A recent study on what most brings people happiness came up with forgiveness as the answer. Certainly scripture says forgiveness is an essential part of our spiritual journey. Nonetheless I was surprised by the results of this secular study and confirmed in my decision to offer a Lenten study on the subject. So please consider participating in an exploration of forgiveness on four Wednesday evenings during Lent, March 12, 19, 26 and April 2. We will begin with a soup and bread supper at 6:30, followed by discussion from 7 - 8. I am working on having a children’s activity available to enable those with young children to attend.

I will be using two books as primary resources, Don’t Forgive Too Soon, by Dennis, Sheila, and Matthew Linn and Helping People Forgive by David W. Augsburger. We may include some work with a genogram, which is a way to look at our particular families of origin and the places where patterns have become stuck through the generations and need forgiveness. We may also look at our own styles of handling conflict and how they effect forgiveness. I have recently worked through both these tools at the Transforming Center in Chicago and found them to be very helpful.

Here are a few quotes from the books to get you thinking.

“Forgiveness has always had its detractors. From the one side it is seen as too easy, too simple, too quick a fix for any significant injury. From the other, it is viewed as too difficult, too complex, too long and tortuous a road when revenge or retaliation would get to the point more economically... compassion and justice will wrestle forever.” David Augsburger

“Most of us know that we should forgive those who hurt us. But how can we forgive when we’ve tried everything we can think of, including prayer, yet we still feel stuck in a hurt? When we are hurt, most of us are tempted either to be a passive doormat or to strike back and escalate the cycle of violence. We can find more creative responses to hurts by moving through the five stages of forgiveness. The five stages help us extend two hands: one hand
Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday services are 6:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. Wednesday March 5th. This liturgy opens Lent and has always been an important worship time for the community. On Ash Wednesday we prepare ourselves for a season of reflection and spiritual discipline. We confess all that needs healing in ourselves and in our world, making space for new growth. Please make every effort to attend an Ash Wednesday Liturgy somewhere.

Jackie

February Interfaith Hospitality

Thank you all for making the Interfaith Hospitality the week of February 16th a great success! From the setting up of the beds to the hospitality to the wonderful meals and the final take down. Nick and I are grateful for all the help and look forward to the next time!

Susan Sorrell & Nick Felty

Creative Journey

There will be no Creative Journey in March. I am hoping to have it in April. With new jobs and moving, things are hectic this month. Please accept my apologies.

We do have a wonderful Creative Journey scheduled for June. More details coming as the date draws near. I am hoping everyone continues to work on scarves, hats, and mittens for Homework Club. Remember, if you have an idea that you would like to see presented during Creative Journey, please let me know.

Thank you.

Lora Bennett

ST Patrick’s Day Ceile

We’re planning another ceile on Saturday, March 15 to celebrate St. Patrick’s Day. This will be a pot luck meal. Bring something Irish! We’ll make some recipes available as we’ve done in the past. And we’ll again have home grown talent. There’ll be a sign up sheet on the board at the top of the ramp. Music makers, readers, dancers and whatever else may be your talent are welcome. We realize this is just a few weeks after the Mardi Gras dinner, but why not? We are to be a celebrative people!

Jackie

African Team Ministry

Thank you to everyone in helping to make African Team Ministry another success. We had enough younger parishioners who purchased musical instruments to start a band. Yay! The proceeds will make a difference to orphans and refugees in East Africa where the need is so great. This year our proceeds amounted to $516.00

Blessings and again, thanks to all,

Linda and Trish

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that stops the person who hurt us and the other hand that reaches out, calms that person and offers new life.” The Linns

I hope you will take part in this very important discussion.

Jackie
ALTAR SERVERS & PEOPLE OF THE WEEK

MARCH 2
10:30 a.m.
C  Jacob Lang
BB  Taley Hardie
US  Skip Scruby and Larry Benning
P  Bob and Caroline Wallman Family
T  Nancy Smith and Johnson
G  Ruth
A  Ginny and Molly

MARCH 9
10:30 a.m.
C  Carlotta Owens
BB  Adam Lane
US  Graham Bale and Fred Smith
P  Richard and Moll Wolford
T  Hasty and Simonton
G  Trish
A  Betty and Kay

MARCH 16
10:30 a.m.
C  Brady O’Brien
BB  Darby O’Brien
US  David Johnson and Larry Benning
P  Mike and Nancy Andrews
T  Fred Smith and Wolford
G  Linda
A  Rosemary and Gloria

MARCH 23
10:30 a.m.
C  Kyle Bale
BB  Maria Lane
US  Dick Wolford and Trish Simonton
P  Graham and Heidi Bale Family
T  Lane and McLaughlin
G  Carol
A  Lisa and Trischa

MARCH 30
10:30 a.m.
C  Jim Hobart
BB  Brady Gluntz
US  Norman Bucher and Brian Gluntz
P  Stuart and Joan Bale Family
T  Nancy Smith and Johnson
G  Gloria
A  Caroline, Kay and Molly

APRIL 6
10:30 a.m.
C  Jacob Lang
BB  Susan Lang
US  Dick Wolford and Kevin O’Brien
P  Andrew Beckman
T  Fred Smith and McLaughlin
G  Ruth
A  Kathy and Janet

LAY READER TEXT – MARCH

The Last Sunday after the Epiphany—March 2
8:00 a.m. – Earl Edmonds
10:30 a.m. – Jim Hobart
Exodus 24:12-18
Psalm 99
2 Peter 1:16-21
Matthew 17:1-9

The First Sunday in Lent—March 9
8:00 a.m. – Mary Lasher
10:30 a.m. – Stuart Bale
Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7
Psalm 32
Romans 5:12-19
Matthew 4:1-11

The Second Sunday in Lent—March 16
8:00 a.m. – Dan Berger
10:30 a.m. – Chris Plambeck
Genesis 12:1-4a
Psalm 121
Romans 4:1-5, 13-17
John 3:1-17

The Third Sunday in Lent—March 23
8:00 a.m. – Pat George
10:30 a.m. – Jean Benning
Exodus 17:1-7
Psalm 95
Romans 5:1-11
John 4:5-42

The Fourth Sunday in Lent—March 30
8:00 a.m. – Earl Edmonds
10:30 a.m. – Nancy Smith
1 Samuel 16:1-13
Psalm 23
Ephesians 5:8-14
John 9:1-41

The Fifth Sunday in Lent—April 6
8:00 a.m. – Mary Lasher
10:30 a.m. – Becca McLaughlin
Exodus 37:1-14
Psalm 130
Romans 8:6-11
John 11:1-45
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<td>6:30 p.m. Community Sing</td>
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IN-REACH MINISTRY

Do you need help or know of other church members who need temporary assistance with transportation, meals, child care, yard work, household chores, etc? If so, please contact our March “In-Reach Ministry” coordinator Theresa Norris. Contract information is in the Church Directory and in the Sunday Bulletin.

MARDI GRAS DINNER IS COMING

Our Rite 13 and J2A students will again sponsor a Mardi Gras dinner for all our families on Tuesday, March 4th from 6:00-8:00 p.m. The dinner will be prepared by Bill Ubbes and Bill Hardie with assistance from all our students in Rite 13 and J2A. The proceeds from the dinner will go directly for our annual mission trip this summer. This dinner will consist of seafood gumbo, red beans and rice, and jambalaya for adults; and delicious pancakes will be prepared for the kids or adults who would rather have pancakes. Drinks will also be provided as well. A delicious bread pudding dessert will be prepared by Dan Berger to complete the evening. Cost of the dinner will be a suggested donation of $25 for a family or $7 for an individual. There will be a sign-up sheet at the church so we know how much food to prepare for the dinner. We are really hoping for an outstanding turnout from our church families as this will be an evening of coming together as we begin to observe the Lenten season. We are also planning a fun activity for all who attend.

Earl & Carlotta

100,000 WELCOMES

It’s that time of year again—100,000 Welcomes! The committees are already working on this year’s event. The date has been chosen, the Decoration committee has ideas flowing and the Auction Committee is mobilized. We are very fortunate that we receive so many donations to this event year after year and we want to thank each of you. As preparations begin, for those of you that know you will be donating an item, we ask that you let us know as soon as possible about the donation. And if you have the item at home now, we would love to have it as soon as possible so that Linda Powers and Caroline Wallman can organize these items. If you don’t know, these two women are the creative forces behind the Silent Auction! They can put together random items that create intriguing baskets. So please take a few minutes and think about what you could contribute. Do you have a special talent that you can share? Do you have tickets to a sporting or cultural event that you can donate? Have you cleaned out the basement and found a treasure? We welcome anything! But the earlier you can make your donation, the easier it is for the committee. If you have any questions, please feel free to talk with Carolyn, Linda, Bonnie Lang or Nancy Smith. And thank you for making this event the success it always is!

Nancy

* * * *

EVENING PRAYER

I have begun a new job so our Evening Prayer will not meet for the time being while my schedule is being adjusted. I hope we can resume it soon.

Jim Hobart