

The Epistle of St. Paul's--February 2020

From the Pastor's Desk

Ah February, what are we to make of you? The novelty of winter has long since worn off and spring is an agonizingly long way off. Still in the grip of winter, we are able to look forward this month to Groundhog Day, Valentine's Day and Presidents Day. On the church calendar, this month is significant due to the arrival of Lent on Ash Wednesday, February 26. According to the dictionary, the word *February* comes from the Latin word *Februa*, which means purification, via the purification ritual *Februa* held on February 15 in the Roman lunar calendar.

I've been doing a lot of thinking about Lent and what it means to me on practical and personal (secular) levels, and church (spiritual) level. We all know about the custom of spring cleaning, or as Belinda and I call it, "clearing the decks." On a practical level, cleaning prevents disease and provides for an appealing aesthetic. On a personal level it provides care, context, and space for the things we value and for seeing just what we actually have and/or need!

On a spiritual level, cleaning serves much the same purpose and provides the same benefits as we have with the practical and personal cleaning. Spiritual cleaning allows disease (sin) to be removed from our life, revealing the beautiful soul God created us to be. Spiritual cleaning provides the opportunity to remove from our life those attitudes, behaviors, and other clutter and to see the spiritual life for what it is: the opportunity to really live in the Light of God's Love.

Christianity is a communal faith; it cannot be done alone. Our faith, which is a gift from God, is meant to be shared. The great thing about Lent is that unlike the cleaning that takes place in our homes where we are doing all the work, Lent is done with the support of our brothers and sisters in the Lord. On Ash Wednesday you'll once more be given the opportunity to purposefully engage in the Christian discipline of Lent, aka, Spiritual Cleaning. By coming to worship on the 26th, you'll show others

that you are supporting them in their Christian walks, and that you are in turn trusting in their support of your walk. “I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to observe a holy Lent: by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God’s Holy Word.” —*The United Methodist Book of Worship*, p. 322

Every blessing,

Pastor Charles

Lenten Observances at St. Paul’s

Lenten Devotional

Pastor Charles has compiled a devotional for your use during the Lenten season. This collection includes a wide range of readings including Psalms, Collects from the Book of Common Prayer, hymns, prayers, creeds, and much more. Print copies will be available on February 23. Entries will also be posted to the St. Paul’s UMC blog and on our Facebook page.

Ash Wednesday at St. Paul’s

On February 26th at 7:00 p.m. we’ll mark the beginning of the season of Lent with an Ash Wednesday service. What makes Lent different from much of rest of the church year is that Hallmark has yet to figure out how to market repentance, reflection and restoration. In this worship service, we’ll be invited to commit ourselves to growing closer to the Lord.

Lenten Sermon Series

Beginning on March 1st, Pastor Charles will be sharing a Lenten sermon series which takes a long view of Holy Week, beginning with the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. So often it happens that we arrive at Palm Sunday waving branches and then rush to

get to Easter morning, forgetting that some other stuff happened that week! Using the gospel according to Mark as the source, each week we'll look at the events of Holy Week with a reflective eye on the week that changed the world.

March 1: What Kind of King is Jesus? (Mark 11:1-11)

March 8: Trouble in the Temple (Mark 11:12-19)

March 15: Conflict and More Conflict (Mark 11:20-13:37)

March 22: The Need for a Traitor (Mark 14:1-11)

March 29: A Last Supper and Gethsemane (Mark 14:12-71)

April 5: The Crucifixion of Jesus (Mark 15:1-41)

April 12: Easter Sunday: Resurrection (Mark 16:1-8)

Monthly Events

- Ladies Lunch Bunch will meet on Thursday, February 6 at 11:45 at Oregano's (2690 Baseline Road).
- Men's Breakfast will meet on Saturday, February 8, at 8:00 a.m. at Le Peep. No reservation needed; just come and enjoy.
- Sew What will meet on February 28 at the home of Suzanne Polacek. We meet at 10:00 a.m. Please let Suzanne know if you are coming: 303-709-6676.

Community Table

Help feed the hungry at Community Table. We need volunteers for Thursday, February 20, from 4:30 pm - 6:30ish (one shift only) at 2691 30th Street. Let Melanie Muckle know if you can help: 303-641-6003. Thank you!

Theater Notes

We have reservations to see *Ragtime* at BDT Stage on Thursday, May 7. Tickets are \$51, **checks due to Judy Waller by Feb. 7th**. We'd love to have you join our group. It's always a fun evening and a great way to support local theater.

Here are schedules for BDT Stage and Candlelight Dinner Playhouse for Spring and Summer, 2020.

BDT Stage

Ragtime: March 7—May 30

The Sound of Music: June 5—September 19

Candlelight

Jekyll and Hyde, the Musical:

January 30—March 29

Curtains: April 9—May 31

Peter Pan: June 11—August 23

Looking For A Home...

A monogrammed **red scarf** was found in the parking lot after the Christmas Eve service. Claim it in the office if it's yours.

The **entertainment cabinet** in the library is no longer needed at St. Paul's. If you can use it, it's yours!

Looking for a Hand...

SOS!! Red alert!! Man your battle stations!! HELP!!

The finance team, specifically the Sunday counting team, is looking for a "Few Good Men/Women/Teams" who can help out on Sunday mornings following worship. This

is a team activity and you'll never be alone! Training for new counters will be held in early February to walk you through the process. You don't need a math degree, an accounting degree, or an ability to balance your own checkbook! All you need is an index finger (to turn on the computer and enter the checks received into the pre-formatted spreadsheet), and a car to drop the deposit off at the Chase bank branch in Table Mesa. Please, if you are looking for a really easy way to help your church one month a year (or even less), or if your New Year's resolution was to learn something new in 2020, then we have an amazing opportunity for you. Please contact Martha Batch marthabatch@gmail.com, or, Louise Cook louisecook916@gmail.com, or, Bob Muckle at rmuckle@aol.com and we will gladly welcome you with open arms!

Thank You, Thank You
 St Paul's made three donations of food and sundries to EFAA in the amount of 96.3 lbs. in 2019.
 Thank you to those faithfully using their KS cards which earned \$446.11 for St. Paul's budget for Oct-Nov-Dec!

Baskets and Bunnies and Eggs, Oh My!
 St. Paul's will collect candy, eggs and cartons, plush Easter animals, and baskets for EFAA families again this year. The greatest need is for baskets and bunnies. Watch for details in the March Epistle.

February		Birthdays
2-4	Ashlyn	Cook
2-4	Benjamin	Glancy
2-8	Carol	Carbon

2-9		A.J.		Campisi
2-12	Dr.		Bob	Muckle
2-13		Diana		Bett
2-13		Jan		Perkins
2-15		Sally		Owen
2-16		Cathy		Adams
2-19		Linda		Bryant
2-19		Joan		Cooper
2-29		Frank		Richardson

February

Volunteers

February 2

Flowers: Smiths; Fellowship: Hults; Liturgist: Angela Baker

February 9

Flowers: Lorie Courier; Fellowship: Marcia Roberts; Liturgist: Angela Baker

February 16

Flowers: Sandra Jordan; Fellowship: Hults; Liturgist: Angela Baker

February 23

Flowers: Polly Stowe; Fellowship: Cleavelands; Liturgist: Angela Baker

Thank you to all our volunteers for February and March. **We are still looking for a volunteer/volunteers to host fellowship and/or provide flowers on March 1.**

FEBRUARY CALENDAR

Sunday	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 Worship with Communion 10:15 a.m. Church Council Meeting 1:00pm	3 Yoga with Rebecca 9:00 a.m.	4	5 Chancel Choir 7:30	6 Ladies Lunch Bunch 11:45 a.m.	7	8 Men's Breakfast 8:00 a.m. Le Peep
9 Worship 10:15 a.m.	10 Yoga with Rebecca 9:00 a.m.	11	12 Chancel Choir 7:30	13	14 Valentine's Day	15
16 Worship 10:15 a.m.	17 Yoga with Rebecca 9:00 a.m. Presidents Day	18	19 Chancel Choir 7:30	20 Community Table 4:30-6:30 p.m.	21	22
23 Worship 10:15 a.m.	24 Yoga with Rebecca 9:00 a.m.	25	26 Ash Wednesday Service 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir	27	28 Sew What 10:00 a.m.	29 Leap Year Day
March 1 Worship with communion 10:15 a.m.						