



FEBRUARY 2018

JOIN US ON THE LENTEN JOURNEY... This year Lent comes mid-month in February beginning with ASH WEDNESDAY, which falls on February 14 (Valentine's Day). We will have a special first time, ASH WEDNESDAY EVENT we are calling "Drive Thru Ashes." Rather than our traditional Ash Wednesday indoor worship service we are taking the imposition of ashes outdoors to our parking lot. On Wednesday, February 14, from 5-6PM, we will have a traffic pattern set up with cones directing cars through our parking lot and lining them up just outside our front doors (headed back out of the driveway). As they lower their car windows and pause to reflect on the Jesus and the cross, we will impose a cross of ashes on their forehead and share an Ash Wednesday handout explaining the significance of ashes and the sign of the cross on their forehead. Our hope is that we can reach many neighbors from the Carolina Forest Community with this Drive Thru Ashes event. Please come and invite your friends and neighbors too!

WHY ARE ASHES AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE LENTEN JOURNEY!

First, these ashes remind us that the destiny of our earthly bodies is "ashes to ashes, dust to dust," so we must so we must develop our souls, which will not die. Second, wearing the sign of the cross on our foreheads shows those who see us on Ash Wednesday that we are followers of Christ and His Way of the Cross. This is a wordless testimony to a secular world. It often leads to conversation wherein we can give "a reason for the hope that is in us" (1 Peter 3:15). Third, wearing ashes has been a sign of remorse since the Old Testament times and penitence is a primary emphasis during Lent. It is true we have a great hope of life with God both now and when we die, and of a hope of a new heaven and a new earth that God will unveil.

PRAYER FOR ASH WEDNESDAY and the LENTEN JOURNEY by Robert P. Fugarino
Lord, all year we try to avoid dust and ash.

Dust is the homes we have failed to clean and our broken dreams long abandoned.

Ash is the world engulfed in flames and ancient bodies in unmarked graves.

Lord, all year we try to avoid dust and ash,

But here we are. And here you are. And it is Wednesday. And we face reality.

And you insist dust and ash be pressed to our flesh.

We are fragile failures one day to be scorched by fire and snacked on by worms.

Yet when it becomes too heavy, you whisper in our ears true things that are also sweet:

"It was into dust and ash I breathed and you awoke."

Breathe again, Lord, and command us fragile failures to walk on.

Lord, let us remember it all — dust and ash, death and deliverance,

And especially you. **Amen.**

SOME HISTORY ON LENT Lent, from an Anglo-Saxon word, lencten, meaning, "spring," the time of the lengthening of the days. Lent is one of the six seasons of the church year and is the forty-day period beginning on Ash Wednesday and ending on Holy Saturday (the day before Easter). The period is actually 46 days, but since Sundays are feast days, they are never included in the count. Lent is intended to be a period of preparation and penitence marked by fasting, meditation and sobriety. Lent is widely associated with denial -- "giving something up for Lent," but it is also an opportunity to "add in" some spiritual practice or discipline or mission outreach to our daily living.

May God's Love Lead Us On The Lenten Journey! Hope to See You in Worship!

Pastor Tom



Pastor Tom Dendy

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SESSION UPDATE

By Nancy Torcivia

Holy Communion will be served February 4, 2018
Next Session Meeting is February 18, 2018 at 12:30 pm.
Here are some highlights of the December Session meeting:

- ◆ Preschool Director, Susan Spraker was a guest at the Session meeting and presented her budget for the 2018-2019 school year, and it was approved. We currently have 110 children enrolled, served by 8 full time and 4-part time teachers. Tuition rates will be raised by \$5 per month in all classes next year. Adding an afternoon three-year-old class is under consideration.
- ◆ Elder Mulligan continues to have monthly Movie Nights. They are free and participants have an opportunity to engage in conversation about the movies.
- ◆ CPC ended the year financially on a positive note because of the generosity of the congregation in the last months of the year. The Session wishes to express our deep thanks to all who stepped up and contributed. God is Good! Net Income, (Not a Loss!) was \$17,959. We will talk in detail about our 2017 numbers at the upcoming Annual Congregational meeting called for February 11 following worship.
- ◆ The Budget for 2018 was approved by the Session and it will be presented to the congregation at the February 11 meeting.
- ◆ A Change in Terms of Call was recommended by the Personnel Committee giving Rev. Dendy a cost of living adjustment. The Session concurred to recommend the change for the congregation to approve at the Annual Meeting.
- ◆ Camp Pee Dee Rally Day was cancelled due to lack of participation. Elder Evans continues to enthusiastically promote Camp Pee Dee. Please consider attending upcoming events. If the camp is not financially viable in the near future, it faces the possibility of closing.
- ◆ The United Way was approved as a CPC endorsed charity.
- ◆ “Drive Thru Ashes” will be on Ash Wednesday, from 5pm—6pm, which falls on Valentine’s Day. Everyone is welcome to drive through and receive a blessing and ashes on February 14.
- ◆ The Session wishes to acknowledge with great thanks and praise the efforts of so many of you in pulling together the Celebration of Life receptions for Mike Wechter and Larry Bowie two weekends in a row. Please continue to pray for their families in this difficult time of loss.
- ◆ Elder Mulligan has formed a Safety Committee comprised of herself, Terry Baker, Nanette and Kerry Kelly, and Dominic Torcivia. The Committee has, unfortunately, become a necessary precaution in these troubling times. The Committee is working on procedures to enhance our safety, an active shooter plan, and an evacuation plan.
- ◆ The Session has a Planning Meeting on Saturday, February 3. We will be reviewing the recommendations from the Strategic Planning meetings and formulating objectives for 2018.
- ◆ Pastor Tom and Session members met with New Harmony Presbytery and discussed our land. The county will be widening Carolina Forest Blvd. and since the Presbytery owns our land, their participation will be needed in the process of negotiating proposed changes the county is recommending for our entrance..
- ◆ Pasta with the Pastor luncheon is planned for February 25 following worship. This is an opportunity for those wanting more information about Celebration to enjoy a meal and conversation.
- ◆ Elder Thornburg worked with Air Mechanical to increase the efficiency of our heating/air conditioning units. We are beginning to see the benefits of “going green” and changing to all LED lights in lower utility bills.
- ◆ There are so many opportunities at CPC to serve the Lord. If you are interested in participating on a committee, on the Session, or at any event, please volunteer!
- ◆ What a blessing to serve this wonderful, giving, and caring congregation. Keep the love going in 2018.

CAMP PEE DEE FUND RAISER

By Cecilia Evans

Camp Pee Dee will be hosting a fund raiser on Sunday, February 18 from 4-8pm at ROCKIN' JUMP Trampoline Park located at 2200 N Oak Street, Myrtle Beach 843.242.3264. Please plan to join us as we jump to raise funds for Camp Pee Dee scholarships. Show the printed flyer or go to www.MyrtleBeach.RockinJump.com for the mobile flyer for 2 hours worth of jump time for \$18 plus tax and \$5 is donated to Camp Pee Dee. See you there.

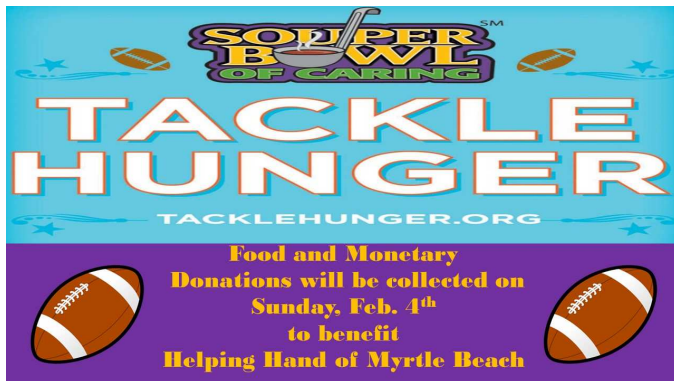
MISSIONS

By Cecilia Evans

The start of Lent is right around the corner with Ash Wednesday on February 14. We will be offering **Drive-Thru Ashes** because they are a reminder of need, humility, and healing, and should not be confined to a church building. We probably need it more when we are in our day-to-day activities! The ashes we receive here are to remind us throughout the day of our need for God, and of God's call to us. Please invite your friends to join us for the start of Lent by driving through for ashes and a prayer from 5-6pm on February 14.

Shepherds Table - we have teams who enjoy fellowship while preparing meals monthly for the less fortunate in Conway. Most cooking dates are scheduled for a Thursday from 2-4 PM. Please let Cecilia know if you would like to join a team.

Relay for Life - scheduled for May 5 at Market Common. Make plans to joins us as we walk for this worthy cause. Contact Nanette Kelly if you have questions.



Sunday, February 4, is Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday. Help us tackle hunger by bringing in your donations of canned food and monetary gifts to benefit Helping Hand of Myrtle Beach.

LADYBUG LUNCHEON

By Carol Butler



Our January lunch brought us to Ciao Italian Restaurant where we have eaten once before several years ago. There were 14 Ladybugs in attendance. We collected \$80.00 for charity and I passed around a thank you note from Camp Pee Dee for the monies we had donated to them. The menu was extensive, and orders ran from pasta, of course, to salads and sandwiches. The service was excellent, and the manager came around towards the end of our meal to make sure that we enjoyed our food. As always, the friendship, camaraderie and laughter make for a fun outing.

Our next lunch will be Thursday, February 8, at noon at Doesn't Matter the new restaurant located where Beef O'Brady used to be in the Kroger shopping plaza. Yours truly will be your hostess. If you plan to attend, the sign-up sheet will be in the Narthex. Let me know if you need a ride. All Ladybugs, their friends and family (female of course) are invited.... hope to see you there. Come join a bunch of fun Ladybugs!

Breakfast Buddies continues to meet on the 3rd Friday of the month at The Early Riser Diner at 9am.

VOLUNTEERS SERVING THIS MONTH

Elder of the Week:

Feb 4—Bernadine Lamar
Feb 11—Priscilla Mulligan
Feb 18—Nancy Torcivia
Feb 25—Joe Alexander

Liturgist

Feb 4—Kathy Wechter
Feb 11—Nancy Torcivia
Feb 18—Elizabeth Wills
Feb 25—Carla Baker

Visitors Table/Greeter

Feb 4—Barbara Barranco
Feb 11—Carol Lagassee
Feb 18—Heidi Cherry
Feb 25—Betsy Hughes

Pre K –Kindergarten Children's Church— Tonja Paolini

Children's Church Grades 1-5

Trudy Miller

Nursery

Feb 4—Leslie Eckert
Feb 11—Betsy Hughes
Feb 18—Nanette Kelly
Feb 25—Donna Woodard

Media Shout

Feb 4—Bernadine Lamar
Feb 11—Katrena White
Feb 18—Katrena White
Feb 25—Bernadine

Sound Booth

Feb 4—Nicklaus McIlrath
Feb 11—Carol Butler
Feb 18—Carol Butler
Feb 25—Nicklaus McIlrath

Ushers for the month of February

Corey Jacobs, Margaret Reeder, Beth Bruton, Terry Baker

Communion for February

Nancy Torcivia, Carol Butler, Barbara Barranco, Bob Miller, Katrena White

Shepherd's Table Teams for 2018

Team A: Nancy Torcivia, Dom Torcivia, Margaret Reeder, Beth Bruton

Team B: Roy Andrews, Laurie Andrews, Dot Crissey, Nancy Thornburgh, Rick Thornburgh

Team C: Kathy Wechter, Bob Stepanek, Carol Butler, Ken Krenzer

Team D: Anne Brallier, Sara Bamrick, Donna Woodard, Gerri Byrne

Team E: Jerry Rashid, Rosie Rashid, Leslie Eckert, Tom Dendy, Paul Youngblood, Patty Youngblood

THANK YOU FOR SERVING THIS YEAR. Your dates will be listed on the calendar each month.

GRIEF SEMINAR ON WEDNESDAYS

First Presbyterian Church Myrtle Beach is offering a six-part educationally oriented Grief Seminar February 14, 21, 28 and March 7, 14, 21 from 3:00 – 4:30pm at their Grissom Campus. This seminar, one meeting per week, provides a person suffering grief from the death of a loved one a better understanding of why their grief is so difficult and how to get through it. A better understanding of these issues will make the journey through grief a little easier. **Call Denise Ellis, RN at 843.448.4496 to pre-register.**

WORSHIP NOTES

By Bernadine Lamar



Thank you to all our ushers, media booth volunteers, liturgists, bell ringers, choir members, parament captain, acolytes and communion servers for your time and dedication to help Celebration on a week-by-week basis. We couldn't do it without you! If you are interested in joining one of our teams, please contact me, Bernadine Lamar, at Della3@scoast.net or 843-234-1935 (H) 843-997-6830 © or just snag me any Sunday. Our schedules are flexible and we would love to have you when you are available. We also want to invite you to give us feedback on how we can improve our teams and weekly worship duties. Thank you for all you do and blessings to everyone for 2018.

BIRTHDAYS IN FEBRUARY

Take a moment to wish those who have a birthday this month birthday wishes or send them a card.

If your birthday is not listed, please let Linda Berry in the office know.

Feb 2—Cheyenne Cseh

Feb 3—Jacob Schmidt

Feb 8—Jan Coulter

Feb 8—Leslie Eckert

Feb 8—Alan Perry

Feb 10—Jeff Waltemeyer

Feb 12—Cindy Smith

Feb 15—Deborah McIlrath

Feb 19—Richard McIlrath

Feb 26—Rebecca Schmidt

Feb 27—Lois Storms



FINANCIAL UPDATE

By Joe Alexander

For the first 24 days of January, the church and preschool total income is \$38,622 with total expenses of \$23,296. This yields a net income of \$15,325 for this period. However, with the income and expenses for the rest of January, this net income amount will decrease. The final January results will be available after the first week in February. The 2018 budget will also be presented to the Congregation on February 11, at the Annual Meeting at the close of worship.

Pasta with the Pastor Pastor Tom will be hosting a luncheon on Sunday, February 25, following worship for those who are interested in learning more about Celebration or how to become a member. Several Elders and Pastor Tom will share their insights of Celebration and the value of being an active member here. There will also be a time for you to ask questions. More information will be given later in the month.

The Annual Meeting of the Celebration Congregation has been called for Sunday, February 11, 2018, at the close of worship. The Session will share a Mission and Ministry summary and a year-end financial report for 2017. The 2018 Ministry and Mission Budget, which was approved by the Session, will be provided for the congregation's information. The congregation will vote on proposed changes to the 2018 Terms of Call for the Pastor recommended by the Session.

PRESCHOOL

By Susan Spraker

The month of January flew by before we knew it. All the children enjoyed their time off and were ready to move on with their work. We spent the month talking about Winter Wonderland and Arctic Animals. With the cold weather being what it has been, this was a perfect time to talk about winter. The children even got to see a little bit of real snow this year.

Our preschool teachers ended last month attending the annual SCECA conference. It is always a great time to swap ideas with other teachers and learn new techniques to use in the classrooms.

Believe it or not, this month we will have our preschool registration for the 2018-2019 school year. Registration will be February 22 for our families already enrolled in our program, and February 23 for the public. If you are a church member and would like to register your child for preschool, please see me before the 22. Church members will have an opportunity to register with preschool employees. If you know of anyone who is interested in joining the Celebration Preschool family, please ask them to contact me at 903-3211. I can give them all the details about our registration process.

We are all looking forward to celebrating Valentine's Day at the preschool. It is such a fun time for all the boys and girls. Our Valentine parties will be February 13 and 14. If you are in the area, we would love for you to stop by. I am sure love will be in the air!

I hope everyone has a great month and hopefully, we will have an early Spring!



This month Elder Pettijohn begins a discussion on the **Book of Confessions** in the Presbyterian Church. This first one begins to explain why we have confessions. It is based in part on an article by Perky Daniel in the May 1996 issue of *Presbyterians Today*.

The first part of the constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is the *Book of Confessions*, which contains 12 formal statements of faith structured as creeds, confessions, declarations, and catechisms. The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in 1986 reported "to confess means openly to affirm, declare, acknowledge and take a stand for what one believes to be true". Confessions in the Book of Confessions are public statements. A creed is a short statement of belief. A confession is a more extensive statement of theological belief. A catechism is a series of questions and answers about our faith. And a declaration is a "here we stand" statement. According to our Book of Order, it is our confessional statements that the church declares to its members and to the world what it is, what it believes, and what it resolves to do.

Why do we have and use such statements of faith? Presbyterians claim Scripture as the primary rule of faith and life, and Scripture quotes confessions from the early communities of faith. The Hebrew Scriptures tell of the covenant people affirming in worship "Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is one" (Deuteronomy 6:4). The New Testament records the earliest Christian creed: "Jesus is Lord" (Philippians 2:11). The church soon found it necessary to say more than simply "Jesus is Lord." By the fourth and fifth centuries the church had become far removed from the direct disciples of Jesus and any eyewitnesses to the events of the crucifixion, resurrection and Pentecost. Thus statements of belief began to be used by Christians.

The Confessions both form and reflect our sense of community by describing our shared story and our common values. Confessions define what we as a community believe. These statements of faith proactively affirm our beliefs about God, Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit, and about humanity, the church and the world.

We have confessions because we believe faith has an intellectual component as well as an experiential one. Christians need instruction in the faith, because faith is not just a matter of the heart and soul; it is also a concern of the mind. "Speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ" (Ephesians 4:15). Confessions teach us the basics of our religion, including the Ten Commandments, the Apostles' Creed, the Lord's Prayer, and the sacraments.

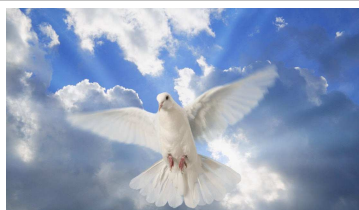
We have confessions because we are an evangelical church. We who believe in the gospel of Jesus Christ have a mandate to share that Good News for the sake of the world. Matthew 28:19-20 cites our mandate, in Jesus' final words to his first disciples: "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you." To our own contemporary experiences of God in Christ through the Holy Spirit at work in our lives, the confessions add continuity, expressions of faith that reach back through the centuries to the earliest believers. The confessions offer not only continuity, but also the content we have to define our community.

Our confessional statements serve as road maps to the Reformed faith. Confessions develop out of a need to clarify beliefs. At a time when there is such a diversity of religious options, when there are so many "cities of faith" populated by various kinds of believers, it is important to have a well-drawn map of our faith. The confessions serve as a map that briefly describes us as a community and sets boundaries on the territory of the Reformed faith. We must learn to clearly state what we believe as Presbyterians.

Reminder from Elder Pettijohn: Our church has to pay **Per Capita** "dues" for each person of \$13.99 for 2018. If you would like to help our church with this, you can write a check and indicate it is for Per Capita. This money is used by our denomination's Presbytery, Synod, and the General Assembly.

TIMES OF NEED

By Nancy Thornburgh



I would like to say a big thank you to all our team members. Recently we have lost three church members, people we will miss greatly. During their sickness and death the "Times of Need" team stepped up and provided to each family food, drinks, and anything else they needed. I am very thankful to the team. "Times of Need" is available for many services: during a funeral, memorial service, surgery, new baby, groceries, rides to appointments, anything that our team can help with, we will! Please keep us in mind when you are in need of help. Our church members are very special to us. We are here and ready to help, in times of need..

Thank you again to everyone who helped. God's Blessings to you!

FEBRUARY 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Adult Bible Study 9:15 am Choir Rehearsal 10:00am Fellowship 10:15 Worship 11am Children's Church				1	2	3 Session Plan- ning Retreat 9:30-3:30pm
4 COMMUNION Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday	5	6 Quilters 10:00 am	7 Choir Rehearsal 7pm	8 LadyBug Luncheon at Doesn't Matter 12noon Team E Cooks at The Shepherd's Table	9	10
11 He~Brews Café for Youth Annual Congregational Meeting following worship	12	13 Quilters 10:00 am	14 Ash Wednesday Drive-Thru Ashes 5-6pm Choir Rehearsal 7pm Valentine's Day	15 Team B cooks at The Shepherd's Table	16 Breakfast Buddies at The Early Riser 9am	17
18 <i>1st Sunday in Lent</i> He~Brews Café for Youth SESSION MEETING 12:15 Camp Dee Pee fundraiser at ROCKIN' JUMP Trampoline Park 4-8pm	19 Presidents' Day Church offices closed Preschool open	20 Quilters 10:00 am	21 Choir Rehearsal 7pm	22 In-House Preschool Registration	23 Preschool Registration	24
25 <i>2nd Sunday in Lent</i> Pasta with the Pastor 12:15pm	26	27 Quilters 10:00 am	28 Choir Rehearsal 7pm			

PRAYER OF JABEZ —“Oh that You would bless Celebration, indeed, and enlarge our territory, in your name. That your hand would be with us and that You would keep us from evil, that we may not cause hurt to others.” I Chronicles 4:10 (Adapted for Celebration)



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Celebration Presbyterian Church

Dr Tom Dendy—Pastor

Sarah Abushakra—Music Director

Linda Berry—Office Administrator



CELEBRATION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

OUR IDENTITY STATEMENT

We are Christ followers who are open, accepting, loving and welcoming to all!

Evangelism—Priscilla Mulligan

Most people do not feel comfortable speaking about their personal faith. We smile and greet each other at the front door of church and we worship together. But, to talk to one another about our personal faith is probably not a priority.

As Christians, we are to be public messengers of the “Good News” and the good news is God is at work in our troubled and seemingly broken world. God sent Jesus and the Holy Spirit to teach and show us how to live and care for each other—how to pass along the news of God’s Grace.

The family of Celebration shows compassion for each other in so many ways: service to the community of brothers and sisters that are truly hurting, by helping with their human needs, such as visiting the sick, comforting the grieving, contributing to the local food pantry, delivering for Meals on Wheels, working at Habitat to provide shelter, and cooking at the local community kitchen to provide a hot meal for the hungry among us. Some have been involved in social justice by being politically active in the human rights cause.

Door-to-door evangelism is generally rare these days. But our lives speak louder than words, our attitudes of respect, compassion and humility should be what everybody sees in each of us. It is not necessary to stand on a street corner and preach. But if we as representatives of the congregation engage in social projects to help those in need, we should explain who we are and why we are involved.

Not every seed planted will grow and blossom, but God is tending the garden and knows what seeds will eventually bloom.

DO YOU HAVE AN OLD BIKE?

The Rolling Forward Project (RFP) helps the homeless obtain transportation to get where they need to go to move ahead in their lives. This initiative was started by faculty (Stephanie Southworth and Sara Brallier) and students in the Sociology Department at Coastal Carolina University. In a 2017 study of the homeless in Horry County, sixty-seven reported that transportation was problematic for them; without adequate transportation it is difficult for them to obtain and maintain employment and/or access the services they need to transition out of homelessness.

In order address this problem, the RFP is working with New Directions Shelters to conduct a bicycle drive. To donate a bike you can message us via our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/rollingforward/>) or contact Sara Brallier (843-385-3701).