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

#### PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SALADO

# The Messenger

THEME: "GOD IS GOOD ALL THE TIME" (MARCH 2017)

#### **Carl's Comments - Reverend Carl Thompson**

March Fifth, will be the first Sunday in Lent. As you know, the season of Lent, as currently observed, lasts forty days. The early church celebrated Lent only for a few days before Easter, but, over the centuries, the season grew until it was several weeks long. In the seventh century, the church set the period of Lent at forty days to remind people of the duration of Jesus' temptation in the wilderness. But, if you go to your calendar and count the number of days between Ash Wednesday



and Easter, you total 46! Why the discrepancy? The Sundays during Lent are not counted. What does Lent mean for us today? It is a special time of prayer and reflection, of confession and self-denial. These next seven weeks is a time for us to look deep into our heart, to think about our life and how you've been living it. What we need to give up for Lent, and for the rest of our life? If people want to temporarily give up certain things for Lent as a sign of love for their Savior, that's fine. But what Christ is really concerned about is what's in our heart.



Adult Sunday School at 9:00 AM

• Mar. 26 - After Worship Social

April 9 - Palm Sunday

April 16 - Easter Sunday

Sunday Worship Services at 10:00 AM

Tuesdays - Men's Prayer Breakfast at 8 A.M.

Wednesdays - Choir Practice at 5:30 P.M.

• Mar. 1 - Ash Wed. Service with lunch - Noon

**Calendar of Events** 

•

The purpose of a Lenten discipline is to strip away those things which clutter one's life, or impedes one from being in a true relationship with God. It is also a time for people to experience and reflect on the sufferings of Jesus, considering our personal sin and unrighteousness.

During Lent many people give extra time to personal prayer. "If My people who are called by My name

will humble themselves, and pray, and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land." As Christ fasted and prayed in the desert for forty days, we need to be mindful of Christ's

Continued on Page 2

# Markey Menday Tuesday Wedreeday Thursday Preday Balanday MARCH 2017 -LENTEN SEASON 1 2 3 4

|              |    |                            | Ash<br>Wed |                                |    |        |
|--------------|----|----------------------------|------------|--------------------------------|----|--------|
| 5            | 6  | <sup>7</sup> Yoga<br>1 PM  | 8          | <sup>9</sup> Yoga<br>10:30     | 10 | 11     |
| 12           | 13 | <sup>14</sup> Yoga<br>1 PM | 15         | <sup>16</sup> Yoga<br>10:30    | 17 | 18     |
| 19           | 20 | Yoga<br>1 PM               | 22         | <sup>23</sup><br>Yoga<br>10:30 | 24 | 25     |
| 26<br>Social | 27 | Yoga<br>1 PM               | 29         | <sup>30</sup> Yoga<br>10:30    | 31 | Notes: |

#### Message Continued..

example for the standards by which we live our lives. We must follow His example of selfgiving and unconditional love.

We need to spend time with God examining what manner of person we are! We need to be brutally honesty; we need to take stock of our true spirituality. We need to look at how much we are really contributing, to the kingdom of God. Christianity is about more than outward behavior, it is about the condition of the heart. We need to prepare our hearts for Easter by setting aside this time for self-examination, and then where necessary, repentance and change.

Here is the question we need to ask ourselves as Lent begins. How can I use the 40 days of Lent to prepare my heart for Christendom's most sacred holiday? What can I do during the next



10 days to shake myself from business as usual, to a more chill spiritually attuned life? Carl

#### Editor's Comment: Pete Stebbins

I love our church! It's full of a warm, friendly, caring bunch of people. Carl our pastor is great! As a congregation, we are growing spiritually. The hymns we sing are usually well known favorites. The choir has doubled in size in the last couple of years. We have recently added a new outreach - the Chair Yoga class. To net it out, we are much the way a good small town church should be /used to be!

I wish that more folks would join us to appreciate our special church. It may me our fault, we can't keep the PCS a secret any longer.

If people are looking for a Presbyterian Church here in Salado, I'm sure they can find us. The real question is how do we reach those folks who are not looking for a) Spiritual Home, b) Church, c) Presbyterian Church? Surely some out there are wondering: Who am I? Why am I here? What happens after I die?

How do we reach these folks who are not looking? I suggest that we get serious about inviting friends and neighbors to come visit. Make it easy, and even pick them up and bring them. Make it compelling and tell them we will have **food** (on Social Sundays). Or, at least, invite them to attend our Yoga Classes.

If you think back to folks that you know who have recently started

coming to our church, it's likely that someone invited them. Statistics indicate that 86% of first time church visitors come because they were invited by a friend! Each of us can do this! Let's all Invite a Friend!



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

|             | Ash Wednesday<br>Mar. 1 | First Sunday in<br>Lent — March 5 | Second Sunday in<br>Lent — March 12 | Third Sunday in<br>Lent — March 19 | Fourth Sunday in<br>Lent — March 26 |  |  |
|-------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|--|
| 1st Reading | Joel 2:1-2, 12-17       | Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7            | Genesis 12:1-4a                     | Exodus 17:1-7                      | 1 Samuel 16:1-13                    |  |  |
| Psalm       | Psalm 51:1-17           | Psalm 32                          | Psalm 121                           | Psalm 95                           | Psalm 23                            |  |  |
| 2nd Reading | 2 Cor. 5:20b-6:10       | Romans 5:12-19                    | Romans 4:1-5,13-17                  | Romans 5:1-11                      | Ephesians 5:8-14                    |  |  |
| Gospel      | Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21    | Matthew 4:1-11                    | John 3:1-17 or<br>Matthew 17:1-9    | John 4:5-42                        | John 9:1-41                         |  |  |

#### **March Birthdays**



# **About our Members**

difficult. MDA is monitoring some potential complications so pray that that these and most importantly prayers. are not significant.

pies at MDA for chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL). They are working! She will go to MDA on 3/1 and 3/29 then start going every three months.

Michael and Nancy Kelsey Mike has not Sharon VanWinkle is healing well after been feeling as well lately. Some of the her knee replacement. She was even seen cancer tumor markers that have been com- driving her car. The therapist has completing down with chemotherapy have gone ed her "torture therapy" and now we can back up some. He continues a three week just pray for improved strength. Sharon chemo schedule with the first week being also wants to thank all those that sent cards, brought food (not a drop went to waste),

**Renita Menyhert's** daughter, Sherry, is Nancy is on two targeted trial drug thera- dealing with some health issues and needs our prayers. Some recent tests may reveal the source of the issues.

> Sam Lanham has been having some skin biopsy's for the removal of cancer cells.



It seems like 2017 just started. And yet here it is, Ash Wednesday already- the beginning of the Lenten Season.

Lenten traditions may differ, depending upon your religious persuasion. For most, it is a time to fast, a time to pray, a time of repentance, a time of preparation.

But whether you choose to fast or to abstain from eating chocolate; whether your church prays the stations of the cross, or follows the old familiar tradition of the imposition of ashes, it doesn't change the fact that it's all done for the very same reasons.

The <u>bottom line</u> is that it's all about <u>Jesus</u>, his life, his death, and most importantly, about his return to life on Easter Sunday. All of our beliefs, and all of our striving would be for naught without the resurrection.

From "A Merry Heart" - Linda Lloyd

## Benevolence Giving by Nancy Healey

BENEVOLENCE - A NOUN, CIRCA 1400'S MEANING "DISPOSITION TO DO GOOD."

# BEN<mark>3voj</mark>ence

Another definition is "an act of kindness, a charitable gift." And there are many synonyms: compassion, kindness, rescue, goodness. As we begin the Lenten season, it is appropriate to consider the needs of othersto give up something of value personally that will enable another to receive through an act of kindness. This is also the time of our annual One Great Hour of Sharing-sharing our blessings with those in greater need.

The history of our Salado Presbyterian Church includes the heavy burden of a mortgage; something most of us have experienced or are experiencing. It is easy to focus on our personal obligations first, but it is an act of caring for others, walking in another's shoes for a moment, that has been the fundamental precept of our church.

For the past ten years, it has been a blessing to reach out to others by committing to sharing our blessings from our Eternal Father. Led by Pastor Carl, we have faithfully given 25% of our tithes and offerings to local and international agencies. It is written in Luke 12:21, "*This is how it will be with anyone who stores up things for himself but is not rich toward God.*" It is a heaven-sent privilege to be able to help others in need-to honor God by recognizing that everything comes from Him but not for storing up; rather to multiply by giving away.

Benevolence towards others, no matter how small (a kind word, a hug, a prayer, an ear to hear) or reaching out with a gift of generosity, is the heart and soul of our church. Jesus spoke in Luke 12:34, saying that *"Where your treasure is, there your heart will be."* Our church is in the top 10% of churches in our size category as to our percentage of giving. God does provide and what about that mortgage? Paid in full (early).

May sharing God's abundant blessings <u>and</u> His amazing grace be a part of each of our lives every day and the foundation of our Salado Presbyterian Church forever.

#### Attitude contributed by Cindy Pennington



There once was a woman who woke up one morning, looked in the mirror, and saw that she had only three hairs on her head. "Great," she said, "I think I'll braid my hair today."

So she did, and had a wonderful day.

The next day she woke up, looked in the mirror and saw that she had only two hairs on her head. "Hmm," she said, "I guess I'll part my hair down the middle."

So she did, and had a wonderful day.

The next day she woke up, looked in the mirror and saw that she had only one hair left on her head.

"Wow," she said, "today I get to wear my hair in a pony tail." So she did, and had a wonderful, wonderful day.

The next day she woke up, looked in the mirror and saw that there wasn't a single hair on her head.

"Thank God!" she exclaimed. "I was run-



ning out of things to do with my hair!"

ATTITUDE is everything! Let's be grateful for the things God has given us and have a wonderful day!

#### **Adult Bible Study**

Scott J. Jones and Arthur D. Jones The A study of Go on will be <u>Ask: Fa</u> We 1 skeptical of this a son, Re

The Adult Class will conclude the current study of John Ortberg's <u>All the Places to</u> <u>Go</u> on March 19. On that Sunday books will be distributed for an 8-week series, Ask: Faith Ouestions in a Skeptical Age.

We live in a culture that is increasingly skeptical about Christian faith. The authors of this study are Bishop Scott Jones and his son, Rev. Authur Jones. They believe that for faith to thrive in the 21st century, Christians must first ask their own questions and then begin to answer the questions of a skeptical world.

I hope you will join us for this study and bring your thoughts and ideas for study, sharing and discussion.



Please be a part of this time of fellowship, study, coffee, and cookies at 9am.

# An Experiment

There have been several requests by the congregation to add microphones in the choir loft. As an experiment, we are going to place the wireless microphones we currently have in front of the choir and activate them during the Choral Call To Worship and Choir Anthem for the next few weeks. We would very much appreciate your feedback on whether this enhances (or detracts from) your worship experience. We are particularly interested to hear from those of you who wear headphones during the service.

Thanks for your help -

Monte and Carol Shuck, Choir Directors.





## Chair Yoga - Letta Meinen

- The Session has voted to approve a **Chair Yoga Class** to be held in our recreation room twice a week for a six-month period.
- "Benefits of chair yoga for seniors include a better sense of balance, stronger legs and increased self-esteem. This brand of gentle yoga for seniors is performed in a chair for greater safety and relaxed exercise."
- **Letta Meinen** has been taking this class and attests to amazing results. She can vouch for this chair yoga program as she has found her health has greatly improved after several months of twice a week instruction. She has noticed her outlook on life and the good feeling she never got from any other exercise. She wishes to share this great way of getting exercise without any sore muscles. She recommends the two-a-week sessions for six months then you can decide if you feel it is worthwhile to continue.

There is no charge for the class!

- The starting date for Chair Yoga will be **Tuesday March 7**.
- Tuesday sessions will be from 1 to 2 p.m.
- Thursday sessions will be from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.
- **Only 15** can be accommodated in the class. (Church members have the first priority in the class.)
- Tracey Davis will be our Instructor and is certified in this program.
- Letta Meinen is coordinating this program and will have sign-up sheets at church. She can be reached at: 254-947-8073 or 254-466-6207 (cell) and lettameinen@live.com or lettameinen@gmail

THE MESSENGER

# **February Pot Luck Social**









**Close-in Socializing** 



#### Meal provided by the N-Z members.



#### Recipe of the Month from Denice Kemp

#### German Chocolate Upside Down Cake

- Softened butter for greasing the pan
- Flour for dusting the pan
- 1 cup sweetened flaked coconut
- 1 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> cups chopped pecans
- 3 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> cups powdered sugar
- 1 cup butter, melted
- 1 8oz cream cheese, at room temperature
- 1 box German Chocolate cake mix with pudding
- 1 ¼ cup water
- 1/3 vegetable oil
- 3 large eggs
- Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Generously grease a 13X9 pan with butter, then dust with flour. Shake out excess flour. Sprinkle the coconut and pecans evenly over the bottom of the pan. Set aside the pan.
- Place the powdered sugar, melted butter and cream cheese in a large mixing bowl. Mix on low speed for 30 seconds, then increase speed to medium and beat 30 seconds more, or until smooth. Set the bowl aside.
- Place the cake mix, water, oil and eggs in a large mixing bowl. Mix on low speed for 1 minute. Increase the mixer speed to medium and beat 2 minutes more. The batter should look well combined. Pour the batter over the coconut and pecans, making sure to smooth it out.
- Spoon the cream cheese mixture on top of the batter, leaving a 1 inch border of cake batter on all sides.
- Spread out the cream cheese, it does not have to be completely smooth.
- Place pan in the oven and bake 45 minutes or until cake springs back when lightly pressed with your finger. Also, the cream cheese mixture if exposed, should be lightly browned.
- Remove the pan from the oven and cool on wire rack for 20 minutes.
- Run a knife around the edge of the cake and invert it on a serving platter. Let cake rest for 20 minutes more. Slice into squares and serve.

