



Notes From The Journey . . .

We have entered the season of Lent, which encompasses the 40 days preceding Easter (not including Sundays). It is a season for reflection and spiritual growth. The season concludes with Good Friday, when we consider the events of Jesus' arrest, trial and crucifixion. We do this within the larger context of his life and ministry, as well as to focus beyond those events to the new life we see in his resurrection.

We currently find ourselves faced with an event within the cultural landscape of this country which is raising a variety of questions about how best to consider these experiences in Jesus' life. Mel Gibson's movie "The Passion of the Christ" seems to be taking the country by storm. There are some, including the producer himself, who say this is a work of faith and to do anything

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besides fully embrace it is to align yourself with the forces of darkness. Others offer cautious, and not so cautious, critiques. But regardless of who you listen to, it appears to be one of those events that come along from time to time which are difficult to simply ignore. So, I want to offer a pastoral word on the subject.

I need to begin by saying I have not seen the movie and at this point I am not planning to see it.

This is a deliberate decision. You will need to make your own decisions for you and your family. My decision is based on a variety of reviews and reflections I have heard and read, all of which contain very strong statements about the level of graphic violence contained in the film. It is true that Jesus' crucifixion is a part of (continued on page two)

Stewardship Education & Commitment Emphasis

It is "that time of year" again. This congregation operates on a May to April fiscal year, which means that by the end of April we need to have a budget approved for the coming year. One of the vital steps in that process is securing commitments of support from the members and friends of the congregation. Towards that end, it is important to help you understand giving within the larger context of faith. It is about far more than simply "underwriting the budget." It is about faithfully responding to the abundance of God's gifts to us. This year's theme, "Celebrating Our Gifts With Our Living And Our Giving" will help us focus on some of the ways in which both our living and our giving are a part of what it means to be faithful people. We will explore this theme on Sundays, March 7th and 14th. Then on the 14th we will receive Commitments of Support indicating your financial intentions for the church for the coming year. Sometime during the week between the 7th and 14th you will receive a mailing from the church which will contain a variety of materials to assist you in considering this matter, including an "Estimate of Giving" card. You will be invited to fill it out and bring it with you on the 14th, or return it to the "Financial Secretary" as soon as possible. These commitments will play a key role in helping the Budget Committee determine what we will be able to accomplish in the coming year. Thank you for your faithful and prayerful participation in the full life of this congregation.



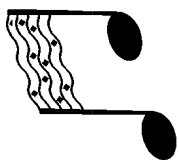
Changes In Our Schedule

We have made a couple of changes in the regular monthly schedule at the church.

Choir rehearsal is now on the first and third Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m. (formerly on Thursdays).

The Board meeting is now on the second Wednesday at 7 p.m. (formerly the third Wednesday).

If you are a part of either of these groups please make a note of these changes.



Adult Faith Explorations Class

The Adult Faith Explorations meets on Sundays at 9:30 a.m. During the season of Lent we will be exploring “Questions of Faith.” This will not be the video series by that name which we have looked at in the past. Rather we will explore and examine questions which members of the class come up with and determine to be of some value for our consideration. If you would like to participate in this discussion, join us on Sunday mornings. And bring your questions with you.

Upcoming Fellowship Events *(Mark Your Calendars Now)*

Here are some of the events being planned for the coming months. The dates are tentative. Please let us know if another date would work better. Your input is important.

Game Night — Saturday, March 13th @ 6:30 p.m.

Talent Night — Saturday, April 24th @ 6 p.m.

Friday Night at the Movies — Friday, May 7th @ 7 p.m.

Picnic in the Park with Kite Flying — Sunday, June 20th @ 2 p.m.



Notes From The Journey (continued from page one)

our faith tradition, and crucifixion was a particularly brutal and barbaric form of execution. However, reading about what happened and reflecting on it within the broader context of the gospel tradition of Jesus' life, ministry and message is, in my opinion, a very different matter from being subjected to a visual assault. Graphic images have such a powerful impact that they can easily overwhelm any other considerations. David Edelstein, NPR Movie Reviewer, described the film as “theologically, morally, and artistically suspect.” This past week-end in Spokane Marcus Borg, noted New Testament Jesus scholar, was asked what he thought of the film. He reportedly responded by describing it as “spiritual and emotional abuse.” Closer to home, my step-daughter went to see the movie in Portland, and now deeply regrets that decision. The violence was simply overwhelming.

When so much emphasis is placed on Jesus' violent death, we may be tempted to overlook the things which he sought to point us to. In fact, the violence of the world was one of the things which he tried to help us move beyond. Don't get stuck on the cruelty - look to the power of God's love instead.

So, as you consider whether to see the movie or not, remember that in spite of what the promotional “hype” would have you believe, it is not some sort of “faithful duty” to go see it. Just because it is a movie about Jesus doesn't necessarily mean it is a movie about faith, and it doesn't mean you have to agree with the message it has to offer. I hope you will at least consider the impact the violence will have on you and whether that is something you really want. As the people of Israel were preparing to enter the Promised Land, Moses said to them, “I have set before you this day life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live...” (Deuteronomy 30:19) I encourage you to choose life in all your decisions.

If you do decide to see it and find that you need someone to help you process the experience, I hope you will give me a call. Whether we see the movie or not, I pray that we will continue to reflect on the meaning we find in Jesus' life, death and resurrection.

- Roger

Personal Glimpses

Bob & Lois Leonard, and Lois' sister Carol, are on their way back from Florida. Look for them to arrive in Moscow sometime before the end of March.

A big sigh of relief from *Karen Davis*, who did not have to have a biopsy and was given a clean bill of health.

Lou Stevens is facing surgery this month. Please keep her in your prayers.

Ginny Garton had successful thumb surgery last month. It is healing fine.

Jodi Garton had successful back surgery in Alaska last month. We keep her in our prayers as she recovers.

Please keep *Chris Talbott* in your prayers as she goes to Seattle later this month for further exploration of a skin condition that recently developed.

Gerda Santoro has moved to Latah Care Center. Please keep her in your prayers.

Don Jensen had angioplasty on two of the arteries leading from his heart. Stents were then placed in the arteries to keep them open. He is back on his feet and feeling good.

Congratulations to *Hillary Talbott and Mark Williams*, who recently announced their engagement. They will be married this summer.

To see pictures from *Roger and Veronica's* wedding and reception, go to www.rogerlynn.com and click on the "We Got Married" link.



Sacred Space / Lively Space For Easter

Because of a variety of scheduling conflicts, the Sacred Space / Lively Space meetings scheduled for February to prepare our worship space for Lent did not occur. But we would very much like to get something together for Easter. So if you would like to participate in this fun, creative and meaningful process, please contact Roger Lynn ASAP so we can schedule a time in the next few weeks to plan.

Celebrating Birthdays . . .

. . .In March

11th - Ravi Hatch
14th - Calvin Macy
16th - Bret Barber
16th - Barbara Scott
18th - Heather Leonard



18th - Lew Smith
19th - Joan Gustavson
20th - Donna Francis
23rd - Elaine Russell
23rd - Dolores Sanchez

29th - Doris Ann Smith

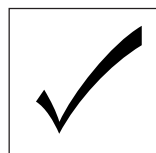
. . .In April

13th - Allene Goforth
17th - Jamie Huffman-Scott
18th - Louise Hecht

18th - Lois Leonard
19th - Tim Garton
22nd - Donna Spencer

Tables & Chairs Update

We have been talking for several months about getting new tables and chairs for the Fellowship Hall. A generous anonymous donor has stepped forward to underwrite the entire project. Thank you! They should arrive soon.






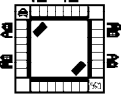

















Financial Secretary Change of Procedure

The Board recently made some changes in the procedures by which the Financial Secretary counts and records the money collected on Sunday mornings. These changes were put in place to protect both the Financial Secretary and the Church from any appearance of impropriety. It is important to note that this was done as a precautionary safeguard, and not in response to any charges or questions. The offering is now counted and recorded in the Church Office, by the Financial Secretary and another person (a Board member for now — in the future it will be an officially designated Assistant to the Financial Secretary). These people are operating under the same rules of confidentiality which have always been in place for the Financial Secretary. If you have any questions about these changes in procedure, please contact Oz Garton or any member of the Board.



March / April

2004

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
7 2nd Sunday in Lent Fellowship Fund Stewardship Emphasis	8 7:00 PM, Spiritual Mysteries 	9 5:30 PM, AA Meeting 7:00 PM, Bible Study 	10 10:00 AM, Bible Study 12:00 PM, Cancer Support 2:00 PM, Sunshine Club 7:00 PM, Board Meeting 	11 5:30 PM, AA Meeting	12	13 6:30 AM, Game Night 
14 3rd Sunday in Lent Stewardship Commitment Sunday 	15 7:00 PM, Spiritual Mysteries 	16 5:30 PM, AA Meeting 7:00 PM, Bible Study 	17 10:00 AM, Bible Study 7:00 PM, Choir Rehearsal 	18 5:30 PM, AA Meeting	19	20
21 4th Sunday in Lent	22 7:00 PM, Spiritual Mysteries 	23 5:30 PM, AA Meeting 7:00 PM, Bible Study 	24 10:00 AM, Bible Study 	25 5:30 PM, AA Meeting	26	27
28 5th Sunday in Lent 2:00 PM, Care Center Worship 	29 7:00 PM, Spiritual Mysteries 	30 5:30 PM, AA Meeting 7:00 PM, Bible Study 	31 10:00 AM, Bible Study 	1 5:30 PM, AA Meeting • April •	2	3
4 Palm/Passion Sunday Daylight Savings Time Fellowship Fund 6:00 PM, Elders/Deacons 7:00 PM, Special Board Meeting 	5 7:00 PM, 4-H 7:00 PM, Spiritual Mysteries 	6 5:30 PM, AA Meeting 7:00 PM, Bible Study 	7 10:00 AM, Watercolor 10:00 AM, Bible Study 7:00 PM, Choir Rehearsal 	8 5:30 PM, AA Meeting 6:30 PM, Maundy Thursday Soup Supper & Worship 	9 12:15 PM, Good Friday Community Worship 	10



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• Return Service Requested •



Sunday, April 4th
 (set your clocks ahead)