



The Pastor's Ponderings...

FEBRUARY 2010

“How Do We Get ‘There’ from ‘Here’?”



A hundred feet above the Apurimac River, near the remote village of Huinchiri, Peru, there is a suspension bridge that connects the Limi-Cuzzo Road. It has been there since the 14th century. Using four miles of braided coya grass, the Inca constructed the bridge in phases.

First, a bowman attached a fine thread to an arrow and fired it across the gorge. A man on the other side tied a cord to the thread and fired it back across the gorge. The cord was then pulled across. One by one the Inca added thicker and thicker ropes, finally hauling into place a 200 pound floor cable. The bridge – which today is still suspended across the river – continues to serve as a major highway for the people in that part of Peru. And, it began with a single thread.

Think how many changes take place in life because of a single phone call, the implementation of one idea, one visit, or a single letter. All great bridges stem from tiny beginnings, and it is the same for our faith. A single act of forgiveness, a personal commitment to be more involved in the life of the church, a sacrificial charitable gift, or an invitation to a stranger can be a beginning. Every change that is made for the betterment of humankind starts with a single act.

Thinking along these lines, our Annual Congregational and Corporation Meeting on the last Sunday of January is a “bridge” between the past and the future. As we move into 2010 – the 290th year of ministry for this congregation – may we each resolve to take the small steps that are within our reach. Then – with God’s help – our collective reach will grow far beyond our individual capabilities. And, we will be well on the way to “bridging the gap” between our present potential and God’s ultimate purpose for us.

Thanks be to God!

Dave Lovelace



NEAR TO THE HEART OF GOD

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

Park University in Parkville, Missouri, with 38 campuses across the US, boasts an enrollment of over 17,000 students. It was begun in 1875 by John A. McAfee, and by Colonel George Park, who donated the land.

McAfee had five sons and a daughter who all became involved in the college. The fourth son, Cleland, graduated from what was then Park College; after studying at Union Theological Seminary, he returned to Park as chaplain and choir director. Cleland's daughter Katharine later told how her father came to write the great hymn "Near to the Heart of God":

In the late 1800's, grandfather's "five sons (Lowell, Howard, Lapsley, Cleland, Ernest) and his only daughter (Helen) were all living in Parkville, serving the college. My father was the college preacher and director of the choir, and it was his custom, when communion services came, to write the words and music of a response which his choir could sing and which would fit into the theme of his sermon.

"One terrible week, just before a communion Sunday, the two little daughters of my Uncle Howard and Aunt Lucy McAfee died of diphtheria within twenty-four hours of each other. The college family and town were stricken with grief. My father often told us how he sat long and late thinking of what could be said in word and song on the coming Sunday....

"So he wrote 'Near to the Heart of God'. The choir learned it at the regular Saturday night rehearsal, and afterward they went to Howard McAfee's home and sang it as they stood under the sky outside the darkened, quarantined house. It was sung again on Sunday morning at the communion service."

It was published in October, 1903. In later years, Cleland pastored in the Presbyterian denomination, taught at McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago, and helped direct the Presbyterian foreign missions program. He also authored a number of textbooks.

*There is a place of quiet rest, Near to the heart of God;
A place where sin cannot molest, Near to the heart of God. Refrain.....*

*There is a place of comfort sweet, Near to the heart of God;
A place where we our Savior meet, Near to the heart of God. Refrain.....*

*There is a place of full release, near to the heart of God;
A place where all is joy and peace, near to the heart of God. Refrain.....*

*Refrain: O Jesus, blest Redeemer, Sent from the heart of God,
Hold us, who wait before Thee, Near to the heart of God.*

MONTHLY LECTIONARY READINGS

February 7

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isaiah 6:1-8 (9-13)

Psalm 138

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Luke 5:1-11

February 14

Transfiguration of the Lord

Exodus 34:29-35

Psalm 99

2 Corinthians 3:12—4:2

Luke 9:28-36 (37-43)

February 17

Ash Wednesday

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 or

Isaiah 58:1-12

Psalm 51:1-17

2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

February 21

1st Sunday of Lent

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16

Romans 10:8b-13

Luke 4:1-13

February 28

2nd Sunday of Lent

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

Psalm 27

Philippians 3:17—4:1

Luke 13:31-35



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| 02/01 Jacob Csuy | 02/14 John Danzeisen |
| 02/03 Mimi Lovelace | David McElvain |
| 02/04 Carolyn Dreisbach | Erin Thomas |
| Jode Thomas | Conrad Kuhlmann |
| 02/06 Trude Holmes | 02/16 Madison Armstrong |
| Eleanor Hileman | 02/18 Werner Brown |
| 02/07 Janice Reid | 02/20 Darlene Sullivan |
| 02/09 Paul Wick | 02/22 Jane Wright |
| William Sudell | 02/23 Michael Hammon |
| Nicole Murphy | 02/24 Steve Ernst |
| 02/11 Sandra Messikomer | 02/27 Chris Ramsey |
| 02/12 Harold Kenton | Danielle Antony |
| Harold Salmons | 02/28 Weston Wright |

February 7th
Arkadi Kuhlmann and Synthia Wong

February 14th
William and Lois Martino

Men's Breakfast - February 13th - 8:30 AM Cost \$2.00
Our speaker at the February breakfast will be Nancy Falasco, director of the Brandywine Zoo. Probably most of us have, at one time or another, visited the zoo with our children or our grandchildren. Of course, Ms. Falasco is enthusiastic about her favorite zoo and will tell us all kinds of interesting things about it. So come and enjoy the morning with good food and good company!

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.



Week 1:	Sunday, February 21; 6:00 p.m. At Lower Brandywine	<i>Series Introduction; Sabbath</i>
Week 2:	Sunday, February 28; 6:00 p.m. At Green Hill	<i>Hospitality; Mindful Eating</i>
Week 3:	Sunday, March 7; 6:00 p.m. At Lower Brandywine	<i>Prayer</i>
Week 4:	Sunday, March 14; 6:00 p.m. At Green Hill	<i>Fasting</i>
Week 5:	Sunday, March 21; 6:00 p.m. At Lower Brandywine	<i>Mourning; Doorposts</i>

The first dinner will be a pot luck – everyone is asked to bring either a main course, salad or dessert to share.

Beverages will be provided.

Plans for the following four Lenten suppers will be based on the number of participants.

Thinking of Lent



Advent prepares us for Christ's birth; Lent prepares us for the glorious act of Christ's resurrection. Churches have special services during the weeks of Lent, but it's what each of us does regarding our spiritual life that makes Lent most meaningful.

Lent is a good time to read, study and inwardly digest the four gospels. (The word gospel means "good news.")

A college student decided to work his way through Matthew, Mark, Luke and John for his Lenten devotional time. Soon he was fascinated by the stories, such as the Pharisees and Sadducees trying to trap Jesus in debate. The brilliant Jesus handled every occasion with wisdom, leaving the authorities dumbfounded.

During his devotional time, the student was filled with laughter and amazement at the brilliant son of God, who was only in his 30s. Get to know the good news, and you'll understand the young man's amazement.

100th anniversary of the Boy Scout movement

Lord Robert Baden-Powell (1857-1941) was a lieutenant-general in the British Army who loved hiking and camping in the wilderness. He wrote a small handbook for soldiers called *Aids to Scouting*. It became so popular among teachers and youth leaders that he rewrote it with young people in mind. *Scouting for Boys* was immediately a best seller and led to the establishment of many Boy Scout groups in England.

Soon afterward, scouting groups began popping up across America. Churches were so supportive of the movement's values that many churches sponsored Scout troops — and still do.

The official beginning of Scouting in America was February 8, 1910. Each year, many churches recognize their Scouts on the Sunday before February 8.

The leaders of Boy Scouts of America have designated September 1, 2009, through December 31, 2010 as "A Year of Celebration." The year's highlight will be Jamboree 2010 (July 26–August 4, 2010), which promises to be the largest celebration of Scouting in America. More than 43,000 scouts and leaders are expected to attend the event at Fort A.P. Hill, a 76,000-acre camp outside Washington, D.C.



February 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	6 9:00 am - 2:00 pm Session Retreat @ LBPC (lunch provided) 2:00 pm Special Session Meeting
7 5TH SUN ORD TIME God's Family at Table, Children in Worship Ordination and Installation of Officers Sacrament of the Lord's Supper Souper Bowl of Caring 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 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	8 Meals on Wheels	9 Meals on Wheels Messenger Deadline	10 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	11 Meals on Wheels	12 Meals on Wheels	13 8:30 am Men's Breakfast
14 Valentine's Day TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD 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 Curtis Institute of Music 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	15 Presidents Day Office Closed 12:00 pm Women's Group 7:00 pm Finance and Administration Cmte.	16	17 Ash Wednesday Music Rehearsals 6:30 pm Handbell Choir 7:00 pm LBPC Worship Consort *verify rehearsal with Marilee 7:30 pm Senior Choir	18	19 7:30 pm Just Desserts Fellowship @ Bob & Marian Hartman's 8:00 pm - 9:00 am Confirmation Class Lock-in	20
21 1ST SUN IN LENT MFM: Susan Latimer: Food Bank 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 6:00 pm Lenten Supper and Study @ LBPC 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal / 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 12:00 am Youth for Christ Midnight Bowling	27
28 2ND SUN IN LENT 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 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal						

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/ 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 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 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 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 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 6:00 pm Lenten Supper and Study	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			

Sunday, February 7th



Please bring canned soup, canned goods and dollars for donation. The Souper Bowl of Caring is a ministry of our youth, helping to fight hunger and poverty in our local community.



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