

THE MESSENGER

MARCH - APRIL
2011



RECTOR'S CORNER

There is a time for every season. And, certainly as we approach spring, as well as the beginning of the Lenten and Easter season, which culminates in Pentecost, we here at Transfiguration are into one of these seasons of transition and change.

Unfortunately, because of the financial condition of the church, the vestry has determined that it is in the best interest of the church to eliminate the position of church secretary. This will happen on April 1. It is with deep regret that I mention this necessary, difficult decision since Dolores Drasser has been such a wonderful part of our ministry now for over ten years. Her pleasant voice and kind words, as well as her conscientious, professional work, will be sorely missed.

And so I give thanks for the blessings that she has gifted us with during these ten years of service to us here at Transfiguration. If you get a chance during this coming month, please let her know how much you appreciated all she did for us, and how much she will be missed. Dolores, may you journey into the next phase of your life knowing that our gratitude and that our prayers go with you as you find new ways to bless others with your kindness and love.

Namaste,
Mickey

Condolences:

J. Michael at the death of his brother, Jack Michael
The Clarkson Family at the death of Jim Clarkson

JUNIOR WARDEN

2011 work efforts are now underway

RECTORY

Rectory fix progress is good. All painting is complete. All vendor related items inside are complete. Floors were refinished and look much better. Shortly around March 10th, will need some church volunteers to clean windows and floors as the last remaining items. The renters anticipate moving in a little early (March 20th) and will sign the lease shortly.

The vestry has approved the installation of an iron filter for our well, which should eliminate the excessively heavy iron concentration in the water for the church and the rectory. A much-needed item for both buildings.

OTHER

- * The new sinkhole in the parking lot has been fixed. The final patch on top of the sinkhole still remains to be added.
- * Soft pads have been added to all parish hall chair leg bottoms.
- * * Microphone functionality for the speaker lectern is working.



DAY TRIPS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

We are very fortunate to have a number of very special places we can visit for Day Trips:

Billy Graham Library in Charlotte: Offers inspiring exhibits, films, and memorabilia retracing Billy Graham's journey from a North Carolina dairy farmer to stadiums and arenas all over the world.

Bob Jones Religious Art Center in Greenville: Recognized as one of America's finest collections and paintings, with Sacred Art from the 1800's.

Waldensian History Museum in Valdese: Dedicated to preserving the rich heritage and culture of the Waldensian settlers. Displays include photographs, clothing, crafts, home furnishings, church furnishings, and much, much more.

We could also look into having special speakers visit our church and/or special music events.

Anyone interested in any of these ideas, please contact Carl Nelson at either his home or via e-mail.

Phone: 625-1065

E-Mail: csnelson38@bellsouth.net



TCW NEWS

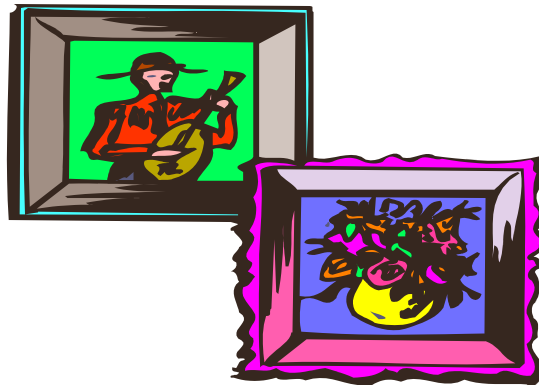
The first meeting of our TCW for 2011 was Tuesday, February 8th. We have re-elected the same officers for this year: President, JoAnne Ellingson; Secretary, Linda White; Treasurer, Susan Brooks. We are looking forward to a great year of service to our church and our community and our own spiritual nourishment. Every woman in the church is a member and we encourage you to attend our functions and meetings. The 2nd Tuesday of each month at 12:30 pm with a bag lunch and meeting starting at 1:00 pm was chosen as our meeting time in the Parish Hall.

Our first event, held after service on February 27th, was a baked potato bar with all the trimmings for \$5.00 to raise money to maintain our Spiritual Garden. I hope you were able to attend and enjoyed this very special lunch.

We invite you to join us for a trip to Bob Jones University in Greenville for a special tour of their wonderful Museum & Art Gallery. They have one of America's finest collections of Italian paintings and other religious art collections. We are meeting at Ingles parking lot at 10:45 am on Thursday March 10th, carpooling to Greenville for lunch and then tour the Museum and Art Gallery. The Lake Lure Artist group is also coming with us. Please let Veryle Lynn Cox know if you are interested so we do not leave anyone behind. This will be a wonderful inspirational time with each other so please plan to attend.

Our next meeting is Tuesday, March 8th at 12:30 in the parish hall. See you then.

JoAnne Ellingson
President



EVANGELISM CORNER

If you have looked at the various bulletin boards in our parish hall recently, you may have noticed a colorful 8 1/2 x 11-poster advertising an "Ultreya" at St. James Episcopal Church in Hendersonville at 2:00 PM, Sunday afternoon, March 20th.

So, what is an Ultreya? Ultreya is one of many Spanish sounding terms or expressions that are used in connection with "Cursillo." So, what is Cursillo? Cursillo is one of several renewal ministries within the Episcopal Church. The term is short for "Cursillo de Christianidad," which means "a Short Course in Christianity." A Cursillo weekend has been described as "interactive, lively, and educational." When I "made my Cursillo," I had a very deep spiritual experience – in addition to having a lot of fun. At present, the weekends are being held at a retreat center called Christmont near Interstate 40 and SR 9. Those attending a weekend are referred to in this diocese as "Pilgrims." Each is sponsored by someone (usually from their home parish), who provides the transportation to and from the weekend location. In this diocese, the weekends are co-ed. In other words, husbands and wives may attend at the same time. There is an excellent information sheet from WNC Cursillo entitled "Everything you always wanted to know about Cursillo but had no clue what to ask." We have several copies in the parish hall. Just ask Mickey, Veryl Lynn Cox, Mary Karr, JoAnne Ellingson, and "J" Michael, Jack Stanier or me.

There is a follow-up program to a Cursillo Weekend, which includes the Ultreya. The word actually means "onward" or "forward." This was meant to be a term of encouragement to help one another persevere during their journey to Santiago de Compostela, the Tomb of St. James the Apostle, at the top of a mountain in Spain. For us, the purpose is to help one another persevere during our Christian journey. An Ultreya is a deanery get-together held at various churches and *everybody is welcome*. A person who has never been to Cursillo can get a small taste of what goes on during a weekend. There is a lot of singing, a lay speaker followed by a clergy response, small groups and a potluck supper or some other form of fellowship after the program. If you are interested in attending the Ultreya at St. James in Hendersonville or want more information, you can contact any of the persons mentioned above.

As it happens, I have been asked to represent this Deanery on the Secretariat, the group responsible for overseeing Cursillo activities in this diocese. My particular responsibility is what we call post-Cursillo activities, which includes Ultreyas among others. If you have any questions about Cursillo or other renewal ministries, I hope that you will contact me or any of those mentioned above.

Your Brother in Christ
Curt Ellingson



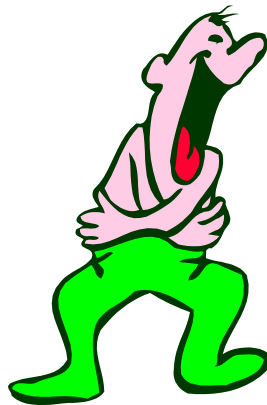
ON THE LIGHTER SIDE WITH CARL NELSON

A new priest was nervous about hearing confessions, so he asked the older priest to sit in on his sessions. The new priest hears a couple confessions. Then the old priest asked him to step out of the confessional for a few suggestions.

The old priest suggests, “cross your arms over your chest and rub your chin with one hand.” The young priest tries this.

The old priest suggests, “Try saying things like, “I see, yes, go on, and I understand. How do you feel about that”? The new priest says these things.

The old priest says, “Now, don’t you think that’s a little better than slapping your knee and saying “hot damn – no way”! “What happened next”?”



**GORGE-AREA FREE COMMUNITY DINNER
EVERY SUNDAY**

Please spread the word about the Gorge-area community dinner.
We encourage you to come and share a great meal and casual
get together with others.

IT'S FREE, CASUAL, TASTY AND EVERYONE IS WELCOME

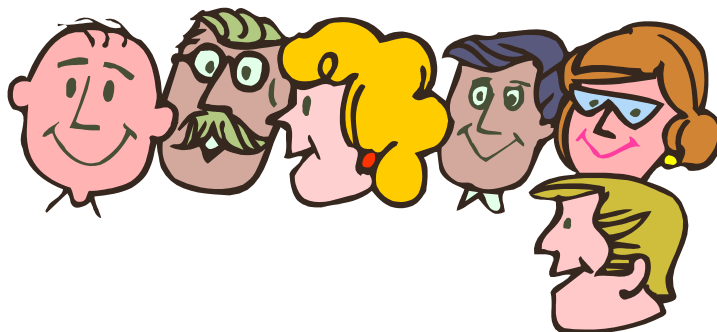
WHERE: Church of the Transfiguration
Saylor Lane @ Hwy 64/74, Bat Cave

WHEN: Sundays form 4:00 PM until 5:30 PM

MENU CHANGES WEEKLY

**NO COST
NO DRESS CODE
NO RESERVATIONS
NO CHURCH SERVICE**

Also, if you know someone that could use a good hot Sunday dinner, please
ask them to attend==or just come eat with us yourself, and then carry out
a "go box" dinner to them.



One Communion Morning

The kneeler has been lifted, the ushers quietly signal and the line begins to form, sullen blank faces in a growing formation. What must they be thinking, Lore? What are they expecting of you?

Luke's Gospel assures us that any time believers gather at the table in your name, you will be there. How this happens baffles us. Some believe something mystical will occur when the consecrated bread and wine enter us. Others expect you to be pleased that we have remembered again your passion on the cross. But, is this meeting even necessary? We have the cross and your promise to be there when two or more gather. Is this not sufficient to convince all of your presence, or is there more to know? What have I missed?

The procession has left me a place, Lord, and my turn has come. As if choreographed, we came forward. Kneeling at the rail now, the familiar words of the celebrant becomes more distinct as the chalice grows closer. Dutiful and expressionless are the faces that surround me. Before the host is offered, Lord, would I dishonor you if I admitted a weakness of my worship? I'm not sure what is happening to both of us and because I live in awe of you, it embarrasses me.

Jointly, our congregation has affirmed the Apostle's Creed, prayed a prayer of confession and repentance, and followed a traditional step-by-step plan, which has brought us to this crescendo of public worship, but I am yet unsure.

Lore, might you be open to an agreement? Could we dismiss the doctrines and dogmas and together, just you and I, decide upon a meaning for this meeting at the rail? As I understand it, this is a time of renewal where I can willfully discard my will and my agendas and conduct myself as a soul with a body (not a body with a soul) and offer this soul as a companion to your in oneness. A chance to touch heaven itself!

Your part is already done, Lord. Your love and quest for our redemption is well known. That is why we have football games, Father, so that an angel can sit in the end zone and hold us a John 3:16 placard. The cross is your assurance; I'm still a work in progress.

Can we agree that your kingdom is only a series of touches away and the water in my hand means one less touch to make? Can we agree that this meeting will bring us closer to atonement? I want our meeting to be all you intended and I am willing to believe what you lead me to believe.

Feeling more at peace now, I give you thanks and praise.

The bread and wine are mine, dear Lord, and I see the need. Let's keep agreeing on things.

Anonymous

UPCOMING EVENTS

ROUTINE SCHEDULE

- Sundays:** Eucharist 8:00 AM and 10:00 AM
Community Dinners – 4:00 PM
- Tuesdays:** March 8 and April 12
TCW – Bring-A-Lunch – 12:30 PM
TCW Meeting – 1:00 PM
March 10 –TCW Road Trip
- Wednesdays:** 10:00 AM Healing Service with Eucharist
11:00 AM Bible Study
- Thursdays:** March 10 and April 12
Vestry Meeting – 4:00 PM
- Saturdays:** March 19 and April 16
Church Breakfasts – 8:00 AM

EVENTS DURING LENT

- Sundays:** March and April
INQUIRER'S CLASSES 9:00 AM
(No Bible Study)
- April 17 – PALM SUNDAY 8:00 AM and 10:00 AM
(No Community Dinner)
April 24 – EASTER SUNDAY 8:00 am AND 10:00AM
EASTER EGG HUNT DURING COFFEE HOUR
(No Community Dinner)
- Wednesdays:** March 9 – ASH WEDNESDAY
Services at 10:00 AM and 6:00 PM
- March 16, 23, and 30
April 6, 13, and 20
SOUP AND SANDWICHES – 6:00 PM
- Thursdays:** April 21 – MAUNDAY THURSDAY - 7:00 PM
- Fridays:** April 22 - GOOD FRIDAY – Noon

ALL HOLY WEEK SERVICES WILL BE POSTED IN THE SUNDAY BULLETIN

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

06 Lori Loftus
08 Dave Woodcock
17 Ellie Osborn
18 Carol Michael
18 Berkeley Young
19 Jerry McAninch
20 Julia Taylor
31 Hope Wittmer

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

01 ZT and Jennifer Whiteside

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

10 Cory Williams
11 Proc Proctor
22 Mike Maziarka
27 Sara Gray
29 Don Hinton
29 RoseAnn Douglas

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

15 Marshall and Susan Brooks
25 Curt and JoAnne Ellingson



Church of the Transfiguration
P.O. Box 130
Bat Cave, NC 28710
(828) 625-9244