

Dear Friends,

I am sending this out early this week because I want to remind you about the **Potluck Supper** we are having **in the office tomorrow** (Wednesday, the 3rd) **evening at 6 PM**. This will be the first of many meals that we will share together in our new office. **After supper** there will be a time of **Evening Prayer** followed by a class in our Lenten series on “**How to Read the Bible for Maximum Learning**.” I have asked Marcia Fish to lead the class for me. As many of you were unable to attend last week’s session because of the inclement weather, she will also give a quick review of the material we covered at that class.

If you have not been to the office yet, it is easy to find. We are at 36163 Plymouth Road in the western end of a strip mall on the south side of Plymouth just east of Levan, two doors east of the Quiznos Sub Shop.

I also want to tell you about an exciting opportunity we will have on Saturday, April 24, to learn about **some ways we can minister more effectively in our community**. Andee Marks is coming from Lexington, Kentucky, to lead us in a discussion of some things that she has learned over the years. God has perfectly equipped his people to accomplish the work of his kingdom: clothing the naked, feeding the hungry, ministering to the sick, visiting those in prison, welcoming the stranger. Yet the lament often heard in churches and faith-based non-profit organizations alike is, “We just don’t have enough volunteers to get the work done.”

Andee seeks to address this issue by increasing the volunteer quotient in churches. This can be accomplished through the development of an equipping church model and the necessary processes to support that culture, then connecting those congregations to community-based serving opportunities. **Merging vibrant serving congregations with non-profit organizations releases the power of Christ to transform communities**. So **SAVE THE DATE** (April 24) and join us for this important workshop in our life as a parish.

The lessons for Sunday are printed below. I am looking forward to seeing you at one of our services.

Yours in Christ,
Allen

2 Kings 22:1a, 2, 8, 10-13

Josiah was eight years old when he began to reign, and he reigned thirty-one years in Jerusalem.

He did what was right in the eyes of the LORD, and walked in all the way of David his father, and he did not turn aside to the right hand or to the left. In the eighteenth year of King Josiah, Hilkiah the high priest said to Shaphan the secretary, "I have found the book of the law in the house of the LORD." And Hilkiah gave the book to Shaphan, and he read it.

Then Shaphan the secretary told the king, "Hilkiah the priest has given me a book." And Shaphan read it before the king. And when the king heard the words of the book of the law, he rent his clothes. And the king commanded Hilkiah the priest, and Ahikam the son of Shaphan, and Achbor the son of Micaiah, and Shaphan the secretary, and Asaiah the king's servant, saying, "Go, inquire of the LORD for me, and for the people, and for all Judah, concerning the words of this book that has been found; for great is the wrath of the LORD that is kindled against us, because our fathers have not obeyed the words of this book, to do according to all that is written concerning us."

PSALM 51:1-12

1. Have mercy on me, O God, according to your loving-kindness; *
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.
2. Wash me through and through from my wickedness *
and cleanse me from my sin.
3. For I know my transgressions, * and my sin is ever before me.
4. Against you only have I sinned *
and done what is evil in your sight.
5. And so you are justified when you speak *
and upright in your judgement.
6. Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth, *
a sinner from my mother's womb.
7. For behold, you look for truth deep within me, *
and will make me understand wisdom secretly.
8. Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure; *
wash me, and I shall be clean indeed.
9. Make me hear of joy and gladness, *
that the body you have broken may rejoice.
10. Hide your face from my sins * and blot out all my iniquities.
11. Create in me a clean heart, O God, *
and renew a right spirit within me.
12. Cast me not away from your presence *
and take not your holy Spirit from me.

Hebrews 3:7-14

As the Holy Spirit says, "Today, when you hear his voice,
do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion,
on the day of testing in the wilderness,
where your fathers put me to the test
though they saw my works for forty years.

Therefore I was provoked with that generation,
and said, 'They always go astray in their hearts;
they have not known my ways.'
As I swore in my wrath,
'They shall never enter my rest.'"

Take care, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God. But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called "today," that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. For we share in Christ, if only we hold our first confidence firm to the end,

Luke 13:1-9

There were some who told Jesus of the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. And he answered them, "Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans, because they suffered thus? I tell you, No; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish. Or those eighteen upon whom the tower of Siloam fell and killed them, do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others who dwelt in Jerusalem? I tell you, No; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish."

And he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came seeking fruit on it and found none. And he said to the vinedresser, 'Lo, these three years I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and I find none. Cut it down; why should it use up the ground?' And he answered him, 'Let it alone, sir, this year also, till I dig about it and put on manure. And if it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"