

From the Pastor  
February 2012

The season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on February 22<sup>nd</sup> and continues through the forty days and seven Sundays 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 discovery during which we are called to prepare ourselves to receive once again God's grace offered to us in the resurrection of Jesus Christ, an act that proclaims God's promise of eternal life for all who live through faith in Christ. It is a time when we examine the essential elements of our discipleship and renew our commitments to that discipleship. 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) As we prepare to enter the 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 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*