

Communiqué

As a fellowship of Christ's followers, our mission is to fashion our lives after Christ's and to embrace our world with God's transforming love.

Volume 20, Issue 3
March 2017

Thoughts from Pastor David



The first Wednesday of March is Ash Wednesday, which is also the beginning of the season of Lent. Sometimes I am asked, "What is Lent? What is Ash Wednesday? How is it connected to Mardi Gras? Why do we participate in all of this symbolism? This seems pretty Catholic to me...we're Baptists, remember?" What wonderful questions. Here is a quick overview of Lent.

What is Lent? This is the 40 days before Easter, excluding Sundays. During this time, Christians spend intentional time in prayer, fasting, and simple living in order to draw closer to God. The Sundays are excluded because they are like mini-Easters. Some have made a connection that Lent is about a tenth of the year (sort of like a tithe).

I've heard Mardi Gras is connected to Lent. How? Mardi Gras means "Fat Tuesday" or "Great Tuesday." This is the day before Ash Wednesday. Originally, people would fast during Lent. So, not to tempt themselves with meat or sweets during Lent, they would clean out their cupboard and pantry and have a big feast the days before Lent. Today, well, Mardi Gras has taken on a more self-centered, indulging party. Oh, well.

What is Ash Wednesday? This is the first day of Lent. We have a service that highlights our mortality, name our sins, and declare our dependence on God. Each one of us is going to die. Each one of us have lived into self and not lived into the ways of God. Each one of us needs God. We name these aspects during Ash Wednesday and all throughout Lent.

What about the ashes used during Ash Wednesday? Each year on Palm Sunday, the Sunday before Easter, we wave palm branches rehearsing the story of Jesus riding into Jerusalem on a donkey and the people celebrating His entrance. By the end of the week, though, those praises turned into sneers. So, we use the palm branches from the previous year's Palm Sunday and burn them for Ash Wednesday. Some oil is added to the ashes. This is what we use to draw a cross on the forehead of participants in the Ash Wednesday service. The ashes symbolize our mortality and the cross symbolizes the life found in Jesus. It is in this symbolism of death and life, ashes and crosses, which we find ourselves.

I hear some people fast during Lent. I really like food. Do I have to fast? These practices should never be a "have to" kind of thing. But, should you choose to fast, I hope that during the process it enhances your spirit. The way I approach fasting is that it is not simply eliminating something, but it is saying, "No," to one thing in order to say, "Yes," to another. In recent years, during Lent I have fasted from reading sports webpages. Then, the time that I would have spent staying up-to-date on sports, I now spend that time in prayer, or meditation, or journaling. For a season, what will you say, "No," to so that you can say, "Yes," to a spiritual practice?

There sure seems to be a lot of symbolism and doesn't sound very Baptist. One of my favorite quotes about theology is by Terrance Fretheim, an Old Testament writer. He says, "It is not enough to say that one believes in God. What is important finally is the *kind* of God in whom one believes. Or, to use different language: metaphors matter." I think that Fretheim is onto something. We use metaphors and symbols to deepen our understanding of God and our faith. There are symbols all around our church, such as candles, crosses, baptistry, bread, wine, etc. These symbols help enliven our faith and broaden our spiritual understanding. They are the colored paints to the canvas of our faith. Whether if something is historically "Baptist" or not, if it helps your faith become more alive, I say give it a try.

I hope that during these days of Lent you notice the symbols around you. I hope that you spend intentional time simplifying your life. I hope that you take steps to become more dependent on God. May these days of Lent draw us closer to our God.

-Pastor David

Food Pantry

Thank you, Holmeswood, for helping the Center community by donating items to our food pantry. From January 27th to February 17th, 57 bags of food were distributed to 19 people. Thank you for continuing to help keep our Food Pantry well stocked.

Best Choice Labels

Ask friends and family members to collect "Best Choice" barcode labels. "Best Choice" products may be purchased at Price Chopper or Apple Market. When donating to the Food Pantry, please consider purchasing "Best Choice" products. Harold Burnett cuts off labels from Food Pantry donations and deposits them in our "Best Choice" baskets located in the Narthex and Galleria. Remember... clipping "Best Choice" labels helps support our Mission partners.



MARCH 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>5 9:00-10:00 Worship Svc - Communion 10:00-10:15 Blood Pressure Check-Hartlex 10:00-10:15 Coffee & Community 10-15-11:15 Bible Friends/ Bible Fellowship Groups 12:00-3:30 ICC Bible Study & Worship 1:30-5:00 Amigos - FH 4:00-9:00 ICC Meal-Gym</p>	<p>6 Deacon on Call: Kylene Campbell</p>	<p>7 10:00 Staff Meeting 11:00 Pastoral Staff Meeting 6:30-9:00 Pray & Play Basketball-Gym</p>	<p>1 ASH WEDNESDAY 4:00-5:00 HBC Community Chorus - Choir Room 6:10-7:20 Handbell Rehearsal 6:30 Ash Wednesday Service 7:30 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal 8:30 Play & Pray Basketball</p>	<p>2 7:00 Women's Prayer Breakfast-Conf. Room #1 7:00 Men's Prayer Breakfast-Conf. Room #2 6:30-8:30 Pickleball - Gym</p>		<p>4 9:00-12:00 Sanctuary Choir Retreat 6:00-10:00 ICC Meal Preparation-Gym Kitchen Minister on Call: David McDaniel</p>
<p>12 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS BEGINS 9:00-10:00 Worship Svc. 10:00-10:15 Blood Pressure Check-Gallera 10:00-10:15 Coffee & Community 10-15-11:15 Bible Friends/ Bible Fellowship Groups 11:30 Strategic Planning Mtg. 12:00-3:30 ICC Bible Study & Worship</p>	<p>13 9:00-12:00 Prayers & Squares-S204 5:30 The Seekers BFG (AC-7) to Forest Ave Baptist Church Deacon on Call: Evelyn Batiz</p>	<p>14 10:00 Staff Meeting 11:00 Pastoral Staff Meeting 6:30-9:00 Pray & Play Basketball-Gym</p>	<p>15 4:00-5:00 HBC Community Chorus - Choir Room 6:10-7:20 Handbell Rehearsal 6:30 "Connections" for Adults 7:30 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal 8:30 Play & Pray Basketball</p>	<p>16 7:00 Women's Prayer Breakfast-Conf. Room #1 7:00 Men's Prayer Breakfast-Conf. Room #2 10:45 Anchors Luncheon 6:30-8:30 Pickleball - Gym</p>	<p>17 ST. PATRICK'S DAY</p>	<p>18 Minister on Call: Allen York</p>
<p>19 9:00-10:00 Worship Svc. 10:00-10:15 Coffee & Community 10-15-11:15 Bible Friends/ Bible Fellowship Groups 11:30 Deacons Meeting 12:00-3:30 ICC Bible Study & Worship</p>	<p>20 5:30 Lydia BFG (AL-1) to Forest Avenue Baptist Church Deacon on Call: Bonnie Burdorf</p>	<p>21 10:00 Staff Meeting 11:00 Pastoral Staff Meeting 6:30-9:00 Pray & Play Basketball-Gym</p>	<p>22 4:00-5:00 HBC Community Chorus - Choir Room 6:10-7:20 Handbell Rehearsal 6:30 "Connections" for Adults 7:30 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal 8:30 Play & Pray Basketball NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</p>	<p>23 7:00 Women's Prayer Breakfast-Conf. Room #1 7:00 Men's Prayer Breakfast-Conf. Room #2 6:30-8:30 Pickleball - Gym</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25 Minister on Call: Anna Holladay</p>
<p>26 9:00-10:00 Worship Svc. 10:00-10:15 Coffee & Community 10-15-11:15 Bible Friends/ Bible Fellowship Groups 12:00-3:30 ICC Bible Study & Worship 1:30-5:00 Amigos - FH</p>	<p>27 9:00-12:00 Prayers & Squares-S204 Deacon on Call: Ted Harrison</p>	<p>28 10:00 Staff Meeting 11:00 Pastoral Staff Meeting 6:30-9:00 Pray & Play Basketball-Gym</p>	<p>29 4:00-5:00 HBC Community Chorus - Choir Room 6:10-7:20 Handbell Rehearsal 6:30 "Connections" for Adults 7:30 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal 8:30 Play & Pray Basketball</p>	<p>30 7:00 Women's Prayer Breakfast-Conf. Room #1 7:00 Men's Prayer Breakfast-Conf. Room #2 6:30-8:30 Pickleball - Gym NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTED</p>	<p>31</p>	

FAITH COMMUNITY HEALTH TEAM

As we go through each day, maintaining our faith life is an important part of our wellness. Here are a few ways to gain a new perspective of yourself, others and God throughout the year.

- ***Try praying at different times** during the day: you may notice that you pray differently at different times of the day.
- ***Laughter and rejoicing** need to part of our faith life. Think of something funny that has happened, and thank God for giving us humor in our lives!
- ***Loving yourself** is the first step in "Love your neighbor as yourself". Spend a few minutes writing about what it means to love yourself.
- ***Meditation or listening** is a part of our faith life that we often neglect. Take five minutes to sit quietly and breathe. Try to quiet your inner voice and just listen.
- ***Go for a prayerful walk** and remember that all of creation belongs to God, though it can be easy to forget that.
- ***Thankfulness** comes in a variety of forms. Make a list of things you encounter for which you are thankful.

<http://chreader.org/issues/winter-2017-spiritual-practice/>

-Kathy Lockyer, Faith Community Health Team

March Birthdays



3/03	Marian McKnight
3/05	Sarah Smedley
3/06	Kristen Lockyer
3/07	Mackey Wilcoxon
3/10	Ann Bingham, Lindsey Frank, Matt Sherriff
3/11	Allene Gieringer
3/12	Karen Miner
3/15	Beverly Strack
3/16	Mindy Lacy
3/17	Delaney Burk, Pat Morris, Pat Tennison
3/18	Scott Bartmess
3/19	Rhonda Collins
3/20	Ron Middleton, Vanessa Hertenstein
3/21	Roger Dougherty
3/23	Wayne Sabatka
3/26	Emily Daniel, Darwin Johnson, Stephanie Springate
3/28	Katie Brown, Joanne Sabatka
3/29	Paulette Seidelman

ANCHORS

March 16, 2017 at 10:45 am



Cost: \$8.00

Service Project: Girls on a

Theme: Luck of the Irish

Mission

Program: Janice Britz, "Stories in Stitches"

Menu: Meatloaf and gravy, Mashed potatoes, corn, salad, rolls, cookies

What is Deacon-On-Call?

On the back of your worship bulletin each week, you will find the name and telephone number of the "Deacon-On-Call." This is a resource for you if throughout the week you would like prayer or have a need with which the church might be able to assist. You can call that Deacon who will then have prayer with you or will help facilitate your need with the church staff or other group within the church. The Deacon-On-Call rotates each week between the church deacons who are presently serving on the Deacon Council. Alongside the Minister-On-Call, the Deacon-On-Call is another way that we as a church walk beside one another throughout life.



Statistics

January 15 (bad weather)

9:00 a.m. Worship Service	57
Bible Friends/Bible Fellowship	24
Pledge Received	\$3,850

January 22

9:00 a.m. Worship Service	156
Bible Friends/Bible Fellowship	153
Pledge Received	\$12,511

January 29

9:00 a.m. Worship Service	183
Bible Friends/Bible Fellowship	152
Pledge Received	\$13,438

February 5

9:00 a.m. Worship Service	177
Bible Friends/Bible Fellowship	151
Pledge Received	\$10,674

February 12

9:00 a.m. Worship Service	166
Bible Friends/Bible Fellowship	147
Pledge Received	\$5,244

NEW MEMBERS



**Austin, Marion & Audrey During
January 22, 2017**

Holmeswood Baptist Church welcomed Austin & Marion During on January 22, 2017.

Austin During

Austin was born and raised in Chelsea, AL and attended the University of Alabama where he received Bachelor's Degrees in Marketing and Advertising and a Master's Degree in Marketing. Austin currently works as a Sales Trade Manager for Smithfield Foods. He enjoys playing with his daughter Audrey, watching The Office with his wife, hiking, cooking, drinking coffee, and rolling in the grass with his dogs.

Marion During

Marion was born and raised in Ozark, AL and attended the University of Alabama where she received Bachelor's Degrees in Journalism and American Studies and a Master's Degree in American Studies. Marion is the Marketing Specialist for the UMKC College of Arts and Sciences. She enjoys hiking, running and exploring Kansas City with her husband, their daughter Audrey and their two French Bulldogs, Amos and Evelyn.

IN SYMPATHY

Holmeswood Baptist Church extends Christian sympathy to:

Vivian Franklin's family upon her death on February 3. Services were held at Holmeswood Baptist Church on February 8.

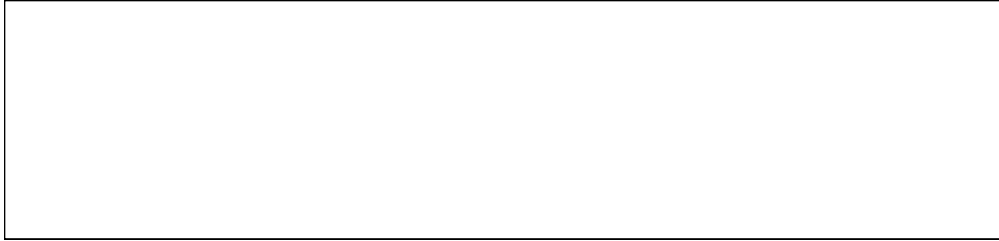
Allen, Shirel, and Michael York and family upon the death of Allen's dad, James Allen York, on February 17. Services were held on February 20 in Bolivar, MO.



The Candles of Lent

In 2016, there were 201 homicides within the metro area of Kansas City. That is 201 people who died as a result of hate and clinched fists. This is just a little over 1 every 2 days. During the season of Lent, part of what we reflect on is that we have not fully lived as the type of people that God has created us to be. The Kingdom of God still is not fully here. To help us lean into this aspect of Lent, each Sunday during the worship service, we will light a candle for each person who died that week as a result of homicide within Kansas City. As we light each candle, we are reminded that even in the midst of tragedy, the light of Christ still shines. May we be a people of light and may we be a people of love.

Community



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

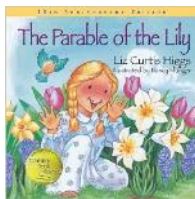
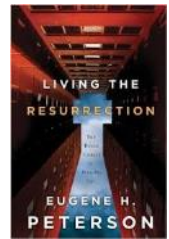
HOLMESWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH
 "A Different Kind of Baptist"
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 Kansas City, MO 64131-3215
 WWW.HOLMESWOOD.ORG

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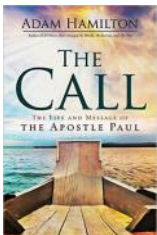
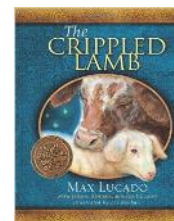
MEDIA LIBRARY NEWS

This year, Ash Wednesday is on March 1. We will observe Lent from March 1 to April 13. During this 40 day season of reflection, prayer, and preparation, how will each of us observe Lent? One thing that you can do on your journey toward Easter is to read an inspirational book from your church library. Here are some suggested titles:

- Living the Resurrection* by Eugene Peterson
- Thank God It's Friday.....Encountering the Seven Last Words from the Cross* by William Willamon
- Meditations of the Cross* by Dietrich Bonhoeffer
- The Final Week of Jesus* by Max Lucado
- Learning to Walk In the Dark* by Barbara Brown Taylor
- Finding God In Unexpected Places* by Phillip Yancy
- Immortal Diamond: The Search for Our True Self* by Richard Rohr



- Books to Read to Children During Lent
- The Parable of the Lily* by Liz Higgs
 - The Crippled Lamb* by Max Lucado
 - Prayers at Easter Time* by Pamela Kennedy



Beginning March 8, Adult Connections will study the undisputed letters of Paul. Here are two titles to consider:

The Call: The Life and Message of the Apostle Paul by Adam Hamilton. Prior to writing this book, Hamilton traveled through Turkey, Greece and Italy visiting the sites where Paul preached and taught.

To Live is Christ: 5 videotapes by Beth Moore on the life and ministry of Paul.

