

MARCH 2019 NEWSLETTER

Dear Friends,

I want to take this opportunity to officially welcome Robert Reed as our new Music Director. Over the last few weeks we have been getting to know Robert and appreciate his leadership. He comes to us with a great deal of experience and with a large repertoire of music styles as you have already witnessed. The regular choir rehearsal time is at 9am on Sunday mornings. He wants to encourage you to come and participate if you are at all interested so that the joy of music will grow in our hearts. It is good to have him with us. Please extend to him the hand of peace and hospitality and make him truly one of Rockmart Presbyterian's own.

The season of Lent begins this month with Ash Wednesday on March 6. For our worship, we will focus on a series, examining some lesser known practices of our faith. Several years ago the book group read Barbara Brown Taylor's book *An Altar in the World*. In this book she outlines how to be present to God in all of our daily lives. During Lent we want to focus on how it is that we can grow our spiritual lives not just what is it that we can give up for a 6 week time. So please come and spend time practicing with us over this month as we walk the road to Jerusalem with Jesus. See the series outline below:

Sunday, March 10th – Matthew 4 – The Spiritual Discipline of Getting Lost

Sunday, March 17th – Mark 5:21-43 – The Spiritual Discipline of Being Grounded

Sunday, March 24th – Cassie Waits will be filling in

Sunday, March 30th – Rebecca Blackwell will be filling in

Sunday, April 7th – Exodus 20:8-11 and Matthew 5:33-37 – The Spiritual Discipline of saying "NO!"

Sunday, April 14th – Genesis 28:10-16 and John 12:12-36 – The Spiritual Discipline of Waking Up

Sunday, April 21st – Easter – John 20:1-29 – The Spiritual Discipline of Starting Over

May God be present with you and help you discern the movement of the Spirit. As we begin Lent let us wait patiently together, encouraging one another, bearing with one another, and witnessing to the love of God in our lives.

Love in Jesus,

Maryellen

Sunday School: Two adult classes are held Sunday mornings for Spiritual Development. One meets in the Fellowship Hall and is currently reading Max Lucado's book **Grace**. The other meets in the Library for informal conversation, video watching, and other studies of topics. Teenagers meet with the pastor on Sunday morning. If there is interest for a children's class, please let Maryellen know.

COCINA Update: It is with sadness and regret that the session reports our church is no longer connected with this ministry. The Mission Committee is reviewing new options for an international focus. If you have questions or ideas, please speak with Pinkie Owens or another elder.

Ash Wednesday: Wednesday, March 6th at 6pm.

Daylight Savings Time: Set your clock ahead Saturday March 9th for Sunday morning the 10th.

Lunch: Sunday, March 10th after worship. We will have guests joining us to tell us about the Spiritual Life Experience called Presbyterian Pilgrimage, formally titled Cursillo.

Care Givers Support Group: Monday, March 11th at 11am.

New addresses for some of our members are available. Please call the church office for them if you are unable to retrieve them using the Online Directory. If you need help using the Directory please let Susan Waits or Maryellen Hittel know.

The church's financial statement is sound and we give thanks to God for this blessing and for the abundance of generosity that abounds. Take a look at all of the ways that our church is used during the month and then stop and think about the influence of our members in the community as we walk daily together. God's love and encouragement are shared as we support one another, feed children, visit the sick, and comfort the grieving. In these acts and more our reason for being exists. Thank you for sharing your blessings!

Bible Study: This spring the Matthew study will finish up and we will be deciding about our future topics. If you are interested in *Dinner and a Movie* this summer or a topical study please speak to Maryellen so that plans can be outlined. Your input is valuable.