



# GREEN SPRING GLEANINGS

Issue Number 8

February 2010

**H**ave you noticed this year that Lent begins at a time when we are celebrating tremendous human achievement?

This month two football teams battle for title of *world champion*. Athletes from around the globe will meet in Vancouver to compete in the 2010 Winter Olympics. They will push personal and world records. Both athletic competitions demonstrate of individual and team determination, great skill and hard work, precision and strength.

And during this month of great sports, city-pride, and national pride, the church marks the beginning of Lent. It's a season not about human success but about failure, not about human strength but about frailty, a season not about long-standing records, but mortality.

Lent does not lift up human greatness, but instead points us toward the greatness of God. It begins with ashes, not medals not national anthems, not a trophy or locker room celebrations.

Ashes are a symbol of repentance and our mortality. To begin Lent with ashes means we recognize our need for God, who in Jesus Christ brings forgiveness to our repentance, and brings salvation and

everlasting life to our mortality. No amount of human work or triumph can accomplish that.

Jesus and the disciples headed south from Galilee to Jerusalem for Passover. This final Passover would be unlike any previous. On the way, Jesus told them, "The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again." The disciples did not understand this meant and were afraid to ask him. (Mark 9:30-37)



When they got to Capernaum for the night, Jesus asked the twelve what they were arguing about on the way. They didn't answer him, but Mark writes that they were arguing about who was the greatest.

How did it happen that Jesus told the disciples that he would be killed and would rise would three days later, and they start arguing with each other? How easy it is to begin building temples to human greatness! I think Jesus knew what they were arguing about because he said to them

whoever wants to be first must be last of all and the servant of all.

I like this moment in the gospel. It reminds me of the season of Lent. Not that I think we will spend the next several weeks arguing about who is the greatest. Let that happen in Miami and Vancouver.

Instead these words from Jesus make me think about how we travel together toward Jerusalem, like disciples on the road with Jesus in our midst.

We walk a road that leads to a cross and an empty tomb. We all follow the Rabbi who teaches us on the way that whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.

Service to others is the measure of greatness. On this path to Jerusalem, we will pass by temples dedicated to human achievement. Every temple we pass by shows that we can only get so far on our own, human strength.

As we begin this season, we travel together toward Easter. Get ready to announce the news of the cross the empty tomb, for this is the good news of Jesus Christ for all people.

Together in Christ, Jon

## Thank You.....

*Nancy Lowry would like to thank everyone for her birthday cards and phone calls that she received on her 97th birthday, January 22, 2010. She had a wonderful birthday!*

*I would like to thank everyone for the "roasting" you put me through on Sunday, January 17th. Of course the Scouts (and their helpers) deserve extra special thanks for preparing and serving a delicious lunch for all. The flowers were beautiful and the cake was delicious. I will miss being in the office helping Jon and everyone but I am leaving you in very good hands with Barbara in the office.*

*Peace & Love,  
Marge*

*Lois and Bob Gillespie would like to thank the Green Spring Church Family for all the food, cards, flowers, telephone calls, home chores (decorating for Christmas, shopping, wrapping Christmas and Birthday gifts, and ironing-Bob especially appreciated that). Both of us especially appreciate, also, the prayers that were offered on Lois' behalf. God has heard these prayers and we know everything is in His hands. We still would appreciate future prayers as Lois was put back on the IV vancomycin antibiotic and confined to home for another two weeks, in addition to the six previous weeks. There is still one more week to go and then we will know the outcome from there. Again, many thanks for everything that has been done for us!*



February 17 at 7:00pm  
Everyone Welcome

God sent Christ into the world not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him.  
John 3:17

## SOUP, SANDWICHES, STUDY

Right after Church!  
Enjoy lunch, fellowship, and a Bible Lesson presented from the Holy Land.

### Schedule:

February 21: When Storms Come  
February 28: Lamb of God  
March 7: Service Project: Blanket Making  
March 14: Language of Culture  
March 21: Living Water



There will also be a program for children each week.



**Flower Calendar for 2010** is available in the office for anyone wishing to place flowers in the memory of or in honor of, birthdays, anniversaries or whatever you would like.

**Meals on Wheels Volunteers Needed:** More helpers and drivers are needed Monday-Wednesday for the Meals on Wheels. A total of 16 helpers are needed. This would be a 3-4 hour commitment about once a month. At the present time 30 meals are being served. If you can be a volunteer please contact Peggy Riley at (276) 475-5390.



**Welcome to our newly elected officers for the Class of 2012:** (Elders) Ralph Puckett, Tom Counts, and Joe Keller. (Deacons) Carolyn McConnell, Norma Smith and Mark White.

(A Special Thank you to the Elders and Deacons Class of 2009: Jack Briscoe, Tom Deaton, James Hope, Maria Briscoe, Bucky Buchanan, and Lee Garrett).

**Note to Treasurers:**

Just a reminder to get your report in for 2009 if you haven't already done so! Forms are available in the Church Office. Thanks.

**Welcome.....**

We are pleased to welcome **Susanne Martin** as Interim Choir Director while the Search Committee starts the search for a full time Choir Director.

**Deacons' News.....**

The deacons met on January 26, 2010. Jim Riley will be the chairman for 2010 and will be the coordinator between the Session and Deacons. Tim Briscoe will be the vice-chairman and Bonnie Keller is secretary. They are already planning their events for the year with a 'Spring Cleaning Day' in March. The day and time will be announced later. They will organize the Easter Sunrise Breakfast for April 4th. The deacon for each month was decided. Rick Hall will be Deacon of the Month for February and Norma Smith for March.



The deadline to get information in the next issue of "Gleanings" is February 25. The

news can be submitted by telephone to **Lois** at 276-628-3873 or email her at loisleana@bvunet.net or the church office at gspchurch@comcast.net.



**Cookbook Update from the Editor in Chief!**

Happy New Year and God's Blessing from the Editor's corner. The Green Spring Cookbook is in the editing stages and the publishers have requested **more recipes**. They have concluded that our cookbook is a bit "skimpy" and needs more additions. You have a **second opportunity** to get your **favorite recipe** in our cookbook. Please do not delay! Submission may be placed in the recipe box in the vestibule or by email to: counselors2@gmail.com. Any questions contact Rebekah Roberts, Editor in Chief!



Mark White, Mack & Lisa Bailey, Nancy Lowry, Frank & Eleanor Preston, Bobbe Harris, Sue Elkins, Ann Sprinkle, Edna McConnell, Sandra Wimmer, Jack Snider Tom & Connie Counts, Nancy Thompson, Ruby Colley, Emma Barton, Allen & Karen Combs, Lucille King, Carolyn Deaton, Bill & Marge Margerum, Lois Gillespie, Phil Abel, Ann Lowry, Danny McConnell, Deborah Weddington, Charles Hutton, Roy & Mattie Isbell, Harold Winfrey, Terry Major's sister, Tinkie, Mary McChesney, Darren & Joanne Phillippi, Michael Clements, Lisa Grimsley, Andrea Birchfield, Pat Cournan, Laura Whitehill, Norma Smith's friend's grandson Brylan and Ellen Windle.

**BIRTHDAYS FOR FEBRUARY AND MARCH**

<b>FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS</b>	<b>MARCH BIRTHDAYS</b>
February 6- Celina Wade	March 3-Mary Lynn Singleton
February 7- William Collins	March 3-Betty Sparks
February 17-Leighton Sprinkle	March 3-Virginia Thompson
February 19-Blair Keller	March 3-Jerry Wimmer
February 22-Tim Nichols	March 5-Jon Martin
February 22-Eric Wimmer	March 8-Eugene Altizer
February 24-Mary Jo Neal	March 10-Carl McCauley
February 29-Carolyn Deaton	March 12-Frank Preston
	March 15-Eleanor Preston
	March 16-Dakota White
	March 17-Charlie Sturgill
	March 18-Bucky Buchanan
	March 21-David Phillippi
	March 22-Bobbe Harris
	March 22-Patsy Buchanan
	March 24-Sam Evans
	March 28-John Clark
	March 28-Jeanie Evans
	March 29-Mattie Isbell
	March 29-Bubs Nichols

**THOSE CELEBRATING AN ANNIVERSARY IN FEBRUARY & MARCH**

Doug & Elizabeth Phillippi, February 19; Bobby & Tia Hensley, February 25; Carl & Loretta McCauley, March 20; Frank & Eleanor Preston, March 28.

