

Fourth Notes

February 2010

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The Fullness of Mardi Gras (Feb 16)

The Fullness of Lent (Feb 17...)

The traditional Christian calendar includes a wonderful movement between feasting and fasting. In many settings, that movement is at its fullest right at the beginning of Lent, when we move from Mardi Gras ("Fat Tuesday" or Carnivale) into Ash Wednesday (the first day of Lent). This year, we count Fourth Church as one of those cultures where that pre-spring move from feasting to fasting is especially rich!

On Tuesday, February 16, we have a Mardi Gras party in our new hall. Live jump 'n' jazz music, real Gulf Coast Gumbo, Southie Jambalaya, Dominican Rice n Beans, Jamaican Jerk Chicken. Yeehaw.

MARDI GRAS !!

Tuesday, February 16 is Fat Tuesday! We have a brand new hall, colorful decorations from previous Mardi Gras celebrations, skilled cooks from around North America, and some jazzed musicians.

Everybody: It's time for dinner and a show.

Tickets are a mere \$10, and we will also ask for a free will offering. Come at 6pm for food. The concert will be about 7:15. And we'll bring out some peach cobbler dessert at 8:30.

For good eatin' we have homemade gumbo (made by Tyiesha's friend, a cook from Mobile, Alabama), Dave's jambalaya, Matt's Jamaican Jerk Chicken, and Annie's Dominican Rice n Beans.

For good listenin' Dan Teager, Thatcher and a guest bass player will join Burns to do the hits of Louie Prima and more. We're thinking Tony Medeiros can join us, too, and maybe the choir. Expect some Dr. John and some musical jambalaya.

new officers!

With February comes the installation of new church officers: elders and deacons. This year we ordain Michelle Sanchez as elder and welcome

back Sugar Long and Kathy Burger, whom we elected to serve additional terms on session.

With the deacons, the new class includes Jayme Bezan, Brett Van Veller, Young Ra Rhee and re-elected Eoin Cannon. We also elected Liz Stanfield and Kelly Schomburg to serve another one-year term as youth deacons.

A great crew! Thank you!

Sunday Bible Study

Lauren Gallant and Kristin Raley continue their Sunday morning Bible study for adults. They are working with the lectionary texts assigned to each respective Sunday and welcome your participation! Join them at 9:30am

12 steps & the faith

Our Winter Soup N Study has brought incredible energy to the new loft in the fellowship hall! After our 5:30 supper, we gather in the loft at 6pm to explore the connections between the 12 Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous and the Christian faith.

We've had a great crew and we invite you to come join us. Our plan is to continue this series in early February up until Ash Wednesday, though the energy has been so good that we might consider extending the group...

Join us!

On Wednesday, February 17, we begin Lent with an evening service of ashes and communion. We then move into forty days of nightly prayer services, three weekly study groups, and our own home-made devotion book.

The articles below will flesh out the details. We hope you find many gatherings that fit your schedule. And we really hope you can make the most of this wonderful – and ancient - move from a full feast on Tuesday to a season of thought and discipline beginning Wednesday.

GBIO assembly February 11

With churches, synagogues, and mosques throughout Greater Boston, Fourth Church is gathering to move on the next step in its anti-usury campaign. GBIO leaders have met with government officials and bank leaders. We've learned that the most problematic practices are mainly done by the country's largest five banks. We've also learned that our government leaders are willing to consider moving their deposits from banks who do offensive practices to banks that are more responsive to community needs and best practices.

We now need to pull together our base to share our banking and credit card stories, and determine whether we have the energy and drive to make this happen.. We plan this campaign on Thursday, February 11. Join us!

Looking ahead... Bluegrass BBQ April 7

On the other side of Easter (April 4), be sure to save Wednesday, April 7 for the fabulous Bluegrass Barbecue Fund-raiser at the Stadium. Tickets will be \$50 and there will again be a silent and live auction! Please help us get auction items & sponsorships.

[Re: *lent*]

We've "done" Lent before; but this is one of those things that truly bears repeating. The planning committee invites you to step into this time once again precisely because in visiting this season of discipline and reflection we are best able to "bend back" (one literal definition of relent) into a shape in tune with God.

In that spirit, we re-view, re-turn, re-concile and perhaps even re-new. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 17; and we move through the 40 days and nights of the season all the way up to Easter on April 4.

Traditionally, there are some rich ways to practice this faith: by study, by prayer, by service, by worship... by any of a number of disciplines. Consider observing a discipline this season, some sort of daily or weekly practice that -- in time -- creates a window for God to move in your life. Fourth Church is offering several opportunities to help folks practice a discipline during this time of wilderness traveling. You might want to commit to private prayer every day (our homemade devotion book is available February 14, thanks to Kristen Raley). Or you might want to commit to attending prayer service one night a week, or even

several nights (always at 6pm). You might want to try choir for Lent, or volunteer with the youth group, or help with tutoring. You might want to take part in the Wednesday Soup & Study Class) or one of two Sunday morning classes, one with Lauren on favorite devotions from the homemade book, or one with Mike Moyes on fasting.

A word on that last class. Mike is using the materials prepared by Laurie Pierce, who has rich experience in that ancient spiritual practice of fasting, and he is available to help people try it. There are many traditions of fasting, and Mike will introduce them to you and invite the group to fast on the following Saturday. Sunday then becomes the day to break the fast, and the class is a time to share reflections on the experience.

One of the great things about Lent is that it is long enough to let you get into a particular discipline; but it still has an end point, making it easier for most of us to begin the discipline in the first place.

Have a blessed season. Use these opportunities as they are helpful. This can be a rich time for anybody who makes even a little room for the Spirit.

Ash Wednesday service- Feb 17, 7pm

We begin Lent with an Ash Wednesday communion service at 7pm. Ashes available for those who chose to have them.

lent wednesdays: soup, study & communion

Think of making Wednesdays in Lent a time for gathering and study. Supper is available at 5:30. We'll have a celebration of the communion at 6pm. All welcome.

We are making our decision on the content of the study portion. It will either be: A) More on the 12 Steps and the Christian Faith (because that groups has been so fantastic and they want more) or B) A new class on "Theology Matters" in which different members each reflect on a

theological idea which changed their lives.

Either would be great, so save those Wednesdays....

nightly prayer service

Starting Thursday, February 18 and continuing through Saturday, April 3, we will have a simple prayer service every night (except Sundays). Doors open by 6pm for a time of music and meditation. Liturgy begins at 6:10 and we will be done around 6:25. A reflection each night will be presented by different members of the Fourth Church community. Communion on Wednesdays

Passion play- Mar. 28

The Passion Play will be presented Sunday, March 28.

Save the day, and be sure to tell Burns if you want to participate in this lived remembrance of Christ's Passion. Tell him soon, by the way. Some scheduling issues are forcing us to get this organized a little sooner than usual.

prayers... We pray for Ed Buccieri (cancer), Alice Hageman (knee surgery), Margaret Brennan (pneumonia), Ernest Alce, Claudette Simmons, Matt Canton (all with family in Haiti), Ernesto Paz (now in Phillipines), Devina Patel (in India), Eoin Cannon (expecting a second son!), Allison Burns (appendix surgery), Rodreakius Edwards (joining the air force), Katie Harris (thyroid surgery), Erna Deeb (three falls), Tim Hughes (broken thumb), and of course, the family of Albert Aloise, who died in late December.

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