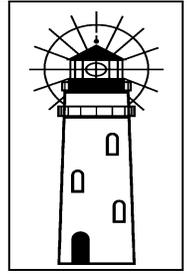


FRANKLIN BEACON

Franklin Presbyterian Church

March 2019



Pastor's Corner: Lent 2019

We begin the season of Lent with Ash Wednesday on March 6th. It is a time for us to come together as a church family and begin a season of self-denial and reflection.

This year, our Ash Wednesday service will include several Bible Readings, group praying, hymns confession, a Litany of Penitence and imposition of the ashes. I hope all will come with hearts open to Christ as we begin our season of Lent together as one Christian family here at Franklin Presbyterian Church.

Many churchgoers do not recognize the Lenten season. They see no need to reflect on who we are as mere human beings in need of deliverance by the God of all. To most of them, the ash cross on the forehead is just a sign that someone is saying, "Look at me. I am a righteous Christian."

Nothing could be further from the truth. The ashes are no different than the stitched-up scars on the weathered face of an experienced senior. Both reflect the imperfect and mortal nature of mankind. Far from a sign of perfect righteousness, the ashes are a sign of fallen and mortal humankind.

Ash Wednesday, however, is not a sledgehammer service, designed to beat us down and make us feel guilty. It is not

designed to accuse us falsely of constant and gleeful wrongdoing.

Ash Wednesday is an opportunity to start at the very beginning, once again. To strip ourselves of this earthly pride that is so readily available to us in the self-absorbed, me-first culture.

Ash Wednesday is the liturgical way for us to open our eyes anew, and reflect on the fact that all we are is from God; that without His miraculous love we would not even have been created.

And the only way to approach this with honesty, is to humble ourselves and recognize that without God, we are nothing; literally, for without Him we would not even be here in the first place. So, with Ash Wednesday, our Lenten journey begins with our family coming before God and saying, "We came from ashes... and that's where we're headed. Now look into our hearts, God, as we turn from sin to You, in renewed repentance, and seek Your grace; a grace that changes everything."

And that is of the highest import, because without God... returning to ashes is all that is left. God hates that thought:

"Yet even now, He says, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping and with mourning; 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, and relents from punishing.” (Joel 2:12-14)
“Rend your hearts and not your clothing.”
This is our quest, starting on Ash Wednesday and continuing for the Lenten season. Do it honestly, not for show. This is not about trying to appear righteous in front of others. Jesus decried that in Matthew 6.

It is about our church family joining hands and burying our pride to renew our journey with Christ.

It is a time to shut out all that is extraneous, all the outside noise, and reflect on God: what He has done for us, what He is doing for us, and our call to work hand in hand for His truth on earth. And one would have to be blind not to see that the Holy Spirit is doing many good things at our church.

For openers, take a look inside this newsletter. Your session is publishing more deep and thoughtful messages to you, than ever before. They are reflecting on Scripture, liturgy and devotions... in addition to bringing you the monthly committee news.

Consider other new and meaningful things happening at the church. We have heeded the call to assist our sister church, Lloyd Presbyterian, in financing much needed repairs on their historic church building.

Our Bible Study is in full swing once again. Moreover, instead of one study per year, we have moved to two studies, one in spring and one in fall. These studies very, very inspirational for all who participate; not to mention the fact that we learn more and more about God when we attend.

We are on the cusp of the “front porch” gatherings, wherein we will offer the community words of Biblical and Christian encouragement as they make their drive home from work.

We are working on a glorious Easter celebration, complete with a sunrise service, Sunday school, regular worship AND the greatest, tastiest, most satisfying breakfast in the history of church breakfasts!

And Reggie is coming back in August with his family. They will perform on August 18th and, already, we are working to gather multiple churches to participate in that evening of praise and fellowship. Good things continue to blossom at our church. In this season of Lent, let’s listen for God to lead us together, and to continue to inspire us to put our hearts and minds together in doing His work in meaningful and creative ways.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor John

~March 2019~

Elder ~ James Bost

Greeter ~ Ivan Jarvis

Announcers ...

3rd – Frank Thomason, 10th – Doug Foxworth,
17th – Tom Pickett, 24th – Doug Foxworth,
31st – Toby Morgan

Psalm Readers ~

3rd – Cindy Grant, 10th – Lisa Kluttz,
17th – Eden Hager, 24th – John Lowe,
31st – John Singleton

Lay Readers ...

Alternate:

3 rd – Bonnie Williams	Grace Lowe
10 th – Eden Hager	Lisa Kluttz
17 th – Rick Leonard	Andy Gardner
24 th – John Singleton	John Jarvis
31 st – Frank Thomason	Lisa Kluttz

Money Counter – Heath Hager

Greeters for 2019:

March – Ivan Jarvis

April – Nyoka Freeze

May – Naomi Rice

June – Eden Hager

July – Jan Hollis

August – Doris Mowery

September – Kaye Morgan

October – Julie Hager

November – John Jarvis

December – Our Youth

Thank you for sharing your time with us, a reminder will be mailed to you about a week before it is your turn to be the Greeter...you can do the greeting yourself or you can delegate out a Sunday or two...thanks again!

Christian Nurture

Our first event of the year was the youth chili cook-off fundraiser, this was a big success, even with illness keeping many home.

We would like to give a big "thank you" to all who helped to set up, cleaned up, and attended.

We have a lot of great events still to come and help will be greatly appreciated.

Why not join Christian Nurture today?

God Bless, Sue Wilkey

Hello from **Building and Grounds**:

Hope all is going well with all in our church family and no one has floated away from all the rain that we have been having lately. Spring is on the way, flowers are blooming the temperature is warming up so don't miss out on your chance to sign up for the mowing list. There is no better way to experience the beauty of spring than from atop a riding mower. Last year, we filled all but 3 slots. Let's set a record this year by filling all slots before the mowing begins!

Here are a few things we are working on:

- We continue to clean up the trail where the tree across it.
- We are working on painting in the hallway and doors. If you would like to help, let me know and we'll find a place on the team for you!

If there is anything that needs to be brought to my attention concerning building and grounds please let me know. Thanks for your help and support.

Heath Hager

Personnel Committee March 2019

The Personnel Committee is on track with all our initiatives and want to provide a thought provoking comment to consider.

Here is a John C. Maxwell Quote that really speaks volumes when we consider the opportunities to serve God and worship at Franklin Presbyterian Church.

“Time management is an oxymoron. Time is beyond our control, and the clock keeps on ticking regardless of how we lead our lives. Priority management is the answer to maximizing the time we have.”

If anyone has any comments or questions concerning the staff, Please feel free to contact me directly. If you happen to miss me at church, Please share any positive comments or learning opportunities for our group at jlo582@aol.com or leave me a message in the personnel box in the church office.

Thank you all,
John Lowe

Franklin Presbyterian Church Youth Class Volunteer Guidance Document

This guidance document provides direction for Youth Class Volunteers in understanding opportunities to assist the Youth Director during Sunday School and Children's Church each Sunday.

Some volunteers wish to assist in teaching the youth. Others want to assist in non-teaching roles. Opportunities are open for all who wish to assist with youth, and help them in their walk with God, through learning, Bible Study and related activities. In addition, all volunteers help Franklin Presbyterian Church meet the Safe Sanctuary requirements of having two adults with the children.

Volunteers are scheduled each week on a rotating basis, depending on the number of volunteers. Some volunteers seek certain dates; others have no preference. All are asked to work with the Youth Director to find the most convenient date/s for everyone's schedules.

Once the schedule is made, the volunteer's name

appropriate levels of volunteer help, be it teaching or otherwise.

Here are a few specifics regarding our process:

- Volunteers will be scheduled based on their interest to assist on specific dates or on random dates (should their schedule allow).
- Lesson plans will be placed in the Church Office mail box by the Sunday preceding the Sunday you are scheduled to volunteer.
 - Visit the church office and take your lesson plan copy home. Study the your designated. While you may not be teaching, you will find the lesson plan useful in understanding the information shared with the children
- The photo (left) is where you'll find your class specific information (directly above the copier in the church office).
- Lesson plan will have a specific area that identified for those desiring a teaching role. ***IF you ask to teach, study the material and be prepared.***
- The teacher will be responsible for teaching the lesson and the "Helper" will keep an eye on the children, helping keep order, if necessary.

It's that easy: We need willing volunteers who enjoy working with the youth to teach or just Help!

The youth director will be flexible in scheduling to make sure the youth and you get the most out of this experience!

will be posted in the Beacon and in the weekly bulletin. ***It will be the responsibility of the volunteer remain aware of the schedule and to arrive on time prepared to spend time with these wonderful children.***



Volunteers should arrive by 8:45 a.m. to assist with Sunday School and remain during the Church service. Volunteers and the Youth Director will work together to determine the

- Either the Youth Director or the Volunteer will remain down stairs during the beginning of the church service and prepare drinks and snacks for the children. The children will come down stairs after the children's time with the Pastor.

NOTE – If no one shows up to assist the Youth Director, and we do not have two adults

To assist with the youth, we will have to keep the children upstairs to maintain compliance with the requirements of the Safe Sanctuary Policy.

Stewardship Committee

It has been a while since I have had the honor of serving on Session. I was pleased to have been assigned to the Stewardship responsibility. During the year, I will try to keep our membership informed about our financial condition and about any special fund raising events that our Session deems worthy of our support.

At present, Tom Pickett and I are conducting the annual audit of 2018 financial activity. This is a normal and responsible process and is required by PCUSA. This audit should be complete soon and a report of our review will be given to Session.

Our first Sunday of donations for our sister church, Lloyd Presbyterian, located in Winston Salem was amazing... over \$600 !! We have one more Sunday (May 3) to participate in helping with this worthy cause. You may donate with a check payable to Franklin Presbyterian with a notation that it is for Lloyd Presbyterian or you may donate cash in the small manila envelopes provided and notate that it is for Lloyd Presbyterian. I look forward to serving with our wonderful Session and hopefully doing my part. Anytime you have a question or comment about Stewardship matters please contact me.

Toby Morgan

Mission Committee

As of December 2, 2018, the church has initiated the church wide Prayer Warriors for praying to God daily in order to build a strong relationship with God, individually and as a church. The Bible tells us

to pray without ceasing. Franklin has commitments from 45 members to pray daily using the yellow sheet as a guide each day. Please continue to talk with God each night, praying without ceasing for our church.

Don't forget the Porch is coming March 2019, giving us all a chance to witness about our church and Jesus Christ. We are commissioned to reach outside the church's four walls and this will give us a chance to do just that. We will pick a Friday late afternoon say late March so we have more sun and position ourselves either on Hwy 601 and/or West Ridge Road with chairs and each can have a sign which advertises our church's name and promotes the Savior we serve. Signs will be made so they can also push down into ground in front of our chairs. Also give us a chance to fellowship, witness and advertise our church. I am really believing that we need to expose to as many people as possible and rush hour on Friday between 4:30 pm and 5:30 pm should do nicely. The exact spot has not yet been determined but working on it now. Whether end of our church drive, corner of 601 and west ridge or at a member's yard. Shuttle would be available if on the corner of West Ridge and 601. We could park in church lot and shuttle down to the 601. The signs and the chairs will be furnished so just need a witness for Christ.

Isaiah 6

8 Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? Who will go for Us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!"

Remember, Christ has no hands but ours.



Stay tuned for more from the mission committee. Neighborhood Outreach coming this summer. What a blessing to see the choir room totally full at the first practice on Sunday afternoon after church. We have some new members who blessed our hearts. Until further notice choir practice will be right after church on 3rd and 4th Sunday and 5th Sunday if applicable. So, for month of March we will practice the 17th, 24th and the 31st. Leaving the possibility of us needing jubilee Sunday the 7th of April and the 14th as the last practice date before Easter on the 21st.

Doug Foxworth

Worship Committee

Ash Wednesday service this year will be on March 6th.

Some facts about Ash Wednesday and Lent:

Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent and occurs 46 days before Easter. The Lenten season is a moveable period of time falling on different dates each year because it is dependent on the date of Easter. Ash Wednesday can occur as early as February 4 or as late as March 10.

Ash Wednesday derives its name from the practice of placing ashes on the foreheads of adherents as a sign of mourning and repentance to God. The ashes remind us there is a price for sin – Death. You know that “ashes to ashes, dust to dust” thing.

The ashes used are typically from the burning of the palms from the previous year's Palm Sunday.

Lent is a season of **reflection** and **preparation** before the celebrations of Easter. By observing the 40 days of Lent, Christians replicate Jesus Christ's sacrifice and withdrawal into the desert for 40 days.

Let me note, at this point, that if you think of Lent as a season to earn God's favor by your good intentions or good works, then you've got a theological problem. God's grace has been fully given to us in Christ. We can't earn it by doing extra things or by giving up certain other things in fasting. If you see Lent as a time to make yourself more worthy for celebrating Good Friday and Easter, then perhaps you shouldn't keep the season until you've grown in your understanding of **grace**. If, on the other hand, you see Lent as a time

to grow more deeply in God's grace, then you're approaching Lent from a proper perspective.

While I intend to “give something up” for Lent, I can understand another's emphasis being not so much on fasting as on intentional devotion to God.

Sometimes added special Lenten Bible studies or prayer can lead one to a deeper experience of Good Friday and Easter. After ignoring Lent for the majority of my life, I've paid more attention to it during the last two decades. Sometimes I've given up something, like watching television or eating sweets, in order to devote more time to Bible study and prayer. (The television fast was especially tough because I love watching March Madness, the NCAA basketball tournament, on TV.) Sometimes I've added extra devotional reading to my regular spiritual disciplines. I can't claim to have had any mystical experiences during Lent, but I have found that fasting from something has helped me focus on God. It has also helped me to look ahead to Good Friday and Easter, thus appreciating more deeply the meaning of the cross and the victory of the resurrection. Before I began honoring Lent, Good Friday and Easter always seemed to rush by before I could give them the attention they deserved. Now I find myself much more ready to meditate upon the depth of Christ's sacrifice and to celebrate his victory over sin and death on Easter. Let me be very clear: *Lent is not a requirement for Christians*. Dallas Willard has said that if “a certain spiritual discipline helps you grow in God's grace, then by all means do it”. But if it doesn't, don't feel like you must do it. I'd say the same about Lent. If it helps you prepare for a deeper

celebration of Good Friday and Easter, if it allows you to grow in God's grace, then by all means keep it. If Lent isn't your cup of tea, then don't feel obligated to keep it. You should realize, however, that millions of Christians – Catholic, Orthodox, Protestant, and Independent – have found that recognizing the season of Lent enriches our worship and deepens our faith in God.

I am a sinner. I do not always reflect God's love as I should. Ash Wednesday reminds me that it is only by God's grace that I have life. He gave it to me and I have no chance of eternal life without Jesus. Ash Wednesday will begin my preparation for Holy Week and the Passion and Resurrection of my Lord.

My thoughts as I enter this years' Lenten season will be simple:

God forgives. God loves. God gives sinners a second chance.

Hope to see you March 6th,

James