



# The Messenger

LET THERE BE PEACE ON EARTH AND  
LET IT BEGIN WITH ME.  
( MARCH 2019 )

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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

The season of Epiphany is almost over, and on March 6<sup>th</sup> we will begin the Lenten season with our Ash Wednesday service. The Ash Wednesday service reminds us of our mortality and our need to repent as we move toward Easter.



The ashes for the service are from the burning of palm branches from the previous Palm Sunday. On Palm Sunday, churches bless and hand out palm branches to attendees, a reference to the Gospels' account of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, when onlookers lay palm branches on his path.

The ashes of this holiday symbolize two main things: death and repentance. "Ashes are equivalent to dust, and human flesh is composed of dust or clay and when a human corpse decomposes, it returns to dust or ash."



"When we come forward to receive ashes on Ash Wednesday, we are saying that we are sorry for our sins, and that we want to use the season of Lent to correct our faults, purify our hearts, control our desires and grow in holiness so we will be prepared to celebrate Easter with great joy."

With this focus on our own mortality and sinfulness, Christians can enter into the Lent season solemnly, while also looking forward in greater anticipation and joy of the message of Easter and Christ's ultimate victory over sin and death.

Our Service will be at 11:30 with a light lunch following the service. Hope to see you there. God Bless You All. *Carl*

## Calendar of Events

Adult Sunday School at 9:00 am  
Sunday Worship Services at 10:00 am  
Men's Prayer Breakfast Tues. 8 am  
Chair Yoga Tuesdays and Thursdays  
Choir Practice on Wednesdays at 5:30

- Mar. 3- Worship with Communion
- Mar. 6 - Ash Wednesday Service 11:30  
Light lunch provided afterward
- Mar. 10 - Session Meeting after Worship
- Mar. 31 - Fifth Sunday Service
- Mar. 31 - Monthly Social

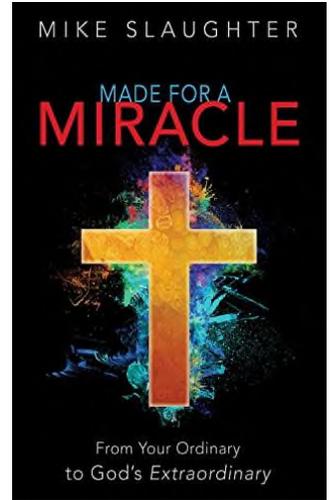
## 2019 MARCH

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
24	25	26	27	28	1	2
3	4	Yoga 1 PM	Ash Wed/ Choir 5:30	Yoga 10:30	8	9
10	11	Yoga 1 PM	Choir 5:30	Yoga 10:30	15	16
17	18	Yoga 1 PM	Choir 5:30	Yoga 10:30	22	23
24	25	Yoga 1 PM	Choir 5:30	Yoga 10:30	28	30
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
Social						

## Adult Sunday School



On March 3, the class will take up the study of Mike Slaughter's Made for a Miracle: From Your Ordinary to God's Extraordinary. Miracles don't just happen, they come at a cost and require something of us. When God acts, he acts through people, and that includes divine intervention and human responsibility.



Join us as we discover how God releases miracles through us for God's purposes in our lives and the lives of others via 1 chapter /week.

Also, on Sunday, March 17, the class will enjoy a question and answer session with Carl. This is a time we all look forward to. Get your questions to Carl early -- you can ask him anything!

We look forward to seeing you on Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. Books, coffee, and cookies are provided and everyone is welcome. - Shirley Pinkston



**Bible Study!**

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

	Transfiguration Sunday - Mar. 3	First Sunday in Lent March 10	Second Sunday in Lent March 17	Third Sunday in Lent March 24	Fourth Sunday in Lent March 31
1st Reading	Exodus 34:3-11, 15	Deuteronomy 26:1-11	Genesis 15:1-12,17,18	Isaiah 55:1-9	Isaiah 7:10-14
Psalm	Psalm 99	Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16	Psalm 27	Psalm 63:1-8	Psalm 32
2nd Reading	2 Cor 3:12-4:2	Romans 10:8b-13	Phil. 3:17-4:1	1 Cor 10:1-13	2 Cor. 5:16-21
Gospel	Luke 9:28-36	Luke 4:1-13	Luke 13:31-35	Luke 13:1-9	Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

## March Birthdays

- Rev. Sam Lanham 6
- Carol Shuck 15
- Ron Miller 15
- Brad Rehm 28
- Jean Teal 31

**Jack Goggans** has problems with a hernia, aortic aneurism, and an upper heart chamber problem. Pray that his multitude of doctors can develop an effective plan and begin resolving these health issues.

**Sam Lanham** fell last week but had no major damage. Please pray that Sam might have strength, balance, and become extra careful in his travels.

**Jean Teal** has been diagnosed with Parkinson's disease, and has lost sight in one eye. Cards would be appreciated - 101 Watermark Blvd. Apt. 116, Granbury, TX 76048

**Carol Booher** has been gaining strength and has been able to join us in church. Pray for

## About our Members

increased strength, no complications and the effectiveness of her special medications.

**Martha Harper** is under Hospice Care at home. Pray for comfort.

**Betty Gengler's** daughter, Amber Harvey, had surgery on Feb. 14th. She is recovering well. Pray for continued healing.

**Bobbie Dickerson** has been dealing with some numbness in her hands and feet. It makes it difficult to drive, thus we have not seen her here a church for a while. Pray that this condition will improve.

**Jim Arner** has been in a rehab facility for several weeks after some episodes of fluctuating glucose levels. Pray for stability.

## Ash Wednesday Reflections - by Linda Lloyd

Ash Wednesday falls on March 6th this year. It seems like we just celebrated Christmas. And yet, Easter is peeking its head around the corner.



I've been contemplating the pastor's sermons about the meaning of the Lenten season, about repentance and reconciliation, and trying to draw closer to God. And the more I ruminate, the more I am reminded of the Israelites, who never could seem to "get it right." (I know I've said it before.)

They would repent, receive forgiveness, turn back to the Lord, and the next thing you knew, they were right back at it - marrying idolaters, worshipping Baal and Ashtoreth, and pretty much ignoring every law God handed down to Moses. Even some of the priests, God's anointed ones, from the tribe of Levi, (Eli's sons, for instance) were doing abominable things in God's house. (Samuel, chapter 1).

When I retired, I determined to spend more time in the Word. I had for many years, started my days out with a short prayer and a devotional reading; but I wanted more. I wanted to read my Bible more, to understand it better, to spend more time in prayer and praise, and to try to draw closer to God. To that end, I purposed not to turn on the TV unless I really wanted to watch something special. I wanted the majority of what I watched to be either uplifting, educational, or something that would make me laugh. But I have to admit I do love some game shows and try not to miss Tom Selleck in "Blue Bloods" on Friday night.

Well, it's been nine years now. And I think I've done pretty well, considering I'm human and a sinner. (Of course, God may have an entirely different opinion about how well I've done.) But, here's the thing.

I go along for several weeks, reading my Bible and having my devotional time right after breakfast every day except Sunday. I count worship in church as my devotion time on that day. But then something will happen to throw me off track. For instance, we might have to prepare breakfast for visiting relatives. Some days just seem to take on a life of their own. I find myself exhausted, ready to fall into bed, and suddenly realizing that, "I didn't have my time with God today."

I don't have an excuse or an explanation other than that. But I am eternally grateful that I, like the stubborn and rebellious Israelites, can repent, ask God for forgiveness, and ask Him to help me get back on track to do better the next day.

Even though I'm retired, I set goals for myself every day. I have a close friend who will call and ask what I've done on a given day. If I say that I didn't meet my goals for that day, she will laugh and say, "You're retired Linda. You don't need to have goals". But I do. I think we all do. If we don't, we'll all just be wandering around in the desert for 40 years like the Israelites.



I attend Ash Wednesday services, if at all possible. There is just something so special about having the minister make the sign of the cross on your forehead. And personally, I don't see Ash Wednesday as just the beginning of Lent. I view it as the culmination of those goals that I set and that yearning to move closer to God.

Praying that each and every one of you will have a meaningful Lenten season.

From a Merry Heart



## First Quarter - Presbytery Meeting

On Saturday, February 23, Carl Thompson, Evelyn Thompson, and I traveled to the Preston Hollow Presbyterian Church in Dallas for the first quarter 2019 meeting of Grace Presbytery.

There we joined hundreds of other Presbyterian church representatives in a beautiful worship service before entering into the business of the Presbytery. We heard reports from the Board of Trustees, the Presbytery Treasurer, the General Assembly Committee on Mission Responsibility Through Investment (on investing church monies in socially and environmentally responsible ways) and many other working committees.

After lunch, I was privileged to attend a workshop on the Clerk of Session Manual, where I not only gained some valuable insights into the responsibilities of clerk but also was made to feel very comfortable in approaching Presbytery staff with any future questions or concerns. It was a long drive (Thank you, Carl!) and a long day but, from my perspective, a very worthwhile one.



Pat Hart, Clerk of the Session

## Benevolence Committee Report

The Benevolence Committee will be meeting in March to disburse the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter mission funds for this congregation. We will also be providing the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday speaker for March 31<sup>st</sup> and getting ready to promote the *One Great Hour of Sharing* in mid-April.

Thank you for continuing to support Heart and Hands by bringing food and clothing items to the basket in the narthex. It is open on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturdays each month from 9 to 11AM in the Mill Creek Center, between Monteith & ABC Pest Control. On those days, a benevolence committee member purchases

35 loaves of bread from Brookshire Brothers and delivers them across the parking lot to Suite 135.

Approved clients, who are residents of Salado and surrounding communities, may come to the pantry and clothing shop - free of charge. So far this year, Heart and Hands has served 50 to 55 clients each month. The agency is supported by volunteers and contributions from seven Salado congregations. The other six include United Methodist, St. Joseph's Episcopal, 3C Cowboy Fellowship, Grace Baptist, Heritage Baptist, and First Baptist.

It is heartwarming to see the smiles and hear the gratitude of the clients, all of whom are welcomed and treated kindly. Sometimes children who accompany their parents especially enjoy choosing new shoes or clothes. Heart and Hands is providing needed assistance to many of our neighbors, which include both single adults and families with children. Through our support, we are actively expressing Christian love and caring to them on a person to person basis!

*Pat Rehm*, Benevolence Committee Chair



## Care Packages to Soldiers

Thanks for helping to send care packages to deployed soldiers from Ft. Hood. Thankfully we have heard they are returning home. Your assistance with the community's donations helped the Salado Area Republican Women send 52 boxes over the past 9 months.

We appreciate your support of this important project.

*Barclay McCort*



# February Social 2/24/19

“BELATED VALENTINE CELEBRATION”



Guess Who?

