

Pastor's Corner

April 2016 – Rev. Eric Lane

Spring Cleaning

Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. --James 4:8

With the arrival of spring and the air beginning to turn warm, we tend to open the windows and let in the fresh air. We also start a ritual that is often referred to as “Spring Cleaning”. I was curious as to where this term originated, so of course I turned to “google” to attempt to find the answer. Interestingly, it pointed me back to the festival of the Passover. It appears that in the Jewish culture, during the festival of the Passover, the people will only eat unleavened bread. “It's a humble bread, and during Passover, keeping leavened bread, which is any bread made with yeast, is considered arrogant and ungrateful. Not only is it considered wrong to have leavened bread in the home during the Passover, even the crumbs from leavened bread are considered to be insulting to God. So every year in preparation for the Festival of the Passover, the Jewish people would clean their homes to make sure that even the crumbs from the leavened bread were removed.

Now I don't know if this is really where the term “spring cleaning” originated or not, but we could learn from the story and perhaps apply the principles to our own lives. We have just come through the season of lent, a time to reflect upon our lives and our mortality; and the goal is that we do some “spring cleaning” of our own—meaning that we get rid of the crumbs of sin that are lying around in those hidden corners of our lives that only God knows about.

Unlike our homes we don't have to wait from the coming of spring to do “spring cleaning” of our lives. I have learned over the years that the best way to keep my home clean is to keep at it. If I spill something, wipe it up—don't wait until I simply can no longer stand the mess.

The same can be said for my spiritual life, if I clean up my messes when I make them, or should I say go to God and seek His forgiveness and repent of my ways at the time of my sin; then you might say that my life is easier to keep clean, or should I say pure for God.

As we enter spring with summer coming, we will begin to open our windows and doors, and enjoy the fresh air and the warmth of sunshine. Likewise, if we open up our lives to God's grace, we, too, can bask in the freshness and warmth of God's presence.

“...remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Peace