



“Throughout the season of Lent, you will be invited to pray with one passage from Scripture each day and prompted to reflect on what it discloses to you about movement toward God and movement away from God in your life. These devotions written by Roger Gench, Presbyterian pastor and author, will guide you in this daily practice of praying with Scripture.”

Devotions will be available for download on February 1 at www.pres-outlook.org.
6 weeks of Lenten devotions for \$20



Birthdays In February

Happy Birthday to you!!



- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Gloria Wells | 15. Mary Carone |
| Ann T. Johnson | 16. Jason Fussell |
| 3. Richard Hirshkind | Katie Robison McCourtie |
| 4. Cody Cavanaugh | Debbie Thomas |
| Rusty Walker | 18. Nolan Hall |
| Phil Gladden | Jean Parks |
| Pat Wilson | 21. Kyle Teachey |
| 6. Hayes Ludlum | Dona Lanier |
| 7. Shirley Carlton | 24. Chuck Farrior |
| Hope Turnbull | Courtney Moore |
| 8. Greg Maready | 25. Lee Baker |
| 10. Robert Steen | 26. Tom Whitfield |
| 12. Marissa Parks | 27. Hampton Hall |
| MacKenzie Parks | |
| 14. Lois Edgerton | |



NEWSLETTER

WALLACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Dr. Philip K. Gladden, Minister

FEBRUARY 2021

Cheryl Brinkley, Editor



The Season of Lent

Wednesday, February 17 - Saturday, April 3
(From Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Presbyterian Mission)

“The season of Lent is a time of prayer, fasting and self-examination in preparation for the celebration of the resurrection of the Lord at Easter. It is a period of 40 days — like the flood of Genesis, Moses’ sojourn at Mount Sinai, Elijah’s journey to Mount Horeb, Jonah’s call to Ninevah to repent and Jesus’ time of testing in the wilderness. (The Sundays in Lent are not counted in this reckoning of the time between Ash Wednesday and Easter, as every Lord’s Day is a celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.) In the early church, Lent was a time of preparation for the celebration of baptism at the Easter Vigil.

“The church’s peculiar Lenten claim is that in dying we live, that all who are baptized into Christ are baptized into his death. To be raised with Christ means one must also die with Christ. In order to embrace the resurrection, we must experience the passion of Jesus. The way of the cross, the way to Easter, is through death of the ‘old self.’ In dying, we live.

“It is the power of the resurrection on the horizon ahead that draws us into repentance toward the cross and tomb. Through the intervention of God’s gracious resurrection, lifelong changes in our values and behavior become possible. By turning from the end of the ‘old self’ in us, Lenten repentance makes it possible for us to affirm joyfully, ‘Death is no more!’ and to aim toward the landscape of the new age.”



Dear Friends,

As some of you know, I have had the privilege of writing the monthly “On Faith” column for The Duplin Times for four years. Thanks to Publisher Jim Sills for this opportunity to reflect on the meaning and responsibility of living together in community. As we approach the Lenten season, I want to share my January 2021 “On Faith” article with you. Following the article I will provide a Lenten reflection.

First, the article from January 21: “Freedom isn’t free. Therefore, we remember and are grateful for the men and women who currently serve and have served in our nation’s armed forces, especially those who gave their lives to defend our freedom. We also remember and are grateful for men and women, such as the Freedom Riders, Rosa Parks, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr, and the late Congressman John Lewis, who struggled for the freedoms long denied to our fellow citizens.

But there is another way to interpret those words, freedom isn’t free, that doesn’t seem to command our attention and devotion these days. True freedom means bearing responsibility for your actions. Paradoxically, true freedom involves limiting your own freedom to ensure the freedoms of all people. In his letter to the Galatian Christians, the apostle Paul wrote these welcome words, “For freedom Christ has set you free.” At first glance, that good news appears to give you a free pass to do whatever you want to do. But Paul follows up that promise with this instruction and warning: “For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another. For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ If, however, you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another.” That last sentence is a good description of anarchy or total freedom from any restraint. That might sound enticing (“No one can tell me what to do!”), but ultimately it leads to chaos and the shredding of the social fabric.

The late Rabbi Jonathan Sacks, former chief rabbi of Great Britain, said this in a November 2020 interview with the British Broadcasting Corporation, “We’ve moved, in Britain and America, from being a ‘We’ society – ‘We’re all in this together’ – to an ‘I’ society: ‘I’m free to be whatever I choose.’ The bad news is that this leaves people vulnerable and alone. The good news is that we can turn it around and become a ‘We’ society again.”

ACTIONS OF THE SESSION

At the Tuesday, January 19, 2021 session meeting via Zoom, the elders and minister:

- * conducted the meeting as a worship service;
- * were led in a devotion and prayer by Dr. Philip Gladden;
- * read God’s Word in Acts 2:1-13, 43-47 and discussed an article “The God-Powered Church”;
- * elected for 2021: Clerk of Session Hope Turnbull, Treasurer Wayne Casteen, Corporation President Curt Simpson;
- * affirmed members of an ad hoc committee to help with review of church rolls: Joe Tillman, Linda Burroughs, Ann Carter, Sharon Robison, Darleen Weller
- * approved minutes from November 17 & December 15 session meetings and November 1 and December 6 congregational meetings;
- * approved communion and special offerings schedule for 2021;
- * approved request from Devan and Bailey Riley to have their daughter, Addison, baptized;
- * approved Sue Bryan to replace Katy Parkhurst to help Cheryl clean the church;
- * heard from Treasurer Wayne Casteen that 2020 ended rather strong financially and that we are slightly ahead of budget after three Sundays in 2021;
- * received Ministry Team assignments for 2021 and talked about the importance of involving congregation members in the ministry of the church;
- * talked at length about in-person worship and decided to continue as is, with reminders to the congregation about observing all protocols; Building & Grounds will work on applying a sanitizing spray before and after worship each week;
- * prayed for members of our congregation, community, nation, and world;
- * prayed the Lord’s Prayer together.



CHURCH NEWS . . . For Your Information

- * **We will receive** our “Souper” Bowl of Caring offering on Sunday, February 7. This money will be given to our Helping Hands Food Pantry. You may put your offering in the soup pots in the sanctuary, contribute online (www.wallacepresbyterian.com), mail to the church (P.O. Box 717, Wallace, NC 28466), or put your contribution in the mail slot in the front door of the church office building.
- * **Zoom Bible studies** continue on Monday nights (7:00 - 8:00 p.m.) and Wednesday mornings (10:00 - 11:00 a.m.) Each week we read and discuss the sermon text for the following Sunday. Check your email on Monday for the Zoom invitations/links.
- * **Note: There will not be a Monday evening Zoom Bible Study on February 8.**
- * **The session** will meet via Zoom on Tuesday, February 16 at 7:00 p.m. If you have any business or concerns for the session to consider, please speak to one of the elders or the minister.
- * **Wednesday, February 17, is Ash Wednesday**, the first day of Lent. Look for more information about the season of Lent elsewhere in this newsletter.
- * **We will receive** our monthly (school year) Feed Our Hungry Children/Backpack Ministry offering on Sunday, February 28.



**FEED OUR HUNGRY CHILDREN/
BACKPACK MINISTRY OFFERING
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28**



Although this year's school schedule is different right now due to the Covid-19 pandemic, this offering will help stock the shelves for backpack food to be distributed when students are able to return to their schools. Thank you for your generous support.



**SOUPER BOWL OF CARING HUNGER OFFERING
Sunday, February 7, 2021
Following Worship**

The final score of Super Bowl LV has yet to be determined, but we already know that our Helping Hands Food Pantry at the Wallace Presbyterian Church will be a big winner because of our annual Souper Bowl of Caring Offering

This offering was started by a Presbyterian Youth Fellowship Group in South Carolina and has spread to many other organizations. All money raised nationally remains local and supports many different ministries of assistance, such as our church's food pantry.

On your way into worship on February 7, drop a few dollars into the Souper Bowl of Caring soup pots. You can also donate online at www.wallacepresbyterian.com or send your contribution to P.O. Box 717, Wallace, NC 28466. Thanks!

During the COVID-19 pandemic, there has been much talk about the infringement on personal freedoms because of restrictions on public gatherings, mask mandates, and the like. Our current situation is a perfect illustration of the apostle Paul's warning against biting and devouring and consuming one another. Insistence on individual freedom at the expense of the greater community good is a high price to pay. Using your freedom, not to indulge yourself but to serve your neighbor, is a true expression of love and an act of compassion that will ultimately make our community stronger. Restricting your freedom as an expression of freedom sounds paradoxical, but it makes sense. To take the position that "No one can tell me what to do" ignores the necessity of and the benefit from living together in community and the responsibility we each bear to work for the freedom of all people."

Now, my Lenten reflection: Jesus said, "For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many." (Mark 10:45) The season of Lent gives us the opportunity to take stock of our lives in light of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Jesus' entire life and ministry, including especially his death on the cross, illustrated Paul's words to the Galatians, "do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another."

As we enter into the Lenten season and consider the meaning of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection for our lives, we would do well to keep in mind some more advice from the apostle Paul about what it means to live in community with and for one another as followers of Jesus Christ. In Philippians 2:4-11, Paul writes: "Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death — even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

In Christ,

Phil





The members of the Session depend on you to help with the different ministries of our congregation. You may hear from them as they ask folks to get involved in serving our Lord Jesus, our congregation, our community, and the world.

Listed below are the responsibilities of the Ministry Teams, and the elders serving on the teams. If you are interested in participating in any of these important areas in the life of our church, please contact the appropriate elder or the minister.

Responsibilities of Ministry Teams

Christian Education (Lindsay Skidmore): work in planning and overseeing the entire Christian Education program (e.g., Sunday School, youth groups, outdoor ministries, confirmation, etc.); recruit and train Sunday School Superintendent, Sunday School teachers and youth leaders; Vacation Bible School.

Building and Grounds (Greg Maready, Hayes Ludlum, Sam Rose): oversee the maintenance and development of the physical plant and grounds; be responsible for opening and closing the building on Sundays and at other times when needed; develop a long-range building and grounds maintenance plan; supervise and communicate with the weekly cleaning crew; cleaning supplies.

Personnel (Greg Maready, Hayes Ludlum, Darleen Weller): oversee all personnel matters; regularly review the personnel handbook and recommend policy changes as needed; conduct annual reviews of church staff; organize and compile the church Manual of Operations; oversee the church safety policies and background checks.

Worship and Music (Philip Gladden): oversee the worship life of the congregation; be responsible for ushers, greeters, and nursery workers, sanctuary guild, Kirkwood Sunday, community Advent services, communion, pulpit supply; sanctuary decorating for Advent/Christmas.



2021 CHURCH OFFICERS

Clerk of Session: Hope Turnbull
Church Treasurer: Wayne Casteen
Corporation President: Curt Simpson



2021 SESSION

Philip K. Gladden, Moderator

Hope H. Turnbull, Clerk

CLASS OF 2021
Wayne Casteen
Sam Rose
Lindsay Skidmore

CLASS OF 2022
Fred Burroughs
Patsy Ludlum
Darleen Weller

CLASS OF 2023
Hayes Ludlum
Greg Maready
Kelli Norris



Hospital & at home:
Cathy Wells (Pender Memorial Rehab)
Judy Robinson (home)
Dan & Eva McLaughlin (The Gardens)

Verlie Wells (The Gardens)
Bruce Lyon (Dayspring)

Lent



A LUKAN LENT

The first Sunday in Lent is February 21. The sermons during Lent will be based on passages from the Gospel of Luke. The passages listed below are provided so you can read and pray about them as part of your preparation for worship during the Lenten season. Please keep our congregation and minister in your prayers as we read, hear, proclaim, and live out the good news of Jesus Christ.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>GOSPEL LESSON</u>	<u>THEME</u>
February 21	Luke 9:51-62	Jesus heads to Jerusalem
February 28	Luke 11:1-13	The Lord's Prayer
March 7	Luke 15:11-32	The Parable of the Loving Father
March 14	Luke 18:31-34	Jesus foretells his death and resurrection
March 21	Luke 19:1-10	Jesus and Zacchaeus
March 28	Luke 19:28-40	Triumphal entry into Jerusalem
April 4	Luke 24:1-12	The Resurrection of Jesus



Stewardship and Finance (Wayne Casteen): oversee the financial matters of the congregation; prepare and submit the annual budget in consultation with the ministry teams; provide for the annual audit of church accounts; evaluate and propose special offerings; develop a year-round program of Stewardship education for the congregation; assist church treasurer with counting the weekly offerings.

Congregational Care (Darleen Weller): oversee the spiritual nurture and pastoral care of the congregation; work with/oversee Presbyterians Dining Together (PDT); develop and implement a new member identification, support, and assimilation program (e.g., identification, initial contacts, welcome baskets, follow-up contacts, new member classes, sponsors, etc.); work with the minister to develop and offer spiritual nurture opportunities (e.g., retreats, studies, etc.); congregational communication (e.g., website, e-mail communications, etc.).

Outreach (Patsy Ludlum, Fred Burroughs, Kelli Norris): oversee the outreach ministries of our congregation, including the Helping Hands Food Pantry, Duplin Christian Outreach Ministries (DCOM), Celebrate Recovery, St. Nicholas project, disaster responses (e.g., special offerings, work teams, shelter operation in a local emergency, etc.); Zambia mission; develop a congregational awareness of mission and outreach needs and opportunities in our community, presbytery, denomination, and worldwide.

Happy Valentine's Day

February 2021

Home
WPC Calendar
cheryl@wallacepresbyterian.com
cheryl@wallacepresbyterian.com



January 2021						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

February 2021						
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14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

March 2021						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 ■ 10:00 AM Zoom Sunday School Classes ■ 11:00 AM Worship (in-person and live-stream) 5th Sunday Building Offering	1 ■ 7:00 PM Zoom Bible Study	2	3 ■ 10:00 AM Zoom Bible Study	4	5	6
7 ■ 10:00 AM Zoom Sunday School Classes ■ 11:00 AM Worship (in-person and live-stream) ■ 11:00 AM Souper Bowl of Caring Offering	8 ■ 10:30 AM Circle #1: Fellowship Hall ■ 7:00 PM No Zoom Bible Study	9 ■ 10:30 AM Circle #2: Fellowship Hall ■ 7:00 PM Circle #4: Via Zoom	10 ■ 10:00 AM Zoom Bible Study	11	12	13
14 Happy Valentine's Day! ■ 10:00 AM Zoom Sunday School Classes ■ 11:00 AM Worship (in-person and live-stream)	15 ■ 7:00 PM Zoom Bible Study	16 ■ 6:00 PM Session Meeting, Zoom	17 Ash Wednesday ■ 10:00 AM Zoom Bible Study	18	19	20
21 1st Sunday in Lent ■ 10:00 AM Zoom Sunday School Classes ■ 11:00 AM Worship (in-person and live-stream)	22 ■ 7:00 PM Zoom Bible Study	23	24 ■ 10:00 AM Zoom Bible Study	25	26	27
28 2nd Sunday in Lent ■ 10:00 AM Zoom Sunday School Classes ■ 11:00 AM Worship (in-person and live-stream)	1 ■ 7:00 PM Zoom Bible Study	2	3 ■ 10:00 AM Zoom Bible Study	4	5	6