

Newsletter, Week of March 8, 2010

Hello this Monday Morning of Lent, my friends.

Well, this week I begin with an apology. (This is in the same category as my question at Presbytery “Where is the Banff Men’s Conference?”) In last week’s bulletin I gave notice of daylight savings time coming March 14th, and said “spring back”. I KNOW BETTER than that. It’s “spring ahead, fall back”. Sorry for any confusion! SPRING AHEAD THIS WEEK.

Great worship yesterday! The choir was fabulous (as usual!) and Derek’s ministry of music on piano was very much a blessing as well.

Does anyone want to borrow a Lenten book called The Last Week by Borg and Crossan? I have it at the office – just ask.

A CHALLENGE FOR THIS WEEK – from now until Easter, would you consider the following: Either give up going out for coffee, putting what you would have spent on coffee in an envelope to be given on Easter Sunday to the Mission and Service fund, OR....alternatively, keep going out for coffee but each time you do, put an equal amount in an envelope for the Mission and Service fund? Just a thought.

And....another thought: From a wise woman with whom I spent some time this week: *Whatever this week holds, let us walk toward it in a spirit of Love.*

We’re continuing exploring **the beatitudes** together; trying to see what life might look like through the lens of Jesus’ sayings on what makes life blessed. Through Lent, we’ll continue that practice.

To add to that, I’m going to include with this newsletter a separate document for your use if you wish. It will be the text of the **Bible study we’ll be doing through Lent**. Essentially it will be the Biblical text of each of the Gospel writers’ versions of the passion narrative. Beginning with Mark, (who wrote first of the four gospels we have included in our Bible) we’ll simply read through each version of the last week of Jesus’ life. I have copied it from the New Revised Standard translation, and included, in CAPS, my own comments throughout. This week I am sending out **Matthew’s account of Holy Week**. Beginning with Chapter 21, the triumphal entry into Jerusalem, and through to the end of the crucifixion. Scholars believe that Mark had written his gospel around the year 70, and that roughly 10 years later, with a copy of Mark in front of him, Matthew wrote his own gospel, copying and editing Mark’s version. There is a quiz to reinforce the factual details of the stories, that will be included on **the website** and you may want to check that out as well. www.whitehorseunited.org

THE BIBLE STUDIES THROUGH LENT WILL BE MONDAYS AT 5:15 AND TUESDAY MORNINGS AT 7:15, WITH A LIGHT BREAKFAST OF COFFEE AND MUFFINS.

AS WELL, THERE WILL BE WEDNESDAY WORSHIP SERVICES AT NOON, (12:15-12:45) simply silence, readings and prayer.

Back to the Beatitudes: I wonder where that took your heart this past week? We were particularly holding the fifth beatitude in mind. “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God”.

I’ve included the text of Matthew and Luke at the bottom of this email again for your reference. So, for this week, the last one. “ *Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you*”.

Carry this with you as you move through the week, noticing what light it may shed on your daily life. Blessings as you do so.

Take a look at the table in the narthex; there are several items (lost and found?) such as clothing and dishes. They have been here for a while and it’s time for them to go home!

FROM JOYFUL NOISE: Some kind young women from our church have volunteered to arrange programme for the children during the services for the next week. Thank you so much!

Dessert Theatre: After church on April 11th all participants please plan to stay for a couple of hours and we’ll have our first complete read through. Bring a bag lunch. If you haven’t signed up for it but want in, that’s ok, come along we can use everyone. **OUR PLAN IS TO PREPARE IT FOR PRESENTATION SEPTEMBER 11TH AND 18TH.**

Book club. Anyone is most welcome to join us, or simply to read along with us whether or not you attend meetings. The book is **Jade Peony by Wayson Choy** and we’ll meet to discuss it on the last Wednesday of each month at 6:30. The first meeting will be **Wed, March 24th**. At the church, in the upper room. We’ll take turns suggesting books, so that we get a broad range of material.

Mondays – **Bible Study**, 5:15 pm at the church in the upper room

Tuesdays – **Bible Study** 7:15 am in the upper room

Tuesday March 9: 10 am a gathering to look for costumes for the Good Friday service and also to sort out Joyful Noise materials.

7:15 pm **COUNCIL MEETS**

Wednesday March 3 – **Lenten worship**, 12:15-12:45 in the sanctuary

COMING UP

(I will include special services in other churches as I’m made aware of them)

Movie Night : Thursday, March 18th, at 7 pm at the home of Karen Walker and Wayne Tuck. 42 Bell Crescent Riverdale. 633 5726 if you need directions.

Friday March 26th – 7 pm. The social justice committee at Sacred Heart Cathedral has invited us to participate in a social justice Stations of the Cross. 7 pm at Sacred Heart Cathedral, 4th Avenue.

Communion Servers' training Saturday March 27th at 10:30-NOON in the Sanctuary. There will be a signup sheet for this or contact Bev please.

Tuesday March 30th, 7 pm A PRACTICE FOR THOSE PARTICIPATING IN THE GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

Thursday April 1 – 6 pm here at the church, A Maundy Thursday service in the form of a Seder meal. More details to follow.

Friday April 2 – 11 am – Good Friday service here in the sanctuary.

2 pm French Roman Catholic service at Long Lake.

3 pm Sacred Heart Roman Catholic service at the cathedral here in Whitehorse

Sunday April 4th - Sunrise service at the Lutheran Church 4th Avenue 7:30 am followed by a pot luck breakfast

Worship with communion and special music – Here at WUC at the regular time, 10:30 am

Matthew 5: 1-12 – The Beatitudes

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God/

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Luke 6: 20-26 – The Beatitudes

Then he looked up at his disciples and said:
Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.
Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled.
Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh..
Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you, revile you and defame you on account of the Son of Man.
Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets.
But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation.
Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry.
Woe to you who are laughing now, for you will mourn and weep
Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets.

**SOME INFORMATION ABOUT OUR STRUCTURAL LIFE HERE AT WUC
I'm quoting from the WUC Constitution as it presently stands.**

4.6 FINANCE COMMITTEE

(This Committee assumes part of the duties of the Stewardship Committee as defined in the Manual.)

Goal: To manage the church's financial resources to effectively fulfill the mission of the church.

DUTIES :

1. oversee the financial planning and management of the church funds :
2. ensure that financial resources are available for the ongoing growth of the church :
3. ensure that ongoing monitoring is in place to meet the financial needs of the church :
4. reduce the church's debt :
5. increase Mission & Service givings as overall givings increase :
6. set goals for fund-raising activities in conjunction with Council as are deemed appropriate to help maintain the church and to keep it financially viable :
7. maintain total offering (Operating, Maintenance, Mission and Service and Special Funds) at the level needed to meet church goals :
8. encourage gifts to the church, including testamentary or intervivos gifts and regular offerings :
9. work with other committees to hold events that gather our time, talents and treasures for the church
10. give support to community events being held in our church that enhance achievement of the church's goals :
11. complete financial planning including communicating with all committees to gather the information needed for budget forum purposes :

12. prepare and present to Council the annual budget based on objectives which reflect the needs and activities of all committees :
13. co-ordinate the counting and banking of Sunday offerings each week :
14. purchase insurance in co-operation with the Board of Trustees :
15. delegate the preparation and distribution of givings statements to contributors, the final statement being the official receipt for income tax purposes:
16. Coordinating the implementation of fundraising events in conjunction with Council.

Finance Committee

Joanne Fairlie (Chair)

667 4637

Carolyn Kauth

633 4700