

MT ZION UMC

MARCH 2011 NEWSLETTER

Dear Mt. Zion Friends,

This year Lent begins on Ash Wednesday (March 9) and continues for 40 days in which Christians have historically engaged in various forms of self-denial to help them better identify with the passion (suffering) of Jesus. Prayer and fasting are two spiritual disciplines frequently used to promote spiritual growth during this time.

As Methodists, our religious heritage is deeply-rooted in the idea that all who call themselves Christians ought to engage in various spiritual disciplines. In his sermon "The Means of Grace" Wesley taught early Methodists that "outward signs, words, or actions ordained of God" act as "channels" by which the believer would encounter the empowering presence of God. In other words, through specific signs, words, and actions, Christians receive spiritual nourishment that comes from God.

The primary means of grace are prayer, searching the Scriptures, and the Lord's Supper (Holy Communion). The centrality of these practices is seen in our Sunday Morning services.

Other means of grace include fasting, holy conferencing (gathering with other believers for spiritual betterment), and good works done for others.

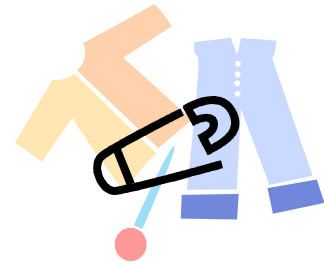
In this season of Lent, I encourage you to intentionally practice the means of grace, with faith that as you do you will encounter the presence of God and that you will grow as a disciple of Jesus!

If you have any questions, please contact me. I would love to help you on your spiritual journey.

Blessings and Peace,

Pastor Craig

LITTLE TYKES LEFTOVERS SALE A FAMILY CONSIGNMENT EVENT



Public Sale Dates:

- Friday, March 25, 10am-7pm
- Saturday, March 26, 8am-12 noon (half-price sale)

Our consignment sale is a great way for you to purchase high-quality, pre-owned children's clothing. It's also an easy way to earn money and clean out your home by selling your gently used children's items.

If you want to consign items, you must register by March 18. Contact one of the following people:

Debbie de la Cruz (336) 552-6190 or debbsberto@gmail.com

LeeAnne Hayes (336) 548-4444 or lgs1076@aol.com

Elicia Knight (336) 445-0138 or elicia_knight@yahoo.com

GOOD SAMARITAN UPDATE

Mt. Zion's United Methodist Men & United Methodist Women hosted a successful Country Breakfast on Saturday, February 12. After expenses, \$953.22 was raised, all of which was donated to Good Samaritan Ministries of Stokesdale.

Do you have an event or article for our next newsletter? Please contact Heather Ulrich at (336) 996-7745 or ulrich_heather@hotmail.com