



Pastor's Thoughts. . .

On February 17th, we will begin the journey of Lent. Lent is the 40 days preceding the church's most important holy day—Easter. Traditionally, Lent is a time of contemplation and reflection on our relationship to the Lord Jesus. It is a time wherein we consciously work at strengthening our faith.

This year, we will look at the issue of fear and how it manifests itself in our daily lives. Each Wednesday, we will look at a different aspect of fear. Some areas we will explore will be: fear of loneliness, fear of disappointing God, fear of meeting overwhelming challenges, fear of anger and violence, fear of failure, fear of death, and fear of being out of control. The material for the season will be based on a book by Max Lucado called "*Fearless*".

Fear is a natural human emotion that we all possess. I suspect it evolves from a desire to control ourselves and our environment. In our pride, we think we can dictate what the future will bring even though deep down we know this to be an illusion. Yet we will delude ourselves by placing our faith in our wealth, our health, and our possessions. We think, if we have enough money, or we are able to exercise for 30 minutes each day, or we eat the right kinds of food, or we have enough property, that nothing bad will happen to us.

But bad things do inevitably happen to us and when they do, they uncover our attempts at control. When we lose our sense of control, fear enters into the void. We realize that nothing in creation can save us. The more we recognize the impotency of creation, the greater the fear becomes. What can save us from the vicissitudes of life? It is within this fear that we come face to face with the power of God.

As we contemplate fear in our personal lives, we can also think of fear as it relates to our congregation. As a congregation, we will be facing some challenging times in the next few years as we begin ministry in a new and very beautiful facility. There will more than likely be times in which we will face moments of fear. How will we handle those moments? Hopefully, as Max Lucado advocates, we will find our strength in God and His abiding presence in Jesus our Lord.

Pastor Harry



AN EPISTLE FROM JAMES

We have just completed a big building project at St. Peter's and we are rightly excited. The new facilities present us with innumerable possibilities for ministry in the church and in our community. Where space has been a great limitation, it is no longer. I pray that the Lord

will guide us as we seek ways to use this resource to spread the good news of Christ to people near and far.

One such opportunity begins Monday, March 8th, at 6:30 p.m. as we have a dinner introducing the Alpha Course. The course itself begins the following Monday. The Alpha Course is a basic introduction to the Christian faith in a non-threatening way. Each week, we will have a meal, and we will hear a talk by Nicky Gumbel, vicar (pastor) of Holy Trinity Church Brompton in London, followed by group discussion. Nicky answers questions about Christianity in an easy-to-follow way.

The Alpha Course is ideal for people who have never been a part of a church and for those who have been away for a while. It is also a great refresher for current members. This is a good way to introduce your unchurched friends to the faith we share in the Lord. Invite a friend or family member to come with you to the introductory dinner on March 8th. Let us know you are coming by contacting the church office at 410-524-7474 so we can plan for dinner.

Once again I want to thank you all for your many expressions of sympathy to Olivia and me on the death of Olivia's mother. Your prayers and support have meant much to us and have been a help in this time of grief. God bless you.

In the Lord's service,

Pastor James

FEBRUARY BIBLE LESSONS

Feb. 07 5 th Epiphany	Isaiah 6:1-8 [9-13]	Psalms 138	1 Corinthians 15:1-11	Luke 5:1-11
Feb. 14 Transfiguration of Our Lord	Exodus 34: 29-35	Psalms 99	2 nd Corinthians 3:12—4:2	Luke 9:28-36 [37-43]
<i>Feb. 17 Ash Wednesday</i>	<i>Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 or Isaiah 58: 1-12</i>	<i>Psalms 51: 1-17</i>	<i>2nd Corinthians 5:20b—6:10</i>	<i>Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-21</i>
Feb. 21 1 st Lent	Deuteronomy 26:1-11	Psalms 91: 1-2, 9-16	Romans 10: 8b-13	Luke 4:1-13
Feb. 28 2 nd Lent	Genesis 15: 1-12, 17-18	Psalms 27	Philippians 3:17—4:1	Luke 13: 31-35



HAPPY BIRTHDAYS

Karen Boon	02/01	Carolyn Nuovo	02/16
Joanne Kauffman	02/01	Judy Edelman	02/17
Debbie Ryan	02/01	Bob Swinger	02/17
Evelyn Westfall	02/01	Barbara Hager	02/18
Ken Palmer	02/02	Stephen Czonstka	02/19
Elizabeth Romig	02/02	Elsie Koehler	02/20
James Stenger	02/02	Daniel Miller	02/21
Maxine Brisbane	02/03	Kathy McCoy	02/22
Kate Long	02/03	George Staton	02/22
Patricia Stokes	02/04	Jacqueline Tingle	02/22
Myrna Abbott	02/05	Ellie Dutton	02/23
Kristina Miller	02/05	Corey Cropper	02/24
Ronald Albright	02/12	Kathleen Ewing	02/25
Pamela Dolle	02/12	Gary Gasser	02/25
Jeanenne Logan	02/13	Mallory Miller	02/25
Trond Emberland	02/14	Eric Myers	02/25
Mary Jo Wheatley	02/14	Betty Mitchell	02/26
Al Kastner	02/16	Larry Ryan, Sr.	02/27
Cathy Leyden	02/16		

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Frank & Marilyn Gay	02/04
William & Rose Skledar	02/07
Donald & Nancy Brager	02/11
Phil & Priscilla Shoemaker	02/14
Johan & Rosemary Nykvist	02/18
Frederick & Jane Mangels	02/24
William & Pat Strickland	02/28





The World Famous *Passion Play* in Oberammergau

With Lake Lucerne, Salzburg, Innsbruck, and Munich
September 20-30, 2010

(Monday – Thursday)

Hosted by Pastor Harry and Carol Wolpert

The *Passion Play* is a one of a kind experience not to be missed. It began in the small village of Oberammergau in 1634 as a way of thanking God for sparing them from the dreaded Black Plague. It has been presented every 10 years since in that small beautiful village! Involving the talents of more than 2000 actors and musicians—each a village resident—today's *Passion Play* includes dramatic scenes of the Passion with spectacular musical performances. This is a once in a lifetime experience.

The tour will also visit one of the most beautiful parts of the world: Switzerland, southern Germany, and Austria. Whether visiting medieval towns, driving through the breathtaking Alps, or simply relaxing at a sidewalk café, it will be a truly memorable experience.

Call Pastor (410-524-7474) about reservations.



CASTING THE NET... EMBRACING THE COMMUNITY

By Barb & Jack Fadden

The total income to the Building Fund for 2009 was \$201,539. This is higher than the \$185,618 expected from pledges during our Annual Fall 2008 Campaign, the Bridge Pledge Campaign, and an estimated amount from those who contribute but do not pledge. We are so thankful for your generous support.

We expect to be able to cover the mortgage during 2010 from the amount left in the Building Fund plus \$119,643 from the outstanding Building Fund and Bridge Pledges for 2010. Our mortgage is expected to be approximately \$11,500 per month.

The Stewardship Task Force and Support Team will monitor the monthly amounts donated to the Building Fund. We will also send out quarterly statements in 2010, so you will be able to assess how your contributions are comparing to your Pledges. When you receive your statements, please let us know if your pledges are incorrectly listed.

If you have any questions, please call Jack or Barb Fadden on 302-539-6899 or send an e-mail to bjfadden@verizon.net.

Stewardship Committee

by Susan Shoop

The Stewardship Team met on January 4th. We proposed that, pending Church Council approval, the Ministry Teams would meet on the 2nd Wednesday of each month. There would be a dinner prior to the meetings, which would begin at 6 pm. Following the dinner, the individual Ministry Teams would meet and then end with an information sharing time and a short devotional. We hope this will make it easier to plan meetings and give us another opportunity to join together as a congregation. We hope to start this on February 10th, so look for further information in the bulletin and on the church website. The team is excited about this opportunity for our church. We hope to see you on February 10th.

COMMUNITY SERVICE TEAM

by Mary Lou Tietz and Pat DeLawder

The Community Service Team is once again sponsoring a Baskets of Love collection. The donated items will be delivered to Diakonia, who is helping clients with very young children.

Baskets of Love Collection

- Diapers, any sizes**
- Pull-Ups, any sizes**
- Baby Wipes**
- Pacifiers
- Bottles and/or brushes
- Baby powder, shampoo, baby wash or oil
- Diaper rash ointment
- Bibs
- Receiving blankets
- Personal care items (baby thermometer, nail clippers, etc.)

**These items are needed the most.

The collection will run **until February 14**. A box for your donations is located in the Narthex.

The **Food Pantry** continues to distribute over 30 bags of food a week at The Open Kettle. Help fill our shelves with canned vegetables, soups, peanut butter, pasta, rice, beans, and cereal. We have a special need for canned meats such as tuna, salmon, chicken, ham, or beef stew. Your donations are most appreciated!

We are in the process of applying to Food Lion to be a designated charity under their MVP Rewards program. Sometime in February, you will be able to link your Food Lion MVP card to support St. Peter's The Open Kettle, either online or we will have forms

available to help you link your card. More information will be sent out once we receive approval.

Starting in February, we will be collecting Campbell's labels and Box Tops for Education to be donated to Buckingham Elementary School. A container for your donations will be in the Narthex, as well as a printout of the food items that have either labels or Box Tops. This is an easy way to support a local elementary school, especially if you are not already saving these items for your school-aged children.

Our next meeting will be **February 10th at 6 p.m.**, for the first All Ministries Team Meeting night.

Pat Delawder and Mary Lou Tietz



The Community Service Ministry Team has sponsored collections to support “MAC,” and the congregation has been very generous in supporting these collections. But, what is “MAC?”

MAC stands for Maintaining Active Citizens. MAC is the designated area agency on aging for Dorchester, Somerset, Wicomico, and Worcester Counties. MAC is dedicated to the principle that older persons are entitled to lives of dignity, security, physical, mental, and social well-being; and to fully participation in society. MAC is a private, non-profit organization, and is a member agency of the United Way of the Lower Eastern Shore.

Some of the services they offer are:

[Senior Center Services:](#) Services delivered through their multi-service senior centers in Dorchester, Somerset, Wicomico, and Worcester Counties. Center staff members emphasize preventive health care techniques and proper nutrition in their senior center programming. Information and referral, transportation and escort, outreach, and shopping assistance ensure access to community facilities and resources. The centers also provide activities for fitness, employment counseling, and recreational trips for participants.

The Main Worcester County Center is the Charles & Martha Fulton MAC Center, located at 4767 Snow Hill Rd., Snow Hill, MD. MAC Satellite Centers are located in Berlin at 107 William Street, in Ocean City at 104 41st Street, and in Pocomoke City.

[In-Home Services:](#) Services delivered to help keep older persons in their own home environment, including senior care, housing, and Meals-on-Wheels.

[Health Services:](#) Programs designed to promote the health and well-being of older persons, including Senior Care, Alzheimer’s services, MAC’s Riverside Place, Health Education and Screening, and the Older Adults Waiver Program.

Advocacy Services: Services designed to promote and protect the interests of older persons, including senior information and assistance, long-term care advocacy, senior health insurance counseling program, guardianship, and legal services.

Volunteer Programs: The Retired and Senior Volunteer Program offers a variety of opportunities for older persons to contribute to the community.

Community Service & Job Training: The Senior Aides Program offers job training to residents of the lower shore, 55 years or older, and on a limited income.

For more information about MAC, go online to www.macinc.org, or call: 410-742-0505.

Pat Delawder, Community Service

SUPPORT TEAM

By Barb & Jack Fadden

The General Fund at year end 2009 was \$15,038 prior to the year end transfers of \$4,152.67 from the Peach Festival to the Building Fund and \$2,190.50 to the Altar Fund from the flower contributions during the year.

Our expenses were \$18,214 lower than the budget, and our contributions were \$25,403 lower than budgeted. The Member and Associate Member contributions combined were 9.6% below budget and the visitor contributions were 14.5% below budget. Due to weather conditions in Dec., causing services to be cancelled one Sunday, our Dec. offerings were lower than normal.

However, the actual contributions for 2009 of \$399,000 were above the \$387,000 we've budgeted for 2010. Remember our 2010 Budget includes a faith goal of \$22,650 and the General Fund currently can not cover that goal. When our expenses are higher than our contributions, we must take any difference from our savings. You all are always very generous and that is greatly appreciated.

During 2010, we will provide quarterly contribution statements. They will be placed in your church mail boxes to save the expense of mailing out statements. We will let you know through announcements or e-mail when they are available. In fact, they could be e-mailed directly to you. If you would like this option, give us, Michelle or David Nilsson your e-mail address.

If you have any questions, please call Barb or Jack Fadden on 302-539-6899 or e-mail us at bjfadden@verizon.net.

A WORD FROM WITNESS

by Evelyn Houston

Sharing the Love

Jesus said,

"I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another."

John 13:34, NRSV



"If you have love for one another, then everyone will know that you are my disciples."
John 13:35.

Valentine's Day is approaching and many will ask, "What is this thing called love?" One definition is a feeling of brotherhood and good will. Another is that love is action, meaning that you act on your feelings of endearment.

The Witness Team's We Care Ministry will be putting love into action in coming months. Each household in the congregation can expect to receive a phone call to tell them, on an individual basis, how much they are appreciated and loved. With your permission, your name will be printed in the Sunday Bulletin the following week, and the congregation will then be asked to pray for you and your loved ones at that time. If you have any questions, please call Evelyn at 410-641-6551 or Bonnie at 410-208-3222. Thank you for taking our call and we hope that you feel the love!

HOW TO DANCE IN THE RAIN

(from the internet)

It was a busy morning, about 8:30, when an elderly gentleman in his 80s arrived to have stitches removed from his thumb. He said he was in a hurry as he had an appointment at 9:00 am.

I took his vital signs and had him take a seat, knowing it would be over an hour before someone would be able to see him. I saw him looking at his watch and decided, since I was not busy with another patient, I would evaluate his wound. On exam, it was well healed, so I talked to one of the doctors, got the needed supplies to remove his sutures, and redress his wound.

While taking care of his wound, I asked him if he had another doctor's appointment this morning, as he was in such a hurry.

The gentleman told me, no, that he needed to go to the nursing home to eat breakfast with his wife. I inquired as to her health. He told me that she had been there for a while and that she was a victim of Alzheimer's Disease.

As we talked, I asked if she would be upset if he was a bit late.

He replied that she no longer knew who he was, that she had not recognized him in five years now.

I was surprised, and asked him, 'And you still go every morning, even though she doesn't know who you are?'

He smiled as he patted my hand and said, 'She doesn't know me, but I still know who she is.'

I had to hold back tears as he left, I had goose bumps on my arm, and thought, 'That is the kind of love I want in my life.' True love is neither physical, nor romantic. True love is an acceptance of all that is, has been, will be, and will not be. With all the jokes and fun that are in e-mails, sometimes there is one that comes along that has an important message. This one I thought I would share with you.

The happiest people don't necessarily have the best of everything; they just make the best of everything they have.

Life isn't about how to survive the storm, but how to dance in the rain.



Gifts & Memorials



In Memory of Gordon Barker for the Memorial Fund by
A. Blair Crownover

In Honor of Ed & Miriam Fritz to the Building Fund by
William & Judith Fritz



Health and/or Other Needs: Jim Aschenbach, Ann Borrell, Garry Clements, Kathleen Clements, Mary Coleman, Maryann Dziennick, Warren Eggers, Bill & Carole Evitts, Tim & Denise Furnary, Richard Goodman, Bonnie Hiewsky, Don Jeffery, Kirsten Jones, Carol Kastner, Jeffery Kelso, Joshua Kennedy, Bishop Jerry Knoche, Fred Kruelle, Samara Loss, Bob Luckabaugh, Tony Matello, Alan Marthinsen, Carolyn McWilliams, Jason & Ruth Ann Mitchell, Joyce Morris, Chris Myers, Bill & Anna Neimiller, Ken

Nieman, Sue Palmer, Jackie Peterson, Daniel Pfaff, Jeff Robinson, Ray Rogers, Beverly Romanchick, Glen Rosenquist, Deanna Smith, Pat Stokes, Lori Thompson, Dean Wiley, Kristy Wingate, and Jean Winstead.

Our Shut-ins: Lorene Peake, Johanna Southcomb, George Staton, Joan Visconti

Assisted Living: Helen Coe, Mary Newcomer, Louise Owens, Evelyn Talbot

Gull Creek Retirement Center: Rhoda Vernon



Military: Josh Austin, Alan Douetts, David Floyd, Vincent Frederchi, Erik Gilgenast, Thor Hagen, Jr., John Heacock, Kurt Kastner, Brian Leyden, David Leyden, Jill Leyden, Charles McConville, Elizabeth Newcomb, Damien Rounds, Christopher Sidoli, James Sidoli, Sean Wilson.

Editor's Notes



The **deadline** for the newsletter articles is the **15th of every month**. You can email, fax, or drop them in *The Net* box or my mail box. Pat Stokes, 302-537-6035 (phone/fax/answering machine); email: patpcmax@aol.com or splcoc@verizon.com.