



PASTOR'S CORNER...Rev. John Bright

Last week we gathered for Ash Wednesday. There were many folks here to receive the ashes on their foreheads. As part of that service, I shared this "Invitation to the Observance of Lenten Discipline":

"Dear brothers and sisters in Christ:

the early Christians observed with great devotion
the days of our Lord's passion and resurrection,
and it became the custom of the Church that before the Easter celebration
there should be a forty-day season of spiritual preparation.

During this season converts to the faith were prepared for Holy Baptism.
It was also a time when persons who had committed serious sins
and had separated themselves from the community of faith
were reconciled by penitence and forgiveness,
and restored to participation in the life of the Church.

In this way the whole congregation was reminded
of the mercy and forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel of Jesus Christ
and the need we all have to renew our faith.

I invite you, therefore, in the name of Jesus,
to observe a holy Lent:
by self-examination and repentance;
by prayer, fasting, and self-denial;
and by reading and meditating on God's Holy Word.

To make a right beginning of repentance,
and as a mark of our mortal nature,
let us bow our hearts before our Creator and Redeemer." (Time for silent prayer)

Lent is our invitation from God to lay aside "the sin that so easily entangles." (Heb. 12:1)
It is that season to recommit to the spiritual disciplines that have helped Believers for
centuries. That's why I am focusing on prayer in my preaching/teaching all the way up
to Palm Sunday (3/24). I am also starting a class on fasting from solid food that will
begin on March 6th at 6:00pm. My plan is to teach for about 30 minutes and then folks
who are going to bells rehearsal can leave. Others can hang out and chat for a while.

We will meet in the Genesis classroom and make it available on Zoom just like we do on Monday night Bible Study.

You may also want to consider attending a House Church that fits your schedule and/or join us on Wednesday morning at 9am for prayer and communion followed by Bible Study at 10:30am until noon. There are many open doors at Laurel Hill for you to engage in these spiritual disciplines that, as Methodists, we call "means of grace." That's a topic for another month!

My prayer – "Abba Daddy, thank you for being with the folks at Laurel Hill in this season of Lent. As we draw closer to you through the spiritual disciplines of being in your Word, prayer, and even fasting, give us the eyes to see you drawing closer to us. Let us know the intimacy with you that will move us into the path of discipleship. In Jesus' name, AMEN."

Serving the Great Shepherd –

Pastor John

SERMON TITLE AND SCRIPTURE FOR MARCH

<u>March Series</u>	<u>Scripture</u>	<u>Sermon</u>
3rd Lent 3	W.H.Y. of Prayer (Who Helps You?)	1 John 4:1-6 Week Five "Doing Discernment"
10th Lent 4	W.H.Y. of Prayer (Who Helps You?)	Colossians 1:9-14 Week Six "Prayer Changes Your Outside"
17th Lent 5	W.H.Y. of Prayer (Who Helps You?)	Ezekiel 36:25-27 Week Seven "Prayer Changes Your Inside"
24th	Palm Sunday- Regular 11:00 A.M. Worship	
28th	Maundy Thursday Service at 7:00 P.M.	
29th	Good Friday- No Special Service Today	
31st	Easter Sunday – 6:30 A.M. Sunrise Service followed by a breakfast in the Fellowship Hall; 10:00 A.M. Sunday School and 11:00 A.M. Easter Sunday Worship	

We hope you will all join us for these special Holy Week Events and that you will have breakfast on Easter morning following Sunrise Service.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY-March, 2024



Billy Wendel – March 2nd

Mark Hall – March 12th

Thomas Gardner – March 12th

Ann Ragland – March 15th

Rebecca Brockenbrough – March 17th

Kirby Miller – March 20th

Patti Kaloski – March 22nd

Kim Davis – March 26th

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY-MARCH, 2024

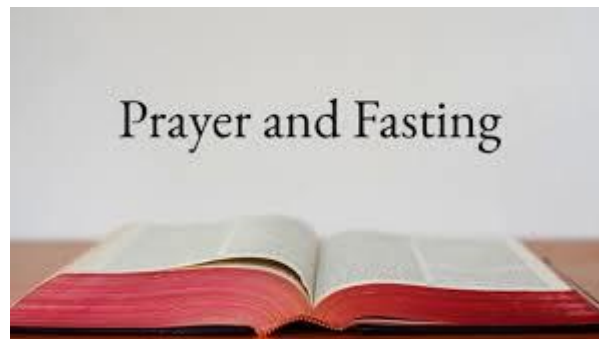
Ray and Sandy Alexander – March 17th

Ron and Dale Dixon – March 26th

Kirby and Lois Miller – March 27th

FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

PRAYER AND FASTING –We will have a study on Prayer and Fasting beginning on Wednesday, March 6th at 6:00 P.M. It will be last for 30 minutes and be in person and on zoom. This will last for several weeks. Let our pastor know if you would like to learn more and/or join in a combined effort during Lent to lift up LHGMC.



THE LADIES OF LAUREL HILL will meet on Tuesday, March 12th and we are making a plan to go eat at O'Tooles in Midlothian. Watch for more details in the bulletin as we have more information. Thank you.

WEEKDAY SCHOOL NEWS:

First, giving all honor and praise to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, we are thankful to be in good operational status and increasing in number.

I'd like to take a moment to give some overdue kudos to our Weekday School staff. This group of ladies is hard-working, dedicated and loving. Although challenges come by the truck load sometimes, they work together to get the job done. The support they show to the children, each other and to me is very special. So, THANK YOU STAFF for all you do for our Weekday School program. May God's blessings be upon you always.

Upcoming Registrations: We will begin registration for our 2024 Summer and Fall programs this month.

- March 1st: Existing students and families of this church
- March 19th: General Public

Registration will continue until we are filled in each program.

Last, but not least, VOLUNTEERS are always needed. You can call me or stop by my office when you are at the church and let me know what you can do. There is always something to do and I (we) would love your help.

Fondly,
Margo Keeles, Director



FISH NEWS...

To raise funds FISH is having a spaghetti luncheon at Ft. Lee Baptist church on Sunday, March 10 from 11:30 to 1:30. Tickets must be purchased in advance. The cost is \$10 and includes spaghetti, salad, bread, beverage, and homemade desserts. We will have both regular and gluten free spaghetti and the option of meat or meatless sauces. See Pam Wilson or Rachel Hawk for tickets.

FISH is in need of plastic tubs with lids (size 15-18 gallon). If you have any tubs that you are not using we would love to have them.

The St. Peter's Outreach Program is a charity that helps the homeless in Richmond. These people literally live on the street. This organization provides meals, clothing, and showers for the homeless. Some of the FISH board members are helping this charity and they have asked for help. If you have any old coats, sleeping bags, backpacks that you no longer use, this charity could really use them.

We will collect the following items for FISH for the next 2 months.

March = juice

April = hamburger helper

Thank you for continuing to support FISH by providing the basic items to help get some people who are having a hard time back on their feet.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR... June 1, 2024, Convening Conference for the Virginia District of the GMC to be held at Beulah GMC in Chesterfield. Mark your calendar and watch for more details as the time is closer.

Children's Ministries: VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

We are planning for our Children's Easter Celebration to be held on Saturday, 3/23/24 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. We are asking for volunteers to help us make this a successful event for the children.

Help Needed: Children's Ministries is still looking for volunteers (men, women, and youth) to help with our Easter Event on March 23 from 10 to 12:30 pm. You may volunteer to help at the craft table, with games and the jump house. We would also like help with set-up and hiding eggs that morning, as well as, clean-up after the event. You may also start bringing candy and/or monetary donations next week. There will be a basket in the narthex for the candy, while monetary donations should be given to Dale Dixon. Please call or text Dale at 804-8374562 if can help. There will be a volunteer meeting in early March (TBA).

Thank you in advance for your service to our children!
Dale Dixon, Children's Coordinator, LHGMC

