

Pastor Randy's short devotion for February 23rd:

“Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.” (Psalm 51:10)

David wrote this Psalm after he was caught in his own sin. In the spring, when kings went to war, David's general suggested that David stay in Jerusalem to heal some more and when the city was about to fall, he would send for him and David would lead them into battle. David agreed. One warm spring morning, David went out on to his porch to stretch and enjoy the warmth of the sun. His porch overlooked the houses nearby and on one roof, Bathsheba was taking a bath, thinking she had total privacy. When David spotted her, he had his servants fetch her. Bathsheba later sent a note to David that she was pregnant. David called her husband Uriah home to give a report on the war, in hopes that Uriah would sleep with his wife while he was home. But Uriah didn't, so David sent a sealed note, telling his general to put Uriah in the front of the battle. Nathan the prophet confronted David with his sin and he wrote this Psalm asking God for forgiveness. This Psalm is used as part of the Ash Wednesday service. Ash Wednesday reminds us that we have committed sins of commission and omission, that is things we have done and what we have left undone. We have not loved the Lord or our neighbors with our whole heart. During the season of Lent, we have an opportunity to refocus our attention away from pursuing the call of the world to listening to the call of our Lord to love him and to love our neighbor.