

02-27-19 Wednesday Musing

Who else is ready for a change of seasons? I, for one, am so ready for warmer days... sunny weather... and spring flowers. I love the spring and the way it reminds us of "new beginnings". And one cannot help but think of Easter being right around the corner... the time we celebrate the Resurrection of Christ our Lord. The most important "new beginning" of all time! Just as that little seed... when planted beneath the dirt... springs forth new growth... so does our Lord bring new life to those who will follow His footsteps and walk in His way.

Lent, which begins next Wednesday, is a path we should all give some thought to as it fast approaches. Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. Lent comes from the Anglo Saxon word *lencten*, which means "spring." The forty days represents the time Jesus spent in the wilderness, enduring the temptation of Satan and preparing to begin his ministry. Sundays in Lent are not counted in the forty days because each Sunday represents a "mini-Easter" and the reverent spirit of Lent is tempered with joyful anticipation of the Resurrection

Lent is a time of repentance, fasting and preparation for the coming of Easter. It is a time of self-examination and reflection. Christians focus on their relationship with God, often choosing to give up something or to volunteer and give of themselves for others. The practice of giving something up... or fasting is to abstain from something like chocolate, social media or shopping... in order to reorient ourselves away from the distractions of this world and focus more intently on God and our relationship with Him. Another way to reorient your life during Lent is to focus more on Bible Study and prayer time during the season.

In recent years I have read of the practice of giving instead of removing in observation of Lent... Such as preparing a box into which you place one item for a food ministry each day of Lent... and then after the celebration of the Easter Resurrection you take your box to those in need.

This Sunday, March 3rd, is Transfiguration Sunday. Why... you may ask... is 'Transfiguration Sunday' before the Lenten Season and Easter?... We celebrate the revelation of Christ's glory "before the passion" so that we may "be strengthened to bear our cross and be changed into His likeness." The focus of the Lenten season is renewed discipline in walking in the way of the cross and rediscovery of surrendering our evil and sin and reinforcing our daily adherence to Christ. At Easter, which reveals the fullness of Christ's glory (foreshadowed in the Transfiguration), Christians give themselves anew to the gospel at the Easter Vigil where they share the dying and rising of Christ.

In the biblical context, the synoptic gospels narrate the Transfiguration as a bridge between Jesus' public ministry and his passion. From the time of the Transfiguration, Jesus sets his face to go to Jerusalem and the cross.

As we make our way toward the Resurrection... let us continually keep our minds focused on the ultimate prize we seek... eternal life with the Father... praying the words of Scripture... *"Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me."* Psalm 51:10. In the days ahead, let us live in the glory that we view through the Transfiguration... Life is bigger than what our eyes can see.... This glimpse of Jesus in the transfiguration reminds us that this world is not our final home...

As you go to the Lord in prayer this week, please remember Kathy Russell, Donna Freeman, Anna Gerow, Anne Marie Greer, Harvey Sharpe, Merle Sharpe, Nancy Thomas, Margaret Turner, Louise Walters, Mary Jane Pettigrew, Family of Lee Whitfield - Son of Bobby and Mary Jo Whitfield, Family of Delores Johnson - Sister of Troy Johnson and also friends of church members: Mike Thaxton, Claire Spence.

Also remember Jeanne Williams as she makes a transition in her life. She has moved to Home Place of Burlington. Her new address is: Jeanne Williams, Home Place of Burlington, 118

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Alamance Road, Room 104 B, Burlington, NC, 27215. She has a new phone number, which is... 336-570-9147.

On the Activity front: on Sunday, March 3rd, we will observe Holy Communion during our worship service. On Monday, March 4th, the Margaret Lightbourne Circle will meet at 10:30 am in the church conference room. On Tuesday, March 5th, the Supper Club will gather at 6 pm at Valerio's Italian Restaurant. On Saturday night, March 9th, Turn your clocks ahead one hour!!

The first Sunday in the month is "Food Collection Sunday". The food we share will be distributed to those in need by the Salvation Army. Containers in which to place your non-perishable food are found in Bray Fellowship Hall.

The scripture for Sunday will be Luke 9:18-36 and Galatians 3:26-4:7.

Grace to You from Jesus our Lord,

Joan 😊

