

FROM BEHIND THE PULPIT by Rev. John Collins

This past Sunday, we used not one, not two, not three, but four scripture readings in worship (the fourth was from Psalm 50 and was used as a call to worship). Why four readings? That's a question I'll now attempt to answer. All four of the readings came from what is known as the Revised Common Lectionary. The lectionary is an ancient tradition by which the church attempts to cycle through the breadth (and to a lesser extent) the depth of the entire Bible every three years. In the words of The United Methodist Book of Worship, the lectionary:

provides a systematic approach to the use of Scripture in worship.... [it] follows the outline of the Christian year. In it the Church celebrates the central mystery of our faith: the life, death, and resurrection of Christ Jesus.

In all honesty, the above response answers only why we used the four scripture readings we did, not why we use four scripture readings. I could give you a long rambling explanation, but for a more concise summary, I'm going to reference Anglican Bishop and New Testament scholar, N. T. Wright. In the book *Simply Christian*, Wright states that "telling the story, rehearsing the mighty acts of God: this is near the heart of Christian worship." The reading of scripture is near to the heart of Christian worship because the Bible is the account of God's mighty acts of creation, redemption, and final consummation. Wright continues:

... reading the Bible aloud is always central to Christian worship. Cutting back on this for whatever reason—trimming readings so the service doesn't go on too long, chanting scripture passages so that they become merely part of a musical performance, or reading only the few verses the preacher intends to preach about—misses the point. The reason we read scripture in worship isn't primarily to inform or remind the congregation about some biblical passage or theme they might have forgotten. Likewise, it's much more than a peg to hang a sermon on, though preaching from one or more of the readings is often a wise plan. Reading scripture in worship is, first and foremost, the central way of celebrating who God is and what he's done.

Now I'll admit that we don't always have four readings, sometimes we have only three or very rarely, only two, but I still believe we're practicing what Wright preaches, namely reading scripture, significant chunks of scripture, as "the central way of celebrating who God is and what he's done." Earlier in the same chapter, Wright asserts that worship is the natural reaction to a glimpse of "the reality of God." The great thing about the reading of scripture (and other aspects of worship, and indeed worship itself, taken as a whole) is that it is not only a natural way to respond to catching a glimpse of God, it is a way, a means of grace, by which we put ourselves in a place where we are more likely to catch another glimpse.

OUR GIVING

JANUARY 25, 2009

General Operating Fund	\$4,078.50
Board of Trustees	28.00
Sunday School Offering	23.50
Bridges to the Future	404.00
Scholarship Fund	1,000.00
Emergency Assist. Fund	2.00
Chair Lift for Sanctuary	75.00

FEBRUARY 1, 2009

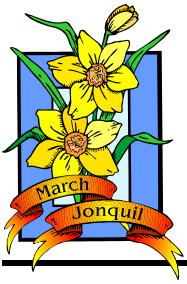
General Operating Fund	\$4,960.00
Board of Trustees	82.00
Sunday School Offering	29.36
Bridges to the Future	10.00
Emergency Assist. Fund	2.00
Human Relations Day	20.00
Youthville	2.00

FEBRUARY 8, 2009

General Operating Fund	\$3,381.00
Board of Trustees	237.00
Sunday School Offering	29.36
Emergency Assist. Fund	2.00
Bridges to the Fund	28.00
Genesis, Inc.	20.00
Christmas Offering	25.00
Chair Lift Fund	46.00
Youth Fund	4.50
Youthville	1.00

FEBRUARY 15, 2009

General Operating Fund	\$1,631.00
Board of Trustees	20.00
Sunday School Offering	31.80
Emergency Assist. Fund	2.00
Genesis	25.00
Youthville	1.00



March Birthday Calendar



Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

1	2 Ralph Alter	3	4 Donna Johnson	5	6	7 
8 	9	10	11	12 Jim Beiter	13 Milford Unruh Milton Unruh	14 Barbara Heasty
15	16	17 Frank Peterman Howard Van Tieghem	18 Steve Eck	19	20	21 Virginia Jones
22	23 Wayne Gaut	24	25 Doug Misch	26	27 Norma Gaut	28
29 Cindy Baldwin	30 Jody Hamby Mary Roberts	31 Dick Conklin				

March 2009

Church Activities



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 8:10 Worship 9:30 S.School & Coffee Time 10:50 Worship 4:00 Nurture Committee 5:00 Youth	2 7:15 Men's Prayer Bkfst	3 Noon Al-Anon	4 Lenten Lunch 1:00 UMW Exec. Board 1:30 UMW Unit 5:15 Trustees 6:00 Choir 7:15 Taize	5	6	7
8 Daylight Savings Time 8:10 Worship 9:30 S.School & Coffee Time 10:50 Worship 5:00 Youth	9 7:15 Men's Prayer Bkfst 9:00 Sal Army Volunteers	10 Noon Al-Anon	11 Lenten Lunch 5:15 Vision Team 6:00 Choir	12	13	14
15 8:10 Worship 9:30 S.School & Coffee Time 10:50 Worship 2:30 Asbury Service 4:00 VeggieTales	16 7:15 Men's Prayer Bkfst	17 St. Patrick's Day Noon Al-Anon	18 Lenten Lunch 1:30 Circle 1 6:00 Choir	19 6:00 Circle 2	20	21
22 One Great Hour of Sharing 8:10 Worship 9:30 S.School & Coffee Time 10:50 Worship 5:00 Youth	23 7:15 Men's Prayer Bkfst 6:30 New Coffeyville Meeting	24 Noon Al-Anon	25 Lenten Lunch 5:15 Vision Team 6:00 Choir	26	27	28
29 8:10 Worship 9:30 S.School & Coffee Time 10:50 Worship 5:00 Youth	30 7:15 Men's Prayer Bkfst	31 Noon Al-Anon				

THANK YOU SO MUCH

Dear First United Methodist Church,

Thank you Pastor John for all your visits and prayers during our difficult time with Mother, Grandma, Great Grandma & Great Great Grandma, Vera Peace. Also, thank you to all the ladies for the wonderful luncheon they provided after the funeral. You all are very appreciated.

The Family of Vera Peace

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING (email from Tracy Wood, United Methodist Communications)

Did you know that by observing One Great Hour of Sharing, you help the United Methodist Committee on Relief keep its promise that 100% of all designated gifts go to specific causes?

Your One Great Hour of Sharing gifts are imperative for UMCOR's important work to continue. Working in more than 80 countries, including the United States, UMCOR continues to be there and be hope for millions of people, often the poorest in society, who suffer as a result of natural catastrophes, conflicts or wars. UMCOR responds to natural and civil disasters so massive that they overwhelm a community's ability to recover on its own. UMCOR partners with local organizations and survivors.

For more information about One Great Hour of Sharing, please visit www.umcsgiving.org. For more information about UMCOR, please visit www.umcor.org.

FROM THE PASTOR'S BLOG: COMMUNION BY INTINCTION (February 21, 2009)

For what I think has been about a year we've been serving communion by both intinction (taking the bread and dipping it in large cup) and in little cups. Last time everyone present in both services opted to receive communion by intinction (except for Henry Millen, the organist, who had it taken to him in little cups). For this reason we're going to begin offering only intinction. If you would like the little cups to again be made available please let us know, they can be brought back

From the Pastor's Blog: New Nursery Attendant

We're very happy to welcome Mary Conn to the staff of Coffeyville First as the new nursery attendant. Mary will be providing childcare in the nursery from 9:30 to 12:00 on Sunday mornings.

VBS IS COMING!

It is time to start planning for Vacation Bible School for the Summer of 2009 and we need your help. Every year we need people who are willing to help with the different parts of VBS: Decorating, Story Time, Snacks, Recreation, Discovery Time, Assembly Time, Music, Crafts and Publicity. We also need volunteers to bring items for us to borrow during VBS to decorate the church. This year's theme is "Camp E.D.G.E.: Exploring and Discovering God Everywhere". So, this year we are looking for items to borrow to create a camping environment, such as: green artificial Christmas trees (without the lights), tents, sleeping bags, backpacks, canteens or water bottles, camping equipment, camp chairs, etc. Whether or not you have helped out with VBS before, if you are willing and able to help this year in whatever way, please let Pastor Jenny know at johnandjenny@revcollins.com, or at (620) 251-3240. Thanks in advance for your support of this fun summer adventure! More details to come soon.

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LENTEN LUNCHESES

Community Lenten Luncheons sponsored by the Coffeyville Ministerial Alliance will begin on March 4, 2009. Food Service will begin at 11:30 am and a short devotional service will follow. Schedules for preaching and food service appear below. The First Baptist Church at 9th and Elm will be hosting this year.

Preaching:

Ben Nguyen — March 4, 2009

Gary Stevens — March 11, 2009

Diane Massey — March 18, 2009

Nathan Smith — March 25, 2009

Steve Griffith — April 1, 2009

Lunches prepared by:

Grace Fellowship — March 4, 2009

First Baptist — March 11, 2009

First Presbyterian — March 18, 2009

First Christian — March 25, 2009

FROM THE PASTOR'S BLOG: UMW SUNDAY

UMW Sunday has been scheduled for March 8, 2009. This is the Sunday that the United Methodist Women lead worship.

From the Pastor's Blog: Apportionments Paid

We received a thank you certificate from the Annual Conference for paying 100% of our apportionments in 2008. At the conference Council on Finance and Administration I was able to see some figures that showed that Coffeyville First has been paying apportionments at 100% since 1993 (a total of sixteen straight years).

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME:

Don't forget to "spring forward" all your clocks before you go to bed. At 2:00 am on March 8, 2009 the clocks will "spring forward" one hour. You will be an hour behind on Sunday if you forget.