

Rev's Ramblin's

Living with Jesus and the Book of Job

The book of Job is part of the wisdom tradition in the Old Testament. It asks questions of all of us: Why is there evil and injustice? Why do we suffer? Does God care? What are friends for? Where is my redeemer? Where shall wisdom be found?

Wisdom prefers song and dance and imagination to "right answers." Job asked many of the questions we ask today, so we study Job with our heads, but we also experience a poignant participation in Job's suffering that helps us learn with our hearts. It is a story in which we can reside.

We learn from our experiences and our reflection on those experiences. One of the early church fathers said that the glory of God is a person fully alive. And of the Hasidic Masters taught, "A human being who has not a single hour for [their] own every day is not a human being."

Wisdom literature suggests discerning the circumstances, the right place at the right time for the right person. It is concerned with the every dayness of life.

A Kashmiri (India) tale, "How Great Is Your Wisdom!" tells of a discontented man, sitting under a nut tree, thinking how hard life was, when he observed a large pumpkin vine near by, and on the vine a large pumpkin was growing.

"If God had been cleverer, we would have no misery in the world," the man groaned aloud. "Just see how foolish God was when God created. Here is a large strong tree with hundreds of small nuts growing on it and there on that weak vine grows an immense pumpkin. How could God make such a mistake? It should have been just the other way around, the large pumpkin on the mighty tree and the small nuts on the weak vine. Who says God is wise?"

The man continued to moan, groan and complain, when suddenly one of the nuts fell from the tree, landing on his head. Startled, the man looked up. Then he jumped up quickly and fell on his knees, praying. "Forgive me, God, I know not of what I speak. If one of those pumpkins had fallen on my head from the tree, I would now be dead! How great is your wisdom, O Lord! How great is your wisdom!"

May you be surprised by God's presence every day!

Pastor Ross

Report from “God’s Spot” Worship Ministry



The group meets each Thursday evening from 6:30—7:30 p.m. to plan and implement the ideas for God’s Spot.

The formation of the Contemporary Service Worship Ministry began in 2008 as a result of Council and Sounds of Praise members interested in providing a service that not only would attract more attendees but would also provide a meaningful experience for all. The group proceeded to identify the strengths and areas of improvement in the contemporary service. Initial goals for the service were achieved with the purchase of an updated sound system, implementation of visual media, incorporation of computer technology, and the beautification of Fellowship Hall with wall banners and a divider wall.

When Pastor Ross became our minister the group began to meet regularly with him to plan and carry out the different parts of the service. With his guidance the Contemporary Service became “God’s Spot.” Chairman Alex Good coordinates the group as we work together to bring new ideas into action within the service. With the adoption of a theme-based curriculum for the 2009-10 Sunday School year the God’s Spot team worked to incorporate these weekly themes into the service.

The group will continue to meet weekly with Pastor Ross to implement the themes and ideas for

the worship service. In addition, the group will continue to work on goals that include: inviting and involving the adults as well as children in the service, selecting music that mirrors the theme, and providing an atmosphere within Fellowship Hall that is warm and inviting. The God’s Spot Worship Ministry is open to anyone who is interested in supporting and planning a contemporary atmosphere for future and current members who seek God. The group meets each Thursday evening from 6:30—7:30 p.m. to plan and implement the ideas for God’s Spot.

If you haven’t received your 2010 Offering envelopes yet and wondered what happened to them, they are here at the church. They weren’t mailed out this year to reduce our postage fees. Please stop by and pick them up. Thank You.

Thanks . . .

Dear Rev. Ross Tyler and the Congregation of St. John's UCC of Indianapolis, Thank you so much for your gift of \$500.00. We appreciate it. Jamie Carter, Executive Assistant, Brooklawn Child & Family Services

Thanks to your generosity, St. John's collected a total of **\$3,037.00 for Haiti**. A check for that amount was sent to One Great Hour of Sharing and earmarked for "Haiti Relief".

Dear Jenny and the Youth of St. John's United Church of Christ,

I write to offer our deepest thanks for your kind letter and generous donation to our church. It is an honor to hear your kind words about our community and our Youthworks ministry, and we rejoice in the powerful ministry we were able to share in with you this last summer. We've too rejoiced in our calling to be a host site for Youthworks over these last several years. We're grateful for the powerful ministry and witness in Christ this program has been for both our community and for the groups that have been able to come here and serve. It truly warms our hearts to receive letters like yours. We relish the affirmation that your youth's lives have been positively changed by your experience here last summer, and we are so thankful that we have been given the opportunity to join together with you in our lifelong journey as brothers and sisters in Christ. Jenny, I've gladly posted your letter for our church to read and I thank you for lifting up our relationship with Youthworks and the mutual ministry we rejoice in together. I'm so glad your youth were so touched by their time here and I wish you continued blessings as you and your youth continue to grow together in faith and service to Christ.

With our love and appreciation and a BIG southern smile 😊

Pastor Andrew Miller, St. Luke Lutheran Church, Taylorsville, NC

New Address—

Joe LaGrange

501 Cielo Vista Ct.
Greenwood, IN 46142



Vivian Barnard by Jerry & Jane Kreiger

Marge Hodder by Ushers

Jane Minks by Ushers

Maurice Smock & Fern Hair by Paul & Beth Gaylo

Harold Winger by Gene Nix

St. John's United Church of Christ

Youth & Family News

Jenny Zotz, Director, Youth & Family Ministries
youth-director@sbcglobal.net 317-881-2353

Upcoming Dates:

- 2/28 Confirmation 11:30-2
K4C 11:30-2
- 3/3 Lent Dinner & Bible
Study 5:30-7:30
- 3/7 Confirmation church
visit (see inside for
info) 8:00 am
Confirmation 11:30-2
Sr youth 11:30-2
- 3/9 BCE meeting
- 3/10 Lent Dinner **PRO-
VIDED BY YOUTH** &
Bible Study 5:30-7:30
- 3/14 Confirmation 11:30-2
- 3/17 Lent Dinner & Bible
Study 5:30-7:30
- 3/21 Youth Talent Auction
and Luncheon 11:30
- 3/24 Lent Dinner & Bible
Study 5:30-7:30
- 3/28 PALM SUNDAY
(children/youth par-
- 4/1 Maundy Thursday
- 4/2 Good Friday Service
- 4/3 Easter Egg Hunt &
carnival 9 am

MARCH BIRTHDAYS!!

- * 3/3 Ella Beckner
- * 3/24 Parker Kelley
- * 3/31 Jon Moore

2nd Annual Youth Auction!!!

Everyone is invited to attend the 2nd annual luncheon and talent auction hosted by the youth on March 21st after the 10:30 service. Last year EVERYONE who attended had a great time and we raised nearly \$3,000!!! This was such a great way for everyone in the congregation to get involved in helping to send the youth on their mission trips.

The first way to help is by putting up something for the auction. Please fill out the attached form and bring to to church or contact me to help in this way. *The deadline to turn in items/talents for the auction is Sunday, March 7th.*

The second way that you can make the auction a success is to attend the luncheon and bid on one or more of the talents up for bid. If you have not "redeemed" your talent purchased last year...you need to do so quickly. The certificates expire after one year (however, I'm sure they might make an exception)!!

What's your favorite Disney movie?

Every Wednesday evening during Lent all children & youth (pre-k - high school) are invited to dinner & a movie (with a Bible study following). Each week we will view a different Disney Movie and see how it relates to our faith and every day life. The study will be based on the book *The Gospel According to Disney: Faith, Trust & Pixie Dust*. Please be here at 5:30 because we will begin the movie as soon as everyone has gone through the dinner line.

**Youth will be providing the meal on March, 10th. PLEASE sign up on Jenny's door to help bring, prepare and serve food for that evening!*

WE WANT MORE!!!

This year's theme for our youth mission is "More: More Jesus, More Mission, More Life". The Jr Youth will be heading to Green Bay, Wisconsin! We will leave here on Saturday, July 3rd and will return on Friday, July 9th. All active Jr youth will receive information soon. If you did not receive information and are interested in going please contact me and I will get you the info. Please watch for ways that you can help our youth to serve MORE and learn MORE. Thank you for helping our youth see how much MORE there is beyond these walls.

ALL YOUTH WHO PLAN ON ATTENDING THIS TRIP MUST PUT ATLEAST ONE ITEM UP FOR THE AUCTION AND WORK THE AUCTION!

Confirmation Updates

The remainder of the church visits have been lined up for our confirmation class. These visits are open to the confirmands, their parents, their mentors & anyone else who is interested in going with us!!

-Sunday, March 7th we will attend Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in Carmel. Please plan on meeting at church at 8:00 to carpool north.

-Saturday, April 10th we will attend Indiana Hebrew Congregation on North Meridian. We will meet at church 8:30 to carpool. We will be given a tour and attend the service (which includes a Bar Mitzvah!

-Sunday, April 25th we will attend Gray Road Baptist Church. The service is from 10:30-12. We will meet at church at 9:00 and leave shortly after.

If you have any questions please ask! PLEASE SIGN UP ON MY DOOR!!! This will allow us to make sure we have enough drivers & car space for everyone who wants to go!

CAMP BROCHURES ARE HERE!

That's right even though it's still cold and snowy outside. Merom is busy planning its summer camps! Last year we had SEVERAL attend summer camp and can't wait to go back. Camp brochures are located in the back of the sanctuary and the schedule is posted on Jenny's door so that you can start planning which week fits with your summer plans. **Did I mention that St. John's pays for HALF of the camp fees!**



Please read the wonderful thank you letter we received form St. Luke Lutheran Church in Taylorsville, NC in the main section of this Herald.

2010 Annual Easter Egg Hunt & Carnival

Join us on Saturday, April 3rd for this year's Easter Egg Hunt and Carnival. Activities will include fishing pond, ring toss, jelly bean guess, duck pond, cake walk, tattoos, story time, pictures with the Easter bunny, the egg hunt and more! Registration is at 9am with activities and the hunt to follow. BCE has been very busy planning

and getting everything ready but we need your help! Empty eggs will be located in the back of the sanctuary and in the fellowship hall starting Sunday, March 7th. Please grab a bag or two and return them filled with individual wrapped candy or other treats by March 21st. We are also in need of several donations of Nerf toys,

books, Mc Donald's gift cards or any other Easter related items that can be used in our redemption center for children ages 0-2, 3-5, 6-8, and 9-11. Also please watch for the volunteer sign-up board coming up soon. This is always a great way for us to reach out to our community. Thank you for helping us make it a wonderful experience for all children!

