

The Aldersgate Experience

THE NEWSLETTER of ALDERSGATE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

568 Ryders Lane, East Brunswick, NJ 08816

Website: WWW.ALDERSGATEUMC-EB.ORG

Volume II - Issue 2

LENT 2009



Dear Friends,

Welcome to Lent. No kidding.

I say "no kidding" because not everyone

thinks of Lent as a welcome experience. This is probably because for years, the focus of Lent was on self-denial, on "giving something up." I know of a man who normally drinks about five cups of coffee a day. But each year he gives up coffee for the days of Lent. The first few days of Lent are miserable for him as he goes through caffeine withdrawal. Why would he say welcome to Lent? He does, though, because his devotion to God is real, and for him, giving up coffee helps him examine his commitment to Christ and meditate on the suffering and death of his Lord.

Acts of self-denial are appropriate when the sacrifice connects with Christian commitment. But there is another view of Lent: a time to prepare to celebrate the Resurrection. When we prepare to celebrate something, we often do housekeeping chores. If we are going to have a party at our house, we first spend some time cleaning the house. We lay in a supply of refreshments. We decorate. And when all is ready and the guests arrive, we celebrate. Preparing is never quite as much fun as celebrating, but it takes the preparation to make the celebration possible. Lent is like that -- a time for spiritual housecleaning, a time to dust off our faith, shine up our commitment, lay in a supply of thanks and decorate our lives with the joy of the Christian life. Then, when Easter comes, we know in our hearts what the celebrating is all about.

At Aldersgate UMC, our Lenten opportunities for spiritual housecleaning will conclude the following:

Lenten Services at Aldersgate

Ash Wednesday – February 25th at 7:30 p.m.
Special Features: The imposition of ashes & Holy Communion.

The Sounds Of The Passion

1st Sunday In Lent – March 1st at 9:00 & 10:30
Message: The Sound Of Weeping
Feature: Holy Communion

2nd Sunday In Lent – March 8th at 9:00 & 10:30
Message: The Clanking Of Coins

3rd Sunday In Lent – March 15th at 9:00 & 10:30
Message: The Dripping Of Water

4th Sunday In Lent – March 22nd at 9:00 & 10:30
Message: The Shouting Of The Crowd
Special Offering: One Great Hour Of Sharing

5th Sunday In Lent – March 29
Message at 9:00: The Crowing Of A Rooster
Children's Lent/Easter Program at 10:30

Holy Week Services

Palm Sunday – April 5th at 9:00 & 10:30
Message: The Clap, Clap, Clap Of A Donkey
Feature: Congregational Parade

Maundy Thursday – April 9th at 7:30 p.m.
Message: The Tearing Of Bread
Features: Holy Communion/Foot Washing

Good Friday – April 10th
Noon to 3:00 pm – The Sanctuary will be open for prayer, meditation and reflection.
7:30 p.m. – A Service Of Tenebrae

Easter Sunday – April 12th at 9:00 & 10:30 am
Message: The Sound Of Everlasting Joy
Features: Choral & Instrumental Anthems



NEW BRUNSWICK AREA

United Methodist Churches

Lenten Services

Lenten Film Series

Sunday Nights at 6:30 p.m.
in the Media Room

Date: March 4th at 7:30 p.m.
Location: United Methodist Church At Milltown
Address: 47 North Main St., Milltown
Preachers: Heasun Kim & Joe Tiedemann

Date: March 11th at 7:30 p.m.
Location: Sayerville United Methodist Church
Address: 404 Main St., Sayerville
Preachers: Dave Mertz & Loraine Priestley-Smith

Date: March 18th at 7:30 p.m.
Location: Monroe Community Mission (UMC)
Address: Barclay Brook Elementary School
358 Buckelew Ave., Monroe Twp.
Preachers: Sandra Jenkins & Bob Cook

Date: March 25th at 7:30 p.m.
Location: Conklin United Methodist Church
Address: 82 Main St., South River
Preachers: Sunghee Park & Joe Tiedemann

Date: April 1st at 6:45 p.m. – **COVERED DISH**
Location: Aldersgate United Methodist Church
Address: 568 Ryders Lane, East Brunswick
Preachers: Heasun Kim & Greg Young
HOLY COMMUNION at 7:45 p.m.

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY



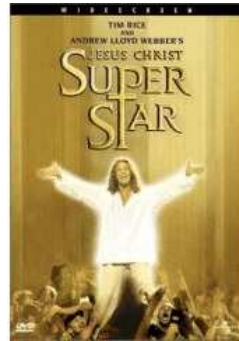
Thursdays In Lent

(February 26 – April 2)

Mornings & Evenings
(10:30 am & 7:30 pm)

The Gospel Of Mark

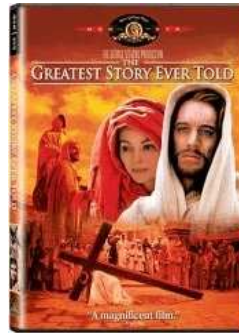
Biblical scholars believe that Mark was the first of the gospels to be written and distributed. By tradition, Mark is the gospel inspired by the remembrances of Peter. Through the ages it has been read and loved by countless men and women who have found in its pages the wonderful story of Jesus life and ministry. We invite you to discover its richness in a six session study beginning on February 26th.



March 1st

(112 Minutes – Not Rated)

Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice's rock opera "Jesus Christ Superstar" changed the face of musical theater when it debuted on Broadway in 1971. Telling the story of the last seven days in the life of Jesus, "Superstar" dramatizes Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, the unrest caused by his preaching and popularity, his betrayal by Judas, the trial before Pontius Pilate, and his ultimate crucifixion. We will view a film adaptation of the Broadway musical, not the 1973 Hollywood version filmed in Israel.



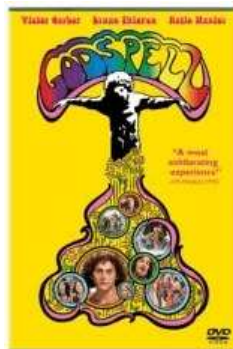
March 8th

(199 Minutes – Rated G)

The life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ is a difficult story to put on the screen. But during the first half of the 1960s, director George Stevens toiled to at least come close in that regard. The result was THE GREATEST STORY EVER TOLD. At a cost of twenty million dollars, it was one of the most expensive films Hollywood had released in that era. At an original length of four hours and twenty minutes, it was one of the longest movies ever. Although it doesn't stick to ALL the facts of the Good Book, THE GREATEST STORY does an exquisite job at depicting Jesus life and persecution, his miracles, his death, and his eventual resurrection.

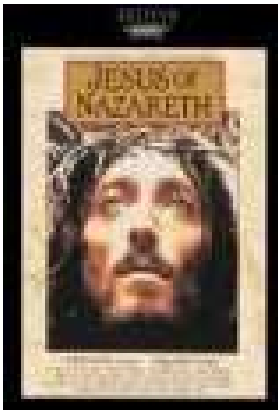
March 15th

(103 Minutes – Rated G)



Godspell takes a 1970s look at the gospel according to Matthew. The film is an amalgamation of Bible story, stage play, vaudeville skits, mime techniques, and a whole bunch of joyous folk rock numbers. Joyous would be the key word to describe this film, with only a couple exceptions (it is hard to stay joyous during the crucifixion scene for example).

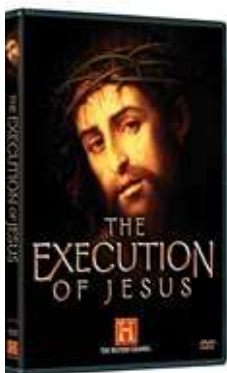
Rather than a theater, the cast uses New York City as its stage; doing scenes in diverse locations such as Central Park, skyscraper rooftops, and a junkyard.



March 22ND
(130 Minutes – Not Rated)

Beginning with Palm Sunday and extending through the crucifixion, **Jesus of Nazareth**, brings to life all the majesty and sweeping drama of the life of Jesus as told in the Gospels. A star-studded international cast adds depth and humanity to the roles of the

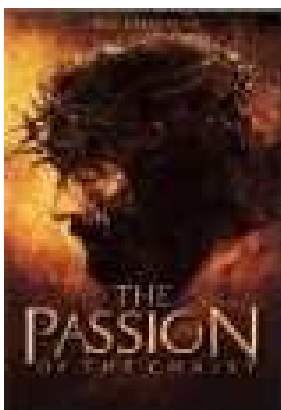
saints, sinners and ordinary people who walked in the foot-steps of the Lord.



March 29th
(50 Minutes – Not Rated)

Delve deep into the origins and enigmas of the scriptures with this program from the acclaimed **Mysteries of the Bible**. No death in all of history has had a greater impact on mankind than the Biblical account of the death of Jesus Christ. The film presents a historic

inquiry into the Biblical account of the last days of Jesus. Follow Him from His Passover entry into the Temple to the Last Supper; from trial to execution and miraculous resurrection. Walk the streets of Jerusalem's Old City in His footsteps, and explore a tomb in a cave near Mount Zion that dramatically alters our understanding of the greatest story ever told.



April 5th
(126 Minutes – Rated R)

The Passion Of The Christ is a film about the last 12 hours of Jesus of Nazareth's life. It was Mel Gibson's intention to be faithful to the spirit of the biblical account. With some embellishments from modern sources the plot adheres largely to the accounts found

in the Canonical gospels of the New Testament, primarily John, and covers the period from Jesus' vigil in the Garden of Gethsemane up to

his resurrection. The film is extremely graphic and should not be viewed by children or teens under the age of 17



THE JOURNEY TO WELLNESS!

Beginning on Monday, February 23rd you are invited to join us on the journey to health and wellness at 10:00 a.m. or 7:00 p.m.

Our approach to health will be biblically based and multifaceted offering a variety of disciplines and approaches to wellness (physical, emotional, spiritual, and relational). We will explore how we are made, how we are made to move, how we are to be nourished, and how we are to behave in restful ways. We will be introduced to biblical reasons to value our wellness and be assisted in the journey to good health through the practice of the spiritual disciplines and the accountability offered by our fellow travelers.

Throughout the journey we will turn to nutritionists, physical trainers, dieticians, therapists, exercise instructors, and physicians of various disciplines for guidance and direction. Many of us have taken better care of the homes we live in than the home of God's Spirit – our bodies. "Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God lives in you?" (I Cor. 3:16) So join us on Monday mornings or evenings as we journey to health and wellness together! For further information contact Betty Quackenboss or Pastor Bob.



SHROVE TUESDAY

FAT TUESDAY Pancake Supper

Tues, Feb. 24
at 6:00 pm

What is **FAT TUESDAY**?

It's a time to **PARTY** and **EAT!** Fat Tuesday is the day before Ash Wednesday. It's also known as Mardi Gras Day (which translated literally means "Fat Tuesday") or Shrove Tuesday (from "to shrive" or hear confessions). It's a day when people eat all they want of everything they want as the following day is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of a long fasting period for Christians. In

addition to fasting, many Christians also give up something special they really enjoy.

So Fat Tuesday is a celebration and the opportunity to enjoy that favorite food or snack that will be given up during the 40 days of the Lenten season. The custom of making pancakes comes from medieval times when people needed to use up fat, eggs and dairy before the fasting and abstinence of Lent began.

So join us on TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24TH at 6:00 p.m. for our annual PANCAKE SUPPER. You'll enjoy good food, wonderful fellowship and dynamic entertainment! Cost: \$3.00 per person and \$10.00 for a family of 4 or more. Please sign up on the sheet in the reception area if you plan to attend or call the church office and we'll put your name on the list.



METHODIST ARTIFACTS ON DISPLAY

Ken Helsby, Aldersgate's church historian and curator, has professionally arranged the two display cases in the office hallway with a variety of Methodist

artifacts which he has acquired on loan from The General Commission On Archives And History of the United Methodist Church. Through Ken's efforts and because of his professional credentials, we are the first local church in the denomination to be granted the privilege of borrowing artifacts from the Commission's extensive collection. The Commission's library and collection are housed on the Drew University campus in Madison, NJ.

Ken is in the process of preparing a special evening of Methodist History with a presentation by a Commission staff person on a Wednesday in April. Watch the bulletin and website for details.



Gateway Chapel Services

During the season of Lent the children of the Gateway Nursery School will be joining Pastor Bob in a brief chapel service on Wed. & Thurs. Mornings at 10 a.m. The children will sing, pray, and listen to a message about God's love.



CONFIRMATION CLASS

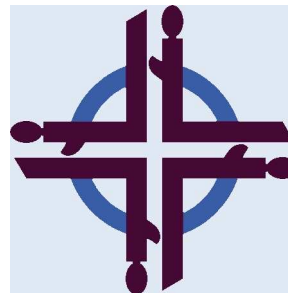
Trip To
Old St. George's UMC
Philadelphia, PA

Saturday, May 9th

The 2009 Confirmation Class trip to Historic St. George's (the UMC's oldest church building in continuous service) has been rescheduled for Saturday, May 9th from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The morning will consist of an overview of Methodist history in the sanctuary, followed by some activities to let the class members explore history in different ways (adults will have a fun time with a musician in the Sanctuary while the students explore). Following the history overview, the class will be divided into 3 experiential parts: 1 group will be discovering the relations of St. George's to the AME churches, the 2nd group will be "history detectives" in the museum solving a puzzle and learning a little Wesley theology, and the 3rd group will be working with a music director to learn a hymn the old-fashioned way (no i-Pod!). A typical Philly snack will be provided following the event. There is also a gift shop with Methodist memorabilia, including a great T-shirt with the "Time Traveler" logo on it for \$10. The museum will remain open following the event, and guides will be available to tell us about the many treasures housed in the museum such as the Wesley chalice and Asbury Bible.

In the afternoon the Class will visit the Liberty Bell and other historic sites in Philadelphia. The trip is open to class members, parents, siblings, and the congregation. Cost: transportation and box lunch \$22.00 per person. We only have space for 50 so call the church office today to reserve your spot.



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Friday, March 6th

Aldersgate UMC will join the women of many lands and cultures in prayer on March 6th lifting before the Lord the numerous issues and concerns that continue to trouble the global community. A 24 hour prayer vigil is being planned. Call the church office for details or to commit to a 30 minute prayer period.