

From the Desk of
Reverend Dr. John Tattersall

Spring forward



In March we spring into Spring. The old English word, coming from German and Dutch is **Lent**. The original meaning of the word is *long* for in the spring the days visibly lengthen. In the church it is a special time to be observed.

Originating in the fourth century, the season of **Lent** spans 40 weekdays beginning on Ash Wednesday and climaxing during Holy Week with Holy Thursday (Maundy Thursday), Good Friday, and concluding Saturday before Easter. Originally, Lent was the time of preparation for those who were to be baptized, a time of concentrated study and prayer before their baptism at the Easter Vigil, the celebration of the Resurrection of the Lord early on Easter Sunday. But since these new members were to be received into a living community of Faith, the entire community was called to preparation. Also, this was the time when those who had been separated from the Church would prepare to rejoin the community.



The forty days represent the time that Jesus spent in the desert after he had been baptized and before he began his public ministry. During that time Jesus was tempted by Satan. Satan came to Jesus when he was hungry and tempted him to turn stones into bread. There were many smooth round stones that would have looked like the bread his mother would have baked. The Devil really knows how to have a go at us. He tried to get Jesus to doubt who he is.

Matt 4:3 The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread."

But Jesus had no doubt that he is the Son of God. Providing bread for hungry people is a good thing. Jesus did this when he fed 5000 and then 4000 people. But he would not use his divine creating power just for his own comfort or desire. Jesus answered the Devil with Scripture. While food is important it is not the only thing in life. People do need food but they also need to 'feed' on the Word of God.

So the Devil had another go:

Matt 4:5 - 6 Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'"

There was prophecy that said how the Lord would suddenly come to his temple. If Jesus had jumped off the highest point of the temple and floated down unharmed he could claim to have fulfilled the prophecy – and what a spectacle! The trouble with the spectacular is that the next day people expect something even more spectacular. Jesus had come just to do magic tricks or daring acrobatics.

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A third time Satan came to him. This time he promised to make Jesus the ruler of the world. All he had to do was to worship the Devil.



Matt 4:10 Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'"

So the Devil left him, but that was not the end of Jesus' temptations. Jesus would have to face temptation from well-meaning friends. But that is how the Devil works.

The story of Jesus' temptations show us that Jesus really was human. He faced life as we face life. He faced temptation as we face temptation. This means he understands. We can go to him with our hopes and fears; with our triumphs and failures; in times of weakness and when we feel strong.

Jesus resisted the Devil's temptation because he knew God, the Father's will. Jesus had come to seek and save. There was only one way that could be accomplished. It meant the Cross – suffering and death. That is what Jesus came to do. There could be no short-cut. Salvation would not be accomplished by wonders and miracles.

Lent is the forty days when we can think again what Jesus has done for us. We may want to do something different or extra to help us remember and show our love for all Jesus has done. This is why some people fast in Lent. Others spend more time in prayer and Bible reading. However you use Lent, even if you choose not to take up something special or different, never forget that great love of God through which you have eternal life.

You laid aside Your majesty,
Gave up everything for me.
Suffered at the hands
Of those You had created.
You took all my guilt and shame,
When You died and rose again.
Now today You reign,
In heaven and earth exalted.

I really want to worship You my Lord,
You have won my heart and I am Yours.
Forever and ever, I will love You.
You are the only One who died for me,
Gave Your life to set me free.
So I lift my voice to You in adoration (Noel Richards)



EASTER SEASON SERMONS

JESUS' LOVE AND GREATNESS

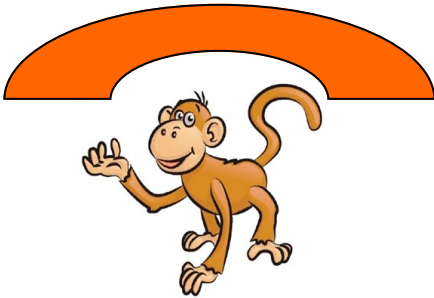
March 13	Jesus Is All Powerful ~ <i>1st Sunday in Lent</i>
March 20	Trust Jesus
March 27	Traveling With Jesus
April 3	Understand What Jesus Says
April 10	Good Teachers For Jesus
April 17	Jesus Is Our King ~ <i>Palm Sunday</i>
April 24	The Broken Easter Egg ~ <i>Easter Sunday</i>



Sunday, March 13
Daylight Savings Time Begins



Happy March Birthdays!



The Monkeys Disgrace

Three monkeys sat in a coconut tree
Discussing things as they're said to be.
Said one to another, "Now listen, you two,
There's a certain rumor that cannot be true,
That man descends from our noble race -
The very idea is a disgrace.

No monkey ever deserted his wife,
Starved her babies and ruined her life;
And you've never known a mother monk
To leave her babies with others to bunk,
Or pass them on from one to another
Til they scarcely know who is their mother.

And another thing you'll never see -
A monk build a fence around a coconut tree
And let the coconuts go to waste,
Forbidding all other monks to taste.
Why, if I put a fence around this tree,
Starvation would force you to steal from me.

Here's another thing a monk won't do -
Go out at night and get on a stew,
Or use a gun or club or knife
To take some other monkey's life;

Yes, Man Descended - That ornery cuss -
But, brother, he didn't descend from
us!" (Anon)



COUNCIL NEWS & NOTES

Can you believe it has been **ONE YEAR** since John officially became our minister? March 16 marks the day and I can remember the date easily as John 3:16 ☺ John and Beryl have added greatly to the life of Christ Community Church as they have gotten to know each of us personally, and we have gotten to know them. We look forward to many more anniversaries of John 3:16.

Something very exciting for our church is the launch of our new website! Although we are still tweaking the site just a little bit, you may view it and see what we have completed so far ~ we would love to know what you think as we welcome your suggestions and comments. One new feature is that you are able to send us a prayer request ~ this can be anonymous or you can ask for a personal response. You will also be able to access the monthly newsletter, see the church calendar, and view and print out sermons. The address is www.orlandoccc.org.

We thank Richard Reaves as he has accepted the responsibility of chairperson for a newly formed committee. This committee will discuss the details of our expansive property and explore options of how we can best serve the community with the land use. One thing this committee needs is **YOU**. Please contact the church office or send Richard an email if you would like to become involved in this process. Richard's email address is rreaves1@cfl.rr.com.

We are beginning to make Easter plans. There are 'special' events and happenings on the Sundays approaching Easter ~ culminating with our Easter Sunday Festival Family Service and Brunch on April 24. More information will be announced from the pulpit and in next month's newsletter.

The church council meeting for March will be on Monday evening, March 28 at 7:00pm. We are trying to accommodate as many council members as possible with our meeting times, and it looks like Monday evenings are making a comeback. We always welcome all of our church members and friends to attend these meetings.

Janell Newton
Church Council Secretary

March 2011 Newsletter

ALL NEW AND UPDATED WEBSITE www.orlandoccc.org

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Sundays

10:00 a.m. Sunday School, 11:00 a.m. Worship Service

Wednesdays

6:00 p.m. Pot Luck Dinner, 7:00 p.m. Bible Study
8:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

Some people have trouble with all those 'shall's' and 'shall not's' in the Ten Commandments. Folks just aren't used to talking in those terms. So, in middle Tennessee they translated the 'King James' into 'Jackson County' language....

No joke (posted on the wall at Cross Trails Church in Gainesboro , TN).

- (1) Just one God
- (2) Put nothin' before God
- (3) Watch yer mouth
- (4) Git yourself to Sunday meetin'
- (5) Honor yer Ma & Pa
- (6) No killin'
- (7) No foolin' around with another fellow's gal
- (8) Don't take what ain't yers
- (9) No tellin' tales or gossipin'
- (10) Don't be hankerin' for yer buddy's stuff



Now that's plain an' simple.
Y'all have a nice day now ya hear!
And bless your little heart....