

***From My Heart to Yours....***

At a time of year when nature can be at its least appealing, when we're tired of being inside and when taxes and TV reruns seem to rule the day, we are given a great gift by our church: the season of Lent!

You might be surprised to know that the word "Lent" actually means "spring." In northern climates Lent usually begins at a time when the land is cold and barren. By Easter, six weeks later, the snow has melted and flowers are in bloom. What a beautiful image of our own life of faith! The readings, prayers and practices of Lent can help refresh and renew our faith as we prepare for the glory of Easter.

Lent is a time when we simplify, focus and figure out where we need to make changes in our life so that we can grow in our relationship with God and with each other. Lent is a time when we think about how we are doing as followers of Jesus. Lent is a time when the traditional lenten practices of prayer, fasting and good works help us get back to the basics in our life of faith.

Some years we may ignore Lent. Sometimes we see it as an inconvenience and nothing more. Some years we may join in the extra prayers, fasting and works of charity without feeling much. But then there are those times when we find ourselves entering fully into the spirit and meaning of Lent, using the season to explore and clarify what we believe. When we "make a good Lent," we find that what follows is an intense experience of Holy Week and Easter and we are fully alive to the joys of the entire Easter season.

During this beautiful season we live day by day in the glory of Jesus' teaching and miracles, his final trip to Jerusalem, his passion and death, resurrection and encounters with Jesus after Easter. In the power of these experiences, we renew our resolve to be people Jesus wants us to be.

So, here we go! There are many opportunities for us to "make a good Lent this year. Lets gather in His name and take this journey together.

***Pastor Terry***

Wednesday the 18<sup>th</sup>, 6:30

Mardi Gras & Ash Wednesday Worship

Wednesday morning Bible Study

& Soup Lunch 11:00

Walking through Lent in the Gospel of Mark

Worship

Parables