

THE OPEN DOOR

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 2 FEBRUARY 2008

FROM THE PASTOR

“Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights . . .” (Matthew 4:1-2)

This year, the vagaries of calendar and lunar cycle bring in an early Easter (March 23) and, thus, an even earlier Ash Wednesday (February 6) and Season of Lent. We don't have much time to make the spiritual shift from the glorious manifestation of Jesus to the Gentiles (Epiphany) to this introspective forty-day period (Lent) of penitence and preparation for the events of Holy Week. Frankly, since the liturgical calendar, probably for the majority of us, takes a back seat to our many other calendars (school, business, TV, sports, hunting/fishing, etc.), we may not have even noticed that this year brought in an abbreviated Epiphany and early Lent. Nonetheless, each of us is asked to embrace anew the spiritual significance of this forty-day period of study, prayer, devotion, and service on the church's calendar. What, then, can I do? There are the usual and valuable answers that, even though offered year after year, remain food for the soul: participate in a Lenten study, commit anew to more regular practices of prayer and devotion, try to be just a bit more charitable with our abundant resources, reflect on matters of faith in a way that stretches you beyond comfort zones

But in this year of displacement from a church home, we might do well to draw upon the biblical notion of wilderness as a metaphor for the journey of the soul. When Jesus, following his baptism, entered the wilderness for forty days and nights, experiencing deprivation, solitude and temptation, he did so as a way to prepare for public ministry and the draining challenge of tending to the varied needs folk who came seeking mercy and enlightenment. The synoptic gospel writers obviously viewed this wilderness experience as pivotal for defining Jesus and that which he came to accomplish. Moreover, these writers surely intended that this story would evoke the collective memory of Israel's own forty-year wilderness journey under the leadership of Moses and Joshua, a period of preparation for the fullness of what God had promised following the Exodus from Egypt. For Israel and for Jesus, time in the wilderness was a time to struggle and to come to terms with the fullness of God's destiny and long-term intentions. It was a time, moreover, to experience faith in a different way – to be freed from daily conveniences and familiar surroundings in order to focus completely on the divine directive and direction. For Israel, there were plenty of complaints and a longing to return to the comforts of Egypt and the way “things used to be,” but the path God laid out was one defined less by the past and more by promise.

We are neither ancient Israel on a long trek through the desert nor Jesus preparing for a life of service and ultimate sacrifice. While we must learn to cultivate humility and perspective as we “read” ourselves back into ancient stories like that of Jesus or Israel's time in the wilderness, we would also do well to discern ways to claim these wilderness stories as our own. Perhaps we might even have the audacity to view this year's Lent as a time, not just to renew our personal faith, but also as a time to begin to let go of anything in the past that might hinder us from being present into that new future as a congregation, which even now, God is preparing for us to inhabit.

Join me in prayer that we all might be made fit for the journey!

Marc Sherrod



SESSION HIGHLIGHTS FOR DECEMBER AND JANUARY

Inventoried all of Bethel's possessions and decided what to sell, store, or throw away; gave thanks for the huge contingent of folks who helped to move and store during days after Christmas

Coordinated storage of various items, including the organ (climate-controlled storage in Kingston graciously provided at no cost by Pickel Storage) and pews (refinished and stored by Roane Refinishing)

Welcomed the generosity of the Kingston United Methodist Church in providing us a “home” during the interim construction period and reported on the myriad of details regarding worship and program related to this merger

Helped facilitate approval of Kingston Historic Zoning Commission for building program and worked with Design and Development on necessary re-zoning steps

Approved examination of elders-elect Phil Walsh, Steve Jacks, Bobbie Martin, and Margaret Murr and set ordination/installation service for December 30, 2007

Made a donation to Living Waters for the World (Synod of Living Waters) in thanksgiving for Reverend Bill Shenk's preaching at Bethel in 2007

Heard about the desire of elders Denise Martin, Steve Jacks, and Alf Rybka to participate in the next class of the Presbytery of East Tennessee's Commissioned Lay Ministry program (Fall, 2009)

Elected elders Bobbie Martin and Steve Jacks to serve on congregation's nominating committee

Approved 2008 budget of \$233,502 and celebrated total giving in 2007 (regular, designated, building fund) of around \$400,000.

*Bethel Presbyterian Church — a community of faith,
fellowship, study and service...seeking God's peace, justice, and love.*

FROM THE PARISH NURSE

Happy hearts and flowers month to you. Notice I did not include “candy” in that last statement. (Of which I am inordinately fond!) Therein lies the problem.... like so many Americans we like our sweets. So much, in fact, we have become a nation of somewhat larger girth adults. Health-wise speaking that leads us down a path that sometimes leads to type two diabetes. Obesity is a major risk factor for diabetes. Excess fat can overpower the bodies’ normal response to its own insulin. When I was in nursing school, diabetes was a chronic, progressive disease that you treated. However, now there is hope for a cure.

In an Australian study at Monash University Medical School in Melbourne, Dr. John Dixon is performing laparoscopic gastric banding. This is a procedure where an adjustable silicone cuff is installed around the upper stomach, limiting how much a person can eat. The patient is then instructed on low fat, high fiber diet and encouraged to exercise. Doctors found patients lost 46 pounds on the average. *MSNBC.COM* states: “The death rate for stomach band surgery which can cost \$17,000 to \$20,000, is about 1 in 1,000. Stomach stapling has a 2 percent death rate and costs \$20,000 to \$30,000.” From the same article it is said that in the United States, surgeons perform more than 100,000 obesity surgeries each year. *MSNBC.COM* continues: Patients who had surgery to reduce the size of their stomachs were “five times more likely to see their diabetes disappear over the next two years than were patients who had standard diabetes care according to Australian researchers. Most of the surgery patients were able to stop taking diabetes drugs and achieve normal blood tests.”

As always, to your health.....Deb

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

Phil and I would like to thank the many people who did a great job recycling and finding ways to reuse many things from the rental house, church and fellowship hall which would, otherwise, have ended up in the landfill. According to Wendy Jackson with Keep Roane Beautiful, Roane County (including Kingston) must reduce their landfill use by 25% or face a \$5,000 per day fine according to a state mandate. Bethel certainly helped in this reduction. Since the first of the year, three trucks and a van made a trip to Sunset Gap loaded with everything from clothes and toys to chalkboards. They were appreciative of all of it. Jack McNew, Delores Sandmel, Joni Morgan and Marianna Oonk joined the Walsh’s in this last trip to Sunset Gap for a while.

If you are interested in a day trip or overnight trip, you might visit Warren Wilson College just across the border in North Carolina. This school is to be commended for a forward thinking approach to various environmental problems. Visit their web site at <http://www.warren-wilson.edu/environmental/initiatives.php> to get an overview of the many environmental initiatives this college is involved in. If several people are interested, we might get a group together for a tour of this environmentally progressive campus. Several current and former Bethel members are personally involved with Warren Wilson College.

—Jane Walsh

SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY

On Sunday, February 3rd, 140 million Americans will tune in to the Super Bowl football game. There will be parties with abundant food, friendship and fellowship. At the same time, there will be people worrying about staying warm, finding shelter and a warm meal. Please join young people around the US as they demonstrate God’s love by loving their neighbors through the Souper Bowl of Caring (www.souperbowl.org). It’s simple. Drop \$1 (or more) in the soup pot as you leave worship on February 3rd. Those who need help may not know that you cared, but God will. And our young people are developing hearts for giving that can last a lifetime. Please support their efforts – money collected will be donated to the local Hands of Mercy Food Ministry.

BETHEL IS MISSION-CENTRAL IN FEBRUARY

Be sure to mark the following on your calendars:

2/3/08	Souper Bowl Sunday Collection (Regina Little @KUMC)
2/5/08	Summer Camp Collections at Fat Tuesday supper (BPC and KUMC youth)
2/9/08	Love Kitchen at 1st Presbyterian Church/Rockwood (Marge Hettrick)
12/12/08	Mission Outreach Mtg. 6:00
2/18/08	Angel Food February orders due in at United Way (Jane Walsh)
2/24/08	Samuel and Monica Wambugu visit (Joe Coen): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet with youth during Sunday School time • Luncheon and presentation immediately following 10:30 worship
3/1/08	Angel Food February distribution (Jane Walsh)*

*Special thanks to all our Angel Food volunteers, including Jane & Phil Walsh, Jeanette & Mike McElhinney, Jack McNew, Carolyn Tully, Ruth Ann Ludwig, and others.

LETTERS AND NOTES

Note to Knitters

Again, thank you for your contributions to our hat and glove Christmas donation. The collection of hats for 2008 has already started. I have in hand two completed hats and I know of at least two others that are already on needles. If you would like the pattern to knit this easy, warm hat, please let me know.

—Jill McMaster 717-3767

Thank you so much for the \$200 toward our Christmas for the kids. They had a glorious Christmas thanks to your efforts.

God Bless You All,

Sharon Pinner, Director, Hands of Mercy

We Need Your Fabric!

The ladies at the Sewing on the River Retreat at John Knox Center are asking for donations of 1/2-yard lengths of fabric, preferably cotton or flannel, for their mission project. They make heart-shaped pillows for breast cancer patients. If you can help please call (865) 376-2236.

Note of Sympathy — Bethel sympathy goes out to Marilyn Harris and family. Marilyn’s mother, Marian Wohlber passed away January 7th.

ACOLYTES AT BETHEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH & KINGSTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH IN 2008



Churches have had Acolytes since ancient times. The word *Acolyte* actually means *companion, attendant, or helper*. In some churches Acolytes are called *servers*.

Bethel and KUM children will be working closely with Pastors of Bethel and Kingston United Methodists Churches during 2008 as they serve as Acolytes.

Since ancient times, light and fire have reminded people that God is here with us. When our Acolytes bring the light (fire) into the place where people are gathering to worship, and when they light the candles on the Communion Table, they are reminding people that God is with us at home, at school, and at work, as well as in the worship service! When people look at the lighted candles, they easily think about God and feel God's presence.

When the Acolytes light their candle lighters again (before extinguishing the candles after the Worship of God) they walk reverently out of church with the Light of Christ – to remind the people that when we scatter out into the world, Christ will be there with us!

Lighted candles also remind us that Jesus is the Light of the World. Many people like to think about the two lighted candles on the Lord's Table as reminders that Christ is both human and divine. What a privilege it is for our children to lead us in worship in this wonderful and profound way each Sunday!

GIFTS IN HONOR/MEMORY OF;

In honor of Rev. Dick Hettrick (Building Fund), from Jerry and Jenny Morris

Honorarium to the Parish Nurse Program in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Gary Griffith, Mr. and Mrs. J.B. Miles, Mrs. T.H. Robbins, Sr., and Mrs. Jacken Hunt from Terry and Charity Robbins

In memory of:

Bettie Shenk from Cheri Nickell, Dianne Griffith, John and Carolyn Matthews. Henry and Carolyn Tulley, Jim and Mary B. Hines, Frank and Janet Kornegay, Jill McMasters, Dolores Sandmel. Dave and Helen Stevenson, Larry and Brenda Strickling, Phil and Jane Walsh, Julie Bunch, Ruth Ann Ludwig, Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Hardin, Jack and Sue Muecke, Michael and Elizabeth Shenk

Gene and Katy Banker from Mr. and Mrs. John G. Banker

Miss Dot from Gene Pierce

Joan Thompson from Ron Thompson, Denise Martin, Max LaDue

Maude Hyder from Henry and Carolyn Tulley, Ruth Ann Ludwig

Phyllis Baker from Mr. and Mrs Ronald Lyon

FROM THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT

One of the best-known and beloved Christian hymns that is appropriately sung at any time of the year, but especially during the Lenten season is "The Old Rugged Cross". It was written and composed by George Bennard in 1913.

George always aspired to be a Christian evangelist. After he married he became active in the Salvation Army. Later he was ordained by the Methodist Episcopal Church and became a traveling evangelist.

During a personal struggle he was having that caused him much suffering, his mind went back again and again to Christ's anguish on the cross. He felt the cross was the heart of the gospel. It was not a gold-covered icon but a rough, splintery thing. John 3:16 was the Bible verse that deeply impressed him. He felt it was a message that needed to be set to a story. When thinking of words, the words "I'll cherish the old rugged cross," kept coming back to him. He immediately composed a tune but it took him several weeks to put words to the melody.

The hymn was introduced on June 7, 1913 at a revival meeting he was conducting in Pohagon, Michigan and soon after that became very popular throughout the country.

John 3:16 — *"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."*

(From the NIV)

COMING UP:

There are many, many opportunities to grow and serve coming up in the next two or three months. Here are just a few:

There's a **Teaching Non-Violence 2008 Workshop** on Friday & Saturday, Feb 1 & 2 at Grace Covenant Church in OR. Call (865) 573-4089

Maryville College's **February Meetings** feature Dr. Russel Botman and will be held Feb. 4 and 5. Call (865) 981-8298.

Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper takes place on Feb. 5th. Donations will help to defray summer camp expenses for youth groups from BPC and KUMC.

Ash Wednesday Service will take place on February 6th. Time: 7:00 p.m.

Lenten Bible Studies — Beginning Feb. 10: take place on Sunday mornings @ 9:30 (Video Series-KUMC hosting), Sunday evenings @ 7:00 (Bethel hosting), and Tuesdays @ 10:00 (KUMC hosting).

Youth Summit for 2008 will be held March 7-9 in Gatlinburg. Registration packets are in the mail; check with Greg Murr if you want to go.

Loaves and Fishes, presbytery's annual training event, takes place April 4 & 5. Brochures are available in the church office. More info will be in next month's Open Door.

John Knox Summer Camp registration information is available online at www.johnknoxcenter.org. Brochures and information will also be available at the Fat Tuesday supper.

2007 YEAR END FINANCIAL REPORT

The General Fund unrestricted balance at the end of 2007 is \$72,543 of which \$40,000 is held in reserve for emergencies and \$20,000 is designated to be used to begin 2008.

	2007	2006
Income on Budgeted Items:		
General Offering	\$ 203,257	\$213,158
House Rental/Building Use	5,200	10,350
Other Budgeted Income	5,943	1,143
Total Income on Budgeted Items	\$214,400	\$224,651
Expense on Budgeted Items:		
Benevolence & Per Capita	\$32,266	\$ 31,475
Pastors	66,125	75,480
Staff	74,614	82,163
Operating Expense	30,597	31,354
Committee Expense	14,724	14,390
Total Expense on Budgeted Items	218,326	\$234,862
Net Income (Expense)	(\$3,926)	(\$10,211)

MEMORIAL & DESIGNATED FUNDS FOR 2007:

- Memorials \$8,947
- Honorariums \$4,400
- Grace School \$3,093
- Hands of Mercy \$725
- One Great Hour of Sharing \$1,836
- Pentecost Offering \$1,468
- Peacemaking Offering \$2,202
- Christmas Joy Offering \$913

The December 31, 2007 Designated Fund Balance, including memorials but excluding Trustee investments, is \$47,487.

—Submitted by
Linda Brown

RECEIPTS TREASURER'S REPORT

While we continue to meet with the Methodists it has been decided not to include our financial offering information in the Sunday bulletin. Instead we will keep you informed on a monthly basis via our newsletter. The following is all monies received through January 20, 2008.

Tithes & Offerings	\$ 9,643.79
Interest (Banker Trust)	687.17
Interest (UCB Checking)	8.14
Grace School	400.00
Christmas Joy Offering	1.00
Youth Activities	10.00
Cookbooks	28.00
Parish Life Luncheon	150.00
Memorial	885.00 (Bettie Shenk)
BF initial 3 yr. pledge	2,705.00
BF Second Pledge Payments	3,600.00
BF General Contributions	834.50
Monthly Payments for Debt	<u>300.00</u>

GRAND TOTAL \$19,252.60

Respectrully submitted,
Larry Strickluing

FAT TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER

On Fat Tuesday Bethel and KYMC will join together in the KUMC Fellowship Hall for our traditional Pancake Dinner. The meal will begin serving at 5:30 and be served until 7:00...or until food or people disappear! This earlier start is to help facilitate trying to serve both congregations! KUMC is planning games, music, and we are together staffing several booths to share the Summer Camping Ministries of the Methodist and Presbyterian Churches. You will be able to give for Summer Camping Scholarship to John Knox Camp that evening if you desire.

AN INTRODUCTION TO LENT

The day before Ash Wednesday is popularly known as **Mardi Gras** (or "Fat Tuesday"). It has developed into a time of "partying and carousing", exemplified by the extravagant celebration in New Orleans. Most people who celebrate Mardi Gras attach little or no religious significance to it. Yet, many of us know that the last several **Mardi Gras**' have been different...not the usual fanfare...but there was hope that rang out of chaos in New Orleans. That is what Ash Wednesday is about! HOPE OUT OF CHAOS! HOPE...a term used freely by those in our Presbytery (including many from Bethel Presbyterian Church) who went to the Gulf Coast to help with the aftermath of hurricane Katrina. HOPE... what we claim as our Pastor struggles with cancer!

The Presbyterian Worship Sourcebook gives us this excellent explanation to the Lenten season of Christian Worship (pages 551-552):

The death and resurrection of Jesus Christ are at the heart of the Christian gospel, and Good Friday and Easter are two of the most significant celebrations of the Christian year...Good Friday...filled with pain, grief and terror. Followed by a day filled with hope and grace! HOPE OUT OF CHAOS! Lent is a season of preparation and repentance during which we anticipate Good Friday and Easter.

Just as we carefully prepare for big events in our personal lives, such as a wedding or graduations, Lent invites us to make our hearts ready for remembering Jesus' passion and celebrating Jesus' glorious resurrection.

The practice of a forty-day preparation period began in the Christian church during the third and fourth centuries. The number *forty* carries biblical significance based on the forty years Israel spent in the wilderness and Jesus' forty-day fast in the wilderness.

The forty days of Lent begin on Ash Wednesday and continue through Holy Week, not counting Sundays (which are reserved for celebratory worship). In practice, many congregations choose to focus Sunday worship on the themes of repentance and renewal.

As a period of preparation, Lent has historically included the instruction of persons for baptism and profession of faith on Easter Sunday; the calling back of those who have become estranged from the church...and from God; and efforts by all Christians to deepen their devotion, and readiness to mark the death and resurrection of their Savior. So the primary focus of the season is to explore and deepen a "baptismal spirituality" that centers on our union with Christ rather than to function only as an extended meditation on Christ's suffering and death. The traditional color for the season is purple...as is signified with the changed paraments.



DATES FOR YOUR CALENDARS

Fat Tuesday Dinner	February 5 th	Dinner at KUMC	5:30
		KUMC FELLOWSHIP HALL	
Ash Wednesday	February 6 th	Worship at KUMC	7:00
Lent: Week 1	February 10 th	KUM & BPC Lenten Studies	
Week 2	February 17 th	KUM & BPC Lenten Studies	
Week 3	February 24 th	KUM & BPC Lenten Studies	
Week 4	March 2 nd	KUM & BPC Lenten Studies	
Week 5	March 9 th	KUM & BPC Lenten Studies	
Passion/Palm Sunday	March 16 th	KUM & BPC Lenten Studies	
Maundy Thursday	March 20	Worship 7:00 P.M.	
		Last Supper Drama	
Good Friday	March 21 st	Worship 7:00 P.M.	
Easter	March 23 rd	Sunrise Service (One Great Hour of Sharing)	
KUMC and Bethel Worship		8:30 AM Worship 10:30 AM Worship	

February 2008

EACH WEEK:					1	2
Seniorize: M/W/F 9:00-10:00 a.m. Spanish Class: Mon. & Wed. @ 6:00 at Kingston Library Handbell Practice: 5:30 Wed. (note time change) Choir Practice: 7:15 Wed. / Children's Choir 8:30 a.m. Sundays Lenten Bible Studies: 9:30 a.m. Sundays, 7:00 p.m. Sundays, 10:00 a.m. Tuesdays, beginning 2/10					Teaching Non-Violence Workshop / Grace Covenant Church, OR	Teaching Non-Violence Workshop / Grace Covenant Church, OR
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Communion Sunday Souper Bowl Sunday Collection		Worship Comm. 4:30 Evangelism 6:00 Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper 5:30	LENT BEGINS Ash Wednesday Service 7:00 p.m.		Roane Choral 7:00 p.m.	Roane Choral 7:00 p.m. Love Kitchen @ 1st Pres. Church in Rockwood
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	Parish Life 6:00 S&F 7:00	Fun Lunch @ Hettricks' 12:00 Mission Outreach 6:00				
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	Angel Food Orders due CE Committee 5:00		P&P 5:30 Bell Practice 5:30 Family Supper 6:30 Choir Practice 7:15			
24	25	26	27	28	29	
Samuel & Monica Wambugu Visit/ Luncheon after Worship					Book Discussion Group 10:00	

February Birthdays

- 4 Bonnie Anderson
Mark Banker
- 5 Karen Miller
Jon Rybka
Elmer Shesler
- 6 Anne Smith
- 8 Brenda Strickling
- 15 Kathy Pierce
- 17 Mary B. Hines
- 18 Sara Cantrell
Sarah Dungan
- 19 Melanie Sherrod
- 23 Phil Walsh
- 24 Karen Schall
- 27 Jennifer Choate
Deb Hyder

Remember to Pray for:

Jamestowne: Mac Robbins, Anne Smith, Louise Pickel
 NHC in Oak Ridge: Wanda Carter
 Baptist Healthcare (Lenoir City): Evelyn Waldrup
 Harriman Healthcare: Ruby Hunter
 Rockwood Healthcare: Margaret True, Roberta Cash
 At Home: Doris Barber, Carolyn Tulley, Al & Dot Davis, Tom & Helen
 Roostee, Marc Sherrod, Hugh Webb, Justin Trivette, Marci Smith,
 Marnie Shields, Reid Hutchison
 Wellington Place: Joan Pemberton
 Rae Ann Nursing Home, Geneva, Ohio: Muriel McKonley
 Alpharetta: Betty Baird Brown
 St. Mary's: Edith Miles
 Elmcroft Assisted Living: Shirley Lumpkins
Our Servicemen: Jason Brown, Geoff Winsbro, Tommy Sandmel,
 T.R. Morgan, Kyle Foote, son-in-law of Alicia Webb
(Note: Elder Care Groups are being revised. Listings will return next month.)

A Friendly Reminder... Easter comes early this year! In fact, Lent begins on February 6th. Be sure to mark your calendars and take part in these special activities: Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper (pre-Lent) — donations will be used to help pay for camp expenses for KUMC and BPC youth — Ash Wednesday Service on the 6th — and 3 separate Lenten Bible studies—take your pick! There will be a study on Sunday mornings at 9:30, one on Sunday nights at 7:00, and another on Tuesday mornings at 10:00.

Hope you'll join us!

Bethel Presbyterian Church
and
Kingston United Methodist Church
Lenten Studies
BEGIN February 10th, 2008



“Radical Renovation”
Study by James Harnish
Time: Tuesday Mornings 10:00 p.m.
In the KUMC Ministry Center
(This is a change of day from previous announcements)
Host/Facilitator: Martha Rogers
Book Study: Radical Renovation

Radical Renovation is a powerful image of what can happen in our lives during the season of Lent. Just as a house can be rebuilt after it has fallen into disrepair or devastation, author James A. Harnish says, so God can enter in to our brokenness and completely rebuild our lives.

As the great cathedrals were built in the shape of a cross, the author tells us, the traditional Lenten disciplines invite us to allow the Spirit of God to reshape the way we think, act, and live into the likeness of Jesus on his way to the cross.

This seven-session study, will provide one lesson for each week in Lent. Each lesson includes a Scripture reference, a brief reflection, questions for discussion or reflection, a brief prayer, and a focus for the coming week.

"That The World May Know" - Faith Lessons

On the death & resurrection of Jesus the Messiah

Using the videos series *That the World May Know*; By Ray Vander Laan, we will visit archeological sites few people ever see, where the geographical and historical context of the Bible take on a powerful relevance for present-day believers. From this cultural perspective we will be challenged to look at God's Word in new and exciting ways!

**Seven Week Video Series by
Teacher and Historian - Ray Vander Laan**

TIME: Sunday Mornings 9:30AM – 10:15AM

"That The World May Know" - Faith Lessons is a unique series that brings God's Word to life with astounding relevance. By weaving together the Bible's fascinating historical, cultural, religious, and geographical contexts, teacher and historian Ray Vander Laan reveals keen insights into Scripture's significance for modern believers. Join us as we learn more of the life, times and country of Israel, and as we grow together in God's Word!



**Pilgrim Road:
A Benedictine Journey Through Lent
Sunday Evenings: 6:30 – 8:00
(At the Walsh's and McElhinney's)
By: Albert Holtz, O. S. B.**

“Pilgrim Road is a creative, moving and thought provoking travel guide for keeping a holy Lent in the Benedictine tradition. Interspersed with intriguing and interesting background information on monastic history, local lore and personal reflection, along with scripture and quotes from the Rules of St. Benedict, the author vividly describes his travels, drawing his readers to search for deeper meaning and boundless riches if their own travels through life. Walk day by day in a study that will bless you and those in your small group!