

The Epistle

ST. PAUL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, GREENSBORO, NORTH CAROLINA
March, 2013

Volume 13, Number 3

FROM THE PASTOR



In a locked upper room on that first Easter, “Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, ‘Peace be with you.’ When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord.” *John 20:19b-20.*

Some years back, before skin-grafts were a common medical procedure, a certain girl throughout all her life openly showed her shame for the deep scars that covered both of her mother’s hands. The girl was so ashamed of her mother’s hands that she constantly insisted that her mother wear gloves whenever they were out in public so that she would not be embarrassed. This attitude on the daughter’s part continued into her adult years bringing daily heartbreak to her mother.

After a short illness in that day when medical science had no cure for pneumonia, the mother died. While the body laid in state in the funeral parlor, the girl’s aunt called her aside and told her the reason why her mother’s hand were so terribly scarred. It happened when the girl was a mere babe and, while playing one evening near the fireplace, lost her balance and fell into the burning flame. Her mother immediately plunged her hands into the fire and grabbed her baby and not waiting to locate a cloth or blanket, put out the fire with her hands. Miraculously the baby was spared severe burns but the mother’s hands were grievously burned. After weeks in bandages, her hands were finally unwrapped, exposing the deep and hideous scars that told the story of a mother’s love for her child.

As her aunt finished the story, the girl broke out in uncontrollable weeping, and ran toward the coffin which held her mother’s body. She swiftly removed the white gloves that covered her mother’s hands and began kissing them again and again. The guilt that she felt for the years she had ridiculed the scarred and unsightly appearance of her mother’s hands now collapsed upon the girl with a vengeance. While kissing her mother’s hands, the girl kept repeating, “These scars were for me.”

Although the gospel writers do not tell us that Jesus used these exact words, I’m sure the implied message when he showed them his hands was. “these scars are for you.” And that message is for us today. That’s why he did it. That’s the reason for the words we use during the sacrament of The Lord’s Supper: “Given and shed for you.”

And as wonderful as the atonement is for everyone, the best was yet to come. Be with us on Easter, March 31, as we celebrate “the rest of the story”

See you in church.

Jay



MARCH HYMN OF THE MONTH - #77, "Forty Days and Forty Nights"

A very appropriate hymn text for Lent, the reference is, of course, to the wilderness temptation experience of Jesus as recorded in the gospels. Whether the "40 days" is an actual time period, or, as many understand it, a symbol of a very important, intense experience, it is clear that Jesus went through a period of contemplation and preparation before he began his ministry. (40 appears as a significant number in several scriptural accounts – the 40 days and nights of rain, 40 years in the wilderness, for example).

The text of this hymn was first published in March 1856 under the title, "Poetry for Lent: As Sorrowful yet always rejoicing. The author, George Hunt Smyttan, was an Anglican Rector in Hawkesthorn, England.

The tune used in our hymnal dates from 1676 and has been attributed to two different composers. One of these, the Nuremberg organist Paul Heinlein, was a member of the famous German family of brass instrument makers.



ANSWER TO THE FEBRUARY BIBLE KNOWLEDGE QUIZ

- How many books are in the Bible? **66**
- In the Old Testament? **39**
- In the New Testament? **27**
- What is the shortest book in the Bible? **2 John**
- What is the longest book in the Bible? **Psalms**
- What is the shortest chapter of the Bible? **Psalm 117**
- What is the longest chapter of the Bible? **Psalm 119**
- What is the shortest verse in the Bible? **John 11:35** ("Jesus Wept.")
- What is the longest verse in the Bible? **Esther 8:9**
- Who wrote the New Testament book of Acts? **Luke**

How many were you able to answer (without looking)?



*** * * OUR FEBRUARY RECORD * * ***

	<u>Worship Attendance</u>	<u>Stewardship</u>
February 3	60	\$ 5,384.31
10	52	\$ 1,028.00
13*	9	na
17	54	\$ 1,910.25
24	53	\$ 3,063.00

***Ash Wednesday**



THE WORD PROCLAIMED

	<u>Sermon topics</u>	<u>Scripture Readers</u>
March 3	<p>“Second Chances” Text: Luke 13:1-9</p>	<p>Diane Taylor Reading: Isaiah 55:1-9</p>
March 10	<p>“Our Need For Reconciliation” Text: Luke 15:1-3; 11b-32</p>	<p>Ben Parke Reading: Joshua 5:9-12</p>
March 17	<p>“True Adoration” Text: John 12:1-8</p>	<p>Margaret Tewes Reading: Isaiah 43:16-21</p>
March 24 (Palm Sunday)	<p>“When the Cheering Stops” Text: Luke 19:28-44</p>	<p>Jim Tewes Reading: Isaiah 50:4-9a</p>
March 28 (Maundy Thursday)	<p>“In Remembrance” Text: John 13:1-17; 31-35</p>	<p>Merrilou Williams Reading: Exodus 12:1-14</p>
March 31 (Easter)	<p>“Living Easter Text: John 20:1-18</p>	<p>Phyllis Watkins Reading: Acts 10:34-43</p>



IN HIS SERVICE

MARCH USHERS

John Watkins
Phyllis Watkins
Ron Lochbaum
Merrilou Williams

MARCH COMMUNION SERVERS

Sunday, March 3 – Joe Miles
Eb Hancock
Ron Lochbaum
Merrilou Williams

Thursday, March 28 – Diane Taylor
Merrilou Williams



Birthdays This Month

- March 4 – Diane Taylor
- 8 – Janice Woods
- 10 – Dick Shuping
- 13 – Ron Lochbaum
- 20 – Billy Henryhand
- 20 – Jean Shuping
- 23 – Ashley Wyrick



Anniversaries

- March 10 – C F and Pam Houglan
- 31 – Andy and Emily Bristow

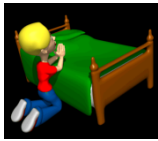
“You know, when it works, love is pretty amazing. It is not overrated. There’s a reason for all those songs.”

-Sarah Dessen



TEST YOUR BIBLE KNOWLEDGE

How were sins forgiven in the Old Testament?



PRAYER CONCERNS: Luke Finison, Barbara Carter, Marjorie and Jack Herndon, Tony Jones, Andy Bristow, Earney Walker, Lucy Smith, Aiden and Jeanetta French, the family of Beverly Long, Janice Woods, Ron Hayden, Bob Berthold, Margaret Simmons, Georgia Giberson, Wendy Woods, Sheila Taylor, Betty Lawson, John Patzsch, Ron Ervin, Dale Holder, John Perkins, Edith Taylor, Jane Christopher, Gary Houglan, Jean Shuford, Roger Coleman, Mark Griffin, Luke Neal, Carl Hollman, Becky Trollinger, Kevin Tewes, Chris Westmoreland, Joyce Myers, J. D. Hall, Jo Hall, Zachary Reavis, Joe Herndon, Tim Gard, and our own family members in the military: James Lochbaum, Andy Bristow II, Shane Finison, Brian Fountain, Rob Salka, Brandy Zehr, and all who serve in our armed forces.



FOOD CART

March’s feature items are macaroni and cheese and mashed potatoes. Please remember - we have lots of individuals who need our support.



MARCH WORSHIP OPORTUNITIES

This month brings us opportunities both to remember the passion of our Lord and to celebrate his resurrection. On the Sunday known as Palm/Passion Sunday, March 24, at our regular Sunday worship, we remember Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, where he seemed to know that death awaited him. Our Maundy Thursday service, March 28 at 7:00pm, will include the sacrament of the Lord's Supper and will focus on the Last Supper and the new commandment to love one another. Our special Good Friday service at 12:00noon on March 29 will remind us of the atoning sacrifice of Jesus on the cross. And on Easter Sunday, March 31, we celebrate God's plan of redemption brought to fulfillment with the resurrection of the Lord! Plan to be with us for all of these observances of this very special time in the Christian year.

OUR MONTHLY "REGULARS"



Sunday School – Sundays, 9:45am

Worship – Sundays, 11:00am

Session meets at 12:15pm on the 2nd Sunday of each month (except July)

Good News Ringers – Sundays, 5:00pm

Men's Fellowship – Mondays, 7:30am

Bell Tones – Mondays, 6:15pm

Alanon – Mondays, 7:00pm

Circles normally meet on the 1st Tuesday, times and places announced

Gad-A-Bouts normally meet on the 4th Tuesday, times and places announced

BYO Bag Supper – Wednesdays, 5:30pm

Bible Study – Wednesdays, 6:15pm

Choir Rehearsal – Wednesdays, 7:30pm

A big thank you from Pathways (Urban Ministry shelter for the homeless families)

St. Paul Members donated 37 new towels, 40 new wash cloths, 22 used towels, 15 used hand towels, 7 used wash cloths, 1 used bath mat, 3 pillows, bag of socks, 4 pairs of warm sleep socks, books and toilet items. Bath items are an ongoing need because they have to use such hot water they don't last long. Please continue to remember Salvation Army, Pathways, all night shelters, etc. when you have these items to donate.

MARCH CIRCLE MEETINGS

Our Circles will meet on Tuesday, March 5 – the Peace/Love Circle at 9:45am in the Epiphany classroom at the church and the Charity Circle at 7:00pm at Jean Shuping's home.

GAD-A-BOUTS

The Gad-A-Bouts are going to the Barn Dinner Theatre on Friday, March 1 at 6:00pm to see the play, "Peace Like A River." On Thursday, March 26, they will be going to the Paul J. Cierner Botanical Gardens in Kernersville.

FOOD DRIVE

Our Food Lion Foiod Drive for Urban Ministry will be on Saturday, April 6. We will do two shifts of two folks each shift and need you to let Carol (299-9742 or bparke1@triad.rr.com) know asap if you can help. Let's show Janice our support.

BIBLE STUDY

Come each Wednesday at 5:30pm with your snack supper (drinks, chips and cookies provided) for fellowship and then join us at 6:15pm for Bible study as we continue our look at great figures of the New Testament. Upcoming sessions include:

- February 27 – Martha, Mary and Lazarus
- March 6 – "Doubting" Thomas
- March 13 – The Gentile Mother (whose daughter was healed by Jesus)
- March 20 – The Good Samaritan and the Prodigal Son
- March 27 – The Samaritan Woman (at the well)

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Our Men's Fellowship meets each Monday morning at 7:30am. We are currently having very interesting sessions on the historical Jesus. All men are invited and encouraged to be with us.

