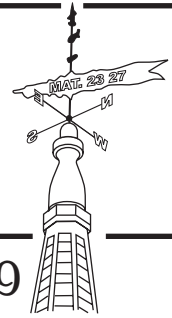


The Weathervane

RAYMOND VILLAGE COMMUNITY CHURCH, United Church of Christ Newsletter



February 2009

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I suspect that most of us adults dream of a white Christmas. Like children, we wish upon the evening star that the ground will be covered with snow on December 25th – and hardly dare to hope that we would be lucky enough to have soft and lacy perfect flakes gently falling from the sky on Christmas Day as well.

However, when Christmas is over, and we are catapulted into a new year, how our dreams and wishes quickly change! Where are those dreams we had such a short time ago, those visions of snowy rural scenarios? Where are those wishes for blankets of white as we face the specter of frigid

winter days, or when we are shoveling 16+ inches of the white stuff from our decks and walkways? Come January, the world seems cold and bleak, somehow empty and at loose ends, and many of us are already hoping for an early spring!

It is at this in-between time of year that I remember a children's picture book that was a Caldecott Honor book entitled The Happy Day by Ruth Krauss. In this rhythmic and lilting story with pencil sketch illustrations, we find that as the snow is falling, the animals of the forest awaken one by one: The dormice awaken. The squirrels awaken. The bears awaken. And when they awaken, they begin to sniff: The dormice sniff. The squirrels sniff. The bears sniff. And then they run: The dormice run. The squirrels run. The bears run. They all run to the same place, and then they laugh: The dormice laugh. The squirrels laugh. The bears laugh. They laugh and point and point and laugh. "What is it?" you the reader wonder. And then you find out: it is a flower blooming in the snow.

But it is really not just a flower. It is a symbol for us to grasp tightly and hold close to our hearts. It is a sign that out of the cold will come warmth. Out of the dark nights will come bright days. Out of winter will come spring.

And for those of us who trust in the eternal goodness of God, it is a reminder that out of despair will come hope, out of pain will come healing, out of aloneness will come community.

May each one of you find a flower in the snow!

The Weathervane is published monthly for distribution at the first of each month. Articles may be submitted as paper copy, electronically via disk or email by the 20th of each month preceding the issue for it to be included in. Computer files should be submitted as MSWord (.doc) or rich text format (.rtf) and clipart/photos as jpg or tif. Hand written articles may be submitted as well. If you have a computer/email question or problem contact John Hanley.

Articles can be dropped off at the church office, mailed or emailed to: Raymond Village Community Church, P.O. Box 285 (Main St.), Raymond, ME 04071 - office@rvccme.org or to John Hanley, 221 Valley Rd, Raymond, ME 04071 - weathervane@rvccme.org - Thank you for reading our newsletter!

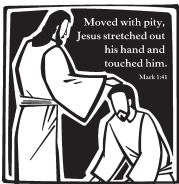
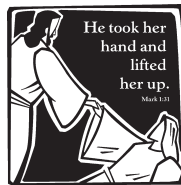
Lectionary Lessons for February

The lectionary lessons always consist of four specified Bible readings. There is an Old Testament (or Hebrew Bible) reading, a Psalm, a non-Gospel New Testament reading (such as part of a letter of Paul), and a Gospel reading. There is generally a pattern to the readings. That is, there may be readings over several weeks from the same letter or Biblical book. In addition, each year, one of the Synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark, or Luke) is the Gospel focused on for a full liturgical year, beginning in Advent. The lectionary is a three year cycle of readings.



February 1st – Fourth Sunday After Epiphany
Deuteronomy 18:15-20
Psalm 111
1 Corinthians 8:1-13
Mark 1:21-28

February 8th – Boy Scout Sunday and Annual Sweetheart Brunch
Isaiah 40:21-31
Psalm 147:1-11, 20
1 Corinthians 9:16-23
Mark 1:29-39



February 15th – Sixth Sunday After Epiphany
2 Kings 5:1-14
Psalm 30
1 Corinthians 9:24-27
Mark 1:40-45

February 22nd – Transfiguration Sunday
2 Kings 2:1-12
Psalm 50:1-6
2 Corinthians 4:3-6
Mark 9:2-9



Flower Donations

Thanks to Rosemary Tripp for coordinating the donation of poinsettias for our Poinsettia Tree this year. Our sanctuary looked so festive throughout Advent and Christmas because so many of you donated poinsettias!



Sweetheart Brunch on Sunday, February 8th

Our Sunday School and Youth Group invite you to stay after worship on February 8th for the annual Sweetheart Brunch. There will be the usual full breakfast fare prepared by the children and their teachers and leaders. Donations will be accepted and will go toward scholarships for children within RVCC or in the Town of Raymond to attend Christian summer camp. Please support this wonderful mission effort!



Faith in action

“Love Should Not Hurt”

The Casco Village Church is sponsoring a talk on domestic violence on Thursday, February 19th at 7:00 P.M. and has invited people from the PUP churches to attend. An Outreach Advocate for Family Crisis Services in Bridgton will be the presenter. Refreshments will follow.

PRAYER CONCERNS

Our prayers of concern go out to:

Those in our Church Family

Jane Jordan, Ginny Parker, Al and Charlotte Rowe.

In our Extended Family

Sue Barter, Howard Dodge, Annette Jordan, Doug Lambert, Paula Legg, Ken Pendleton, Ralph (Skip) Willis, and Jim Yeager.

In our Community

Carlene Banks, Carol Blake, Dora and Bobby Durgin, Betty, Charles and Marie Guerin, Frances and Hazel Hinds, Janet Landis, Lori Lockwood, Dana Reed, Lois Rich, Sandy Salmonson, Bill Shane, Connie Turner, all of our service men and women, and all others near and far who are sick or in need.



The Calendar Dinner will be here before you know it!

Come One! Come All!

Dinner out with entertainment and door prizes, great fun & fellowship!

Saturday, March 7, 2009 - 5:30PM for fellowship

6:00 PM Dinner served

Turkey Dinner with all the fixins

Meal prepared by **Linda Eldridge, Joan Morton & Caryl Gilman**

Entertainment by Local Talent - RVCC Spring Variety Show

Held at the Church Vestry - **ALL FOR ONLY \$11.00 ea**

Just contact a table hostess!

STILL TIME to sign up your act for the World-Famous **RVCC CALENDAR DINNER VARIETY SHOW, Saturday, March 7.**

Join "Brian and the Bad Boys", "The Sisterhood of the Traveling Hammer", a spectrum of musical performers, and at least one locally-famous (or infamous) Maine storyteller - make your contribution to an unforgettable evening of mirth, merriment, amazing music (and maybe even magic).

We still have spots open for your act. Acts should be from 3-5 minutes long.

Interested? ***Of course you are!***

Release your inner ham, if only for a few short moments!

Contact Variety Show Impresario **Joe Foran** (829-6351, jforan1@maine.rr.com), or talk to **Rev. Nancy.**

Remember: ***Attitude is everything!*** Talent is icing on the cake...

Seeking Calendar Dinner Table Hosts/Hostesses.

What are your duties? Being a host/hostess and decorating your table with a theme (your pick) and plates, silverware, cups, napkins.

Bring a dessert for your table and, if you wish, a snack to share before dinner. Then seek out people to attend and join you at your table and collect the money that day at the meal. It is easy and fun!

Please contact Caryl Gilman at 655-4114



To the Board,

I would like to thank you all for helping Cora and me to get a new furnace in our house. We are both so thankful for your help; we never thought that it would happen. I want to thank Brian Walker for letting me use his electric heater so my pipes wouldn't freeze, and Rev. Nancy for her heater for the house. I hope someday I can do the same.

Thanks with Christian Love,
Frank and Cora Sullivan

RVCC Family and Friends,

Many thanks to you all for the lovely Christmas cards and special gifts given to me, or left for me in the office. Thanks so much also to the council for their thoughtful gift on Christmas Eve. You all made the Christmas holiday very special for me, and I do so appreciate your caring and kindness.

Much love to you all,
Lori

Summary of January 8, 2009 Coordinating Council Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM, on Thursday January 8th.

Present were: Brian, Caryl, Dick, Nancy F, Rolf and Nancy Y.

Absent: Fran, Lori

Thanks to Nancy Yates for taking the minutes of the meeting.

Brian offered the opening prayer to begin our meeting with, "The Unspoiled New Year"

The Unspoiled New Year

I am the new year. I am an unspoiled page in your book of time.

I am your next chance at the art of living. I am your opportunity to practice what you have learned about life during the last twelve months.

All that you sought and didn't find is hidden in me, waiting for you to search it but with more determination.

All the good that you tried for and didn't achieve is mine to grant when you have fewer conflicting desires.

All that you dreamed but didn't dare to do, all that you hoped but did not will, all the faith that you claimed but did not have - these slumber lightly, waiting to be awakened by the touch of a strong purpose.

I am your opportunity to renew your allegiance to Him who said, "Behold, I make all things new."

Minutes from our December 15th Council Meeting were unanimously approved, as amended.

Pastoral Reflection: Nancy's reflection this month was on "Ways to Pray in a Board Meeting" from the Alban Institute. We talked about:

1. Letting prayer subvert the meeting
2. Meetings are worship
3. Everyone should be aware of the importance of prayer in our meetings

Budget Discussion

State of Investments:

1. Due to economic forces, value of existing investments has decreased.

2. Continuing investments to go to Money Market.

We're still looking for more in pledges. Another idea to off-set cleaning costs would be to have folks "buy a month of cleaning". By the end of the meeting 5 council members had pledged to pay for a month of cleaning.

2009 Energy Conservation Update

In the Energy Conservation meeting held just before this council meeting the following short term and longer term items were discussed and the following actions put in place.

■ Insulation issues

- ♦ Brian to get Plexiglas and insulating tape and install over window areas on doors in office wing, vestry and door to lower class room wing.
- ♦ Look at the best way to seal cracks in lower panel of door to the office wing
- ♦ Brian to get and install some foam block in the old mail slot in door to lower class room wing
- ♦ Bill to bring some insulation that can be tacked to a board and put over the gap in the attic over the alter area.
- ♦ Brian to put heat shrink plastic over the unused doors that used to go to the sanctuary. We will also hang the patch work quilt over those doors.

■ Lights

- ♦ We will purchase and install T-8 ballasts and bulbs or the lights in the conference room and offices. We will use these as a test to see if it is the way we want to go for the rest of the lights in the class room and office wings. The ballasts and bulbs are under the efficiency Maine rebate program so our net cost per fixture will be in the range of \$5-8. Rolf to advise Dick of the website to order the ballasts and bulbs.
- ♦ Occupancy sensors will not be purchased at this time, but we will monitor if there is a problem with light being left on. If we find this to be an issue, we will further look at the option of installing sensors in the light switches. (these are reimbursable under the rebate program up to \$25 per unit)
- Programmable Thermostat (7 day cycle) will be purchased and installed in the office
- Not discussed, but a topic brought up in the audit

continued on page 5

continued from page 5

report and also addressed in the comments from Bernie. We should purchase a couple of the run monitors to put on the motors on the furnaces so we can get an accurate picture of the run time on each.

- Hot Water - Before the spring, we will purchase and install an electric hot water heater and timer for the domestic hot water. By doing this we can shut the furnace down for the late spring and summer months and save on using oil.

Final plans for the Annual Meeting

Rolf prepared an agenda for the meeting. The business portion (review financials, establish and vote on budget, and elections of deacons and officers) will be held in the sanctuary. The meeting will then move to the vestry for lunch and presentations by; Rev. Nancy, CE committee, Missions, PRC, Deacons and the energy conservation group. We will be forming a committee to review the by laws and report to the next annual meeting on any recommended changes.

Child care is being provided by Bekah Gagne

Reports of the Coordinators

Treasurer (Caryl)

After a motion by Dick and second by Brian we voted to accept and file the Nov. report.

Church Clerk (Lori - absent)

No new information to report.

Trustee (Dick)

The semi-circle would like new sink and counter-tops in the kitchen. We need a sink big enough for the large roasting pans. This is at a stand still right now.

Insurance – Some changes are possible such as storm coverage and coverage on out buildings if we go with a new insurer.

Payments to snow shovelers will continue as last year.

Missions Committee (Brian)

The Mitten Tree was a great success.

Heifer Project begins this Sunday led by the Stevenson Family.

The Christmas Fund (formerly Veterans of the Cross), will receive between \$700 – \$790 from our Christmas Eve services.

Contributions continue to Seafarers, Raymond Food Pantry, First Radio Parish and Wayside Soup Kitchen.

Christian Ed Committee (Rev. Nancy)

In Sunday school this week, the children will be focusing on the Prodigal Son, forgiveness and mercy.

Stewardship:

No report this month.

At this time we have no Stewardship Coordinator. This position is vital to the council, so **please**, if your talents may lie in this area we'd love to have you onboard.

Deacons

No report the deacons are meeting next week.

Moderator (Rolf)

Business has been covered in other reports.

Pastor (Rev. Nancy)

Update on grant applications for kitchen work: Needed are statistics and expected costs. Due Feb. 19th.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

The next Council meeting will be Thursday February 12, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. Prayer will be offered by Caryl.

Respectfully submitted,
Lori Lambert, Church Clerk

PUP Lenten Study on “Sacred Stories”

The PUP Churches (Windham Hill, North Windham Union, Casco Village, and RVCC) will once again be offering a Lenten Study. The topic will be “Sacred Stories” and will center on a video and subsequent small group discussions. The video features Frederick Buechner, Maya Angelou, and James Carroll relating important stories in their lives and offering comments and reflections.

The goal of the study is to recognize that not only is all of life sacred, but all of our lives – each part of them – is sacred too. The hope of the clergy who will be leading the study is that if we can acknowledge that fact and bring those personal sacred stories into Lent with us, the season has the potential to take on a whole new and deeper meaning.

As in past years, each of the participating churches will host a session, and this year we will begin each evening with a simple bread and soup supper. The study will begin on Monday, March 9th at 6:30 P.M. and will continue for 4 weeks. Watch for details on location!

Each year our lectionary focuses on one of the three Synoptic Gospels. Matthew, Mark, or Luke. This year, our Gospel is Mark, the earliest of all four gospels. Following is an article providing some background on the Gospels in general and Mark in particular. The author, Patricia Bays, is an Anglican author and theological educator, and lives in Ottawa, Canada.

MARK'S BEGINNING

By Patricia Bays

Of the four gospels, only Matthew and Luke include stories about the birth of Jesus, and each of them tells quite a different story. Luke speaks of the visit of Gabriel to Mary, the journey to Bethlehem, the birth in the stable, the visits of angels and shepherds. Matthew describes the angel's visit to Joseph, the visit of the magi to the house in Bethlehem, the massacre of young children by Herod. In contrast Mark begins his gospel abruptly, with John the Baptizer preaching the coming of God's reign and baptizing Jesus. Each gospel story is different because each gospel writer is setting Jesus' credentials. Why does the gospel of Mark not include any stories of Jesus' birth?

First, each gospel is written in a specific time and for a unique purpose. Many of the early followers expected Christ to return very soon. They wanted to explore how Jesus' life on earth contributed to our salvation, and so they placed more emphasis on the events surrounding Jesus' death than on Jesus' birth. The gospel of Mark, for example, devotes almost half its length to the story of Jesus' final journey to Jerusalem and the cross. The gospel writers chose stories and arranged them in such a way that people would be led to believe that Jesus is the Christ, the one who saves.

Mark's gospel is the shortest of the four, and the whole narrative has an urgency about it. Mark frequently uses the words "immediately" or "at once." The gospel moves at a rapid pace. The time is short. It is important to proclaim the message of salvation as quickly as possible. Mark plunges right into the story with only a brief preliminary sentence "The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God."

But times changed and the environment surrounding the followers of Jesus changed as well. Questions were arising among the believers and others about the divine nature of Jesus Christ; namely, how exactly did Jesus arrive on earth and what does the form of Jesus' arrival say about his character? In the face of these questions, the authors of the later gospels interpreted and expanded the stories of Jesus' ministry, passion, and divinity to include Jesus' birth.

Secondly, each gospel offers a unique perspective on

the meaning of Jesus' presence with us. Matthew and Luke set the stage with stories of Jesus' birth and the amazing events that accompanied it. The birth narratives in Matthew and Luke link Jesus with major characters from the Hebrew story, such as David, Moses, and Samson. Also, both authors go to great lengths to reveal their perspective that Jesus is the Messiah who was promised in the Hebrew prophets. Mark, on the other hand, sets the scene in these opening verses for all that will follow. "Here is Jesus. This is good news for all."

Come to the Fellowship Café!

Join your church family for coffee and conversation every Sunday morning before worship beginning at 9:30 A.M. in the Vestry. This is where we socialize before we worship!



When you choose to come into the sanctuary, please do so quietly and respect others who are preparing for worship.

Ways to Introduce Your Friends to RVCC

Now that Christmas is over, it is easy to slip into the doldrums of winter. However, as WE all know, the sun always shines and it is always warm at RVCC. This is a perfect time to invite someone you know to come to an event that will acquaint them with all the wonderful things that are part of our life as a church family.

1. **Joyful Journeys with Jesus** – Our Sunday School is always an adventure, with opportunities for our children to do crafts, watch movies, cook, sing, and act as they learn about the Bible. In February, the children will be learning about story of Zaccheus the Tax Collector who fell out of a tree in his effort to meet Jesus.
2. **Sweetheart Brunch** – What better way to show people how strongly we are committed to helping others here at RVCC than to bring them to the Sweetheart Brunch, our scholarship fundraiser?
3. **Calendar Dinner and Talent Show** – Who has more fun than the folks at RVCC? Nobody! Invite a friend to this festive evening!
4. **Sunday Morning Worship** – And, of course, there is always Sunday morning worship. If you are moved, inspired, changed by worship or if it leaves you thinking, reflective, and asking questions share your experience with a friend!

Getting to Know Our Volunteers

Our church is very fortunate in having such willing and able volunteerism. No one fits that description more aptly than **Dick Day** who is drawing to a close his long productive term as trustee. His shoes will be difficult to fill, and we are abundantly grateful for all he has done to meet every need, way beyond the call of duty. The new American president has made it known that only by dedicated service of all its people can our country survive. The same holds for small churches, where its burdens are sometimes cumbersome and overwhelming. Dick, thank you for all you have done...our church grounds say thank you, and more than we can tell, we say thank you.

Here are his observations about his service as our trustee:

What is your favorite part of doing your volunteer activity?

I like working with the other trustees to maintain our beautiful and historic village church. Minor maintenance is never-ending in a building which will be 130 years old next year. Bernie, Bob, Leigh and Walt are willing to tackle any job that presents itself making it possible to keep the church in good condition at a minimal cost.

Why did you decide to get involved in this activity or project?

I wanted to contribute (and allow the previous trustee to retire).

What did you learn about yourself or about your church family that surprised you through this activity or project?

I have learned that there are many in our church family who will step up to help when needed. My fellow trustees are a good example. I have also learned that the church family will contribute financially to maintain the church when asked. In just three weeks the empty paint can in the sanctuary was filled with enough \$20 bills and checks to pay for the paint needed to paint the church and parsonage, and the fund drive led by Walt Read raised \$10,000 in about six weeks, enough to put a new roof on the Sunday School wing. Other members of the church family have made large cash contributions to the reserve fund for the maintenance of the building and equipment.

If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other.

~ Mother Teresa

Boy Scout Sunday

Sunday, February 8th is Boy Scout Sunday. Be sure to come to worship to support the local Raymond Scout troop and to thank the Scouts for all they do for RVCC!

Gifts of the Spirit

In Confirmation, the youth have been discussing the Holy Spirit. In addition to making Holy Spirit bookmarks which they will exchange as part of Confirmation Sunday, they talked about gifts of the Spirit and how God gives gifts to all of us. Sometimes we get so used to criticizing or “dis-ing” those around us that we sometimes find it difficult to articulate what we value about those people. As part of their Confirmation Group Talk, our confirmands (and Rev. Nancy) wrote down the gifts that they value in one another. Here’s what they said about each other:

MOLLY

A wonderful laugh. So energetic, and her energy is contagious. Athletic. Smart. Amazing singer. Can do great sound effects. Kind. Wonderful personality.

TIM

Funny. Nice. Like a teddy bear. Forgiving. Good looks. Smart. Good at hockey. Good natured. Expressive. Can make you laugh. Confident in himself as a person (being the only guy in Confirmation and all)

GEORGIA

Committed to the arts. Beautiful voice. Good Personality. Perfect appearance. Friendly. Wonderful actress. Good sense of humor. Very intelligent.

CASSI

Works really hard. Thoughtful about deeper questions. Can relate her own experiences to her faith. Has good time management. Smart. Athletic. Funny. Sincere.

College Corner – and More!

“Dear RVCC - Thank you so much for everything you have done for me. I loved all the goodies in my care package and the prayer shawl is so wonderful. It makes me feel home again. I love you all so much. Thank you. Love, Ali (Gordan)”

“Just a quick note to say thank you for the delicious care package full of goodies...I am having a great time at college. I give tours and I teach a spin class at the fitness center along with my studies. Once again, thanks! Always, Lyzz (Stevenson)”

Stewardship – It's Not All About the Money

Though money may be involved, this year our stewardship campaign and subsequent budget review is equally about pulling together as a church family and considering whether there are ways we can give more to this church we say that we love. Even with pruning and squeezing, we still come to 2009 with a deficit budget. However, there are ways that each one of us can help to work within that framework this year. Here are some to consider:

1. Funding a specific one-time project, such as a month of professional cleaning or fabric for the new altar cloths that Lynn Gagne, one of our Deacons hopes to sew herself
2. Stepping up to be on of our coordinators – we are looking for a Christian Education Coordinator to work with the CE Task Force, a Stewardship Coordinator to oversee our fundraising efforts, and a Head Trustee. All of these positions have good solid volunteer support already in place and committed to heading up key projects.
3. Pledging for the first time – or increasing a current pledge. We are grateful for anyone willing to look closely at their own family finances and determine whether a higher level of ongoing support is possible.
4. Committing more of your volunteer time to our church by working on specific projects such as the flea market, pot roast suppers, and Christmas Fair.

Christmas Thank You!

“Dear RVCC Family Thank you so much for the generous Hannaford gift card. Happy 2009 to all of you. I really treasure my RVCC family. Love, Donna”

“To All of You Thank you so much for the gift certificate to LL Bean that you gave me for Christmas and all the other gifts that kept appearing in my office. I am blessed to be here as your pastor! Love, Rev. Nancy”

Something to Ponder

“Don't search for the answers....live the questions now. Perhaps then, someday far in the future, you will gradually, without even noticing it, live your way into the answer.”

(Ranier Maria Rilke)

Believe It or Not

By Quinn G. Caldwell

“Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. . . . See, I am making all things new.” (from Revelation 21)

Do you believe this, or don't you?

Do you believe that God is working--right now--to bring this world to its fulfillment, or don't you? Look out your window. Do you believe that God is--right now--in the process of perfecting all that, or don't you? Look down at yourself. Do you, or don't you, believe that God is--right now--perfecting the very self you're looking at?

If not, fine. You're certainly not alone, and there's probably not much harm in living 2009 the same as you lived 2008.

But if you do believe that a new world is coming to pass, then you have your work--and your hope--cut out for you in 2009. It means it's time to start practicing living like you've been made new, as if God has dressed your soul for a wedding. Like God is living next door. Like every person you meet is being molded for glory, and just a split second from shining like the sun.

Start now. Pick one thing in the room, and imagine what that thing will be like when God's done with it. Pick one person, and imagine that God is--right now--about to reveal the glory of heaven in her; treat her that way all day long. Tomorrow, pick another, and the next day, another...and just see if a new world doesn't emerge.

(from StillSpeaking Devotional i.ucc)

Update on Fair Trade Coffee

Farmers in Fair Trade cooperatives are encouraged to plant additional coffee trees and citrus plants to assist and increase bio-diversity and wildlife habitats. These practices also improve pest control, help to avoid soil erosion, and provide other food sources to the community.

**Purchase fair trade coffee!
It's doing good by doing right!**

(from www.equalexchange.com)

**If your line of vision is in line with the floor,
you can starve to death in a full pantry.**

~ Anonymous

Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About Lent

Lent is a forty-day period before Easter. It begins on Ash Wednesday and ends the day before Easter. When counting the forty days, Sundays are skipped because Sundays commemorate the Resurrection.

Lent is a season of soul-searching and repentance. It is a season for reflection and taking stock. Lent originated in the very earliest days of the Church as a preparatory time for Easter, when the faithful rededicated themselves and when converts were instructed in the faith and prepared for baptism. By observing the forty days of Lent, the individual Christian imitates Jesus' withdrawal into the wilderness for forty days.

In most churches, the color of Lent is purple. This is the color of penance, and it is also the royal color to remind us that we prepare for the King.

In many countries, the last day before Lent (called Mardi Gras, Shrove Tuesday, Carnival, or Fasching) has become a last fling before the solemnity of Lent. For centuries, it was customary to fast by abstaining from meat during Lent, which is why some people call the festival *Carnival*, which is Latin for *farewell to meat*.

It is traditional in many churches to have a pancake supper on Shrove Tuesday. Pancakes are associated with the day Shrove Tuesday because they were a way to use up rich foodstuffs such as eggs, milk, and sugar, before the fasting season of the 40 days of Lent. (from www.kencollins.com and www.wikipedia.com)



The 40 days of Lent

May I Have the Envelope Please....

The Cheery Christmas Elves Award goes to

Polly Dyer and Jeri Keane

for tireless and persistent management of a successful 2008 Christmas Fair

The Creative Caulking Award Goes to

Brian Walker

For all the hours that he has spent doing weatherization, both at the church and at the homes of his church family

If You Think You Aren't Good Enough

The next time you feel like GOD can't use you, just remember...

Noah was a drunk
Abraham was too old
Isaac was a daydreamer
Jacob was a liar
Leah was ugly

Joseph was abused
Moses had a stuttering problem
Gideon was afraid

Sampson had long hair and was a womanizer Rahab was a prostitute Jeremiah and Timothy were too young

David had an affair and was a murderer Elijah was suicidal Isaiah preached naked Jonah ran from God

Naomi was a widow Job went bankrupt John the Baptist ate bugs Peter denied Christ The Disciples fell asleep while praying Martha worried about everything The Samaritan woman was divorced, more than once Zaccheus was too small Paul was too religious Timothy had an ulcer...

AND

Lazarus was dead!

What do you have that's worse than that?
So no more excuses!

God can use you to your full potential.
Besides you aren't the message,
you are just the messenger.









(from www.mountainwings.com)

Bean Supper

Raymond Village Community Church
Saturday, February 21st, 4:30 - 6:00pm

February 2009

RVCC Calendar online - check for the latest updates at www.rvccme.org

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1  10:00 am Worship 11:15 am Confirmation class meets	2 6:30 pm B.S. Troop 800	3 6:30 am Men's Fellowship	4 6:30 am Men's Fellowship 6:30 pm Deacons Meeting	5 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm Church Council	6 7:00 pm AA	7 Happy Valentines Day 
8  10:00 am Worship Boy Scout Sunday! 11:00 am Sweetheart Brunch!	9 7:00 pm Troop 800 Committee Meeting	10 6:30 pm B.S. Troop 800	11 6:30 am Men's Fellowship 6:30 pm Deacons Meeting	12 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm Church Council	13 7:00 pm AA	14 Happy Valentines Day 
15  10:00 am Worship	16 6:30 pm B.S. Troop 800	17 6:30 pm B.S. Troop 800	18 6:30 am Men's Fellowship	19 7:00 pm AA Weathervane articles due	20 7:00 pm AA Weathervane articles due	21 Bean Supper 4:30 - 6:00pm
22  10:00 am Worship	23 6:30 pm B.S. Troop 800	24 6:30 pm B.S. Troop 800	25 6:30 am Men's Fellowship 7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service	26 7:00 pm AA	27 7:00 pm AA	28 WaySide Soup Kitchen Contact: Andy Morrison Email: andy.morrison@ahharris.com
March 1  10:00 am Worship	March 2 6:30 pm B.S. Troop 800	March 3 6:30 pm B.S. Troop 800	March 4 6:30 am Men's Fellowship	March 5 7:00 pm AA	March 6 7:00 pm AA	March 7
 Choir rehearsals 11:15 am						



Ash Wednesday Worship Service

Come and begin your Lenten journey with your church family on Ash Wednesday, February 25th. Join us at 7:00 P.M. for a brief and quiet service of readings, songs, and prayers. We will acknowledge the pre-Easter season of Lent with ashes and those who wish may receive ashes, but not in the traditional way of receiving them on the forehead.

**BREAKING
NEWS!**

Bean Supper

*Saturday, February 21st, 4:30 – 6:00pm
Raymond Village Community Church*

Please come and join us at
Worship and bring a friend!!!

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**Next Newsletter Deadline:
February 20, 2009**