AN EXCITING OPPORTUNITY!
Indra Thomas and the Atlanta Opera will perform Porgy and Bess at the Cobb Energy Center in March. We will be taking a group from the church (church bus and van) to the performance on March 15 at 3:00 pm. Anyone who would like to attend may do so. We will leave from the church parking lot at 1:15 pm. That'll give everyone enough time to grab some lunch before we leave. If you would like to attend and you'd rather drive, that's okay, too. Tickets are $52.60 each (normally $90.00 each). Contact Todd or Kathy Pruett for more information and to reserve your tickets by Sunday, February 16.

Seedlings

I know we just got through Christmas but, the truth is, the season of Lent is almost upon us. Lent is the 40 day period prior to Easter. Traditionally this time was set aside as a time for penitence and self-examination in preparation for celebrating the resurrection of Christ. This year, we will mark the beginning of Lent a bit differently.

First of all you are invited to observe Shrove Tuesday on February 25th. The word “shrove” is taken from the English word shrieve which means to obtain absolution for one’s sins by way of confession and doing penance. Christians were expected to be “shriven” prior to Lent. The tradition dates back as far as the year AD1,000. Along the way, it became customary to eat rich, fatty foods so as to remove them from the house before the beginning of Lent thus making Lenten fasting easier. Chief among those foods were flour, eggs, and butter. Taken together, those ingredients make excellent pancakes and pancake meals became the menu staple for Shrove Tuesday which is observed the day before Ash Wednesday.

The youth and children are combining to provide the Shrove Tuesday meal as a fund-raising event. You will find the details elsewhere in the newsletter. I hope you will join us for the event.

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The ashes are imposed with the pronouncement, “You are dust and to dust you shall return.” This reminds us of our mortality. Ash Wednesday should be used as a time for repentance and reflection. Some choose to fast on that day and give up certain things they enjoy during the entire 40 days of Lent. While we don’t fully subscribe to Catholic doctrine, these practices can serve well as reminders of this season of the church year and I think all of us would benefit from better and more intentional preparation for the celebration of Easter. I look forward to sharing these experiences with you.

PANCAKES, ASHES, AND THE APPROACH OF LENT

Branches
Volume 14, Issue 6
February 13, 2020
A Weekly Publication of First Baptist Church, Commerce, Georgia

PANCAKES, ASHES, AND THE APPROACH OF LENT

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This Week's Servants

**Deacons**
February 16
Bob Harper & Kathy Pruett

**Counters**
February 16
Billy Chandler & William Westbrooks

**Ushers**
February 16
Mark McCannon, Jackson McCannon, William Westbrooks, David Lathem, Sammy Thomason, Gram Hodgkins

**Acolyte**
February 16
Colton Ledbetter

**Greeter**
February 16
Paula Langston

**February Outreach Committee Leader**
February 16
Jacqui Dundore

**Flowers for February**
February 16
Linda Hendrix

**Meals on Wheels**
February 17
Glenda Barron

February 18
Steve & Marsha Perry

February 19
Grady Wilbanks & Ron Dundore

February 20
Rudene Studdard & Carolyn Perry

February 21
Bob Harper

**Food Bank Delivery Volunteers**
February 17-21
Ann Rhoads

Attendance & Financial Report
**Sunday, February 9, 2020**

- Sunday School Attendance: 0
- Morning Worship Attendance: 83
- Weekly Budget Required: $8,500.00
- Budget Offering Today: $8,216.00
- Budget Required to Date: $161,500.00
- Budget Given to Date: $193,891.36

This Week at FBC

**Sunday, February 16**

- 9:45 am Bible Study
- 11:00 am Morning Worship
- 6:00-8:00 pm F4—Youth
- No Other Evening Activities

**Wednesday, February 19**

- 9:30 am Quilt Ministry Meeting
- 5:30 pm Family Night Supper
- 6:00-6:15 pm Pre-School Story Time—Library
- 6:00-7:15 pm Preschool Missions & Choir (Pre-K—K)
- 6:00 pm Kids Choir (Grades 1-4)
- 6:00 pm SproutTown:4:12 (5th & 6th Grade)
- 6:15-7:15 pm FOUR for Youth (6th-12th grades)
- 6:15 pm Bible Study & Prayer Meeting
- 7:15 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal
(Nursery Provided from 6:00-7:30 PM)

**Sunday, February 23**

- 7:30 am Men's Breakfast—Mt. Calvary B.C.
- 9:45 am Bible Study
- 11:00 am Morning Worship
- 6:00-8:00 pm F4—Youth
- No Other Evening Activities

Come to Worship
**February 16**

“Living Our Call Rather Than Arguing Our Beliefs”
1 Corinthians 3:1-9

*Dr. Carlton Allen*