



March 8 - *Experiencing Jesus* Series Continues



The text for the third Sunday in Lent is John 2:13-22. It is the story of Jesus cleansing the Temple in Jerusalem. During the week of Passover Jesus goes to Jerusalem for the celebration and during his time there becomes angry over the way the religious officials and the money changers are treating “his Father’s house.”

For these Sundays in Lent we have been looking at experiencing Jesus. As one of my friends noted, “Many Christians believe that the story of Jesus is true but have not internalized that story and have not experienced Jesus.” In this text Jesus is outraged at what he sees and with a whip in hand creates holy havoc.

Jesus appears to be angry. Have you ever been angry? Have you ever gotten angry in church or about something regarding religion? Do you think Jesus was really angry in this text in John? See you in church this Sunday as we explore what it means for Jesus to be angry and about our own anger!

Dr. W. Glenn Doak, *Pastor*

March 15 - Dr. Strickland preaching *Transition: Life Is Goodbye; Life Is Hello*

Following Glenn’s series on Jesus’ experiences and ours, we come to the Lenten text John 12:20-26. Here Jesus is facing a big transition in his life. His public ministry is drawing to a close. He can see the handwriting on the wall, as it were. In this passage Jesus declares, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.” According to John’s distinctive vocabulary, Jesus’ “hour” means his death, resurrection, and ascension.



In the transitions of our lives we experience death and resurrection. In letting go of people, places, and things, whether by choice or not, we die a little ourselves. These are not easy experiences. During this season of Lent, have you given up anything? Are there goodbyes you need to say? The Good News is that death is not the end. Are there hellos God is making room for? Do you see any signs of new life? I hope so! See you in church.

Dr. Carol Strickland, *Associate Pastor*

Daylight Savings

Daylight Savings Time begins at 2:00 a.m. on Sunday, March 8. Don’t forget to turn your clocks forward one hour!

Dr. Strickland to Be Installed at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, March 15

The final step of the process of calling our Associate Pastor, begun January 26, 2014 when the Search Committee was elected, will take place when Dr. Carol Strickland is installed. In the case of a Teaching Elder (i.e. clergy), the presbytery conducts the installation service. It will do so via a commission comprised of the Reverends Hilary Shuford, Bob Gooze, Cheryl Barnes, and Glenn Doak plus Ruling Elders Lawton Stephens and Dorothy Newland. The service will take place in the sanctuary Sunday, March 15 at 4:00 p.m. Hilary will preach. Lawton and Bob will give charges. A reception will follow the service. Everyone is invited to attend.

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. To RSVP or for more information, you may contact Chuck Roberts at chuck-robertsii@yahoo.com.

Spring Worship

Sunday, March 15

8:45 & 11:00

Fourth Sunday in Lent

*“Transition: Life Is Goodbye;
Life is Hello”*

Text: John 12:20-26

Dr. Carol Strickland, preaching

Service of Installation—4:00 p.m.

Rev. Hilary Shuford, preaching

Commission from Northeast

Georgia Presbytery

Sunday, March 22

8:45 & 11:00

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Glimpes into the Life of Jesus:

4. *“Love: The Great Love Story for
All of Us”*

Text: John 3:14-21

Sunday, March 29

8:45 & 11:00

Passion/Palm Sunday

“Walking with Jesus along the Paths”

Text: Mark 14:1-15:47

Thursday, April 2

Noon & 6:30 p.m.

Maundy Thursday Communion

“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

Presbyterian Community Service

Sunday, April 5

8:45 & 11:00

Easter Services

“My Lord, What a Morning!”

Text: Mark 16:1-8

Sunday, April 12

8:45 & 11:00

Second Sunday of Easter

Youth Sunday—led by our Youth

Sunday, April 19

8:45 & 11:00

Third Sunday of Easter &
Communion

“No Good Deed Goes Unpunished”

Text: Acts 4:5-12

New Members Join on March 8

We welcome the following new members who united with First Presbyterian Church at a Session Meeting on Sunday, March 1 and will be introduced in church at the 11:00 a.m. service on Sunday, March 8.



Charles & Nan Cantrell—moved to Athens from the Washington D.C. area. Charles is a retired banker from Deutsche Bank and Nan is self-employed as a consultant. They enjoy reading, movies, collecting art and exercise. They have two adult sons, David and Jonathon. They are transferring from the Western Presbyterian Church in Washington, D.C.

Chris and Cheryl Gazlay—moved to Athens from Northville, MI. They have been visiting First, Athens for the last several winters and decided to make Athens their permanent home. Chris enjoys fly fishing and woodworking. They have two adult daughters and eight grandchildren. A daughter and 4 grandchildren live in the Athens area. They are transferring from First Presbyterian Church, Northville, MI.



Jason Hasty—moved to Athens from Atlanta. Jason works in the UGA Library in the Rare Books Department. Jason enjoys reading and being a Tour Guide at the Oakland Cem. in Atlanta. Jason will be joining by Confession of Faith.

Emma Holman—moved to Athens from Sandersville. Emma works for UGA’s Terry College of Business in Development. Her sister and brother-in-law, Sumner and Mark Markwalter are members of First Church currently living in Augusta. She enjoys cooking and golf. She has been a member of the Sandersville First United Methodist Church.



David and Jayne Mendenhall—are long time Athens residence and former members of this church. David is retired from the mental health field and Jayne from the Athens Public Schools. David enjoys yard work, fishing and restoring antiques. Dave has fond memories as a child and teen growing up at this church. They have two grown children, Ashley and Wes. They are transferring from the United Methodist Church of Dahlonega.

Youth Ministry Notes

This past Sunday, FPC hosted youth from Covenant and Oconee Presbyterian Churches for the first annual Frozen Chosen Cup – a friendly competition to test our Bible knowledge, relay-racing skills, and Frozen performing abilities. Just as Anna opened the castle gates, we welcomed 100 youth and adults to Fellowship Hall for an evening of laughter, cheering and tissue-made snow. Most importantly, the night was a chance for us to spend time in fellowship with our larger church family, as we proved that “love is an open door...” And on March 20th, we’ll come together again with youth from across Northeast Georgia for the Presbyterian Youth Retreat at Rockeagle!



Happy Birthday to:



Happy Birthday

Mar. 8 Chelsea Bradford, Nancy Brown, Kitty Kellogg, Emily Wesson

Mar. 9 Carlton Bain, Carol Herzog,

Josephine Paine, Charlie Phillips, Garland Rogers

Mar. 10 Robert Elder, Rosevelyn Garrison, Catherine Swanson, Wesley Walters, Cameron Walters, Hannah Walters

Mar. 11 Joe Hermanowicz, Cheyenne Perry, Smith Wilson

Mar. 12 Elizabeth Brock, John Carey, Bolling DuBose, Diane Hartzell, Abby Hughes, Barbara Nair, Eunice Tritt

Mar. 13 Alison Haire, Mac McCartney, Kate Ness, Elizabeth Wilson

Mar. 14 Nonie Hale, Bob Klein, Emily McBride, Margaret Moore

Mar. 15 Brett Colbert, Martha Elmore, Mark Harrison

Mar. 16 Mary Peace

Mar. 17 Mary Attaway, Camille Attaway, Emily Boatwright, Ainsley Liken

Mar. 18 Kate Coble, Monroe Nichols, Claire Robb, Ann Stancil

Mar. 19 Betsy Bushnell, Caty Cowsert, Jeffrey Peterson, Katherine Peterson, Stella Stafford

Mar. 20 Judy Harrison, Henry Logan, Samuel McNeil

Mar. 21 Anna Simmons

General Assembly Amendments

On Saturday, Northeast Georgia Presbytery voted on several amendments that were passed by last year's General Assembly. Amendments are changes to the Presbyterian Book of Order or constitution and after approval by the General Assembly are voted on for approval by the 172 Presbyteries. Most amendments need a simple majority of presbyteries to approve (87) them to be adopted. One amendment dealt with an addition to the Book of Confessions and that requires two thirds of the presbyteries approval (114). You may recall there was an open discussion of these issues at a forum following church last summer following the General Assembly meeting and then again in November when a Presbytery team held a regional meeting in Fellowship Hall on November 13. The amendment to add the Belhar Confession to the current Book of Confessions passed in this presbytery by a vote of 88-68-1 (yes-no-abstain). It is passing by a substantial vote across the denomination. There is an amendment to change the definition of marriage in the Directory of Worship which is part of the Book of Order. The change in language approved by General Assembly is as follow, "Marriage is a gift God has given to all humankind for the well-being of the entire human family. Marriage involves a unique commitment between two people, traditionally a man and a woman, to love and support each other for the rest of their lives. The sacrificial love that unites the couple sustains them as faithful and responsible members of the church and the wider community." The amendment goes on to say that the pastor (teaching elder) of a local church has the responsibility to provide counseling with the couple and to ascertain their understanding of the covenant of marriage. "In making this decision, the teaching elder may seek the counsel of the session, which has authority to permit or deny the use of church property for a marriage service. Northeast Georgia Presbytery vote on this amendment was 76-80-5. (yes-no-abstain) It is passing 68-29 across the denomination with just over half of the presbyteries voting. Other amendments dealt with each congregation having a child abuse policy in place (we do), the minimum size of a Presbytery, when a teaching elder renounces the jurisdiction of a presbytery that teaching elder may not participate in a leadership role of a Presbyterian church as a staff member or volunteer. All of these amendments passed with a wide margin. All of these are passing across the denomination.



Flower Dedications

In April 2015, the following date is available to dedicate flowers for Sunday morning worship: **April 5 12.** The cost for two arrangements is \$100. Please contact Lucy Bell at lbell@firstpresathens.org to schedule a date.

Our Church Family

Sympathy:

- To Pat and Bill Marshall on the death of their brother, John Marshall, on February 22.
- To DeeAnn Cox on the death of her father, Byron Todd, on February 22.

Congratulations:

- To Ben and Molly Brunjes on the birth of their daughter, Maryann Elizabeth Brunjes, on February 19.

Elder On-Call:

The elder on call is Diane Hudgins. You may contact Diane, March 1-15, at 706-255-7047. The elder on-call is available if there is an emergency that requires support.

Bible Readings

- Mar. 8** Mark 5:1-20
- Mar. 9** Jeremiah 7:1-15
- Mar. 10** Romans 4:13-25
- Mar. 11** John 8:12-20
- Mar. 12** Jeremiah 10:11-24
- Mar. 13** Romans 6:1-11
- Mar. 14** John 8:47-59
- Mar. 15** Jeremiah 14:1-9
- Mar. 16** Romans 7:1-12
- Mar. 17** John 6:16-27
- Mar. 18** Jeremiah 18:1-11
- Mar. 19** Romans 8:12-27
- Mar. 20** John 6:52-59
- Mar. 21** Jeremiah 23:9-15



Monday, March 9

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

Tuesday, March 10

- 1:30 p.m. Knitting Purls, Bride's Room

Wednesday, March 11

- 9:30 a.m. Circle 7, Bride's Room/Parlor
- 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 12

- 11:30 a.m. Circle 5, home of Susan Ferguson, 1561 Wild Azalea Dr.
- 2:00 p.m. Mellows, Highland Hills, 1660 Jennings Mill Rd.
- 5:00 p.m. Congregational Care Commission, Staff Conference Room

Sunday, March 15

- 4:00 p.m. Installation Service and Reception for Carol Strickland, Sanctuary/Fellowship Hall
- 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 16

- 1:30 p.m. Staff Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 5:15 p.m. Finance Committee Meeting, Moses Waddel Room
- 5:30 p.m. Handbell Choir rehearsal, Room 205
- 6:00 p.m. Stated Session Meeting, Moses Waddel Room

Tuesday, March 17

- 9:30 a.m. Presbyterian Circle Coordinating Council, Room 308
- 10:00 a.m. WDS Chapel, Children's Ministry Suite
- 12:00 p.m. Rabun Gap Nacooche Guild Event, Fellowship Hall
- 1:30 p.m. Knitting Purls, Bride's Room
- 5:15 p.m. History Committee Meeting, Staff Conference Room

Sundays at First Presbyterian

Sunday, March 8

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

**Dr. Doak preaching,
Four Glimpses into the Life of Jesus
3: Identity: Who Is This Man?**

Sunday, March 15

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

**Dr. Strickland preaching,
Transition: Life Is Goodbye; Life Is Hello**

March 8 & March 15

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