

# Rejoice in the season and all of God's signs of newness

Hard to believe that we are beginning to be in the season of spring. In the church, we are in the season of Lent, those 40 days before we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ, Easter.

At the beginning of Lent, some churches celebrate Ash Wednesday, when you are reminded that we are only made from the earth and we will return to the earth.

What will you do with your life from the day of birth until the day of death? It is a time to ponder upon what death and life represent to each of us individually



Rev. Byron Fritz  
**A Simple Life with God**

and as people together in families and groups.

In this time of the year, it is easy for us to reflect upon these aspects of life, because in Indiana, we will see such a wondrous transformation of life in this spring season. As you look out over the landscape right now, you see dry brown trees that seem to have opened your eyes to all that is hidden behind

them, but soon as the buds begin to bloom and the leaves begin to form, the trees will once again begin to hide homes, fields and landmarks.

I remember when my wife and I were first married. She had been raised in a large city and we were living in Ragslesville. She had not been raised on the farm and around different types of fields.

When the corn crops would grow, she would get lost because all the landmarks had become hidden by the corn. Then in the fall, she would lose her directions again when the corn had been harvest-

ed, changing the landscape.

This is what is taking place each day in this season of spring. Everything will begin to look so different. The grass that is brown and seems to crack under your feet will soon have the soft touch to bare feet and the color will become so vibrant to the eyes. That first smell of freshly cut grass just seems to bring your mind and spirit awake to newness and joy.

It is as if God is sending you a message of what is true in the spiritual life when we open ourselves once again to what God has done for us

through Jesus Christ.

In these days and weeks, spend time with God and ponder upon all the wonder God has surrounded you with in the beauty of nature. But most of all, consider what God has given to you through the life of Jesus Christ and his sacrifice to bring you from death to life.

Let Easter be a time of rejoicing in the life of God's spirit living in you.

*The Rev. Byron D. Fritz is the pastor at Edinburgh United Methodist Church. Questions or comments may be sent to revfritz2000@juno.com or call 526-5840.*

## CHURCH BULLETIN

### Edinburgh United Methodist Church

107 W. Campbell St.  
• Gospel sing, 6:30 to 9 p.m., first Friday. All are welcome.  
• The Volunteers perform at 6:30 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month. Bring your instrument and join in.  
Information: 526-5480

April 18 — InterChurch Food Pantry; nominating committee appointed; program: food pantry

### Edinburgh Full Gospel Church

507 W. Center Cross St.  
• Fellowship meeting, 7 p.m., second Friday.  
On April 14, the guest speaker will be Pastor Glen Stephens and on May 12, Pastor Claude Franklin will speak.  
Information: 376-8144

*Items for Church Bulletin may be sent to The Courier, P.O. Box 699, Franklin, IN 46131; faxed to 736-2766 or e-mailed to courier@thejournalnet.com*

## ON THE AGENDA

**Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce:** Third Thursday of each month, meeting time and place vary. Info: edinburghcoc@yahoo.com or 526-3189

**Edinburgh Community School Corp. Board:** 6 p.m. third Monday, administration office, 202 S. Keeley St. Info: 526-2681

**Edinburgh Downtown Merchants Association:** 6 p.m., second Wednesday, locations rotate. Info: Cindy Neville, 526-5409, or Joe George, 526-0067

**Edinburgh Lions Club:** 6:30 p.m. Thursdays, 120 S. Walnut St., Info: 526-9941

**Edinburgh Planning Commission:** 7 p.m. first Wednesday, Edinburgh Town Hall, 107 S. Holland St.

**Edinburgh Town Council:** 6 p.m., second and fourth Mondays, Edinburgh Town Hall, 107 S. Holland St. Info: 526-3512

**Edinburgh F&AM Lodge #100:** 7:30 p.m., second Wednesday.

**Johnson County Commissioners:** 8 a.m. Mondays, courthouse annex auditorium, 86 W. Court St., Franklin.

**Johnson County Council:** 7 p.m. second Monday, courthouse auditorium, 86 W. Court St., Franklin.

*Items for On the Agenda may be sent to The Courier, P.O. Box 699, Franklin, IN 46131; faxed to 736-2766 or e-mailed to courier@thejournalnet.com*

## Johnson County Ministerial Association

The Johnson County Ministerial Association conducts meetings at 9 a.m. on the second Tuesday of each month. Scheduled:

# Although St. Patrick's Day is secular holiday, it has religious roots

Tomorrow is St. Patrick's Day. It is one of the most popular non-holiday holidays on the calendar. I know this because I operate a Web site dedicated to holidays, and the St. Patrick's Day page gets more visitors on March 17 than any other holiday gets on any single day.

Nobody gets a paid day off from work. There's no mysterious man in red bringing presents or giant rabbits bringing candy or boiled eggs. And it's not known as a day to show your sweetheart how much you love her by buying her flowers or candy.

Instead, you get pinched if you don't wear green. But on the positive side, most large cities have parades. And if



Jerry Wilson  
**Over Coffee**

you're into partying, there is no lack of celebrations with green beer on tap in a number of establishments.

St. Patrick's Day is named for the Patron Saint of Ireland. He wasn't born in Ireland, but in Wales about AD 385. His given name was Maewyn.

Until his late teens, he was far from being a saint. In fact, he was a pagan. He was sold into slavery at age 16. During the following six years, before he escaped, he became a Christian and

was later named Bishop of Ireland.

He is known for his ability to convert pagans. The Celtic Druids became upset with him because he was constantly converting the pagans to Christianity. He was arrested several times and escaped each time.

Much Irish folklore surrounds St. Patrick's Day. Not much of it is actually substantiated.

Some of this lore includes the belief that Patrick raised people from the dead. He also is said to have given a sermon from a hilltop that drove all the snakes from Ireland. Of course, no snakes were ever native to Ireland, and some people think this is a metaphor for the conversion of the pagans.

One traditional icon of the day is the shamrock. And this stems from a more bona fide Irish tale that tells how Patrick used the three-leafed shamrock to explain the Trinity.

He used it in his sermons to represent how the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit could all exist as separate elements of the same entity. His followers adopted the custom of wearing a shamrock on his feast day.

The St. Patrick's Day custom came to America in 1737. That was the first year St. Patrick's Day was publicly celebrated in this country in Boston.

Patrick died on March 17, 461. That day became his holy feast day.

Today, like most pagan-celebration-

turned-Christian-holy-day holidays, St. Patrick's Day is mostly a secular observance. People use it as an excuse to have fun.

And why shouldn't they? There's not much else going on in March, unless it's a year when Easter comes early. And it does herald the arrival of spring and of spring breaks.

Green is an appropriate color to wear. It's the first green of spring.

*Jerry Wilson operates the Web site overcoffeeonline.com. Comments about his column can be sent there or to the Edinburgh Courier, P.O. Box 699, Franklin, IN 46131, courier@thejournalnet.com.*

## NEWS ROUNDUP

### DAILY JOURNAL AND REPUBLIC STAFF REPORTS

#### Meth use leads to 2-year suspended prison sentence

A man who said he used meth to help him through long work shifts was sentenced March 6 to a two-year suspended prison sentence for possessing the drug.

Michael Orr, 49, of Edinburgh, will be on electronic monitoring during probation, which will begin following resolution of a charge of carrying a handgun without a license.

Orr said he started using meth because he was working 12 hours a day and 7 days a week but that the drug failed to keep him focused.

"I didn't realize how hooked I was until I went to jail," Orr said. "The more I got into the drug, the less I was working."

#### Woman arrested in connection with fight

An Edinburgh woman has been arrested for a January assault against another resident, according to the Edinburgh Police Department.

Regina Rochelle Cosby, 33, was arrested March 9 on charges of battery with a deadly weapon, intimidation and possession of marijuana.

Her arrest comes almost two months after the victim told police she had been assaulted outside the Tasty Shoppes Tavern, 510 W. Center Cross St. in Edinburgh.

She told police that Cosby had attacked her with a tire iron Jan. 15 as she was leaving the tavern, according to a police report.

The bartender came outside and found the woman on the ground screaming, the report said. Cosby denied the attack, but said she had gone to the tavern to give the woman a ride and had a drink thrown in her face, the report said.

The woman later got a protective order from the Edinburgh Police Department.

Police questioned Cosby about the incident and searched her car. They found less than 30 grams of marijuana in her car, the report said.

Cosby, of 215 N. Kyle St., was booked into the Johnson County jail on \$18,000 bond.

#### New job, same goal: Get people to recycle

One of the county's top recyclers is still encouraging people to reuse and recycle — just in a different location. Melinda Antell left her job as director of Johnson County Solid Waste District in January to become area manager for Abitibi Consolidated in Indianapolis.

In her new job, she runs the group's paper retriever program, where she arranges for recycling bins to be set up at schools and churches in the Indianapolis metropolitan area.

After teaching people to recycle in her former job, Antell likes overseeing a service that helps people take action by recycling their paper products.

Her replacement, Amy Grimmer, used to work as educator for the district, where she was responsible for environmental education programs in the area.

In her new job, the Franklin resident wants to continue to encourage residents to join the quick-drop recycling program, and possibly extend the program to Edinburgh. Grimmer also hopes to continue to get more donations for the reuse center at the district office.

Office and craft supplies are collected at the office to be reused by teachers and after school groups.

#### Ditches, parking lots, flooded with rain

Ditches and parking lots along U.S. 31 throughout the county were inundated with water March 11 after the area received at least five inches of rainfall since March 9.

The area braced for a further drenching as meteorologists pre-

dicted two to four more inches of rain March 12, bringing the total to between seven and nine inches in five days.

Backyards were flooded, sewer lines were at risk of being overwhelmed by storm water, and county workers were busy replacing high water signs that had been removed.

Franklin city parks and playgrounds were under water, and high water signs dotted a few county roads in the southern part of the county.

The standing water started to recede by that afternoon. But city and county highway workers continued to monitor the roads.

Despite the high water, few people called police during the weekend because the water had stranded them.

On March 10, the sheriff's office was called to rescue a couple stuck in high water south of Smiley's Mill on County Road 725 East.

The flooding wasn't limited to any one area of the county, but some bridges were underwater in the southern part of the county, highway department director Don Sanders said.

By March 12 afternoon, the water had receded enough that only a few roads were still under water, mostly in the southern area of the county, Sanders said.

On Mauxferry Road south of Franklin, high water signs were posted near County Road 200 South, as water from a nearby

field brushed the side of the road.

County highway workers had to make 15 new signs to warn people of high water areas because several signs were stolen, Sanders said.

#### Sprint customers to see change

Customers will start seeing a new name atop phone bills by June as Sprint Nextel hands off its local landline division to a new company called Embarq.

The change will not affect rates or service for the estimated 28,000 customers in Johnson County, and is considered more a marketing strategy than anything else, corporate spokeswoman Stephanie Meisse said.

The change will allow Sprint Nextel to concentrate on its wireless offerings and Embarq to focus on landline service, Meisse said.

"At first, this is going to be a completely transparent change to customers," she said. "People won't notice anything other than a new name."

Eventually, the new company could offer different products and services, Meisse said. Any new stores that open for landline services will bear the new name, she said.

Embarq will offer packaged bundles to customers that include wireless services but has-

n't said if the company will create its own network or buy minutes from an existing provider, such as Sprint.

Embarq will be the fifth-largest local telephone company in the country, with its headquarters remaining on the Sprint Nextel campus in Kansas City, Mo.

#### United Way short of fund-raising goal

The United Way of Johnson County needs to raise more than \$67,000. The race is on until March 28, when the group will announce fund-raising totals.

The group is slightly ahead of fund-raising efforts compared with last year.

As of March 10, the group has raised 94.2 percent of the \$1.17 million goal for 2005-06. At the end of February last year, only 88.9 percent of the goal had been raised.

Individuals can still make pledges, and companies can still run campaigns to get employees to donate a portion of their earnings to the United Way, executive director Nancy Lohr Plake said.

The money raised will help fund 26 youth and senior citizen organizations and other human service providers.

Information: 736-7840

*For more information on these stories, go to www.thejournalnet.com or www.therepublic.com.*

## AT THE PARKS

Edinburgh Parks and Recreation Department programs:  
• Registration for summer baseball/softball/T-ball has begun. The parks department is accepting applications for coaches.  
• Easter egg hunt: April 8  
Parks department: 526-3535

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