



March 22 - *Experiencing Jesus* Series Concludes



I will conclude the Lenten sermon series, “Four Glimpses into the Life of Jesus,” with the conversation between Jesus and Nicodemus in John 3. During this series we have attempted to move beyond our knowledge of Jesus and tried to experience Jesus to better understand him and commit ourselves to Jesus. What experiences did Jesus have during his life on earth that you and I have? We looked at Jesus’ baptism, his purpose which led to suffering and his anger.

This Sunday’s story from John 3 includes one of the best loved verses in the Bible, the one verse that most of us know by heart if we don’t know any other verse in the Bible - the often quoted John 3:16 that begins, “For God so loved the world...” God’s extravagant love for the world is a self-giving act of grace. We learn to love because God first loved us. Our pattern for loving others comes from the love God has for each of us.

So is God’s love for us all about free grace and absolute acceptance or are there strings attached? Sometimes when we love others we do it with conditions attached. “I will love you if you love me in return,” we might say as a young teenager or adult who is looking for love. See you in church this Sunday as we talk about love and experiencing love with Jesus.

March 29 - *Passion/Palm Sunday*

We will begin worship with the story of Jesus entering Jerusalem on the back of a donkey with the crowds shouting, “Hosanna, blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.” We will sing, “All Glory, Laud and Honor” and celebrate Jesus’ triumphant entry.

But the story doesn’t end there does it? Jesus’ great triumphant moment is tempered by the events that follow. Beginning with Monday, Jesus is challenged in the temple by leaders who want to know “by whose authority do you say and do these things.” At week end Jesus is arrested and charged and convicted of a capital offense punishable by death on a cross.

The “Passion” of Christ will be read from Mark’s gospel and we will hear the “hosannas” turn to jeers as the mood in Jerusalem turns against Jesus. The meditation will center on the many paths that Jesus walks this week leading to the path of the cross.

Dr. W. Glenn Doak, *Pastor*

Holy Week Schedule



Thursday, April 2

Noon & 6:30 p.m.

Maundy Thursday Communion

Dinner at 5:30 p.m.

“Jesus’ New Commandment”

Text: John 13:1-17, 31b-35

Friday, April 3

Noon & 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday Services

Noon in First Pres. Sanctuary

“Darkness Wins ... Almost!”

7:00 p.m. Service

Oconee Presbyterian Church

Rev. Tara Bulger, preaching

Presbyterian Community Service

Sunday, April 5

8:45 & 11:00 a.m.

Easter Services

No Sunday School

9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Easter Brunch

“My Lord, What a Morning!”

Text: Mark 16:1-8

Athens Area

Emergency Food Bank



For our collection on April 5, Athens Area Emergency Food Bank needs canned tomatoes (any type), canned fruit and ramen noodles. Thank you for your donations!

February Financial Information



Revenue Received, Feb	\$103,719
Revenue Budgeted	\$107,984
Expenses Actual, Feb	\$119,403
Expenses Budgeted	\$103,461
Total Revenue, Year	\$206,739
Total Expenses, Year	\$195,403

Easter Brunch



Join your First Presbyterian Church Family on Easter morning at 9:45 for brunch in the Fellowship Hall. Sunday School classes will not meet on Easter morning.

Palm Sunday Parade



Join your church family in the parking lot at 10:45 to receive a palm and see the donkey! We will process with the donkey around the church waving our palms and shouting Hosanna.

Spring Cleaning

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!



IHN Volunteer Training Session

On Sunday, March 29th, Kendall Weinberg, Assistant Director of Interfaith Hospitality Network of Athens, will be conducting a volunteer training session for IHN current and prospective volunteers who have not received



prior training. The training will be held at Athens First United Methodist Church at 12:15 in Room 222 and will last approximately two hours. Heavy snacks will be provided for attendees. If you would like to attend this training session, please advise Terry Nestor at terrynecnestor@hotmail.com by Wednesday, March 25th. Also, there are still many opportunities to volunteer for FPC's IHN host week, April 5-12. You can view the online calendar at www.firstpresathens.org to see what jobs are available. As always, we greatly appreciate your support of IHN.

Maundy Thursday Family Event



The story of Jesus' last meal with his disciples blends Jewish history and tradition with God's new promise with humankind. Families are invited to gather in the Children's Ministry Suite to explore some of the events that happened at the Last Supper. Activities will include Seder meal items that tell the story of freedom, foot washing and the new commandment given by Jesus to his disciples. Gather in the Children's Ministry Suite at 5:00 p.m. on April 2 to participate in this event. Dinner follows in Fellowship Hall

Men's Fellowship

The next Men's Fellowship meeting will be held on Thursday, March 26 at 6:00 p.m. at the home of Steve Covington at 545 Milledge Circle. We are going to fellowship and watch the NCAA Basketball tournament. The plan is to get some BBQ. It will also be BYOB. We need to get a head count so we can order enough and know how much to chip in to cover the cost. This Thursday also coincides with the start of the Sweet 16 NCAA Basketball tournament. So, if possible, please try to RSVP by next week. To RSVP or for more information, you may contact Chuck Roberts at chuckrobertsii@yahoo.com.



G.L.O.W. Party

God Lights Our World, on Friday, March 27, is a glow-in-the-dark Easter event designed to help children and families to begin thinking about what the events of Holy Week and Easter mean on a day-to-day basis. Jesus' death and resurrection affect our daily lives by changing us from people who walked in great darkness to children of light! Jesus said to his followers, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life" John 8:12. In the book of Ephesians 5:8 we are also reminded that: "For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light." Everyone is invited at 8:00 p.m. for the G. L. O. W. party. However, parents have the option of dropping off their child at 6:00 p.m. in the Children's Ministry area and then attending a parent get-together at Shokitini, 251 West Clayton Street for food, fellowship and karaoke! Parents will return by 7:45 to G. L. O. W. with their child. From 8:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. families will watch the Egg-cellent Adventure Movie, do glow-in-the-dark crafts, and enjoy a glow-in-the-dark egg hunt. To make reservations for childcare email misse@firstpresathens.org.

Happy Birthday to:



Happy Birthday

Mar. 22 Chris Hughes, Jimbo LaBoon, Jack Vandiver, Jimmy Williamson, Steve Yeatts

Mar. 23 Tate Alverson,

Jeff Bangle, Daniel Epting, Warren Horn, Joyce Johnston, Arlene Shirley, Heather Swank

Mar. 24 Debbie Craddock-Bell, Beth Norton, Katherine O'Reilly

Mar. 25 Janet Bishop, Meagan Veness, Tommy Ward

Mar. 26 Pat Bryan, Petch Bryan,

Kenny Kalivoda, Devon Rusert, Bobby Watkins
Mar. 28 Robbie Bryan, Bob Cowser, Lola Stafford

Mar. 29 Bo Thurston

Mar. 30 Beth Collins, Bonnie Klingelsmith, Chris Peterson, Hugo Waldrip

Mar. 31 Edda Agee, Sydney Goodstone, Hillary Liken, Bob Veness

Apr. 1 April McLean

Apr. 2 Jeff Harrell, Sharon Norris, Paige Otwell, Chase Parker, Ed Simpson

Apr. 3 Mary Cobb, Cathi Johansen

Apr. 4 Dyann Calvo

Thank You FPC for Welcome

Dear Congregation,

Thank you for the warm welcome I have received since coming to FPC. Actually, it started before I came with the gracious hospitality shown me by the search committee and church staff. They gave me tours, provided helpful information, and called often to touch base. Then, you all turned out in droves on a Saturday morning in January to greet me and my family. Once here, I have been showered with welcome banners, flowers, meals, numerous offers of help, and dark chocolate! The installation service and lovely reception last Sunday were yet another embrace of my presence and ministry here. Thank you so much for making me feel at home. And thanks for continuing to introduce yourselves. I read recently that it take seven times hearing someone's name for it to stick. I am enjoying meeting you and getting acquainted with the impressive ministry this church undertakes in Christ's welcoming name.

Gratefully, Carol Strickland

Wednesday Dinner on Thursday

There will be a dinner on Maundy Thursday, April 2 at 5:30 pm prior to the 6:30 Maundy Thursday worship service in the sanctuary. This will be the Wednesday night dinner on Thursday. If you have a reservation for Wednesday night then that will be carried over to Thursday. If you don't have a reservation please make one by calling the church office.

Music Notes by John Coble

What is it about the music of Lent, and in particular, Holy Week that is so hauntingly beautiful? I've heard from many people that the hymns and anthems of this time are some of their favorites, even though the subject matter is so difficult (the crucifixion and death of Jesus). We sing hymns such as "Were You There?" "O Sacred Head Now Wounded," and "Go to Dark Gethsemane." In Dark Nights of the Soul, Thomas Moore writes, "Today you are told to get past your mood and get on with life. But art understands how sadness and remorse can give you depth and character. When you listen to strong, melancholic music or contemplate a sad piece of art, you are taking your attention beyond mere sensation to the interior meaning of your mood. You are educating yourself in your emotion, so that you not only get past it ultimately, but you gain from it, having penetrated deep into its nature." If we are to truly share the joy of the resurrection, we must first go with Jesus deep into our annual remembrance of the crucifixion.



Flower Dedications

In April 2015, the following date is available to dedicate flowers for Sunday morning worship: **April 12**. The cost for two arrangements is \$100. Please contact Lucy Bell at lbell@firstpresathens.org to schedule a date.

Our Church Family

Out of the Hospital:

- Jack Rowland
- Gwen Griffin

Sympathy:

- To Kendall Kookogey on the death of her mother, Mary Lou Kookogey, on March 3.

Elder On-Call:

The elder on call is Ed Smith. You may contact Ed, March 15-31, at 706-255-6091. The elder on-call is available if there is an emergency that requires support.

Let Us Know When You Are In the Hospital

If you or a loved one are hospitalized, please have someone call the church office or a pastor so we can respond.

Bible Readings

- Mar. 22** 1 Corinthians 9:19-27
- Mar. 23** John 9:1-17
- Mar. 24** Jeremiah 25:8-17
- Mar. 25** Romans 10:14-21
- Mar. 26** John 10:19-42
- Mar. 27** Romans 11:13-24
- Mar. 28** John 11:28-44
- Mar. 29** Matthew 21:12-17
- Mar. 30** Jeremiah 11:18-20
- Mar. 31** Philippians 3:15-21
- Apr. 1** John 12:27-36
- Apr. 2** Jeremiah 20:7-11, 14-18
- Apr. 3** John 13:36-38
- Apr. 4** Romans 8:1-11



Sunday, March 22

- 4:00 p.m. Children's Choir, Choir Room
- 5:00 p.m. Celebration Singers, Choir Room
- 6:00 p.m. Youth Fellowship, The PIT

Monday, March 23

- 1:30 p.m. Staff Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 5:30 p.m. Handbell Choir rehearsal, Room 205

Tuesday, March 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, TBA

Wednesday, March 25 - Last Wednesday@First

- 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, March 26

- 2:00 p.m. Mellows, Arbor Terrace, 170 Marilyn Farmer Way
- 6:00 p.m. Georgia Options Annual Board Meeting, Fellowship Hall/Kitchen
- 6:00 p.m. Men's Fellowship, home of Stephen Covington, 545 Milledge Cir.

Friday, March 27

- 6:00 p.m. Parents Night Out and G.L.O.W., Children's Ministry Suite/The PIT

Sunday, March 29

- 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 30

- 1:30 p.m. Staff Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 5:15 p.m. Education and Discipleship Commission Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 5:30 p.m. Handbell Choir rehearsal, Room 205

Tuesday, March 31

- 10:00 a.m. WDS Chapel, Children's Ministry Suite
- 1:30 p.m. Knitting Purls, Bride's Room

Sundays

at First Presbyterian

Sunday, March 22

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

Dr. Doak preaching,

Four Glimpses into the Life of Jesus

3. Love: The Greatest Love Story for All of Us

Sunday, March 29

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

Dr. Doak preaching,

Walking with Jesus Along the Paths

March 22 & March 29

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