

Fourth Notes

February 2008

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LENT begins Feb. 6: *A Practicing Faith*

We all know that what we do is central to who we are as Christians. But sometimes, well, we get out of practice. So with this early Lent of 2008, with Christmas and New Year's and the January re-entry barely behind us, we settle down and back into *practice*. And we practice both in the sense of putting beliefs to work AND in the sense of honing a skill. We practice our faith.

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 3). Or you might want to commit to attending prayer service one night a week. You might want to take part in the Wednesday Soup & Study Class (a basic and broad introduction to the Old Testament) or the Sunday morning class on Spiritual Practices. You might want to volunteer service – with tutoring on Mondays or Wednesdays, or with the teens on Fridays. You might even want to sing, and try the choir for these 40 days of Lent.

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 6, 7pm

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

lent wednesdays: soup, study ("Bible 101") & communion

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

Following the service, there will be a study led by Brenda Hermanson called "Bible 101."

This is your chance to get a basic overview of the Old Testament, which is also known as the Hebrew Bible. Come even if you know nothing! NO questions are silly. We're doing this so EVERYBODY can have a basic understanding of the Bible.

(Coming after Easter.... Bible 102: overview of New Testament!)

Sunday morning class - basics of being a member of the body...

Our adult Sunday morning class begins a new series for Lent on February 6. Audrey Hartness leads the 9:30am Sunday School class with a study group on what it means to be a member of a church (or any Christian body).

She has taken her cue from a piece of our Book of Order to develop this outline:

"Membership as Ministry: Taking part in the Body."

- Wk. 1: Telling the Truth, Gospel Style
- Wk 2: Living and Worshipping together
- Wk 3: Prayer and Study: Keeping the Faith
- Wk 4: Give it up: Time, Tithes, Talents and Governance
- Wk 5: Live and Respond
- Wk 6: What does the Lord require of you? Seeking Justice as a member of the Body

nightly prayer service

Starting Thursday, February 7 and continuing through Saturday, March 22, 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 9

The Passion Play will be presented Sunday, March 9. This is the fifth Sunday of Lent, which was once the traditional "Passion Sunday." In our case, it is a good time for this special remembrance because Palm Sunday happens to be parade day in Southie!

Save the day, and be sure to tell Audrey or Burns if you want to participate in this lived remembrance of Christ's Passion.

BLUEGRASS BBQ- April 3

After five successful Mardi Gras fund-raiser events for the Vision Fund, it feels like the right time to try something a little different for our biggest fund-raiser of the year. We now have a new building, AND a new non-profit, AND a growing need for a ministry to teens, AND.... Well, it just feels like the right time to stretch a bit.

So we introduce our Bluegrass BBQ !!!

Thursday, April 3

6-9pm

All at the Stadium (2 blocks from church)

Plenty of good BBQ

Vegetarian Options

Live Bluegrass music

A new award for community service!

The introduction of our new non-profit

Silent Auction!!

And only \$50 per person.

See? Lots of exciting details to make this event a great one!! So please save the date.

welcome new officers

The annual meeting is behind us, and we can all celebrate some exceptional new officers.

Welcome to session: Thatcher Freeborn, Cavan Concannon, Sharon Matthews and Susan Barnes. And many thanks to exiting elders Debbie Nicollelis, Bill Taupier, Matt Bellanich.

Welcome to the deacons: Monica Titakum, Art Martin, Betsy Schomburg, Matt Canton, Chris Hoklotubbe.

invite-a-friend: feb 24

It is the most cited reason somebody sets foot in a church for the first time: Somebody invites them. We have a Sunday specifically designated for inviting friends at the end of February: Feb. 24 Conveniently, that is also a potluck Sunday, so you can invite them to lunch, too.

It will be a great Sunday. Bring a dish of food and bring a friend.

Rummage sale- Feb 2

These sales are still happening, friends! Amazing. The next one is Saturday, Feb. 2, 10am. Many thanks to Pauline, Betsy, Sheila, Susan and so many others for continued help!

prayers...We grieve the death of Kevin Berry and pray for his family. Devin Berry has started a new college in Clinton, MA. Erna Deeb has just had surgery. Please keep in prayer Karen Foley, Albert Aloise and Phyllis Curtis. Art Martin was in the hospital, but is now doing well.

The key to making this a success will be B-R-O-A-D participation. Please make a point of coming yourself and enticing 2 or 3 or 10! of your friends to come and support our community presence. THAT will pack the house! Also, please think about what Silent Auction items you might be able to get donated to the cause. Perhaps sports tickets? Restaurant certificates?? Art?

Proceeds will support community ministry in the present and in the future: half will go to the expanding youth programs, and half will go paying off our mortgage.

There is plenty of room for helpers in the planning! Please see Burns, Marcia, Kathy, Dave Courage, Nancy, or Rae.

Dave Courage has lost many pounds – Congrats! Eoin Cannon and his wife are expecting their first child this summer. Matt, Laurie and Ramona have a new addition: Mahala. Ramona was featured in a wonderful photo and “interview” in the Globe.

Prayers for Al Circeo and all the traveling he does for his job. Congrats to the teens for their Harambee passages and for a great Outreach event. They also showed up at Las Posadas on the Common in big numbers and were featured in a Globe interview. We have been praying for (and contributing to) the Canton family, who lost their home in a fire. They are grateful to have a new home and appreciate everybody’s support.

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