

PHILADELPHIA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
351 MORROW ROAD
FOREST PARK, GEORGIA 30297

MARCH 2015

THE CROSSROADS

From your Pastor's Desk,

People normally have questions regarding the purpose and meaning of days in the season of Lent. The article below will hopefully answer some of those questions. It's been adapted from "Lenten practices 101" an article located on the PC(USA) website <http://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries>.

Lent - The season of Lent leads up to the most holy of Christian days, Easter Sunday. The forty days of Lent begin Ash Wednesday and end at dusk the Saturday before Easter, not counting the Sundays in between. The Sundays during Lent, like every Sunday, are considered weekly celebrations of the resurrection.

New believers were mentored in the Christian faith weeks before Easter, preparing for their baptisms at the Great Easter Vigil. The idea of giving something up for Lent came out of this tradition, when fasting—abstaining from food as an act of discipline in solidarity with others in the community—was used to raise one's spiritual consciousness and empty oneself before God.

Presbyterians may find it meaningful to give something up for Lent, but it is not required. Some disciples may find a more valuable spiritual exercise in taking something on during Lent—a more Christ-like attitude toward others, a humble spirit at work, or a feeling of gratitude in the midst of scarcity. Whatever spiritual disciplines and preparations are embraced during Lent, they can help us prepare for or renew our baptisms as part of the resurrection celebration at Easter.

Ash Wednesday - Reclaimed by Reformed churches in the last few decades, Ash Wednesday is the entry point for Lenten preparation. It is a service rich in ritual and symbolism. Christians do not receive the sign of the cross to attract attention or to be noticed by others; they receive the sign of the cross to focus on who they are as human beings, bound in death and life to Christ.

Maundy Thursday - The Thursday before Easter Sunday is the day to commemorate the Last Supper of Jesus with his disciples. The story of Jesus breaking and blessing bread at the Passover meal is a reminder of his life given freely for all. This Passover act became the sacrament of holy communion in the Christian church. Celebration of communion is usually the centerpiece of a Maundy Thursday service.

Another element of a Maundy Thursday service may be the act of foot washing. Many scholars believe the term maundy is taken from the Latin word *mandatum* or *mandate*. John's Gospel does not tell about the institution of communion at his last Passover meal; it highlights the story of Jesus girding himself with a towel, taking a basin of water, and washing his disciples' feet. The observance of foot washing is practiced in some Presbyterian churches as a reminder of the kind of love and servanthood Christ asks of his disciples today.

Good Friday - The Friday before Easter is the day to remember the crucifixion and death of Jesus. This Friday is sometimes called Holy Friday, but the term *good* reminds us of Jesus' blameless, good, and pious life. Churches sometimes have a special worship service to represent the hours that the sky turned dark as Jesus suffered and died. Many base Good Friday worship on the 7 Last Words Jesus spoke from the cross.

Tenebrae - Latin for "shadows" or "darkness." the unique feature of a Tenebrae worship service is the extinguishing of one candle after each reading until the room or sanctuary is totally dark. The darkness reminds those present of the days Jesus spent in the tomb. Scripture for this service usually consists of Gospel readings describing the Last Supper through the crucifixion, including the last words of Jesus from the cross. The end of the service is usually marked by the lighting of one candle, reminding those present that the darkness does not overcome; the light will shine again. Easter is coming!

This Lenten season we are preparing to step into the future God is preparing for PPC. May our Lenten disciplines help us discern and follow where God leads.

Peace, Pastor Wilson

Pastor:

Rev. S. J. Wilson

Phone:

404-366-1851

Pastor E-mail:

pastorppc@bellsouth.net

Secretary E-mail:

secyppc@bellsouth.net

Website: ppc-usa.org

A light in the community that brings all people to God through Christ centered worship and ministry and nurtures their faith in order to extend His kingdom.

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OUR PEOPLE!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ... 02/ Chris Banke, 03/ Jennifer Rohrbach, 05/ Rose Enow, 15/ Angie Tharp, 18/ Diane Kitchen, 19/ Don Nelson, 19/ Andrew Durden, 20/ Pat Randolph, 24/ Pegge Murphy, 26/ Henry Brock, 27/ Charlie NeSmith, 28/ Erwin Gettys
HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO ... 20/ Karen & Howard Nelson, 26/ Annelle & Buck Maxwell, 28/ Celestine & Phillippe Karka

THIS MONTH'S VOLUNTEERS

Ushers: Jim Phillips, Buddy Ashmore, Darr Johnson, Pat Randolph

Nursery Workers: 01/ Mary Smith, 08/ Dot Pearce, 15/ Evelyn Murdock, 22/ TBA, 29/ Diane Kitchen

TO BE REMEMBERED IN PRAYER AND WITH CARDS (new info in bold)

Please notify us concerning updates. Inquiring minds – and prayerful hearts – want to know!

- 02/15 Beth Brogdon (Patty Boone's cousin) – broke left femur
- 02/11 Darr Johnson's mother (98) surgery to repair broken leg—in rehab and doing well
- 02/09 Buck Maxwell – back pain issues and recovering from intestinal blockage
- 01/26 Dot Morgan – recovering from stroke – in rehab, can have visitors
- 02/15 Dawn Smith (Frances Youngblood's daughter-in-law) –treatments for Omentum Cancer

OUR HOMEBOUND:

Please refer to the Church Directory for contact information

Tye Bryant Jean Ray JoAnn Tatzel Dot Upchurch

Prayer Request: Call 404-366-1851, Email secyppc@bellsouth.net or click on www.ppc-usa.org.

Session Summary...

The Session of Philadelphia Presbyterian Church held its monthly business meeting on February 15, 2015. The Financial Committee reported the PPC January 31 financial report as follows:

Balance in the Operating Fund	\$25,501.88
Total Assets	86,991.98
Total Revenue January	11,542.20
Total Expenses January	8,246.21
Balance for January	3,295.99

- Another successful Souper Bowl of Caring event on February 1st. 198 food items were donated to the Morrow Presbytery food bank and \$148 to Securus House.
- The Session members held a retreat February 7th at Camp Calvin to discuss “where we’ve been and where we are now”.
- PPC held our first Ash Wednesday service in some years. Twenty four worshipers received ashes at the two services.
- We will be placing an ad in the Clayton paper to announce our Easter week services and to introduce Pastor Wilson.

Rick Pierce – Clerk of Session

WHAT'S HAPPENING!

PW Message Corner . . .



- **March 1—PWCT**
- **March 14—10:30am—Mary & Martha @ Debbie Durden's home (location change)**
- **March 15—Annual Presbyterian Women Gathering**
- **March 17—10:30am—Busy Bees Circle**
- **March 21—10:30am—Circle One**

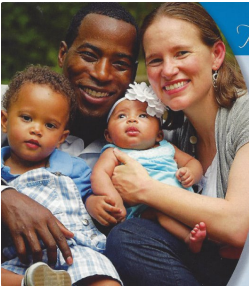
Please Guide Philadelphia Presbyterian Church as they seek to show Your love to those who are near to them. Be their Navigator as they discover the places You desire for the them to sit and listen, to learn from community members, and to join into Your efforts of giving hope and healing to those who suffer. Be their Courage as the break down barriers that exist within their neighborhoods. Be their strength when they encounter suffering for Your name. "God you promised us that this life would bring challenges, yet You also promised that You would not leave us or forsake us.

"Thank you for the privilege of being called by Your name, as "Christians." Thank You for the honor of the opportunity to serve as Your disciples.

"Amen.

A copy of the Smith-Mather's latest newsletter has been placed on the bulletin board. If you would like your own copy, please send Lynn and email and she will forward a copy.

OUR MISSIONARY FRIENDS



After they visited Philadelphia before the end of the year, several of you asked how we might support and encourage Nancy and Shelvis Smith-Mather, PCUSA missionaries to South Sudan. In checking with Glenice Johnson, one of our missionary friends at Mission Haven, we were told that Nancy and Shelvis probably do not have mail service where they live and that the best way to get cards of encouragement to them would probably be to find someone traveling to visit them and send cards along. Nancy was contacted by email and she said that Glenice was correct – no postal system in their town. Can you imagine???

Nancy's mother lives here in Atlanta and will be traveling to Sudan March 23 to visit. Would you like to help us shower this family with cards? If so, please get your cards to Lynn Vandiver by March 8 and she will get them to her before she leaves. And if you would like to correspond directly with Nancy via email, you may do so at nancy.smith-mather@pcusa.org. It usually takes a couple of days for her to see an email and reply.

In corresponding back and forth with Nancy, she asked how they might encourage us and Lynn asked that she keep Philadelphia in her prayers as we try to determine how we can best serve our community. Her prayer by reply was so beautiful, we wanted to share it with each of you.

Nancy wrote:

"Oh Lord of All Creation, thank you for calling us to gather in individual churches and as the larger body of Christ. Thank you that through the global Body we are connected to Christians in distant places who share in a common journey towards knowing and serving You more and more. Thank you that through the local body we are connected to friends and neighbors who support us, who love us, who know our family by name, who pray for us when we are sick. Thank you Lord Jesus, for bringing us into Your Church.

"Oh God of Ages Past and God of Today, You sent Your Son to be a light to the nations, and then You called us to follow in His steps. You asked us to Love as He Loved, to serve those who are not easy to serve.

Annual PW Gathering



All women of the church are invited to attend the Annual Gathering of Presbyterian Women on Sunday, March 15, at 3:00pm at Druid Hills Presbyterian Church. See Pat, Lynn or Debbie Durden for more information.

P.S. If you a Life Member, please wear your pin.

THE CRAFT GROUP

- March 10 - 11:30 am @ Olive Garden, Jonesboro Rd., McDonough
- March 24 - 11:30 am @ Green Manor, Union City



Church-wide

Workday

Saturday, March 28

From 9:00am to 12:00 noon.

Please join us if you can.

Join us on the 1st Sunday of each month for Holy Communion



OUR MISSION: To exhibit the kingdom of God to our community by being a witness to everyone who is within our reach that Jesus Christ is LORD. To proclaim the gospel by telling the good news of Jesus Christ while equipping all who will to be evangelist so the church will grow. To provide for the worship of God through traditional Sunday morning worship and offer alternative times and styles of worship to the community. To promote the ministry of compassion by providing opportunities for ministry and encouraging others to seek God's call for compassionate service. To preserve the truth of God's word by defending the faith against any deviation from the bible as objective truth. To educate the members of the body of Christ so they are equipped to live as becomes the followers of Jesus. To maintain the spirit of unity through the fellowship of the children of God. To expand the kingdom of Jesus Christ.

Core Values of Philadelphia Presbyterian Church

- Radical Hospitality** (Romans 12:9-21)
- Passionate Worship** (John 4:21-24)
- Intentional Faith Development** (I Corinthians 9:19-24)
- Risk-Taking Mission and Service** (Matthew 25:14-30)
- Extravagant Generosity** (II Corinthians 9:6-15)



VISIT US ON THE WEB AT:
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