

THE GOOD NEWS

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, BATESVILLE

VOLUME XXVI NUMBER 2

From the Pastor

This month brings Ash Wednesday and Lent. Henri Nouwen, from whom we will be reading this Lent, has a serious issue for us to consider. "Our temptation in Lent is to be so impressed by our sins and failings and so overwhelmed by our lack of generosity that we get stuck in a paralyzing guilt, a guilt that leads to introspection instead of directing our eyes to God. It is guilt that becomes an idol and form of pride." (*Renewed for Life*, 3)

No one expects any of us to take that road to Lent. It is way too much baggage. Lent is a journey into the mystery. It is boldly addressing the polarities of life and death, good and evil, and victory and defeat in human affairs. It is coming to terms on some level with our human shortcoming, while at the same time coming to terms on another with our eternal potential. If everyday of Lent could be, in a sense, a delving into the divine processes of grace and redemption, then the bent to embrace our guilt as some bizarre trophy in life would disappear. But that only addresses the individual and Lent.

Lent also has a communal purpose. The observance of Lent bonds us together as a group of people. Theologically, Lent points to a kind of oneness that is dependent on our common reliance on a Christological center. That's a heavy way of saying that the meaning of Lent places all humans equally close to Christ. Or, as Bonhoeffer put it, all people are related to one another in a way in which they are related to Christ. Christ's descent into hell, as the Apostle's Creed reminds us, means that "in my severest tribulations I may be assured that

Christ my Lord has redeemed me from hellish anxieties and torment by the unspeakable anguish, pains, and terrors which he suffered in his soul both on the cross and before." (Heidelberg Catechism, Q. 44) There it is. Life's tribulations (say in Lent) are contradicted by redemption (say with Easter).

Our communion on Maundy Thursday is a common meal with our Lord that emphasizes our awareness of the struggle for life among us. Our communion on Easter is a common meal with our Lord that emphasizes that the struggle has been countered by Christ's resurrection.

As we work through our journey through Lent, it will be a good time to reflect on some of the simple principles of our faith. Reading some of the Confessions might be a good idea. Choosing phrases from the Apostles' Creed to reflect on may add new intensity to your faith. Some Christians return again to the "Beatitudes" for inspiration. Plan to combine the inspiration of Lent with some activity that represents an outward expression of your pilgrimage as well. Not only do you have the choice of giving up something for the season, but you could add some discipline of grace for yourself, your family, or your community. Choose to read something about discernment from Ignatius of Loyola's work. Teresa of Avila also is inspirational. Try writing a sonnet, or an ode. Even a new haiku a day would be interesting. Write your own words to a hymn tune you know well. Prepare a jar that contains forty of God's blessings on strips of (continued on page 5)

February Birthdays

02/01	Theodora Hightower
02/01	Luann Baker
02/02	Jordan Roper
02/03	Ken Rueter
02/03	Jeffrey Angel
02/07	Christopher Bell
02/10	Patricia Seibert
02/11	Mayfan Thomas
02/13	Lily Gillihan
02/20	Steven Bell, Jr.
02/21	Anna Richards
02/22	William Pope
02/23	Robin Williams Steen
02/24	Bettye Jones
02/27	Chris Barton

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Thank You....</i>	2
<i>February Calendar</i>	3
<i>Worship Notes</i>	4
<i>Pastoral Care</i>	5
<i>Leslie's Notes</i>	6
<i>Easter Flower Order</i>	7
<i>Mark Your Calendars</i>	8

**THANK YOU
FROM
ARKANSAS CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL**

(The following letter was received by FPC's Knit Wits knitting group.)

Dear Knit Wits,

On behalf of all of us at Arkansas Children's Hospital, thank you for your kind and thoughtful donation for the holiday season. We appreciate the sharing of your time and talent in the handmade gifts you gave.

As you know, being in the hospital over the holidays is difficult - especially for a child. Your gift made their stay and their parent's stay brighter during this holiday season. Your commitment and dedication to Arkansas Children's Hospital truly makes a difference in our patients' lives.

ACH is among the largest pediatric hospitals in the country, and people like you help us reach our mission of providing excellent services to all the children of Arkansas. Thank you for being a part of the ACH "TEAM" - Together Everyone Achieves Miracles!

Once again, thank you. You have helped make a patient's stay at ACH brighter!

Sincerely,

Robin Armstrong
Director of Volunteer Services

(A note from Knit Wits Moderator, Camille Anderson)

This past Christmas we sent 50 caps, ranging from premi to youth sizes to ACH. Last spring we sent 60 caps. But we need knitters!! Even if you are not able to come on Thursday mornings, we would love for you to knit or crochet caps. Please contact Camille Anderson for more information at 793-2657

THANK YOU

Dear FPC members,

Jo and I would like to express our gratitude for your prayers and support during my hip-replacement surgery and convalescence. I am making an excellent recovery, and without taking anything away from the skills of the surgeon or the fine care I received at WRMC, I feel sure that your prayers and good wishes have helped to speed it along. We also want to express our appreciation for the lovely poinsettia, and offer special thanks to Susie Cummins and the Pastoral Care Committee for the several delicious meals they provided.

God bless you all for all your kindness.

Yours faithfully,

Barry Gehm



February 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Lunch Bunch 12:00 Choir 7:00	2 Knit Wits 10:00	3 Bingo/Jo & Frances	4
5	6	7 Committee Mtgs 5:30	SLAM 3:30 Choir 7:00	9	10 Bingo/ Carolyn & Ellen	11
12 Fellowship Luncheon	13 Deacons 5:30	14 Circle 1 9:30 Circle 2 6:30	15 SLAM 3:30 Choir 7:00	16 Knit Wits 10:00	17 Bingo/Sue & Jo	18
19	20	21 Session 5:30	22 SLAM 3:30 Ash Wed. Pancake Sup. Choir 7:00	23	24 Bingo/Jo & Frances	25 Church Family Outing
26	27	28	29 Brown Bag/ Emmett 12:00 SLAM 3:30 Choir 7:00			

Preaching and Worship Schedule

February 5, 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Preacher: Rev. Dr. Emmett Powers

Text: Isaiah 40: 21-31; Psalms 147: 1-11, 20c; 1 Corinthians 9: 16-23; Mark 1: 29-39

Sermon Title: Out of the Cosmos, Here in the Ordinary

Focus: We used to sing “He’s got the whole world in His hands.” The creator God does sustain the universe in amazing and wonderful ways; so many we aren’t even able to fathom. Yet, God holds us in the clasp of God’s own two hands. God’s grace sustains us in the evolutionary sequence in which all creation exists to glorify God and enjoy God forever.

Hymns: Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty; O God of Earth and Space; Lord, When I Came Into This Life

Liturgist: Anna Richards

February 12, 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Preacher: Rev. Dr. Emmett Powers

Text: 2 Kings 5: 1-14; Psalms 30; 1 Corinthians 9: 24-27; Mark 1: 40-45

Sermon Title: Where Have All the Prophets Gone?

Focus: It’s hard to imagine a world without prophets. Rabbi Levy instructs his congregation that when the law is removed from the foreground of the people, prophets emerge to sound the clarion voice of God. Naaman learns an important lesson. What can we learn?

Hymns: All Creatures of Our God and King; Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing; Here I Am Lord

Liturgist: Jim Buck Buchanan

February 19, Transfiguration of the Lord

Preacher: Rev. Dr. Emmett Powers

Text: 2 Kings 5: 1-12; Psalms 50: 1-6; 2 Corinthians 4: 3-6; Mark 9: 2-9

Sermon Title: Surprise!

Focus: The transfiguration frames the season of Lent. We are often confused by the polarities of faith — suffering and exaltation, defeat and victory, weakness and power, life and death (see Harakas, *Religion on Line*). The Christian life can be explained in the spirituality that connects these polarities. They give substance to our devotion.

Hymns: God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand; I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art; O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

Liturgist: Karen Howard

Communion

February 22, Ash Wednesday

Preacher: Rev. Dr. Emmett Powers

Text: Joel 2: 1-2, 12-14; Ezekiel 36: 25-27; Psalm 103

Sermon Title: Invitation to Lent

Focus: Ash Wednesday is the beginning of the season of Lent. It is a time for us to slow down from our busy lives to renew our life in the mystery of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. We begin with the ancient signs that speak of the fragility of life. Prayer and fasting, works of love, and meditation of the Word of God are the goals of these weeks of Lent.

Hymns: Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed; Lift High the Cross

February 26, 1st Sunday in Lent

Preacher: Rev. Leslie Roper

Text: Mark 1: 9-15 Genesis 9: 8-17

Sermon Title: Somewhere Over the Rainbow

Focus: The story of Noah seems like an apt way to begin our journey of Lent. It was the people’s sinfulness that led to the flood and what better image for the destructive nature of our brokenness with God and with each other than the devastation left behind after the waters recede. And yet, it is the rainbow that we focus on this morning, a constant reminder, even as we begin Lent, that God’s love is greater than even our own sin.

Hymns: Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise; Great is Thy Faithfulness; I Sing the Mighty Power of God

Liturgist: Wanette Baker



Pastoral Care

Please remember these members and friends of First Presbyterian Church in your prayers.

David, Kristine & baby Blyth Weatherman (son and daughter-in-law of Don and Lynn Weatherman); Jean Evans (mother of LeAnn Holmes); Janet Wood; Robert & Luann Baker; Marie Fowler; Joann Davis, (mother of Nancy McSpadden); Susan Anselm (sister of Jo Gehm); Katie Adams; Joann Harding (friend of Lenora Baldwin); Shirley Martin (friend of Melissa Qualls); Nancy Kelley (sister-in-law of Trish Boylan); N. E. Johnston; Helen Evans, (grandmother of LeAnn Holmes); Lily Alder; Mary Lou Oliver; Bess Wolf; Sterling Lowmiller, (father of Cindy Cooke); Family of Becky Culley, (sister of Sandy Qualls); Martha Campbell, (friend of Melissa Qualls); John McDougal, (friend of Celeste & Larry Whipple); Jacque Watson, (sister of Jimmy Lue Liles); Bob Lowry, (father of Robert Lowry); Trisha Calaway Walden, (sister of Camille Anderson); Bettye Jones; Norma Swetnam; and Susan Anderson.

In the Presbytery of Arkansas, we remember to pray for these ministries:

- | | |
|---|----------------------------------|
| February 5: First, Lincoln | First, Heber Springs |
| February 12: First, Ozark | Church Musicians |
| February 19: First, Jacksonville | Presbyterian Disaster Assistance |
| February 26: Woodlands, Hot Springs Village | Holiday Island Church |

FEBRUARY

GREETERS

- 02/05 Sam Cooke
- 02/12 Ray LaCroix
- 02/19 Betty Adams
- 02/22 Mike Ennis
- 02/26 Mayfan Thomas

From the Pastor (continued)

paper and take one out daily for you or your family to meditate on. Take your family on a nature walk and tell them that it is an opportunity for the group to learn something new about God’s care for God’s world. A snack of bread and grape juice could be good objects to begin a conversation about what Christ has done for humanity. Volunteer a day or more at a non-profit. The point is you don’t have to give up chocolate for Lent, if you don’t want to!

cause the better life of the kingdom has grown more important within us. So, as Lent begins, we say with the Psalmist, “Let the words of our mouth and the meditation of our hearts be acceptable unto you, O Lord, our strength and our redeemer.”

Blessings,

Emmett

One final word about Lent is this. Keep in mind that what we do in our lives emerges from who we are. It is not what we do that defines us, but what we think that motivates and inspires us to action. Lent helps us to make that distinction. As we emerge from Lent we will do better things with our lives be-



*Happy
St. Valentine's
Day*

Leslie's Notes

TABLES OF 8

After a short break, it is time once again to sign up to take part in one of the fantastic ministry opportunities offered by the Fellowship Committee: Tables of 8! This is one of the many ways that the Fellowship Committee has offered to make sure that we have plenty of ways to get to know all the faces we see on Sunday mornings.

Everyone wanting to be a part of this ministry of table fellowship will sign up, either before or after church in the narthex or by contacting the church office at 793-3272. Groups of eight will be randomly assigned, and for three months, those groups will be rotating through homes sharing a pot luck meal together once a month. If you want to participate but can't host, don't worry! There will be at least one non-host in every group!!

For this round of Tables of 8, there will be a dedicated group for our parents of young kids, so that childcare can be provided at the church. Make sure you mark your need for childcare to be included in that group.

It's not a life-long commitment, but is a great way to get to know people who don't sit on "your side of the sanctuary" or whose names you just can't quite match with a face. And if you think, "oh, I know plenty of people in the church, I don't need this", remember that other people might need to get to know you!! Sign up today!



FPC FAMILY DAY OUT

All families at FPC are invited to take a trip together on Saturday, February 25th to the newly re-opened Museum of Discovery!

The Museum of Discovery is Little Rock's hands-on science museum for children, concentrating on making science and technology fun for all ages. It has many permanent exhibits that let children conduct hands-on experiments in electricity, light and color, architecture, robotics, computer technology, human anatomy and Arkansas history. In addition, the current feature exhibit focuses on dinosaurs, giving visitors of ALL ages the chance to walk in the footsteps of the dinosaurs... literally! The group rate is only \$7 a person. Contact Leslie at the church for reservations. The church van can make the trip if transportation is needed!



Fellowship Pancake Supper and Ash Wednesday Service

Join your church family in an opportunity to recognize the beginning of celebrating a holy Lenten season! Ash Wednesday is February 22nd, and there will be an evening of activities at the church. Our Fellowship Supper for the month will be our annual "Shrove Tuesday" celebration before the Ash Wednesday Service.

Shrove Tuesday gets its name from the ritual of shriving, when the faithful confessed their sins to the local priest and received forgiveness before the Lenten season began. Historically, Shrove Tuesday also marked the beginning of the 40-day Lenten fasting period when the faithful were forbidden to consume meat, butter, eggs or milk. However, if a family had a store of these foods they would certainly spoil by the time the fast ended on Easter Sunday. What to do? Solution: use up the milk, butter and eggs no later than Shrove Tuesday. And so, with the addition of a little flour, the solution quickly presented itself in... pancakes.

Our pancake supper will start at 5:45 on Wednesday, February 22, in the Fellowship Hall. Come, bring your family and your favorite breakfast side dish, and celebrate with your church family before we begin our Lenten journey together in the sanctuary.



FELLOWSHIP LUNCH



*Nothing Says Loving
Like Something from
The Oven!*

On February 12 the Fellowship Lunch will feature Chicken Pot Pie. What a treat! Don't miss it.

LITURGISTS FOR FEBRUARY

- 02/05 Anna Richards
- 02/12 Jim Buck Buchanan
- 02/19 Karen Howard
- 02/26 Wanette Baker

EASTER FLOWERS

If you would like to provide an Easter Flower for the worship service on Easter Sunday, April 8, please complete the following form and place it in the offering ladle or turn it in to the church office along with your payment of \$12.50 for each flower ordered. Gifts will be acknowledged in the bulletin on Easter Sunday and plants may be taken home after the Easter Worship Service.

Orders must be submitted prior to March 8 to allow the florist adequate time to fill the orders.

DONOR _____

NUMBER OF FLOWERS ORDERED _____

IN MEMORY OF _____

IN HONOR OF _____

Welcome!

Til the end of April we have two new nursery workers. Anja Klotzle is a senior at Lyon majoring in French language. She is from California. Kayla Floyd is a freshman from Northwest Arkansas. She is majoring in chemistry. Please welcome these young women who will be taking care of our youngest members.

Mark Your Calendars

S.L.A.M. meets on Wednesdays, at 3:30. Fun, Fun FUN!!!
CHANCEL CHOIR rehearsals will be held each Wednesday in February at 7:00pm.
COMMITTEES will meet on February 7. Check with Moderators for any changes.
LUNCH BUNCH will meet Wednesday, February 1, at Elizabeth's at noon. Dutch Treat!
FELLOWSHIP LUNCH immediately after worship service on February 12.
DEACONS meet at 5:30 MONDAY, February 13, in the church parlor.
MORNING CIRCLE will meet on February 14 at 9:30 in the church parlor.
EVENING CIRCLE will meet on February 14 at 6:30 at the home of Susan McElmurry.
KNIT WITS will meet on February 2 and 16 at 10:00 am in the church parlor.
SESSION meets at 5:30 Tuesday, February 21, in the church parlor.
ASH WEDNESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER will be held on February 22 at 5:30pm.
BINGO FOR BANANAS is conducted each Friday in February at Woodlawn Nursing Home.

Deadline for March Newsletter Entries is February 17.

Please submit articles via the new email address: firstpresbatesville@gmail.com

First Presbyterian Church
775 E. Boswell
Batesville, AR 72501

Non-profit
72501-5722
U.S. Postage
Batesville, AR

Permit no.400

Return Service Requested

