



Central Scene

The Monthly Newsletter of Central Presbyterian Church, Pine Bluff, Arkansas

February 2016

Pancakes Anyone?

Central Presbyterian Church will host a Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper on February 9, at 5:30 p.m., in McElyea Hall. The cost is \$7.00 per person, \$15.00 per family of four, and the meal is "all you can eat." Everyone is invited to come and join us as we mark the beginning of the Lenten Season. Please be sure and bring a friend. Call the church office at 870-879-9074 to make a reservation!

Shrove Tuesday is an ancient observance, going clear back into the Middle Ages. In those days certain foods like meat, fish, eggs, and other fatty foods weren't to be eaten during Lent, so Shrove Tuesday became a day for using up all the food that would spoil during the month and a half of Lent. Apparently eggs, milk, and other fatty foods were combined into something like pancakes, which is how the tradition of eating pancakes the day before Lent begins came to be. Historically, Shrove Tuesday marks the beginning of the 40-day Lenten fasting period.

Lenten Bible Study

Lent is a time for reflection and growth. This year we at Central will be looking at The Lord's Prayer. If you don't already, come join us for lunchtime conversations each Thursday at noon. If we have your email address, watch for special emails during Lent. If we have your mailing address, your copy will be coming soon.

Special Worship Opportunities for Lent

Our Church and First Presbyterian will be offering several opportunities to worship during Lent:

- ▶ **Ash Wednesday, February 10**, Central will offer a brief service of worship here at 12:00 noon and First will offer a similar opportunity at 5:00 in their chapel. Pastors and elders from each church will lead both services. The services will include the placing of the cross in ashes on foreheads for those who wish.
- ▶ **Palm Sunday, March 20**, both congregations will worship together at First. Our combined choirs, who presented such joyous music together at Christmas, will offer several pieces of special music during the worship.
- ▶ **Maundy Thursday evening, March 24**, each church will offer a solemn service including The Lord's Supper.
- ▶ **On the afternoon of Good Friday, March 25**, we are invited to join First for their service in their Chapel.
- ▶ **Then, on Easter Sunday, March 27**, we will begin the day with our Annual Easter breakfast at 8 a.m., followed by an Easter Egg Hunt for our youth. We then will celebrate the resurrection of Jesus in our worship at 10 a.m. on Easter Sunday.

Knowing God

God cares about how we live. And a relationship with God naturally will flow out in daily attitudes and actions. So if you look good, you are good, right? Well, maybe not.

Knowing God can lead to a positive lifestyle, but the reverse isn't true. Our outward actions alone don't prove that we enjoy an inward relationship with God. Just because we do good doesn't mean we know the One who is good.

—Craig Groeschel, *The Christian Athiest: Believing in God But Living As If He Doesn't Exist*

Central Presbyterian Church
6300 Trinity Drive
P.O. Box 1105
Pine Bluff, AR 71613

...a congregation of the Presbyterian Church
(U.S.A.) through the Synod of the Sun and the
Presbytery of Arkansas.

Directory

Office Phone Number (870)879-9074

E-mail:
centralpc@cablelynx.com

Website:
www.centralprespb.com

Transitional Pastor: David S. King

Choirmaster/Organist: Marty Shell

Secretary: Erin Shaw

Treasurer: Connie Detmers

Clerk of the Session: Betty Coles

Presbyterian Women Moderator: Betty Coles

Youth Advisory Team:

Marty Shell
Maggie Shell-Howsen
Dana Neal

SESSION

Class of 2016

Nelson Buchanan
Tommy Dunlap
Jemmie Moseley
Benjamin Neal

Class of 2017

Denise Mosley
Laura Cosner
Betty Coles (clerk)
Marty Shell

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

Membership in Central Presbyterian Church is open to all who profess faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. New members will be received upon baptism and profession of faith, reaffirmation of faith, or by letter of transfer.

CHURCH MISSION STATEMENT

To celebrate God's love, nurture growth, share our faith, and serve the needs of others.

A Word from our Transitional Pastor

As we enter another season of Lent, did you ever wonder why it's called that? One thought is that Lent comes from an old English word that meant "spring." Another suggestion is that it has to do with a Latin word that had to do with "cleansing." It isn't a stretch to think of Lent as a time for Spring Cleaning.

We're probably all familiar with traditional Lenten practices like the sign of the cross made on our foreheads with ashes, which reminds us of our mortality and our dependence on God's promises. There are other marks of Lent which aren't as well known, other practices - disciplines, some say - to remind us of God's love and our dependence on it. Here are three:

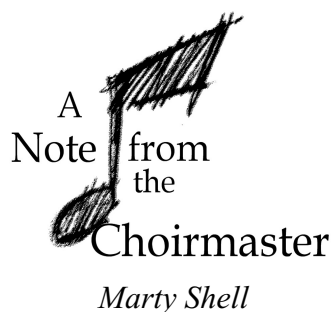
- ▶ **Fasting** has been used by Christians for centuries to as a way to show submission to God, a reminder of how dependent we are on God. Jesus faced his own temptations in the wilderness by fasting. It is a sign of our deeper hunger for God. When we step away from all that fills us, our hunger can remind us of the source of our lives. Caution: fasting for more than a day or two can involve serious health risks and should only be done under medical supervision.
- ▶ **Prayer** is another way of using Lent to draw closer to God. A friend recommended to her congregation that they read the Psalms through Lent - three a day, reading and praying at mealtimes. I suggest using a different Bible translation to give us new insights into familiar words. Read, say a prayer, take deep breaths, and then listen.
- ▶ A third discipline is giving alms or **giving gifts anonymously**. Jesus cautions us about giving gifts that others can see. We are to give for the sake of giving and not for recognition, and to give to those who need it most.

This Lent, let's add another practice to our worship. The baptismal font will be just inside the sanctuary door. As a way of reminding ourselves of God's grace as we prepare to worship, of God's cleansing power to forgive, of our place in God's Kingdom, let's dip a finger or two into the water, touch our foreheads, and say something like "I am one of God's forgiven people" or "God loves me." Then have a seat, refreshed, better able to hear God's Good News.

See you Sunday,

Dave

February
2016



Once again our Lenten season is upon us. As we prepare our hearts and minds to celebrate Easter, let us take a moment to reflect upon our own lives. Are we forming our lives in the manner we should? Perhaps instead of giving up something (some type of

food), we could search our inner souls, in the depths of our hearts to examine our own lives. Perhaps incorporate our daily prayer to include Psalms 139:23-24, "Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts. See if there is any wicked way in me." Examine our thoughts and giving of our time and talents. Are you doing all you can for the church? Did we miss an opportunity to make a special phone call, or send a card to someone in need? Did we go out of our way to share a hug to someone that may have lost a loved one? God is calling us to serve in many ways. Are we ready to answer the call? God needs you.

We have many opportunities to join us in worship throughout the season of Lent. Our annual pancake supper, Ash Wednesday services, just to name a few. Watch the bulletin for times and places for these opportunities to share!

A Report from Our PNC

Your committee is back at work after the Christmas holidays. We are digging in a little deeper with our candidates and examining them thoroughly to search out the one we feel is the candidate for our church. We are in need of your continued prayerful support as our journey continues for the search of our next leader.

Grateful for Grace

John Newton, a slave-ship captain who became a minister and abolitionist, had a special affinity for grace. In fact, he wrote the hymn "Amazing Grace" to celebrate the freedom that God gives to Christians.

"I am not what I ought to be," Newton said. "I am not what I want to be. I am not what I hope to be. But still, I am not what I used to be. And by the grace of God, I am what I am."

Central Notes

- ▶ **The Monthly Fellowship Luncheon Will Be Held** Sunday, February 21, following morning worship. All are invited to join in this time of fellowship.
- ▶ **The Session Will Meet** Sunday, February 21, following the Fellowship Luncheon, in the Conference Room.
- ▶ **The Church Office Will Be Closed** Monday, February 15, in observance of President's Day.
- ▶ **The Deadline for the January Issue of the Central Scene** is Tuesday, February 16. Please turn in all articles, announcements, and meeting dates to the church office by the end of the day.

Gifts to the Church

In Loving Memory of Judy Buchanan

Connie Detmers-Undesignated

David Clague-Undesignated

John Clague-Undesignated

Lucille Davis-Undesignated

Carla & Larry Zacheretti-Undesignated

Adam & Tonya Davis-Undesignated

Frank Buchanan-Undesignated

Henry Buchanan-Undesignated

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE JANUARY 2016 SESSION MEETING

Meeting on Sunday afternoon, January 15, the Session:

- ▶ Welcomed three new members, Laura Cosner, Denise Mosley, and Benjamin Neal, who were ordained and installed during worship that morning.
- ▶ Discussed the Session Committee structure and each committee's responsibilities. We will be reviewing and revising committee descriptions the next few months.
- ▶ Received and approved the Minutes of the December 2015 meeting.
- ▶ Received and reviewed the Financial Statements for December with the Budget and Finance Committee, which also included end of the year figures.
- ▶ Discussed a roof leak in the sanctuary, the one under the steeple that has been a problem at different times over the years. Laura Cosner will contact the roofer who last worked on it.
- ▶ Heard that the Church Bus has a few matters which need attention. Dave will see that they are repaired.
- ▶ Took several actions at the request of the Education Committee.
 - Maggie Howsen and Dana Neal are new members of the Youth Advisory Team.
 - Denise Mosley and Laura Cosner will visit with the leaders of last year's Vacation Bible School as we begin planning for this year's;
 - The Senior High Youthquake is coming soon and scholarship help will be available.
 - Our Youth were give permission again this year to take part in Souper Bowl Sunday, an appeal to provide canned goods and other help to Neighbor to Neighbor.
 - The Youth Advisory Team will coordinate our annual Valentine Banquet following worship on Sunday, February 14. Proceeds go to help fund youth programs at Central.
- ▶ Agreed to renew our search for a Nursery Attendant for pre-schoolers during Sunday morning worship. Until we find someone, there will be a sign-up sheet in the nursery for volunteers.
- ▶ Approved recommendations from Marty and Dave for these Lenten and Holy Week worship opportunities with First Presbyterian - and possibly Faith Presbyterian:
 - Ash Wednesday, February 10: services at Central at 12:00 and at First at 5:00. Both ministers and readers from both churches will lead the services;
 - Palm Sunday, March 20: both congregations will worship at First, with special music presented by the combined choirs;
 - Good Friday, March 25: both congregations will worship together at First, with participants from both churches.
- ▶ Heard Betty report that the Presbyterian Women had provided meals for bereaved families following four funerals the past few months. They also provided Christmas "goody bags" to five shut-ins. On Saturday, January 16, they travelled to Little Rock and took Carol Brown to lunch.
- ▶ Heard that the Men of the Church are planning their Annual Chili Luncheon on Saturday, January 30.



The newsletter deadline for the **March** issue of **Central Scene** is **Tuesday, February 16**. Please turn in all articles, announcements, and meeting dates to the church office by the end of the day.



Important Dates February

- 07** **Souper Bowl of Caring** - as we leave morning worship
- 09** **Evening Circle** - 6:30 p.m. - Perdue Library
- 10** *Ash Wednesday*
 Youth Services:
 12 noon at CPC
 5:30 p.m. at FPC
- 14** **Valentine Banquet** - following worship - McEleya Hall
- 15** *President's Day* - Office Closed
- 19** **Newsletter Deadline**
- 21** **Fellowship Luncheon**
 12:15 p.m. - McEleya Hall
 Session Meeting - 1 p.m. - Conference Room



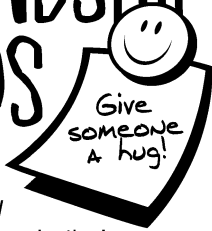
Youth News

Thank you for supporting our efforts as we collect money for Neighbor to Neighbor on "Souper Bowl" Sunday. The Souper Bowl of Caring is an effort to glorify God and care for *the least of these our brothers and sisters* by encouraging people to give one dollar as they leave worship on February 7, 2016.

Your \$1.00 bill is your ticket to being a player in the Souper Bowl of Caring. Hungry and hurting people everywhere are counting on you. So bring at least a buck, and get in the game!

Join us for our Annual Valentine's Banquet Sunday, February 14, following morning worship. Plan on staying and sharing a meal with your church family. Watch the bulletin for the menu and prices. This fund raiser will help us with our summer activities. Thanks for all your help and support of our youth and their outreach into our community.

FRIENDSHIP CARDS



This month, don't just *send* valentines; *be* a valentine! Create these Friendship Cards to express love through kind acts for your loved ones — all month long.



What you need:

- 29 index cards
- A small box or container
- Colored pens or glitter pens
- Stickers

What you do:

1. On each card, write something nice you can do for other people. Ideas include "Give someone a hug," "Clean someone's room," "Read to someone" and so on. You can use colored pens to draw a picture.
2. Decorate the box or container. Place the cards inside.
3. Each day in February, select a card and do that nice thing for someone!



True Friendship

What makes someone a good friend?
The Bible offers lots of advice about true friendship.

Directions: Starting at the *, connect the dots clockwise and complete the words using the word bank. Then fill in Proverbs 27:9, NIV.

WORD BANK:

heart prings ir verbs vice ness end

27:9, NIV

pleasant_____

• pro_____

*
The

• of

• ad_____

• a

_____ felt •

• fri_____

the__ •

• s_____

from •

27:9, NIV

Answer: The pleasantness of a friend springs from their heartfelt advice.
Proverbs 27:9, NIV

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																																																
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Central Presbyterian Church
P.O. Box 1105
Pine Bluff, AR 71603

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Return Service Requested



02 Bonnie Rauls	19 Zac Cosner
12 Darren Reeves	21 David Perdue, Jr.
17 Adam Vick	23 Hollis Hughes

Celebrating 
An Anniversary This Month

24 Mr. and Mrs. Mark Baran
28 Mr. and Mrs. Steven Howsen

Lectionary Readings for the Month of February

Sunday, February 10

Transfiguration of the Lord

Ex. 34:29-35; Ps. 99; 2 Cor. 3:12-4:2; Luke 9:28-36 (37-43)

Wednesday, February 13

Ash Wednesday

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 or Isa. 58:1-12; Ps. 51:1-17; 2 Cor. 5:20b-6:10; Matt. 6:1-6, 16-21

Sunday, February 17

1st Sunday in Lent

Deut. 26:1-11; Ps. 91:1-2, 9-16; Rom. 10:8b-13; Luke 4:1-13

Sunday, February 24

2nd Sunday in Lent

Gen. 15:1-12, 17-18; Ps. 27; Phil 3:17-4:1; Luke 13:31-35

Sunday, March 3

3rd Sunday in Lent

Isa. 55:1-9; Ps. 63:1-8; 1 Cor. 10:1-13; Luke 13:1-9