

ST. ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCH



Reflection by Rev. Charlene

Ash Wednesday begins our journey through Lent, a road that takes us to the cross of Jesus' crucifixion, and then to the tomb and the good news that "death could not hold him" - Hallelujah! I invite you to join us in worship each week as we make the Lenten journey – extinguishing a candle Sunday by Sunday, reflecting on the call to repentance and to transformation. There are in each of us (and in the church) those things that we need to confess or change or let go of – so that our lives might be lived more fully in the Way of Jesus.

I came across a reflection that helps us to ponder the call to self-examination which is part of the Lenten season. It goes like this: If we were knives, Lent would be a time to sharpen our cutting edges. If we were cars, Lent would be a time for an oil change and a tune-up. If we were gardens, Lent would be a time to fertilize our soil and dig out our weeds. If we were carpets, Lent would be a time to get power-cleaned. If we were computers, Lent would be a time to overhaul our disk drive. If we were highways, Lent would be a time to repair our cracks and fill our potholes. If we were silverware, Lent would be a time to clean away our tarnish. If we were batteries, Lent would be a time to be recharged. If we were seeds, Lent would be a time to germinate and reach for the sun.

But we are none of these things: We are people who sometimes do wrong things; we have to atone for them. We are people who sometimes get spiritually lazy; we need to get back into shape. We are people who sometimes become selfish; we need to stretch out of our narrowness and begin giving again. We are people who sometimes lose sight of our purpose on earth and the immense promise within us; we need to regain our vision. And because we are also people who sometimes tend to put those things off, we need a special sort of official time to concentrate on doing them. So we have Lent. The Easter candy will taste sweeter, the Easter flowers will bloom more brightly, the Easter Sunday sun will shine more warmly if we are a better people – and all because of how we spent these forty days.
(from Father Tony Kadavil's collection of Lent stories and illustrations)



HOLY WEEK SERVICES

April 5 - **Palm Sunday**
@ 11 a.m. Sunday
School children enter
with palm parade.

April 9 - **Maundy
Thursday** @ 7 p.m. at
the F.P. Loggie Hall in
Loggieville. Remember
Jesus' last night with his
disciples.

April 10 - **Good Friday**
@ 7 p.m. We retell the
story of Jesus' passion
with music, drama, and
reflection.

April 12 - **Easter Sunday**
@ 11 a.m. Easter
celebration with the
Sacrament of
Communion.



Ecumenical Noon Lenten Services, with the theme “Seven Encounters with Jesus”, will be held at St. Mary’s Anglican Church beginning on February 26th (Ash Wednesday) and each Wednesday up to and including April 8th. Services begin at 12:15 p.m. and are followed by a lunch of sandwiches/cookies with suggested donation of \$4. Proceeds will be donated to the Miramichi Women’s Emergency Centre.

Ash Wednesday Service, shared with congregations of the Loggieville-Black River Pastoral Charge, will be held at St. Andrew’s United Church on February 26th at 7 p.m. Come join us as we begin the Lenten journey with the imposition of ashes.

World Day of Prayer Service will be held at the Skyway to Heaven Church on Friday, March 6th at 2 p.m.



Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper with sausages, baked beans and assorted desserts. Tuesday, **February 25th** - 4 to 6 p.m. (*Free will offering*)

Roast Beef Supper here at St. Andrew’s with assorted pies for dessert. Tuesday, **March 10th** - 5 p.m. (*Pre-sold tickets \$15.*)

Social Gathering sponsored by the Pastoral Care & Outreach Team, with a presentation by members of Miramichi Worldwide on their recent mission trip to Guatemala. Light refreshments. Wednesday, **March 25th** - 1:30 p.m.

Cold Plate Take-Out with assorted cakes for dessert. Thursday, **April 23rd** - 10 a.m. to 12 noon (*Cost \$12.*)

Annual Yard & Bake Sale. Household items, and baked goods would be appreciated. No clothing please. Saturday, **May 2nd** - 7 a.m. to 12 noon.

Rae Walls & Rainbow Unit (UCW) Fashion Show & Dessert. Saturday, **May 9th** - 2 p.m.



LENTEN BIBLE STUDY

Bible study will be held on Mondays at 10 a.m., beginning February 24th, for seven weeks. We will be looking at the Book of Revelation, a book with a powerful message which is often misinterpreted. It tells a story of God’s presence with a fractured and frightened community, with a church that had no idea what the future might hold, and with a people who wondered if it was time to give up and abandon what they believed - which makes Revelation a perfect book for our time, don’t you think?

RESURRECTED RELATIVE

A young man came to his boss and asked for the day off to attend his grandmother's funeral. His boss said, “Sure.”

The next day the young man was talking to his boss. The boss said, “Do you believe in resurrection from the dead?”

Young man, “Yes.”

“Interesting because after you left work yesterday, your grandmother came to visit you.”