

From the Pastor
February 2010

The season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on February 17th and continues through the forty days and seven Sundays from Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday. In our worship over the next several weeks, we will relive the ministry of Jesus Christ, his teaching and his revelation of the nature of the kingdom of God. This is a time of expectation and discovery during which we are called to prepare ourselves to experience once again the most profound act of Divine grace ever known: the resurrection of Jesus Christ on Easter morning, an act that defines God's promise of eternal life for all who live in faith through Christ. It is a time when the beliefs and traditions of the church are affirmed. It is a time when the essential elements of our discipleship are examined and commitments to that discipleship are renewed. It is a time when emphasis on self is replaced by awareness of Jesus Christ as we continue to transform self-centered attitudes into Christ-centered lives.

The apostle Paul prayed for the Ephesians that, *"Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have power to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God."* (Ephesians 3:17-19) During this season of Lent, let us see in ourselves the fulfillment of that prayer. Let us rekindle our yearning for a closer relationship with God. Let us marvel at the mystery of a Divine love in which even the sacrifice of an only Son was not too great a price to pay in order that we may be redeemed and reconciled children of God. Let us join together in worship and celebrate the grace of God by which we have been offered lives of hope and freedom in this world, and eternal life in God's kingdom.

Pastor Lynn