

CLARKTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

NEWSLETTER

Volume 20, No. 3

April 2015

From the Pastor

But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee;

there you will see him, just as he told you.

Mark 16:7

The grace and peace of our risen Lord, Jesus Christ, be with you all--

Lent and Holy Week are times when we remember that we are a people on a journey-- as individuals, as a congregation, as a denomination, and as Christians. Think of the journeys you have taken in your life. Some of them have been physical journeys, as you traveled a long distance, or a short distance; to a place well known or a place you had never seen before. Other of your journeys will have been in your mind, as a movie, a book, a well told story transported you from where and who you were, or as new ideas and perspectives stretched your understanding, and even your faith. There are the journeys of a lifetime, as you met people who would become friends, perhaps spouses, colleagues in some work, and you traveled with them; some are with you still; others you had to let go. Journeys can fill you with delight or fear, wonder or heartache, sometimes all of these at the same time. And we are to continue journeying. It is who we are; creatures intended to grow, to change, to travel roads both well-worn and unfamiliar.

We will soon end our Lenten journey. And what have you found in these 40 days? Did you enter a wilderness-- a barren, uncharted territory-- in which you examined yourself with courage and honesty? What, if anything, did you give up? What did you take on, to remind you of the journey you were on? How have you prepared for another Easter? Did you pray? Did you own up to your own brokenness, a brokenness that needs grace? Did you repent, for what you have been, for what you have not been?

This is all hard stuff. Our sojourn in the Lenten wilderness asks a lot of us. But we need to travel through that wilderness for 40 days so that we can see the cross and the empty tomb again, as if for the first

time. And now, during Holy Week, we journey to the foot of the cross.

Two thousand years ago, soldiers cast lots to see what they would take away from the cross. Now we may ask ourselves, what will we leave at the foot of the cross? What will we offer to our Lord? What of ourselves will we give this year to Jesus? What in us needs to die so that we might be raised with Christ to new life?

There was darkness at noon on that first Good Friday. But the journey didn't end there, thanks be to God. And we need to keep moving, from the darkness of death to an empty tomb when the day was dawning. From fear and doubt into the hope and promise of new life.

We are told that when the women came to anoint Jesus' body and discovered he had been raised, terror and amazement seized them. That can happen on journeys. Terror and amazement, fear and wonder, go hand in hand when we step into unfamiliar territory and begin to see things in a new way; or, as with the women at the tomb, when what we expect to see isn't there.

So many times Jesus told his disciples to follow him. And the angel told the women that Jesus had gone ahead to Galilee. Jesus still calls us to follow him, to go where he leads. He still goes ahead of us, showing the way. For you see, the journey never ends with a cross or even with an empty tomb. Jesus invites us to keep moving, past this and every Easter. Every year, when we travel the 40 days of Lent and the week we call Holy, we are to be changed, bit by bit. The day is dawning, again. We are become a new creation, for we too are raised with our Lord over and over again, year after year.

Look! He goes before us; he turns and invites us to follow. Let us have the courage and the joy to follow where the risen Christ leads.

Shalom, y'all!
Andy

pastor.clarktonpres@gmail.com

(o) 910-647-2341

(h) 910-519-9009

(c) 908-235-2619



OUR WEEKLY CALENDAR

Wednesday 6:00 pm - Children's Choir
 Wednesday 7:00 pm - Adult Choir
 Sunday 10:00 am --- Morning Assembly and Sunday School
 Sunday 11:00 am --- Service of Worship for the Lord's Day
 Sunday 5:00 pm --- Youth Choir
 5:30 pm --- Youth Groups (K-12)

From the Session

The stated meeting of the Session was held on Sunday, March 22 immediately following worship. The report of on the March 7 Presbytery Meeting was given. A letter encouragement written to all churches has been received from Bill Reinhold and is on line should anyone wish to read it themselves. A donation has been given to purchase Glory to God Hymnals for the choir. The Nominating Committee has found a candidate to stand for election as Elder to replace Juanita McGraw. The Congregational meeting to hear the report of the committee and elect one Elder will be April 12 or April 19. The Education Committee is considering scheduling vacation Bible School concurrent with the Youth Mission Project so the Youth might serve during that time. The 5th Sunday Fellowship of the Bladen Parish will be held at our church on March 29. The White Plains Lenten Study continues. Lists of Member volunteers in the areas of children's sermons, flowers, ushers and greeter and acolytes are being prepared. Please consider serving God in this way. The February 2015 financial statement was reviewed. A motion to allow keys to be given to florists with Session approval that will allow for ease of delivery of flowers for Sunday Worship was approved. If you have a florist that you wish to use, and they do not have a key, please make a request to the Session so we can be helpful to you in this way. A motion to amend the present marriage policy was approved. A Faithful Saint from our congregation was selected and the nomination process to the Presbytery is in progress. Please remember all the members of our church family that face illness, family crisis, physical challenges, and overwhelming grief and lift them in your prayers. A Blessed and Joyous Easter to you all!

.....THE SESSION

Session Members

George Barber - 645-6695 Greg Brown - 647-0367
 Johnny Cox - 647-2251 Julie Cox - 647-2751
 Chuck Heustess - 645-6631 Dan Ward - 647-7357
 Linda Clark - 645-4509 Lynn Clark - 647-3951

APRIL CALENDAR

2 - Maundy Thursday communion service at White Plains Church, 6:30 pm.
 4 - Easter Egg Hunt, time TBA
 5 - **Easter Sunday**
 7:00 am - Sunrise Service
 11:00 am - Worship, communion service, and **One Great Hour of Sharing**
 12 - Congregational Meeting
 15 - Bible Study, 6-7 pm

There will be a called Congregational Meeting on **Sunday, April 12th**, 2015, immediately following worship, for the purpose of hearing the report of the Officer Nominating Committee and electing one Ruling Elder.

Roxane is in the Office:

Monday and Thursday - 8:30 am to 2:30 pm
 Wednesday - 8:30 am to 11:30 am

April Service

Flowers: 5 - Melody Cribb
 12 - Mary Ward
 19 - Iris McEwen
 26 - Candice Ward

Nursery: 5 - Kelli and Anna Grey Heustess
 12 - Melody Cribb and Regan McAulay
 19 - Sonya and Luke Barber
 26 - Wendy, Lauren and Addie Bowen

Acolyte: Laekynn Fowler

Greeters: Iris and Terry McEwen

Ushers: Barry and Jacob Priest,
 Terry McEwen, Wilbur Ward

A very special "Thank You" to the anonymous donor who bought copies of the new Glory to God hymnal for the choir! Let us sing a new song to the Lord!

Take Note

Bladenboro Flower and Gift Shop (863-3420) has a key and will deliver flowers to the church. If you wish to use another florist, you will need to either pick up the flowers or arrange for them to be let into the building. If there is a florist that you would like to have a key, please let a Session member know. Thank you!

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Next meetings will be Monday, April 6

Circle 1 will meet 10:00 am

Circle 2 will meet 7:00 pm with Linda Clark

Presbytery's Annual PW Spring Gathering is April 18 at Carolina Beach Presbyterian Church.

In our Prayers

Kerry Priest, Emily Owen, Billy Whitehead, Jimmy Whitehead, Linda Howell, Ronald Tuton, Rebecca and Happy Lashlee, Marvin Burney, John and Mary Ward, Marion Hardee, Shirley McDonald, Eunice Singletary, Giles McAulay, Becky Singletary, Gerry Carey, Cody Clark, Bonnie Britt, Cheryl Brisson, Ken Boykin, Arsula Williamson, Brad Zimmerman, Donald Grainger, Glenda Nobles, G. C. Davis, Kelly Smith

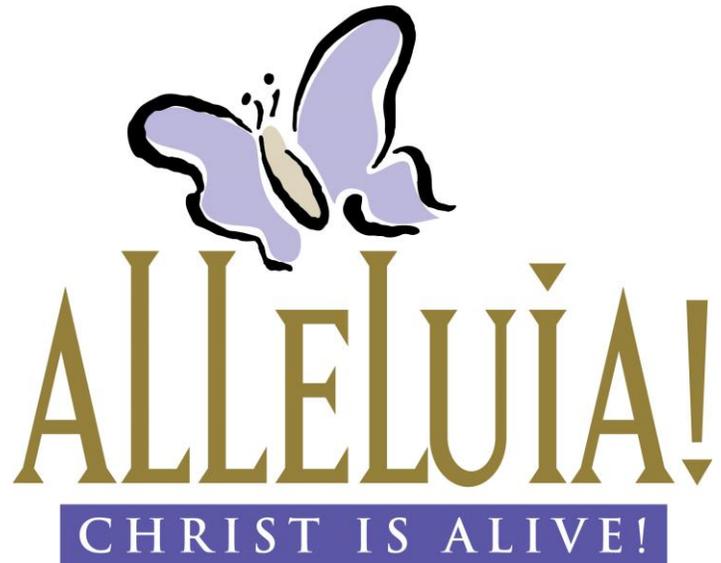
Address for Kelly Smith
3163 Morningside Dr.
Raleigh, NC 27607

* Please remember our brothers and sisters in the Presbytery of the Gulf of Mexico in your prayers as the churches of the Bladen Parish build a missional partnership with a church in the state of Tabasco, Mexico.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOU

Children and the young-at-heart of all ages are invited to an Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 4. Bring a dozen eggs to hide, and chips, a drink, or dessert to share. Hot dogs and water will be provided. We will begin hiding eggs at 11:00 AM, and the hunt will begin promptly at 11:30!

*Wednesday evening Bible study will resume on April 15th from 6-7 PM. Over six sessions, we will work through the book Forgiveness, by Marjorie Thompson, studying diverse scriptures that explore the many facets of forgiveness, repentance, and reconciliation. Let Andy know if you plan to attend so that we can make sure we have the correct number of books.



March Finances

Totals at end of March

Income	\$10,737.00	Beginning Bal.	\$27,648.00
Expense	<u>\$11,941.00</u>	Income	\$29,277.00
	(\$1,204.00)	Expenditures	<u>\$36,561.00</u>
			\$20,364.00

Clarkton Presbyterian Church
P.O. Box 663
Clarkton, North Carolina 28433