



The Auburn United Methodist Church

Link

Advent prepares us for Christ's birth; Lent prepares us for the glorious act of Christ's resurrection. Churches have special services during the weeks of Lent, but it's what each of us does regarding our spiritual life that makes Lent most meaningful.

Lent is a good time to read, study and inwardly digest the four gospels. (The word gospel means "good news.")

A college student decided to work his way through Matthew, Mark, Luke and John for his Lenten devotional time. Soon he was fascinated by the stories, such as the Pharisees and Sadducees trying to trap Jesus in debate. The brilliant Jesus handled every occasion with wisdom, leaving the authorities dumbfounded.

During his devotional time, the student was filled with laughter and amazement at the brilliant son of God, who was only in his 30s. Get to know the good news, and you'll understand the young man's amazement.

Humans are naturally people of wonder. We wonder at this amazing earth, our temporary but glorious home. We wonder at birth — the birth of a baby or bird or animal. We wonder at the mind-dazzling beauty of a rose. We wonder at love — the love of God, the love of a spouse or parent, the love of another who smiles and laughs when we share thoughts and experiences. We wonder at scientific discoveries. We wonder about the gift of life and the puzzle of death. We wonder about our brain and talents. We wonder about our fascinating body, how a Genius put it together, what it can and cannot do.

I am simply full of wonder. Right now, I'm wondering what you're wondering about. Are you wondering about God and what he has in mind for you today? tomorrow? for eternity? D.H. Lawrence said, "When the wonder has gone out of a man, he is dead." He also said, "All are related by one permanent element in all life: the sense of wonder. That is our sixth sense. And it is the natural religious sense."

— Charles Ferrell

GO *and Make Disciples*



From the Food Pantry Committee

The Food Pantry would like to recognize the efforts of the Auburn area churches, schools and organizations, which so graciously participated to make this year successful.

In 2009, a total of 4025 emergency meals were provided to clients. These meals would not be possible without the assistance from the local food drives held by the Auburn Boy/Cub Scouts, Auburn Postal Workers, Auburn Jaycees, Auburn Branch Library, Western Middle School, Western High School, Trinity Lutheran Monitor Church and School, Auburn Grace Lutheran School, Auburn Elementary, Auburn/Williams Fire Department and Dow Chemical Building 1803. This year, 47 Easter, 94 Thanksgiving and 106 Christmas Dinner Baskets were distributed. AUMC in conjunction with Trinity Lutheran Monitor, Tri County Worship Center, Auburn First Baptist Church and Western High School donated many grocery bags filled with items to complete these dinners. Michigan Sugar supplied sugar and Johnson Farms donated potatoes. AUMC along with Trinity Lutheran Monitor purchased the Turkeys and Hams. Another sponsorship by the Food Pantry included preparing 75 Day Packs, which were distributed to families at local Bay area community resource centers.

Financial support was received by several organizations such as AUMC, Auburn UMW, Midland Kohl's A Team, Auburn Chamber of Commerce and private donations. The monies were used to purchase supplements for the holiday baskets or food items and toiletries for the emergency meals. The Auburn First Baptist Church also supplied the families with toddler quilts, lap robes, hats and mittens. During the holiday season, 5 families were adopted and assisted by the following: Western High School, Tri County Worship Center, Auburn UMW, Bay County Road Commission and the Auburn Boy Scouts. Lastly, the Auburn UMW along with other local churches sponsored the annual Christmas Giveaway of miscellaneous goods.

The families continually express their gratitude to the generous community. Thank you to all who support this worthy mission.

An every day God

A missionary was telling a Native American about Christ, the Son of God, and how we gather every Sunday to worship our Creator. The man was curious why Christians worship together each week. "Does this God come only on Sundays?" he asked. How would you have answered?



Ash Wednesday

Scripture and Sermons for February

Feb 7	Guest Preacher
Feb 14	Luke 5:1-11 "TGIF"
Feb 17	Ash Wednesday 7:00 pm Psalms 51:1-17 "Reformatting the Hard Drive"
Feb 21	Luke 4:1-13 "Finding Freedom as Stewards of God's Gifts: What's in your backpack?"
Feb 28	Guest Preacher

Spotlight Mission—February

Marsha Gail Alexander - Missionary in Rio Bravo, Mexico

Marsha Gail Alexander is a missionary with the General Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church. She is the director at the Manos Juntas Mexico ministry whose ministry is two-fold: construction and medical.

Construction: Year round volunteers in mission from across the U.S. travel to Rio Bravo to build 12' X 16' casitas (small houses) for those who are living in substandard housing. More importantly, they go to share the love of Christ and to build relationships with our neighbors south of the border.

Medical: Manos Juntas has a clinic where teams of medical personnel come and minister. Sometimes the clinic is held in remote areas where no medical facilities are available. Participating in the healing ministry also gives volunteers time to share the love of Christ and build relationships.

Of her work in Mexico, Rev. Alexander shares, "This mission is not just about the casitas or the healing of the physical being, but also about enabling them to see themselves as whole beings through Christ, spiritually, emotionally, physically and mentally healthy."

Children's Church-

Feb 7 Sam & Irene Samborn

Feb 14 Sandy Burr

Feb 21 Joan Schrott

Feb 28 Pat Lyvere

Are you interested in attending the Saginaw Spirits last Home Game for the Season?

When: Saturday, March 13 @ 7 pm

Cost: \$8.00 adults, \$6.50 for students up to 12th grade.

Sign up in the fellowship hall by Feb 21st.



8:30 am	Worship Leader	Janet Samborn	10:45	Denise Horswill
Greeters				
Feb 7 & 14	Steve & Kelly Krueger		Marcus King & Jessica Czyzewski	
Feb 21 & 28	Dave & Pam Crispin		Doris, Penny Parkin	
Ushers				
Feb 7	Ben Norton, Nancy Simpson		Kirk Williams, Rob Samborn	
Feb 14	Bud Stevens, Mike Pike		Ted Tiede, Chuck Witherspoon	
Feb 21	Martha Knickerbocker, Linda C		Travis Miller, Ed Putnam	
Feb 28	Bernie & Sheila Hoy		Tom & Dan W.	
Prayer Room				
Feb 7	Trudy Pischel		Amy Samborn	
Feb 14	Barb Anderson		Sue Plessner	
Feb 21	Sheila Hoy		Gloria Putnam	
Feb 28	Joan Schrott		Betty Stoddard	

One of the persons killed in the Haitian earthquake was someone I met in Owosso a few years ago. The Rev. Clint Rabb was responsible for the mission volunteers program out of the Global Board of Missions in New York. We had breakfast once. The church I was serving was hosting a training event for the Volunteers in Mission program. As the host pastor I was included in that early breakfast with Clint, who was the keynote speaker, and the others in leadership. From that meeting and listening to him speak of United Methodist volunteers who have serve the least of these as Christ, I came to appreciate the depth of his convictions and the power of his faith.

One bishop said of him: "Clint Rabb was a tough and fearless advocate for the least and most vulnerable of God's children. He traveled the world encouraging volunteer ministry in his service on behalf of Christ and the church. He gave his life for others and we celebrate his faithful witness." (Bishop Joel N. Martinez, the interim general secretary (CEO) of Global Ministries.)

Hurricanes, tsunamis, and now another earthquake have reminded us time and time again that life is fleeting, that there are forces that can squash us like a bug. If we're caught by them, there's little we can do about it. Having fresh images from Haiti are a clear reminder we can be alive and kicking in one moment and the next ... not.

As I move on in my own spiritual journey I have come to more deeply appreciate the Ash Wednesday service marking the beginning of Lent. In that time of worship I am reminded of what the psalmist wrote so many centuries ago,

As for mortals, their days are like grass;
they flourish like a flower of the field;
for the wind passes over it, and it is gone,
and its place knows it no more. (Psalm 103:15-16)

In that meditative beginning of Lent, I remember as ash is smeared on the foreheads of my brothers and sisters that "you are dust and to dust you shall return."

Why, you might ask, would such a ritual be meaningful to you? Seems rather depressing, thinking about death and that--in the overall scheme of things--life really is very short. I guess it strikes deep chords in me and others because it does exactly that: it reminds us that our lives ARE short and could end tomorrow. Knowing that, I'm also reminded to hear the voice of another psalmist:

"Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I fear no evil;
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff—
they comfort me."

Ash Wednesday compels me to trust the power and grace of God even as it reminds me that life is fleeting. It also gives me pause and causes me to examine my life and ask myself if the way I'm living and being in the world reflects deeply eternal values as a follower of Jesus? Or am I buying treasures that rust and disappear?

I didn't know him well, but I suspect that when Clint was trapped for 55 hours in the rubble of the Hotel Montana in Port-au-Prince, he knew his life meant something, and he could trust that--in the end--the God he served in this life was with him and would continue be with him and love him in the next.

Ash Wednesday service begins at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 17th. I hope you'll consider joining me.

With hope and trust,

Duane



AUBURN UMC TRIP TO THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK

Dates: Sunday, July 11-Sunday, July 18, 2010

Who: Anyone who would like to be part of a group visiting God's gift of the mountains.

What: There will be 6 day-hikes planned. The consensus of the group of interested persons was that using a local campground in Estes Park, CO would be the best plan. However, people may choose whatever form of lodging they'd like and join those who decide to hike for the day.

Need: At least 10 people to participate to make it a viable event.

Information: See Rev. Harris if you'd like information.

VOLUNTEERS IN MISSION TRIP TO RIO BRAVO, MEXICO

When: February 2011.

Where: Across the border from McAllen, TX.

Who: Anyone with a heart for serving people who are poor as Christ.

What: Building a "casita"--a small home--for a family within a week is the primary objective. However, there are roles for those who are not "builders" or "laborers". Doctors, nurses, dentists, & hygienists are needed for the clinic and those willing to serve in putting together a Vacation Bible School are also needed.

Description: This is a mission associated with the UMC. Our Missions Ministry Team is in a covenant relationship with Marsha Alexander, a deacon in the UMC, who serves as the executive director of Manos Juntas, the mission in Rio Bravo.

Approximate cost: No hard numbers yet, but estimate \$500-600 depending on airfare, etc. Each congregation is also asked to support their team with a gift of \$200 per person to be used toward the construction cost of about \$2,500 per house. The Missions Ministry Team has already allocated \$1,000 in the 2010 budget for this purpose.

Information: Talk with Rev. Harris if you have further questions and/or interest.

