



Family News

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FROM THE PASTOR

This Wednesday marks the beginning of the forty days of Lent, not usually a focal point in our Baptist tradition. Heather Entrekin, Pastor of Prairie Village Baptist Church in Kansas says the following about Lent: *The number 40 relates to the number of days Jesus spent in the wilderness confronting temptation, a severe and telling preparation for ministry. Following the way of Jesus, Lenten observance tends to involve introspection, self-examination and repentance.*

The practice of Lent began in the fourth century as a time to prepare believers for Easter Sunday baptism. The whole church was also called to a season of preparation since newly baptized members were to join a living, vital community of faith. It was and is a time to clear the plaque from our spiritual arteries.

Bruce Hunter tells about the first Tenebrae service that he conducted at his new church. On Good Friday, this service consists of music, scripture readings, and the traditional "seven last words of Christ." Hunter says: *Several months after beginning my pastorate here, we gathered for this congregation's first Tenebrae service. There were only a small number of folks in attendance, perhaps 35-40. The following Sunday morning, an elderly lady sought me out. With tears streaming down her cheeks she proceeded to tell me how meaningful that service had been to her. She stated that she had never felt as close to God as in those moments, that she felt renewed and complete.*

She then asked me a question that has stuck with me across the 13 years I have been privileged to serve here. She said, "Why has no one ever told us about this before? We've missed so many opportunities!"

I hope that you will not miss the opportunities of the season – to prepare for Easter and consider what it means for you to be a faithful disciple. Why not begin by joining us this Wednesday evening, February 17, at 6:45 pm, in the sanctuary for our Ash Wednesday service?

Layne

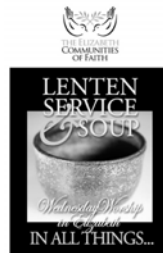
Also, we have mailed a \$5,000 check to CBF for the Haiti disaster.

Another note: The Interim Steering Team will present an update on their work and goals at Family Night on Wednesday, February 24th, at 6:30 pm.



Beginning Ash Wednesday, February 17, d365.org becomes **Journey to the Cross** through the season of Lent. This is a great, free devotional series.

Weekly devotionals written by our own members are available on our website (www.stjohnsbaptistchurch.org - click on Devotionals). To receive these devotionals by email each week, please contact the church office.



Elizabeth Communities of Faith Lenten Series

Wednesdays, 12:00 Noon
Caldwell Memorial Presby. Church
1609 East 5th Street

(Lunch following the services: \$5 - proceeds donated to Friendship Trays and The Community Culinary School of Charlotte)

February 17 - Speaker: Rev. John Cleghorn, Caldwell Memorial Presbyterian Church. Lunch provided by Nothing But Noodles

February 24 - Speaker: Rev. Eric Guthrie, chaplain at CMC-Mercy. Lunch provided by the Custom Shop.

March 3 - Speaker: Rev. Andrew Brown, Hawthorne Lane United Methodist Church. Lunch provided by Anderson's.

March 10 - Speaker: Darryl Jefferson, chaplain, Presbyterian Healthcare Chaplaincy Services. Lunch provided by CRISP.

March 17 - Speaker: Dr. Layne Smith, St. John's Baptist Church. Lunch provided by Carpe Diem.

March 24 - Speaker: Rev. Sally Brower, St. Martin's Episcopal Church. Lunch provided by the Community Culinary School of Charlotte.

March 31 - Rev. Veronica Rogers, Caldwell Memorial Presbyterian Church. Lunch provided by the Common House.

Holy Grounds

Good coffee, fellowship and discussion!

Lasater Hall - 9:00 am - Sundays

February 21st: "Are you my problem? Am I yours?" Discussion will be led by Martha Kearse.



Ash Wednesday Service

February 17 - 6:45 pm
Sanctuary

"Interior Renovation: Designing Your Prayer Life"

Sponsored by "The Women of the Church"

This Sunday, February 21

11:45-3:00 - Broach Hall

Guest speaker: Rev. Kathy Naish

Food Collection for Loaves & Fishes

A barrel has been provided in the gym foyer for these items being collected for Loaves and Fishes during February: 100% juice, canned fruit, peanut butter, soups, canned meat, pork and beans. Sponsored by the Hunger Committee.

Sunday, February 14, 2010
Budget Receipts: \$44,730.28

Calendar: February 21-27

Sunday, February 21

9:15 Sunday School
10:30 Worship
11:45 Women's Prayer Retreat
5:00 Youth Recreation
5:30 Youth Choir
6:15 Youth Dinner
6:30 Youth Programs

Monday, February 22

6:00 Interim Steering Team
Tuesday, February 23

11:00 Book Club
12:00 Book Club Lunch

Wednesday, February 24

11:00 Women's Bible Study
5:30 Children's Choirs
5:45 Family Night Dinner
6:30 Interim Steering Team Report
6:45 Bible Study
..... Yoga Class
..... Writing Class
..... Guitar Class
..... Canasta Class
..... Nothing but Needles
..... Mission Resource Team

Thursday, February 25

7:30 Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Friday, February 26

9:30 Craft Class
6:00 Room in the Inn

Saturday, February 27

Recent Illnesses

Presby.: Polly Hull
Sardis Oaks: Bob Benton
At home: Henry Bostic,
Margaret Almond,
Lourine Brinkley,
Elsie Benton (at Kevin & Lia's)

Sympathy

We extend sincere sympathy to Virginia Caldwell and family in the death of her sister, Marge Hacker, Jan. 31, in Lowell, NC and to the family of John D. Ballentine, a former member, who died Feb. 12.

Thank You

The family of Ernest B. Powell, Jr. would like to express our love and appreciation to St. John's entire congregation and staff for the beautiful service to celebrate his life, the chancel choir for their beautiful music, and the Care Committee for the delicious lunch.
Love in Christ, Pat Nalley

Farside Ladies & Friends Dinner Out

Bonefish Grill on Highway 51
February 23, 7:00 pm

Ecuador Mission Trip June 18-27

If you are interested, please call Hank or Dana Packman at 704.321.5958 or for more information, the website is www.bridgeswithecuador.org.

Book Club

Tuesday, Feb. 23 - 11:00 am

February book: *The Help* by Kathryn Stockett. This month, please bring a covered dish and plan to stay for lunch in the Lounge afterwards. In coming months:
March - Mark Haddon's *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*; April - Diane Ackerman's *The Zookeeper's Wife*; and in May - Jeffery Zaslow's *The Girls from Ames*.

YOUTH NEWS

* Youth are on regular schedule this Sunday night with recreation at 5:00, youth choir at 5:30, dinner at 6:15 and youth programs at 6:30.
* Youth Sunday is scheduled for February 28th.



Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of NC

General Assembly - March 19-20
Experience fellowship and worship with like-minded Baptists from across our state. Choose from over 60 workshops. **Dr. Cecil Sherman** will be the Friday evening worship leader. Friday evening dinner and reservations discounted before March 1. Register now at www.cbfn.org or call Peggy in the church office.

Basketball Schedule

Make-up Games
Tuesday, February 16
12 & U Girls: 7:00pm - MP Presby.
Thursday, February 18
8 & U Girls - 7:00pm - Covenant

February 20th Games
6 & U Coed: 8:30 - M P Baptist
8 & U Boys: 1:45 - Covenant
8 & U Girls: Tournament
10 & U Boys: Bye
12 & U Boys: Bye
12 & U Girls: 11:45 - Trinity
14 & U Boys: 2:45 - Mt. Harmony
14 & U Girls: 9:30 - Philadelphia
3:00 - Mulberry
18 & U Boys-W: Bye
18 & U Boys-A: Bye
18 & U Girls: 10:30 - Mt. Harmony
Men: Thurs. 2/25: 7:30-Prov. Bap.

Results of February 13th Games
All Children's and Youth games were cancelled on the 13th.
Men's Team: Won!

Note to coaches & teams: the Sports Awards night is scheduled for March 24!

In Service Sunday, February 21

Deacons: Tom Injaychock, Ruth Jackson, Dale Johnson, Fredda Kimball, Kevin Lynch, Ashley Maready, Mark McNeill, Melissa Millette, Gene Poole, Lynn Pope
Ushers: Leonard & Linda Balentine, Bobbie Hinson
Tellers: Tom Blackmon, Emory Stephens
Nursery Workers: Shannon & Greg Rodden, Linda Crowder, Fredda Kimball, Judy Godsey, Joy Jarrett
Nurse on Duty: Lib Collier

Women of the Church Activities

Uptown Ladies Meeting

February 18, 11:00 am - Lounge

Women's Bible Study

Wednesdays at 11:00 am- Lounge

Book Study - Beginning Monday,

Feb. 22, at 12:00 noon - a Lenten study based on "Bridges to a Contemplative Life" by Thomas Merton. All are welcome!

Craft Class

9:30 am-Fridays, Church Lounge

Prayer Retreat - Sunday, February 21, 11:45 am - 3:00 pm in Broach Hall

Women's Retreat - led by Blythe Taylor, March 12-14, at Christmount Christian Assembly Center in Black Mountain.

Family Night

"Where the church comes to be family"

Family Night Menus

Serving time: 5:45-6:15 pm

Feb. 17: Pancake Supper!

Pancakes, sausage, bacon, fruit, cereal - **special meal prices for this night only: Adults: \$5 and children \$3.**

Meal reservations and cancellations are accepted in the church office until 2:00 pm each Monday. (Adults: \$7; children 10 and under: \$4; family maximum: \$25.)

St. John's Baptist Church

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