

Chad & Sheri Watts  
February 21, 2018

*Sheri*

We began Lent on Ash Wednesday with the words “Repent, and believe in the Gospel”.

The Old and New Testament scripture readings today from Jonah and Luke again focus on repentance. The purpose of Lent is to prepare our hearts for Easter, prepare our hearts for the resurrected Jesus. Repentance is a part of preparing our hearts. We have all fallen short by things we have done or failed to do.

*Chad*

As a parish, we are taking time, in Small Faith-Sharing Groups to consider our purpose on this earth. Yes, the goal is for all of us to meet in heaven. But, until then, let’s bring some heaven to Earth, to Mississippi, and to Rankin County, then to our St. Paul Family. Our chosen book to guide our studies this Lent is “What on Earth Am I Here For?” Now a college level course in 40 days is a challenge. This is a considerable amount of homework for those of us with families and responsibilities. But, it’s time we adults show the young people how to study. We are taking a GOD level course in 40 days. Each day of Lent, a member of St. Paul is working to inspire us with a video reflection. I want to remember a small portion of these thoughtful words. Sarah O’Donnell’s message was easy because the scripture reading inspired a great song by tobyMac, Kirk Franklin, and Mandisa, “I don’t want to gain the whole world and lose my soul.” Father Gerry gave us an image of positive energy in an 87-year-old woman named Rosemary. Rodney reminded us to trust in God’s plan for us.

*Sheri*

Our book has offered special meaning and purpose for us as a church through five words: Worship Fellowship Discipleship Ministry Evangelization

Today, we would like to share a way to remember these 5 important words by tying together the 5 words with the Our Father Prayer. They seem to line up perfectly with the first letter of each of the five words. W, F, D, M, E -- Will of the Father Deliver M E

Something in our hearts knows this to be true. His Will can deliver me.

Deliver me from evil.

Deliver me to repentance.

Deliver me to hope.

Deliver me to love.

Deliver me to forgiveness.

....and one day, Deliver me to his arms.