

# SENDING PRAYERS TO OUR FAMILY OF **FAITH**

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Please also keep in your prayers our homebound friends: Alice Adams, Enid Holliday, Norma Moore, Ray Sharp, Evelyn Morrell, Phil Lett, Frances Bramblett, Patty Babian, George and Margaret Edgington.

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We keep Collin Trask in our prayers as he continues his recovery and transition.

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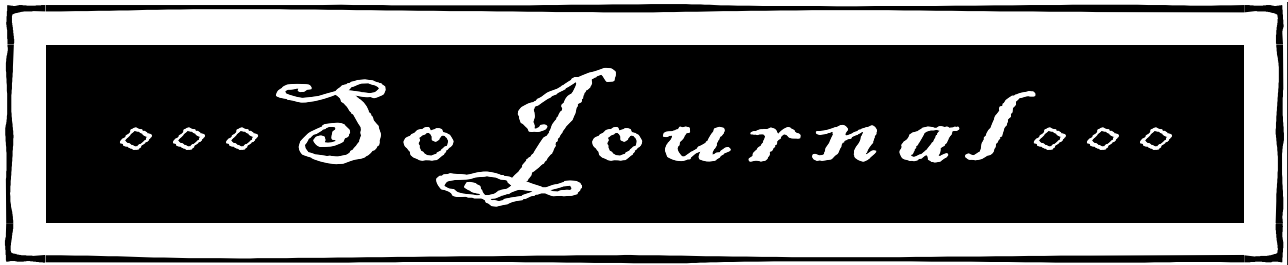
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February 27th! See Pastor Babain for more details!

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 Pastor .....Rev. Dr. J. Wesley Babian  
 Office Manager/Publicist .....Leslie Eldh Jaquez, M.P.A.  
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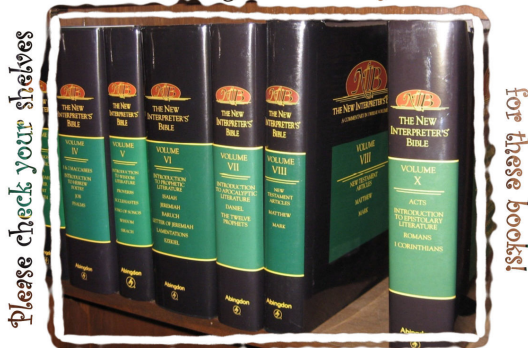
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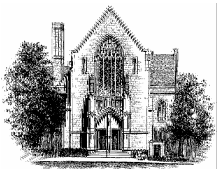
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Opportunities are provided for those interested to meet with the pastor to discuss these matters.

JWB/January '09

## *From the Lectionary ...*

Lent is a period of six weeks in which we prepare ourselves to hear once again the great stories of resurrection. Traditionally Lent has been a time of fasting and prayer. The mood is somber and reflective, the color purple expressing our penitence. It is a time to look inward, to assess our lives and ponder where we are in our relationship with God. We remember God's covenant and promise, God's faithfulness as we grow in God's ways. In Lent we look forward to doing things a different way. In the Scriptures and music we find expressions of all the human emotions, longing for God's presence, desiring to live in God's ways.

**Ash Wednesday** is a time when we are invited to stay with the betrayals of our hopes for ourselves—the moments when we failed to hold to our commitment to the Christ who walks ahead of us on the way. We contrast the moments when we cheered on the godliness in the world on Palm Sunday and the times when we failed to do that. We see and touch the ashes of those as we acknowledge and grieve our profound humanness.

**Lent I:** During this Season of Lent, we reflect on what it means to journey through life as God leads us. The psalmist trusts that God is faithful in mercy and steadfast love, and calls all to follow in God's paths of truth. As we explore God's promise for all humankind, we rejoice in God's saving love made known to us in the new life that Christ proclaims.

**Lent II:** In times of suffering or stress, we may feel that God is against us or doesn't care. Yet God hears our cries and acts to restore wholeness, not only to individuals, but to the whole community and beyond. When disciples include suffering and rejection, God is faithful and does not hide. God keeps promises; we respond in faith and thanksgiving.

**Lent III:** Author C.S. Lewis described God's law as "luminous, severe, disinfected, exultant." God's law is certain and everlasting, instructing us in life-giving ways. The law is God's sweet word that enlightens us and calls us to account, leading us to be what God has created us to be. It enables us to live together in community, set apart as God's people.

**Lent IV:** God is rich in mercy, bringing healing and wholeness to our lives. The psalmist recalls God's steadfast love in bringing the people of Israel back from exile—God acted to save. As Christians we also know God's saving action through Jesus the Christ. We turn to God in faith and praise. God loves and cares for us, no matter what!

**Lent V:** Our hearts call out to God—for healing, wholeness, mercy, salvation, wisdom. Jeremiah's prophecy assures God's people that God intends to draw close to us, claiming our very being as the center of the new and everlasting covenant. Deep in our hearts, we will know God's Word; we will live in God's way.

*(Seasons of the Spirit)*



**Celebrating Our 13th Year!**

Our next Vespers ...

6 to 8PM

*Sunday, March 15, 2009*

**“THE SCOTT GWINNELL  
JAZZ ORCHESTRA”**

Sixteen musicians make up this jazz orchestra, which will present original arrangements from their new CD, "Brush Fire"



**Housing the Homeless**

Many thanks to everyone who worked tirelessly to help support the South Oakland Shelter program earlier this month.

Our leaders included Robert Washburn (overall), Jodi Bly (Laundry), Carol Olsen (Dinners), Glenn Craig (Breakfasts) David Drake (Drivers) Brian Blaesing (Monitors )

**Well done and Thank You to  
ALL our volunteers!**

**Youth Rally**

Saturday, March 28, 2009 from 12:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m. ~ Metropolitan Detroit Association of American Baptist Churches' (MDAABC) Annual Youth Rally ([www.metrodetroitassoc-abc.org](http://www.metrodetroitassoc-abc.org)), location TBA. This Youth Rally invites American Baptist Youth Ministries from the entire Detroit Metropolitan Area to come together for Food, Fun, and Fellowship. For more information and to indicate your desire to attend and/or volunteer to help coordinate this event, please contact the MDAABC office at (248) 443-6888.



**World Day of Prayer**

Friday, March 6

9:30 AM Quiche & Coffee

10:30 AM Worship Service

Holy Name Catholic Church

RSVP 248-642-5493 (Eileen Schrot)

**Calling FBCB Knitters: BASCC Event**

*Creating Comfort for Those Challenged by Cancer*

Thursday, April 23, 2009 6:30-8:30 p.m

Come and join us for an evening of fun with kindred spirits. We will be assembling blankets as teams.

(No prior experience is necessary.)

B.A.S.C.C., 2121 Midvale, Birmingham, MI 48009

Please call 248-203-5270 to register.

Please bring a blunt needle, scissors and a dessert to share.



**Daylight Savings Time**

Spring ahead one hour in the early morning of Sunday, March 8!

## Potluck Supper Sign Up

On March 8th, Let's join together for a "Tell Me A Story" event with Pastor Babian and Seminary Intern Min. Marcia Bonds. It will be a fellowship opportunity for all ages. Please sign up for the Potluck Supper on the sheet next to the church office. Please choose between, Main Dish, Vegetable/salad, Dessert - to serve 8 to 10. The church will provide beverages and rolls. Please also, bring your family's table service (plates, cups, and silverware).

## Please Note

If you receive a paper version of this newsletter, but you do have access to the Internet, would you consider changing over to receive an electronic version of The SoJournal? This will help us save on costs. If you are willing to make the change, please email Leslie Jaquez, our Office Manager at [firstbaptistbirm@sbcglobal.net](mailto:firstbaptistbirm@sbcglobal.net) or give her a call at 248-644-0550. Thank You!

## Yale Divinity School Speaker at First Baptist Ann Arbor

Miroslav Volf will be speaking at the First Baptist Church of Ann Arbor on Saturday, April 25, 2009. Dr. Miroslav Volf, is Henry B. Wright Professor of Systematic Theology at Yale Divinity School. He is also the Director of the Yale Center for Faith and Culture. Dr. Volf is a member of the Presbyterian Church U.S.A. as well as the Evangelical Church in Croatia. For more information, please contact 734.663.9376.

## A Good Quote

"The test of our progress is not whether we add more to the abundance of those who have much; it is whether we provide enough for those who have too little."

Franklin D. Roosevelt  
U.S. President

## Daily Prayers For This Month

Each morning when you get up, take a brief moment to say the prayer written below. See if, by the end of the week, having made this time for God's word, somehow, your life has changed for the better, your outlook has become brighter, your spirit, stronger. These prayers are taken from the "Seasons of the Spirit" lectionary materials.

### March 1, 2009

Teach us your paths, O God, and lead us in your truth. You have been steadfast in your love for us, and merciful in welcoming and sustaining us. Forgive us when we move away from your loving paths, and strengthen us to follow in your way. Amen.

### March 8, 2009

Praise to you, God of our salvation. You do not hide your face from us. When we are in trouble, you come near to us. Give us comfort and strength, that we may proclaim your goodness and always rejoice in your help. Amen.

### March 15, 2009

O God, always creating, always revealing to us your righteous paths, teach us to delight in your law and guide us in your way of life. We give thanks to you through Jesus the Christ, who came to show us that way. Amen.

### March 22, 2009

Loving God, you guide the wanderer, heal the sick, free the captive, nourish the hungry. You love and care for us. Accept our response of praise and thanksgiving, and gather us from every place into the community of your mercy and grace. Amen.

## Upcoming Sunday Morning Worship at 10:30 AM

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March 1, 2009  
“God’s Loving Paths” ~ Psalm 25:1-10

March 8, 2009  
“Always Close” ~ Psalm 22:23-31

March 15, 2009  
“Beautiful Law” ~ Psalm 19

March, 22, 2009  
“No Matter What” ~ Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

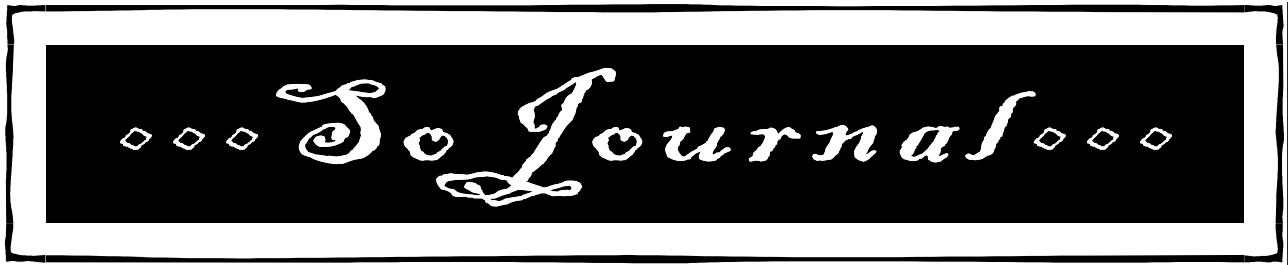
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*Postmaster: Address correction requested within  
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Periodical

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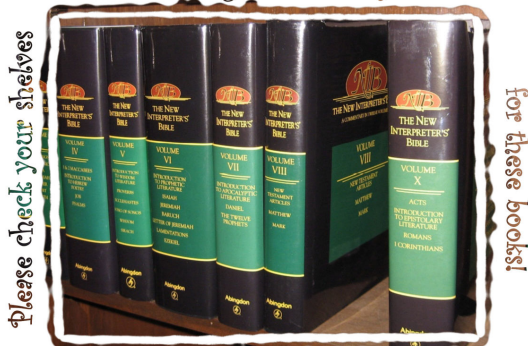
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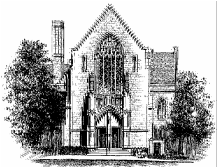
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Lent is a period of six weeks in which we prepare ourselves to hear once again the great stories of resurrection. Traditionally Lent has been a time of fasting and prayer. The mood is somber and reflective, the color purple expressing our penitence. It is a time to look inward, to assess our lives and ponder where we are in our relationship with God. We remember God's covenant and promise, God's faithfulness as we grow in God's ways. In Lent we look forward to doing things a different way. In the Scriptures and music we find expressions of all the human emotions, longing for God's presence, desiring to live in God's ways.

**Ash Wednesday** is a time when we are invited to stay with the betrayals of our hopes for ourselves—the moments when we failed to hold to our commitment to the Christ who walks ahead of us on the way. We contrast the moments when we cheered on the godliness in the world on Palm Sunday and the times when we failed to do that. We see and touch the ashes of those as we acknowledge and grieve our profound humanness.

**Lent I:** During this Season of Lent, we reflect on what it means to journey through life as God leads us. The psalmist trusts that God is faithful in mercy and steadfast love, and calls all to follow in God's paths of truth. As we explore God's promise for all humankind, we rejoice in God's saving love made known to us in the new life that Christ proclaims.

**Lent II:** In times of suffering or stress, we may feel that God is against us or doesn't care. Yet God hears our cries and acts to restore wholeness, not only to individuals, but to the whole community and beyond. When disciples include suffering and rejection, God is faithful and does not hide. God keeps promises; we respond in faith and thanksgiving.

**Lent III:** Author C.S. Lewis described God's law as "luminous, severe, disinfected, exultant." God's law is certain and everlasting, instructing us in life-giving ways. The law is God's sweet word that enlightens us and calls us to account, leading us to be what God has created us to be. It enables us to live together in community, set apart as God's people.

**Lent IV:** God is rich in mercy, bringing healing and wholeness to our lives. The psalmist recalls God's steadfast love in bringing the people of Israel back from exile—God acted to save. As Christians we also know God's saving action through Jesus the Christ. We turn to God in faith and praise. God loves and cares for us, no matter what!

**Lent V:** Our hearts call out to God—for healing, wholeness, mercy, salvation, wisdom. Jeremiah's prophecy assures God's people that God intends to draw close to us, claiming our very being as the center of the new and everlasting covenant. Deep in our hearts, we will know God's Word; we will live in God's way.

*(Seasons of the Spirit)*



**Celebrating Our 13th Year!**  
Our next Vespers ...  
6 to 8PM  
*Sunday, March 15, 2009*

**“THE SCOTT GWINNELL  
JAZZ ORCHESTRA”**

Sixteen musicians make up this jazz orchestra, which will present original arrangements from their new CD, "Brush Fire"



**Housing the Homeless**

Many thanks to everyone who worked tirelessly to help support the South Oakland Shelter program earlier this month.

Our leaders included Robert Washburn (overall), Jodi Bly (Laundry), Carol Olsen (Dinners), Glenn Craig (Breakfasts) David Drake (Drivers) Brian Blaesing (Monitors )

**Well done and Thank You to  
ALL our volunteers!**

**Youth Rally**

Saturday, March 28, 2009 from 12:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m. ~ Metropolitan Detroit Association of American Baptist Churches' (MDAABC) Annual Youth Rally ([www.metrodetroitassoc-abc.org](http://www.metrodetroitassoc-abc.org)), location TBA. This Youth Rally invites American Baptist Youth Ministries from the entire Detroit Metropolitan Area to come together for Food, Fun, and Fellowship. For more information and to indicate your desire to attend and/or volunteer to help coordinate this event, please contact the MDAABC office at (248) 443-6888.



**World Day of Prayer**

Friday, March 6  
9:30 AM Quiche & Coffee  
10:30 AM Worship Service  
Holy Name Catholic Church  
RSVP 248-642-5493 (Eileen Schrot)

**Calling FBCB Knitters: BASCC Event**

*Creating Comfort for Those Challenged by Cancer*

Thursday, April 23, 2009 6:30-8:30 p.m

Come and join us for an evening of fun with kindred spirits. We will be assembling blankets as teams.

(No prior experience is necessary.)

B.A.S.C.C., 2121 Midvale, Birmingham, MI 48009

Please call 248-203-5270 to register.

Please bring a blunt needle, scissors and a dessert to share.



**Daylight Savings Time**

Spring ahead one hour in the early morning of Sunday, March 8!

## Potluck Supper Sign Up

On March 8th, Let's join together for a "Tell Me A Story" event with Pastor Babian and Seminary Intern Min. Marcia Bonds. It will be a fellowship opportunity for all ages. Please sign up for the Potluck Supper on the sheet next to the church office. Please choose between, Main Dish, Vegetable/salad, Dessert - to serve 8 to 10. The church will provide beverages and rolls. Please also, bring your family's table service (plates, cups, and silverware).

## Please Note

If you receive a paper version of this newsletter, but you do have access to the Internet, would you consider changing over to receive an electronic version of The SoJournal? This will help us save on costs. If you are willing to make the change, please email Leslie Jaquez, our Office Manager at [firstbaptistbirm@sbcglobal.net](mailto:firstbaptistbirm@sbcglobal.net) or give her a call at 248-644-0550. Thank You!

## Yale Divinity School Speaker at First Baptist Ann Arbor

Miroslav Volf will be speaking at the First Baptist Church of Ann Arbor on Saturday, April 25, 2009. Dr. Miroslav Volf, is Henry B. Wright Professor of Systematic Theology at Yale Divinity School. He is also the Director of the Yale Center for Faith and Culture. Dr. Volf is a member of the Presbyterian Church U.S.A. as well as the Evangelical Church in Croatia. For more information, please contact 734.663.9376.

## A Good Quote

"The test of our progress is not whether we add more to the abundance of those who have much; it is whether we provide enough for those who have too little."

Franklin D. Roosevelt  
U.S. President

## Daily Prayers For This Month

Each morning when you get up, take a brief moment to say the prayer written below. See if, by the end of the week, having made this time for God's word, somehow, your life has changed for the better, your outlook has become brighter, your spirit, stronger. These prayers are taken from the "Seasons of the Spirit" lectionary materials.

### March 1, 2009

Teach us your paths, O God, and lead us in your truth. You have been steadfast in your love for us, and merciful in welcoming and sustaining us. Forgive us when we move away from your loving paths, and strengthen us to follow in your way. Amen.

### March 8, 2009

Praise to you, God of our salvation. You do not hide your face from us. When we are in trouble, you come near to us. Give us comfort and strength, that we may proclaim your goodness and always rejoice in your help. Amen.

### March 15, 2009

O God, always creating, always revealing to us your righteous paths, teach us to delight in your law and guide us in your way of life. We give thanks to you through Jesus the Christ, who came to show us that way. Amen.

### March 22, 2009

Loving God, you guide the wanderer, heal the sick, free the captive, nourish the hungry. You love and care for us. Accept our response of praise and thanksgiving, and gather us from every place into the community of your mercy and grace. Amen.

## Upcoming Sunday Morning Worship at 10:30 AM

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March 1, 2009  
“God’s Loving Paths” ~ Psalm 25:1-10

March 8, 2009  
“Always Close” ~ Psalm 22:23-31

March 15, 2009  
“Beautiful Law” ~ Psalm 19

March, 22, 2009  
“No Matter What” ~ Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

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**February 22, 2009**