

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Sunday, February 7, 1999

HOLY COMMUNION

- A. It has long been the custom...to celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion.....and we like to announce for the benefit....that the TABLE OF OUR LORD is open...open to all...that one does not have...
- B. HIS TABLE IS OPEN TO ALL...and we invite all of you to receive... and trust that this time may be an occasion of spiritual renewal... re-affirmation.....and the re-dedication of your life to the WILL of God as it has come to us....LIFE and LOVE of Christ.
- C. Procedure...elements will be served to you in the pews...upon receiving them, please HOLD THEM until all have been served and then...

GREETING / VISITORS

- A. We greet the visitors...delightedhope that we shall have....be free in the sharing...COME, WORSHIP. COME, WORK WITH US....
- B. DOING the "LORD'S WORK" at this busy corner of God's Kingdom since 1837....five weeks from today we shall pause to celebrate our 162nd birthday....hope you'll plan to come and share that special moment...
- C. We minister here in the NAME OF CHRIST and it is in HIS LOVING SPIRIT...
Members: wear name tags. Greet a child. Make some new friends...
Remember: no church business....remember how PAUL RUSSELL who celebrated his 100th birthday last Monday use to say that to me...let the coffee hour be a time of getting to know each other better and sharing in fellowship...

PARISH CONCERNS

- A. Parish concerns...listed in the bulletin. Review them, noting that the Winter Rummage Sale is getting closer....Saturday, the 20th of February,.....sign up to lend a hand....Margaret Fisher. Also, ASH WEDNESDAY is February 17th. Holy Communion...morning and evening.
- B. Today's preacher is the Rev. Kenneth Halcott...longtime friend of our Church....for many years he has brought us a message on the first Sunday of the year....this year we shifted it to first Sunday of February. Always brings a thoughtful message and we're always lifted by hearing it. Welcome back, Kenneth....back in December in mentioned missing only 2 Sundays....1960 and 1985....Ken rescued us that March Sunday....

C. Be sure to pick up your copy of our monthly news sheet...in order to be up to date on what's going on..."in the loop"...our thanks to Janet Ernst...

OFFERING: Jesus said,

"It is more blessed to give than it
is to receive!"

PASTORAL PRAYER: February 21, 1999

O GOD, OUR FATHER - from a world filled with noise and strife, with tension and turmoil, we have come to this quiet place this day - HERE to be quieted, to be guided and strengthened, as we again ready ourselves for the tasks of another week.

FAR FROM US, Thou never art! - but by the busyness of our lives, and the insensitiveness of our hearts, we shut Thee out. We keep Thee distant.

HELP US, O GOD, to open our hearts to the gentle invasion of Your love, to open our minds to Your Word and to Your Will, and to speak to each of us this hour that word that we desperately need to hear.

OFTEN WE HAVE BROUGHT TO YOU our weaknesses - sins to be forgiven, fears to be allayed, anxieties to be overcome, and discouragements to be driven out.

AGAIN, this hour we come into YOUR PRESENCE with our many needs -

Steady us in our sickness.
Comfort us in our bereavement.
Befriend us in our loneliness.
Be near as we struggle to overcome temptation.
Let not the concerns and the worries of this week
destroy us or overwhelm us.

OUR PRAYERS in these moments reach out to include friends and loved ones - from whom, in this time of worship, we are separated by distance, but from whom we are not separated by our love, our thought, our concern.

WE COME, LORD, not only with our varied needs, but also with our individual strengths, with our desire to put our convictions on the line, and into action. Therefore,

LAY HOLD, we pray upon our courage and good will. Forgive us that we use brotherly love so poorly and cautiously.

LAY HOLD, we pray upon our faith. Make us aware of what we can do when we do it with You. Remind us that more things are wrought by prayer than this world has ever dreamed, that "with you, all things are possible!"

SEND US FORTH into the ways of this city with courage, with conviction and with compassion in our hearts and on our lips. We ask this in the name of Jesus - for it is in His love that we find our hope - for ourselves and for our world.