

A BIT OF NEW LIFE ... IN A HUMBLE PLACE ... ON ROUTE 45  
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## EASTER SEASON 2010

Dear Friends and Families,

*It's so personal ... I sometimes forget how "personal" it is.*

I mean --- life is personal. Each day is personal. Each of us has a journey that's unique ... unlike the journey of anyone else. How we feel about our own "personal journey" ... it shapes and molds almost everything we do.

Do you ever have a "moment"???? ... a common-ordinary happening ... yet in the midst of that, you are reminded of so much about what's important in life. Last week ... while visiting my bro' in Virginia ... Q asks me: "Dad ... can you take me to the park so we can fly our airplanes???" Little "dollar store" wooden planes ... you just throw them into the air. "Of course, let's go!!" Hey, dad ... I'll race you ... I can run faster than you!@!! With my plastic and steel hip and knee ... most everyone can run faster than me!!

We go to the park ... chase after our planes ... we laugh and skip and jump ... and then, for a moment ... I STOP. Two years ago ... I could hardly walk. Two years ago ... I couldn't have walked to the park or laughed and skipped like we did last Monday. Most of you know the story. My insurance didn't cover the surgery ... I put it off ... you-all gave money at Christmas to help Jude and me pay for what needed to be done.

### THE LOVE BUCKET over-flows.

A journey becomes a shared journey. The hand of Jesus reaches out in the people I preach to and work with everyday. The "Palm Sunday parade" comes to life in acts of kindness words can't even describe. Holy Week becomes every week ... Easter ain't no holiday ... it's a way of living.

It's easy to take for granted a walk to the park ... a wooden airplane ... the skip in one's step ... the "giggle" of a little boy who unexpectedly comes into your life. It's easy to get so consumed by what we have to do and what comes next ... that we forget how much we need each other.

Yes, it's personal.

Life is. Everyday is. Love is.

It's humbling when the "love bucket" is being filled for you. It's humbling when you are reminded ... maybe we aren't as self-sufficient as we think we are. It's fun to give ... it's part of who we are ...

it's very spiritual and cleansing and so unbelievably human ----- to RECEIVE from the hearts and souls of others.

***Yes, the love bucket is personal.*** Every step I take ... or you take ---- it's a gift.

From the veteran serving in Iraq ... who comes home and may never be able walk again ..... to the chiseled athlete who can run like the wind for 26 miles ----- **when it comes to being a child of God:**

**WE ALL WALK TALL** ... bound together by our unique-yet-shared HEARTSONGS ... giving us the courage to live today, and face an uncertain tomorrow.

"The love bucket" defines who we are as a church. Whether it's the quarter or dollar you put in the bucket here ... the checks you send to the church or put into your offering envelope ... or quiet acts of kindness and gifts you give to people and places nobody else even knows about ----- *life is about giving from the very guts of who we are.*

It's HOLY WEEK. Smells & images. Lamb gravy ... plastic, covering the couch in grandma's humble bungalow. Still believing in the Easter Bunny ... people arriving late for "mass" and wondering where all these folks have come from.

Kids wondering what they'll get at the children's sermon ... hoping the pastor makes a "come-back" after those little bracelets on Palm Sunday!! New slacks ... maybe an Easter bonnet or two ... a spiritual walk "down memory lane" ----- missin' my mom, wishing grandma were still here.

**There goes the airplane. I run after it. Then I stop ..... I could never do this alone.**

*luv and joy to all ----- "the ol' rev" ... hangin' with the love bucket.*

### HOLY WEEK AT ALL SAINTS

*\*Holy Thursday, April 1 ---- worship at Noon and 7:30.*

*Our young people will be receiving their first Communion during the evening service. There is a nursery available at the late service.*

*\*Good Friday ... service of quiet and the 7 last words of Jesus on the cross.*

*Worship at Noon and 7:30.*

EASTER SUNDAY ----- BREAKFAST served from 7:30 – 10:30. Please come and enjoy ... sponsored by our youth group.

It's very festive ... and your "free-will offerings" help our youth group do what they do best:

enjoy each other, enjoy the church, and reach-out unto others!!

(no Sunday School classes this Sunday ... regular schedule resumes on April 11)

**OUR NEXT MEN'S CLUB OUTREACH BINGO** is Friday, April 9 ... doors open at 6:30 ... "first call" at 7:00.

Our men's club does "good stuff" with the money they raise ... plus, it's a good adult evening ... food and drink is available.

#### **YOUTH GROUP ... A COUPLE THINGS:**

\*If you can help us set-up for the breakfast ... come to the church at 10:00 am on Saturday. Remember ... you sponsor this baby ... and it benefits you ... so COME ON DOWN AND HELP US!@!!

\*Last call for YOUTH RETREAT ... Friday, April 16 ... returning about noon on Sunday. Parents ---- if you have any questions, give us a call at the office.

#### **THE MOTHER-DAUGHTER-FRIEND-NIECE-COUSIN ... WHOMEVER LUNCHEON**

Sunday, May 2 ... 1:00. And who sponsors it???? --- our humble men's club. It's a great event and celebration.

Tickets will be on sale ... beginning April 11.

#### **OUR OUTDOOR WORSHIP AREA AND DEDICATION WALK HAS A NEW TWIST.**

Jim Melka has designed a new area ----- one for bricks in memory of and/or in honor of your loved ones ... and another area dedicated to veterans "who have gone before us." New order forms ... reflecting these changes ... will be available within the next week or so. We would like to put together a new order soon ... so the bricks can get here early summer.

"Take a walk" ----- it's beautiful out back.

#### **LADIES' NITE OUT**

Friday, May 14 ... an evening of pampering, shopping, food, and entertainment. Tickets will be on sale after Easter.

If you have a business or service and would like to consider being a part of this event ... you can call the church office

or e-mail Sue Smith ----- [sue.smith@allsaintsjoy.com](mailto:sue.smith@allsaintsjoy.com).

#### **This newsletter goes out to lots of folks.**

If you are not getting the newsletter in the mail and would like to ---- please call the church office.

Some of you are getting the newsletter ... and you haven't been around for quite a while. If you are no longer interested ...

if you are attending elsewhere ... if you would like to re-connect ----- you are free to call the church office or drop

us a note. Personally ----- as our church changes and grows ... I want everyone to feel important and connected. This is

the way it would be in a "perfect world" ... but ---- we're not perfect, and we don't need to be. We just need to do our best.

It is ---- *all about love ... and caring ... and being genuine ...*

*and walking in the footsteps of a humble carpenter, who makes all this possible.*

**A blessed "holy week" to all.**

*(Check out our web-site for up-dates, prayers, and even a sermon or two ...)*