

# CLARKTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## NEWSLETTER

Volume 20, No. 2

March 2015

### From the Pastor

*Happy are those who find wisdom,  
and those who gain understanding,  
for her income is better than silver,  
and her revenue better than gold...  
She is a tree of life to those who lay hold of her;  
those who hold her fast are called happy.*  
Proverbs 3:13-14, 18

Grace to you, and peace, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ--

I don't know about you, dear friends, but I'm having a hard time believing it's already March. It feels like the year just started, but before this month is over we'll be in the midst of Holy Week, walking toward Easter. I can already feel this year getting away from me, and I'm feeling a little overwhelmed by how much I have to do and how much I have already left undone.

Lent is a season during which we're invited to slow down and take a close look at our lives. But slowing down feels impossible for many of us. There's so much to do; there are so many obligations, that setting aside time each day for reflection, prayer, or Bible study can feel almost selfish. And yet, paradoxically, these practices can help us to be more aware and more engaged with our own lives and the life of the world. When I fail to spend time in prayer, reflection, and study, it often feels like I'm just "going through the motions." These Lenten disciplines that cultivate awareness and an open heart become the root from which abundant life springs. Rather than being selfish, these practices are the best thing we can do for those we love and for this world.

Every year, I revisit what the beloved writer Frederick Buechner says about Lent. I share his reflection with you in the hopes that you may find inspiration to engage in the contemplative practices of this season:

"In many cultures there is an ancient custom of giving a tenth of each year's income to some holy use. For Christians, to observe the forty days of Lent is to do the same thing with roughly a tenth of each year's days.

After being baptized by John in the river Jordan, Jesus went off alone into the wilderness where he spent forty days asking himself the question what it meant to be Jesus. During Lent, Christians are supposed to ask, one way or another, what it means to be themselves.

If you had to bet everything you have on whether there is a God or whether there isn't, which side would get your money and why?

When you look at your face in the mirror, what do you see in it that you most like and what do you see in it that you most deplore?

If you had only one last message to leave to the handful of people who are most important to you, what would it be in twenty-five words or less?

Of all the things you have done in your life, which is the one you would most like to undo? Which is the one that makes you happiest to remember?

Is there any person in the world, or any cause, that, if circumstances called for it, you would be willing to die for? If this were the last day of your life, what would you do with it?

To hear yourself try to answer questions like these is to begin to hear something not only of who you are but of both what you are becoming and what you are failing to become. It can be a pretty depressing business all in all, but if sack-cloth and ashes are at the start of it, something like Easter may be at the end."

However you engage with these questions, I invite you to slow down and observe a holy and meaningful Lenten season. And as you journey through this wilderness time, know that you are loved as you are, where you are.

Shalom, y'all!  
Andy

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## 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 Session met for its stated meeting on Sunday, February 22, immediately following worship. Andy and Johnny shared their impressions of the "Holy Conversations" gathering that they attended in Fayetteville. The cemetery has received a gift that will enable them to repair the brick columns at the Hwy 701 entrance. The nominating committee is presently searching for someone to serve the term of Juanita McGraw as she had to retire due to health reasons. Please prayerfully consider this call if you are visited by members of the nominating committee. A motion to affirm and support a partnership between the Presbytery del Golfo and the Bladen Parish was approved. The Worship Committee is creating the 2015 lists for flowers, children's sermons, ushers and greeters, acolytes and flowers. If you are not already on the list but would like to serve in this way please let Chuck or Dan know as they are the Elder members on the committee. The January finance statement was reviewed and the 2013 audit was also reviewed. An amendment to the existing marriage policy of our church will be considered at the March meeting. Please check the bulletin and read your newsletter – there are many events and special services during this Lenten season. Easter is April 5. Our list of congregational and community concerns continues to grow. Thanks to a caring church family that continues to witness Christ's love for one another through their presence and their prayers. Blessings!

.....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

## MARCH CALENDAR



8 – Daylight Savings time begins  
 5, 12, 19, 26 – Bladen Parish Lenten study  
 (Thursday nights)  
 22 – Session Meeting  
 29 – Palm Sunday  
 29 – Bladen Parish Fifth Sunday Worship at Clarkton Presbyterian Church

### April

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

### Roxane is in the Office:

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

Roxane will be out of the office March 8-13.

### PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Next meetings will be Monday, April 6

**Circle 1** will meet 10:00 am

**Circle 2** will meet 7:00 pm

### 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, Paula Snell, Becky Singletary, Gerry Carey, Cody Clark, Bonnie Britt, Cheryl Brisson, Ken Boykin, Arsula Williamson, Brad Zimmerman, Donald Grainger, Glenda Nobles

\* 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.

### February Finances

### Totals at end of February

Income	\$11,096.00	Beginning Bal.	\$27,648.00
Expense	\$10,724	Income	\$18,540.00
	\$372.00	Expenditures	\$24,620.00
			\$21,568.00

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOU

**The Bladen Parish's Lenten Study** will be on **Thursday nights** at 6:30 pm at White Plains Presbyterian Church. A light supper will be provided. The theme of this year's study is "An Acceptable Fast." If you plan to attend and would like a copy of the participant materials, please let Andy know.

As Lent is traditionally a time of preparation for membership in the Church, the body of Christ, you are invited to prayerfully consider becoming a member of this congregation. If you are considering membership or baptism for yourself or your child, please make an appointment to meet with Pastor Andy.

**\*\*Sundays during Lent we will explore the theme of covenant through the scriptures of the Old Testament in the sermon series, "God's Promise." All are welcome to worship with us at 11:00!**

**\*\* We'll be hosting the Bladen Parish Fifth Sunday Service on Palm Sunday, March 29.** Come and worship together with our brothers and sisters in Christ in our Parish, and stay for a covered dish luncheon and time of fellowship after worship. Come and worship this Palm Sunday as we remember the "triumphal entry" of Jesus into Jerusalem and his journey to the cross and beyond, into the hope and glory of Easter.

## OGHS

The Need is **Great** and So Is Our **Calling**.

A gift to One Great Hour of Sharing enables the church to share God's love with our neighbors-in-need around the world by providing relief to those affected by natural disasters, provide food to the hungry, and helping to empower the poor and oppressed.

- [Presbyterian Disaster Assistance](#)
- [Presbyterian Hunger Program](#)
- [Self Development of People](#)

"God Lifts up the downtrodden" (psalm 147:6)  
So can you. (from the PCUSA website)  
The Offering of the One Great Hour of Sharing will be collected on Easter, April 5th.

## **Get to Know the Presbyterian Church**

Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve.

God comes to us in free and undeserved favor in the person of Jesus Christ who lived, died, and rose for us that we might belong to God and serve Christ in the world. Following Jesus, Presbyterians are engaged in the world and in seeking thoughtful solutions to the challenges of our time.

Presbyterians affirm that God comes to us with grace and love in the person of Jesus Christ, who lived, died, and rose for us so that we might have eternal and abundant life in him. As Christ's disciples, called to ministry in his name, we seek to continue his mission of teaching the truth, feeding the hungry, healing the broken, and welcoming strangers. God sends the Holy Spirit to dwell within us, giving us the energy, intelligence, imagination, and love to be Christ's faithful disciples in the world.

More than two million people call the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) their spiritual home. Worshiping in 10,000 Presbyterian congregations throughout the United States, they engage the communities in which they live and serve with God's love. ([www.pcusa.org](http://www.pcusa.org))

## Did you know.....

In 2014, you donated \$1299.64 to the Ministry of Hope Crisis Nursery.



Clarkton Presbyterian Church  
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