



# Methodist Messenger

2022 Edition, Issue 3, March

**From the  
Pastor's  
Desk**

*Praying with You During This*  
**LENTEN SEASON**

Over this past month, we've been getting to know our wonderful S/PPRC Committee. We have put all their pictures together on one page including a couples of sentences about each of them. It's included in this newsletter. Thank you, Connie Zitzow for your vision and energy to make this happen. It's been pretty cool to learn more about each of the committee members and their value for our newly updated Conflict Resolution Process.

This committee is comprised of faithful members of both Dent and Vergas. They worked hard to bring a Conflict Resolution Process to us last year in April, brought the Rule of Christ Training in November, and most recently updated our process and presented it to the Ad Councils for a vote. Both councils reviewed and voted on accepting it in February 2022.

If down the road, you have a concern regarding something in church or with your pastor you may speak to anyone on the S/PPRC Committee. Part of their role is to listen and help resolve concerns. Now we have a way to resolve conflict that is clear, Biblical, agreed upon, and pretty simple. Our desire is to resolve conflict well, so that the church can remain focused on their primary goal of loving and impacting their communities for Christ. We are churches that continue to know and follow the Lord Jesus and encourage others to do the same.

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## PRAYER CHAIN



We are in the process of updating our Prayer Chain in Dent and Vergas. If you are on the Prayer Chain but would prefer to be notified by **email** or **text** instead of by phone, please let our prayer chain leader know. If you are not on the Prayer Chain but would like to be included, so that you can be notified about praying for others in our church, then reach out to one of the following contacts.

If you are in Dent, please call Doris Champlin with your preference at 218-758-2821.

If you are in Vergas, please call Sondra Flett with your preference at 218-342-2637

## ASK THE PASTOR

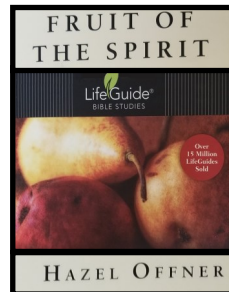
Back in January I shared with you, I zoom with other pastors to grow in my pastoring skills. One day they mentioned something called, “Ask the Pastor”. And I asked them to explain.

Two or three Sundays out of the year, the congregation members write down questions they have about Christianity, the Bible, and our faith. The questions are collected and the pastor picks 3 to 5 questions to answer in the service in lieu of a sermon. It’s a nice break for everyone.

Over time, these “Ask the Pastor” Sundays become highly anticipated Sundays in the life of the church. People look forward to hearing what other people are wrestling with and questioning.

**Sunday, April 24<sup>th</sup>** will be our first experiment in Ask the Pastor. Are there things you have always wondered about concerning our faith, our Bibles, knowing Jesus, prayer, Methodism, or how our faith intersects with world events?

Begin thinking and discussing your questions now, feel free to write down your questions on the Prayer Cards in the pews and drop them in the Offering Plate. The first good questions I come across gets first dibs that Sunday morning!



Every Sunday ~ September  
thru May at 10:30am



**Masks Recommended  
But not Required**

Recently both Bishop Bard and the CDC have relaxed their guidelines around covid. The numbers are coming down drastically. In light of that, both churches have decided to relax our guidelines officially starting Sunday, March 6th. Masks will be encouraged but not required.

If you feel more comfortable wearing a mask in church, feel free. Covid has not gone away. We also believe that fellowship can start up again. I think we have all been looking forward to that!

And to those who have stayed away because of the masking mandate, we hope you will now come back. We desire to have robust and vibrant worship together again. And also think of new and creative ways to impact in our communities with the love of God, meeting real needs, and touching lives. To do that, we need to be re-united. See you soon!

# Vergas Mission Minute



## Global Mission

**UMCOR**, United Methodist Committee on Relief is the mission that assists areas where disasters have hit. United Methodists and others wishing to provide humanitarian assistance to the Ukrainian people, in the wake of the Russian invasion of their country, may contribute to **Advance #982450 UMCOR International Disaster Response and Recovery**. This fund will provide direct assistance to those in Ukraine as well as assistance to the Ukrainians fleeing to neighboring countries.

Gifts to support the people of Ukraine can be made in the following ways:

- Online at <https://umcmmission.org/advane-project/982450>.
- By toll free phone: 888-252-6174
- By check with "Advance #982450-Ukraine" written in the memo line, either mailed and addressed to Global Ministries/UMCOR. GPO, PO BOX 9068, NEW YORK, NY 10087-9068 or giving through any United Methodist Church. For Vergas and Dent churches you can put it in any offering envelope with UMCOR written on it, and drop it in the collection plate.

## Local Outreach

The Book Club which started meeting during the pandemic had the idea that it would be nice to be able to share some of the books that they were reading. The idea of a Little Library materialized. The Library itself was purchased with local mission dollars and is being assembled by Myles Flatland. This will be hung along the fence when spring comes to allow easy access. There will be children and adult books available to the community to take and read. Anyone can bring books to fill the library. We encourage the members to share books that will help fill the library. This will be a church project that will serve the community and show that the church cares about the community and

## Mission of the Quarter

Many people in our area that never thought they would have to worry about enough food are now in the position of relying on the food banks to feed themselves and their families. The mission of the first quarter of 2022 is the local food shelves. They have been hit hard by the pandemic so \$200 a month will be sent to them for January, February, and March as well as the dollars that are designated to "mission" and placed in the offering. The Food Shelves in Perham, Pelican, and Detroit Lakes serve our



Please let the Ad Council know if there are needs in the community that should be considered for assistance. *Jane Wasvick*

# Dent Mission Minutes

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## Dent Mission of the Quarter

January, February, March



The Bridge is a nonprofit agency that provides food to families and individuals during a time of need. We provide good quality food that has been either donated, purchased from North Country Food Bank or locally. Our goal is to meet the basic needs of our clients while improving their nutritional well-being. For us to meet our goals, we need your support.

The Mobile Pantry schedule for 2022:

**First Tuesday of the Month:**

**Richville - United Methodist Church:**

10:00AM - 12 Noon

**Ottertail - Ottertail Community Center:**

1:30PM - 3:00PM

**Wednesday, Following the First Tuesday:**

**Vergas - St. John's Lutheran Church:**

10:00AM - 12 Noon

**Dent - United Methodist Church:**

1:30PM - 3:00PM



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## Our S/PPRC Members



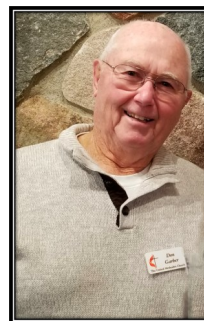
Darlene Holtz (D)  
Chair



Lyndon Maasjo (D)



Ivy Mickelson  
Dent



Don Garber  
Dent



Jane Wasvick  
Vergas



Connie Zitzow  
Vergas

## Inspirational Story "Carl - part 3"

This time they didn't rob him, they wrenched the hose from his hand and drenched him head to foot in the icy water. When they had finished their humiliation of him, they sauntered off down the street, throwing catcalls and curses, falling over one another laughing at the hilarity of what they had just done. Carl just watched them, then he turned toward the warmth giving sun, picked up his hose, and went on with his watering.

The summer was quickly fading into fall Carl was doing some tilling when he was startled by the sudden approach of someone behind him. He stumbled and fell into some evergreen branches. As he struggled to regain his footing, he turned to see the tall leader of his summer tormentors reaching down for him. He braced himself for the expected attack.

"Don't worry old man, I'm not gonna hurt you this time."

The young man spoke softly, still offering the tattooed and scarred hand to Carl. As he helped Carl get up, the man pulled a crumpled bag from his pocket and handed it to Carl.

"What's this?" Carl asked. "It's your stuff," the man explained. "It's your stuff back. Even the money in your wallet."

"I don't understand," Carl said. "Why would you help me now?"

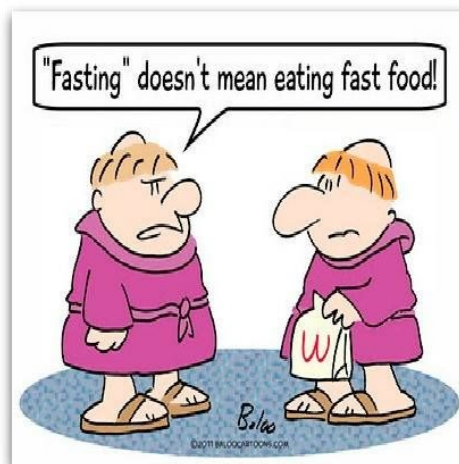
The man shifted his feet, seeming embarrassed and ill at ease. "I learned something from you," he said. "I ran with that gang and hurt people like you, we picked you because you were old and we knew we could do it, but every time we came and did something to you, instead of yelling and fighting back, you tried to give us a drink. You didn't hate us for hating you, you kept showing love against our hate."

He stopped for a moment. "I couldn't sleep after we stole your stuff, so here it is back." He paused for another awkward moment, not knowing what more there was to say. "That bag's my way of saying thanks for straightening me out, I guess." And with that, he walked off down the street.

Carl looked down at the sack in his hands and gingerly opened it.... **to be continued in April**

<p>In the Bible, forty is the number used to signify enough or ample time.</p>	<p>Bible stories that involve forty days:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Noah's flood</li><li>Moses on Mt. Sinai before the Ten Commandments</li><li>Elijah's walk through the desert to Mt. Horeb</li><li>Jonah's warning to the people of Nineveh</li></ul>	<p>St. Gregory the Great considered the six weeks of lenten weekdays (thirty-six days) as a ten percent tithe of the year.</p>	<p>The forty day fast of Jesus in the desert before he started his public ministry (Mt 4:2, Mk 1:13 and Lk 4:2) is the most likely inspiration for the forty days of Lent.</p>
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What is the significance of forty days?



Lent IS A TIME TO  
**GROW**  
 CLOSER TO JESUS

**Lenten Sermon Series**  
**“Fountain of Grace”**

- March 6th**  
**The Broken Cup**
- March 13th**  
**The Cup of Living Water**
- March 20th**  
**The Cup You Choose**
- March 27th**  
**The Cup of Discipleship**

“The 40 days leading up to Easter can be some of the most life-giving, perspective-changing, hope-filled days of the entire year.”

**HOLY WEEK**



Palm Sunday,  
 April 10th



Maundy Thursday,  
 April 14th



Good Friday  
 April 15th


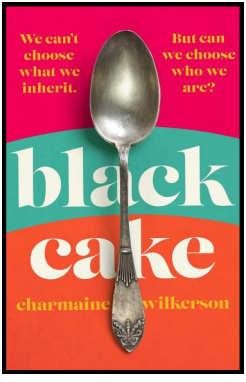


Easter Sunday,  
 April 17th



The book to read for February is Black Cake. The book group will meet at the Loon's Nest **March 8th at 12:30**. Due to conflicts it was changed to the second Tuesday of the month.

Charmaine Wilkerson’s debut novel is a story of how the inheritance of betrayals, secrets, memories, and even names, can shape relationships and history. *Black Cake* is an extraordinary journey through the life of a family changed forever by the choices of its matriarch.

In present-day California, Eleanor Bennett’s death leaves behind a puzzling inheritance for her two children, Byron and Benny: a traditional Caribbean black cake, made from a family recipe with a long history, and a voice recording. In her message, Eleanor shares a tumultuous story about a headstrong young swimmer who escapes her island home under suspicion of murder. The heartbreaking tale Eleanor unfolds, the secrets she still holds back, and the mystery of a long-lost child, challenge everything the siblings thought they knew about their lineage, and themselves.

Can Byron and Benny reclaim their once-close relationship, piece together Eleanor’s true history, and fulfill her final request to “share the black cake when the time is right”? Will their mother’s revelations bring them back together or leave them feeling more lost than ever?

**abibliophobia**  
 uh-bib-uh-to-bee-yuh  
 Noun.  
 The fear of running out of things to read.  
 ~ aestas book blog ~



**Dent UMC** - Liturgist & Usher lists have been put together. Ushers will have the responsibility for ushering all Sunday's in that month. If you are unable to be there on a Sunday, please find a substitute to fill in for you. Thank You!

**March Ushers - Dent**  
**Russ W & Kelvin S.**

**April Ushers**  
**Rob & Ivy M.**

Liturgist March:

- 6th Gary A.
- 13th Doris C.
- 20th Lyndon M.
- 27th Carolann G.

Liturgists April:

- 3rd Peggy Me,
- 10th Augie A.
- 17th Gary A.
- 24th Michelle S.



**Vergas UMC** - Liturgist & Usher sign up sheets are in the fellowship hall. Please check the lists and see where you might be able to help. Thank you!

*\*check the weekly bulletins for reminders of who signed up or where there is still a need.*



After the winter we've had, I'm all for anything with the word "spring" in it!

off the mark.com by Mark Parisi



**Wed. March 23rd Game Night in Vergas**

How does one survive these long winters!? This has felt like a long drawn-out winter with more than its fair share of bad weather. Let's plan on getting together on Wednesday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:00 pm in Vergas for games and fellowship. Come to play games or visit. Maybe you have a movie you want to watch on the big screen? We could talk about what our spring, summer, and fall could look like as we rebuild our fellowship and brainstorm adding new activities. Whatever brings you out, let's get together to beat these winter blues!

# What's up in the City of \_\_\_\_\_ **Vergas**



## Pickleball Courts

Area Pickleball enthusiasts are working to construct 4 dedicated Pickleball courts in Vergas, MN, and we need your help. The group is working with the City of Vergas, and plan to place the courts near the existing baseball field. We need to raise all of the funds for this project, with a goal of \$130,000. We are pleased to have West Central Initiative as our fiscal host, ensuring that all donations are tax deductible. The dollars will come through grants, donations from businesses, lake associations, foundations, families and individuals.

### What is Pickleball?

Pickleball is a fun and increasingly popular sport for all ages that combines ping pong, tennis and badminton. The game is affordable to take part in, and is played by 2 or 4 people on a court, similar to a tennis court only smaller. Pickleball promotes health, wellness, character and sportsmanship for all.

see the City of Vergas website for more information on this exciting new venture.



**VERGAS, MN**

# MAPLE SYRUP

## FESTIVAL

*Saturday, April 9*

### PANCAKE FEED

**8:00 am - 11:00 am (or until gone) Vergas Event Center**

{ \$10 • Kids Under 10 \$5 • Cash Only }  
**DRIVE THRU AND INDOOR SEATING**

*Serving Pancakes, Sausage, Juice & Real Maple Syrup, of Course!*

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*"The Sap is Running in Vergas"*

## 5K WALK/RUN

Registration 8-8:30 am at Billy's Bar  
Race Start Time 9 am  
Pre-Registration \$25 • \$30 after April 1

Registration form at [www.cityofvergas.com](http://www.cityofvergas.com)

Stores Will Be Open With Maple Fest Specials!

{ HORSE DRAWN WAGON RIDES }  
**9:00 am - Noon**  
by Farm 41

{ MAPLE LEAF HUNT }  
**10:00 am**  
Ages 6 and under  
Long Lake Trail (Tin Can Alley Entrance)

*Bring the Entire Family & Enjoy the Day in Friendly Vergas!*

**A VERGAS COMMUNITY CLUB & VERGAS LIONS FUNDRAISER**

All proceeds go directly to projects happening in Vergas.

# BUNKO TOURNAMENT

Saturday, March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2022

6:30-9:00 PM

Billy's Corner Bar in Vergas, MN

Tickets \$15 per person

Tickets available at Vergas Municipal Liquor Store, Billy's Corner Bar or call Bev Flatland at 218-342-2718

Proceeds benefit  
American Cancer Society  
Hosted by Vergas Looneys Relay for Life Team







## Recipe Corner

### Mint Chocolate Chip Fudge



- 2 1/2 C White Choc Chips
- 1 (14 oz) can sweetened Condensed Milk
- 2 tsp Peppermint Extract
- 6 - 8 drops green food coloring

Line an 8x8 pan with parchment paper or foil lightly greased with cooking spray. In a large heatproof bowl over a pan of simmering water (do not let the bowl touch the water), melt together the white chocolate chips and sweetened condensed milk, about 5 minutes (do not rush this process). Remove the bowl from pan. Stir in the peppermint extract and food coloring. Wait 2 minutes then fold in 1 cup chocolate chips (the more you fold, the more they'll melt). Spread into the pan and top with the remaining 1 cup chocolate chips, gently pressing down to stick into the fudge. Cool until firm, at least 4 hours or overnight (you can store in the refrigerator to speed up the process). Store in an airtight container for up to 1 week.



### Worship Service Times:

Dent Services 9:00 am

Vergas Services 10:30am

*The Vergas service will begin the Livestream on Facebook at 10:30 am and will be posted to YouTube & the Website shortly after the end of the service.*

**YouTube.com** Search using this text, "Dent Vergas UMC" to find our channel. **Please "Subscribe"** - once we get to 100 subscribers, we will get our own unique YouTube link.

Are there things you would like to see each month in your newsletter? Would you like to write an article? Submit photographs? Share a recipe? Please let us know and we will do our best to include it here. Also, If you want your Newsletter delivered by email. Please let Sheri Schoenberger know at [sheri.Lschoenberger@gmail.com](mailto:sheri.Lschoenberger@gmail.com) or call her at 218-329-7465

Additions to the newsletter, deadline for April is March 26, 2022

We will be sending out the newsletter on the first or second Sunday of each month, if possible. To defray costs the newsletter will be offered in the following formats:

**Email - Website - In person pick up** at church - 1st or 2nd Sunday of the month.

**US Mail** - Remaining newsletters will be mailed on the 1st or 2nd Monday of the month.

#### Church Secretary / Newsletter editor

Sheri Schoenberger  
Phone or text: 218-329-7465  
email: [sheri.Lschoenberger@gmail.com](mailto:sheri.Lschoenberger@gmail.com)

#### Vergas United Methodist Church:

200 W Main St  
PO Box 243  
Vergas MN 56587

#### Reverend Amy J Strom

email: [amyjstrom@gmail.com](mailto:amyjstrom@gmail.com)  
Mobile: 612-226-8905  
Parsonage: 218-334-6901

#### Dent United Methodist Church

301 Main St  
Dent MN 56528

#### Dent Vergas Website: [vergasumc.com](http://vergasumc.com)

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# March / April 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>Worship Times</b> 9am Dent 10:30am Vergas Livestream	<b>Vergas Sunday School</b> 9:30 am Adult 10:30am Children's	<b>Mary Jane S. (D)</b>  <b>1</b>  Ash Wednesday 5pm Vergas	<b>3 Barb L. (D)</b>  <b>4 Jan A. (D)</b>  <b>5</b>	<b>10 Donna S. (D)</b>  <b>11 Carter J. (V)</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>Ellie L. (D)</b>  <b>6</b>  <b>Sermon: The Broken Cup</b>	<b>7</b>  <b>12:30pm Book Club meeting @ Loons Nest</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Daylight Svgs 13 Time 1 hr ahead</b>  <b>Sermon: The Cup of Living</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>  <b>Ad Council</b> 3pm Dent 6:30pm Vergas via Zoom	<b>St Patrick's Day</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>Sermon: The Cup You Choose</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>  <b>6pm Game Night at Vergas</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Sermon: The Cup of Discipleship</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>1 Jody S (V)</b> <b>Iona T. (V)</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Sermon: The Cup of Compassion</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7 Loren M (V)</b> <b>8 Abbey S (D)</b>	<b>9</b>

## DENT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH COUNCIL

February 16, 2022

The regular meeting of the DUMC Council was held on Wednesday at 3:00 at the church. Members present were KellyAnn Augustson, Doris Champlin, Don Garber, Austin Holtz, Peggy Meissner, and Ivy Mickelson. Doris called the meeting to order.

**MINUTES:** Minutes from last meeting were in the newsletter. Austin made a motion to accept the minutes with a second from Ivy, motion passed.

**FINANCE:** Report shows our last month expenses were more than what we brought in by \$2000. Don reported that we received a Memorial of \$150 from the Miller family. Ivy has been looking for someone to audit the books with no luck. A motion was made by Peggy to have the monthly insurance payment made automatically with a second from Kelly Ann, motion passed.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:** Trustees had nothing to report. We had a discussion about who is plowing our parking lot. Nobody knows at this point who it may be. We have not received a bill for the job. Thank you to whoever is doing the job.

**MISSIONS:** The mission offering for the months of February and March will be The Bridge Food shelf.

**WORSHIP:** We discussed if we should still require people to wear masks, Don made a motion to make masks an option from now on unless things change. Austin made a second and motion passed. We decided to wait to do fellowship after church for now. The council had a discussion of the handling of the offering. We would prefer if the plates were on the table in the entry.

**MEMORIAL & TRUST FUNDS:** Doris has sent a request for funds from the Foundation fund for the mission giving.

**OTHER:** we decided to put a notice in the newsletter for the piano for sale. Rose Thompson has been doing a wonderful job sending cards to people for birthdays and other events. Peggy made a motion to give her \$100 for the cards she buys. Kelly Ann seconded, and motion was passed. Doris received information from Central Market on the cost of catering funerals. It was decided to table the discussion on our funeral policies until next meeting so we can gather more information.

**NEXT MEETING & ADJOURNMENT:** Next scheduled meeting will be March 16. Meeting adjourned.

## VERGAS AD COUNCIL MINUTES

Zoom Meeting

Feb 16, 2022, 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday

Those present: Renee Sonnenberg, Sheri Schoenberger, Jane Wasvick, Carmen Moore, Tanya Johnson, and Faye Courneya

**Call to order** by our Chairwoman Renee.

Pastor Amy was not able to attend due to an illness. Sheri reported that attendance is steady in the last month in Vergas, generally in the low 20's with online attendance in the high 20's.

**Secretary minutes** approved after a motion to approve from Jane, a second by Sheri, and carried.

**Treasurer's Report:** Jane moved that the treasurer's report be approved as sent out, was seconded by Tonya, and carried.

### **Old Business:**

We were not aware of a local need for the mission allotment this month. The little library has cost \$401 so far with more expense anticipated by the time it is mounted by Myles. So the local missions money of \$300 will be left to finish the little library and maybe buy a few good children's books to supply it.

### **New Business:**

1. Faye told us the \$35 membership dues for community club will need to be paid. Jane moved that the dues be paid for Community Club membership and that they continue to be paid yearly. It was seconded by Tonya and carried.
2. **Dent church treasurer has asked us to audit the Dent church books,** but there is no one in our church to do this. We may need to hire some one who is capable of doing this; Faye and Sheri will ask some other organizations and churches how they get their audits done, so we may be able to propose a plan on how to get this done at our next meeting.
3. **Color Copies:** This expense has been excessive over the last year and we have not got that much allowance in our budget for them. The contract with Marco allows for 15,000 B&W copies and only 750 color copies. In January, 4290 color copies were made and we were billed \$374 for them. June to December 2021, 8,206 color copies and 3402 B&W copies were made, thus we were billed \$788.84 for them (even a tiny dot of color in a copy will cause it to be billed as a color copy). Fewer color copies can be used and B&W copies would be sufficient. Tonya moved that we have B&W copies for weekly bulletins, except for holidays when color copies could be used for service bulletins. This was seconded by Jane and carried.
4. Sheri will write a service order for the **scanner to be fixed.**

**Other Business:**

**Stair Lift:** Connie Prunty is going to pay 100% of the cost of the chair lift that she is arranging to be installed at the church. The council felt that another person (perhaps a trustee) to represent the church building be present, in case the installers have questions or need some building alterations in order to make the installation.

**Covid restrictions:** Any changes that may be in order in lieu of the relaxing of some covid restrictions and increased vaccinations, were tabled until next meeting in the event that the Bishop's suggestions will be changed.

**Next Month's AD Council Meeting will be a Zoom meeting on March 16<sup>th</sup>.**

Respectfully submitted by Carmen Moore, Secretary