



The Messenger

2015 THEME: "REJOICE"
(MARCH 2015)

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* ARTICLES NEED TO BE
SUBMITTED TO PETE BY
THE LAST SUNDAY OF
THE MONTH - FOR NEXT
MONTH'S PUBLICATION.

Carl's Comments - Reverend Carl Thompson

As we go into the month of March, we are in the heart of the liturgical season of Lent. When we first hear the word Lent, I bet the first thing you think about is giving up some material thing. That is not what Lent is all about, it is about walking closer to God.

If a Christian wishes to observe Lent, the key is to focus on re-penting of sin and devoting oneself to God.

Lent is a time for us to give up our sinful habits and our sinful attitudes. Then we are ready to stand before God and to ask him:

- to forgive us,
- to wash our sins away,
- to empower us to turn away from our sinful past, and
- to live new lives that are dedicated to Him.

These next seven weeks are a time for us to look deep into our hearts, to think about our life and how we've been living it. We need to take stock of our true spirituality. What changes do we have to make in our lives so that on Easter morning we can declare "Hallelujah, Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed!"



HOLY WEEK

After this personal reflection we will be ready to celebrate Holy Week which begins on March 29th. It starts with our celebration of Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem as he begins His walk toward the cross (Palm Sunday). Then on Maundy Thursday we will gather together to celebrate the establishment of the Lord's Supper. As Jesus shared the Passover meal with His friends, He gave new meaning to the Hebrew Passover tradition.

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Calendar of Events

**Worship Services at 10:00 AM with
Adult Sunday School @ 9:00 AM**

- **Tuesdays** - Men's Prayer Breakfast at 8 A.M.
- **Tuesdays** - Games/ Fellowship at 10 A.M.
- **Wednesdays** - Choir Practice @ 5:30 PM
- **March 1** - Communion Sunday
- **March 22** - Fifth Sunday Celebration and Social (on fourth Sunday)
- **March 29** - Palm Sunday
- **April 2** - Maundy Thursday Communion Service & meal @ 6:00 PM
- **April 5** - Easter Sunday **"Hallelujah, Christ is risen!"**



Carl Continued....

Scripture says, "that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."



For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes."

Our Congregation will share that meal together on Maundy Thursday (4/2/15).

Lent and Holy Week challenges us to take time for personal reflection, to grow spiritually so that when Easter arrives on April 5th we can shout out, "**Hallelujah, Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed!**"

May God continue to bless each and every one of you. *Carl*

Benevolence News - Nancy Healey

The Benevolence Committee met for its quarterly meeting February 15th. The needs of agencies were discussed with the following to be recipients of the shared blessings bestowed upon us by our gracious and bountiful Father: Children's Special Needs Network, Families In Crisis, Presbyterian Children's Homes, Body of Christ Medical Clinic, the Presbyterian Council for Chaplains and Military Personnel, the Salado Fire Department, Samaritan's Purse, the Salado Masonic Lodge (American Flag) and Doctors Without Borders.

BENEVOLENCE

Each quarter an agency will be highlighted in our *Messenger* beginning with Doctors Without Borders. Doctors Without Borders is officially known as MSF or Medecins Sans Frontieres. Over 85% of its contributions are directed to programs for those in desperate need. They are found in war-torn countries, natural disaster areas, displaced refugee camps, even Queens, New York where during Hurricane Sandy, they provided emergency medical care, as well as, blankets, water, and food. Since 2012 over 78,000 surgeries have been performed, 185,000 babies delivered, and 8.3 million people in need of medical consultation cared for. Doctors Without Borders does not promote any political or religious agendas but their devotion to the needs of the innocent speaks of God's desire to love one another.

Your sharing of God's blessings makes it possible to support the efforts of these dedicated doctors and nurses and we do so giving thanks to God from whom all blessings flow.

Common Lectionary Readings (Carl will change topics at times due to requests or other circumstances)

	March 1, 2015 Second Sunday in Lent	March 8, 2015 Third Sunday in Lent	March 15, 2015 Fourth Sunday in Lent	March 22, 2015 Fifth Sunday in Lent	March 29, 2015 Passion/ Easter
First Reading	Gen. 17:1-7, 15-16	Exodus 20:1-17	Numbers 21:4-9	Jeremiah 31:31-34	Mark 11:1-11
Psalm	Psalm 22:23-31	Psalm 19	Ps. 107:1-3, 17-22	Psalm 51:1-12	Ps. 118:1-2, 19-29
Sec. Reading	Romans 4:13-25	1 Cor. 1:18-25	Ephesians 2:1-10	Hebrews 5:5-10	Phil. 2:5-11
Gospel	Mark 8:31-38	John 2:13-22	John 3:14-21	John 12:20-33	Mark 14: 1-15

March Birthdays

Rev. Sam	Lanham	6
Louise	Thompson	14
Joshua	Duque	15
Carol	Shuck	15
Jean	Teal	31
Matt	Simon	5
Chelsea	Ervi	6
Bobbie	Dickerson	9
J.R.	Leff	13
Luke Arner	Goodfellow	19

About our Members and Friends

Stan Staples has been having some mini-strokes that effect speech, vision, hearing, and balance to varying degrees. These strokes are worse at times so that the symptoms wax and wane.

Jack Cooper continues to deal with brain cancer and all the treatments. The maintenance of the electrical head gear is especially difficult at night.

Ethel Jones (now in Maple Grove, MN) has received word that cancer has returned. She will be visiting with her oncologist to determine the next step.

Melba Kattner was dehydrated and

spent a couple days at S&W for observation before returning home Monday. There is good news that family may be living with Melba soon.

Ash Jones is still off his experiential medicine (5 weeks) while the surgically repaired hernia is healing. Overall he is doing well and has decided to "live with" his issues and consider them as "his new normal".

Jim's brother, **George Walls**, has colon cancer that has metastasized and spread to the liver (plus?). Hospice has been called in to help.

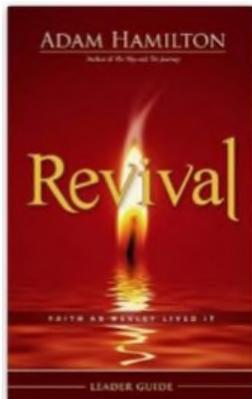
Adult Education News - Shirley Pinkston

We are currently studying Adam Hamilton's book, Revival, for the Lenten season. Do you think you might be experimenting some level of spiritual burn-out? Lent is the perfect time for a renewal of faith, repentance, and developing a closer walk with our Savior.

The DVD lessons that accompany this series enable us to visit places in John Wesley's life that were of particular spiritual importance for the 18th century revival he led. Come join us as we draw closer to Christ and learn about this important period in the history of Christianity.

We meet on Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. for 45 minutes. Coffee is served.

This series of lessons will conclude on March 29th.



A fifth grade teacher asked her class to look at TV commercials and see if they could be used to communicate ideas about God.

God is like **HALLMARK CARDS**
He cares enough to send His very best.

God is like **TIDE**
He gets the stains out others leave behind. ...

God is like **SCOTCH TAPE**
You can't see Him, but you know He's there.

God is like **ALLSTATE**
You're in good hands with Him.

God is like **DIAL SOAP**
Aren't you glad you have Him?
Don't you wish everybody did?

Men's Prayer Breakfast

The Men's Prayer Breakfast is held each Tuesday. The breakfast part starts at about 7:45 AM. Prayer requests and prayers start at 8:00. The last half hour is a discussion topic. We conclude before 9:00. All men of the church (and other churches) are invited to attend.



The Men's Prayer Breakfast is averaging 10 men per week for the first 14 months. As we move into 2015 we would like to expand the size of the group. Please come check us out if you are not yet a regular.

THE MESSENGER

Church Business

Congregation Meeting - 2/9/15

The highlights from the Congregation Meeting Feb. 9:

- All the serving elders gave their report from their respective committees.
- The 2015 Budget was reviewed.
- Jean Teal, the outgoing choir director, was thanked for her many years of service.
- Shirley Pinkston was thanked as well for providing adult education.
- The pastor reported the theme for the year is Rejoice.
- Those who were selected to serve on the Nominating Committee for 2015 are: Cindy Pennington, Chairman (as chair of personnel-finance), Bill Pinkston, and Evelyn Thompson.

Session Meeting - 2/22/15

Call to Order and Opening Prayer: Rev. Carl Thompson called the meeting at 9:30 a.m. to address two building issues, a need for roof repair to fix leaks and for a new kitchen stove.

Roll Call/Status of Quorum - Moderator, Rev. Carl Thompson; Treasurer, Mike Moore; Elders: Chine Ray, Cindy Pennington, Pete Stebbins, Walt Tindell, Barclay McCort, John Booher, and Nancy Healey. Absent was Rip Van Winkle. Quorum declared.

Approval of Roof Repair: Chine reported on the three bids for repair of the roof:

- Peerless Enterprises: to totally replace the metal roof using a foaming application: \$50,988.65.
- Peerless Enterprises: to use spray on foam sealant with guarantee for 10 years. \$19,000.
- Tanner Roofing: Replace screws and flashing, replace pieces of metal that cover sky lights. \$3,700. Guarantee for one year.
- Ron Bickel Roofing: Same work as Tanner for \$3,909.

Chine moved and Barclay seconded the motion to accept Tanner's bid not to exceed \$5,000. Motion carried.

Kitchen Stove: Chine moved and Walt seconded the motion to purchase a new double oven stove spending no more than \$2,500. Carl explained some cabinet work will need to be done for stove placement. Motion carried.

Presbytery Meeting: Carl mentioned Walt was attending the Presbytery meeting with him March 7, 2015. Nancy Healey was elected to attend as well.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 a.m. with a closing prayer by the pastor.

Respectfully submitted

Barclay A. McCort

Clerk of Session



Favorite Verse - Barbara Tindell

I've given a lot of thought to what my favorite scripture passage might be. Rather than coming up with a single verse, I find there are many from which I could choose. The dilemma reminds me of the times when my children asked which of the six of them was my favorite child. There is, as I'm sure you know, no good answer to this question. My stock reply eventually became, "the one I'm with, of course!" At least it kept them quiet.



This is much like picking my favorite scripture. It depends on what is happening in my life at a given time. I'll do my best to share my thoughts on some that are truly meaningful to me.

Thus, instead of a single verse there are many sets of verses that I favor. The 23rd Psalm is a comfort in almost any situation. When I really don't know what to pray, but nevertheless feel the need, the Lord's Prayer is my starting place. At Christmas and Easter, those stories are what I want to hear and read.

However, I've found over the years that what inspires me or best expresses a current feeling are those hymns I learned in Sunday School. They include: "Love Lifted Me," "Trust and Obey," "I Come to the Garden Alone," "Have Thine Own Way, Lord," and "Jesus Loves Me." Knowing that hymns are based on scripture gives me a feeling of validation and comfort. Now if I could just remember all the words to those songs!

Barbara

Love Lifted Me

I was sinking deep in sin, far from the peaceful shore,
Very deeply stained within, sinking to rise no more,
But the Master of the sea, heard my despairing cry,
From the waters lifted me, now safe am I.

Refrain: Love lifted me! Love lifted me!

When nothing else could help
Love lifted me!



Trust and Obey

When we walk with the Lord in the light of His Word,
What a glory He sheds on our way!
While we do His good will, He abides with us still,
And with all who will trust and obey.

Refrain: Trust and obey, for there's no other way
To be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.

I Come to the Garden

I come to the garden alone,
While the dew is still on the roses,
And the voice I hear, falling on my ear,
The Son of God discloses.
And He walks with me, and He talks with me,
And He tells me I am His own,
And the joy we share as we tarry there,
None other has ever known.



Have Thine Own Way, Lord

Have Thine own way, Lord! Have Thine own way!
Thou art the Potter, I am the clay.
Mold me and make me after Thy will
While I am waiting, yielded and still.



Jesus Loves Me

Jesus loves me - this I know,
For the Bible tells me so,
Little ones to Him belong,
They are weak but He is strong.
Yes, Jesus loves me.
Yes, Jesus loves me.
Yes, Jesus loves me.
The Bible tells me so.

Addition of Choir Railing



For some time, the choir has expressed a need for a railing of some sort to assist them in going up and down the two steps to the choir "loft". This is made more difficult with long robes while reading music and singing.

Rip VanWinkle has led the charge to get this project completed. He helped inspire, sand, stain and install the railing.

Jim Walls provided both consultation and construction support with the final 1/4 round trim molding.

The project manager (and a laborer) was Pete Stebbins.

It was heart warming to note that as the choir came down the South side of the choir "loft" last Sunday, each member held onto the top ball of the last post

Each Post is "planted" into the step.





Ash Wednesday - 2/18/15

Our church joined Christians worldwide in recognizing February 18 as Ash Wednesday. Lent is the season of the Christian Year where Christians focus on simple living, prayer, and fasting in order to grow closer to God. It's the forty days before Easter. Lent excludes Sundays because every Sunday is like a little Easter.



Shirley Lett is our new social chairperson. Here she works with Joan Ray in the preparation of the Ash Wednesday Luncheon.

Thanks Shirley



Buffalo River Chips

- 4 sticks butter - melted
- 2 c. brown sugar
- 2 c. sugar
- 4 eggs
- 2 teaspoon vanilla
- 2 c. Quaker oats - quick or old-fashioned
- 2 c. corn flakes
- 4 c. flour
- 2 teaspoon baking powder
- 2 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 6 ounce chocolate chips
- 2 c. pecans - coarsely chopped



Mix butter and sugars together. Stir in eggs, vanilla, oats and corn flakes. Sift together flour, baking powder, soda and salt and add to butter and sugar mixture. Mix well. Stir in chocolate chips and pecans. Use ice cream scoop to drop on cookie sheet. Bake at 350° for about 14 to 16 minutes.

Makes 4 dozen very large cookies.

Recipe can be halved or quartered.

From Monte Shuck

February Social - 2-22-15



Julie Goggans has been quite involved in supporting Shirley Lett. She even enlisted her sister, Sally Davis, to organize the January Social.



Vegetable Pie Recipe Joan Ray - 2 Pies

Filling:

- 1 tbl. Olive oil
- 1 Minced clove of garlic
- 1 Cup peeled and chopped sweet onion
- 1 Large zucchini - sliced thin
- 1 Large yellow squash – sliced thin
- ½ t. salt and ½ t pepper
- Heat olive oil, add garlic (do not brown), add onion and squash until tender.
- Cook about 15 min. then divide 1/2 in the pan and set aside.

Topping:

- 1 Cup Mayonnaise
- 8 oz. or 1 ½ cup grated mozzarella cheese
- 8 oz. or 1 ½ cup grated cheddar cheese
- Mix the Mayo and cheeses and set aside
- 2 large tomatoes peeled and sliced (one for each pie)

Plus:

- 2 Deep Dish pie shells (prebaked - series 12)
- 8 oz. can of water chestnuts sliced and drained

Assembly:

- Layer sliced tomatoes on bottom of cooled pie shells
- Sprinkle tomatoes with salt and pepper
- Top with squash mixture (half per pie)
- Add (half per pie) water chestnuts
- Spread ½ of mayo-cheese mixture on each pie out to crust
- Bake uncovered for 40 minutes @ 325
- Let sit for 15 minutes before cutting

---> Enjoy



Charlie, Matt and Macy Simon - Havin' Fun!



Anne Maria Wallace Visits the Social



Renita helps hold a recent painting by Anita Johnston