

Saints and sinners: Come and get it! Church suppers

The handwritten sign on the church lawn said, "Pancake Breakfast — 7 to 10 a.m. — Tuesday and Thursday."

It was Tuesday. I was in luck. Pancake breakfasts and church suppers are familiar territory for me. I have attended Wednesday-evening church suppers at the United Methodist Church in Ogunquit, Maine, since the 1970s, when my family and I first took our summer vacations at a picturesque resort on the rocky shores of the Atlantic Ocean.

Thirty years later, you will still find me patronizing church suppers wherever I can find them. The service at a church supper is the best in the world. The waitresses can't do enough for you, your coffee cup is never empty, and going back for seconds is the nicest compliment you can bestow upon the cook. A church basement parish hall where supper is being served can be the friendliest place on God's earth — friend-

lier oftentimes, than it is upstairs!

Should you ever find yourself alone in a strange city, proceed to the nearest church supper. If you are looking for a place to live and everybody else has told you that there isn't a single room available in the whole city, chances are the person sitting next to you at a church supper will know somebody who knows where there is a good apartment.

You will forget that you were ever lonely. And of course, you will be well fed.

When I was a newscaster in Boston, I used to end my noon broadcasts by reading the produce market report — per order of the program director. I complained about this once to Lew Brewster, the station's farm editor.

"This is costing me listeners," I grouched. "Nobody wants to hear the produce report."

"I think you're wrong," Lew replied. "People like to hear words like corn, eggs, green beans



george plagenz

• saints & sinners

and peas."

Lew made a convert out of me. Later, when I edited the religion pages of a daily newspaper in Cleveland, I published mouth-watering menus of church suppers in the area:

ROAST BEEF DINNER with mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, cucumbers salad and homemade apple pie with Cheddar cheese;

SAUSAGE AND SAUERKRAUT DINNER with parsley potatoes, creamed corn, rye bread, homemade kuchen and peach cobbler; **SMORGASBORD**—Herring, cold salmon,

shrimp, sauerkraut balls, Swedish meatballs, baked ham and cold roast beef ...

Next in line to eating these wonderful dishes was reading about them. But it seems to me that there are fewer church suppers than there used to be. This may be because many more women, who typically were responsible for all the work that went into church suppers, work today and don't have the time or energy to prepare dishes for the church community.

Well, then, how about enlisting the men of the church? The men of the United Methodist Church in Ogunquit serve up some of the most sumptuous "All You Can Eat" feasts that I have ever enjoyed. They do everything at those Wednesday-evening church suppers — from peeling the potatoes, preparing the beans and setting the table to cooking, serving the meals, and then clearing away the empty plates and doing the dishes.

Their cooking is superb, but that is not too surprising. Men are often good cooks and it is a rare man who doesn't brag about some dish that he can whip up. In fact, many of us like to cook because we enjoy the flattery that comes from a well-prepared dish.

Chances are, cooking your specialty will get you compliments from your guests, but that is not so if you are on cleanup detail. One might say the real kitchen heroes are not the cooks, but those who willingly help with the menial chores around the kitchen — clearing the table, carrying out the garbage and sweeping the floor. You do that out of love — love for the church in the case of the Ogunquit Methodist Men's Club and out of love for the cook if you clean up at home.

In either case, a home-cooked meal can't be beat when you know how much love went into its preparation.

Russia, turning inward, refuses visas to foreign religious workers, volunteers

By Judith Ingram

Associated Press Writer

MOSCOW — Every three months, the Rev. Emile Dumas goes through the same, unsettling routine — applying to the Russian government for an extension of his entry visa.

It's by no means a formality for Dumas, an American priest who leads a small Roman Catholic parish on Russia's Far Eastern Sakhalin Island.

Five Catholic priests have had their visas revoked this year, with no warning. In September, five U.S. Protestants were refused permission to return to the central Russian city of Kostroma, where they ran a church and training courses for orphans. The government also turned down visa extensions for 30 U.S. Peace Corps volunteers midway through their two-year tour — leaving

just half the current crop at their posts in Russia.

"I take it one day at a time," Dumas said in a phone interview.

Religious activists, embassy officers and tour agents all confirm a spike in the number of Russian visa refusals over the past two years.

The Keston Institute, which monitors religious freedom, has about 40 foreign religious workers on its list of visa denials since 1998, with most refused since 2000. Others have not publicized their cases in hopes of reversing the refusal, or for fear of endangering their Russian congregations.

The refusals are one measure of the Russian government's attempts, after a decade of openness to the West, to turn the nation inward by keeping foreigners out.

The freedom that many Russians had thirsted for after the 1991 collapse of the Soviet Union brought a flood of foreign cultural and religious influences that some welcomed but others perceived as crowding out Russia's own values.

"The doors seemed pretty open when we came, and our assistance seemed to be very much appreciated," said Jeffrey Wollman, a 53-year-old humanitarian worker from Dallas, Texas. He set up life skills and computer training classes for orphans in Kostroma in 1999, and was among the five Protestants refused re-entry to Russia in September.

"Now it looks like the door is shutting." Visa authorities appear sometimes to be working hand-in-hand with Russian Orthodox prelates who fear the spread

of Catholicism and evangelical churches in regions where Orthodox influence was wiped out during 70 years of Communism.

In meetings with Orthodox prelates, the Federal Security Service or FSB, the main successor to the Soviet-era KGB, has pronounced its mission to protect Russia's "spiritual security."

In other cases, broader foreign policy concerns — such as Russia's close relationship with China — determine whether a visa will be issued. This past summer, for example, Russia refused to admit the Dalai Lama — the second time it denied entrance to the spiritual leader for Russia's 1 million Buddhists, and for Tibetans who resist Chinese rule. Russia appears to have little interest in risking its burgeoning economic and political relationship

with Beijing to satisfy its Buddhists' desire to personally receive the Dalai Lama's teachings.

"Buddhists have become hostages to Russia's foreign policy interests," said Maya Malygina, spokeswoman for the Moscow Buddhist Center.

The new ascendancy of the FSB, President Vladimir Putin's professional alma mater, and its discomfort with foreigners also play a key role. The only explanation Catholic leaders ever got for the decision to kick out Bishop Jerzy Mazur was that the ruling came from "competent organs" — the code word for the FSB — in connection with a law prohibiting the entry of people considered a threat to state security.

"We have the feeling that we are being punished for something, or they're hinting that we should behave differ-

ently," said Viktor Khurul, a Catholic spokesman in Moscow. "But how, for what, why? This is not clear."

The Catholic visa refusals followed the Vatican's establishment of formal dioceses earlier this year to replace its more informal apostolic administrations, stoking suspicions of growing foreign influence. Two of the dioceses have no legal standing in Russia — putting priests such as Dumas on shaky ground.

The visa refusals also came in the wake of a serious foreign policy blunder by the Catholics — using the Japanese name, Karafuto, for formerly Japanese-held land in Russia in the official title of one of the new dioceses.

"The Catholics have yet to apologize or even admit it ever happened," Dumas said reprovingly.



Church of Nazarene

Bible Baptist Church

Pastor: Don Crutcher
Fifth & Broadway
899-7368

Sunday: Sunday School: 9 am
Worship Service: 10 am
Evening Service: 6:30 pm

Wednesday: Evening Bible Study: 7 pm

Calvary Gospel Church

Pastor: Rev. Steve Rains
Fourth & College • 899-3605

Sunday: Sunday School: 9:15 am
Morning Service: 10:30 am
Evening Service: 6:00 pm

Wednesday: Adult Prayer and Worship: 7:00 p.m.
Youth @ the Rock House: 7:00 p.m.
Helping you focus upward in worship, inward in commitment and outward in evangelism

Church of Christ

401 Caldwell
899-6185

Sunday: Bible Study: 9:45 am
Worship Service: 10:45 am
Wednesday: Bible Study: 7 pm

Church of the Nazarene

Pastor: Matthew Delp
Third & Caldwell
899-2080 or 899-3797

Sunday: Sunday School: 9:45 am
Worship Service: 10:50 am
Evening Service: 6 pm

Wednesday: Evening Service: 7 pm

First Baptist Church

Pastor: Bud Chester
Fifth & Center • 899-3450

Sunday: Sunday School: 9:15 am
Morning Worship: 10:30 am
Evening Worship: 6:30 pm

Tuesday: Mens' Prayer Group: 6:00 am
Thursday: Night Bible Study: 7:00 pm

Seventh Day Adventist Church

Pastor: Arlin Cochran • 785-332-2888

Saturday: Sabbath School: 9:30 am
Worship Service: 11 am

First Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)
Pastor: Loren Strait

Eighth & Arcade • 899-5233
Sunday: Worship Service: 10:30 am
Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.

Activities: Junior High & High School Youth Groups, Adult Bible Study, Choir, Men's and Women's Groups, Devotions Study, Monthly Fellowship

Special Notice: Handicap Accessible, Hearing Assistance Equipment and Infant and Toddler Nurseries Available

First United Methodist Church

1116 Sherman
899-3631

Pastor: Rev. Janet Hernandez
Sunday: Sunday School: 9:15 am
Worship Service: 10:30 am

Sonrise Christian Church

Ninth & Caldwell • 899-5398
Minister: Tony Kafka

Youth Minister: Doug Bean
Sunday: Worship Service: 9:30 am
Sunday School: 10:45 am

Wednesday: Junior/Senior High Meeting: 7 pm
Adult & Children's Classes: 7 pm

Emmanuel Lutheran Church

13th & Sherman • 899-6161
Pastor: Scott Grimshaw

Sunday: Sunday School: 8:45 am
Worship Service: 10 am
Wednesday: Confirmation: 6 pm

Kanorado United Methodist Church

Pastor: Leonard Cox
399-2468

Sunday: Sunday School: 9 am
Worship Service: 10:15 am

Goodland Bible Church

109 Willow Road • 899-6400
Pastor:

Sunday: Sunday School: 9:45 am
Morning Worship: 11 am
Evening Worship: 6 pm
Wednesday: Call for location

Grace Fellowship Church

104 E. Hwy 24 • 899-6423
Pastor: Bob Snyder • Residence: 899-0134

Sunday: Sunday School: 10 am
Worship Service: 11 am
Youth Group at Gattshall's at 5:30 pm
Adult Bible Study 6 pm

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

13th & Center
899-2115 or Rectory 899-2114

Priest: Father Charles Schneider
Deacon: Gretchen Talitha
Adult Forum: Sunday: 8:30 am
Morning Prayer: 9:30 am 1st & 5th Sundays
Holy Eucharist: 2nd, 3rd, & 4th Sundays: 9:30
Sr. Warden for emergencies during the week 899-2067

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints

1200 15th Street • Burlington, CO • (719) 346-7984

Sacrament Meeting: 9:30 am

Sunday School: 10:45 am

Priesthood/Relief Society: 11:30 am

Word of Life Foursquare Church

223 E. 10th
899-5250

Pastor: John Coumerilh

Weekend services

Sunday: Worship Celebration and Kids' Church: 10:30 am

United Methodist Church

Brewster:
Pastor:

Worship Service: 10:45 am CST

Sunday School: 9:45 am CST

Winona:

Minister: Rev. Bob Winters

Worship Service: 9 am CST

Sunday School: 10:15 am CST

Iglesia Del Dios Vivo

La Luz Del Mundo

Spanish Speaking Church

Minister: Esteban Ortiz B.

1601 Texas • 899-5275

Daily Prayer: Sunday thru Saturday: 5 am & 6 pm

Sunday: Sunday School: 10 am

Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Pastor: Father Norbert Dlabal

307 W. 13th • 899-7205

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

4:30-5 pm Saturday or by appointment

Mass Schedule:

Saturday: 6 pm

Sunday: 10:30 am

Spanish Mass:

1st & 3rd Sunday: 2 pm

Pleasant Home Church

Serving the rural community for over 100 years

Rt. 1, Box 180 • 694-2807 • 3190 Road 70

Pastor: Charlie Busch

694-2242

Sunday: Worship Service: 9 am

Sunday School: 10 am

Evening Service: 6 pm

The following sponsors urge YOU to attend your chosen House of Worship this Sabbath:

Good Samaritan Center
208 W. 2nd

Koons Funeral Chapel
North Main

Topside Office Products, Inc.
1110 Main

Goodland Daily News
1205 Main

Short & Son Trucking
Hwy. 24