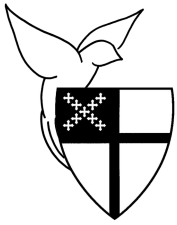




# The Preparer

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February 2012



## *Lenten Season at St. John's*

### *Shrove Tuesday*

February 21, 2012

Pancake Supper

5:30-7:00 pm

### *Ash Wednesday*

February 22, 2012

10:00 A.M. - Holy Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes

6:30 P.M. - Holy Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes



*Ash Wednesday marks the first day, or the start of the season of Lent,  
which begins 40 days prior to Easter  
(Sundays are not included in the count).*

### *Stations of the Cross*

6:30 pm Friday evenings

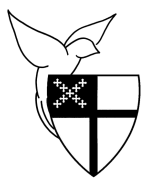
Soup/Bread Dinner

followed by

Lenten Study



*Join us during Lent as we soul-search, repent, reflect and take stock in preparation for Easter.*



## WELCOMING AND INVITING TO ALL

Mahatma Gandhi is considered the father of modern India. He is historically revered for his doctrine of nonviolence to achieve political and social progress. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. studied Gandhi's philosophy and tactics, and successfully applied them to a Christian model in our country.

I always thought of Gandhi as a devout Hindu – never picturing him in the Christian context. But, I recently came across an excerpt from Gandhi's autobiography in which he related a time when he was interested in our Bible. Deeply touched by the Gospels, he seriously considered becoming a Christian. He felt Christianity offered a real solution to the caste system that divided the people of India. So, one Sunday, Gandhi went to a nearby church to attend services. He wanted to see the minister in order to ask for instruction in the way of salvation, as well as other doctrines. When he entered the sanctuary, the ushers decided he was "not one of them" and was only there "to cause trouble" during "their worship". They suggested that he go and worship with his "own people". Gandhi left and never came back.

Jesus is the Savior for all people. His love really is "one size fits all". But, even today, some churches and church folk don't think so. Many of the un-churched are fond of saying that "Jesus is only for those with money, or of a certain class, race or country". But Jesus rejects such labeling. When Christ walked the earth, He did not avoid the leper, the lost, the wretchedly poor, or the lonely. He did not ignore the sad, the sorrowful, or the sinner. He did not disregard the depressed, the despondent, or the discouraged. He did not turn away those deemed "different". As His disciples we, too, must reject any actions that have the effect of disinviting anyone from joining in the building of His kingdom.

Thankfully, the believers here at St. John the Baptist understand and take to heart Christ's command to welcome everyone and make believers of "all nations". This church community is a model for being a welcoming, affirming, embracing house of worship for all. And we must continue to do so and share the Savior with those who come to our doors, whether they come as already believers, inquirers, or those who are outside the faith looking in.

We must encourage each other to invite folks to "come and see" about a Savior who has come for them, and a church community that makes all feel like family. In that regard, I am hoping to soon announce the formation of an Outreach/Evangelism ministry of St. John the Baptist – one that enhances and grows our opportunities for Christian service in the community, and seeks ways to spread the Gospel message while engaging in that service. When it is announced, please pray and contemplate your role in taking the spirit and Christian

love of this great church out to our neighbors, so that they, too, may know and love Christ as do we.

"Then Peter began to speak : 'I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism but accepts men from every nation who fear Him and do what is right'" (Acts 10 : 34-35) Fellow members of Christ's community,

Your brother in Christ,

*Bruce A. Jackson*

## from our Youth Group!

**February 5th- \*\*\*\* TIME**



**CHANGE!!!!\*\*\*\***

Meet at church at 8 am for subs and Superbowl Sunday! Youth group will then have lunch after the 10:00

service and will do some super planning for our upcoming mission trip. We will be done by 1:30 so you can go home to your own Super Bowl Parties!!

**February 13th-** We are meeting at normal time 4 pm and looking at God and Love/Sadie Hawkins dance/party

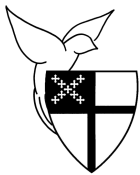
**February 19th-** MILC at 4 taking a look at Mardi Gras

**February 24-25th 30-hour famine!** We will meet at church at 6 pm Friday and will be fasting with kids all across the country. This is a challenging and spiritually deepening experience for most and I hope everyone participates.

**February 26th-** NO YOUTH GROUP due to the FAMINE!!!

If you have any questions, want to help or express concerns please email Lynne at [lynne@stjohnsaz.org](mailto:lynne@stjohnsaz.org) or call at 602-400-6770.





Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Sitting down on January 8 to write this, it comes as a bit of a reality check to realize that the topic for the February newsletter is Lent! We've only barely completed our celebration of Christmas, and the Annual Meeting lies just ahead.

But, there are still six weeks to go. By the time you receive this newsletter, there will still be about four weeks. Thankfully, we have time to prepare for a good observance of Lent and our preparation for Easter.

Lent is a time for spiritual renewal and exercise. In order for it to be of value, it does have to be intentional. Most of us find our daily lives so busy that we find little time for spiritual exercise and renewal. We do have families, jobs and other expectations. If we want to make any time in our busy lives, we have to plan for it.

Lent does not have to be complicated or all consuming. It does invite us to step back and evaluate. It can be taking part in one of the Lenten offerings of St. John's. It can be serving others through some of our outreach projects. It can be setting aside some time for meditation, or a special person in our lives. It can be giving up so that we can give to others.

Most endeavors that we undertake involve assessment of where we are and where we want to be. That is goal setting. Lent is a time to live simply, and assess our relationship with God. Our relationship with God is lived out in our relationships with other people. Assessing our relationships involves making course corrections, when necessary. We give it a theological name: self-examination and repentance.

Through St. John's, we provide some resources for your spiritual journey through Word and Sacrament. Those resources include the regular offerings of the Holy Eucharist on Sundays and Wednesdays, the regular study groups, opportunities to serve, and the special Friday Lenten programs. They are there as resources for your spiritual journey.

On Ash Wednesday we will be invited to join in the observance of a Holy Lent. Will you be prepared to start the journey?

Faithfully yours in Christ,

*Frank H. Clark*

## February Birthdays



- 2 Audrie Baker
- 3 Sally Kerr
- 7 Delores Burnham
- 8 Robin Butler, Michael Diaz, Carley Dugan
- 9 Tyler Baldwin, Jodi Whitelaw
- 10 Peggy Diaz, Linda Johnstone, Derek Romero
- 11 Rebecca Grieco, Gayle Whitesell
- 12 Penny Free, Gabriel Tudor
- 13 Martha Bisaner, Mick Hand
- 14 Diane Held
- 15 Roland Wood
- 17 Eleanor Goodrich
- 18 Sonja Peterson, Audrey Read
- 19 Joan Adair
- 21 Melissa Long
- 22 Sandra Kmetty
- 25 Dale Hartley
- 27 Frederick Cochran
- 28 Sebastian Gunder-Heier

## February Anniversaries

- 6 Willie & Dee Quinn
- 12 Bob & Diane Held



## **You got to love Superbowl SUBS!!!**



Back by popular request! We will be making Sub sandwiches during each of the services on Superbowl Sunday February 5, 2011 and we will be taking orders all throughout January. The money raised will help pay for our mission trip to Denver this July. We are asking for a suggested donation of \$3.50 per sub and 2/\$6. The more the merrier! We will be taking orders at the annual meeting and between services from now until February 4.

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## President's Day-February 20, 2012

President's Day is a day set aside to honor all of the U.S. presidents. We often think of two great presidents George Washington and Abraham Lincoln when we celebrate this holiday as it falls by design between their birthdays. But more and more of us, look at this day as a tribute to each and every person who has ever served in the office as President of the United States of America.



## News from the Food Pantry



Here is the year end report from the Food Pantry; and I am forever grateful and appreciative of everything the Red Hats and congregation contribute to keep the pantry up and running; this includes food, monetary donations and passing along the coupons you don't use.

Without all of this help, the ministry wouldn't exist.

The final tally for this past year (2011) was 553 people that we were able to assist with food. In addition, we provided 13 families with complete Thanksgiving food boxes and also provided 4 additional turkeys for people seeking food. This figure may seem low compared to past years, but keep in mind the pantry hours have been shortened due to office staffing. The office policy is never to give out food if you are alone.

The Red Hats continue to designate the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month as their food donation day; this continues to be a huge blessing to the pantry.

I'm not sure what the coming year will have in store for us, but I am sure that with your continued help, we will never have to turn anyone away. Thank you all for your continued and generous support.

God's Blessings,  
*Jeanne Waterman*

## St. John's Red Hatters



### **PLANNING SESSION**

Saturday--February 4<sup>th</sup>  
1:00 p.m.

Cathie Kieborz's home

38120 N. 21st. Ave., Phoenix, AZ...

Phone #602-478-5205

You are invited to put on your "thinking cap" filled with fun ideas for our group to put on the 2012 calendar. Please bring a snack to share. Beverages will be provided.

We will meet at the church 12:00 p.m. and carpool from there to Cathie's.

Plan to join us and let our New Queen Mum, Gloria Johnson, know if you will be joining us. 623-561-1865.

## MILITARY PERSONNEL



1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Claudia Alday; PFC Charles Barker, Sgt. Lisa Beckett, Cpt. John M. Bergener; Cpl. Jeffrey Bolland, Paul Brezinski, Lt. Col. Stephen Brown, SSgt. John Burgess, Cpt. Michael Cantu; Lt. Kim Caudle; SPC. Adam Chase, Sgt. Sean Cook, SPC Andrew C. Diaz, A1C Mary Ellen Ellis; Sgt. Daniel Franklin, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Nathan Franklin, LCPL Ryan Gardner; PFC Christopher Gates; MA1 Bernadette M. Gaul, Dr. Tim Goodrich, Cpl. Michael Jacobs, Lt. Katie Kelly; Matthew Lees; Brian Long; LCPL Michael Matter; PFC James McElligott; SPC Brett McGillen, Lt. Col. Laurence W.G. McSheffrey, Lt. Col. Marion Moxley, Lt. Col. William Moxley, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Evan Munson, Maj. Kim Nail, SSgt. Benjamin Nelson, LCpl. Nicholas Drew Michael Nobel; Brian Ragsdale, Chris Ragsdale, Nicholas Ragsdale, Maj. Steven Santamaria, PFC Michael Shoemaker; PFC Bradley Spencer; Sgt. Tim Stoner, Sgt. Jon Michael Stresing, P3 D. J. Tussing, Christopher VanSteeter; Lt. Kristin Whitehouse; SPC Adam Wood; Josh.



## God's Valentine Gift

God's Valentine gift of love to us  
Was not a bunch of flowers;  
It wasn't candy, or a book  
To while away the hours.

His gift was to become a man,  
So He could freely give  
His sacrificial love for us,  
So you and I could live.

He gave us sweet salvation, and  
Instruction, good and true--  
To love our friends and enemies  
And love our Savior, too.

So as we give our Valentines,  
Let's thank our Lord and King;  
The reason we have love to give  
Is that He gave everything.

*By Joanna Fuchs*

**Newsletter articles for the March issue of The Preparer  
must be submitted no later than 12 Noon Sunday, February 11th!**  
[newsletter@stjohnsaz.org](mailto:newsletter@stjohnsaz.org)



**Are you ready?**