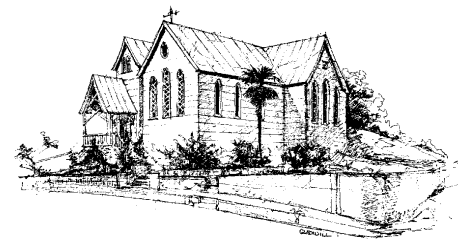


March 2011

E-MAIL: office@oursaviourpv.org

WEB SITE: WWW.OURSAVIOURPV.ORG

Our Mission- To glorify God by caring for all people and the World around us.



This Month at Our Saviour

March 1st ~ Bunco

March 5th ~ Parish Social

March 9th ~ Ash Wednesday Services

March 12th ~ Praying in Color

March 15th ~Worship Committee

March 19th ~ Prayer Blanket Group

March 26th ~ Lenten Quiet Day



Upcoming Events:

April 16th ~ Prayer Blanket Group

April 16th ~ Stations for the Cross

May 16th -May 27th ~ Pilgrimage to the Holy Land.

July 16th , 17th ~ Sesquicentennial Celebrations

Indeed, devotion for your house has consumed me, and the insults of those who insult you have fallen on me. (Ps 69:9) *GOD'S WORD Translation*

Dear friends,

Easter is as late as it can possibly be this year. Hence, so are Ash Wednesday and Lent. Lent is what we call the season before Easter in English speaking countries. Lent is from the German word for long (the lengthening of days).

Lent is forty days long, for the forty days that Jesus was tempted in the wilderness. How Lent is counted differs between Christian churches. For us Anglicans, the forty days of disciplined observance occurs on Mondays through Saturdays. Sundays are always mini-Easters and are exempt from fasting and other traditional acts of piety during the season. This means that beginning Ash Wednesday until the Easter Vigil, there are forty days, subtracting Sundays.

The last week of Lent is one of special devotion as we recall Jesus' last days before his resurrection. In each day of Holy Week we accompany Jesus as his disciples leading to the awful events that occur later in the week. Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday. We walk with Jesus into Jerusalem. The following days we are with Jesus in the temple. We learn of plot to take his life. We eat with Jesus for the last time. Then Jesus washes our feet. Jesus is arrested, tried, tortured, and executed on Good Friday. Then on Saturday night, the Light of Christ breaks into the world once more as we celebrate his resurrection.

Fasting, prayer, and almsgiving are traditional Lenten activities. Some people have a tradition of "giving something up." The "something" should be an activity that is dear to you and will help you direct your attention to God and others. Another tradition is to add something. In other words, use the forty days for special devotion.

There are specific events at Our Saviour for special observance and devotion for Lent:

- Ash Wednesday, March 9, two services at noon and 6 PM (see article)
- Lenten Book Study – *Early Christian Traditions* (see article)
- Lenten Quiet Day (on site retreat), Saturday, March 26 (see article)
- Holy Week services in April (see article)

During most of the Sundays in Lent, we will hear of Jesus' great acts from John's gospel. These readings were used to teach those preparing for baptism at the Easter Vigil during Lent. For those of us already baptized, we will hear these readings, reflecting on our own baptisms and how we can apply their teachings in our lives.

I wish you a blessed Lent.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School classes for preschool and older meet each Sunday. The children and teacher meet at 10:20 in the classroom to choose rhythm instruments and then join the procession into the 10:30 service. They then return to the classroom for prayers, a story and an activity based on the Lectionary. They may then either join their families during the Passing of the Peace and take part in the rest of the service or remain with Lindsey, our nursery teacher. We only have two teachers right now and would really appreciate one or two more! Please call LeAnn at 644-4789 to offer help or for more information.

We would like to encourage the children to bring non perishable food items during Lent for the community Share Program and an offering will be collected each Sunday for an outreach project which the children will help choose.

We have a date and theme for Vacation Bible School! It will be held Monday, July 25-Friday, July 29. Our theme will be "Shake It Up Café" Where Kids Carry Out God's Recipe. As usual we will need a great deal of help from members of our Parish so please save the dates and let LeAnn know if you are willing to help with stories, crafts, songs, snacks, decorating, etc.

PARISH SOCIAL NEWS

Are you ready for another smashing good time with our church family?? Then you must mark your calendar for **March 5** at the home of **Jerry and Loren George**. Loren has requested the theme as "wreckless potluck", so just bring your finest goodie from your kitchen for this great evening. As usual, the starting time is 5:00 p.m. and we hope to see you there.

I will have a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the parish hall on the week of February 20, so please sign your name along with the food that you are bringing. When you list the food you are bringing, we should have a nice variety of appetizers, salads, entrees, veggies, and desserts.

If you have any questions regarding our parish socials or to offer your home for these events, please call me 677-9736. I am always so grateful for these offers of host homes.

Thanks, Janice McDonald

OUR SAVIOUR SESQUICENTENNIAL JULY 16TH AND 17TH 2011

The history committee for our sesquicentennial needs help from the members of our parish. Please go through your pictures and articles about Our Saviour and contact us. We are going to put up a display of our past for the community to see. We would like to make copies of what ever you have to make a permanent book for the parish. Contact Brenda Hill 622-2191, LeAnn Bettencourt 644-4789, or Kathy Fritschi 626-4215. Please **DO NOT** contact the office. Thank You.

LENTEN QUIET DAY

On Saturday, **March 26th**, we will have a Lenten Quiet Day. The day will begin at 9:30 AM and conclude at about 3:30 PM. There will be talks and opportunities for quiet reflection and then sharing the results of our quiet time.

This is a time to slow the world down and be with God. The day is open to anyone who wishes to hear God's word and reflect on how God is with us in our lives.

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES

Ash Wednesday is on **March 9th** this year. There will be two services on this day at noon and 6 PM. Both services will have the imposition of ashes. Another feature of this service is the call to a holy Lent. This is an invitation for self-examination and an intention for personal betterment, study, and confession/repentance. Holy Communion is shared at both services. The 6 PM will be a Celtic Eucharist. Please join us for this solemn beginning to the season of Lent.



EASTER LILIES

These beautiful flowers of Easter can be given for a Thanksgiving or in memory of someone. They are \$10.00 each. Call the office or tell Altar Guild member by Friday April 7th, if you would like to donate one.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Each year Church Women United sponsors the World Day of Prayer. On one day in March a church service is celebrated at 10:00AM in each time zone all over the world. This year the service is written by women from Chile. The subject is "How many loaves can we bake?" This year's service will be held at St Patrick's Church on Friday, March 4. Mark your calendars and see next month's newsletter for more information.

SESQUICENTENNIAL HAPPENINGS

This year's Holly Faire and Christmas Parade kicked off Our Saviour's celebration in serving the community for 150 years. A Historical Pamphlet is being prepared and will be ready by the end of April.

In the coming future, we have a Reception scheduled for Saturday July 16th from 11-3 at the church. The public will be invited to that reception and we will be providing church tours as well as music in The Courtyard. Invitations will go out to civic groups in Placerville to encourage them to attend the Open House and Reception on July 16th. The next day, July 17th, the Bishop will be here to celebrate and we will be walking from the church to the cemetery on Bee Street after the 10:30 service and have a brief service at Caleb Peirce's gravesite. Former priests that have served at Our Saviour will be invited to attend that service. We will then return to Parish Hall for a celebratory luncheon. Happy 150th!!

PRAYING IN COLOR

The truth is we are all "standing in the need of prayer" as the old gospel tune says. And we all want to learn to practice the art of prayer and to improve our prayer life. A quick search on Amazon shows 4,695 titles with praying in the title and 70,177 with prayer in the title, so this isn't unique to us.

So come and bring a friend to join Suzanne Kuehn who will guide us in exploring one unique and active prayer practice. "Praying in Color" combines the physical experience of doodling and expressive color with intercessory prayer. It is the creation of Sybil McBeth who describes Praying in Color this way "Active because you draw your prayers, visual because you see your prayers, and meditative because you revisit your prayers throughout the day."

This special time together will be on Saturday, March 12 beginning at 10:00 AM in the Parish Hall. A light lunch will be served at noon.

KINGS GAME ANYONE???

Are we interested in attending the Kings' Faith and Family Game on **Friday, March 18, 2011 at 7 pm** as a group? The Kings will be playing Philadelphia and have made seats available to groups in the lower level. Our ticket price options are \$29.50 (end zone) or \$49.50 (corner). We would need to select one price to sit together. The \$29.50 seats are a special offer for seats that normally cost \$79.50. A group of 20 is required for the \$29.50 section. We only need a group of 10 for the \$49.50 section. Please complete the interest form in the Parish Hall or contact Lee Weikert at 530-644-0382 or at eklktcwe@earthlink.net as soon as possible if you are interested.



WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY

As part of WOS: Wednesdays at Our Saviour following Celtic Evensong, we have a bible study on the Gospel of Mark. We use the Bible study technique we learned from Fr. Michael Johnston, author of *Opening the Word*. It is easy to get the hang of this study method. You do not have to be there at the beginning. Just participate as often as you can.

Multiple bible translations are encouraged. Ones with annotations will help a great deal. A commentary is also helpful. Translations such as the Living Bible are not recommended as they are paraphrases with an agenda. The King James Bible, though lovely to read and hear, is a poor translation and its use is not recommended.

PARISH CONDOLENCES

We remember our friends who have entered paradise and we pray for their families during their time of grief. Loreen Butts now enjoys eternal life. Pray for Loreen's family. Pray for all the departed.

THANK YOU

Ministry continues at Our Saviour by many people. Special Thank Yous go to the many people who give so generously of their time to drive those who need rides to church and other places.

LENT BEGINS MARCH 9

Lent begins March 9. We begin the season of Lent with the observance of Ash Wednesday. There will be two services on this day. At noon we will have the imposition of ashes and the Holy Eucharist. This service will be repeated, but with a Celtic flavor at 6:00 PM.

Before Lent begins, there is Fat Tuesday that we call **Shrove Tuesday**. This is the day that fat is used up and the traditional way of doing this was to cook pancakes. Fat is removed, because Lent is a time for fasting. We will have our traditional pancake supper on the evening of March 8. The word shrove comes from the Lenten practice of confession and absolution of the faithful on this day.

“The first Christians observed with great devotion the days of our Lord’s passion and resurrection, and it became the custom of the church to prepare for them by a season of penitence and fasting. This season of Lent provided a time in which converts to the faith were prepared for Holy Baptism. It was also a time when those who, because of notorious sins, had been separated from the body of the faithful were reconciled by penitence and forgiveness, and restored to the fellowship of the Church. Thereby, the whole congregation was put in mind of the message of pardon and absolution set forth in the Gospel of our Savior, and of the need which all Christians continually have to renew their repentance and faith.” (BCP pp. 264-265)

LENTEN STUDY

Due to the Mark Bible Study on Wednesday nights, this year’s Lenten Study will take place during the Parish Forum. We will study the sixth volume of the New Church’s Teaching Series, *Early Christian Traditions*. This book was written by the Rev. Rebecca Lyman, Ph.D. Dr. Lyman is the retired professor of church history at the Church Divinity School of the Pacific and she continues teaching and writing about history. She was my history professor at seminary. Rebecca was one of the translators of *The New American Bible*. We will begin promptly at 9:30AM. (This qualifies as continuing education for licensed lay ministers.)

The book can be ordered from Our Saviour Store at our web site: www.oursaviourpv.org.

The study schedule for Lent is:

- March 13th – Anglican Identity and the Early Church (chapters 1 and 2)
- March 20th – Apostolic Christianity and Social Crisis (chapters 3 and 4)
- March 27th – Imperial Christianity (chapter 5)
- April 3rd – Who is Jesus? Who is God? (chapters 6 and 7)
- April 10th – The Church in Late Antiquity (chapter 8)

Annual Meeting Report

At our Annual Meeting that was held Sunday, January 30, 2011, Elsie Cannon, Kathy Fritschi, and Debbie Lightfoot, were elected to three-year terms on the vestry. They replace Charles Griffin, Lorna Perpall, and Stephanie Johnson. Convention delegates elected were: Jackie Scholl, Suzanne Kuehn, and Troy Myers. The alternates are Tom Weikert, Sandy Bert, Michelle Miller, and Diana Mooney.

Fr. Craig appointed Tom Weikert as Senior Warden. The vestry elected the following: Jackie Scholl as Junior Warden, David Zelinsky as Treasurer, and Sandy Bert as Clerk.

Rector’s awards went to Anne Gladwill and Jerry George.

Grateful, Glad, and Giving

March 2011

Grateful for Challenge

It has been said, "our wounds are our gifts," and yet it can be difficult to find grace in pain, or to transcend suffering. In March we mark the season of Lent in which we contemplate our times in the wilderness as we consider Christ's own. We seek to share love and support among our faith communities and find wisdom and peace in our suffering.

WE SEE: "Steel Magnolias", "Quilters". Put your suggestions on a card and post them on the GGG Board.

WE READ: "The Endurance: Shackleton's Legendary Antarctic Expedition," Carolyn Alexander

WE SHARE:

Write a prayer request (it can be anonymous) and stick it on the GGG Bulletin Board.

Describe a time when you experienced growth through an experience which changed your life.

WE HIGHLIGHT: Our health, Upper Room, and Pastoral Partner Ministries.

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKES

Shrove Tuesday or Fat Tuesday is the day that precedes Ash Wednesday. It is a day of celebration and feasting before the solemnity of Lent. People would remove the fat from their homes by making pancakes on the day before Ash Wednesday. Churches continue this tradition with a pancake supper. Our pancake supper will be held on Shrove Tuesday, **March 8** from 5 PM to 7 PM. Cost is \$5 per person, \$2.50 for children, and a maximum of \$10 per family. Proceeds go to the discretionary fund.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING

The Worship Committee will meet Tuesday, March 15, at 7 PM. The committee is open to all parish members. The Worship Committee plans the worship and music activities and times at Our Saviour. This meeting will focus on Lent, Holy Week, and Easter, as well as ceremonial at the 10:30 service. Please consider participation in this important ministry.

4th DAY

7am every second Thursday of the month at Denny's by Big Lots in Placerville. This is an informal prayer group and everyone is welcome. Please talk to Suzanne Kuehn if you have questions.

MARCH PARISH FORUM TOPICS

- 6th:** Christian Fasting. The fasts of the Bible, for the most part, are recounted with no commentary. Nowhere does the Bible say what we should fast from or how often we should fast. In fact, nowhere does the Bible command that we fast. In the Bible, fasting appears to be a natural response when intense prayer is called for. Jesus talks about "when you fast" (Matt. 6:16-18), which seems to imply that he expected that fasting would be a part of normal Christian living.
- 13th:** *Early Christian Traditions: Anglican Identity and the Early Church* (chapters 1 and 2)
- 20th:** *Early Christian Traditions: Apostolic Christianity and Social Crisis* (chapters 3 and 4)
- 27th:** *Early Christian Traditions: Imperial Christianity* (chapter 5)

The Parish Forum is held on Sunday mornings at 9:30 in All Angels' Hall. Do you have a forum idea or speaker? Please submit ideas for future forums to Fr. Craig.

March 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		18:45 am Morning Prayer 6pm Bunco	2 8:45 am Morning Prayer 12:30-1:30pm OA Meeting Parish Hall 6:00pm Celtic Eucharist 6:40pm Parish Dinner 7:00 EFM 7:15pm Bible Study	3 Vestry Reports Due 8:45am Morning Prayer 10:00am DOK 10:00am Holy Eucharist 12pm -6:30pm Cleaning	4 8:45am Morning Prayer	5 5pm Parish Social
6 8:00 Holy Eucharist 9:20am Christian Education 10:15am Nursery Care 10:20am Sunday School 10:30am Family Service 12:10 Choir 12:15pm Executive Board Meeting	7 4:45-6:15 OA Meeting	8 8:45Morning Prayer	9 Ash Wednesday Services 8:45Morning Prayer 12:00pm Ash Wednesday Service 12:30-1:30pm OA Meeting Parish Hall 6:00pm Celtic Eucharist Ash Wednesday Service 6:40pm Parish Dinner 7:00 EFM 7:15pm Bible Study	10 7:00am 4 th Day 8:45Morning Prayer 12:00pm Sesquicentennial Meeting 1pm -6:30pm Cleaning	11 8:45Morning Prayer	12 10am Pastoral Partners
13 8:00 Holy Eucharist 9:30am Christian Education 10:15am Nursery Care 10:20am Sunday School 10:30am Family Service 12:10 Choir 12:15pm Vestry Meeting	14 4:45-6:15 OA Meeting	15 8:45Morning Prayer 7pm Worship Committee Meeting	16 8:45Morning Prayer 12:00pm Bible Study 12:30-1:30pm OA Meeting Parish Hall 6:00pm Celtic Eucharist 6:40pm Parish Dinner 7:00 EFM	17 8:45Morning Prayer 10:00am Altar Guild 11am -2pm Cleaning	18 8:45Morning Prayer	19 9am Prayer Blanket Group
20 8:00 Holy Eucharist 9:30am Christian Education 10:15am Nursery Care 10:20am Sunday School 10:30am Family Service 12:10 Choir	21 4:45-6:15 OA Meeting	22 8:45Morning Prayer	23 8:45Morning Prayer 12:00pm Bible Study 12:30-1:30pm OA Meeting Parish Hall 6:00pm Celtic Eucharist 6:40pm Parish Dinner 7:00 EFM	24 Upper Room 8:45Morning Prayer 11am -2pm Cleaning	25 8:45am Morning Prayer	26 9:30am Lenten Quiet Day
27 8:00 Holy Eucharist 9:30am Christian Education 10:15am Nursery Care 10:20am Sunday School 10:30am Family Service	28 4:45-6:15 OA Meeting					

****Please note that this calendar is subject to change and you should contact the office before scheduling.

MARCH 2010
PROPER

DATE	1ST READING	PSALM	2ND READING	GOSPEL
6 The Last Sunday after Epiphany	Exodus 24:12-18	2	2 Peter 1:16-21	Matthew 17:1-9
9 Ash Wednesday	Isaiah 58:1-12	103:8-14	2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10	Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21
13 First Sunday in Lent	Genesis 2:15-17;3:1-7	32	Romans 5:12-19	Matthew 4:1-11
20 Second Sunday in Lent	Genesis 12:1-4a	121	Romans 4:1-5,13-17	John 3:1-17
27 Third Sunday in Lent	Exodus 17:1-7	95	Romans 5:1-11	John 4:5-42

8 AM Ministers

DATE	EM	READERS	USHERS
6	D. Zelinsky	J. McDonald	L.Hill/ C. Griffin
13	S.Bert	J. Porter	C. Griffin / D. Lightfoot
20	L. Hill	T. Wilson	T. Weikert / L. Weikert
27	T. Weikert	L. Perpall	J. George / L. George

*If you're unable to do the date assigned then you need to find your own substitute. Please contact Lee Weikert for scheduling issues. Once you have found your substitute please inform the office.

10:30 AM Ministers

DATE	EM	READERS	ACOLYTES	USHERS
6	S. Bert / T. Myers	T. Myers		W. Roberts / J. McCormack
13	T. Myers / S. Kuehn	T. Fritschi		P. McLain / M. Muetz
20	J. Baker / S. Kuehn	J. Baker	M. Baker	J. Scholl / D. Mooney
27	A. Wyly / R. Wyly	T. Fritschi		T. Sullivan / B. Baird

*If you're unable to do the date assigned then you need to find your own substitute. Once you have found your substitute please inform the office.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

- 11 Marcia Goodrich
- 22 Chris Piazza
- 23 Sheila Wagner
- 24 Rich & LeAnn Bettencourt (1970)
- 24 Jim & Mona Baker (1979)
- 25 Emma Piazza
- 25 Ralph & Sandy Bert (1978)
- 31 Barney Scholl
- 31 Boyd Roberts



Vestry Minutes
January 30, 2011

*Fr. Craig Kuehn
*Sandy Bert
*Elsie Cannon
*Brandy Dorrans
*Present at this meeting

*Kathy Fritschi
Debbie Lightfoot
*Joanne McCormack

*Jackie Scholl
*Tom Weikert
*Trish Wilson

Officers were chosen as follows: Sandy Bert volunteered to be Clerk, Jackie Scholl was elected Junior Warden, and David Zelinsky was elected Treasurer.

The Vestry Retreat will be held at Inverness on February 18th and 19th. We should be there at 4:00 PM. The cost is \$100. Checks are due as soon as possible. We are to bring prayer books.

It was agreed that Vestry meetings will be held on the second Sunday of the month and begin at 12:15. The first meeting will be March 13. The Executive Board will meet March 6. There is a leadership conference on February 12. We are all encouraged to attend.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandy Bert, vestry clerk

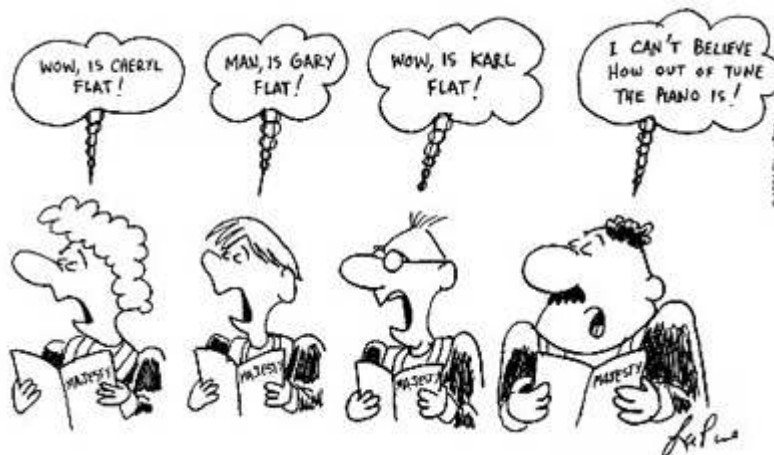
DISHWASHER

Please rinse dishes before putting them into the dishwasher. You don't need to pre-wash them. Please clean the food trap at the bottom of the dishwasher when done.

Thank you very much.

CHURCH CALENDAR

It is really important in order to keep the church calendar up to date that you call the office and put your activities on the church calendar. This also helps when other groups call and want to use the facilities that we don't double book.



IF FR. CRAIG STILL TOLD JOKES IN SERMONS...

Q: Why did St. Patrick drive all the snakes out of Ireland?

A: He couldn't afford plane fare

Q: What do you call a fake stone in Ireland?

A: A sham rock

Q: Why do frogs like St. Patrick's Day?

A: Because they're always wearing green

Q: What does a leprechaun call a happy man wearing green?

A: A Jolly Green Giant

Q: What did one Irish ghost say to the other?

A: 'Top o' the moaning!

Q: How can you tell if an Irishman is having a good time?

A: He's Dublin over with laughter!

10 Things You Never Hear in Church

1. Hey! It's my turn to sit in the front pew!
2. I was so enthralled, I never noticed your sermon went 25 minutes over time.
3. Personally I find witnessing much more enjoyable than golf.
4. I've decided to give our church the \$500 a month I used to send to TV evangelists.
5. I volunteer to be the permanent teacher for the Junior High Sunday School class.
6. Forget the denominational minimum salary. Let's pay our pastor so he can live like we do.
7. I love it when we sing hymns I've never heard before!
8. Since we're all here, let's start the service early.
9. Pastor, we'd like to send you to this Bible seminar in the Bahamas.
10. Nothing inspires me and strengthens my commitment like our annual stewardship campaign!

Before celebrating a baptism, the deacon approached the young father and said solemnly, "Baptism is a serious step. Are you sure you're prepared for it?"

"I think so," the man replied. "My wife has made appetizers and we have a caterer coming to provide plenty of cookies and cakes for our guests."

"I don't mean that," the deacon replied. "I mean, are you prepared spiritually?"

"Oh sure," came the reply. "I've got a keg of beer and a case of whiskey."

During the wedding rehearsal, the groom approached the priest with an unusual offer. "Look, I'll give you \$100 if you'll change the wedding vows. When you get to the part where I'm to promise to 'love, honor, and obey' and 'forsaking all others, be faithful to her forever,' I'd appreciate it if you'd just leave that part out."

He slipped the priest the cash and walked away.

The wedding day arrived. When it came time for the groom's vows, the priest looked the young man in the eye and said, "Will you promise to prostrate yourself before her, obey her every command and wish, serve her breakfast in bed every morning of your life and swear eternally before God and your lovely wife that you will not ever even look at another woman, as long as you both shall live?"

The groom gulped and looked around and then said in a tiny voice, "I do."

After the ceremony, the groom pulled the priest aside and hissed, "I thought we had a deal."

The priest slipped the \$100 back into the man's hand and whispered, "The bride's father made me a much better offer."

The Perfection of Love

~ By Mario Bergner.

As part of a Lenten discipline several years ago, my spiritual director suggested I read the 15th century classic *The Scale of Perfection*, by Walter Hilton. Alongside Julian of Norwich, Hilton is considered one of the great spiritual writers in the Anglican way.

The book's title was inspired by 1 John 4:17-19: "Perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love." For Hilton, love is the perfection to be scaled. The term "scale" has at least two connotations. One is as a measurement and in this sense; all is to be measured by love. It also can mean climbing, as one might scale a mountain, which is why the title was later translated *The Ladder of Perfection*. I find this translation unfortunate because many people wrongly think Hilton's book is advocating a spirituality of works righteousness. In fact, Hilton's main thesis is that Christians are to be re-formed by the love found in Jesus Christ.

Hilton's understanding of Christian discipleship is one of dynamic growth rooted in Jesus' atoning work on the cross. This re-forming work has two movements. The first is our being re-formed in faith. By meeting Jesus and putting our faith in him alone, we live our lives his way as spelled out in scripture. The second movement is our being re-formed in feeling, meaning that our inner being is transformed throughout our life to become like Jesus.

This second thesis of Hilton's book is akin to an extended meditation on St. Paul's prayer in Ephesians 3:16-19. We are to climb love like a mountain and let love become the measure of all things. If we fall off the mountain of love (and we all do), we are to begin again, certain that God's love is always available to strengthen us to continue the upward move. Only when we commit to reforming our character and scaling love over and over can we hope to know the perfections of love.

The Lent I read Hilton's book I took as my daily scripture verse for contemplation 1Peter 4:8, "Above all, love one another deeply, for love covers a multitude of sins". This covering of sins in love does not mean we ignore the need for forgiveness. Rather, scripture is clear that forgiveness of sin and love go hand in hand. When Jesus is anointed by a sinful woman in Luke 7, he says, "I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven – for she loved much. But he who has been forgiven little loves little." The lesson here is the when we live in the depth of the forgiveness of sins, we love others deeply.

Hilton's insights assured me I was well underway to being reformed in faith by love. After all, I believed everything scripture teaches about love and forgiveness. But was I reformed in feeling? Was I being transformed by his love? The answer to that question was yes and no. Clearly, there were some people in my life with whom the love between us flowed easily. But there were others in my life with whom the love of Christ did not flow easily or was blocked altogether. I began praying to be reformed in faith and in feeling by the love of God in Jesus Christ.

Some of my prayers included releasing forgiveness to others who had committed sins against me, whether intentionally or unintentionally. Many of my prayers were petitions related to sorting through areas of my soul where I needed to let love cover a multitude of sins in myself. Then one day in prayer, I asked the Lord a dangerous question: "Where, Lord, is love toward others blocked in my heart?"

In quietness before the Lord's presence, 10 names came to mind. Many were fellow Christians with whom I had lost touch. In hindsight, I saw our separations occurred during conflicts, either in Church or in ministry situations, where we saw things differently. Under the Lord's leading, I wrote to the 10 people from my past the Lord brought to mind earlier. In my letters, I stated I regretted were no longer in contact with each other, that in Christ my love for them remained, and requested, as Easter approached, that we might reconnect spiritually around the cross of Christ, praying for each other and letting love cover a multitude of sins.

The letters I received in response were full of grace and love. In some instances we talked things through face to face, asked forgiveness, gave forgiveness, prayed together and blessed each other for the first time in years. We did not try to rehash the past, or insist we accept each other's take on what had happened. We did, however, extend forgiveness for the times we sinned against each other.

In the following years, I ran into many of these people. To my surprise and delight our subsequent meetings – in the grocery store, the post office, or a large Anglican meeting – have been characterized by love. Not all these relationships were restored to the comfortable place we had known in earlier years, but when I think of these dear Christians now, I feel love toward them.

During those 40 days, the Lord forged a spiritual dynamic in my soul that I continue to employ. I now understand that resolving conflicts begins with the love of Jesus Christ and the forgiveness of sin, not with agreement about what happened years earlier. The *Scale of Perfection* reformed me in both faith and feeling. It took more courage, humility and emotional effort than I thought I had. But that Lent I grew more spiritually than I had in years.

April 9, 2006 The Living Church

The Rev. Craig Kuehn, Rector Worship	642-0955 or (cell) 306-8405	craig@oursaviourpv.org
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Jackie Scholl Jr. Warden Fellowship	626-3833	jcarlson-scholl@sbcglobal.net
David Zelinsky Treasurer	622-7271	zelinsky.david@gmail.com
Sandy Bert, Clerk Gratitude Committee	622-4343	srbert1296@gmail.com
Trish Wilson Communications	363-4988	trish-tsi@hotmail.com
Joanne McCormack Church in the World	295-9499	
Elsie Cannon Christian Education	644-3636	
Kathy Fritschi Finance & Budget	626-4215	
Debbie Lightfoot Evangelism	644-3093	sassyappy50@yahoo.com
Brandy Dorrans Buildings and Grounds	647-2104	b2d21339@msn.com

Ministry Leaders

Altar Guild	Brenda Hill	
Buildings & Grounds	Bill Baird	
Pastoral Partners	Tom & Lee Weikert	eklktcwe@earthlink.net

Office Hours

For the month of March Tuesday thru Thursday 9:00am – 1pm

GOOD NEWS

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOUR
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MARCH PARISH FORUM TOPICS

ARE LISTED INSIDE THE NEWSLETTER ON PAGE 5