

LAKE SHORELINES

February 21, 2007

Journey through Lent

Around and around we go through the Lenten season, learning again and again the humility of being in relationship with God. To enter that relationship begins a bumpy journey, unpredictable in its arc and full of surprises that run from our natural inclinations to the mystery of life in all its fullness. — *Wesley White*



Worship at Lake Shore Lenten Sermon Series

“Grace and Truth: The Person of Jesus”

“The Word became flesh and lived among us...full of grace and truth.” These words from the gospel of John (1.14) will give shape to our worship during the season of Lent. As we look at the lectionary texts from week to week, we will explore the different ways they reveal the person of Jesus, the different ways grace and truth are manifest in his life and way, and how we might shape our lives in response.

Lent I – February 25

Luke 4.1-13

“Don’t Tempt Me”

Lent II – March 4

Luke 13.31-35

“Hen-pecked”

Lent III – March 11

Libby Bellinger, guest preacher

Lent IV – March 18

Luke 15.1-3, 11b-32

“Grace and an Open Door”

Lent V – March 25

John 12.1-8

“The Scent of Extravagance”

Passion Sunday – April 1

LSBC Choir presents the Passion selections from Handel’s *Messiah*

Easter Sunday – April 8

Lenten Devotional Guides

Every year we provide a Lenten devotional booklet. This year our meditations are a gift from Charlotte Carpenter.

Charlotte has collected the thoughts and poems that she has written over several Lenten seasons and has compiled them, along with Bible passages, in a daily devotional guide that leads us from Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday.

“Lenten Thoughts” is available in the office.

Children’s Center Study Group

The Deacons have appointed a Children’s Center Study Group to make recommendations regarding the Lake Shore Baptist Children’s Center. The Study Group will focus their analysis and recommendations on three areas: a) the LSBCC business model and resource needs; b) the attitudes and expectations of key constituencies toward the mission of the LSBCC, including members of the congregation, Children Center families, and LSBCC staff; and c) the regulatory and accreditation environment for the LSBCC. The Study Group will report to the Deacons in early May.

Members of the Study Group are Sarah Becker, Naomi Fox, Carole Hanks (co-chair), Helen Hastings (deacon), Gary Miller (LSBCC board member), Mike Raymond (deacon & co-chair), Rosemary Richards, and Mary Rowan (LSBCC board member). Sharlande Sledge is the Study Group’s staff liaison, and Gerri Carey will serve as a resource providing child care consultation.

Surprise! Sweet Hours of Prayer

“Do you like surprises?” That was a question asked of us by Rachel and Dorisanne in their sermons a few Sundays ago. As part of her children’s sermon, Rachel caught the children off-guard by serving them a cold beverage. Yet, instead of giving them the water to which she alluded, she gave them Sprite. It was quite a surprise! For some it was a welcomed one, but for a few it might have been a little jarring.

Do you like surprises? I guess it depends on whether if what surprises us brings us pleasure or pain. Some surprises, like the news of a terminal illness for a loved one, can generate sadness and despair. Other surprises, like a forgotten rebate check you receive in the mail, can put a spring in your step! Yet regardless of what surprises us, all surprises wake us up. They bring us to awareness of what is happening right here and now. Our senses wake up and we become conscious. Maybe we were unconsciously going through the day, but all of a sudden something happens – a smile of a child, a well-told joke, the touch of a friend, the smell of perfume, the taste of well-prepared food – and you wake up and live the moment. You are called back to yourself, surprised by the splendor of the ordinary.

This has happened to me at church when I’m working in my study at the Teen House. Usually I am immersed in my reading or writing, but then, to my surprise, I hear bells. At first this is unexpected, but then I let go of my reading and writing, sit back in my chair, close my eyes, and breathe deeply as I listen to the chiming of the hour.

If you are around the church at certain times in the day, you’ll experience these surprises, too. Several months ago the chimes were a special gift to the church. At present they are set to go off four times a day – at 9:00 a.m., noon, 3:00 p.m., and 6:00 p.m. These are not random times at all. In fact, they correspond with the hours of prayer in the Christian tradition.

One way the early Christians attempted to live out the apostle Paul’s admonition to “pray without ceasing” was by setting up specific hours of prayer. These corresponded with the dawn of a new day and the setting of the sun to close the day. Two times of early morning prayer were established: *lauds* (in Latin meaning “praise”) began with the dawn, followed by *prime* (first official hour of the day). If

we were going to follow this tradition closely, the bells would chime at 6:00 a.m. But since we value our neighbors we thought it best not to sound them so early! The hours of prayer that followed came around 9:00 a.m. (*terce*, third hour), 12:00 p.m. (*sext*, sixth hour), 3:00 p.m. (*none*, ninth hour), and 6:00 p.m. (*vespers*, in Latin meaning “evening”). The final hour of prayer, called *compline*, “completes” the hours of prayer. The first Christian to designate these specific hours of prayer and to develop the psalms, readings, and prayers for each hour was St. Benedict of Nursia. All of this can be found in the famous Rule of St. Benedict that many Christian monks still follow today.

When we sound the bells at Lake Shore Baptist Church, we intentionally choose to remain in a contemplative stream of Christianity that goes back for centuries. But this is not the only reason we do it. In addition to being part of a larger Christian tradition, we also sound the bells at these intervals so that people at church and people in our neighborhood will be surprised by the unfamiliar sound coming from above. At times it can be unsettling, challenging our hectic and chaotic pace. But, if we relax and let go, the bells can help us wake up and live the present moment, the Eternal Now where God can be found.

When I think about the bells at Lake Shore, I am reminded of the old revivalist hymn that William Walford wrote in 1845. It begins...

*Sweet hour of prayer! Sweet hour of prayer!
That calls me from a world of care...*

Our hope is that these bells can call us from a world of care – even if for a few moments – to touch Divine Reality. For if we are not in touch with Reality, our activity in the world cannot help but be filtered through our own egos, conditioning, fears, and feelings. In order to love people as they are (and not as we would like them to be) we need little reminders to be *present* and *aware*. These bells at Lake Shore can help us, but most of us are not able to be around the church during these times. So during this Lenten season be creative and pay attention to those things that can take the place of the chimes – your morning commute to work, a deep breath of thanks before eating your lunch, or the short walk to your vehicle as you prepare to go home for the evening. You might be surprised what happens. — *Mike Sciretti*

Prayer Concerns

Sharon Wynn is hospitalized for several days at Providence.

Annette Brister’s daughter Robin is having rotor cuff surgery this week in Michigan. Annette has traveled to Michigan to be with her.

Mike Raymond’s mother, Janet Raymond, has lung disease for years and is not well. Mike has traveled to Cincinnati to be with her.

Rhae Gray is home recovering from extensive surgery on his jaw for squamous cell carcinoma. He would appreciate e-mails at: hrgsrg@comcast.net.



Smorgasbord: A Taste of Lake Shore

The food was varied and tasty. Please e-mail your recipes to Catherine at cadavenport@hot.rr.com so we can compile this year’s cookbook. Thanks.

Our Church Staff

Richard Aslanian, Music Director
 Dorisanne Cooper, Pastor
 Aaron Garcia, Organist
 Pattie Herbert, Custodian
 Caryl Miller-Compton, Administrative Secretary
 Heather Robards, Director, Lake Shore Baptist Children's Center
 Mike Sciretti, Minister to Youth
 Rachel Sciretti, Minister to Children
 Sharlande Sledge, Associate Pastor



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MINISTRY AND EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

Sunday, February 25

9:30-Sunday school
 10:45-Worship

Monday, February 26

5:30-Yoga

Tuesday, February 27

5:30-Yoga

Wednesday, February 28

8:30-Staff Meeting
 5:30-Wednesday Night Supper
 6:30-Activities
 7:30-Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, March 1

10:00-Food Pantry Open

Looking Ahead

The Gathering-March 4
 Care Group Leader Meeting
 March 4
 Spring Break-March 12-15
 Deacons' Meeting-March 18
 Grounds Work Day-March 24
 Bike-a-thon-March 25

Wednesday Night Supper

February 28



**Pork Loin
 Mashed Potatoes
 Carrot Salad
 Dessert**

Visitor/Offering Schedule

Sunday, February 25

Visitor Cards: Matthew Reynolds
 Mackenzie Love

Offering: Missy Davis,
 Donna McMullen,
 Deborah Vardiman, and
 David Mosley

Community Notes

Caritas Feast of Caring

Tuesday, March 6, 6:00 p.m.

HOT Fairgrounds, Fine Arts Bldg.
 Celebrating Caritas' 40th anniversary
 and featuring A.J. Moore Academy's
 Steel Drum Ambassadors
Donations accepted at the door

Youth News

Sunday Morning:

Breakfast at 9:30 – Sciretti
 Sunday School – Karen Matkin

Sunday Night:

God's Gift of Sexuality & J2A.
 GGS will begin at 4:30 and J2A
 will begin at 5:30. Please don't
 be late. Dinner at 6:30 by Losey/
 Kelly/Davies

Wednesday Night (28th):

Meditation and Music

Next Sunday:

Journey to Adulthood
 Dinner by Chapline/Allen

Coming Up:

March 4 – J2A
 March 11 – Fellowship Night
 March 18 – J2A
 March 25 – GGS
 April 13-14 – Spring Retreat
 May 13 – Youth Sunday
 July 16-21 – Passport
 New Orleans

Extended Care

Sunday, February 25

Infants: Libby Bellinger
 Toddlers: Ryan & Arnisa Ramsower
 3yrs.-K: Rick Allen
 Terri & Mikhayla Evans

Weekly Budget Report

Your contributions to our budget help fund our mission work, church programs, human resources, and physical facilities. Weekly budget needs for our 2007 budget of \$435,456 are \$8,374.15. This week we received \$3,603.00

<u>Year to date needs</u>	<u>Year to date received</u>	<u>Difference</u>
\$ 58,619.08	\$ 61,271.20	\$ 2,652.12