

PHOTO BY ALAN BARBOUR

Rectortown Reporter

February 2018

From the Pastor

Three names – one day...”

Greetings in the name of our Risen Lord, Jesus Christ!



Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! There are several things happening in February this year that we could talk about: there’s that Tuesday before Ash Wednesday, and, of course, Ash Wednesday (which also happens to be Valentine’s Day this year), and the beginning of Lent. So many things to choose from! But, the one thing that seems to be the most confusing for most people is that Tuesday before Ash Wednesday. So, let’s talk about that for a bit!

Let’s start with the three names most commonly used for this day in the Protestant tradition here in the U.S. The earliest name for this day was Shrove Tuesday. It’s the last day of Shrovetide, which begins on the ninth Sunday before Easter (third Sunday before Ash Wednesday). Ælfric of Eynsham wrote in the “Ecclesiastical Institutes” around 1,000 CE, *“In the week immediately before Lent everyone shall go to his confessor and confess his deeds and the confessor shall so shrive him as he then may hear by his deeds what he is to do [in the way of penance].”* To shrive oneself is to present themselves for confession, penance, and absolution. Shrove is the past tense of shrive. The earliest form of this day wasn’t a day — it was a week (or more!) — long event that in some traditions was called Carnival!

This day is also referred to by many traditions as *Pancake Tuesday*. Lent is a time of preparation — of fasting, prayer, and repentance. It has been a time in many traditions of “giving up” little luxuries in remembrance of Christ’s giving up his life for us. Luxuries like rich foods such as meat, butter, and fats. Pancakes became a common way to feast on those luxuries before giving them up for Lent. Which leads to the final name – *Fat Tuesday*! I’m sure the original intent was to refer to the fatty rich luxury foods already mentioned — and not to the result of eating too many pancakes! Interestingly enough, the French term for “*Fat Tuesday*” is “*Mardi Gras*” — which brings us around again to that idea of carnival celebration.

We will celebrate Fat Tuesday as a cooperative parrish event hosted at Middleburg United Methodist Church on Tuesday, February 13th, beginning at 6:00 pm. I hope you will all plan to attend this special liturgical event in the life of the Church. And, by the way, don’t forget to bring a friend or two with you!

Grace and peace to each and everyone of you!

Pastor Steve

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Scripture of the Month

1 Corinthians 13:4-7

⁴ Love is patient, love is kind, it isn’t jealous, it doesn’t brag, it isn’t arrogant, ⁵it isn’t rude, it doesn’t seek its own advantage, it isn’t irritable, it doesn’t keep a record of complaints, ⁶it isn’t happy with injustice, but it is happy with the truth. ⁷Love puts up with all things, trusts in all things, hopes for all things, endures all things.

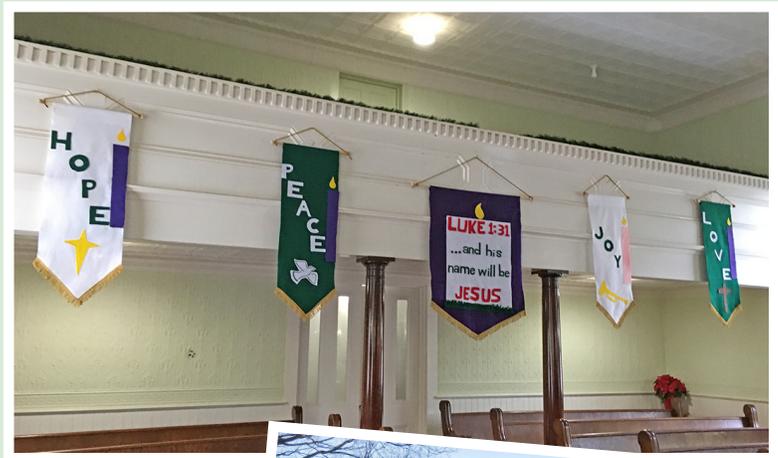
New Traditions

for Advent at RUMC

This year we started very early on our Advent Season planning, and planting. The Community Tree was planted in hopes we could create opportunities to share the season with others in the community. The children decorating time, the community lighting and fellowship were wonderful.

Then, we began putting up our Nativity scene, which was donated a number of Years ago by Jean and Hunter Payne. This year we decided to expand the nativity, and again Jean Payne stepped in to donate the materials. So we were able to add a cow, donkey, Angel, 3 Kings and 3 shepherds! Hopefully before next Advent season some of our talented painters can add color by painting the nativity scene (any volunteers?). Then, we were offered the opportunity to add a Menorah to the display. Hank Lavine who leads the Friends of Rectortown, not only provided the Menorah, but arranged for us to have a lighting ceremony led by Rabbi Rose Jacob along with its historical significance. All of this added a new brightness and visible sign of Advent in Rectortown this year. Thanks to all that participated.

- Larry S.



Please see page 4 for the Lenten schedule in the Upcoming Events section.

Taking Down the Greens

This picture was taken the weekend we decorated our sanctuary, in November. And a beautiful sight our sanctuary was this year. But, we had another wonderful group (many of the same folks) come out on Jan. 6 to "Un-decorate". We had a great turnout, with folks going above (read that as high on a ladder) and beyond (read that as the storage area behind the balcony). Decorations were taken down, wrapped, boxed and transported to the storage area. BUT, this year some had had ENOUGH. So they pulled everything out of the upstairs storage area, vacuumed, dusted and wiped things down. Sent many unknown items, damaged goods and un-needed pieces to the trash. Then they reorganized everything and wallah we had much unused storage space :-). The tree, Advent candle stand, and other pieces were sent to the White House and then the sanctuary was vacuumed and arranged for services. Thanks to all for the hard teamwork that took on the unplanned extra efforts. Until next Advent, everything will rest in peace. - Larry S.



RUMC Youth Community Service



Courtney Harrington attends Mountain Side Montessori. Her class was asked to reach out to others on Martin Luther King Jr Day. Courtney chose to do some community service work at Rectortown UMC. She arrived at the church at 9:00 AM, ready to work. Our original plan was to clean out the storage shed, but due to the cold wind, we

decided to work indoors. This picture is the completed project of cleaning out and putting back items in the social hall closet. She took everything out, vacuumed, washed the entire closet down and put back what was left. But that was just a start. Courtney helped install picture hangers, repaired door hinges and latches, cleaned out the basement closet, the big Sunday School room, the outside basement stairwell and the furnace room, whew. Please say thanks to Courtney the next time you see her, for her fine work and showing others how to reach out in the community. - Larry S.

A Note of Thanks

I would like to thank the church and especially the choir for their generous gifts at Christmas time. Your constant love and support for me and my family is SO appreciated! I love you all. - Joice



February Birthdays

Shirley Embrey 2/7
Greg Kroes 2/15
Kim Kroes 2/16
Betty Underwood . . . 2/22

Upcoming Meetings & Events

All events take place at RUMC unless otherwise indicated.

Thur – Feb 1	7:00pm	Admin Council Meets
Wed – Feb 7	6:00pm	Trustee's Meet
*Wed – Feb 7	7:30pm	Choir Meets *NOTE: Meets weekly
Mon – Feb 12	7:00pm	Worship Meets
Tue – Feb 13	6:00pm	Fat Tuesday @ Middleburg UMC
Wed – Feb 14	6:00pm	Ash Wednesday Service
∞Sun – Feb 18		1st Lenten Banner Goes Up
∞Sun – Feb 25		2nd Lenten Banner Goes Up

∞NOTE: Communion will be served each Sunday during Lent

Every Week at RUMC

Sunday Worship

10:00 a.m.

Worship for Adults and Children.
Nursery provided.

Sunday School

Adults: 8:45-9:45 a.m.

Children: 9-9:45 a.m.

RUMC Wants to know...

If you have any photos from our events, news or recipes you'd like to share, we'd love to hear from you. Please e-mail Laura at Laura@NatsukoGraphicDesign.com. Article submissions are **due by the 15th of the month**.



Our Mission Statement

To be a *catalyst* for Jesus Christ, with a proactive, visible, and transforming presence, creating an emerging *fellowship*.