

Vicar's Note Spring 2007

Greetings in Christ,

Spring: it seemed to come in January this year, but we were all reminded that Winter was not going to let go so easily with a very cold Easter weekend. The damage of that weekend can still be seen in our plant life as it struggles to repair the damage of that frosty weekend. The season that follows winter was called Lent following the church calendar until about 500 years ago when it started to take on a new title, "Springing time, Spring-time, or Spring of the year. This notion is of the "Spring of the year," when plants "spring up" has many names in many languages which communicate the things we associate with this time of year. Danish *voraar*, Dutch *voorjaar*, German *Frühling*, French *printemps*, Latin *tempus primum*, and here is a good one, ancient Persian *Adukanaiša*, which apparently means "Irrigation-Canal-Cleaning Month." One thing is common about all of these words, they describe this season in a way that gives a sense of the freshness, earliness, newness, cleanliness, and youth that we all associate with this time of year.

Another thing that comes to mind this time of year is the miracle of new life as it "springs up" all around us. A clean slate, a chance to start afresh, these are the things we associate with Spring. It is really a beautiful time of year, a time of excitement of things to come, anticipation about all the great things we hope to happen in the coming months. We at Saint Paul also have many reasons to be excited about all the great things coming our way. We can always look forward to another fresh batch of tourist from all over the Country who will be our guest in worship while they visit the Great Smoky Mountains. We can look forward to our own opportunities to vacation and enjoy God's beautiful creation this summer. We can look forward to an exciting week of VBS in which we will have the opportunity share the love of Christ with many in our community. We can look forward to the first Missouri Synod Ordination to take place in Sevier County, an event that I plan to attend. With all the great things coming up it is no wonder our school children suffer from "Spring Fever". As a matter of fact, I think I am suffering a bit of "Spring Fever" myself. Besides all these great things to look forward to I am also looking forward to spending a week At Boy Scout Camp with Brandon and his troop during the first week of July. And Gerda and I are looking forward to a week in Orlando at the National Youth Gathering (with 35,000 of our closest high school friends) where I will be coordinating the spiritual and logistical efforts of one of the hotels as a "Community Life Builder."

Even more exciting than all of this, is the fact that we all are refreshed by the greatest spring of all..... The "Spring of Living Water", Who refreshes us with hope, joy, love and peace ever day with the gift of everlasting life in His presence. No greater gift exists, and we are all blessed to be recipients of this undeserved gift. So, if you feel a little bit run down after a long, not so cold winter, take a moment when it is warm in the coming weeks and go outside walk in the warm grass in your bare feet (watch out for bees) and thank God for a chance to be alive and enjoy His beautiful creation!

Have a great spring and a great summer!

In Christ

Vicar Portier