
Longwood Presbyterian Church

Newsletter

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Yet even now, says the LORD, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; {13} rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the LORD, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love. Joel 2:12-13

This is the month and season of Lent. This is the season that moves each year - this time the six weeks fall from the last week of February through the first week of April, Easter falling on the ninth. I could talk about Lent as the time when we journey with Jesus & the disciples toward Jerusalem, the Cross and the empty tomb - the time we examine our lives, admit our need for a Savior, and are reminded that, in spite of ourselves, God's Grace bring us forgiveness and new life.

Perhaps, just as important is our journey as the church - as our congregations. The time to re-examine who we are and what our vision and plans for our future may be. We're good at that, you know - we can appoint a committee, meet long into the night - maybe even set up a "Task Force" to write a report [after all, we are Presbyterian!]. It seems as if we're in a perpetual limbo, with no end in sight. And then, when all is said and done - we can admit our need for a Savior, and turn it over to God!

It was Mother Teresa who reportedly said: "We are not called to be successful, but to be faithful." Believing in the presence of the Holy Spirit in our midst, we know that it is God's Grace which brought us here - and God's Grace which will lead us home!

Pastor Phil

Pastor Search Committee

Longwood and Covenant Marshall PNC members continue to search for the person whom God has



planned for us. We met on March 1 and examined Personal Information Forms (PIF) of six candidates. However, a couple of them are not compatible with our congregations, and another withdrew early. We continue to appreciate our interim pastor, Rev. Phil Olson, during this time of search.

PRAYER CONCERNS

We continue to pray for our friends and family members, and others who are not able to worship with us for whatever reason. We especially pray for:

- Charles Lawrence (respiratory problems)
- Sam Barnes
- Jan Pummill

BIRTHDAYS & OTHER EVENTS

Mar. 4	Amanda Kenyon's Birthday
Mar. 7	Barb Lawrence's Birthday
Mar. 10	Tim & Lindsay Barnes' Anniversary
Mar. 12	Daylight Savings Time begins
Mar. 14	Caleb Reno's Birthday
Mar. 14	Session meeting
Apr. 3	Jackson Barnes' Birthday
Apr. 7	Good Friday Service – 7:00 p.m.
Apr. 7	Drake Romig's Birthday
Apr. 9	Easter Sunday—breakfast at 8:00 followed by worship at 9:00
Apr. 19	Sam Barnes' Birthday
Apr. 23	Jeff Barnes' Birthday
Apr. 25	Patti Shull's Birthday
Apr. 26	Mindy Reno's Birthday
Apr. 29	Betty Romig's Birthday

PRESBYTERY WOMEN

PW didn't meet in February, and our next meeting will be determined later. Hope to see everyone soon.

Sharon

PAST EVENTS:

- Chili and Soup Supper was so much fun and refreshing to once again offer an evening with our community. Income was a little less than \$1000.00, which went into our general fund.
- Soup-er Bowl Sunday—we haven't taken the goods to the Open Door yet, so we don't know how much we have, but certainly appreciate everyone who donated to this cause.
- Next session meeting is March 14.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Good Friday service at 7:00 p.m.
- Easter Service, regular time, 9:00 a.m. breakfast served at 8:00. Egg hunt for the kids will follow worship (probably plastic rather than real egg\$).
- April 4 County Elections at our fellowship hall. Be sure to Vote!

Projects at Longwood PC

- New playground shelter—grounds have been marked and drawings submitted to suppliers & contractors. We will plan a special day to dedicate the shelter and honor those whose memorial funds were used to complete this project. We will keep you posted with details.
- New utility room doors have been installed in the Fellowship Hall.

One Great Hour of Sharing will be collected at Easter Celebration time.

Sunday school has a couple more weeks learning details on how the Old and New Testaments both speak about the birth of Jesus. Next, we will dive into each book of the New Testament and learn important facts about them.

Repeat--Email address?

If you have an email address please let us know so we might send your newsletter via email rather than snail mail. This gets it to you faster and saves us on printing and mailing. Also, if you are on our list and would prefer to not receive please let us know and we will drop you from our mailing list.

You may send correspondence pertaining to newsletters, or inquiries about the church, to:

jrgreer@iland.net

Thank you for your support of our church.
(Newsletter editors)

A QUARTER FOR JESUS

You may have seen this before, but it's a great story and offers words to live by:

Several years ago, a preacher from out-of-state accepted a call to a church in Houston, Texas. Some weeks after he arrived, he had an occasion to ride the bus from his home to the downtown area. When he sat down, he discovered that the driver had accidentally given him a quarter too much change. As he considered what to do, then he thought to himself, "you'd better give the quarter back. It would be wrong to keep it." Then he thought, "Oh, forget it, it's only a quarter. Who would worry about this little amount? Anyway, the bus company gets too much fare and they'll never miss it. Accept it as a 'gift from God' and keep quiet."

When his stop came, he paused momentarily at the door and then he handed the quarter to the driver and said, "Here. You gave me too much change."

The driver replied, with a smile, "Aren't you the new preacher in town?" "Yes," he replied.

"Well, I've been thinking a lot lately about going somewhere to worship. I just wanted to see what you would do if I gave you too much change. I'll see you at church on Sunday."

When the preacher stepped off of the bus, he literally grabbed the nearest light pole, held on, and said, "Oh God! I almost sold your Son for a quarter!"

Our lives are the only Bible some people will ever read. This is a really scary example of how much people watch us as Christians, and will put us to the test! Always be on guard—and remember—you carry the name of Christ on your shoulders when you call yourself "Christian."

Watch your thoughts; they become words.

Watch your words; they become actions

Watch your actions; they become habits.

Watch your habits; they become character.

Watch your character; it becomes your destiny.

(Story was found on Facebook. Thanks to whomever submitted it!)

(For those who are wondering, time got away from us in February, and we were unable to publish that month's Newsletter. Thank you for your patience!)