



The Pilgrim

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March 2010

A Message from the Minister

During Lent, you hear words like 'confess,' 'repent,' and 'return.' On Ash Wednesday, you heard 'repent and return' repeatedly. But, in our tradition, we do not spend much time talking about confession. Confession is not a requirement to call yourself a Disciple of Christ, but it has been on my mind as we've studied the Minor Prophets and their calls to confess.

Confession brings truth, partially because confession requires honesty. If we are unable to speak honestly about our lives and our mistakes, and if we are unable to share honestly, we run the risk of believing that our lives are completely unique. No one understands. That can be a very isolating thought. In fact, that isolation is part of sin's power. Sin can separate us and make us want to run away not only from God,

but from the people we love most. Confession reconnects us. We do not carry our burden alone, and someone else shares in our prayers and in our efforts at turning to God.


But, another angle of confession is that sometimes, it's not sin that we need to confess as much as a truth that we live. Our secrets can eat us alive. They can grow into insurmountable obstacles, and yes, when we share them, we do get a good dose of humility (another thing stressed by the Prophets). At the same time, we get a clear look at the truth of who we really are. As Jesus said, the truth will set you free (John 8:32).

I suppose one other reason the Prophets called for confession is that they wanted their listeners to recognize

how far they had wandered from God's path. They were experts at justifying almost any action. That's not uncommon. When left to our own devices, we can justify just about anything. When we confess to another person, it's a different story. We cannot rationalize anything for our benefit – we can only tell the truth.

My prayer for all of you during Lent is that you have someone you trust with the details of your life. My prayer is that you have someone who will pray with you and who will give you a non-judgmental presence that will strengthen you. My prayer is that you, too, will have the privilege of being that person for someone else.

Lea can be contacted via email: wilsonsmillsc@gmail.com.

CWF	Youth Supper Study Hosts Needed
<p>The Christian Women's Fellowship will meet on Friday, March 19th at the home of Janet Stephenson. Dinner will be potluck, so bring your favorite dish! If you are reading along in our book study, "Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations," we will discuss chapter one. You do not need to read the book to participate.</p> 	<p>Our Youth group will have had its first social event by the time you receive this newsletter. The education committee hopes we can plan a social event alternating with a Sunday Evening Supper Study so that the Youth are together at least once a month. We are looking for adults in our church that would be willing to open their homes to our youth for supper. This would be a one-time event. Our first Supper Study will be in March so if you would like to extend a bit of hospitality (and a meal) to our youth, let Sherri Yaroch or Carrie Ragland know.</p>

<p>Worship Attendance February 7 —53 February 14—62 February 21 — 64 February 28— tba</p>	<p>Inside this Issue</p>	<p>Camp Caroline 3</p>	<p>9:45 A.M. Coffee 10:00 A.M. Sunday School 11:00 A.M. Worship</p>
		<p>Lenten Services 3</p>	
		<p>Calendars 4-5</p>	
		<p>Worship News 6</p>	

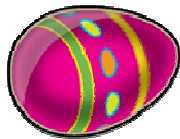
Correction

Sometimes in my haste to get the newsletter out on time, I make a mistake. And, that happened in the February newsletter. I included the incorrect date of birth for Miss Olivia Page Reffit. My apologies. The good news is that means you get another announcement and another picture! - Lea



Olivia Page was born on January 16, 2010.

Congratulations, Ashley and Seth!



Easter Egg Hunt—immediately following church on Sunday, March 28th! Children are invited to stay for a light lunch and our annual egg hunt.

Congratulations to Lauren and Jamie! Cole Michael Ramsey was born on February 17th, 2010!



Prayer Concerns

Ariana McLamb	Betty Parrish	Donald Coates	Ione Gainey
Patricia Scheumann	Joan Hunt	Cathy New	Ruth Ryan
Jeff Trask	Billy Blackmon	Russell DePoy	Cheryl Bryant
Donita Byrd Jones	Jeff Trask	Michelle Stephens	Rufus Massengill
Frank Yansom	Jody Wiley	Peggy Norris	Family of Tom Coltrane

Just a reminder...We have a lot of people coming in and out of the church. If you are the last one to leave the building, please make sure you lock the door behind you. Thanks for your help. - Lea

Our Babies want YOU!

The education committee is working to create a nursery ministry. We need a few volunteers willing to care for our babies one Sunday a month during our Worship Service. It would be great if the babies had 4-5 sets of people they could get to know and become comfortable with. We have purchased a very simple curriculum that we plan to use to involve our babies in worship as well (from the nursery instead of the sanctuary)! We would like to try our new setup out for three months—April, May and June. If you would be willing to give it a try for three months, please let Carrie Ragland know!



Congregational Survey

The elders would like your help. As we prayerfully consider and plan for the future of our church, we want your input. Specifically, we are asking you to take the time to complete a brief congregational survey. You can pick up the survey up on March 7, 14 or the 21st. Once you've completed it, please return it to the survey box in the fellowship hall. Please have your survey in by Sunday, March 28th.

PASTOR'S CLASS—A pastor's class will be held in April for children sixth grade and older who are interested in baptism. If your child is interested, please let Lea know so that materials can be ordered. It is important that the children attend each class. The lessons will build on each other. Baptism is a big decision, and it requires some study and thought before wading into the water. Of course, baptism is also very exciting, and the pastor's class will be an opportunity to explore both the seriousness and the excitement of baptism as well as our basic doctrines and beliefs.

And, if any adults are interested in baptism, please let Lea know!

Worship News...

About a year ago, the worship committee put together worship kits for children who attend our services. Each kit contains a special bulletin for children with activities that are biblically based, and often, the referenced scripture is the same scripture addressed in the sermon. This is just a reminder to parents that worship activities are included in the worship kits, and if you would like for your children to familiarize themselves with the same scripture we use in worship, hand them the activity bulletin!

Holy Week will be here before you know it. It begins on March 28th with Palm Sunday. We will hold our traditional Maundy Thursday service on April 1st. If you've never attended a Maundy Thursday service, here is what you can expect. "Maundy" comes from the Latin word 'mandatum' which means commandment. The first part of the worship service is about the commandment that Jesus gave at the Last Supper for his disciples to love each other. We sing hymns and we share communion.

The second part of the worship service is a Tenebrae service. Tenebrae is a big word that simply means shadows. We listen to scripture readings that tell the story of the last night of Jesus' life. The service is held by candlelight, and there are as many candles as there are readings, plus a white Christ candle. The readers go up one at a time, read their as-



signed selections, and extinguish one of the candles, until only the Christ candle remains. The cross is draped, and the Christ candle is carried out, leaving the congregation in near total darkness. At this point, the service ends. There is no benediction and the people leave in silence. That is Maundy Thursday.

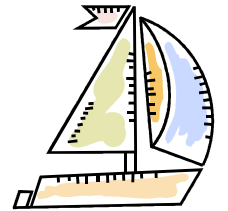
On Good Friday, we remember the crucifixion. This year, we will try something different. The church will be open from 10AM-1PM and from 4PM – 7PM for a prayer walk. We will have prayer 'stations' throughout the church. You will be invited to follow a map that takes you on the journey of Good Friday. At each prayer station, you will find appropriate scripture and an activity or a meditation. Different groups in the church have been assigned scripture and asked to set up a station – from our children to our youth to our deacons and elders. Each group will devise a way for you to experience their assigned scripture on your walk. Our hours from 10AM to 1PM are family friendly hours – if you would like to bring your children and share the story and prayers with them, this will be a time specifically for that. If you would like to experience the prayer walk in a more contemplative environment, come back between 4PM and 7PM.



Camp Caroline Clean-Up

It is that time again and our clean up dates are March 13th and April 10th. The inside of our cabin needs to be painted so we really need help this year. The only day Elsworth and I can go is on March 13th. We are thinking about going down on Friday, March 12th and spend the night and finish up on Saturday. We are coordinating with CMF. The work list for our cabin is:

- Paint bathrooms with paint supplied by Camp Caroline. We provide painters, painting supplies, ladders and drop cloths
- Porch screen needs repair
- Covers over lights-Health Dept requirement
- Living space and porch needs to be painted as well as bathroom
- Replace rusty soup dish
- New screen doors or storm doors-please include heavy springs that will make them close on their own
- Pressure wash the outside of our cabin



If you wish to donate money to buy the supplies, let me know. We will be working on our cabin, but there are other projects for the entire Camp if anyone would want to help out. I have listed these below.

General Projects for Individuals or Groups:

- Bird and Bat Boxes need to be mounted with poles and put out on the grounds
 - Poles at the picnic shelter need to be sand blasted and painted
 - We need to make trash can holders for outdoors (Health Dept. Required)
 - Bush cutting, stumps ground, trees cut, limbs cut, leaf removal
 - All outside buildings need pressure washing (bring hoses and pressure washers)
- Benches on the front porch of the dining hall need to be painted

If you have any questions or would like to help, call me. -Ginger

Mid-Week Lenten Services

During the Lenten season, Smithfield Area Ministries invites you to attend a Series of Mid-Week Lenten Services hosted by First Presbyterian Church at 215 S. Third Street Smithfield, NC every Wednesday at noon. The scheduled preachers for the remaining Wednesdays are as follows:



- March 3**, The Rev. Christopher Ingram— Sharon Baptist Church
- March 10**, The Rev. Jerry Burton—Mill Creek Christian Church
- March 17**, Bishop Richard W. Johnson—St. Peter Church of Christ
- March 24**, Msgr. Michael Clay—St. Ann Catholic Church

