

Pastor's Article

It has been quite a winter hasn't it? There have been periods of deep freeze interrupted by blasts of heavy snow. Remember a few days ago when it got up to almost 50 degrees. What a feeling of hope we all had even though we all knew in our heart there was a little winter left (okay, a lot of winter left). That is what I think about March. Somehow, we know that regardless of what winter weather is left to come that spring will not be denied. When all that snow melted I could see the little buds starting to appear and the crocus shots were pushing up. There is hope.

There is hope and preparation for greater things to come. That is what this month in the church calendar is about as well. This year March is full of Lent. Although most of us think of lent as not an uplifting time of year I would like us to think about lent the same way gardeners think about March. It is a time of thinking, planning, and preparing for spring. It is a time of great anticipation. We dream about and prepare for new growth in our gardens, we remember projects from last year that we want to finish, we sharpen our tools and start ordering seed. We remember the exciting successes of springs past and prepare to start this spring full of expectation and optimism.

This is my vision for us at St James. As we journey into Lent, let us not think of this as a

season of spiritual winter but rather a time of preparing for our own personal spiritual spring.

As many are aware that during the purple seasons of the Christian calendar I fast. It has become a wonderful practice for me that has truly changed my spiritual journey. It was wonderful having so many of you participate in "A day of fasting with the pastor" during Advent and will welcome the same during Lent. Fasting is not about suffering. It is designed to help us focus on our relationship with God. I follow an Islamic tradition of fasting which includes nothing to eat or drink from sunrise to sunset each day, but more importantly four times a day intentional prayer and meditation. Not "hey God how you doing" while driving prayer. Stopping what I am doing and even if for only five minutes, intentional prayer and meditation. Please remember each of us can do it our own way. Giving up candy, reading a book, etc. Also, if you have medical or physical issues that make it unsafe to fast, DO NOT do it. I encourage you to not just "give up" something but to add a little something that will feed your spirit.

Take time to remember those moments in your past when you have been touched by the loving hand of God and your life has been changed. Let us take time this Lent to prepare ourselves for the Easter that lies within us and ahead for us, both individually and as a community in Christ. Let us

plan together, pray together, and prepare to plant the first new seeds of spring together. Let us prepare to be transformed.

Whoever you are and wherever you are at on life's journey, you are held in God's unconditional love, boundless mercy, and unending grace. And there is a place for you here in at St James.

Take care and be well, Peace
Ken



Church operating cost

As we all know our personal expenses have increased due to the economy. The church as well has been caught up in the economic problem due to lower donations and increased expenses. Anyone desiring to make a special donation towards a bill (propane, electric, insurance, phone etc) can by including it in

the Sunday giving envelope and note on the envelope how much is designated to which expense. If you desire any information concerning any account please contact me by e-mail or phone. Thanks for your assistance in this matter.

**Ralph Ski
Treasurer**



St. Patrick's Day Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner

(Update 2-6-11)

The cooking, baking, set-up crews for The Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner on Sunday, March 13th at Perch Point are signing up for work on the lists available in the basement during coffee hours this month. Come and join the fun! Our annual dinner is set for 4:00 pm and will be served buffet style. \$10 will provide you with a delicious dinner, drink and dessert! Reservations required. Tickets are

available each Sunday at Church or call Colleen Stover to reserve your seats now. Only 150 tickets will be sold! Raffle tickets are now also available for the beautiful hand-crafted garden bench made from 100+ year old barn wood from St. James original horse barn once located on Meldrum Road (\$2 each or 3/\$5). This heirloom treasure was created by Larry Bandlow with preserved wood and cut nails. A valuable piece of Casco Township history for your yard or home.

Before we even begin, let's stop to thank Larry Bandlow for always adding that "Oooohhh" factor to our special events! And, a big hug of appreciation to Jerry Brown, as well. Jerry may not be able to join us at dinner, as he will be recuperating from a bit of surgery, but his very generous monetary donation will provide all the paper goods and some of the food for this Celtic dinner. Having such wonderful benefactors at St. James is just what I know to be "The Luck of the Irish".

Colleen Stover



Baptism Information

Matthew Todd Kargula
Parents: Jeremy Edward Kargula and Dawn Lynn Kargula
God Fathers: James Alan Lane and Bryce Edward Lane
God Mother: Sarah Irene Havercamp
DOB: 9-30-2010
Born at Henry Ford Hospital Macomb in Clinton Township, MI

Church Council Officers

2011

Wayne Baumgarten, President; Barb Ski, Vice President; Beverly Kulman, Secretary; Ralph Ski, Treasurer; Dan Riley, Financial Secretary; Wayne Baumgarten, Trust Fund Treasurer. Elders are: Jeff Bandlow, Jerry Brown, Carole Bryant and Cindy Klomp.

ST. JAMES COUNCIL is looking for a church secretary. Council accepted with regret the resignation of Laurrie Simons as church secretary, effective March 1st. If you would be interested in the position, please contact Wayne Baumgarten or Pastor Ken. It is a paid position and a job description is available.



Communion Elders for
March 2011

Carole Bryant – Preparing
Carole Bryant – Serving
Beverly Kulman – Serving



March Greeters &
Ushers 2011

March 6th Lindke
March 13th Barb & Ralph Ski
March 20th Don & Betty
Robertson
March 27th Bob & Teri
Wagner



March Liturgists 2011

March 6th Beverly Kulman
March 13th Colleen Stover
March 20th Open
March 27th Doug Goodin



Scripture Readings
for March 2011

Sunday, March 6, 2011
Transfiguration Sunday

Exodus 24:12-18
Psalm 2
II Peter 1:16-21
Matthew 17:1-9

Wed., March 9, 2011
Ash Wednesday

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17
Psalm 51:1-17
II Corinthians 5:20b-6:10
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Sunday, March 13, 2011
First Sunday in Lent

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7
Psalm 32
Romans 5:12-19
Matthew 4:1-11

Sunday, March 20, 2011
Second Sunday in Lent

Genesis 12:1-4a
Psalm 121
Romans 4:1-5, 13-17
John 3:1-17

Sunday, March 27, 2011
Third Sunday in Lent

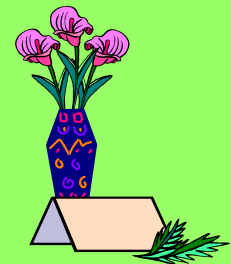
Exodus 17:1-7
Psalm 95
Romans 5:1-11
John 4:5-42

MARCH BIRTHDAYS



March 3	Taylor Lindke
March 6	Helen Burmann
March 9	Mike Czenkus
March 11	Brian Nikesch
March 12	Becky Pittman
March 12	Nancy Uppleger
March 15	Jim Simons
March 15	Joshua Mahnke
March 17	Brianna Robertson
March 19	Alec Robertson
March 19	Cheri Pavey
March 20	Trisha Callahan
March 22	Kate Stover
March 24	Kayla Wendt
March 24	Lynda Bertrand
March 25	Hunter Wendt
March 26	Timothy Pauley
March 30	Don Robertson

MARCH
ANNIVERSARIES



March 7
Frank & Judy Tringali
March 12
Bill & Ruth Brody
March 17
Colleen & Rusty Stover
March 31
Jim & Laurie Simons