

The PRESSbyterian

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February 2018

FROM THE PASTOR



It is hard to believe February is here. Of course, thanks to Hallmark, it is love month. It is good to celebrate our love for one another, and I hope we express this in our families throughout the year, not just on Valentine's Day. However, it is also an opportunity to think upon God's love for each of us and consider how we might respond to such an extravagant gift.

As Christians we recognize that February usually marks the beginning of Lent. During this season, we will typically "fast" or "give something up" for a forty day period. We also gather for worship on Ash Wednesday, we refrain for forty days hearing an assurance of pardon and we take ashes placing them on our foreheads as a sign of penitence, as a reminder of our need to repent, our mortality and deep longing for God's love.

Many have asked me over the years, "Why ashes on Ash Wednesday?" Well, I do not have all the answers, nor the space to provide a detailed response, but I do know: ashes have been used throughout the Bible to express sadness, grief and a desire to "turn" or "give" one's self to God. Tamar was raped by her half-brother, and then responded by sprinkling ashes on her head, ripping her robes and weeping (2 Samuel 13:19). Job says to God, "My ears had heard of You, but now my eyes have seen You. Therefore I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes" (Job 42:5-6). Repentance is on the heart of the prophet Jeremiah as he calls the people to turn their lives back to God. "O daughter of my people, gird on sackcloth, roll in the ashes" (Jeremiah 6:26).

There are other examples found in the Bible, just to name a few: Numbers 19:9, 19:17, Jonah 3:6, Esther 4:1, and Hebrews 9:13. Jesus speaks concerning ashes in Matthew 11:21 and Luke 10:13: "If the mighty works done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago (sitting) in sackcloth and ashes."

Why ashes? One response: An outward symbol of an inward desire to orient one's life around the things of God, all the while looking towards Easter, The Open Tomb and the hope found for all humans in the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

I hope you will make plans to attend our Ash Wednesday service on February 14, 2018, at 6:30 in the evening. Our friends and choir from the Santee Presbyterian Church will be joining us; you may even want to invite someone to come with you as we mark the beginning of Lent.

Shalom, Pastor Darren



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4

The youth will be raising money for the Souper Bowl of Caring through a **soup lunch after church on Sunday, February 4**. The money received will benefit *Into The Mouths of Babes/The Filling Station*, which feeds needy children from District 5 every weekend. These are children who would not have enough food to eat if it were not for this worthy organization. Last year we raised \$1757, and our goal this year is \$2000!

We are also taking donations of nonperishable food items for the *Salvation Army*. The collection will run through February 11, and food can be left in the grocery buggy in the Centre lobby. Please remember to check the expiration date of the items.

Sarah Coggins

FEBRUARY CIRCLE MEETINGS

- Circle 1:** Wednesday, February 14 8:15 a.m.
Youth House
 - Circles 2 & 4:** Tuesday, February 13 10:30 a.m.
Conference Room
 - Circle 3:** Monday, February 12 6:00 p.m.
Emilie Sanders
351 Brookside Drive
-

SANCTUARY FLOWER CALENDAR

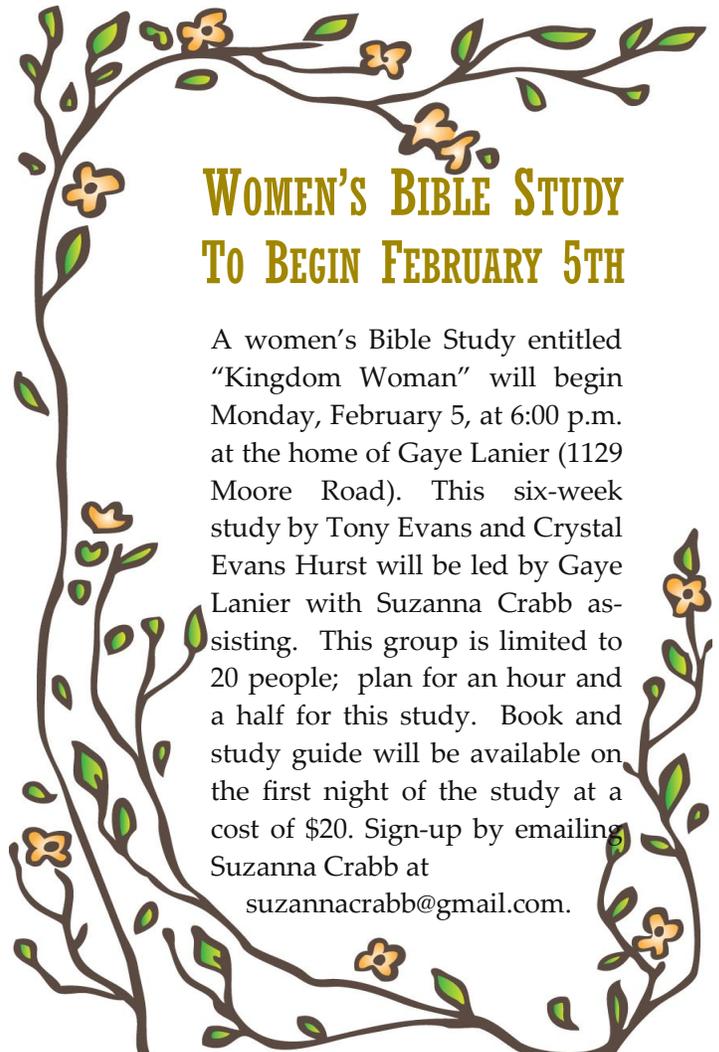
The sanctuary flower calendar has openings on March 11 and April 15. Please call Katherine Patterson (536-5340) if you wish to reserve one of these Sundays.



February 14, 2018

The congregation and choir of Santee Presbyterian Church will join us on Ash Wednesday, February 14th, for a joint service of worship at 6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. Our Chancel Choir will combine with the Santee Choir to share favorite Lenten anthems including "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" and "Create in Me, a Clean Heart, O God." The service will also include the imposition of ashes.

Sylvia Trimmier



WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY TO BEGIN FEBRUARY 5TH

A women's Bible Study entitled "Kingdom Woman" will begin Monday, February 5, at 6:00 p.m. at the home of Gaye Lanier (1129 Moore Road). This six-week study by Tony Evans and Crystal Evans Hurst will be led by Gaye Lanier with Suzanna Crabb assisting. This group is limited to 20 people; plan for an hour and a half for this study. Book and study guide will be available on the first night of the study at a cost of \$20. Sign-up by emailing Suzanna Crabb at suzannacrabb@gmail.com.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

LIVING FAITHFULLY
BELIEVING

SERVING BOLDLY
DOING

CELEBRATING GOD'S LOVE

As I type this, we have a congregational meeting scheduled for the last Sunday in January and one purpose is to elect an Officer Nominating Committee. Have you ever thought about how much the folks we elect to this committee influence the direction of our church? They meet and prayerfully nominate the future officers, which gives them a lot of responsibility. We, also, have an opportunity to suggest folks to be deacons and elders. How do you decide on someone to nominate?

What makes a good Christian leader? In his book, In The Name of Jesus, Henry Nouwen says, "What makes a leader worthy to follow? Relevance? Intelligence? Vision? All of that misses the point. Instead: why don't we follow 'people with an ardent desire to dwell in God's presence, to listen to God's voice, to look at God's beauty, to touch God's incarnate Word and to taste fully God's infinite goodness?'"

The Bible has passages about elders and deacons. Maybe the most familiar is in 1 Timothy 3: 1-12 where we find such words as: "above reproach, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome and manages own family well and sees that children obey him with respect" and the list goes on and on. Another reference is Titus 1:5-9.

When you think about the requirements, does someone come to mind? How about you? Is God calling you to serve as an officer at First Presbyterian? Or were you thinking, "I am not qualified" or "Who could possibly meet all those requirements?" Remember, all of us "fall short..." Romans 3:23 but "If the Lord delights in a man's way, He makes his steps firm, though he stumble, he will not fall for the Lord upholds him with

His hand." Psalm 37:23 or "Cast your cares on the Lord and He will sustain you; He will never let the righteous fall." Psalm 55:22.



Maybe you were thinking that there are others "more qualified than I." In God's kingdom, we are all equal. Christ is the teacher of us all and He loves us all equally. He never leaves us and Biblical history tells us God uses ordinary people to do extraordinary things. He qualifies those He calls. Sometimes He calls us to lead and other times He calls us to serve by following. We must all follow Him humbly, looking to Him first. So, prayerfully consider what God is calling you to do with this opportunity. And do it with confidence knowing God is always with us.

PRAYER: Lord, help us be the leaders or followers you would have us be. Help us follow those leaders you have chosen as they follow you.

CHALLENGE: Look for the opportunity to lead and humbly follow the leader who is following God's will and experience the peace and joy that only comes from God.

Serving together,
Kaye



SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

Pre school

Feb. 4, 11, 18, 25 Kaye Borgstedt

Elementary

Feb. 4 Melissa and Tripp Plummer
Feb. 11 Jane Holladay
Feb. 18 Geni and David Gillespie
Feb. 25 Susan and Jimmy Smoak

Youth

Feb. 5 Katherine and Craig Smith
Feb. 11 Catherine and Lyn Cuttino
Feb. 18 Kathryn and Josh Nexsen
Feb. 25 Catherine and Lyn Cuttino

PRESCHOOL NURSERY SCHEDULE

Feb. 4 Richardson
Feb. 11 Sterling
Feb. 18 Nexsen
Feb. 25 K. Smith

CHILDREN'S CHURCH SCHEDULE

Feb. 4 Dangerfield
Feb. 11 Coggins
Feb. 18 Ridley
Feb. 25 Burroughs

LUNCH WITH THE PASTOR

At *THE OAKS*

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7 ♦ 11:30 A.M.

THE OAKS DINING ROOM



To minimize the disruption of residents and guests and insure adequate seating arrangements, reservations must be confirmed by noon on Tuesday, February 6. Call Norma Shaffer (516-6135) if you wish to come. Tickets may be purchased at the Reception Desk in Woodard Commons.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

2/01	Stuart Dudley	2/15	Michael Borgstedt
2/02	Wallace Weaver	2/16	Jack Shaffer
2/03	Margaret Barnwell		Ewart Irick
	Grayson Bowers		Laura Irick
2/06	Theresa Bramblett		Gee Gee Riley
	Matt Coggins	2/18	Craig Smith
	Moultrie Coggins	2/19	Emory Myers
2/07	A. J. Hutto	2/20	Jack Dudley
2/08	Jewell Booth		Jim Harvey
	Morgan Clark		Rusty Wannamaker
2/09	Kristen Minnich	2/23	Lawton Salley
2/10	Jack Johnson	2/24	Janet Fogle
2/12	Katalin Jordan		Tiffany Hunter
2/13	Ozzie Fogle	2/27	Will Irick
	Phillip Buie	2/28	Suzanna Crabb
2/14	Pam Clayton		Jo Jo Wolfe

PRAYER ROOM

Our prayer room upstairs in the Centre is open from 9:00 to 5:00 Monday through Thursday, and on Friday you can pick up a key from the office. It is a quiet place where you can pray, meditate and just be silent.

Kaye Borgstedt



First Presbyterian Church
650 Summers Avenue
Orangeburg, SC 29115
Return Service Requested



I PRAY
THAT YOU
MAY... KNOW
THE LOVE
OF CHRIST
THAT
SURPASSES
KNOWLEDGE.
EPHESIANS 3:18-19, NRSV

February 2018

MEMORIALS

IN MEMORY OF

Dr. Henry Frierson
Mrs. Mary Ann Cannon

Mrs. Cindy Burckhalter
Mrs. Vivienne Good

GIVEN BY

Mr. and Mrs. William Busbee
Mrs. Frances Lytch
Karen Montgomery
Mrs. Jewell Booth
Mr. and Mrs. Dwight Frierson
Mrs. Martha Eastburn
Mr. and Mrs. Henry Frierson, Jr. and family

Mr. and Mrs. William Kelley
Dean and Alice Flansburg
Gene and Jennifer Hall
Dr. and Mrs. Steven Patterson
Mr. and Mrs. Durham Hamilton