



W THE INDDOW

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March 6, 2019

No. 5

A Friendly Request

By the time you receive this newsletter our first Wednesday night meal, under our new arrangements, will be in the books. I am pleased that our church leadership is willing to give weekly Wednesday night meals a go! Since there are so many good happenings at First Baptist on Wednesday nights that promote and produce authentic Christian discipleship, the church leadership is hopeful that a weekly inexpensive meal will increase participation for Wednesday night activities. Wednesday nights are already strong. We desire to make them stronger! Allow me to review how the weekly meals will work. And then I will make a friendly request.

The first point to emphasize is that our weekly meals will be floating meals. In other words, we will not all sit down at the same time, eat together, and then leave together. Rather, there will be activities going at the same time the meal is offered. Therefore, you will eat when you are not otherwise engaged. For example, Children's Music and Missions will take place between 5pm and 5:45pm (notice the slight time adjustment). The meal begins at 5pm. Therefore, the children (and their parents) will eat a bit after 5:45pm. For the participants in adult Bible study, the scenario will likely be reversed. Adult Bible study will take place at 6pm in the sanctuary (notice the change in location). Therefore, adult Bible study participants should eat sometime between 5pm and 5:55pm. I am looking forward to a steady stream of people in our fellowship hall sharing a meal together between 5pm-6:30pm. I can already hear the chatter and it is beautiful!

The second point to emphasize is that no reservations are required. We want to make this as user-friendly as possible. We realize that you may need

to make a last-minute decision about Wednesday nights. Therefore, you are free to decide to come at the last minute!

Now, a friendly request. We also want to make this meal as affordable as possible. Therefore, we have suggested a \$6 donation for adults and a \$3 donation for children. Notice, the use of the word "donation". If you are unable to give this much towards the meal for you and your family, then give what you can. Considering this arrangement, I ask that those among us who can give more than the suggested donation to please do so. To help you decide how much more, I make you aware that each meal cost the church \$7.50 (still very reasonable!). This price holds for the first 75 people. After 75, we are charged \$5 for children 8 and under. Thus, if we have 65 people and 12 of those are children 8 and under, the price for the church is \$7.50 for each person, including the children. If we have 95 people, and 12 of those are children 8 and under, the cost is then \$5 for the 12 children and \$7.50 for the 83 people over 8 years of age.

I am hopeful that the church will break even with this very unpredictable approach!

In Christ,
Trey

Daylight Saving Time Begins Sunday, March 10, 2019



Before retiring Saturday night, don't forget to turn your clocks ahead one hour!

From the Associate Pastor

By the time you read this, we'll have observed Ash Wednesday worship together to usher in the Season of Lent. Lent is the Christian observance of a forty day period (not counting Sundays) leading up to the high and holy day on which we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead—Easter.

The forty days may be observed in a variety of ways. There is the traditional “giving up” of something like chocolate or soft drinks or Facebook. Instead of giving up something, some folks add something to their daily routines. These additions can be anything from reading the Bible, performing acts of charity, or observing a new prayer practice. However one chooses to observe the forty days, the purpose of the observance is to make a sacrifice that will draw us closer to Christ.

During a recent conversation about the annual observance of Lent, one person asked, “If Christians are *always* supposed to be maturing as disciples of Jesus, why do we need to have a specific season to do so?” It’s a good question! Here are my thoughts in response to that question.

We need the forty days of Lent each year because we are imperfect humans who easily get off-track and wander our own way. There seems to be something in us that appreciates, or perhaps even needs new starting points. Look at how much emphasis we give to the start of a new calendar year. There’s something about turning that calendar from one year to the next that inspires a desire to either get back on a good track (diet, exercise, Sabbath observance) or begin something new that will be beneficial to our physical, mental, and/or spiritual health. There’s a reason we’re bombarded in late December and early January with so many advertisements for fitness and weight loss programs; the advertisers know this is the time of year when we are most receptive to what they have to offer!

Similarly, the Season of Lent offers us a new start, a fresh opportunity to reorient ourselves to a more healthy life of discipleship. And though we make part of this journey on our own with personal devotions and other commitments, how beautiful it is that we also make this journey together as we gather for worship during the Sundays in Lent.

For my 2019 Lenten discipline, I’ve chosen to work my way through the book, ***Soul Feast, An Invitation to the Christian Spiritual Life***, by Marjorie

J. Thompson. First published in 1995, this book has become a well-loved classic for many who’ve used it to deepen their daily walk with Christ. Mrs. Thompson revised the book in 2014, and this is the edition I will be using. I’m available to meet on Mondays at 11:00 am and 6:00 pm. We’ll begin on March 11, and will meet in room 103. If you need help ordering the book, let me know and I’ll be glad to order it for you. In the meantime, I hope the following poem by Jan Richardson will inspire your Lenten journey.

Beloved Is Where We Begin

*If you would enter into the wilderness,
do not begin without a blessing.*

*Do not leave without hearing who you are:
Beloved, named by the One*

who has traveled this path before you.

*Do not go without letting it echo in your ears,
and if you find it is hard to let it into your heart,
do not despair.*

That is what this journey is for.

*I cannot promise this blessing will free you from
danger, from fear, from hunger or thirst,
from the scorching of sun or the fall of the night.*

But I can tell you that on this path there will be help.

I can tell you that on this way there will be rest.

I can tell you that you will know the strange graces

that come to our aid only on a road such as this,

that fly to meet us bearing comfort and strength,

that come alongside us for no other cause

than to lean themselves toward our ear

and with their curious insistence

whisper our name:

Beloved . . . Beloved . . . Beloved

—Jan Richardson from *Circle of Grace*

Grace & peace,

Anita



Worshiping Together

March 10, 2019

11:00 am

The 1st Sunday in Lent

Daylight Saving Time Begins

An Object Lesson

Luke 5:1-11

Rev. Dr. Trey Gilliam

Worship Choir

The Vocal Ensemble



New Wednesday Night Schedule

Floating Meal from 5:00 to 6:30 pm

5:00—5:45 pm

Children's Music & Missions

- Ages 3-Kindergarden, Room 105
- Grades 1-5, Choir Room

Women's Young Adult Bible Study

5:45—6:15 pm

Children eat supper, Fellowship Hall

6:00—7:00 pm

Adult Bible Study, Sanctuary

6:15—7:00 pm

Christ's Kids (Grades 1-5), Room 103

7:00—8:00 pm

Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

8:00—9:00 pm

Vocal Ensemble Rehearsal



JOY Fellowship Senior Adult Lunch March 14 at 12:00 noon

Menu: Corned beef & cabbage. Fruit salad, rolls, cupcakes, tea and water.

Program: Our very own Oliver Fleming will be the speaker.

Cost: \$5 per person. Sign up is requested by 9:00 am Tuesday, March 12.



March 3, 2019

Weekly Need	\$ 8,639.45
Weekly Offering	\$ 5,209.00
Difference	\$ -3,430.45
YTD Needs	\$ 77,755.05
YTD Offerings	\$ 71,737.96
YTD Difference	\$ -6,017.09
CBF- Global Missions Total	\$ 4,215.00
Benevolence Weekly Offering	\$ 90.00

Thank you for your generous gifts!

PASSPORT

Meet the Passport Campers

My name is John Boyd, I am 14 years old. I go to Ridgcroft School, I am in 8th grade. I am excited to go to Passport this year because we get to go to Boston, Massachusetts. I really enjoyed Passport last year, working in the community. This year, we will be learning more about missions. Another fun part of Passport is the van ride there. Mainly, I look forward to expanding my knowledge of God and growing as a Christian. Any support would be greatly appreciated. - John Boyd

To donate to John's trip, send a check to the church with "John Boyd's Passport" on the memo line.

My name is Cody Peterson. I am 16 years old and attend Ridgcroft School. I enjoy playing soccer and baseball. I also like to fish. I hope to have a great experience at Passport Camp getting to know new people while learning more about Jesus. - Cody Peterson

To donate to Cody's trip, send a check to the church with "Cody Peterson's Passport" on the memo line.

Senior Fest 2019 at Chowan University (for Senior Adults)

March 26, 2019 ♦ 9:30 am—2:30 pm

The registration deadline is March 15.

Senior Fest will feature . . .
Tom Key, Faith-Based Performance Artist,
and Keeper of Faith, Gospel Ensemble
Breakout Sessions
Entertainment & Lunch

Registration Fee—\$15 per person

Registration forms are available in the church office. For additional info, contact Lou Ann Gilliam at 252-398-6317 or www.chowan.edu/seniorfest.

SERVING IN THE LOVE OF CHRIST

Week of March 10-16

Minister on Call

Rev. Dr. Trey Gilliam, 398-7321

Deacons on Call

Betty Joyner, 398-6104
Scott Outlaw, 287-6721

Extended Session - March 10

Babies: Jean Parker & Debbie Rawls
Ages 1 & 2: Justin & Sarah Freeman
Ages 3-5: Jessica Britton & Anna G. Dawson
Floater Needed

Ushers - March 10

Heath Britt, J.C. Doughtie, Chip Rose, L. Taylor
Rose, Reagan Zoch & Justice Zoch
Balcony— Larry Freeman & Walt Pierce

Sound System - March 10

Frank Britt

Floral Offering - March 10

Family of Alvin Newsome

Home Delivered Meals - March 11

Bill & Susan Earley

Food Pantry - March 15

Bonnie Revelle

Week of March 17-23

Minister on Call

Rev. Anita Thompson, 395-0061

Deacons on Call

Jim Wiggins, 287-9790
Lee Wilson, 332-4563

Sunday School at Creekside Care

Edith Freeman Class

Extended Session - March 17

Babies: Kari Pierce & Taylor F. Rose
Ages 1 & 2: Susan Earley & JoAnn Herring
Ages 3-5: Alex & Sarah G. Britton
Floater: Melanie Byrum

Ushers - March 17

Lee Byrum, Tim Frei, Dorothy Howell, Mollee
Frei Lamm, Bill Magette & Carroll Thompson
Balcony— Andy & Isabella Woodard

Sound System - March 17

James Early

Floral Offering - March 17

Ollie & Hannah Brown Family

Home Delivered Meals - March 18

Buzzy & Rosa Swain

Food Pantry - March 22

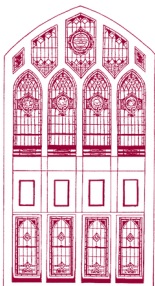
Melanie Byrum & Judy H. Pierce

The FBC Ministers

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