



JESUS IS ALIVE!

*He is not here;
for he has been raised.* —Matthew 28:6

Easter, 2009

Dear Friends of Troy First,

We are preparing for the coming of our Lord! We enter this 40-day period called Lent. Lent begins with Ash Wednesday and concludes with Easter Sunday. It is

during these two significant days that we prepare ourselves spiritually to live as Christians who believe their identity can be found in Christ's life, death, and resurrection.

Jesus' earthly life was one of servanthood. He came to serve, not to be served, and that is the essence of what it means to be a follower of Jesus, The Christ. I believe that hospitality is the hallmark of spiritual leadership, and following Jesus' example involves creating space for persons to be welcomed, received, and cared for in ways that allow them to feel that they belong. What prevents us from knowing Jesus and our true selves is when we choose not to care for those who Christ has placed in our care as His Disciples.

Annually, Troy First strives to care for those who we believe Christ has placed in our care. In only six months' time, I have come to know this congregation as generous and gracious, and so I place in your loving care the needs we seek to reach this year for those in need.

To Christ-like-care,

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