

Family Notes

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

In today's first reading we hear, "You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy." Yet we know we cannot achieve perfection. Our attempts to love neighbors and even our enemies fall short of what God desires for us. Yet in Jesus we see one who loved even those who persecuted and killed him. We are made holy in baptism, and forgiven at the table of God's mercy. As a people made holy by God, we go in peace to love as we have been loved.

In his sermon, "*Perfect People*," Pastor Jim considers how God's call to perfection and holiness finds fulfillment in a relationship with God through Jesus Christ -- a relationship simply built on reverence, trust and love. From this *ministry center*, God reveals His unconditional love for all people.

The Sacrament today will be administered by intinction. If you are visiting with us and believe as we do that in the Sacrament we receive God's gift of life and forgiveness, if you are a baptized member of the Christian Church, we hope you will join us at the Lord's table. Gluten free wafers are available at both stations

Our Lessons:

Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18. The Holiness Code in Leviticus urges people to be holy since God is holy. Holiness is lived out in partiality for and consideration of the poor and the weak. We are to love our neighbors as ourselves.

1 Corinthians 3:10-11, 16-23. Jesus Christ is the foundation of the church and its ministry. We are God's temple because God's Spirit dwells in us, and we belong to Christ. Hence we are called to build wisely upon this sure foundation not for our own benefit but for others to experience Christ's benefits.

Matthew 5:38-48. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus declares an end to the law of vengeance. God's people will respond to evil with love and forgiveness.

TYING IT ALL TOGETHER:

God calls and gathers a people to reflect who God is and what God is doing in the world. In Leviticus, God communicates this desire by inviting his people to walk in holiness, as God is holy. This holy living finds expression as God's holy people care for the hungry and the poor, as they deal honestly and respectfully with each other and as they live lives of love for their neighbors. Through Jesus, God has made us a part of this people, this perfect people. St. Paul explains that Jesus is the foundation God is building on, and we are the building, the temple of God's presence in the world. Built on Christ, part of God's holy people, the Holy Spirit perfects us in love. To be God's perfect people is to be engaged with all people as God's love in action.

WELCOME

If you are visiting, we welcome you and hope you'll soon return to Faith, and that you'll feel free to share in all that is ours in Christ. Please sign our guest book and a visitor's card which you'll find in the pew. If you are interested in learning more about our community, please speak to Pastor Jim or Pastor Mac, or leave a note in the offering. Please stop by the Information Table in the narthex and pick up materials about our Family of Faith. While we encourage children's attendance and participation in our worship hour, we do provide nursery care for those needing this service. Our ushers will be happy to direct you to our downstairs Nursery.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Family of Faith is a Christ-centered servant community that strives to be loving, forgiving, healing and affirming, as it continues to seek new opportunities to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ to the world.

Sustained by the Holy Spirit, we worship, serve, learn and grow together by sharing God's gifts of our time, talents and treasures.

COUNCIL AT THE DOOR

If you have questions or suggestions for the Church Council, stop and see the Council Representatives at the door.

Serving today are: 8:30 - Diana Bjorge
11:00 - Peter McQuaid

Cross lapel pins identify our council members. We give thanks to God for these servants who undergird and direct our ministry.



SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER

The tradition continues as the Family gathers on March 8 from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. for our Annual Pancake Supper. Register in the Information Center today for this Shrove Tuesday tradition. Our Task Force is getting set to go, so if you'd like to assist them, please contact our Convener, Dee Tamburro at crafdee101@aol.com, 908-338-1955 or 908-464-7618. And, mark your calendars now for this fellowship event.

Please Remember in Your Prayers:

Diantha Pearson
Thomas Lange
Ron Waltemyer
Sherry Peterson
Ben Santore
Jan Siberine
Lucas Reiling
Katie Anderson
Annie Scherba
Jim Connaughton
Kruger Family
Julie Floch
Joe Auchter
Chuck Thomas
Carolyn & Art Engelken
Minet Merritt
Gretchen Dziedzic
Heather Knapp
Anne Rogers
Ruth VanZyl
Andrew Stofa
Scott Farrell
Rosalie Rohrbach
Sonny Durrant
Rose Ondich
Cat Hardy
Pat Sheldon
Oliver King
Karen Blomquist
Otto Picard
Aiden Bedi
Harold Johnson
Jeanne Jenkins
Mike Sergent
Wei Che Hu
Bob McQuaid
Margaret D'Oliveira
Walt Bischoff

Vivian Mossberg
Ernie Andersen
John Glass
Nancy Kordistas
Ruth Bentley
Paul Lutz
Constance Burde
Curtis D. Kelly
Eric Brodbeck
Todd Shell
Hildy Vallevand
Heidi Santore
Bob Bell
Eileen Sergent
PJ Sneeringer
Anne Knapp
Hank Reinbold III
Ted Moody
Ollie McKnight
Emily Everson
Loren Zachau
Debbie Shulkowski
Cecil Douglas
Darnville Riley
Pam Colandrea
Bev Steward
Phyllis Semegran
Carol MacPherson
Aaron Shinn
Cory Christensen
Ann Bueschel
Kim Wood
Kerry Michaels
Pastor Carol Lindsay
Lydia Pfund
Lois Rafferty
Donna Swanson
Jim Mastakas

Chris Bowman

The Family of John Evers

The Family of Dorothy Mae Boatright

To add to or remove a name from the prayer list, please call the church office. Unless we hear otherwise, names are removed after three months.

AA

The gift of healing is shared through our AA ministry each Monday through Saturday morning at 6:30 a.m. We give thanks to God for this healing ministry. Our Youth AA group meets each Thursday at 7:00 p.m.

PLAN AHEAD

To help us better prepare for worship each week and to provide guidance for daily Bible reading, we publish the following Sunday's lessons each week. Take a few minutes each day to read over these Bible passages in anticipation of our sharing of the Word together. Next Sunday's lessons are:

Eighth Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 49:8-16a
1 Corinthians 4:1-5
Matthew 5:24-34

Music Notes

The sermon hymn this morning uses a very familiar tune with an usual name, *Hyfrydol*... you may recognize it as the same one often used for the texts "Love Divine, all loves excelling" and "Alleluia, Sing to Jesus"... Listen for the tune in the keyboard prelude as well... Our Sanctuary Choir is in preparation for music for our annual Jazz Service (March 6th) and also for the seasons of Lent and Easter... you may join them for rehearsals on Wednesday nights from 7:30 till 9 PM in Franklin Nelson Hall... FaithKIDS is growing, now up to nine children... come join us! (grades K-5th, Wednesdays from 4-5 PM)



**Journey
of Faith**

Our theme this year reminds us that as God's people we are pilgrim people. As we follow Jesus, being formed into his image, we are people on a move, people with a mission. As a worshipping and serving community of disciples we journey wherever our Lord leads us to share the good news of Jesus Christ confident that God has provided all that we need to be his servants: water and word, bread and wine and healing oil. Join us this year and be part of our Journey of Faith.

A Servant's Prayer

"Lord God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through challenges unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."



Food and Fun for Everyone!

Bring your friends and family out for our Mardi Gras Game Night on Sunday, March 6, from 5 p.m. - 7 p.m. Some New Orleans style food will be provided, but bring something to share -- non-alcoholic drinks, snacks or deserts and your favorite game. Sign up at the information table outside the office. Call Bonnie Stahlin or Linda Fuller for more information.

CONFIRMATION RETREAT – This Week!

Just a reminder that the annual Confirmation Retreat will take place this Friday, February 25 to Saturday, February 26 at Camp Cross Roads in Port Murray, NJ. All confirmands are invited to attend, but note that the retreat is mandatory for 8th graders. Registration packets are due back now.

ADULT FORUM

Adult Forum continues its educational ministry today at 9:40 a.m. Join us in Franklin Nelson Hall for coffee and conversation and then a chance to grow in your faith and why not "go green" by bringing your own cup to forum.

Today - A CONVERSATION WITH VICAR JANE - Join us for this time with Vicar Jane as she shares her experiences at the Seminary and enables us to raise our questions about what it means to be a Seminarian in the ELCA.

February 27 -Dr. Jon Pahl from the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia joins us to continue our Seminary discussion.

March 6 - A MINISTRY CENTER UPDATE AND AN HISTORIC MOMENT Be with us as our Ministry Center chair, KW Janne, walks us through this update on our Ministry Center and what lies ahead as we hit the homestretch of construction. AND...an historic moment as we open our 1898 cornerstone before it is reinstalled in our new Ministry Center. AND...time to share suggestions for items to go into our 2011 cornerstone.

March 13 - April 17 - POWER WALK - Join us for our Lenten Bible Study of each weeks lessons.

FAITH NURSERY SCHOOL Registration Begins

Faith Nursery School begins registration for the 2011-2012 School Year. Three different morning classes are offered: a class for 2 ½ year olds that meets on Mondays and Wednesdays; a class for three year olds that meets on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday; and a Pre-K class that meets Monday through Friday. If you are interested in more information or are ready to register your child, please call Susan Nord, Director, at (908) 542-1252.



COFFEE TIME

Our Coffee time resumes this morning at 9:40. If you can host one of our upcoming dates, please sign the sheet outside the Office. Thanks to today's hosts: The Rossols & The Pedersens.

Upcoming:

February 27 - Open

March 6 - Open

March 13 - Open

Celebrate our Mission Partnership



For years, the Family of Faith and our sisters and brothers at St. Stephen Grace Community in Newark have been partners in mission. On Sunday, March 20, at 4 p.m. we're going to celebrate that partnership by worshipping together as one body at St.

Stephen Grace. Meet at Faith at 3 p.m. if you would like to be part of a car pool. Sign up on the table outside the church office, please let us know if you are willing to drive. See Chris Melhuish and Dan Seidel for more information.



BROADWAY HOUSE more than a house...a home

Our next visit to Broadway House, our AIDS ministry, will be Saturday, March 19th. We will meet at church at 9:00 a.m. and return to church by noon. All are welcome to join us for a visit.

Our regifting collection for the residents at Broadway House has concluded and was delivered on yesterday's visit. If you have any new or gently used men or women's winter clothing that you no longer need, please feel free to drop off in the box down the hall from the Church Office.

Opportunities for all ages, both on-site and off-site, are available. If you have any questions or for more information on ways you can help at Broadway House, contact Vicar Jane McCreedy at 908-233-8935 or jane@mccready.com.

Special Liturgy

While each Sunday is special in our Family worship, we regularly welcome instrumentalists to help enrich our time together. On March 6, we mark the end of Epiphany with a special JAZZ LITURGY at each of our services. Mark your calendars and invite your friends.

Knit Purl and Pray

So far in 2011, we have been thrilled to donate 58 scarves to the patrons of St. John's Soup Kitchen, 47 hats for newborns at UMDNJ Hospital, and 3 lap robes for the residents of Broadway House.

Thanks to all of the wonderful people who devoted their time to knitting or crocheting these projects. And thanks to the generous people who donated yarn for our projects.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, March 17, at 7:30 pm. If you knit or crochet, or would like to learn more about our outreach, please stop by. Refreshments will be served (probably not corned beef or green beer)

For information, call Kathy Grubb 908-347-3151.

Central Cluster Lutheran Youth Event

Calling All Youth Grades 6-12
Friday, March 25
7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Faith Lutheran Church
Bring \$2 for snacks!

DID YOU KNOW...

...Today is the Seventh Sunday after Epiphany...Daytime Bible Study is underway...registration is underway for several Adult Ed offerings...Coffee hosts are needed...Registration is underway for Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper and our Mardi Gras Game Night...AA meets Monday through Saturday mornings and Thursday evenings ...Faith Nursery School is now registering for the 2011-2012 school year...we've had at least 1 new visitor 1253 out of the last 1271 weeks...a special welcome to all who are visiting with our Family today...check next week's lessons...we continue to have a host of new visitors - welcome...why not bring a friend to Worship next Sunday...2010-2011 calendars are now available at cost in the narthex ...see you in church next week!

Family Prayers

We continue to pray for ALL those whose lives have been forever affected by the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, especially the over 6400 service personnel who have been killed. Today we pray by name for the families of allied service personnel who have died in both wars. Please pray for the families of the following, all of whom died recently:

Sapper William Blanchard, 39, British Royal Army,
England
Staff Sgt. Adam Dickmyer, 26, USA, North Carolina
Spc. Steven Dupont, 20, USA, Louisiana
Lance Cpl. Terry Honeycutt Jr., 29, USMC, Maryland
Pvt. Mikkel Jergensen, 21, Danish Army, Denmark
Pfc. David Jones Jr., 21, USA, New York
Sgt. Michael Kirspel Jr., 23, USA, Hopatcong, NJ
Cpl. Brett Land, 24, USA, California
Spc. Pedro Maldonado, 20, USA, Texas
Staff Sgt. Kenneth McAninch, 28, USA, Indiana
Soc. Thomas Moffitt, 21, USA, Kansas
Staff Sgt. Aracely Gonzalez-O'Malley, 31, USA,
California
Spc. Ronnie Pallares, 19, USA, California
Sgt. 1st Class Charles Sadell, 34, USA, Missouri
Sgt. 1st Class Phillip Tanner, 43, USA, Wyoming
Sgt. Diego Solorzano-Valdovinos, 24, USA, California

IRAQ/AFGHANISTAN

We continue to pray for all the people affected by the war in Iraq and Afghanistan. Our website offers prayers for these folks and affords the opportunity to list service personnel serving there. To include a name, please see Pastor Mac. Today we pray for SPC Joe Ellis, a member of our Family, who is now in Afghanistan with the 10th Mountain Division. We also remember Lt. Christopher Wilk, a friend of the Daniels.

We remember Scott Farrell in our prayers. Scott is a relative of the Novaks, who is recuperating at Walter Reed Army Hospital after being wounded in Afghanistan.

For those of you wanting to send a note to Joe, his address is: Spc. Ellis, Joseph, HHC, 1 BSTB, Camp Mike Spann, APO AE 09368

Youth Forum

Youth Forum continues its educational/fellowship ministry today as they gather downstairs in the Youth lounge. All high school youth are invited to share in this special ministry.

Today - Love Your Enemies Bible Study

February 27 - Join Adult Forum

March 6 - Introduction to Lenten Pilgrimage

UPCOMING -

Feb. 21 - Office Closed
21-25 - Faith Nursery School Closed
22 - Staff Worship Planning
23 - Bible Study
25-26 - Confirmation Retreat
27 - Sahaj Baptism (8:30)
27 - Tintera Baptism (11:00)
28 - Staff Worship Planning
28 - FNS Enrichment
March 2 - Bible Study
2 - FNS Lunch Party
4 - Olson/Byrnes Wedding
6 - Jazz Liturgy
6 - Family Game Night
7 - FNS Enrichment
8 - Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
8 - Cabinet
8 - Council
9 - ASH WEDNESDAY -
Eucharist & Ashes:
6:45 a.m., 12:15 & 7:30 p.m.
10 - FNS Lunch Party
11-12 - Lenten Retreat
12 - Soup Kitchen
14 - Staff Worship Planning
14 - Evening Bible Study
15 - FNS Lunch Party
15 - Advent Church Council
16 - Eucharist 6:45 a.m. & 7:30 p.m.
16 - Confirmation Class
17 - Knit, Purl & Pray
19 - 1st Communion Retreat
20 - Stewardship Committee
21 - Staff Worship Planning
21 - FNS Enrichment
21 - Evening Bible Study
23 - Eucharist 6:45 a.m. & 7:30 p.m.
23 - Confirmation Class
24 - FNS Lunch Party
25 - Central Cluster Youth Event
28 - Staff Worship Planning
28 - FNS Enrichment
28 - Evening Bible Study

GREEN TEAM TASK FORCE

Caring for Creation Now!

Green Food for Thought

Modern Christian Thought on God's creation:

"Man was appointed by God to have dominion over the beasts, and everything a man does to an animal is either a lawful exercise or a sacrilegious abuse of an authority by divine right." (from *The Problem of Pain* by C.S. Lewis, British lay theologian, died 1963)

Green Tip

Replacing regular light bulbs with compact fluorescent light bulbs can have a huge impact. One bulb can save at least \$30.00 in electric bills over its lifespan and 5 bulbs can save 50 percent on annual

lighting bills. Reduced electricity consumption not only saves you money, but reduces air pollution from power plants.

LENTEN EVENING BIBLE STUDY



FAITH: Confidence and Doubt in Daily Life

Join Pastor Mac Mondays, March 14-April 11 from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. for this intriguing look at the gift of faith in each of our lives. At the same time we will be working through *LENTEN JOURNEY Marks of the Christian*. Our Evening Study always has folks new to Bible study as well as veterans who have been with us before. Friends are always welcome and are a regular part of our group. Register by email at pastor.mac@verizon.net or by calling the Office at 464 5177.

STEWARDSHIP OF TIME AND TALENTS

Having completed our fall Every Member Response campaign, our stewardship efforts return again from financial giving to an emphasis on our response to God's gracious gifts to us in the form of our time and talents. Volunteering to help those in need around us, through our outreach ministries, is an ongoing response from the members of Faith to those gifts. While the coming months will see emphases on different areas of outreach, we take a brief moment today to have a look at participation of our members in Habitat for Humanity and Broadway House.

Habitat for Humanity helps meet the constantly growing need for low-income housing. Over the last eleven years, members of Faith have volunteered their time and used their talents in partnership with others at the Greater Plainfield Habitat for Humanity chapter and have also worked on building or renovating homes in the Plainfield area. Various talents from swinging a hammer to painting are needed at different times depending on the stage of construction. Further information is available from Lee Daniels at 973-514-1665.

Broadway House in Newark is New Jersey's only specialized continuing care facility for adults living with HIV/AIDS. Volunteers from Faith currently visit Broadway House once a month with planned activities and enjoy bringing companionship and socialization to the residents. Regular visitors tend to develop ongoing relationships that are much valued by both the resident and volunteer. Other members from Faith have brought joy and entertainment to the residents by participating in a Spring Sing in May and a Caroling visit in December. In addition, FaithKids and the Faith Bell Ringers visited this past December and brought much happiness and beautiful music to the residents. There are ways for members of all ages to participate and be part of this ministry. If interested, contact Vicar Jane McCready at 908-233-8935 or jane@mccready.com.

Let us always continue to respond to the call to care for our neighbors through the prayerful stewardship of the time and talents with which God has blessed us.

Yours in Christ,
Stewardship Committee

2011 Offering Envelopes & Year End Statements

Please pick up your 2011 offering envelopes (and those of any family members) outside the Office today, as well as your 2010 statement.

SUNDAY CHURCH SCHOOL

The Sunday School stewardship project this year is *Food for Today, Seeds for Tomorrow*. This program provides food and seeds for Zimbabwe. **To date: \$1158.00 has been collected.**

VISITORS CONTINUE

Last week we again saw new visitors at worship! This means we've now had at least one new visitor at worship for 1253 out of the last 1271 Sundays. Make this week the time to invite a relative or friend to join us for our worship gathering. Share the Family! Share the Faith!

Political Drama, Intrigue & More

1 and 2 Samuel
Wednesday Mornings, 10a.m.
Now - March 2



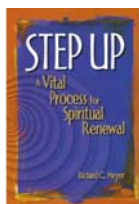
First and Second Samuel tell the stories of God and God's people as they make the transition to nationhood and King David rises to power. As we journey through these stories we see how the roles of king and prophet - which remain central throughout the Biblical story - are established and their mutual relationship is outlined, namely that prophets act as correctives to the power of kings. We will also explore King David's monarchy and the establishment of a unified kingdom, both of which prove enduring images throughout scripture, demonstrating God's steadfast love and faithfulness to God's anointed ones, despite their failings and short comings. To take part in our journey through these dramatic stories, call the office at 464 5177 or e-mail Pastor Jim at PastorJim2006@verizon.net.

Thanks

Heartfelt thanks to everyone in our Family of Faith for your prayers and thoughts and hugs after the death of my mother. The warmth and fellowship of everyone is priceless. Thank all of you so much.

Kathy Grubb

**LENTEN RETREAT - March 11-12
XAVIER CENTER, CONVENT STATION**



Lent provides a wonderful opportunity to claim some quiet, reflective time to look at your life...where you have been and where you are headed. Join us for this wonderful way to begin Lent, taking a disciplined look at your life and the wonderful opportunity God gives for new beginnings. We begin with dinner on Friday and finish mid afternoon on Saturday. Cost for the Retreat Center and your materials is just \$79. Register by email at pastor.mac@verizon.net or by calling the Office at 464-5177. Call Pastor Mac for more details or questions.



Faith Lutheran now on Facebook

Get connected and stay connected with the Family at Faith. You can get updates and reminders of upcoming events and occasions, photos & videos, participate in discussions, find links to our ministry partners, blogs, and more!



**Somerset Patriots
Baseball Game and Picnic**

A night of Fun and Fellowship between Advent and Faith Lutheran

Friday, May 20, 2011

This is also a FIRE WORKS NIGHT

(Picnic area opens about 6 p.m., and fireworks usually run through 11:15 p.m.)

The picnic includes all you can eat hot dogs, hamburgers, BBQ Chicken, Potato Salad, Fred baked cookies, chips and soft drinks. (Beer and wine can be purchased separately.)

\$25 per person

(30 person minimum to book area)

A sign up sheet is on the table outside the Office.

APPALACHIAN MINISTRY TEAM

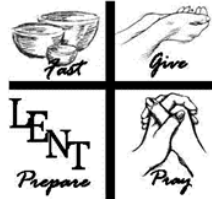
If you were on last year's Team or if you are a Peer Leader, please email Pastor Mac asap to let him know if you want to be part of this summer's Team. If you aren't in either of these groups and wish to be on the wait list for the 2011 Team or if you have questions about this Tennessee ministry, please email Pastor Mac.

ASH WEDNESDAY

Lent begins Wednesday, March 9. We mark the beginning of this time of repentance and renewal with three liturgies:

"U-TURNS & DEAD ENDS"

6:45 a.m. - Spoken Eucharist and Imposition of Ashes
12:15 p.m. - Spoken Eucharist and Imposition of Ashes
7:30 p.m. - Eucharist and Imposition of Ashes



Wednesdays in Lent:

"POWER WALK"

Spoken Eucharist at 6:45 a.m.

Evening Prayer & Eucharist at 7:30 p.m.

March 16 & 23- *The Call of Mercy*
March 30 & April 6 - *The Call to Faith*
April 13 & 20 - *The Call to Justice*

Invite your friends and co-workers to join us for these worship opportunities.
