

# Getting the Word Out - - - - from Pastor Bob

***CONGREGATIONAL MEETING TODAY.*** Our stained glass windows certainly have been accepted by this congregation wonderfully well. In fact, the next phase of our window replacement, the four windows on either side of the Narthex, have already been subscribed and the artist is hard at work on them. Last Sunday, many of our congregation were inquiring about the twelve side windows in the sanctuary as to when they would be ready for subscription. As a result, the Board of Governors has called the congregational meeting today in order for us to discuss this matter together with a few other matters. We will focus on the direction this church wants to go in the coming months and years. So, if the church is ready to proceed with the next phase of stained glass windows, that can be discussed and the subscriptions for the windows begun. We will also have opportunity for discussion of possible renovation plans for the church building structure itself. If there is a project or direction you would like to suggest for this church, this will be your opportune time. Please do.

***LENTEN SEASON.*** *Ash Wednesday* will be February 21 followed by the *First Sunday in Lent* February 25. *Easter* is early this year, April 8. In order to prepare ourselves for Easter, the Pastor's wife, Jane Wallace, will be hosting a Wednesday Sack Lunch and Lenten study series on the book, *THE MIND OF JESUS*, by William Barclay. Plan to bring you lunch (soft drinks, coffee and iced tea will be provided) at 12 Noon and prepare your heart, mind and soul for these six weeks before Easter. You will be blessed. Please come.

# It's on my heart . . . .

I want to tell you more about the Season of Lent. It's focus has always been three-fold: 1) A time to prepare new converts for baptism through study and instruction; 2) A time for long--standing Christians to review their lives and renew their commitment to Jesus, and 3) A time for backsliders to be restored to the faith. In each of these scenarios, it is a time for serious, disciplined self examination, a time spent in intensive prayer and repentance before the cross of Calvary. To help represent the dark and serious side of Lent, one custom is to strip the sanctuary of all flowers, candles and colors during Lent. This custom helps turn us inward and examine ourselves, even as it reminds us of the dark and colorless Sabbath day when Jesus lay dead in the tomb. So, as we prepare to enter the Lenten Season, my prayer is that you will prepare yourself for it.