

February
2012

Ash Wednesday and Lent



GLENDALE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The Mustard Seed - February 2012

Ash Wednesday, the beginning of our annual Lenten season, is February 22nd this year. That evening we will again gather for the first of our soup suppers, followed by a worship service. I hope you will join us for both the fellowship with simple meal, as well as the worship focused on repentance and forgiveness.

It is interesting and gratifying for me that attendance for the Ash Wednesday service has usually been very good, better than some Sunday mornings. Perhaps it is because of the traditional emphasis on repentance; the honest acknowledgement of our sin and shortcomings, balanced with the promise of God's forgiveness rather than condemnation for those who are sincere. In a world where "justice" seems to mean punishment, the message of Ash Wednesday is a healing balm for those of us who are all too human. Repentance literally means "to turn"; turning away from sin and the past and turning toward righteousness and the future. Repentance is the beginning of a new and different life for Christians. It is the beginning of a change that promises new life as it unfolds in our lives. The season of Lent prepares us for, and culminates, in the Resurrection at Easter. Such a powerful story of the new life Christ offers each of us!

During the up-coming Lenten season, the sermons will help us look at several aspects of change that we will inevitably face as we move toward the life God has in mind for us. The weekly themes will be:

February 26	Lent 1	"Finding Courage"
March 4	Lent 2	"Getting out of a Rut"
March 11	Lent 3	"Everything Changes"
March 18	Lent 4	"Difficult Choices"
March 25	Lent 5	"Solutions"
April 1	Palm Sunday	"Into God's Future"

Also, remember our weekly Wednesday night Soup Suppers. Each starts at 6:00pm, but people are invited to come when they can, and as they are. Each will be followed with a brief devotion. Everyone is welcome. Bring a friend.

- Pastor Dave

Inside this issue:

Looking to the Future - Feb 5	2 & 3	Groups / Fellowship	7
Church News	4	Schedules, Birthdays, Anniversaries	8
Youth Groups	5	Church Calendar	9
"Super Bowl Humor"	6	Ash Wednesday & Lent	10



Looking to the Future on Feb 5

Last month I had a lengthy article titled "Looking to the Future" that described the work of our futuring and strategic planning task force. It also mentioned the importance of Sunday February 5th as the date that the Futuring Task Force would be reporting to the congregation and soliciting your input.

We are really hoping and praying that you will join us that Sunday morning, because we need your input. However, we want you to know ahead of time that we are integrating the worship experience and the meeting into one experience. Rather than trying to get everyone here at another time, and in an effort to ground our work in scripture and worship of the living God, we have decided to use the worship and Sunday School time that morning. Please plan to attend, and for this one week, please plan on being with us for two hours.

Here are the answers to some of the questions I am hearing people ask as we talk about it.

Why are we doing this?

As we get ready to pay off our mortgage later this year, we are engaged in a visioning and strategic planning process that really needs the input of our people. We will have opportunities and resources that we have never had, and we want your input as to how to prioritize and use them in faithful stewardship and ministry.

Why should I come if it is not a regular worship service?

The whole process depends on input from the people who make up and support Glendale UMC. This is important enough we do not want twelve people working alone to set our direction and goals for the future; whether it is the Administrative Council or the Futuring Task Force. We want and need your input!

Why are you asking me to come for two hours?

To be faithful to the process our facilitator is leading us through, we would need at least 90 minutes. We were going to call a special meeting, and opted to do it on Sunday morning for two reasons. First, that is when we are most likely to get the greatest number of people. And second, we want this process to be spiritual; so we wanted to ground the meeting with scripture, prayer and song. So we decided to take the two hours we normally spend in worship and Sunday School and integrate it into one event for two hours.

Will it be worth my time?

There are never any guarantees, but I think it will. We may not know for sure for a couple years when we see the fruits of what comes out of this. But without the meeting and really broad input we will have a much diminished chance of growing as a congregation, either spiritually or numerically.

What if I can't stay the full two hours?

As I said above, our hope is that people will stay for the full two hours. However, even if you can only take part in part of it, that will be valuable to us. We understand this is very different than usual, and it is asking for more time from some of you, but we believe it is important enough to warrant it.

What about our children?

Again, as I said above, there will not be Sunday School. However, there will be nursery care and something planned for younger children. But, we are hoping that our youth will participate and give their input just as adults do. We need to hear their reactions and input!

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God.

Colossians 3:16



Celebrating 27 years of ministry!

I am truly excited about the opportunity that God is giving Glendale UMC this year. Due to the mixed blessing of the closure and sale of the Calvary church, and to the generosity of the Annual Conference in waiving their share of the proceeds from that sale, we will be able to pay off our mortgage this coming year. When that day comes next fall, we will have the opportunity and potential to fulfill some of the things we have only been able to dream about for years. I am excited about working with you to prepare for that time, so we can responsibly and faithfully seize the opportunity to reach new people and grow spiritually as well as numerically.

We have a facility that offers abundant and wonderful space for worship, study, programming and fellowship. We have a congregation that has been enriched and enhanced through the merger of the former Calvary and Glendale congregations, and now serves a broader geographic area. We have gifted and committed leaders for ministry. We have a vision of serving more families and youth in our area with a vital ministry that helps them grow spiritually and cultivates Christian values of reverence, compassion and service. And soon, we will have the opportunity to fulfill some of the dreams we have nurtured for years.

The time is drawing near when we can re-invest in the kinds of programs and staff we need to grow. The time is drawing near when we can make some of the improvements to the sound and projection and lighting in the sanctuary we have talked about. The time is drawing near when we can create a building fund that will allow us to maintain and improve our facilities for years to come. If we are good stewards and careful in planning and preparing, we can begin to fulfill some of those long held dreams.

Join us on Sunday morning, February 5th, as we hear from the Futuring Task Force and give them our input and feedback. This is a vital step in our planning for the future, and we need your input.

- Pastor Dave

I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. - Philippians 1:3-6

Did You Know?

Glendale UMC offers the use of its building space to several nonprofit and community groups:

- ◆ Girls Scout Troops & Leader Meetings for the Dan Patch Service Unit
- ◆ Russian Education Center
- ◆ Russian Theater Group
- ◆ Piano recitals for local music teachers
- ◆ Savage Precinct 2 - for elections
- ◆ Red Cross Blood Drive
- ◆ Hispanic Church

All complete a facility application and are interviewed and approved by a steward of Glendale UMC.

Glendale is pleased to announce that NAMI will be conducting family classes at Glendale from February 16 to May 3



FAMILY TO FAMILY EDUCATION CLASS

Scott County NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) is offering a free 12 week Family to Family class for family members, partners and friends of individuals with major depression, bipolar, schizophrenia, schizoaffective disorder, borderline personality disorder, panic disorder and obsessive compulsive disorder.

The series of classes are structured to help caregivers understand and support individuals with serious mental illness while maintaining their own well being. The course is taught by a team of trained NAMI family member volunteers who know what it is like to have a loved one struggling with one of these brain disorders.

The free 12 week course will be taught from 7-9:30 PM on Thursdays beginning February 16. Registration is required and classes are limited to 25 persons. Co-Teachers are Will and Janet Williams. For questions and/or to register call 952-890-1669.

PROJECT FOR THE LIBRARY . . .

We are looking for a collection of crosses--all different kinds to display in the Library.

If there is a story connected to the cross, we would like to collect those as well.

Crosses & Stories
are being
collected by
Mary Randol
& **Marsha Hill**



Keeping our Children Safe

As most of you know, our congregation has enacted some new policies and practices this fall to ensure the safety of children and youth here at Glendale. We have set some guidelines for staffing children's ministries, educated our church leaders and listened to their concerns, and required background checks and training for all volunteers who work with children and youth here at Glendale. So far the response has been very supportive and positive.

However, there were a couple issues raised by our leaders in the process. One was the fact it is difficult to have two trained leaders in the Nursery at all times if a child needs to be taken out for any reason. So, we are going to be asking parents who bring their children to the nursery to leave their cell phone number with the attendant, and then leave their phone on vibrate during Worship and Sunday school, in case they are needed.

Second, we realized how vulnerable children would be going to the bathroom upstairs, since it is at the end of a hall way with an exit right there. Consequently, we are asking parents to escort their children to the bathrooms at all times. We will also be putting an alarm on the south door so that if it opens, we will all know it and can check to see why.

Thanks for your understanding and help in safe-guarding our children and youth.

Church Directory

Have you had a change of address, phone, or Email?

Please contact the church office to let us know. A master file is continually updated throughout the year and a member directory is in process. Your updates help us keep important contact information current. We also welcome Birthdates and Anniversaries to celebrate your special day!

Name Badges

Many have commented how helpful it is to have nametags. Nametags are provided free of charge for adults who attend regularly and confirmed youth.

If you need to replace your nametag or wish to order for children, cost is \$3 each.



Please contact church office to order new or replacement nametags

The 2012 Flower Chart is up

Anyone may sign up to bring flowers
"in memory of"
or *"in honor of"*
someone special
or *any special occasion*



Youth Groups

HIGHLIGHTS FROM WALKING BY FAITH KIDS

From all reports, WBF kids are happy to be back at school after the Christmas break to see their friends but do not enjoy the homework.

We were able to have 25 people from WBF, CHAOS, and adults join us on December 28th at Feed My Starving Children. We had a great time and packed a lot of food, we would like to thank everyone who drove and helped at the church with the pizza, clean-up and movie set up. We returned to the church and devoured pizza, chips and cookies. We finished the day off watching the movie "Leave it to Beaver", even though a number of kids thought it was about Justin Bieber they enjoyed an old time movie. 😊

We have begun a new study now that we are back. We are studying about Haiti. It will be a five week study and during that time we will be collecting items for UMCOR Health Kits to send to Haiti. If anyone would like to help us out, listed below are the items we need. We will have a box to collect the items.

UMCOR Health Kit Items

1 hand towel 15" x 25" to 17"x 27"

kitchen cleaning and microfiber towels not acceptable

1 washcloth

1 comb

needs to be sturdy, no pocket combs or picks please
rattail combs and combs without handles are acceptable

1 metal nail file or clipper

no emery boards please

1 bath size soap

3 oz. and larger sizes only all brands are acceptable
do not remove from original packaging

1 toothbrush

adult size only do not remove from original packaging

6 adhesive bandages

¾" to 1 " size common household band aids

1 plastic bag one gallon size

sealable bags only

\$1.00 to purchase toothpaste

We are also beginning our fund raiser efforts for kids to go to camp. The kids that attended camp last year had a great time and excited about going again this year. On fundraiser that is ongoing is the collection of Kwik Trip milk carton caps and circles from Glazers. Please drop your Kwik Trip caps or Glazer circles into the marked box in the narthex. We'll keep you posted on upcoming fundraisers.

Happy 2012 from everyone at WBF!

Sandy & Jessica



Walking By Faith (grades 4 - 6)

Led by Sandy Driscoll and Jessica Randol, they meet on Wednesday nights from 7:00pm to 8:00pm. Fun, fellowship, hands-on-Bible lessons and service projects to share the love of Jesus.

C.H.A.O.S.

Jr. High Youth (grades 7-8)

Led by Linda Vanderwerf and Pastor Dave, the group meets three times a month on Sunday afternoons from 2:00pm to 3:30pm. Two of those meetings will be here at the church for fun and fellowship, and the third will usually be off-site for either a fun outing, or a service project.

AFTERSHOCK

Sr. High Youth (grades 9-12)

New meeting time in 2012: Sundays at 11:30 am

Led by Rich Carlson and Laura Schostag. Sr. We meet each week after Sunday School for lunch, fun activities, and service projects.

God: “Human Body Not Designed to Play Football”

(borrowed from The Onion, December 22, 2011, Vol. 47 Issue 51
Onion Sports Network, Special Edition, 2011)

THE HEAVENS AND THE EARTH—The Lord our God, Divine Creator and Ruler of the Universe, made a statement Thursday in which He condemned the practice of human beings playing football, proclaiming He had never intended the body to suffer such punishment.

“O my children, I implore you, look deeply into your hearts, your minds, your extremely fragile and complicated knees—in fact every part of your glorious but mortal bodies—and ask yourselves if I really intended you to collide with one another as hard as you possibly can; God said as He appeared simultaneously to every football fan on earth, and to NFL commissioner Roger Goodell, declaring that it pained Him to see the human body, the pinnacle of His creation, abused in such a fashion. “Your brief lives are already beset by suffering and pain. Why make it so much harder on yourself with the brutal sport of football?”

“Frankly, the first hint should have been that just to play this game you need to wear a second protective covering over the protective covering that I, in My infinite wisdom, place around your brain,” God added. “Does that make sense to you?”

God’s statement came on the heels of a particularly brutal week in the NFL, that saw half a dozen players, including Eagles star Michael Vick, suffer concussions, as well as Packers safety Nick Collins going down with a season ending neck injury. However, God denied that His remarks were made in response to those specific incidents, saying only that He was “greatly displeased” and had “Waxed wroth” upon seeing them, as humanity should simply have known better than to play football in skeletons “with all the tensile strength of cheap plywood.”

According to the Almighty, the human body is ill-suited to the intense demands of football in almost every way. God noted in particular that the brain is an incredibly complex and delicate mass of sensitive neural jelly, and that because of “certain early -stage design compromises,” it is vulnerable to intense tearing and twisting forces upon heavy impact, becoming damaged with it collides against the side of its bone bowl.

“That’s when you get concussions, or worse,” God noted. “Then there’s the spine, which is a masterpiece of flexibility when you guys take care of yourselves but might as well be a stack of cheap glass ashtrays when a 350 pound lineman smashes into it. And the knees? With those ACL’s I gave you, you’re not supposed to run unless there’s an emergency, let alone make sharp cuts on turf just as a linebacker comes in low from the side.”

God also remarked that He was particularly frustrated at having to “just come right out and say this,” explaining that He had provided more than enough evidence of football’s destructive effects on the body through signs and portents such as Joe Theismann’s famous broken leg, Bo Jackson’s destroyed hip, and “Whatever the heck is wrong with poor Steve Young.”

“Look, I know this isn’t war, or murder, or the thousands of ways you people find to make your lives more painful and shorter than they should be, but seriously, think about it,” God said before His divine presence faded.

“Seriously, as magnificent as football is, it won’t help you live a joyful life and celebrate the wonder of creation if all those men die drooling and soiling themselves at age 50.”

Commissioner Goodell released a statement Friday morning that read, in part: “The NFL has heard God’s concerns and is taking them very seriously. We value the opinions of all our fans and will consider His words very carefully as we continue to enjoy the 2011-2012 NFL season.



Groups / Fellowship

Great Resources Available for individuals & small groups

pick up a copy in the narthex

- **The Upper Room Daily Devotional** (www.upperroom.org)
- **devozine** - a magazine for teens (www.devozine.org)
- **NEW: Camp Minnesota 2012** Retreats & Camps for all ages (www.campminnesota.org)



Coming up . . .

UMW
Sunday
February 19

Be a part of the fun and planning
for our special Sunday!

UMW Meeting on Saturday, Feb 4 at 9:30am
OR, contact Cindy Whitaker
952-898-1439 / whtkrcindy@yahoo.com



By Water and the Spirit...

On January 15, we celebrated the baptism of **Xaylia Ruth Fett**, daughter of Brian & Victoria Fett.

We welcome you into the family of Christ with joy and thanksgiving.

Small Group Opportunities



*Adult group opportunities are open to all.
Please join in whenever you are available.*

QUILTERS every other Monday, 7-9pm at Paula Gaboury's home (952-220-2946). Devotions, followed by work on individual or service projects. This is an open group—all are invited to attend whenever you are able.

Next meetings: February 13 & 27

MEN'S GROUP Tuesdays, 6-7 AM Join us for a time of devotion, prayer, sharing and reflection. A great way to start your day and center your week. Come every week or drop in when you can. Contact: Bob Black (952-440-9434)

BOOK CLUB meets monthly to discuss the book of the month. All are welcome to join in when you can.

February's book: **MY NEW AMERICAN LIFE**,
by Francine Prose

Looking for a small group to get to know some of the women at Glendale? This group is fun, lively and enjoys reading books across all genres. Discussion of themes, values and characters in literature allow us to grow and understand one another and the world. Come when you can (a no-guilt group)

Date/Time: Tuesday February 21, 7-9 PM

Place: Barbara Taylor's home

To carpool: Barbara Taylor 952-226-4109

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY Wednesdays, 9:00 am, meetings are held at church in the Fellowship Hall. Current book/video study is HAITI: CHALLENGES AND HOPES. Contact Person: Arlys Meeker (952-447-3336)

CRAFT CIRCLE Wednesdays from 1-4pm at the home of Sally Rutherford (952-447-5962). Bring your own items to work on or help with ongoing projects.

SUNDAY SCHOOL - ADULT CLASSES

Two classes are offered each Sunday at 10:20 am

1. Bible Study on the book of Acts
2. Applying Our Faith class
Series: "Four Gospels, One Story"

February Schedule

Committee Meeting Dates:

No Education Committee meeting this month
 United Methodist Women: Saturday, Feb 4, at 9:30am (Fellowship Hall)
 Trustees Committee: Thursday, Feb 23, at 6:30pm (Library)

Due Dates For Newsletter Items:

Happenings each week on **Wednesday**
Mustard Seed on the **3rd Wednesday** (*March items are due Feb 15*)

Worship Assistant Schedule

If you are unable to be in church, please find a replacement prior to Sunday

Greeters

Feb 5: Dale & Sally Rutherford
 Feb 12: Brian & Mary Davis
 Feb 19: UMW Members
 Feb 26: Bob & Janice Black

Nursery (during worship)

Gail Pollard/Ann Scarborough
 John Titus/Austin Whitaker
 Fred Steffen/Betty Blazer

Audio/Visual

Feb 5: Sydney Skarbalus/Aimee Whitaker
 Feb 12: Bob Scarborough
 Feb 19: Sammy Seefeld
 Feb 26: Bob Scarborough

Ushers

Natalie Olive/Marsha Hill
 Jeff & Mary Randol
 Elwood & Virginia Ramsey

Liturgist

Feb 5: Diane Kammer
 Feb 12: Bob Black
 Feb 19: Shelley Shultz
 Feb 26: Carolyn Sefkow

Children's Message

Lynn Van Osdale
 Cindy Whitaker
 Judi Carlson

Acolytes

Feb 5: Natali Rodriguez/Isaiah Marquez-Lopez
 Feb 12: Bailey Skarbalus/Emily Graba
 Feb 19: Connor & Hunter Friesen
 Feb 26: Connor Friesen/Isaiah Marquez-Lopez

Altar Flowers

Fellowship Hosts

Feb 5: Gary & Kathy Ites
 Feb 12: -----
 Feb 19: -----
 Feb 26: -----

Offering Counters

Brian Davis/Paul Libra
 Ron Hill/John Skarbalus
 Karl Brown/Karle Nolte
 Rhonda Seefeld/Kay Dunning



*Congratulations
& Blessings to*

Jeff & Tracy Crowder
 on the birth of their daughter
Whitney Mae Crowder
 Born January 7

February Birthdays



2 - Tatum Goetz
 6 - Brynn Goetz
 6 - Nora Titus
 7 - Betty Blazer
 9 - Bob Ostermann
 12 - Elaine Erickson
 13 - Lynda Otten
 14 - David Whitaker
 15 - Mallory Westphal
 17 - Steve Sefkow
 18 - Katie Carlson
 19 - Sandy Driscoll
 19 - Megan Tullis
 20 - Gary Ites
 22 - Cindy Whitaker
 26 - Ryan Tullis
 27 - Zac Isaak

February Anniversaries



- None

*Please contact the
 church office if your
 Birthday or Anniversary
 is not listed.*



LENDALE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Sunday Worship: 9:00 am
followed by Fellowship & Refreshments
Sunday School (all ages): 10:20 am

**13550 Glendale Road
Savage, Minnesota 55378**

**Phone: 952-894-5394
Office Hours: M-F 8:30am -12:30pm**

**Church Email: glendalechurch@msn.com
Pastor's Email: dgtaylor408@gmail.com
Website: www.glendalechurchumc.org**

Return Service Requested

Please notify us if you no longer wish to be on the mailing list

Wednesdays in Lent

Each Wednesday during Lent (Feb 22 - March 28) our congregation will be having a **Soup Supper at 6:00 pm**. It is one of the highlights of the Lenten season to see so many people of all ages attending for a simple but hearty meal of homemade soups and breads, as well as a simple time of worship and reflection. The Soup Suppers will begin on Ash Wednesday, February 22. Each will begin at 6:00 PM and end by 7:00 PM. As always, come as you are and when you can get here (many come right from work).

February 22 - ASH WEDNESDAY

**SOUP SUPPER at 6:00pm, hosted by Fellowship Committee
WORSHIP at 7:00PM**

February 29 through March 28

SOUP SUPPER at 6:00pm, Lenten Devotions follow at 6:40 pm

Hosts for Soup Suppers on Wednesdays:

- Feb 29: United Methodist Women**
- March 7: Trustees & Missions Committees**
- March 14: Education & Staff Parish Relations Committees**
- March 21: Finance & Worship Committees**
- March 28: Youth Groups**



*bring a favorite soup,
bread or dessert to share*