

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK

### SUNDAY, March 5

8:45AM Youth Bells  
 9:30AM Children's Choir  
 9:30AM Youth Choir  
 9:30AM Discover 'First' Class  
 9:45AM Sunday School  
 11:00AM Worship  
 5:00PM Youth

### MONDAY, March 6

6:15PM WMU Group 2 – Taylor House

### TUESDAY, March 7

12:00PM Joy Lunch – St. Patrick's Day Meal

### WEDNESDAY, March 8

12:00PM Community Lenten Service at Central Methodist Church  
 4:00PM Staff Meeting  
 5:15PM Fellowship Meal (Chicken Biscuits, Onion Rings, Salad Bar, Dessert)  
 6:00PM The Shack Study  
 6:00PM Youth, GA's, RA's, Mission Friends  
 6:00PM FBC Band  
 7:00PM Sanctuary Choir  
 7:00PM Operation InAsMuch Meeting

### SUNDAY, March 12 Daylight Saving Time Begins

8:00AM Deacon's Meeting

Sunday School Attendance 02/26	149
Worship Attendance 02/26	168
Weekly Budget Requirement-2017	\$11,364.00
Budget Receipts 02/19	\$8,075.00
YTD Budget Receipts 01/31	\$43,632.11
YTD Expenses thru 01/31	\$43,926.35
Capital Campaign Receipts (thru 2-19)	\$228,430.00
Capital Campaign Commitments	\$278,595.00

## MEMORIALS

### General Fund

Helen Lockamy by M/M Bob Sweet

Betty Rogers Moser by Jerry Lou Jones

SCCM need for March is macaroni & cheese, rice, stuffing, instant potatoes, tomato sauce, etc

## Signed & Numbered Prints of FBC Painting

Prints of the painting of our church are available in the church office for \$25. All proceeds will go to support the Peru Mission Trip.



Staff Anniversary: Judy Fraley, Food Service Director, celebrated her 4th anniversary with First Baptist Church on March 1. Thank you for your faithful service to our church family.

## COMMUNITY LENTEN SERVICES Wednesday's @ Noon, Starting on March 8 at Central United Methodist Church

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*Demonstrating God's Love to All*

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Judy Fraley, Food Service Director, [judy@fbc-albemarle.org](mailto:judy@fbc-albemarle.org)

Todd Kimrey, Facility Manager, (704-791-0431) [todd@fbc-albemarle.org](mailto:todd@fbc-albemarle.org)

*Deadline for submissions is Tuesday noon.*

Volume 64

Number 9

March 01, 2017



2017 Lenten Study  
 "Where is God when  
 I need Him the most?"

March 5 @ 11am March 8 @ 6pm

## From the Desk of Andy Jung...

Excerpts from “A Lent That’s Not For Your Spiritual Improvement” by Kevin Emmert, *Christianity Today*, February 2015.

Every year more and more evangelicals seem to be observing Lent. We’ve recognized it as a time of profound reorientation. We all are, as the hymn “Come, Thou Fount” aptly puts it, “prone to wander.” We are frail, sinful people who need to often reconsider our priorities, motives, and commitments. And fasting, which has both historical and biblical precedent, is a great way to foster reorientation.

In Scripture, we see that fasting is a sign of sorrow over sin (Deut. 9:9, 18; 10:10; Ezra 10:6), a sign of repentance (1 Sam. 7:6), and an aid to prayer (Ezra 8:21–23; Acts 13:2–3). This discipline of abstinence, therefore, is often described as a way to grow closer to God. It prompts us to recognize our weakness and sinfulness, and it tangibly reminds us of our constant need for God’s grace and strength.

Lent is also a time to imitate Christ and participate in his life in concrete ways. Lent, after all, commemorates Christ’s 40-day fast in the wilderness. For many, it is a spiritual journey whereby we identify with Christ, hoping to become more like him...

Lent is not just about personal holiness. Nor is it about pursuing simplicity of life for its own sake. Lent also has a remarkable social dimension. As pastor and columnist Chuck B. Colson said, “Lent gives us the opportunity to move towards our neighbor in charity” because it “emphasizes simplicity for the sake of others.” It’s fine and good to give up sweets, alcohol, TV, or whatever you might abstain from. But what if our abstinence reflected our care for others more than our care for ourselves? What if, as Colson suggests, we allocated the savings from our fasting and gave them to the poor and marginalized?

Perhaps we could adapt Jen Hatmaker’s  
(continued)

experiment. In her book *7: An Experimental Mutiny Against Excess*, Hatmaker recounts how her family decluttered in seven areas of their life, enabling them not only to focus more on God but also give more generously to those in need. If charity became an integral part of our fasting, then, we would move closer to participating in the deeper meaning of Christ’s life and his fast.

The scene of Christ in the wilderness and his incarnation help us see the Christian life as an upward, inward, and outward movement. Lent teaches us to look to Christ as our sole redeemer and source of strength. It teaches us to look within ourselves, to examine our hearts and surrender them to Christ. And it teaches us to look to others, to see how we might serve and lay down our lives for others as Christ has done for us.

May your Lenten season be filled with “strange” encounters with Christ as we look to lay down our own lives for the sake of others. This Sunday, we begin our journey to the cross of Jesus and our series “The Shack.” We will consider the question, “Where is God when I need him the most?” as we seek to **Trust in God’s Goodness**. See you on Sunday!

**Deacon of the Week**  
**Ritchie Hearne                      March 5 – March 11**

## Our Church Family

Continual Care: Mildred Archer, Mildred Cooper, Joan English, Mary Furr, Ann Gaskin, Frances Newton, Helen Mauldin, Jack Bane, Max Clayton, Aileen Taylor, Herman Faulkner, Barbara Hicks, Mary Sullivan, Carl Bowen, David & Sandy Young, David Sanges, Lu Phelps, Bear Knotts, Pete Johnson, Peggy Hill, Frank Crisco, Don Bennett, Carol Brummitt, Rachel Chandler

### PRAYER LIST

Steve Sasser, Sue Hunsucker, Linda Hall, Jim Mauney, Bonnie Herring, Jack Neel, AnDe Dick, Kurt Kitchener, Gay Hayer, Adam, Beth & Grayson Boysworth,  
(continued)

Jane Pendergraft, Bud Morton, Sylvia Scholl, Diane Huneycutt Powell, Carl & JoAnn Kimrey, Ginny Skidmore, Don Fink, Teresa Patton, Kip Medlin, Mary Sullivan, Ruth Cain

### SYMPATHY

Christian love and sympathy to the family and friends of Helen Lockamy in her passing.  
Christian love and sympathy to Linda Perry and family in the passing of her brother, Bob Stone, in Charlotte

### YOUTH SCHEDULE

March 5: 5:00PM Youth  
March 12: 5:00PM Youth

### FAMILY MINISTRY NEWS

The Stanly County Youth Breakfast is quickly approaching. We are excited to celebrate our 50<sup>th</sup> year at First Lutheran Church during the week of March 20-24. Started in 1967, the Stanly County Youth breakfast was created to provide the young people of Stanly County an opportunity to fellowship with other young Christians from around the county. Each year youth have gathered during the early morning hours before school to share breakfast and to hear inspirational messages and music. This year our theme is *50 Years of Fellowship*. We are inviting those of you who attended the youth breakfast over the years to come back and fellowship with us again. Each day will be a different decade and someone from that decade will speak about what their faith has meant since their time at the youth breakfast. The schedule is as follows: Monday – 1960’s; Tuesday - 1970s; Wednesday - 1980s; Thursday – 1990s; Friday – 2000s. I hope everyone will find time to come and fellowship across the generations. Michael

