

# The stream

March 3, 2019

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Office Hours: Monday-Thursday  
9 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Sunday worship: 10:15 a.m.  
Children's Chapel every Sunday  
during service  
Youth and Children's education  
hour, Sundays at 9a.m.

Come and enjoy our Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper next  
Tuesday, March 5<sup>th</sup>, from 5:30-7:00pm at Wellspring!

This is the day immediately before Ash Wednesday, named for the "shriving," or confessions and absolutions, performed traditionally on that day. It's also known as "Fat Tuesday" for those who prepare for Lent by making sure they have sins of which to repent, so come and eat to your heart's content.

**Ash Wednesday Services**  
March 6<sup>th</sup> at both 12:00 noon & 7:00pm

We'll mark the beginning of the season of Lent with special Ash Wednesday services next week, marking the beginning of our annual six-week time of reflection and repentance as we prepare for the sacrifice of Christ on the cross and His resurrection at Easter. Ash Wednesday falls 46 days, or 40 days other than Sundays before Easter. The services set the tone for the coming Lenten season, which lasts through Easter Day, on April 21<sup>st</sup> this year.

The name "Ash Wednesday" is derived from the traditional rite in which the sign of the cross is made on the foreheads of worshipers, using the ashes of palm leaves left over from the preceding Palm Sunday. The ashes are a sign of our mortality and penitence and signify the beginning of a holy Lent. With the emphasis on penitence during the coming weeks it is important to note that the purpose of Lent is not self-punishment, but preparation for Easter through concentration on fundamental values and priorities, prayer, and almsgiving.



Join us on Thursday nights beginning March 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:15pm.  
Workbooks can be ordered by contacting Kristi at  
[kristihansen@me.com](mailto:kristihansen@me.com) and are \$7 each.

## FROM THE RECTOR

*“There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens...” (Ecclesiastes 3:1)*

Solomon wrote this verse and the verses that followed to let us know that God has a plan for all people in every circumstance. We are His people, and we go through many experiences that reflect the waxing and waning of life. Some are joy-filled. Some are sorrowful. This season at Wellspring has taken us through a time of sadness, with the conclusion reached that it seemed best for the pastoral relationship between Fr. Jeff and the congregation to come to an end. This conclusion was reached after an extensive conversation with our Bishop, Ken Ross, and our Vestry. Bishop Ken met with the Vestry via a Skype session, speaking with each Vestry member personally, culminating with the Bishop’s decision, along with the Vestry to end the pastoral relationship. There was unanimity on the Vestry that this was the best outcome.

I know this has been a surprise to some people, while for others it has not been a surprise at all. I also know that people who have not been privy to the decision may want explanations and details about what led to the decision, what efforts were made to avoid the decision, what the process looked like, etc. As hard as it is, it is important to recognize that the deliberations were done in private, as they involve personnel matters and personal information that will remain private.

This is where trust and confidence become important. We have solid, committed people on the Vestry, and we have an extremely capable Bishop, who is particularly close with Fr. Jeff. There were tears amongst all parties during the conversation between the Vestry and the Bishop. This was not an easy decision to make. But, it became clear that, though there were no issues with morality or less than honorable intentions, the pastoral relationship had been broken for some time and was not a good ministry fit. It became clear that our identity, values and vision at Wellspring did not match up with Fr. Jeff’s.

My hope and prayer is that we will heal from this experience, that we will come together in unity, and that we will work toward discovering what our next steps will be at Wellspring. David Ruybalid will continue with us as our Worship Pastor. He will assist with sermons and will continue with his Ordination process in our diocese. Kristi Hansen will continue her work at the church. Fr. Tom Maggitti will assist with sermons and with celebrating communion when needed, and I may have other clergy visit with us from time to time. I plan to be with you most of the time. I’m returning from my path toward retirement to be together with you through this season, but at a slower pace for me personally.

We have lost members, our attendance has been down significantly, and our finances have been in trouble for some time now. My hope is that we can settle down, recover, and get back on track while continuing to move forward. We won’t be going backward. During this time the Vestry will revisit the process toward calling a new Rector (not a Vicar) to Wellspring and will develop a new plan. I also hope for an opportunity for reconciliation with Fr. Jeff and his family as they go through their own transition. We are brothers and sisters in Christ. That’s what we do. In the meantime, I think Paul’s words can help us to remain focused:

*“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.” (Philippians 4:6-8)*

**Fr. Michael**



## Out of the Mouths of Babes By [Linda Washington](#)

After watching ten-year-old Viola using a tree branch as a microphone to mimic a preacher, Michele decided to give Viola the opportunity to “preach” during a village outreach. Viola accepted. Michele, a missionary in South Sudan, wrote, “The crowd was enraptured. . . A little girl who had been abandoned stood in authority before them as a daughter of the King of kings, powerfully sharing the reality of God’s Kingdom. Half the crowd came forward to receive Jesus” (Michele Perry, *Love Has a Face*).

The crowd that day hadn’t expected to hear a child preach. This incident brings to mind the phrase “out of the mouths of babes,” which comes from Psalm 8. David wrote, “Out of the mouth of babies and infants, you have established strength because of your foes” (v. 2 esv). Jesus later quoted this verse in Matthew 21:16, after the chief priests and scribes criticized the children calling out praise to Jesus in the temple at Jerusalem. The children were a nuisance to these leaders. By quoting this Scripture, Jesus showed that God took seriously the praise of these children. They did what the leaders were unwilling to do: give glory to the longed-for Messiah.

As Viola and the children in the temple showed, God can use even a child to bring Him glory. Out of their willing hearts came a fountain of praise.

*Out of the mouth of babies and infants, you have established strength because of your foes. Psalm 8:2 (ESV)*

*How can I offer praise to God today? Why is He worthy of my praise?*

Here is the link to the Sunday Morning Master Calendar . . .

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1XuDA90q25MvPOSPBZJ936wqFRm1eF5DCPX48hr0R1Vc/edit?usp=sharing>

## Please Pray

For the **Poth family**, especially little **Wyatt**, as he continues chemo treatments and the doctors determine if he will need bone marrow transplants.

For **Brig and Austyn Summers** as they mourn the loss of Lani Summers.

For **Alice Spears**, who became dehydrated but was given a clean bill of health after a visit to Doctor's Hospital at the end of our worship service last Sunday

For **Linda Kenyon**, who continues to heal from back troubles.

For **Bill Simms**, for continued healing, improved eyesight, and rest.

For **Teddy Ellison**, as she continues to work at her sister's home in Mariposa, pray for smooth transitions as she works to get the home ready to sell, for safety in traveling to and from Mariposa, and for strength!

For **Greta Simms**, for comfort, healing and strength.

For **Sally Kennedy**, for complete healing.

For travel mercies for **those traveling to the RFKC leadership conference** in Santa Ana this weekend.

For the students in the **InterVarsity group** David is gathering with, pray for a strong bond to be formed and for the college ministry leaders.

For God's direction to be revealed in our church and our lives.

For healing and relief for members of our church family including **Jeanne Adrian, Gayle Behrens, Steve Bonrepos, Debbie Bree, Donna Hoegh, Rebe Holmes, Jane Mills, Sandy Sanders, Jo Thornburg, Gary & Jackie Voss, Rebekah Wright and Mary Lou York.**

For other family members who are suffering from illness and stress of any kind, including **Becky Arellani, Krista Aylwin, Erica Aylwin, Bob, Carlyle, Ed Coleman, Elijah, Emily, Fr. Tom Foster, Kathy, Caroline Kramer, Steve John, Ryan Owens, Wyatt Poth and Tracy Poth.**

In thanksgiving for answered prayers of healing and strength for many of our Wellspring family members.

In thanksgiving for an abundance of rain in our region.

In thanksgiving for the opportunity **Jan and Judy** have had in teaching Crochet at the Gospel Mission, and in thanksgiving for the donated hooks!

*Please call the office and let the clergy know if you are having health challenges. For prayer chain requests, please contact Bev McKinney at 209.526.9007 or [bevmckinney@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bevmckinney@sbcglobal.net)*

## Scripture Readings

March 3<sup>rd</sup>

**Last Sunday after the Epiphany**

Exodus 34:29-35

Psalms 99

2 Corinthians 3:12—4:2

Luke 9:28-36

March 10<sup>th</sup>

**First Sunday in Lent**

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

Psalms 91:1-2, 9-16

Romans 10:8b-13

Luke 4:1-13

*All scripture readings are NIV  
We use the Revised Common Lectionary.*

## The Collect for the Last Sunday after the Epiphany

O God, who before the passion of your only - begotten Son revealed his glory upon the holy mountain: Grant to us that we, beholding by faith the light of his countenance, may be strengthened to bear our cross, and be changed into his likeness from glory to glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

## Ash Wednesday Readings

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

Psalm 103:8-14

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

### The Collect for Ash Wednesday...

Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing you have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen

# The Wellspring Family Calendar

## March

- 5 Shrove Tuesday pancake dinner, 5:30pm to 7pm
- 6 Ash Wednesday services, **noon** and 7pm
- 7 New Wellspring U class, "When God's People Pray", 6:15pm
- 10 Wellspring serves at the Salvation Army
- 30 Helping Hands meets at Wellspring, 1-3pm

## April

- 6 Royal Family Kid's Camp new staff training, 8:30am-12:30pm
- 13 Love Modesto
- 14 Wellspring serves at the Salvation Army
- 18 Maundy Thursday service, 7pm
- 19 Good Friday services, **noon** and 7pm
- 21 Easter Sunday
- 25 Night of Prayer and Worship, 6:15pm
- 28 New Wellspring U class, Psalms of Life, begins in the Adult Ed classroom

## May

- 2 New Wellspring U class, "This Cultural Moment", begins at 6:15pm in the youth room
- 4 Royal Family Kid's Camp all staff training, 9am-3pm
- 19 Wellspring serves at the Salvation Army
- 25 Helping Hands meets at Wellspring, 1-3pm

## June

- 6 Night of Prayer and Worship, 6:15pm
- 9 **Pentecost Sunday**
- 9-14 Royal Family Kid's Camp!

*Ongoing: Monday evenings at Wellspring, Women's Bible Study Fellowship, Tuesday morning – Men's Bible study at 7 a.m., Tuesday evening – Boy Scouts*

*Friday mornings– Wellspring Men's Group, 6:30 a.m. at Perko's, Oakdale Road and Sylvan Avenue.*

*Send calendar items to [wellspringmodesto@gmail.com](mailto:wellspringmodesto@gmail.com) or drop a note in the office.*