

THE LINK ~ February, 2018

From the Pastor:

Matthew, Mark and Luke all tell the story of how Jesus called fishermen to become disciples (Matthew 4:18-22; Mark 1:16-20; and Luke 5:1-11). I like the different twists Luke brings to the story. First, Luke reveals to us something of Peter's humanity -- his weariness from ordinary work and his doubt that what Jesus tells him to do is going to make any difference. Second, Luke reminds us that the instruction from Jesus to go into the deep water is as fresh today as it was those many centuries ago.

Peter and the others had fished all night. They were exhausted. They were disappointed because their nets were empty. "Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch," Jesus tells the fishermen. We can imagine Peter thinking, "My back hurts! This is a waste of time! But this teacher has a growing reputation. I respect him. I'll do as he says." Of course, Luke tells that the fishermen did as Jesus said -- let their nets down into the deep waters and brought up so many fish that the weight nearly toppled the boat.

Peter's call to discipleship is a lesson for the church today. Peter is unsure. He hesitates. But he responds in a faith that surprises him. And the surprise of the full nets is one that changes his life forever. Peter senses God's presence in his life in the miraculous catch of fish. This ordinary fisherman, no superstar, hears and obeys and follows.

Jesus, by his own example, prepared these disciples not to hesitate to go into the deep waters, to expect big catches in the deep water, where people dwelled who needed to hear the good news. Today, we people of the church are called to live the gospel so that others can see it and hear it.

The Word of God *inspires* the church to rise up and go. The Spirit of God *leads* the church. The fishermen followed Jesus. And, with God's blessing, all of us in this church will strive with grateful hearts to do the same. There is an old saying: "God does not call the equipped; he equips the called."

Praying for you as we go forth together,

Joan

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Sunday, February 4

11:30 a.m. Coordinating Council meeting

Monday, February 5

Noon Worship Unit meeting

Monday, February 12

5:30 p.m. Session meeting

Monday, February 19

5:30 p.m. Deacons meeting

GENERAL INFORMATION

Friday, February 2-February 3

Presbytery meeting at First Trinity-Laurel, MS

Saturday, February 24

8:00 a.m.-Noon Pinewood Derby, Cub Scout Pack #158

LENTEN SOUL TENDING

The season of Lent leads up to the most holy of Christian days, Easter Sunday. The forty days of Lent begin Ash Wednesday and end at dusk the Saturday before Easter, not counting the Sundays in between. Many denominations encourage disciples to renew and strengthen their faith during Lent. Plans are made for community-wide Lenten preparation through the spiritual disciplines of prayer, Bible study, fasting, special activities and service.

This preparation is a historical model from the early church. New believers were mentored in the Christian faith weeks before Easter, preparing for their baptisms at the Great Easter Vigil. The idea of giving something up for Lent came out of this tradition, when fasting was used to raise one's spiritual consciousness and empty oneself before God.

Some disciples, however, may find a more valuable spiritual exercise in taking something on during Lent—a more Christ-like attitude toward others, a humble spirit at work, or a feeling of gratitude in the midst of scarcity. Whatever spiritual disciplines and preparations are embraced during Lent, they can help us prepare for or renew our baptisms as part of the resurrection celebration at Easter.

This year, the Presbyterian Women have organized "Lenten Soul-Tending". Beginning on February 22, there will be an activity either in Fellowship Hall or Stratton Chapel each

Thursday at noon. A light lunch will follow. Donations to off-set the cost of the lunches will be accepted.

From Meditative Walks and Yoga to Art or Music and scripture or prayer, you are invited to join with us as we prepare for Easter Sunday and our Lord's resurrection. We plan to invite everyone in our community!

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Thursday, February 22 Meditative Yoga & Meditation

Thursday, March 1 Meditative Walk & Labyrinth

Thursday, March 8 Meditative Art & Prayer

Thursday, March 15 Meditative Music & Scripture

Thursday, March 22 Prayer Shawl ministry & Prayers

WORSHIP UNIT

Ash Wednesday, February 14

5:30 p.m. Worship Service

SPIRITUAL LIFE UNIT

February 7, 21, 28 Wonderful Wednesday

(Wonderful Wed. will not meet the 14th)

5:15 p.m. Supper

6:00 p.m. Immerse Bible Study

Immerse Bible Study Continues

The book club style reading of the Bible entitled *Immerse: The Bible Reading Experience* continues. Participants can attend either on Sundays or Wednesdays. Classes start at 6 p.m. There is no charge for the class. Volunteers are providing supper for \$5.00 a plate. All are welcome!

CHILDREN AND WORSHIP

A nursery is provided for infants through 4 years old from 8 a.m. until noon on Sunday mornings and at appropriate times for all other church functions. We do, however, welcome children of all ages in our services!

For older children, Children's Bulletins, along with activity bags filled with paper, puzzles, color pages, and crayons are provided. You may leave the bags in the pews at the end of the service and we'll replenish them for the next week!

Whoever welcomes a little child in my name, welcomes me.

~Matthew 18:5



Youth Sunday School meets each Sunday at 9:15 a.m.

Youth Bible Study and activities meet each Wednesday.
Teachers: Ralph Loe & Helen Smith

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE UNIT

Sunday, February 11

11:30 a.m. Covered Dish Love Luncheon



PLAYSCHOOL

“Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it.” Proverbs 22:6 (NKJV)

If you would like to volunteer to read to some of the Playschool classes, please contact Aretha Davis, Director, at 601-445-0700.



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Wednesday, February 7

9:30 a.m. PW Coordinating Team

Tuesday, February 13

10:30 a.m. Rebekah Circle

Noon Ruth Circle

Wednesday, February 14

Noon Lydia Circle

Wednesday, February 21

8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. PW Casserole & Bake Sale

Coming soon-- the Annual Gathering in March

January has been a difficult month due to the severe weather, but February promises to be much better. The Presbyterian Women Casserole and Bake Sale is scheduled for February 21, 2018. We are asking that you donate a casserole or baked goods. The proceeds go to funding our

various programs. For further information, contact Sandra Burkes or Edie Christian.

We are also looking forward to the start of Lent. This year, we are planning weekly programs throughout Lent that will help us throw off the winter doldrums and focus on our renewal through Jesus at Easter. We hope that you will all find the time to participate. All are welcome, so bring a friend. Leigh Anderson is coordinating this project.

Barbara Colwell, Moderator

“Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.” Galatians 6:9

CALLING ALL COOKS! It's BAKE SALE TIME again! The Annual Presbyterian Women Bake Sale and Take-Out Lunch is around the corner. The date: Wednesday, February 21 from 9:00 – 2:00. Baked goods, Casseroles, Soups, Desserts. Plan to bake and to buy. Items to sell can be delivered on Tuesday, February 20 from 2:00 – 5:00 in the gym. Take-out lunch—soup, cornbread, cookie—is for pick-up in the gym on Bake Sale Day from 11:30 – 1:30. Tickets can be purchased on Sunday, February 18 at church or at the door the day of the Sale for \$5:00. Mark your calendars and support your Presbyterian Women.



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- February 2 Sarah Freeman
- February 4 Jim Ball
- February 6 Summer Thompson
- February 7 Beth Troutman
- February 7 Steve McNerney
- February 14 Gary Mophett
- Weston Holyoak
- February 16 Hal Hicks
- February 17 Katie Borum
- February 18 Dr. William Godfrey
- February 19 Latta Ratcliffe
- February 20 Dr. Chuck Borum
- February 21 Barbara Colwell

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Tuesdays, February 6, 13, 20, 27

2:00 p.m. For location, contact Sue Ann Wilt (601-445-2242)

MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST

Tuesdays, February 6, 13, 20, 27

7:00 a.m.—Men's Prayer Breakfast



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FPC OFFICERS

ELDERS:

Class of 2018

Chuck Borum, Sarah Carey, Mary Jo McNerney,
Anne Vidal Willet

Class of 2019

Rosemary Hall, Bobby Meason, Danna Mooney, Helen Smith

Class of 2020

Hal Hicks, Leigh Anderson, Phyllis Mashburn, Ken Andermann

DEACONS:

Class of 2018

Jon Borum, Diane Hammers, Esther Jeffus

Class of 2019

Sandra Burkes, Denise Seale, Sarah Smith

Class of 2020

Edie Christian, Ryan Sharp, Gwen Washington