



February 22 - First Sunday in Lent



Lent is the forty day journey from Ash Wednesday until Easter Eve excluding Sundays. It has been observed since about the 4th Century and is a time when Christians have either given up something (like meat or sweets or playing a game) or they have done something extra (like a study group, a volunteer project, or daily prayers) as a reminder that you are on a special journey of faith.

During these Lenten Sundays I will be preaching on the theme, “Four Glimpses into the Life of Jesus.” It is a way to look at a scripture passage and say, “Yes, Jesus experienced something there that I have also experienced.” It may help you to identify more with our Lord and the common experiences that we share not only with one another but also with Jesus. The sermons will include the themes of Baptism, Purpose, Identity and Love.

This Sunday the passage is Mark 1:9-15 and is the baptism of Jesus, “Just as he came up out of the water he saw the heavens torn apart and a voice declared, ‘You are my Son, the Beloved, with you I am well pleased.’” In Mark’s gospel Jesus moves with breakneck speed through the early days of Jesus ministry. In seven verses Jesus is baptized, goes into the wilderness for forty days and meets Satan, wild animals and attending angels. Wow! See you in church Sunday.

March 1—Second Sunday in Lent, Sacrament of Communion

Our text for the second Sunday in Lent is Mark 8:31-38. Jesus is stating the purpose for his ministry and is not finding a receptive audience in his disciples. They don’t like what he is saying about suffering, rejected, killed and after three days rise again. He was saying this quite openly.

During these days of Lent one question should dominate our thinking, “What does it mean to be a faithful disciple of Jesus?” Frederick Buechner suggests in his writings that after his baptism, Jesus spend forty days in the wilderness asking himself the question what does it mean to be Jesus. Mark sets out to answer these two questions realizing that the answers are linked. Before we can understand what it means to be a disciple of Jesus we must understand what it means for Jesus to be Jesus. His answers are as unacceptable today as they were then. See you in church!

Dr. W. Glenn Doak, *Pastor*

La Table 2015



The Interfaith Hospitality Network of Athens is hosting La Table, a benefit luncheon, on Tuesday, February 24 from 10:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Athens Country Club. There is a \$50 contribution. Share in the hospitality that is the heart of IHNA. Enjoy beautiful table decorations, delight in the offerings or a silent auction and fellowship with others who are called to serve homeless families in the Athens community. For information about hosting, attending or sponsorship, contact Chair Wanda Culpepper (706-202-4862 or wbculpepper@hotmail.com) or Kendall Weinberg (706-425-1881 or assist.ihnathens@gmail.com) or Ken Sherman (706-224-2526 or director@ihnathens.org).

Athens Area Emergency Food Bank



So far this month, we have donated 497 food items to the Athens Area Emergency Food Bank. For our collection on March 1, the Food Bank needs condiments (mustard, mayonnaise, salad dressing, etc.), sweat peas and saltines. Thank you for your donations!

Final Financial Information for 2014

Pledges	\$1,189,721.27
Other	102,964.77
Total Contributions	\$1,292,686.04
Total Expenses	\$1,278,638.45
Revenue/Expenses	+\$14,047.59

These are unaudited numbers and could change slightly after review by the auditors.

Session Chairs for 2015

Clerk of Session

Jerris Hayes

Session Commissions:

Administrative

Matt Bishop

Congregational Care

Peggy Reigle

Education & Disciple

Bob Bostrom

Fellowship & Evang.

Keith Oelke

Mission & Outreach

Co - Sally Vandiver

Co - Joe Neighbors

Worship & Music

Drew Marshall

Standing Committees:

Weekday School

Jerry Rogers

Personnel

Rod Canfield

Nominations

Jane Magrino

Endowment

Dick Ferguson

Church Softball



It's time for spring softball to begin! Those interested in playing may contact Chuck Roberts at 706-202-9789 or chuckroberts@yahoo.com.

Spring Cleaning at First Presbyterian

Are you missing anything? It could be in our lost and found! We have jackets, scarves, gloves, glasses, umbrellas, etc. Come by the reception area from March 16th – March 22nd to take a look. You may just find that item you cannot live without!



Spanish Classes with Casa de Amistad



From February 16 through April 30 at Milledge Avenue Baptist Church, you can learn conversational and professional Spanish through flexible, small and fun classes while supporting Casa de Amistad. Beginning classes are Mondays and Wednesdays from 6:00-7:00 p.m. Intermediate classes are Tuesdays from 6:00-7:00 p.m., and Conversation Hours are Thursdays from 6:00-7:00 p.m. During conversation hours, you will have the opportunity to collaborate with English and Spanish learners to practice your conversation skills. Beginning classes are \$90, intermediate are \$60 and conversation hours are \$30 (the class costs include conversation hours). Individual classes are \$3 each. To register, visit www.athensamistad.org/our-services/spanish-classes/ or call 706-255-6723.

Children's Puppet Ministry Volunteers Needed

We are looking for interest in starting a puppet ministry one morning a month or one morning a week to bring in community, church, and Weekday School children. Our focus would be character education, classic children's literature, children's Bible stories and other educational fun, and could be narrowed or expanded as this vision comes to fruition! This would be a great way serve our community in a fun and positive way, while also drawing young families and children into our church and school. A CD puppet show series has been located so that music, script, voices, and sound effects are already taken care of. Please contact Elaine Johnson at (706)206-8180 or at Elaine@firstpresathens.org if you are willing to work on this wonderful new outreach possibility!



Music Notes by John Coble



By the time you read this, we will be into the season of Lent, which begins with Ash Wednesday. There are usually larger congregations on Easter Sunday and Christmas Eve than for Ash Wednesday, when we are reminded that we come from the dust and will one day return to the dust. We are mortal and one day, we all will die. Not pleasant subject matter. Recently our St. Andrews Choir sang an anthem ending with the words, "God be at my end." We talked about what that meant. Hopefully it's not going to happen for a long time, when we are very old, but as one of the children put it, "it's just part of life," our grandparents, aunts and uncles, our pets, our parents, our friends, and we ourselves will pass from this life. We don't know from our perspective what that will be like, but we trust that God will be at our end and with us in the life after this earthly life. The hymn "All Creatures of Our God and King" includes this stanza: "And you, most gentle sister death, waiting to hush our final breath: Alleluia! Alleluia! Since Christ our light has pierced your gloom, fair is the night that leads us home. Sing praises! Alleluia!" May God be with us in everything we do in this life, and when the time comes may God truly be with us at our end.

Happy Birthday to:



Happy Birthday

- | | |
|---|---|
| Feb. 22 John Barrett, Sally Sams | Feb. 28 Celeste Arrington, Kathy Bangle, Dwayne Campbell, Steven DeSimone, Leo Jensen, Faye Marshall |
| Feb. 23 Allison Hays, Jane McGown, Becky Padgett, Laura Seward, Patsy Tripp, Evan Arrington-Tsao | Mar. 1 Jim Calhoun, David Lilliston, Kim Ness |
| Feb. 24 Melanie Powers, Muriel Pritchett, Pam Prokasy, Meg Spencer, James Williams | Mar. 2 Everett Jones, Ann Jones, Reggie Vipperman |
| Feb. 25 Hayes Adams, Beth Barton, Keith Guest, Lois Neighbors, Elaine Weeks | Mar. 3 Dick Ferguson |
| Feb. 26 Diane Adams, Suzanne Hill, Jeff Hopper, Hilary Shuford, Mary Ben Woolbright | Mar. 4 Charles Clement, David Huff, Pat Nobbie |
| Feb. 27 Jody Corry, Ellen Evans, Dan Horton, Rhea Vezmar | Mar. 5 Jennifer Abbott, Debbie Price, Amy Stafford, Patricia Yeatts |
| | Mar. 6 Rabun Dekle, Gerald Smith, Andy Whitehead |
| | Mar. 7 Jimmy Bishop |

Marriage Enrichment Retreat, June 5-6, 2015

The Health and Wellness Committee of our church is sponsoring a Marriage Enrichment Retreat. This weekend will be a time apart to focus on your marriage and enrich your skills in relating with respect, compassion and hope. Our Retreat Leader will be the Rev. Tom Camp, who practices pastoral counseling in the Samaritan Center for Counseling and Wellness. Tom is an ordained United Methodist minister and has served as chaplain in a prison, two general hospitals, a mental health center and a boarding school, as pastor of a church and, for the last 30 years, as a pastoral counselor. Tom writes: "Marriage is a beautiful and renewing relationship. All marriages have challenges and growing pains as partners learn more about each other and accompany each other through life transitions." The retreat will be held at the Holiday Inn Express in Lavonia, GA beginning Friday evening with dinner and concluding on Sunday afternoon at 3:30 p.m. Registration cost is \$80, payable to First Presbyterian Church. Hotel registration is \$114 plus tax, and meals are Dutch treat. Registration is limited to 12 couples, plus the leadership. Come join other First Presbyterian couples for what promises to be a fun weekend of spiritual growth and marriage enrichment. To register, call the First Presbyterian Church front desk, or register online.

Youth Ministry Notes

The youth would like to extend a huge THANK YOU to everyone who participated in this year's Souper Bowl of Caring. Together, we raised \$767.94, which will be donated to the Athens Community Council on Aging Meals on Wheels program. Many of our church members are involved with this program that is more than just a healthy home delivered meal. Each meal is delivered by a trained volunteer and comes with a friendly visit and a wellbeing check, where recipients are assessed for any additional needs. If you'd like to be involved in this amazing outreach, please visit: <http://www.ac-caring.org/hdmvol/>.



Flower Dedications

In March 2015, the following dates are available to dedicate flowers for Sunday morning worship: **March 1, 8, 15 and 22**. The cost for two arrangements is \$100. Please contact Lucy Bell at lbell@firstpresathens.org to schedule a date.

Our Church Family

Sympathy:

- To Beth Collins on the death of her mother, Ruth Roberts Jones.
- To Carlton Bain on the death of his mother, Janice "Jan" Gail Holden Bain.

Congratulations:

- To Faye and Norm Grayson on the birth of their great grandson, Gunnar Dane Grayson, on January 24, 2015. Gunnar is the son of Dane and Chelsey Grayson.
- To Bill and Mary Ben Woolbright on the birth of their grandson, Samuel Bennett Woolbright. Born on February 3, 2015, Samuel is the son of Wade and Kim Woolbright.

Elder On-Call:

The elder on call is Joe Neighbors. You may contact Joe, February 16-28, at 706-543-6434. The elder on-call is available if there is an emergency that requires support.

Bible Readings

- | | |
|---------|------------------------|
| Feb. 22 | Jeremiah 9:23-24 |
| Feb. 23 | Hebrews 2:11-18 |
| Feb. 24 | John 2:13-22 |
| Feb. 25 | Deuteronomy 9:13-21 |
| Feb. 26 | Hebrews 4:1-10 |
| Feb. 27 | John 3:22-36 |
| Feb. 28 | Deuteronomy 11:18-28 |
| Mar. 1 | 1 Corinthians 3:11-23 |
| Mar. 2 | John 4:27-42 |
| Mar. 3 | Jeremiah 2:1-13, 29-32 |
| Mar. 4 | Romans 1:28-2:11 |
| Mar. 5 | John 5:19-29 |
| Mar. 6 | Jeremiah 5:1-9 |
| Mar. 7 | Romans 3:19-31 |

Sunday, February 22

- 4:00 p.m. Children's Choir, Choir Room
- 4:30 p.m. New Member Class, Staff Conference Room
- 5:00 p.m. Celebration Singers, Choir Room
- 6:00 p.m. Youth Fellowship Frozen Chosen Cup, Fellowship Hall

Monday, February 23

- 1:30 p.m. Staff Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 5:30 p.m. Handbell Choir rehearsal, Room 205
- 6:30 p.m. Men's Basketball Game vs. Redeemer, Tuckston UMC

Tuesday, February 24

- 10:00 a.m. WDS Chapel, Children's Ministry Suite
- 1:30 p.m. Knitting Purls, Bride's Room
- 6:00 p.m. First Friends, The Savannah Room, Georgia Center's UGA Hotel and Conference Center

Wednesday, February 25

- 10:00 a.m. WDS Chapel, Children's Ministry Suite
- 3:30 p.m. Wednesday@First programs begin
- 5:00 p.m. Prayers for Healing, Sanctuary
- 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir, Music Suite

Thursday, February 26

- 2:00 p.m. Mellows, Bentley Assisted Living, 50 Sumner Way
- 6:00 p.m. Lay Caller's Meeting, Staff Conference Room

Friday, February 27

- 10:00 a.m. Athens Justice Coalition, Fellowship Hall

Sunday, March 1

- 4:00 p.m. Called Session Meeting/New Member Tea, Parlor
- 4:00 p.m. Children's Choir, Choir Room
- 5:00 p.m. Celebration Singers, Music Suite
- 6:00 p.m. Youth Fellowship, The PIT

Monday, March 2

- 1:30 p.m. Staff Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 5:15 p.m. Discipleship & Education Commission, Staff Conference Room
- 5:30 p.m. Handbell Choir rehearsal, Room 205
- 7:15 p.m. Men's Basketball Game vs. Big Chunkies, Tuckston UMC

Tuesday, March 3

- 10:00 a.m. WDS Chapel, Children's Ministry Suite
- 1:30 p.m. Knitting Purls, Bride's Room
- 2:00 p.m. Circle 3-4, home of Linda Childers, 153 West Lake Ct.
- 7:00 p.m. Circle 7, home of Ann Dunn, 425 Southview Dr.

Sunday, February 22

Worship at 8:45 and 11:00 a.m.

Dr. Doak preaching,

Four Glimpses into the Life of Jesus

1. Baptism: When We Hear the Voice of the Lord

Sunday, March 1

Worship at 8:45 and 11:00 a.m.

Dr. Doak preaching,

Four Glimpses into the Life of Jesus

2. Purpose: What Was He Up to?

February 22 & March 1

Sunday School for all ages, 9:45 a.m.

Children's Church Children, ages 4 through grade 2, may leave worship service with Misse Mallino for activities in the Children's Ministry Suite.

Columns News is a bi-weekly publication. For up-to-date, weekly letters emailed directly to your inbox, please either sign up at the church website (www.firstpresathens.org), or contact Emily McBride via email at emily@firstpresathens.org or call at 706-543-4338 x217.

Return Service Requested