



#

The Epistle#

February, 2016#

#

Father Bob's message

I was recently reading an article in Time; an interview with Pope Francis. The subject of the interview was the acts and practices of Christians during Lent, in particular fasting, prayer, and self-denial. The article noted that there has been an increased interest in recent years not only in the Roman Church but across the liturgical and theological spectrum of Christian Churches in the observance "of a holy Lent." The author notes that while Pope Francis celebrates this renewed interest, he suggested that these acts, in and of themselves, do not tell the whole story. Pope Francis quotes the early Christian mystic, John Chrysostom who said, "No act of virtue can be great if it is not followed by advantage for others. So, no matter how much time you spend fasting, no matter how much you sleep on a hard floor and eat ashes and sigh continually, if you do no good to others, you do nothing great."

Clearly the 40 days of Lent are drawn from Jesus' 40 days in the wilderness. Let us remember why the Spirit led Jesus into the wilderness. He did so to prepare Jesus for the ministry that would lie before him. I would suggest that the 40 days of our Lent are not just and may be not primarily to prepare us for Easter, but to prepare us anew for the call for ministry in Jesus' name.

In the Time article, Pope Francis did not disparage acts of sacrifice, penance, and self-denial during Lent, but he did suggest that instead of giving up chocolate or candy or Scotch that you and I might fast; give up our indifference towards others. Pope Francis referred to the "globalization of indifference." In the article, The Pope is quoted as saying, "Whenever our interior life becomes caught up in its own interests and concerns, there is no longer room for others. No place for the poor. God's voice is no longer heard. The quiet joy of his love is no longer felt and the desire to do good fades...We end up being incapable of feeling compassion at the outcry of the poor, weeping for other people's pain and feeling the need to help them, as though all this were someone else's responsibility and not our own."

I would invite you to come every Tuesday evening during Lent to our discussion group as we look at the meaning and significance of Christians being in the world but not of the world. We will begin at 6:30 PM with the Stations of the Cross. The discussion group will begin at 7:00 and last until 8:00. If you cannot make 6:30, please come at 7:00 for the discussion.

Fr Bob

Senior Warden Update

This Sunday, February 7th, is Super Bowl Sunday and on that Sunday the youth of the church take up a collection after the service for the Souper Bowl of Caring. The first Super Bowl of Caring was initiated by the youth of Spring Valley Presbyterian, Church in Columbia, and has since spread throughout the country as an outreach program to feed the needy. They will be collecting at the door after church and anything one can give will be sent to the Fairfield County Food Bank. Patti Palmer

has also asked everyone to try to bring one can of Chicken Soup to the service as well to put in the food basket. We will put the basket at the back of the church near the organ.

On Tuesday February 9th we will have our pancake supper. We plan to begin serving at 7 PM. We will have the usual pancakes, sausage and bacon. Family and friends are invited to attend. Fr Bob has asked everyone who attends to bring their palm crosses from last year with them so they can be burned to make the ashes needed for the Ash Wednesday service. We are hoping for a good turnout. On Wednesday the 10th, the Ash Wednesday service will begin at 7 PM.

David Ford, our Junior Warden, has been hard at work. He has installed two dehumidifiers, one in the Vicarage and one in the church. He is working with water abatement and getting the church back in good condition. He has called on several people who have been more than willing to help. David, having the dedication that he has, will ensure the wellbeing of the church physical plant. A big thank you to David!

DID YOU SIGN UP FOR HOSPITALITY SOON?



FEBRUARY

2/7	David & Amanda Ford
2/14	OPEN
2/21	Sara Berk & Greg Koenig
2/28	OPEN

#

#

MARCH

3/6	Dee Dee Branham
3/13	OPEN
3/20	OPEN
3/27	EASTER

#

#

#

#

#



#

Please wish the following people, a Happy Birthday:

#

FEBRUARY

2/2	Gen Palmer VII
2/2	(Michael) Buck Rowe
2/6	George L Langdale
2/10	Allison (Allie) Robinson
2/15	Heather Langdale Reyes
2/18	Bob Arndt
2/20	George S Langdale
2/28	Patti Palmer

#

MARCH

3/4	Mike Swofford
3/4	Robbie Robinson
3/11	Porter Reyes
3/13	Ashley Lever
3/14	Sara Berk
3/16	Sarah Arndt
3/20	Matthew Langdale
3/22	Marjorie Pratt
3/26	Jim Milling