

IMMANUEL NEWS

February 2009

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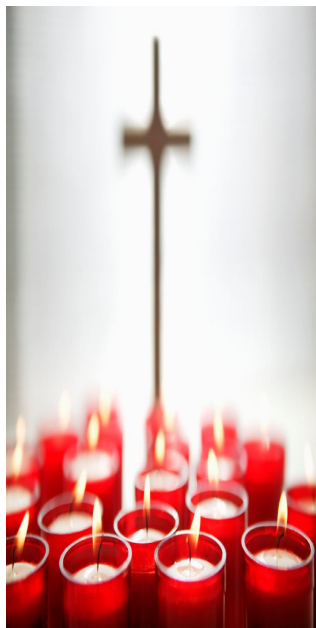
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Reverend Brady E. Abel

Minerva Taylor, Office Manager & Editor

John Kritos, Organist

Larry Whipple, Sexton



FROM YOUR PASTOR

I have been making plans for a trip. This is nothing extravagant, just a road trip that would include mostly church business but a bit of personal interest along the way. So I have looked at the atlas and, of course, run Map Quest to see the recommended route and directions. I have been weighing my options for the way that might include beautiful scenery but not include too many stoplights. I have been thinking about rather I need to leave and then stay overnight or if I should make the drive early in the morning. I have considered places to stop along the way for food and other necessities. I have visited with others who have taken this trip to get their ideas. These are all helpful considerations and actions when planning to make a journey.

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It is now time for another journey. That is the journey we are called to make through the season of Lent. Just as we do when we plan for a trip along the roads of our land, our Lenten journey requires that we study the route we take, anticipate what might be encountered along the way, plan for places where we will stop, rest, and reflect, and visit with others about their experiences. Our Lenten journey is integral in the life of the church as we follow Jesus to the cross. It is a defining journey as we give extra thought to our relationship with God. It is an embracing journey as we are all one in Spirit. The Lenten journey reassures us that each step of life is meaningful. Travel light and best wishes for all journeys.

Pastor Brady

Pastor's Report – Immanuel United Church of Christ - Council Meeting – February 2, 2009

Worship – Service of Holy Communion on February 1, 2009

Pastoral Care – Pastoral care calls continue as needed.

Community Activity – Hosted Stroke Detection Plus on January 7.

Committee Meetings – Since the last council meeting The Christian Education committee has met and the outreach committee has met. Food 4 Kids is scheduled to meet in February.

Congregational Activity Review – There will be an adult study group meeting during Lent. We will start be meeting on Sunday February 15 and will be studying the book "Unbinding the Gospel" by Martha Grace Reese and looking at how we break the evangelism curse gripping the United Church of Christ and mainstream protestant denominations.

Make note of the annual soup and chili challenge and dessert auction on February 21 at 5:30.

Congregational Goals for 2008 – Prayerfully seek where God is calling us to be as a faith community. Continue on going communication with the congregation about giving and stewardship throughout 2009.

UCC Update – Who would like to attend General Synod (GS) in Grand Rapids, MI from Immanuel as a visitor? GS will be June 26-30, 2009.

Personal – Thanks to Reverend Julie Pigg for leading worship while I was gone. *Kudos to the council for undertaking "paperless" meetings. A recent statistics shows that if ten percent of organizations in this country would reduce the use of paper, twenty five million trees would be saved.*

COUNCIL MINUTES (unapproved)

Council President Leora Bremer called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. Those in attendance were: Leora Bremer, Wayne Baslee, Kevin Bogert, Gary Case, Dee Cain, Phil Gerlt, Letitia Gerlt, Tim Harster, Carol Knight, John Kritos, David Moore, Carole Weese, and Pastor Brady Abel.

Pastor Brady opened the meeting with a reading from Luke 6:20-21. He discussed how the days are getting longer and as winter moves on and as we face challenges in the world and nation and our personal lives, it's important to remember to smile. He then shared "The Mouse Aquatic," a short story by Peter Panagore.

Phil made a motion to accept the minutes of the last meeting, Dee seconded, and the motion carried.

Financial Reports-

OCWM- Pastor Brady reported that January contributions to OCWM were \$263 this year versus \$378 last year.

Treasurer's Report- Gary reported that we had made "commendable income" for January 2009 of about \$6300. Our percent to budget should be 8.3% at the end of 1 month. We are currently at 6.3% of budget. Gary explained that because the \$5000 fundraising figure that was budgeted all at one time, the current percent to budget figure is slightly skewed and we are pretty well in line with committed giving. Gary noted that the loose offering figure accounts for all loose money not just change. Expenses in the 100 series in-

cluded first quarter health insurance and quarterly pension all paid in January and that created a larger percent-to-budget figure as a result. Also, we paid state withholding tax for 2008 in January. The electric and gas expenses were higher in January (see report). Gary noted that "we're glad that doesn't happen 12 months of the year." Gary reported that the bottom line on the profit and loss statement shows us at a deficit of \$6000 but that accounts for the gas and utility, quarterly health and pension, and withholding as mentioned before so "there is nothing to worry about there." Gary presented the balance sheet, showing little change through January, except cash-on-hand is slightly down from January 1 through the end of the

Benevolence - Gary reported that we paid \$368.00 to the Missouri Mid-South Conference. There is \$9 left over. This is a result of Sunday school monies that are being kept in the benevolence fund. They will continue to collect funds in this account until Sunday school ends in May and those monies will be sent to St. Jude as previously determined.

Memorial - No Report

Improvement & Maintenance - Wayne and Gary reported that disbursements included \$1000 given as down payment on the window project, \$51.16 out of janitorial for the purchase of a vacuum, and \$41.98 out of miscellaneous for the purchase of a carbon monoxide detector. Disbursements totaled \$1205.45 in January creating and ending total balance of \$16,125.75.

David made a motion to accept the financial reports, seconded by Kevin, and the motion carried.

Pastor's Report- Pastor Brady presented the pastor's report. Dee requested information about the time of the adult study group meeting. Brady indicated that once assembled the group would determine the best time to meet. The first meeting will be Sunday, February 14 at a time to be announced. Pastor Brady noted that he is participating in a teleconference study group that is studying the book that will be used in the adult study group. See the pastor's report for additional information.

Committee Reports -

Fellowship - No report

Improvement & Maintenance - Wayne reported that the committee had not yet met about the priority list. Gary reported that we have the agreement for the window project signed and we have paid \$1000 up-front. The contractor has a crew that is currently working in Joplin, they indicated that they thought they might be the crew that will come here. The contractor is hoping the weather will break and allow them to start sooner than originally planned. They would like to be here and gone by April if we would be able to do that. The final end-date is May 15th, so completion would be no later than that. It is estimated that the project will take two weeks once they are here on-site. They will be using scaffolding which Gary said "eased his mind a little bit about the lack of mess in the yard

(cont'd on page 4)

as had happened before." They will have to pay another \$4000 when they show up on site and the balance will be due when the project is complete so the need for donations will continue to be important. Wayne reported that the new safe is in place in the office and anchored.

Evangelism –No report

Outreach – Kevin reported that the committee had met to discuss the garage sale. They had set a tentative date of March 7th from 7am-2pm. They have planned to have biscuits and gravy and a possible bake sale. Kevin made a motion for approval of this recommendation with funds to be divided between Open Door and the general fund, 30% and 70% respectively, Phil seconded and the motion carried. Kevin reported that the Holiday Packs and the Santa Christmas Campaign had been discussed. Dates for the Holiday Food Pack collection will be November 1 through December 6. Monday, December 14th is the date to work at Open Door to distribute the food packs. Kevin made a motion to accept the recommendation from the committee for Holiday Food Packs, Tim seconded, and the motion carried. Kevin made a motion based on a recommendation from the committee that we participate in the Santa Christmas Campaign again this year from November 29th through December 20th with 3 families (a maximum of 15 people) and Letitia GerIt will coordinate the program. Carol Knight seconded and the motion carried.

Worship & Music–No Report

Stewardship – Gary reported that he had presented the committee with a proposal for pledge cards for the window fund. Gary designed a draft copy of the pledge cards for the committee and, after some feedback, revised the pledge cards. There will be further discussion re-

garding the pledge cards in new business.

Christian Education – Carole Weese reported that the committee had met and discussed confirmation class this fall. There are five children and they will be needing mentors. The committee discussed the Easter egg hunt which is scheduled for April 12 and the youth lock-in which is scheduled for March 27-28 from 6:30 p.m.-8:00 a.m. The date for the Chili supper will be Feb 21st. The Valentines party will be Feb 8th at the church and will include lunch, ice cream and cookies, and making valentines for the church. A question was presented regarding the need for eggs to be filled for the egg hunt. Carole indicated that would be needed.

Health & Wellness – Leora reported that she is still working on a date to re-schedule the CPR/AED class.

Technology –No report

Pastoral Relations- Pastor Brady reported that he has selected Kendle Leiter as the Pastor's representative to the committee and he has agreed to serve in that capacity.

Executive Committee –No Report

Old Business:

Leora reported that she had visited with the man wanting to use the facility for the Tae Kwon Do class and requested the necessary insurance documents. She has not heard back from him.

The Executive committee will review membership rolls in the next few months – tabled until another issue constitutes need for a meeting.

New Business:

There was discussion about the use of pledge cards for the window fund. Leora said that she was in favor of keeping people aware of where we are as opposed to using pledge cards. Tim said that it helps to separate the window giving from regular giving if we use pledge cards. Tim asked where the money will come from if we don't get enough donations. Leora indicated that we would have to review the situation and make a decision at that point. Gary has already looked at placing money aside to use in that situation and then that money would be replaced as people would continue to pay on their pledges until the end of the year. Gary feels like we have had a "pretty good response" in the last month and that Minerva has been able to distinguish what monies are going toward the window fund versus other giving. Gary reported that people seem to be distinguishing their giving as donations to the window fund. Kevin asked if people know what they should do to indicate that they wish to donate to the window fund if we don't use pledge cards. David inquired about the current status of the general fund and Gary reported that it was "about par for the course." David was concerned that people were cutting back on their regular giving and giving to the window fund. Gary said that the figures did not reflect that and the window fund had made \$1350 to date. Dave thinks we need to let people know that they will start work sooner and the need for funds is imminent.

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Pastor Brady and Gary thought Gary should go the congregation again at beginning of March to address our position financially and further needs. In answer to Kevin's earlier question Gary would explain that givers can write on the envelope where they would like for their donation to go. It was discussed that a uniform method of giving should be developed to better indicate the window fund giving. Dee suggested that the children should get envelopes in Sunday school to draw stained glass windows and give to congregation to make their donations. Leora and John suggested keeping the envelopes at the back of the church and re-using them. Leora said post-it notes attached to their offering or check would work as well. Brady said someone had recently approached him about how much to give, so he feels that there is an eagerness to give, but there was hesitancy about how to go about it. We are currently listing the need in the bulletin and he felt an announcement every Sunday would be important. Gary said it was discussed as to whether we need to solicit pledges but was concerned that would create an "insult" to givers. Gary presented the question "If they're already giving is that (pledges) complicating things?" Gary feels that it is better to take a wait-and-see approach until later when we re-assess our needs if the giving decreases or reaches a minimal level at which time looking at pledge cards is an idea. If that point is reached the council would take the issue to the congregation to inquire about where we would get the money from until the pledges were paid. Gary made a motion that we take a wait-and-see approach on the pledge

cards, announcing that they can write on the envelope or put in a separate envelope and designate where they funds should go. Dee seconded and the motion carried. Dee suggested making a stained glass window without the colors filled in and then fill in as we acquire more funds. Gary reported that he has Kathy working on that already.

There will be a cluster meeting at California UCC on February 15. All are welcome to attend this important gathering as we discuss the conference Habakkuk project and the staffing, structure, and strategy of the Missouri Mid-South Conference. Our cluster includes the Columbia area (there are 5 clusters in Mid-South Conference). The Habakkuk task force is asking the cluster to meet to review the progress of the task force and give further direction on the re-organization at this point. They encourage as many people as possible to attend the meeting. Brady and Leora are going and anyone is invited. This is the opportunity to speak up and see what the re-organization is going to look like. Leora attended a meeting last fall when they were gathering information and she and Pastor Brady feel like more people need to go to this meeting to be aware of what is happening.

The Biennial Meeting of the Missouri-Mid South Conference will be October 30 – November 1. We need to select delegates so they can become familiar with the issues that are to be discussed at the meeting. There are suggestions for re-structuring and re-organizing the conference. We can have 2 delegates and we need to choose these soon so that they will have an opportunity to become familiar with the issues

that will be discussed at the meeting. The goal is to select delegates during the next council meeting.

General Synod 27 will be June 26-30, 2009 in Grand Rapids, Michigan. According to the by-laws the church will pay the expenses of a member attending as a visitor. There is a need to make reservations for a room soon as space is limited in Grand Rapids. Leora recommended making a room reservation. Brady agreed and stated that if no one was available they could cancel the reservation in the allowable time.

Leora shared that she went to IUCC at New Franklin yesterday and was warmly received. There were people who had been to our German Dinner who were very complimentary. Leora invited them to join us again and for church services as well.

Brady presented a letter from Dustin Bales discussing the Engineers Without Borders Program. Those participating in the program will be traveling to Honduras over spring break and again in August. They are working on improving water quality for communities there. He is requesting donations from the congregation for this cause. Last year we raised almost \$500. People were concerned last year that it took away from the Easter offering when people were giving to this program. Based on a recommendation by Pastor Brady, John made a motion that this year's Easter offering be distributed as follows: A book scholarship of \$750 for an Eden Seminary student with remaining funds going toward the (cont'd on page 8)

PARRISH NURSE NEWS

Colds:

A sneeze can travel 150 feet per second up to 12 feet! Classrooms, planes and even churches are places where it is easy to catch a cold. The five germiest places in your home are: phones and cell phones, TV remote, desk and keyboard, light switches, bathroom and kitchen faucet. Disinfect these areas often to stop the cold and flu bugs.

How do you get a cold? Colds are spread by direct contact with infected secretions from contaminated surfaces or by direct hand to hand contact. You can inhale the airborne virus when someone sneezes or coughs. Being out in the cold without your coat or cap does not cause you to get a cold; sorry to dispute what your mother told you. Colds are caused by viruses.

The common cold can be caused by any one of more than 200 different types of viruses, with new cold viruses being developed all the time. So for this reason your body never develops immunity to all the cold viruses. Colds become a frequent, recurring nuisance to say the least. The common cold is one of the leading causes for missed days at school or work.

Colds and the flu are two different illnesses. The flu is caused by the influenza virus, some of the symptoms may be similar but cold symptoms are generally milder than flu symptoms. There isn't any cure for the cold. Treatment is aimed at

relieving the symptoms and just letting it run its course of 7-10 days. Antibiotics do not help a cold.

Medical attention is needed if symptoms become severe; such as a fever above 102, difficulty breathing, chest pain or cough with yellow or green phlegm, degrees, or an increase in the symptoms of, swollen glands, headache or sinus pain, sweating, chills, achiness, or fatigue.

Seek medical attention when you have a sore throat without other symptoms; it may be strep throat, a bacterial infection and antibiotics may be required. A fever with green or yellow drainage from the nose may be a sinus infection and require antibiotics.

Children are usually sicker than adults and develop complications more frequently. If children have symptoms like a fever over 103 degrees, any fever for more than three days, persistent cough, vomiting or abdominal pain, unusual sleepiness, persistent crying, difficulty breathing, vomiting or abdominal pain seek medical attention.

If you get a cold, pamper yourself, drink lots of fluids like water, juice, tea and soup. Avoid alcohol and caffeine as they will cause dehydration. Rest, keep the air humidified, gargle with warm salt water several times a day. Take over-the-counter medicines to relieve the symptoms associated with the cold.

Stay Strong, Stay Healthy

The University of Missouri Extension is offering a 10-week strength

training program designed to increase your strength and improve your overall flexibility and balance. Participants also receive nutrition information and guidance.

Pre-class assessment will be on Tuesday, March 10th from 6:00 to 8:00 pm. Classes will be held on Mondays and Thursdays beginning Thursday, March 12th from 6:00-8:00 pm at First Baptist Church of Sedalia, 200 East 6th St., Sedalia, MO (660) 826-2160. Please call or go by the office of First Baptist Church to sign up for the class and pick up a program packet. Program fee is \$20 per person, cash or checks payable to University of Missouri Extension.

Leora Bremer, R.N.
Parish Nurse

Source: Medicine-Net.com, Common Cold Cause, Symptoms, Treatment and How to Avoid Colds Commoncold.org

Information written in Parish Nurse News is not intended as a substitute for professional medical advice. Consult your health care provider concerning your individual health care needs or in emergency situations seek medical assistance immediately.



NEWS FROM THE PRESIDENT

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Opportunities to meet UCC members from other churches

The Western Association of the Missouri Mid-South Conference will meet April 18, 2009 at Bethel UCC in Concordia, MO. We can send two delegates to this meeting and everyone is welcome as a visitor. If you would like to attend see Pastor Brady or Leora Bremer

General Synod 27 will be June 26-30, 2009 in Grand Rapids, Michigan. According to the by-laws the church will pay the expenses of a member attending as a visitor. A hotel room has already been reserved in Grand Rapids. If you are interested in attending please see Pastor Brady or Leora Bremer.

The Biennial Meeting of the Missouri-Mid South Conference will be October 30-November 1, 2009. The council would like to select two members from Immanuel at the next meeting to be our delegates. This will give the delegates time to become familiar with the issues to be voted upon at the meeting. Voting issues will relate to re-structuring and re-organizing the conference. If you would like to be a delegate please see Pastor Brady or Leora Bremer.

Stained glass window coverings

The congregation approved replacing the covering on the stained glass windows at a cost of \$17,000. The support of the congregation is needed for this project. Your donation(s) can be made out to the church with a notation on your check or offering envelope that it is for the windows. The work is to be completed this spring at which time the final payment will be due. The council is anticipating that the goal of \$17,000 will be reached by December, 2009. The amount of donations received will be given in the bulletin each week.

The question was asked during the congregational meeting if replacing the coverings on the stained glass windows would affect our insurance premium. I checked with our insurance agent and was told there would be no reduction in our premium because we are replacing the covering. Our coverage already includes the appropriate reduction for covered stained glass windows.

Questions or concerns please talk with me or any member of the council.



Leora Bremer
President

The Food Pantry ... Our soup drive netted 1236 CANS. These cans weighed 850 pounds. Other food for the month weighed 598 lbs. (This includes fresh potatoes and carrots and canned corn purchased by Leora & Dee with German Dinner Funds.) The total weight of food for this period was 1,448 lbs. **CONGRATULATIONS ON A REALLY GREAT EFFORT.** Total weight of food for the year is 1,827 lbs. We worked 58 hours this month. Annual hours worked = 105 hours. Volunteers are needed for sorting items and for labeling cans.

Have you a free hour or two??

SUNDAY SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

During March the children in Sunday School will enter the season of Lent and travel God's loving paths. They will be encouraged to know that God is with us no matter what. They will be exploring their relationship with God through God's creation and his word. The children will be able to join the church in giving thanks to God and to receive God's promise with their whole being. The teachers in March will be Leora Bremer and Karen Smith. The of-

The Thrift Shop... Sale from the Shop for the first 2 months of 2009 have exceeded last year's figures. Every dime made at the Shop is \$\$ that can be used for helping with heating bills, medications, or other services of the benevolent ministries program. In order to continue this level of income, the shop is asking for some extra hands to prepare items for sale.

- 1. Rag cutters are sorely needed- the regular worker is ill. Rags can be worked at the Shop or volunteers can take bags of unsalable clothing home, cut them into rags and return them to the Shop.

fering will be going to St. Jude's Children Hospital.

Upcoming Events:

The Chili/Soup Challenge will be Saturday **Feb. 21 at 5:30.** There will be a dessert auction beginning at 6:30. Plan to attend for an evening of fun and good food!! Proceeds of the auction and freewill offering will go towards Open Door and general fund. **March 27 -Lock In 6:30 PM-8:00 AM Sat.** morning March 28. Plan to bring a

2. Someone to check donated toys to be sure all the parts are there and that they operate properly.

3. Someone is needed to repair small seam rips in clothing and to sew on missing buttons. Work can be done at the Shop or at your home.

4. The Shop has received a number of boxed Christmas trees. Someone is needed to set up each tree to be sure all parts are there. The trees are to be returned to the box.

Remember, if you have free time and are willing to work at either center, you **WILL BE WELCOME.**

Betty Guth

friend or two and have an evening of fun! **April 12 9:30-Easter Egg Hunt** Bring your Easter basket to gather eggs. The empty Easter Eggs will appear on the bench in front of the office in March. Please take a dozen or two and fill them. Be sure to use individually wrapped pieces of candy if you use candy. The children have found coins and small trinkets in the eggs too. Have your eggs back to the church by April 5.

Julie Bales

THIS AND THAT

I want to thank you for the Snowman and note pad. I put the snowman on my front door and I use note pads every day to remind me of something. Thanks again, Leloy Bottcher

(Reprinted from Feb. newsletter)

CONGRATULATIONS to Kevin Bogert for getting the Outstanding Educator of the Year Award at Washington Elementary School. Way to go, Kevin!

It was good to see the smiling face of Eldon Leiter on the front page of the Sedalia Democrat

displaying his many Indian arrow heads and the great write-up about him.

(cont'd from page 5)

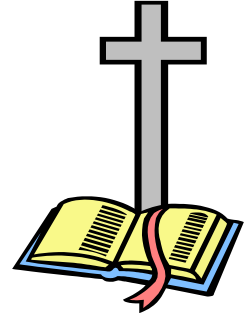
Engineers Without Borders Program to include a separate mailing to explain this giving with a statement

indicating freedom to give to anything including the window fund. Carol Weese seconded & motion carried with one abstention. Pastor Brady led the council in the Lord's Prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

John Kritos, Secretary

Lectionary Readings

March 1:	Genesis 9:8-17 Psalm 25:1-10 Peter 3:18-22 Mark 1:9-15	March 15:	Exodus 20:1-17 Psalm 19 1 Corinthians 1:18-25 John 2:13-22	March 29:	Jeremiah 31:31-34 Psalms 51:1-12 Hebrews 5:5-10 John 12:20-33
March 8:	Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16 Psalm 22:23-31 Romans 4:13-25 Mark 8:31-38	March 22:	Numbers 21:4-9 Psalms 107:1-3, 17-22 Ephesians 2:1-10 John 3:14-21		



SHARING OUR TALENTS FOR MARCH 2009

USHERS AND COMMUNION

Gary and Carol Case

LITURISTS

March 1 - Wilma Baslee

March 8 - Lynda Hartman

March 15 - Don Barbour

March 22 - Durward Guth

March 29 - Letitia Gerlt

ACOLYTES

March 1 - Madison Knight

March 8 - Kylie Bales

March 15 - Megan Wilbanks

March 22 - Allie Wilbanks

March 29 - Ashley Grotzinger

GREETERS

March 1 - Kris & Carol Knight

March 8 - Minerva Taylor

March 15 - Don & Carolyn Barbour

March 22 - Dennis & Loretta Edwards

March 29 - Steve & Dee Cain

FLOWERS

March 1 - Gary & Carol Case

March 8 - Minerva Taylor

March 15 - Dick & Leora Bremer

March 22 - Dennis & Loretta Edwards

March 29 - Juanita Messerli

NURSERY

CAN YOU HELP IF NEEDED???

5th Annual Garage Sale

It is that time of year again, garage sale time!!!!

Saturday, March 7th from 7:00 a.m. to 2 :00 p.m. Bring your unwanted items to the church by Thursday, March 5th so we can price and put them out for display.

This year we will be selling baked goods so get out those recipes and get to work. Please price them as you feel they should be.

We will also be selling biscuits and gravy, along with coffee and juice. A good time to come and have fun.

Please note the sign up sheets in the Red Room as we will need cashiers, floor workers, and kitchen help. Also, starting Monday March 2 we will start setting up the basement and any help placing items to be sold and priced would be much appreciated. Any question please call me.

Don Barbour 660-826-2102



There were several members in the hospital this past month. Jane Meisenheimer spent a few days in Boone Hospital in Columbia. She is home doing great.

George Hunter also spent several days in Bothwell Hospital and is also home doing much better.

Melody Freeman, daughter of Joyce Williams, underwent surgery on February 10, and is now home recuperating.

Our condolences to B. J. and Marlin Tegtmeier in the passing of B. J.'s uncle, C. C. Church from Willow Springs, Mo. this past week.

Lord, May I Be Like You

Lord God, Almighty, Creator,
As my heavenly Father, you knew me
Before I was born.
You knit me into the person you love
And wanted me to be.

Help me to accept and, yes, even love
The person you created - me.
When I wish I were more or less than I am,
Help me to treat me the way you do -
With love and care and pleasure.

Give me the grace to see me
Through your eyes
A father's eyes that see...
A special order design...

A child made in your image
Someone made to look
And be just like you!

Awaken in me the ability to
appreciate
All the good you have created
in me.
Increase my confidence and
courage
To go out and help others
To see themselves...
As unique, amazing children
of God! Amen



LENT

Lent offers a special opportunity to grow in our relationship with God and to deepen our commitment to a way of life that is rooted in our baptism. In our busy world, Lent provides the time to step away from the normal routines of everyday, to think about things done and not done, and to pray more deeply. There are many useful resources available for study and reflection during this season of Lent (one being the adult study group which will focus upon prayer). See Pastor Brady for more information about spiritual growth during this blessed season