelter ministry will be welcome, as well.

The session will be Sunday, February 7, at 9:30 a.m. in the library.

Thanks to everyone who helped to make our week at the shelter such a success.
--Outreach Team

February 2010

Monday, February 1st

10 AM Food Pantry N Hallway

Tuesday, February 2nd

5:45 PM Family Music Babies SB5

Wednesday, February 3rd

10:30 AM Family Music 3, 4, 5 SB5

6:15 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, February 4th

10:00 AM Food Pantry N Hall

6:30 Worship Team Choir Hall

Saturday, February 6th

9:00AM Leadership Tr. Gathering RM

Sunday, February 7th

8:30 AM Worship Celebration Sanctuary

9:45 AM Sunday School -Rms Assigned

11:00AM Worship Celebration Sanctuary

3:30 PM Asbury Ringers Bell Room

4:30 PM Fiesta Ringers Bell Room

4:30 PM Knitters for Peace Parlor

6:00 PM UMYF

Cancelled God Squad

Monday, February 8th

10:00AM Food Pantry N Hall

Tuesday, February 9th

7:15 UMM Breakfast Tortilla Flats

11 AM UMW Unit Mtg. Gathering Rm

5:45PM Family Music Babies SB5

Wednesday, February 10th

10:30AM Family Music 3, 4, 5 SB5

4:45 PM Finance Gathering RM

6:15 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, February 11th

10:00AM Food Pantry -N Hall

Sunday, February 14th

8:30AM Worship Celebration Sanctuary

9:45 AM Sunday School -Rms. Assigned

11:00AM Worship Celebration Sanctuary

3:30 PM Asbury Ringers Bell Room

4:30 PM Fiesta Ringers Bell Room

6:00 PM UMYF & God Squad

Monday, February 15th

10:00 AM Food Pantry - N Hall

Tuesday, February 16th

5:00PM Shrove Tuesday

Pancake Dinner & Jazz concert

5:45 PM Family Music Babies SB5

Wednesday, February 17th

10:30 AM Family Music 3, 4, 5 SB5

6:15 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, February 18th

10:00 AM Food Pantry - N Hall

Sunday, February 21st

8:30 AM Worship Celebration Sanctuary

9:45 AM Sunday School Rms. Assigned

11:00 AM Worship Celebration Sanctuary

3:30 PM Asbury Ringers Bell Room

4:30 PM Fiesta Ringers Bell Room

6:00 PM UMYF & God Squad

Monday, February 22nd

10 AM Food Pantry N Hallway

6:30 PM Trustees

Tuesday, February 23rd

7:15AM UMM Breakfast Tortilla Flats

5:45PM Family Music Babies SB5

Wednesday, February 24th

10:30AM Family Music 3, 4, 5 SB5

5:00 PM Lenten Supper

6:15 Pm Lenten Study Parlor

6:15 Pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, February 25th

10:00AM Food Pantry N Hall

Saturday, February 27

9:00AM Leadership Tr. Gathering RM

Sunday, February 28th

8:30 AM Worship Celebration Sanctuary

9:45 AM Sunday School -Rms Assigned

11:00AM Worship Celebration Sanctuary

3:30 PM Asbury Ringers Bell Room

4:30 PM Fiesta Ringers Bell Room

6:00 PM UMYF & God Squad

Lenten Worship Opportunities and Preaching Series

Living into our Baptism

February 17 - Ash Wednesday Worship, 6:30pm, Sanctuary

February 21 – Confessing Who We Are (Luke 4:1-13)

February, 28 – Staying the Course (Luke 13:31-35)

March 7 – Digging around, Fertilizing (Luke 13:1-9)

March 14 – Lavish in Mercy (Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32)

March 21 – The Mission in Real Time, All the Time (John 12:1-8)

March 28 – Sunday's Palms, Wednesday's Ashes (Luke 19:28-40)

April 1 - Maundy Thursday, 6:30 Holy Communion, Sanctuary

April 2 - Good Friday, 12:15-12:45 Chapel and 6:30 Tenebrae, Sanctuary

**Mid-week Lenten Services will be held on Thursdays,
12:15-12:45 in the chapel February 25 – March 25**

Business Office Hours:
Monday -Thursday 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Friday 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon

Sunday Worship Services: 8:30 A.M.
11:00 A.M.

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