

REFLECTIONS

FEBRUARY 2023

WHAT IS LENT?

BY PASTOR NORM

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Lent is more than an obscure and irrelevant thought. A thought that the editor of this newsletter tasked me with clarifying.

Lent is explained in the Pocket Dictionary of Church History thus: "Traditionally a fast in anticipation of Easter, the practice of keeping Lent began in the second century, although at the time it lasted for just three days. By the time of the *Council of Nicaea in 325, it was determined to be a forty-day fast in honour of Christ's forty days in the wilderness. During this six-week period, just one simple meal was eaten, although the fast was broken on Sundays. From the ninth century on, especially



in the Roman Catholic Church, Lent has become progressively more relaxed. As well as a time of fasting, Lent is also a time of increased spiritual exercises and attention to the needs of the poor".¹

So figure out when Easter is and count back 40 days. Lent Eve is known as Shrove Tuesday, no idea why, and is celebrated with pancakes for supper. I like pancakes. Then you get Ash Wednesday

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MUSIC MUSINGS

BY ARDATH EFFA

Music has always been a part of my life. My dad would sit at the piano and play anything (his style) without a piano lesson in his life. I could always hear him sing above everyone else in church. My mom would sing all day long as she worked around the house, the German hymns we sang in church each Sunday (and

Herman wondered how I knew all those hymns???)

I remember when I was about 5 years old. When the threshing crew came to our yard for their lunch, they would stand me on top of a cream can and I would have to sing to them while they ate! (I wonder if they had indigestion later???) At 9 years of age, I won a large

silver trophy at a music festival of several district schools. I joined the church choir in Trochu Baptist when I was 12. In High School I was part of a



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MUSIC MUSINGS

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ladies' trio that was also our church trio. In the four years I attended the Christian Training Institute, I travelled two summers in a ladies' trio and one summer in a mixed quartet, all over North America, and participated in The Choristers. It was there that I also met my singing companion, Herman Effa, who became my life partner for 68 years. We were joined by love for each other and our mutual love of singing. Very early in our children's lives, we instilled a love for singing in them and used our family music in our ministry in Brazil, playing several instruments as well. A highlight in all of our family's lives was the tour of our Brazil Praise Singers all over North America. How moving it was for us to be in a Billy Graham Crusade in New York and feel God's Spirit move as everyone sang "Just As I Am" and people moved forward to give themselves to Jesus, just as they were! I am still always moved to rededicate my life to the Lord by that song.

**"... singing —
should come
from the heart
and be directed
to our God ...**

At 90 years of age, I still love to sing, (even in my shaky old voice) especially the meaningful hymns we sing in church. How it stirs my heart to sing "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" as I contemplate Jesus' great sacrifice for us on that cross and what it means to me. Or "How Great Thou Art" and think about our great wide, wonderful world and the vast heavens that our Great God made. Or, sing the rousing song "When the Roll is Called Up Yonder" and realize that I will be there where many of my loved ones are waiting for me!

Sometimes our singing in church is so routine that we don't take time to think about what we are singing and meditate on the words. Singing a prayer song should be slow and prayerful. Singing a worship song should come from the heart and be directed to our God in sincerity and love. Some happy songs should be sung joyfully and perhaps with an upbeat! Think about all of your blessings as you sing, "There Shall be Showers of Blessings!" Wow!! What a deluge!

So, may music remain a vital part of our worship experience and may it come from our heart to bless one another and our wonderful Lord.

Ardath - as editor I quite enjoyed your musings but as a result I have some questions if you would not mind answering:

1. In the first part of the story - where did your mom and dad do the singing? The community? Was it Trochu or some other place?

Dad sang in the congregational singing in church and also in the church choir in Trochu Baptist. Mom sang in the congregation, too, but she mostly sang around the house while doing her housework. My little ears were listening unintentionally, and thus I learned all those German songs she was singing much of the day.

2. Where was the Christian Training Institute located? How old would you be when you attended there? If you don't mind telling others.

The Christian Training Institute (now Taylor Seminary) was located in Edmonton. I was 17, just out of High School, when I attended there for four years - 1949-1953



3. In Brazil - you mention "playing several instruments". Which ones and by who?

Herman played trombone, bass guitar and mouth organ and occasionally trumpet. I played the pump organ for our worship services and the accordion. Allan played a saxophone and Jerilyn played the clarinet. Unfortunately, we left all of our instruments in Brazil when we came home for good because we didn't have room for them in our baggage and they could use them there more than we probably could here. We also sang together as a family with me on the accordion and Herman on the bass guitar from when our children were 6 and 8 years old,

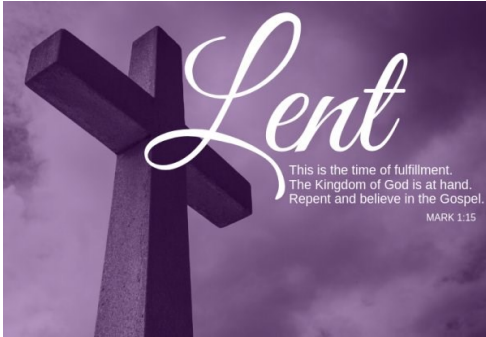
(Herman, Jerilyn, Allan, Ardath ed.)



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WHAT IS LENT?

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day. I do not like ashes. Ash Wednesday is the kickoff for Lent. Forty days of self-denial.

I've heard of people denying themselves of everything from chocolate to cigarettes, from television to fishing. The time set aside to be dedicated to penance seems to have lost its significance, at least in some cases. I began to think more about this idea of self denial and what the Bible says. Here are a few passages we might consider.²

• **Mark 8:34,35**

And calling the crowd to him with his disciples, he said to them, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel will save it.

• **Galatians 2:20**

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved

me and gave himself for me.

• **Philippians 3:7,8**
But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. In-

deed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ

• **Romans 12:1**

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

To be a follower of Christ means to sacrifice that which I cannot keep to gain what I cannot lose. Jim Elliott said that, I think. Jim gave up his life to bring the message of eternal life to people he did not know. But Jim knew Jesus. I suppose that's the crux

of the matter. The idea of sacrifice is central and daily in the Christian experience. Anyone who says they want to be more like Jesus must be prepared to carry that cross every day, not just 40 select days. I respect anyone who practices Lent; it's something and something is better than nothing. But let's remember... we're in this for the long haul.

¹ Nathan P. Feldmeth, Pocket Dictionary of Church History: Over 300 Terms Clearly and Concisely Defined, The IVP Pocket Reference Series (Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2008), 90.

"Jim gave up his life to people he did not know."



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MUSIC MUSINGS

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4. Do you remember the year of the Billy Graham Crusade in New York?

Our Brazil Praise Singers travelled from fall of 1975 through spring of 1976. From My Memoirs, I think we were at the Billy Graham Crusade in March of 1976, just before our tour ended.



5. Joy and I appreciate the traditional hymns too, but are there more recent choruses and hymns that you especially enjoy?

I like "Bless the Lord, O My Soul." I think that is called "Ten Thousand Reasons."

I am blessed when I can direct my praise directly to God.

6. Could I take a picture of you this Sunday at either the organ or the piano to include with the story, or do you have a different instrument that would work, like an accordion? I will be happy to have my picture taken either at the organ or piano. The accordion I have now was given to me and is much too heavy for me to lug around so I will stick with what is at church.

Thank you Ardath for answering my questions and for all the pictures. And yes, I am looking forward to your future stories on marriage and missions, especially marriage. Joy and I have only been married for something like 35 years, so we are in desperate need of your insights about an enduring marriage! Ed.



CHRISTMAS ALL YEAR LONG

WRITTEN BY RICK DELEEUEW



*Its with great thanks from above
that we can serve again with love
Its with volunteers like you who love to serve
That brings such joy we can rest and reserve
For we look to each week
knowing that the God we seek
He brings many to our door
so we can be ready to preach and adore.
So again I give thanks to the Blessings and wishes
that all will have a Blessed Christmas with wishes.*

Submitted by Gloria Swain

Rick sent me this poem he wrote as a volunteer thank you for the food bank. I've got permission from Rick to have it printed in the newsletter.

I have included this poem as a reminder to all of us that we should celebrate giving and helping others throughout the year. Ed

MRS. WOROBEC'S CRANBERRY ORANGE POUND CAKE



Apparently this cake was very popular at a recent after church coffee time and some people wanted the recipe. Brian was volunteered to use all possible means, including subterfuge to obtain his mom's secret recipe. He was mostly successful, except for the secret ingredient (ie the amount of rum). Probably you can determine the appropriate amount and have a just-as-good cake or maybe even better. Ed.

Directions

Heat oven to 350F. Generously grease and lightly flour 12-cup fluted tube pan. In large bowl, beat 2-3/4 cups sugar and 1-1/2 cups butter until light and fluffy. Add vanilla and orange peel. Add eggs 1 at a time, beating well after each addition.

Lightly spoon flour into measuring cup; level off. In medium bowl, combine 3 cups flour, baking powder and salt; add alternately with sour cream, beating well after each addition. Gently stir in cranberries. Pour batter into greased and floured pan.

Bake at 350F for 65-75 minutes (or until toothpick inserted in centre comes out clean). Cool 15 minutes; remove from pan.

Meanwhile, in small saucepan combine 1 cup sugar and 1 Tbsp flour. Stir in half-and-half and 1/2 cup butter. Cook over medium heat until thickened and bubbly, stirring constantly. Remove from heat; stir in rum. Serve warm sauce over cake. 16 servings.

CAKE

- 2 3/4 cups sugar
- 1 1/2 cups butter/margarine (softened)
- 1 tsp. Vanilla
- 4 grated orange peels
- 6 eggs
- 3 cups all purpose or unbleached flour
- 1 tsp. Baking powder
- 1/2 tsp. Salt
- 8 oz. carton dairy sour cream
- 1 1/2 cups chopped fresh/frozen cranberries (thawed)

BUTTER RUM SAUCE

- 1 cup sugar
- 1 Tbsp. all purpose or unbleached flour
- 1/2 cup half-and-half
- 1/2 cup butter

THIS MONTH'S ACTIVITY PUZZLE

BY MATTHEW WIERSMA



According to a reliable source, Gabriele thinks the activity page in the newsletter is too easy. So I asked my son-in-law to provide something from his MATH-1401 class. I hope this brainteaser will provide enough of a challenge to Gabriele. Others are free to participate. Answers will be available from Bill or Joy and will appear in the March issue ed.

1. There was a robbery in which a lot of goods were stolen. The thieves left in a truck.

It is known that:

(a) No one other than A, B and C was involved in the robbery.

(b) C never commits a crime without including A as an accomplice.

(c) B does not know how to drive.

So, can you tell whether A is innocent?

2. On the island of Knights and Knaves, every resident is either a Knight or a Knave (and they all

know the status of everyone else). It is important to know that:

- Knights always tell the truth.

- Knaves always lie.

More precisely, every assertion spoken by a Knight is true, and every assertion spoken by a Knave is false. You will meet some residents of the island, and your job is to figure out whether each of them is a Knight or a Knave.

(a) You meet Alice and Bob on the island. Alice says "Bob and I are Knights." Bob says, That's a lie! She's a Knave!."

What are they?

(b) You meet Charlie, Diane, and Ed on the island. Charlie says, "Be careful, not all three of us are Knights." Diane says, "But not all of us are Knaves, either." Ed says, "Don't listen to them, I'm the only Knight."

What are they?

(c) You meet Frances and George on the island. Frances mumbles something, but you can't understand it. George says, "She said she's a Knave. And she sure is — don't trust her!"

What are they?

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor;

Regarding the raised community garden beds mentioned in the January issue. I am writing to provide some additional information.

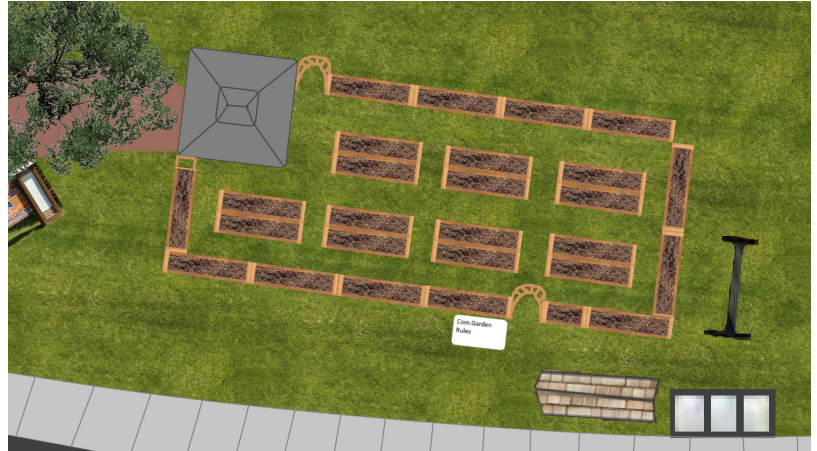
The Missions Committee has received permission to install raised garden boxes next to the lower parking lot. The community and church people can use them to plant vegetables, flowers, etc. As a member of the committee, I volunteered to supply the materials and build them as our contribution to this missions outreach.

There are going to be 21 boxes (twelve are 2'x2'x8', two are 2'x2'x2' and seven are 4'x 8'x2'). Eighteen are completed and all materials have been purchased to complete the remainder. They are built

of treated spruce lumber and lined with plastic to lessen the deterioration of the lumber. Each box requires anywhere from two to six hours to build, depending on the size.

We will be arranging them as illustrated in the diagram. The area is roughly 24' x 48'. There will be an additional expense for mulch and soil, as well as the placement of the boxes.

The committee has discussed a nominal charge (e.g. \$20.00 per year), which would be refunded if the boxes are maintained and cleaned up in the fall. This has not yet been finalized.



Proposed pattern and location of garden beds

There is still some paperwork to be completed with regards to possible permits, and information required by the insurance company for the church. I am not involved in that portion of the project, but we expect to be able to set up the boxes sometime in late April or early May, de-

pending on the weather. Please pray that we will be able to connect and share the love of God with many people through this ministry.

Larry Hubscher

Dear Editor,

Thank you for publishing the article about the White Cross.

At our gathering in January our numbers increased. We even had a woman join us from another church. She was looking for a nearby church that was involved with the White Cross. She checked the church newsletter, read the article, and immediately reached out to me.

I have even had men asking if they can be involved. Anyone can help. If you

have a cutting mat, cutting wheel, and scissors, bring them along.

The 4 inch cotton squares that we cut from sheets are used for a variety of purposes. I spoke with Betty Mantay, a former medical missionary in Cameroon. She said they are primarily used to cover wounds especially open sores that leprosy patients may have. A sterile dressing is applied, then some of the cotton squares and finally it is wrapped with the rolled cotton bandages. She said the squares

are also used for wiping up small spills and she has also seen them cut in four smaller pieces and placed on the tray used for checking patient's temperature.

Apparently they are a very important item in their health care. Recently, they ran out of the squares and had to cut up the rolled bandages.

Marcy Hufnagel



4 inch cloth squares

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For God
So loved the world
that He gave His
only
begotten
Son So
that whoever
believes
in Him shall
have everlasting
life.



Submitted by: Yvonne Alben

John 3:16



Sunday February 5, 12, 26 - after church coffee/snacks

Saturday February 18

Bill & Anne Marie will be hosting games night on Saturday night 7pm at the church. Everyone is invited & there will be a plethora of games to play, fun for all ages!

Sunday February 19

There is no luncheon/coffee, A great opportunity to invite someone/family/friend/stranger for coffee or maybe after church for lunch.

Tuesday February 14 - Valentines Day "Without Valentine's Day, February would be ... well, January!"

RETURNING TO SINGING

It was a deja-vu experience. The hymn sing had returned to our church. But it started out badly. Joy and I were late. I blame Joy because I was busy - watching television. There was no time for a sound check - I was flipping switches, and pressing buttons like crazy as Kurt strolled up to the pulpit. Kurt was being his normal punctual self beginning his introduction right at 3pm. The congregation could not hear him and it became obvious that he could not hear the people shouting - "no sound". The sound board would not turn on. It was 3:01 and Kurt droned on about washrooms and the elevator. What to do - call AI? There was no time for that. Shut down everything and restart - that is an usual IT recommendation, "unplug it and restart". Let's try that!

Thankfully, it worked! My panic subsided. Joy's prayer worked! Suddenly, everyone experienced an extremely loud Kurt. Kurt had started over - he mentioned the elevator, where it was, and that it worked. "No one has been stuck in the elevator for more than 24 hours". "It is completely safe", he said. Considering the monthly and yearly maintenance and safety costs, I should hope so!

I relaxed, and then Joy, just to watch me squirm, asked "what about the stage lights". More fiddling with more buttons and suddenly the lights came on blinding Kurt. He stumbled from the platform as Pastor Rick Foster of Ellerslie Road Baptist Church took his place at the pulpit as song leader. Dorothy Batke of Zion Baptist Church played the piano and Tim Zeman of

Hope City played the violin. It was at this point we noticed Russ and Donalda sneaking into the balcony. They were late too. The main floor of the sanctuary was mostly full, so rather than making a spectacle of themselves by walking to the front pews, they joined us in the balcony. It is always nice to have company. And I was able to torment them how terrible it is to be late.

The singing had begun and it was as marvelous as it was in September. Songs requested included - 'I Love to Tell the Story', "Victory in Jesus", "Because He Lives" and "Amazing Grace". Jared Snook requested his favourite hymn - "There is a Redeemer".

Pastor Rick then discovered that his hymnal was missing some of the songs. The pag-

BY: BILL HOLMES

es had been removed, but with this particular congregation - he probably was simply not needed. Later, to show he was actually necessary he picked up his guitar and led us in a medley of choruses.

At 4pm sharp the music stopped and we all headed downstairs for a meal of sandwiches and desserts. I did not notice anyone taking the elevator. Guess people did not really believe Kurt - that the contraption was safe.

In spite of all the difficulties and an irresponsible soundman, I truly hope Hillview will continue to host the hymn sing. It is wonderful. The atmosphere is so friendly and likeable. If you have never attended I would encourage you to give it a try. It is an incredibly enjoyable time.