

**KEEPING UP WITH THE NEWS**

**CALENDAR:**



\* **Wed, March 3<sup>rd</sup>** at **6:30PM**, the **Deaf UMW unit will be meeting** in the Library.



\* **Sun, March 7<sup>th</sup>** is **The World Day of Prayer.**

*A Prayer for the Coming Year*



\* **Wed, March 17<sup>th</sup>** is **St. Patrick's Day.**



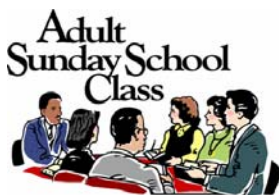
\* **Sat, March 20<sup>th</sup>** is the first day of spring.



\* **Sat, March 27<sup>th</sup>**, the Deaf UMW will be holding a fundraising **breakfast** in the fellowship hall.



**OUR NEW SUNDAY SCHOOL**



In keeping with our commitment to God for the year 2004, Magothy UMC of the Deaf began Sunday School. No one can remember when the last time we had Sunday School at Magothy. Everyone is excited to include learning God's Word as a way to become closer to our Lord. We use PowerPoint presentations, videos and discussion to help us understand our lessons.

**GOD SPOKE: Through DREAMS**

"In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways."  
Hebrews 1:1



Ex. of a PowerPoint slide used in our class.

**for example:**

**WELCOME NEW CHURCH MEMBERS**

On Sunday, February 1<sup>st</sup>, Mike and Lisa Fuller became members of Magothy UMC of the Deaf. We are delighted that they have joined our church. Welcome Mike & Lisa!



**WELCOME DOMINIC S. KOONTZ TO THE BODY OF CHRIST**

On Sunday, February 8<sup>th</sup>, 8-month old Dominic Koontz was baptized at Magothy UMC of the Deaf. Proud parents Steve and Tara Koontz expressed their excitement to have their first son Dominic baptized at Magothy. Steve Koontz is the son of Lay Leader Darlene Koontz.



## WHY SHOULD WE CELEBRATE LENT?

Originating in the fourth century of the church, the season of Lent spans 40 weekdays beginning on Ash Wednesday and climaxing during Holy Week with Holy Thursday (Maundy Thursday), Good Friday concluding Saturday before Easter. Originally, Lent was the time of preparation for those who were to be baptized, a time of concentrated study and prayer before their baptism at the Easter Vigil, the celebration of the Resurrection of the Lord early on Easter Sunday. But since these new members were to be received into a living community of Faith, the entire community was called to preparation. Also, this was the time when those who had been separated from the Church would prepare to rejoin the community.

**"...It begins in ashes, & it journeys through darkness. It's a spiritual pilgrimage that we must take for genuine spiritual renewal to come."**

Today, Lent is marked by a time of prayer and preparation to celebrate Easter. Since Sundays celebrate the resurrection of Jesus, the six Sundays that occur during Lent are not counted as part of the 40 days of Lent, and are referred to as the Sundays in Lent. The number 40 is connected with many biblical events, but especially with the forty days Jesus spent in the wilderness preparing for His ministry by facing the temptations that could lead him to abandon his mission and calling. Christians today use this period of time for introspection, self examination, and repentance. This season of the year is equal only to the

Season of Advent in importance in the Christian year, and is part of the second major grouping of Christian festivals and sacred time that includes Holy Week, Easter and Pentecost.



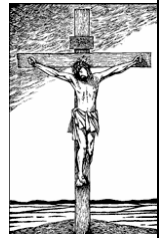
Lent has traditionally been marked by prayers of forgiveness, fasting, and almsgiving (giving to the poor). Some churches today still observe a rigid schedule of fasting on certain days during Lent, especially the giving up of meat, coffee, sweets, and other types of food. Other traditions do not place as great an emphasis on fasting, but focus on charitable deeds, especially helping those in physical need with food and clothing, or simply the giving of money to charities. Most Christian churches that observe Lent at all focus on it as a time of prayer, especially asking for forgiveness, repenting for failures and sin as a way to focus on the need for God's grace. It is really a preparation to celebrate God's marvelous redemption at Easter, and the resurrected life that we live, and hope for, as Christians.

## SYMBOLS IN OUR HOME TO REMIND US OF LENT

We need to choose to let our homes be a place full of the holy – things that help raise our minds and hearts to God. Our world is full of so many images that lure our minds and hearts elsewhere. Here are some symbols that will carry the ongoing meaning we give them, for us and for our families and loved ones.

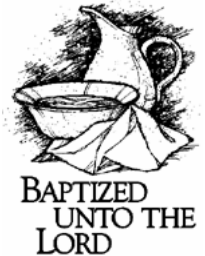
### **A Crucifix**

We probably all have a crucifix in our home. If not, Lent might be a wonderful time to buy one and place it in a central place. Even a child's drawing of Jesus' death for us can be a powerful, stirring reminder of God's love.



### **Water**

A simple bowl of water, in a central place, can transform an ongoing reminder of our journey to the font of baptism for the renewal of commitment and life in Christ. Perhaps we can pray over it. *"Lord, may this water remind us of our baptism and be a blessing for our home, where our dying and rising in you is lived each day. Bless us, as we sign ourselves with it each day."*



### **A Candle**

*The people walking in DARKNESS have seen a great light.*



Imagine having a candle in central place in our home. You can pray with it saying, *"Lord thank you for the gift of your Light in the midst of all darkness. Let this be a symbol of our faith in your presence among us."*

And imagine if we light this candle whenever we feel tempted away from the Light of Jesus, when we are experiencing tensions in our home, whenever we need special graces.

### **A Bible**

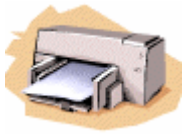


The Word is so important for during Lent. Perhaps the prominent presence of a Bible in our home can represent for us our desire for God's Word in our lives.



## SAVE YOUR EMPTY INK CARTRIDGES

We are collecting empty printer ink cartridges (from home use). Please bring in your empty ink cartridges. There is a collection box outside of Pastor Yates' office. Thanks!



## Birthdays & Anniversaries



### **MARCH**

- 1 Wayne & Barb Albrecht (Anniversary)
- 3 Steve & Darlene Koontz (Anniversary)
- 22 Leo Yates, Jr. (Birthday)
- 22 Sarah Yates (Birthday)
- 25 Michael Varveri (Birthday)

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