



# NBUMC NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2009



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## The View From Here

by Pastor Pam

As a Protestant, I have never thought of myself as especially disadvantaged compared with my Catholic brothers and sisters in Christ. I am comfortably Protestant and have never considered switching sides. And yet, I find myself nurturing a growing conviction that our Catholic brothers and sisters have had access to a world of spiritual resources that we know little about and only rarely tap into. Sure, Catholicism has had its superstitions. Its tenacious insistence that Jesus' mother always remained a virgin, even after Jesus' birth, along with the belief that Jesus' siblings were actually cousins, has no biblical basis. It is rather an invented belief that seems to satisfy some human need for Mary to remain eternally chaste. No doubt I would have other issues. And yet, I do believe that our Catholic brothers and sisters have access to a spiritual heritage that we Protestants could tap into, but don't, mostly because we don't know it's there. Lent is part of that heritage. What do we do with Lent? Few of us non Catholics really know.

A monk from upstate New York, Brother Victor-Antoine D'Avila-Latourrette, has written a little book called, "A Monastic Year: Reflections From a Monastery." (Yes, he does have a rather long name. You may recognize him from his cookbooks.) It seems that even Catholics, according to D'Avila-Latourrette, are not very good at Lent. They reduce it to giving up candy or cutting back on their TV viewing. Its true intent, however, is to provide a focused period of time to take stock of our lives. Just as Jesus spent 40 days in the wilderness battling

### Inside this Issue

<i>The View from Here</i>	1
<i>Movie Night/Pancake Breakfast/Remember</i>	2
<i>Greeters and Liturgists</i>	3
<i>Groceries for a Bargain/Community Lenten/Ordinary Day</i>	3
<i>Calendar/Birthdays/Anniversaries</i>	4
<i>March Reading</i>	5,6

Satan, Lent is to be a time for us as well to fight both large temptations and small ones. Large sins, as well as those small habitual sins that we no longer recognize as sin because they have become such a strong force in our lives. The purpose of Lent is to provide us with a focused period of time to work toward making necessary changes in our lives.

There are, of course, specific practices that will help us in this battle. **Prayer** with tears that reflects the attitude of the tax collector in the temple who pleaded for mercy. Along with prayer comes **holy reading** of scripture. In a monastery during Lent, a monk not only reads the scriptures during the formal hours of prayer, but also makes time for reading at other times throughout the day. All Christians, says D'Avila-Latourrette, "should develop a continual hunger, almost an addiction, for the Word of God" because the Holy Spirit is always speaking to us through it. Lent is an especially good time for reading the Bible and listening for God's voice.

At the very center of the season of Lent is **repentance**. Unfortunately, it is the only way to make progress in our lives as Christians. Of course repentance is a lifelong call, but Lent provides us with the opportunity to do so in a more intense and focused manner. Finally, there is **fasting**, which I feel the least qualified to speak about because I have so little experience with it as a spiritual practice. Jesus fasted and assumed that his disciples would fast. D'Avila-Latourrette says it is a means of learning the self control

necessary for humility and wisdom. Fasting, he says, teaches us about our human limitations and our complete dependence on God. And fasting is always accompanied by prayer and fixing our attention on God.

Each of these practices are suitable for our walk with God all year long. Still, Lent provides us with a season of 40 days in which to concentrate our attention and remind our forgetful selves that the Christian life involves a lifetime of repentance. It is only too easy to assume that we were done with repenting when we first confessed Jesus Christ as our savior, but as followers of Christ, we will never be done with repenting in this life.

During these 40 days, may you experience a blessed and fruitful Lent as you follow Christ along the path of repentance.




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*It is not repentance that saves me; repentance is the sign that I realize what God has done in Christ Jesus.*

*Oswald Chambers*

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### *UMW*

#### *Movie Night!*

*At our February meeting, we shared some information on William Wilburforce, an abolitionist. To follow up with our meeting, we will meet on March 17<sup>th</sup> at the home of Terry Mason for a movie, "Amazing Grace". This movie is based on the life of William Wilburforce, his passion, and perseverance to pass a law ending the slave trade in late 18<sup>th</sup> century England: and the people, including his minister, who pushed him to pursue it to the end. Of course, we will have to have popcorn to top off our evening at the movies!*

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#### *February Pancake Breakfast*

*We, the New Baden United Methodist Church were blessed to have a great crowd, good faithful workers, and a generous donation of a net profit of \$1010.00. Our pancake breakfasts continue to be an outreach to our community. Some of our people met two new families in town and invited them to share in our worship service. Thank you to everyone who helped in any way.*

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#### *Remember....*

*The Spring Rummage/Bake Sale will be on Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> from 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. and Saturday, April 4<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. We will need all rummage to the church by March 30<sup>th</sup>. As the rummage sale approaches, we ask that all bakers prepare their best items to sell on April 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>. We thank you in advance for all your help!*



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## Greeters

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March 1	John & Carol Ruth
March 8	Dave & Pat Lewis
March 15	Steve & Brenda Lehr
March 22	Don & Lavada Knight
March 29	Laurel Peterson & Chelsea Lehr
April 5	Carol Bequette & Ruth Chaput

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## Liturgists

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March 1	Jerry Bequette
March 8 & 15	George Mason
March 22 & 29	Larry Buck
April 5 & 12	Michael Witte

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## Groceries for a Bargain

The First Baptist Church of New Baden is now sponsoring the Angel Food Ministry, providing families with an opportunity to purchase food at a lower cost. For \$30, an individual or family can purchase \$60 worth of food, enough to feed a family of four for a week. A variety of packages and specials are available, including a fresh fruit and veggie box and a senior/convenience box for anyone who would like 10 fully cooked meals that need only be heated. There are no income requirements in this program. Food stamps and the Link Card will be accepted, but no personal checks will be accepted.

The food is delivered on a Saturday once a month to the church and distributed between the hours of 11:15 a.m. and noon. Orders must be placed in advance and must be paid for at the time of ordering. If interested, you may order on Mondays from 1:30 to 3 p.m. by calling 588-4833. For further information about what food is available in any given month, you may call that number or 588-4826.

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## Community Lenten Worship

New Baden UMC will host an ecumenical Lenten worship service on Wed., March 11 at 7 p.m. All the churches in the community will be invited. Father Gene Neff will be preaching at the service that evening. This is an opportunity for the community to come together in worship. Put this date on your calendar now and plan to be gracious hosts to those who join us that night.

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## An Ordinary Day With Jesus

Beginning on Wednesday, March 18, we will be participating in an 8-week course designed to help us find practical ways to live our ordinary lives with Jesus. The subtitle of the course is "Experiencing the reality of God in your everyday life." We'll talk about living in Jesus' name, relationships, work, leadings, solitude, spiritual pathways, pace of life and making the ordinary extraordinary.

The course combines brief videos with group discussion and is grounded in biblical truth. It promises to be a great experience. We'll meet in the parsonage each Wednesday starting at 7:15 p.m. and finishing at 8:30 p.m. If you're interested, please talk with Pam as soon as possible so that she can ensure that she has enough materials available.

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## In the Community

The Wesclin After Prom Party Committee will host an afternoon of BUNCO at the New Baden American Legion on Sunday, March 8 at 1 p.m. Cost is \$5 for four rounds of BUNCO, snacks and prizes. Everyone is welcome. No experience is needed.

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## Calendar &amp; Events

## March 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

March 1	8:00 am Praise Team 7:00 pm Youth Group
March 3	7:00 pm Trustees
March 4	7:00 pm Finance
March 5	7:00 pm Choir Practice
March 8	8:00 am Praise Team 7:00 pm Youth Group
March 10	7:00 pm Administrative Council
March 11	7:00 pm Community Lenten Service, here
March 12	7:00 pm Choir Practice
March 15	8:00 am Praise Team 7:00 pm Youth Group
March 17	7:00 pm UMW
March 19	7:00 pm Choir Practice
March 21	6:30 am Pancake Breakfast
March 22	7:00 am UMM...Good Ol'Days 8:00 am Praise Team 7:00 pm Youth Group
March 24	7:00 pm Worship Committee
March 26	7:00 pm Choir Practice
March 29	8:00 am Praise Team 7:00 pm Youth Group
March 31	7:00 pm Worship Committee

March Birthdays

5 <sup>th</sup>	Mark Maedeker
7 <sup>th</sup>	Donald Berberich
7 <sup>th</sup>	Jordan Hill
10 <sup>th</sup>	Joan Witte
12 <sup>th</sup>	George Mason
13 <sup>th</sup>	Kerri Thaler
16 <sup>th</sup>	Chelsea Lehr
17 <sup>th</sup>	Sierra Cook
18 <sup>th</sup>	Larry Davis
20 <sup>th</sup>	Ruth Chaput
20 <sup>th</sup>	Jacob Ruth
25 <sup>th</sup>	Rachel Maedeker
27 <sup>th</sup>	Patricia Lewis
29 <sup>th</sup>	Frances Smith
30 <sup>th</sup>	Rob Hurst

March Anniversaries

31<sup>st</sup> Donald & Pam  
Berberich

*To change and to change for the better  
are two different things.*

*German Proverb*





### *The Children's Bible in a Nutshell*

In the beginning, which occurred near the start, there was nothing but God, darkness, and some gas. The Bible says, 'The Lord thy God is one, but I think He must be a lot older than that.'

Anyway, God said, 'Give me a light!' and someone did.

Then God made the world.

He split the Adam and made Eve. Adam and Eve were naked, but they weren't embarrassed because mirrors hadn't been invented yet.

Adam and Eve disobeyed God by eating one bad apple, so they were driven from the Garden of Eden.

Not sure what they were driven in though, because they didn't have cars.

Adam and Eve had a son, Cain, who hated his brother as long as he was Abel.

Pretty soon all of the early people died off, except for Methuselah, who lived to be like a million or something.

One of the next important people was Noah, who was a good guy, but one of his kids was kind of a Ham. Noah built a large boat and put his family and some animals on it. He asked some other people to join him, but they said they would have to take a rain check.

After Noah came Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob? Jacob was more famous than his brother, Esau, because Esau sold Jacob his birthmark in exchange for some pot roast. Jacob had a son named Joseph who wore a really loud sports coat.

Another important Bible guy is Moses, whose real name was Charlton Heston. Moses led the Israel Lights out of Egypt and away from the evil Pharaoh after God sent ten plagues on Pharaoh's people. These plagues included frogs, mice, lice, bowels, and no cable.

God fed the Israel Lights every day with manicotti. Then he gave them His Top Ten Commandments.

These include: don't lie, cheat, smoke, dance, or covet your neighbor's stuff.

Oh yeah, I just thought of one more: Humor thy father and thy mother.

One of Moses' best helpers was Joshua who was the first Bible guy to use spies. Joshua fought the battle of Geritol and the fence fell over on the town.

After Joshua came David. He got to be king by killing a giant with a Slingshot. He had a son named Solomon who had about 300 wives and 500 Porcupines. My teacher says he was wise, but that doesn't sound very wise to me.

After Solomon there were a bunch of major league prophets.

One of these was Jonah, who was swallowed by a big whale and then barfed up on the shore. There were also some minor league prophets, but I guess we don't have to worry about them.

After the Old Testament came the New Testament. Jesus is the star of The New. He was born in Bethlehem in a barn. (I wish I had been born in a barn too, because my mom is always saying to me, 'Close the door! Were you born in a barn?' It would be nice to say, 'As a matter of fact, I was.')

During His life, Jesus had many arguments with sinners like the Pharisees and the Democrats.

Jesus also had twelve opossums.

The worst one was Judas Asparagus. Judas was so evil that they named a terrible vegetable after him.

Jesus was a great man. He healed many leopards and even preached to some Germans on the Mount.

But the Democrats and all those guys put Jesus on trial before Pontius the Pilot. Pilot didn't stick up for Jesus? He just washed his hands instead.

Anyways, Jesus died for our sins, then came back to life again.

He went up to Heaven but will be back at the end of the Aluminum. His return is foretold in the book of Revolution.

*provided for your reading pleasure by Terry Mason*



"They're putting choruses in hymnbooks and projecting hymns onto the screen. It's getting so I can't remember what I'm not supposed to like!"

**New Baden United Methodist Church**

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*We're on the Web!*

*Visit us at:*  
[newbadenumc.org](http://newbadenumc.org)

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Pancake Breakfast!!!  
Saturday, March 21<sup>st</sup>  
6:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.  
See you there!!!



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