

## **Thoughts from Tom—Wearing the Clothes of a Dead Man**

Over the years I've worn lots of dead men's clothes. Many of the wild ties I have sported on Sundays originally belonged to someone else. Friends and family members have given me sport coats, suits, dress shirts, and blue jeans. And whenever I wear those textiles, I am aware that another person occupied and animated them before me.

On April 1, Easter will be here. It is fitting that as March begins, we start thinking of this most important day. The word "Easter" is found only once in the King James translation of Acts 12:4, a passage more correctly interpreted as "Passover." Easter actually has its origins in the festival of Estera, the Germanic goddess of springtime. Our modern culture has added countless secular meanings to the holiday. But Easter is so much more than a celebration of eggs, springtime, chocolate, bunnies, or even ancient European goddesses. It is the one word we directly associate with the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the grave.

An innocent man died. And when he died, only one personal possession had any monetary value: His robe. While the rest of his clothes were divided among those who crucified him, this condemned man watched from his execution stake as they gambled over that robe.

Okay, you may be thinking, "it's nice that Jesus was willing to die in my place. That makes him a hero, or even a martyr. But why should that make me want to follow him? Isn't admiring him good enough?"

NO! The difference between Jesus and any other martyr is that he did more than die; he beat death! Death is real, and separation from God in hell is real. No one has ever escaped the awful consequences of sin. No one, that is, but Jesus.

Three days later he came back to life to offer us the greatest gift we could ever receive: he wants us to wear his clothes! "Don't loiter and linger, waiting until the very last minute. Dress yourselves in Christ, and be up and about!" (Romans 13:14). "Your baptism into Christ was not just washing you up for a fresh start. It also involved dressing you in Christ" (Galatians 3:27). The Apostle John tells us that those coming through the great tribulation have "washed their robes, scrubbed them clean in the blood of the Lamb. That's why they're standing before God's throne" (Revelation 7:14). "How blessed are those who wash their robes!" (Revelation 22:14).

We celebrate Easter then, because Jesus removed the rags of our sin and clothed us in His righteousness. We celebrate Easter because of a real hope and promise given to us through Christ alone. We celebrate Easter because the fear of death and hell are removed. We celebrate Easter because Jesus declares that those who follow Him will be forgiven their sins. We celebrate Easter because we are invited into a family relationship with God, a relationship that begins here and now.

Accept his invitation. Discover what it means to offer ceaseless praise to the one who dresses us in his robes of righteousness. Find out what a difference Jesus' wardrobe will make in your life. Wear the clothes of a dead man who lives again. **Celebrate Easter!**



# First Church of Christ

300 W. Spruce Street, Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan

*Know Jesus • Follow Jesus • Share His Love*

March 2018

## **Resurrection Sunday Celebration!**



**"The Gospel Changes  
Everything!"**  
**April 1st at 10:00 am**

**Potluck breakfast at 9:00 am!**

**Please sign up in the lobby, call, or email  
the office ([fcoc@saultchurch.com](mailto:fcoc@saultchurch.com))  
if you can bring a dish to share.**

## **FCOC Bowling Night!**

**March 25th from 5:30 to 7:30 pm**  
**Dondee Lanes Bowling Alley**  
**\$2.50 per game including shoes**



Come along and join the  
fun and fellowship!  
**Everyone welcome!**

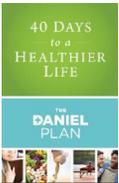


Please sign up in the lobby  
and let us know how many will be joining us.

## Announcements



**Don't forget to turn your clocks  
FORWARD 1 hour before you go  
to bed on March 10, 2018!**



**New weight loss group beginning at FCOC!**

**THE DANIEL PLAN  
40 Days to a Healthier Life!  
Mondays at 7:00 pm**

**EVERYONE IS WELCOME!**

Books can be purchased on Amazon - The Daniel Plan book is \$14.29, and the study guide is \$7.36.

**Questions? Contact Phyllis Miller at 906-440-4159.**

## **We need the names of our graduating seniors!**



If you are graduating from high school or college this year, please contact the church office at 632-6511 or [fcoc@saultchurch.com](mailto:fcoc@saultchurch.com). We are beginning to plan our Graduates' Reception on April 22nd immediately after service in the lobby, with recognition of grads during the service. Thanks!

**High School:** Alyssa Burton, James Burton, Logan Gunckel, Katherine Peasley, Jaelynn Vert

**College:** Josh Goldschmidt

Please let us know your open house date, time, and place, and we will post it in the bulletin so your church family can celebrate with you!

## **Mission of the Quarter Food Pantry**

**We are collecting toiletries, toothpaste, toothbrushes,  
deodorant, diapers, formula.**

**Please place your donation by the Mission Board in the lobby.**

## Giving and Attendance Information

February	Giving
4	\$4,490.04
11	\$2,182.00
18	\$3,348.35
25	\$4,838.34
Average	\$3,714.68

## Prayer Concerns (Please call the church office with updates)



Our country and those serving in the military, those adjusting after service  
 Elaine & Helen Carrier—In Tendercare  
 Kevin Farrar—Breathing issues due to RA, RA flare-ups  
 His House Ministries  
 Kenn Filkins—Serious health issues  
 Hannah Grace Monroe—Continued prayers for her feedings and health  
 Jeannine Kelly (Therese Boucha's mother) - Parkinson's Disease  
 Gary Matheny (Dave's brother) - Hoping for a lung transplant soon  
 Mona Staggs (LaCrosse) - Breast cancer, now in lymph nodes  
 Bev Vandergeest (Brenda Brown's mom) - Health concerns, at Mayo for treatment  
 Gary Korman (friend of Dave Weir) - Health issues  
 Trudy Ranta (Pam Postma) - Melanoma has advanced  
 Ron Atkins (Pam Postma's brother) - Praise that there is no lung cancer! Has liver/  
 pancreatic cancer—to Mayo for treatment options  
 Mary Elliott—Seeking treatment for paralyzed leg  
 Gary Ferns (Mary Armstrong) - Lung tumors growing and multiplying  
 Sara Rogers (Marion Roger's granddaughter) - Life decisions & coming to know God  
 Josh Cochran (Hachigian) - Health issues  
 Micah Corbiere—Doing better with shingles, still has facial paralysis  
 Sarah (Friend of Lisa Corbiere) - 3 year old Amish girl who is at DeVos with juvenile  
 rheumatoid arthritis  
 Nancy LaCrosse—Recovering from hip surgery in Petoskey  
 Therese Boucha—Diagnosed with kidney cancer, biopsy last week  
 Lance (Ann Abbott) - Flu meds are affecting liver, testing  
 Jessica (Heather Hemphill's sister) - Pregnant, on bed rest with health issues  
 Mike Willett's brother-in-law—Health concerns  
 Mike Zimmerman—Recovering from surgery  
 Bonnie Dale—Surgery successful, still having difficulty walking  
 Chuck Gustafson, Wendy, Brandy and families—Maria passed away  
 Carol Miller—Back surgery successful, but found stage 4 lung cancer, treatment soon  
 Evelyn Henry—Health issues

### **Cancer Concerns**

Judy Jorgensen Joske 5/11      Joan Heffner (Judy Vert)      Alex McCready 1/17  
 Linda Gades 2/16