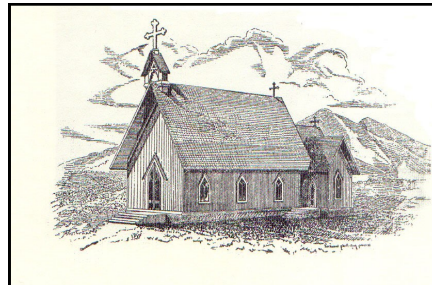




# The Voice of St. Stephen's

Location: 2177 First St. Baker City, OR

Mailing address: PO Box 1146 Baker Cit, OR 97814



March & April 2023

Live  
Lent  
with Love



Fridays at 11:00 am



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## The Vicar's Moment...

by the Rev. Taylor B. Clark



This last Sunday (the first Sunday of Lent). We heard a most impressive sermon by Betty Palmer. It gave a unique perspective on lent. I certainly don't want to critique it except to say that I really appreciated the content. I believe that the focus was using lent to appreciate each day more fully, to focus on our present moment. It is indeed another way to appreciate these 40 days.

There are several ways to participate in a Holy Lent, and I would like to focus on the history and customs associated with lent in this vicar's moment.

We usually think of Lent as 40 days, like Jesus was in the wilderness for 40 days just after his baptism. Lent is defined as the period of time from Ash Wednesday for 46 days until Easter Sunday. The extra six days were for the Sundays in Lent which always constitutes a feast day.

This season of Lent breathes holiness to me. Lent is a time of reflection, new perceptions, and options to deepen our spiritual growth.

The purpose of Lent is well presented in the Ash Wednesday's special liturgy which says in part, "This season of Lent provided a time in which converts to the faith were prepared for Holy Baptism. It was also a time when persons, who because of notorious sins, had been separated from the body of the faithful, were reconciled by penitence and forgiveness, and restored to the fellowship of the Church. Thereby, the whole congregation was put in mind of the message of pardon and absolution set forth in the Gospel of our Savior, and of the need which all Christians continually must renew their repentance and faith.

Preparation of candidates for baptism at the Easter service is the primary purpose of Lent. What it useful for new members of the community may very well be useful for the continuing education, formation, and renewal of those more seasoned members of St. Stephen's.

During this time of lent, joy and renewal are as important as prayer, fasting and self-denial.

From Wikipedia. "Historians generally agree that the 40-day period before Easter, known as Lent, emerged shortly following the Council of Nicaea in 325 AD. Earliest observances of Lent seem to have focused particularly on the practice of fasting. Council records suggest that the fast applied at first mainly to new converts as a period of repentance and reflection before baptism at Easter. In any case, Lent quickly became a general practice churchwide. The actual 40-day period varied region-to-region, even church-to-church; some including weekends, some not; some fasting Sundays, others not. But in every case, the fast was strict: one meal a day after 3 PM with no meat, fish, or dairy. It was Pope Gregory I (590 - 604) who finally regularized the period of the fast churchwide, to begin on a Wednesday 46 days before Easter with a ceremony of ash, and not to include Sundays, which were perennial days of celebration."

There are several options for fasting and Lent. Some choose to delete sugar, sweets or alcohol, wine. For some, reducing screen time, stopping smoking, or going on a diet.

For some, adding tasks is more appropriate. Going to nursing homes, or reading to those unable to read, spending time with those who are alone are some options. Lent can also be a time to educate ourselves concerning some aspect of the church, it's history, practices, reading a brief morning and or evening prayer found in the prayer book under individual prayer. Using another form of prayer book, forward day by day is good. We have soup suppers and compline one time a week, maybe that would appeal to you. The idea is to immerse yourself in prayer and spiritual growth. I pray for you a productive and spiritual lent.



## 70 Years of Pancakes

The church's Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper is over 70 years old. Starting about 1953, it is a tradition that St Stephens shares with the community. Originally it was a way to use up foods such as eggs and fat not usually consumed during Lent. Meals consisted of pancakes, ham, applesauce, coffee, tea and milk. 1976 had David Proebstel and Paul Bache wearing the chef's hats. On cooking detail for 1984 were Lynn Pryse, Mike Chase, Guy McCoy and Clint Bellows. Coffee servers were Ken Sturgill and Bob Armstrong ; food servers were Mildred Leishman, Barbara Chase, Pam Kleen, Julie Hanley, Brenda Beatty, Liz McGonagall, Elaine Joseph and Jane Pollock; Steve Kleen & Paul Bache were in charge of the clean-up.

2009 documents show 100 people attended paying \$5 adult, \$2 children, and \$11 for a family. In 2003 the prices were \$4 for an adult, \$1.50 for children 12 & under and \$9 for a family. 1981 had an adult paying \$2.25, children \$1 and families \$6.50. In 2023, Adults were \$5.00, Children \$1.50 and Family \$12.00.

From the Archives  
Mindy Sherrieb



Live  
Lent  
*with Love*



Some of our Pancake Chefs & Servers.





Sue Richards celebrated a remote Shrove Tuesday.



Great Pancakes & Good Fellowship

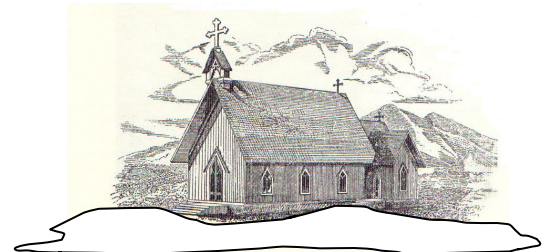


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*St. Stephen's is a welcoming community of faith.  
 Please join us Sundays at 9 AM.  
 We miss you when you are not here.*



*Established 1873 by The Rev. Reuben Denton Nevius*

### March & April 2023



March 5	Holy Eucharist II @ 9 am	Lent 2
March 12	Morning Prayer II @ 9 am	Lent 3
March 15	Harley & Clark House Concert St Elizabeth Tower	
March 19	<b>VESTRY 7:30 am</b> Holy Eucharist II @ 9 am	Lent 4
March 26	Morning Prayer II @ 9 am	Lent 5

April 2	Holy Eucharist II @ 9 am	<b>Palm Sunday</b>
April 9	Holy Eucharist II @ 9 am	<b>Easter Day</b>
April 16	Morning Prayer II @ 9 am	Easter 2
April 23	Holy Eucharist II @ 9 am	Easter 3
April 30	Morning Prayer II @ 9 am	Easter 4