



The Pastor's Ponderings...

March 2010

“It’s No (’snow) Joke!”

We are supposed to be able to learn from history and – in looking back over past March issues of *The Messenger* – I noticed that two prior years’ cover articles made reference to then-recent heavy “snow events.”

Again this year we have experienced extraordinary amounts of snowfall, so much so that delawareonline.com solicited reader names for the most recent storm. Top suggestions – published in Thursday’s paper – included “snowtastrophe,” “blizzirked,” “snowverkill,” “snowverload,” and “nor’threester.”

And a fellow Presbyterian send this in an email, with the caption, “Are you ready for two more feet of snow?”



Regardless of what we think of this year’s weather, which is – unavoidably – what it is, the Season of Lent is a God-given opportunity to “put our best foot forward” for the Kingdom of God.

Do join us for our Annual Lenten Series of Suppers and Studies, as we consider how practices from Jesus’ Jewish heritage can both help us know him better and draw us closer to God and each other. (Syllabus provided in this issue – note alternating locations.)

And, be sure to put this year’s special Holy Week services of worship on your calendar!

Dave Lovelace



MY FAITH LOOKS UP TO THEE

From "Then Sings My Soul" by Robert J. Morgan

In the early 1830's, Lowell Mason moved to Boston from Savannah, where for sixteen years he had worked in a bank while directing church choirs on the side. In relocating to Boston, he wanted to focus exclusively on his musical interests. Soon he was directing three choirs, publishing hymns, compiling a songbook, and trying to get music education in the Boston public schools.

One day in 1832, he abumped into Ray Palmer. Palmer, 24, was exhausted. For years, he had burned the candle on both ends, working as a clerk in a dry goods store, attending classes at Yale, teaching at a girl's school in New York City, and preparing for the ministry.

Now, Mason wanted Palmer to write for him, to compose some hymns for his projected hymnbook.

Palmer, too tired to produce anything new, hesitatingly opened his little leather journal and showed Mason a poem he had written two years before. it was a personal prayer for renewed zeal and courage, composed in his rented room one night in 1830 when he had felt sick, tired, and lonely.

He later explained that he had wept that winter's evening upon finishing this poem: "The words for these stanzas were born out of my own soul with very little effort," he said. "I recall that I wrote the verses with tender emotion. There was not the slightest thought of writing for another eye, least of all writing a hymn for Christian worship."

After reading the words, Mason ducked into a nearby store for a piece of paper and hurriedly copied them down. That evening in his studio, he poured over this poem, hammering out the perfect tune for it. Shortly after, the two men met again and Mason told the young man, "Mr. Palmer, you may live many years and do many good things, but I think you will be best known to posterity as the author of 'My Faith Looks Up to Thee.'"

Lowell Mason was right. Ray Palmer did go on to do many good things and to write many fine hymns. But he is remembered by posterity for his first hymn, one written before he had even entered the ministry..

*My faith looks up to Thee, Thou Lamb of Calvary, Savior divine!
Now hear me while I pray; Take all my guilt away. Oh let me from this day Be wholly Thine!*

*May Thy rich grace impart Strength to me fainting heart, My zeal inspire.
As Thou hast died for me, Oh may my love to Thee Pure, warm and changeless be, A living fire.*

Men's Breakfast - March 13th - 8:30 AM Cost \$2.00

For our program in March we will have the pleasure and privilege of having our own Paul Wojtkowski as the speaker. His discussion (and pictures) will not be a travelogue, but will focus on the religions of India and their influence on the people. He accepted an invitation to a wedding and, following the event, he continued on to find out more about the various faiths and their power. You are sure to find it fascinating, and also have good company and food. All men are invited to join us!

MONTHLY LECTIONARY READINGS

**March 7
(3rd Sunday in Lent)**

Isaiah 55:1-9
Psalm 63:1-8
1 Corinthians 10:1-13
Luke 13:1-9

**March 14
(4th Sunday in Lent)**

Joshua 5:9-12
Psalm 32
2 Corinthians 5:16-21
Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

**March 21
(5th Sunday in Lent)**

Isaiah 43:16-21
Psalm 126
Philippians 3:4b-14
John 12:1-8

**March 28
(Passion / Palm Sunday)**

Liturgy of the Palms
Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29
Luke 19:28-40

Liturgy of the Passio

Isaiah 50:4-9a
Psalm 31:9-16
Philippians 2:5-11
Luke 22:14—23:56
or Luke 23:1-49

Birthdays & Anniversaries

03/02 Martha Coats Brenda Petke	03/17 Joshua Boucher
03/05 Karen Carpenter Jeffrey Kenton	03/18 Madelyn Underwood Kit Ramsey Quinley Hammon
03/06 Heather Lovelace	03/19 Ruth Lee
03/08 Terri Wagner	03/22 Tylor Walther
03/10 Mary Carpenter Edward Frederick	03/23 Margaret Selsor
03/11 Donna Antony	03/24 George Holmes
03/12 Brenda Boucher Brandon Fox Bradley Dreisbach	03/26 Arthur Fynsk Emily Senegeto
03/13 Brandon Fox	03/27 Kaitlyn Cassel
03/16 Tammy Kerrigan	03/29 Joyce Murphy
	03/30 Dot Harkins Donna Beech

March 1
Brian and Dorothy Kent

March 25
Rev. David and Mimi Lovelace

March 9
John and Kyung Conning

March 30
Paul and Donna Antony

Lower Brandywine Presbyterian Church
presents a **FREE** Community Outreach Event
Slyte of Hand

MICHELE MCCANN JON KMETZ BILL RUSSELL

Saturday, March 6
7:30 p.m.

*Non-Perishable Food Donations
will be accepted for the
Food Bank of Delaware*

101 Old Kennett Road
Wilmington, Delaware 19807
(across from Winterthur)
302-658-2326 phone
For more information
visit www.lowerbrandywine.org



“What to Give up for Lent”

GIVE UP grumbling! Instead, “In everything give thanks.” Constructive criticism is OK, but “moaning, groaning, and complaining” are not Christian disciplines.

GIVE UP 10 to 15 minutes in bed! Instead, use that time in prayer, Bible study and personal devotion.

GIVE UP looking at other people’s worst points. Instead concentrate on their best points. We all have faults. It is a lot easier to have people overlook our shortcomings when we overlook theirs first.

GIVE UP speaking unkindly. Instead, let your speech be generous and understanding. It costs so little to say something kind and uplifting. Why not check that sharp tongue at the door?

GIVE UP your hatred of anyone or anything! Instead, learn the discipline of love. “Love covers a multitude of sins.”

GIVE UP your worries and anxieties! Instead, trust God with them. Anxiety is spending emotional energy on something we can do nothing about: like tomorrow! Live today and let God’s grace be sufficient.

GIVE UP TV one evening a week! Instead, visit some lonely or sick person.

There are those who are isolated by illness or age. Why isolate yourself in front of the “tube?” Give someone a precious gift: your time!

GIVE UP buying anything but essentials for yourself! Instead, give the money to God. The money you would spend on the luxuries could help someone meet basic needs. We are called to be stewards of God’s riches, not consumers.

GIVE UP judging by appearances and by the standard of the world! Instead, learn to give up yourself to God. There is only one who has the right to judge, Jesus Christ.

Craig Gates, Jackson, MS



Since 1949, Presbyterians have joined with millions of other Christians through One Great Hour of Sharing to share God’s love with people experiencing need. Our gifts support ministries of disaster response, refugee assistance and resettlement, and community development that help people find safe refuge, start new lives and work together to strengthen their families and communities.

Recognizing that the hope we have in Christ is lived out in our hope for one another, we respond with gifts that help our sisters and brothers around the world find the hope for a brighter future.

Our offering will be received at both services on Easter Sunday, April 4th.

THIRD ANNUAL JONATHAN BEECH MEMORIAL CONCERT
Proceeds to benefit Camp Sunshine, of Casco, Maine

SATURDAY, MARCH 20, 2010 3:00 P.M.

Kennett High School Auditorium
100 E. South Street, Kennett Square, Pennsylvania 19348

Paul Winter’s “Missa Gaia” (“Earth Mass”)
 Combined church and community choirs with Jazz Ensemble, Donna Beech, Director

Also featuring selections by:



Kennett High School Chorale, Catherine Soukup, Dir.....

Youth Chorale of The Kennett Symphony Children’s Chorus, Drue Bullington, Director

Delaware Children’s Chorus, Marybeth Miller, Director

Suggested donation: \$15 Adults \$10 Students

Funding for this concert through the generosity of Arkadi Kuhlmann and ING DIRECT.

The Lower Brandywine and Green Hill Presbyterian Churches
2010 Lenten Series of Suppers and Studies
“Pathways to God: Helps from Jesus’ Jewish Heritage”

Although we sometimes forget, Jesus of Nazareth and his first followers were all faithful, practicing Jews. Consequently – if we wish to know Jesus better – we can learn much by examining Jewish spiritual practices.

Based on *Mudhouse Sabbath* by Lauren F. Winner, this series of studies considers paths to the God of Israel that both Jews and Christians travel. But – especially – it is about how Christian practices can draw on their Jewish roots more fully to become more meaningful.

Plan to join us at the locations noted – we will take turns hosting – as we seek to have our faith make a greater difference in our lives.

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| <u>Week 3:</u> | Sunday, March 7; 6:00 p.m. at Lower Brandywine | <i>Prayer</i> |
| <u>Week 4:</u> | Sunday, March 14; 6:00 p.m. at Green Hill | <i>Fasting</i> |
| <u>Week 5:</u> | Sunday, March 21; 6:00 p.m. at Lower Brandywine | <i>Mourning; Doorposts</i> |

March 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 10:00 am Missions Committee Meeting	2	3 Music Rehearsals 6:30 pm Handbell Choir 7:00 pm LBPC Worship Consort *verify rehearsal with Marilee 7:30 pm Senior Choir	4	5 NCP Retreat in Ocean City, MD, Stated NCP Meeting	6 NCP Retreat in Ocean City, MD 7:30 pm Community Outreach Event: Slyte of Hand Celtic Music
7 3RD SUN IN LENT God's Family at Table, Children in Worship Sacrament of the Lord's Supper 9:00 am Contemporary Worship/Adult Topical Class/ Adult Bible Study/ 10:30 am Traditional Worship Svc/ Adult Discussion/ The Wired Word 11:30 am Fellowship: Coffee and Conversation 5:00 pm Confirmation Class 6:00 pm Lenten Supper and Study @ LBPC 7:00 pm Teen Choir Rehearsal	8	9 Messenger Deadline	10 Music Rehearsals 6:30 pm Handbell Choir 7:00 pm LBPC Worship Consort *verify rehearsal with Marilee 7:30 pm Senior Choir	11	12	13 8:30 am Men's Breakfast
14 Daylight Saving Begins 4TH SUN IN LENT 8:00 am - 9:00 am MFM: OGHs J. Wysham 9:00 am Contemporary Worship/Adult Topical Class/ Adult Bible Study/ Children's Sunday School 10:30 am Traditional Worship Svc/ Adult Discussion/ The Wired Word 11:30 am Fellowship: Coffee and Conversation 5:00 pm L.I.F.T. Meeting 6:00 pm Lenten Supper and Study @ GHPC	15 Meals on Wheels 12:00 pm Women's Group 7:00 pm Finance and Administration Cmte.	16 Meals on Wheels	17 Meals on Wheels Music Rehearsals 6:30 pm Handbell Choir 7:00 pm LBPC Worship Consort *verify rehearsal with Marilee 7:30 pm Senior Choir	18 Meals on Wheels	19 Meals on Wheels 7:30 pm Just Desserts Fellowship @ Lovelace's	20 3:00 pm Jonathan Beech Memorial Concert
21 5TH SUN IN LENT 10:00 am ONE WORSHIP SERVICE 10 AM 11:00 am Service of Healing and Wholeness (immediately following 10 AM Worship) 11:05 am Fellowship: Coffee and Conversation 5:00 pm Confirmation Class 6:00 pm Lenten Supper and Study @ LBPC 7:00 pm Teen Choir Rehearsal	22 7:00 pm Stated Session Meeting	23	24 Music Rehearsals 6:30 pm Handbell Choir 7:00 pm LBPC Worship Consort *verify rehearsal with Marilee 7:30 pm Senior Choir	25	26	27
28 Palm Sunday PASSION/PALM SUNDAY 9:00 am Contemporary Worship/Adult Topical Class/ Adult Bible Study/ Children's Sunday School 10:30 am Traditional Worship Svc/ Adult Discussion/ The Wired Word 11:30 am Fellowship: Coffee and Conversation	29	30	31 Music Rehearsals 6:30 pm Handbell Choir 7:00 pm LBPC Worship Consort *verify rehearsal with Marilee 7:30 pm Senior Choir			

April 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Maundy Thursday 6:00 pm MAUNDY THURSDAY AGAPE FEAST / SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER	2 Good Friday Office Closed 7:30 pm TAIZE SERVICE	3 Holy Saturday
4 Easter Sunday EASTER/RESURRECTION OF THE LORD Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, God's Family at Table, Children in Worship One Great Hour of Sharing Offering 8:30 am Contemporary Worship/Adult Topical Class/ Adult Bible Study 9:30 am Easter Breakfast 10:30 am Traditional Worship Svc/ Adult Discussion/ The Wired Word 11:30 am Fellowship: Coffee and Conversation	5 Office Closed 10:00 am Emmanuel Dining Room 10:00 am Missions Committee Meeting	6	7 Music Rehearsals 6:30 pm Handbell Choir 7:00 pm LBPC Worship Consort *verify rehearsal with Marilee 7:30 pm Senior Choir	8	9	10 8:30 am Men's Breakfast
11 2ND SUN OF EASTER 9:00 am Contemporary Worship/Adult Topical Class/ Adult Bible Study/ Children's Sunday School 10:30 am Traditional Worship Svc/ Adult Discussion/ The Wired Word 11:30 am Fellowship: Coffee and Conversation 5:00 pm Confirmation Class	12	13 Messenger Deadline	14 Music Rehearsals 6:30 pm Handbell Choir 7:00 pm LBPC Worship Consort *verify rehearsal with Marilee 7:30 pm Senior Choir	15 7:00 pm Centreville Civic Association Meeting (Social Hall)	16 7:30 pm Just Desserts Fellowship @ Wysham's	17
18 3RD SUN OF EASTER 9:00 am Contemporary Worship/Adult Topical Class/ Adult Bible Study/ Children's Sunday School 10:30 am Traditional Worship Svc/ Adult Discussion/ The Wired Word 11:30 am Fellowship: Coffee and Conversation 3:00 pm Community Outreach Event: Melanomie Baroque Instruments 5:00 pm L.I.F.T. Meeting 7:00 pm Teen Choir Rehearsal	19 Meals on Wheels 12:00 pm Women's Group 7:00 pm Finance and Administration Cmte.	20 Meals on Wheels	21 Administrative Professionals Day Meals on Wheels Music Rehearsals 6:30 pm Handbell Choir 7:00 pm LBPC Worship Consort *verify rehearsal with Marilee 7:30 pm Senior Choir	22 Meals on Wheels	23 Meals on Wheels	24
25 4TH SUN OF EASTER 9:00 am Contemporary Worship/Adult Topical Class/ Adult Bible Study/ Children's Sunday School 10:30 am Traditional Worship Svc/ Adult Discussion/ The Wired Word 11:30 am Fellowship: Coffee and Conversation 5:00 pm Confirmation Class	26 7:00 pm Stated Session Meeting	27	28 Music Rehearsals 6:30 pm Handbell Choir 7:00 pm LBPC Worship Consort *verify rehearsal with Marilee 7:30 pm Senior Choir	29	30 5:00 pm Wedding Rehearsal: Calla/Pratts	

Lower Brandywine Does More

The need for donations for the Food Bank of Delaware is at its highest level. Locally, more people are turning to food pantries to feed their families and donations have been less than in previous years.

What can we do? We have been participating In **Delaware Does More** since the Fall of 2008. This Food Bank project enables organizations – like us – to become collection points for food donations. Our collection barrels are in the foyer by the Church Office. A collection basket is also in the back of the church, if this is more convenient for you. When the collection barrels are full, a truck will be called for pick up.

The most commonly needed non-perishable items:

macaroni & cheese
canned meats
peanut butter
powdered milk
pancake mix
paper products

soup
tuna
rice
cereal
syrup
beans

pasta & pasta sauce
canned vegetables
instant mashed potatoes
canned fruit
juices
pet food



. . . and more.

Add the Food Bank to your grocery list. Shop sales, use coupons.

And, make a new habit. Bring a food donation every time you come to Church. For services, the Lenten series, a meeting, choir practice, confirmation class. Every time. Lower Brandywine can do more.

Lent & Easter Worship

Maundy Thursday, April 1 ~ Agape Dinner and Communion Service at 6 PM

Good Friday, April 2 ~ Taize Style Worship Service at 7:30 PM

**Easter Sunday, April 4 ~ Worship Services at 8:30 & 10:30 AM
Easter Breakfast will be served at 9:30 AM**



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