

March 2011  
Volume 2, Issue 3

# The Newsletter

## UP

## IN

How is your "IN"?

This week was the beginning of Lent- the 40 days between Ash Wednesday and Easter. Take time this week to read the story of Jesus' 40 days in the wilderness. You can find it in Luke, Chapter 4. Jesus spent those 40 days in prayer and fasting, both traditional activities for Lent. This year, take time each day to talk with God in prayer. You could find a daily devotional in our church library, or find an online devotional (check out "40 Days...40 Ways" at [www.disciples.org](http://www.disciples.org)).

This year instead of the church ordering and selling Easter flowers, we would like you to bring in your choice of potted flowers for Easter. Buy them anywhere you choose and bring them to church anytime between Palm Sunday and Easter. Put them in the Narthex. We will make sure they are displayed on Easter Sunday.

Nancy Stuart, IN chairperson

## OUT

### AS I SEE IT...

It's been another powerful month here at DCC. We seen God at work in so many ways.

First, it was the wonderful way you responded to the Souper Bowl of Caring. With our Youth in charge, you gave \$600 to help feed the folks at CHOSEN. AND, when the announcement was given with no advance notice, you gave \$350 to the organization Jacob Vangen was working with on his mission trip to Haiti. And both of these events happened on the same day! It wasn't hard to see God at work through your generous and compassionate hands.

And then, we saw God at work as God brought together Nancy Carey and Kevin Steuart as husband and wife! What a celebration we witnessed at a reception in their honor! Even your very human pastor was witness to this celebration until he had to go nite-nite. Oh the things he missed!! I'll never tell. (As long as you keep leaving this old mouse crumbs on the floor.)

I wonder what God will do in our lives in March? Hmm.



Until next month . . .

### JOHN'S JOTS

Who am I? This seems like an appropriate and, perhaps, an important question during the Lenten season.

We each wear different hats. Some of us are parents, grandparents, fathers, mothers, employees, citizens, sons/daughters, builders, consumers, pastors, teachers, engineers, domestic goddesses and etc.

But have you noticed we tend to view our lives as being different silos. We have our home silo, our work silo, our recreational silo, and our church silo (just to name a few). We humans tend to separate our lives into different silos or compartments.

But there is one hat, one descriptive category that we can't remove. That one immovable hat is that of a missionary. No matter what you do or where you go, you can't take that hat off. It is a part of our identity; a part of who we are. You may not be aware that you're even wearing a missionary hat, but you are regardless of whether you want to be or not.

No matter what we do or say our lives are a witness to God. That's what it means to be a missionary; it means to be a witness. It's our identity.

Now, we all face the same enemy, Satan, the tempter. And one of the ways we have traditionally "done" Lent is to examine the ways Jesus was tempted in the wilderness and apply those same temptations to our lives. Why? Because the tempter uses these same things to sabotage our identity as missionaries.

"How so?" you ask. I'm so glad you asked. The tempter is trying to get Jesus to mess with his identity. The tempter goes after Jesus, and us, in 3 different ways.

1. Appetite
2. Affirmation
3. Ambition

Appetite is what our body or mind craves. Sex, food, obsessive body image that drives us to the gym or the surgeon, TV, internet/Facebook, convenience, comfort, aloneness. What cravings do you have that are controlling your life?

What these cravings are saying is that I don't trust God to give me what I want, I don't trust the identity God has given to me.

Our identity has to come from somewhere outside of us and it can be so easy to seek the affirmation of others in lots of ways and let what they say dictate how we view ourselves. We can either believe we're someone who is worth something or not. So instead of seeing our identity as a child of God, a missionary, an unshakable reality, we look for quick fixes of affirmation.

We should honestly look at ourselves to see if we do things just so other folks will affirm us. We all do it, don't we. Myself included.

Ambition is really about an addiction to winning or having to be successful. Now don't hear me say that winning or being successful is wrong; it's when we need those things to give us our identity.

Being a missionary or living a missional life isn't even about us; it is all about the one who created us. It's not about our cravings; it's not about getting affirmation for ourselves (or even our church; which is a temptation for every church); and it's not about us winning or being successful (another big temptation for Christ's church). It's all about spreading the unconditional love and grace of God to others by our words and our actions.

So this Lent, what's tempting you these days and how is it affecting your ability to be a faithful witness to the kingdom of God within us?

Shalom,

Pastor John

## MISC. NEWS



The Youth are at it again...making sure the members of DCC have food in their bellies! The youth are planning our annual **Baked Potato Lunch**, complete with salad, dessert and lots of toppings!

The event will be Sunday, Mar. 13 following worship. Mark your calendars! Come and join us for a fun event, just in time for St. Patrick's Day! Wear your "green" and bring your "green" to support our efforts. Donations will go to the youth fund for outings. (Takeouts available also).

Thanks!

DCC Youth

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## DEACON'S SERVING SCHEDULE FOR MARCH

Sarah Ferguson, Scott Ferguson, Liz Longard, Jeff Moxley, Tammy Gross, Becky Druley, Danny Vangen

## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Abby Williams	2
Virgina Joskem	6
Betty Vangen	6
Tom Spears	12
Jill White	12
Scott Ferguson	14
Liz Longard	17
Paul Caudill	19
Madeleine Elwell	27

## PRAYER REQUESTS

Lois Johnson – Shut In  
Mitchell and Helen Deaton – dealing with health issues  
Kim Vangen – rehabing new hip  
Vada Lee Accirido – Lois Johnson's sister in law, has cancer  
Hershel Estridge – Lois Johnson's cousin, dealing with health issues  
Ron Hurst – dealing with health issues  
Gene Thomas – at home.  
The Pendergest Family – dealing with the death of John's Brother  
Don Gross – at Mercy South doing therapy  
Ray Scheffler – at Mercy South

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