



# Greensboro Gleanings

March 2017

## From the pastor's desk ...

Dear Friends,

Ash Wednesday is the beginning of our Lenten journey. Lent has traditionally been seen as an invitation to spend time with God, making ourselves ready to relive, once again, the story of Holy Week and Easter. The special service that marks Ash Wednesday originated in Western Europe, during the sixth century. According to the *United Church of Christ Book of Worship*, this service was originally confined to those who were doing public penance for “grave and notorious sin.” The clergy tried to comfort and encourage these remorseful wrongdoers by sharing in their public confession. Eventually this service was made available to all who wanted to begin Lent by repenting their sins and receiving the clean slate of God’s forgiveness.

Sin isn’t a word we use much, these days, and many of us are uncomfortable with seeing ourselves as “sinners.” But the Greek word *amartia*, which is generally translated as “sin,” means “to miss the mark.” The more we come to know God, and the harder we try to follow the way of Christ, the more we realize how often we miss the mark. Repentance begins with this recognition of missing the mark.

In the Bible, ashes are a symbol of penitence. They are also a symbol of our mortality. Traditionally, the ashes are given with these words from Genesis: “Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.” In our Ash Wednesday service, this year, the ashes will be given with the words, “The old has died. The new has come.” Thus they became a sign not only of repentance, and of the fragility of our lives, but also of forgiveness and of the new life offered to us in Christ.

As Lutheran minister, LaVonne Althouse, writes, *I grew up in farm country. The stubble of corn and grains harvested in the fall was left in the field in winter to hold the soil and keep it from eroding through possible spring floods. When the time came to plant, farmers first burned the stubbled fields to get rid of all the old growth. The blackened ground and charred countryside were never signs of death. Ashes were the first sign that the land was ready to plow and sow for a new harvest. Like the blackened fields, Ash Wednesday heralds a day of salvation; new life is at hand.*

This year, I would like to invite us to “keep a Holy Lent,” recognizing where we have missed the mark, in our efforts to follow Jesus, and asking for God’s grace and help in becoming the disciples Christ wants us to be, confident that God will always bring forth the new from the ashes of the old.

Yours in Christ,

**Rona**

### THANK YOU

#### March



#### Ushers and Greeters

- March 5 — Mary Landon  
& Jake Cota
- March 12 — Dan & Dianne  
Predpall
- March 19 — Krissy Ohlrogge  
& Sabra Jones McAteer
- March 26 — Shelly Jungwirth  
& John Howard



#### March Coffee Hour Hosts

- March 5 — Cilla Bonney-Smith
- March 12 — Mike & Susan Coffey
- March 19 — Penny Bretschneider  
& Beth Belote
- March 26 — Victoria Von Hessert

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# March 2017

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<b>Sundays</b> 8:30am <b>Choir Rehearsal</b> Fellowship Hall 10:00am <b>Worship Service</b> Sanctuary	<b>Mondays &amp; Wednesdays</b> 10-11am <b>Growing Stronger</b> Fellowship Hall	<b>Tuesdays &amp; Thursdays</b> 8:30-10am <b>Tai Chi</b> Fellowship Hall	<b>1 ASH WED.</b> 1:30pm <b>Deacons</b> 4:00pm <b>Mission Board</b> 7:00pm <b>Ash Wed.Serv.</b>	2	<b>3</b> <b>WORLD DAY OF PRAYER</b>	4
<b>5</b> 11:30am <b>Book Study Group</b> 2:00pm <b>Historical Soc.</b> Fellowship Hall	6	<b>7</b> 10:00am <b>TOWN MEETING</b> Fellowship Hall	<b>8</b> 7:00pm <b>Lenten Service</b> E.Craftsbury Presbyterian 7:00pm <b>Trustees Meet</b>	9	10	<b>11</b> 1:00pm <b>Baker Birthday</b> Fellowship Hall
<b>12</b> <b>DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME</b> 11:30am <b>Book Study</b> Fellowship Hall	<b>13</b> 7:00pm <b>Lenten Service</b> Our Lady of Fatima	14	15	16	<b>17</b> <b>ST. PATRICK'S DAY</b>	<b>18</b> <b>Mud Season Follies</b> 5:30-6:30pm <b>Pot luck, FH</b> 7:00pm <b>ShowTime, S</b>
<b>19</b> 11:30am <b>Book Study</b> Fellowship Hall	20	21	<b>22</b> 6:30pm <b>Church Board</b> Parsonage 7:00pm <b>Lenten Service</b> Common Church	23	24	25
<b>26</b> 11:30am <b>Book Study</b> <b>Fellowship Hall</b> 1:00pm <b>Kathy Charlestream</b>	27	28	<b>29</b> 7:00pm <b>Lenten Service</b> E. Craftsby Presbyterian	30	31	

**MILESTONES**

**Happy March Birthday to**

Madelyn Emers, Ellen Emers, Annegret Pollard, Elizabeth Gil-martin, Cilla Bonney-Smith, Diane Fixx, Sharon Steimle, Eleanor Guare, Aurora Brush, Marian Mackenzie Stegner, Nicholas Russotto, Jeff Belote, The Rev. Charlie Simonson, Bobbie Nisbet, Martha Niemi, and Winnie Thomas.

*Is your birthday listed this month when it shouldn't be? Have we missed you in our celebrations? Contact the church office and let us know if your birthday is listed incorrectly or has been missed.*

**LENTEN BOOK STUDY**

Begins Sunday, March 5, after coffee and conversation and continues through April 9. We begin with a soup and bread lunch, and then enjoy conversation about the week's reading assignment. This year we are reading *The Great Spiritual Migration: How the World's Largest Religion Is Seeking a Better Way to Be Christian*, by Brian D. McLaren. Books are now available at the Galaxy Bookshop at a 20% discount. Feel free to come to one session or all sessions, however many you can attend.



**THE MUSIC CORNER**



With the change of seasons upon us and Lent right around the corner, we continue our music ministry of *Serving God through music* in March:

**5th**— Insightful and theologically-sound texts, along with beautiful melodies, describe Deborah Govenor's (1954) sacred choral writings. Her lovely communion anthem *When We Meet at Your Table, Lord* is one of her 60 published pieces. Incorporating a soloist and a gentle, free style, this anthem reminds us of the spiritual nourishment of communion.

**12th**— Composer Will James (1892-1977), an Australian pianist and composer, was best known for his Australian Christmas Carols and being a pioneer of music broadcasting "down under." His motet *Hear My Prayer* was composed in the 1920's and asks us to remember the power of prayer.

**19th**— Richard Farrant (1530-1580) was the queens organist and chorister at St. George's Chapel at Windsor, where he also established the Blackfriars Theatre in 1576. His anthem *Call to remembrance, O Lord* has simple harmonies and text from Psalm 15 that seem to float lightly unencumbered through the sanctuary.

**26th**— Contemporary, rhythmic and with a touch of a Calypso feel, we bring you *Praise the Lord with a Song* by living composer Dr. Earlene Rentz (1956 - ). Written for expert choirs, it includes a soaring descant line for the sopranos and the composer asks us to sing it joyfully. If music could be an explanation point, this anthem would be it! The consort will offer a prelude by G. P. Telemann (1681-1767), *Sonate in F Major*.

**Hal Parker**  
Music Director

**MEDITATION/ MINDFULNESS/ CENTERING PRAYER**

On Wednesdays, during Lent, I would like to invite you to explore, or support, a practice of meditation or contemplative prayer. Our sessions will begin with a brief reading or teaching followed by a period of silent meditation/prayer. We will close with an opportunity to raise prayer concerns and hold those we pray for "in the light." We will gather in the Library at 5:30 and will finish by 7:30, in time to participate in the Ecumenical Lenten services, if we so desire. Please consider making this gathering a part of your Lenten journey.

**Rona**

**MISSION OPPORTUNITY**

UCC Disaster Ministries is offering local congregations the opportunity to apply for matching grants of up to \$250 as an incentive to assemble Church World Service Kits, in particular, CWS Emergency Cleanup Buckets. Cleanup Buckets help people to manage the overwhelming job of cleaning up after a flood, hurricane, tornado or other disaster here in the United States. Hurricane Matthew, this past October, caused massive damage to several east coast states, and CWS was able to respond with over 8,000 cleanup buckets. Overall, 14,000 buckets were distributed last year, and CWS is beginning 2017 with only 900 buckets in stock. The Mission Board would like to take advantage of this opportunity and will be applying for a matching grant. We'll keep you posted as to how you can help!

**ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING**

**"Just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." (Matthew 25:40)**

One Great Hour of Sharing is the Lenten Offering of the United Church of Christ that supports disaster, refugee, and development actions. As UCC One Great Hour of Sharing resources note: *God is most tangibly present in this world where people hunger, thirst, lack adequate clothing and shelter, and are sick or imprisoned. Christ claims people who suffer as family members. Christ is so present in them that when you feed the hungry, care for the sick, welcome the stranger – you feed, and care for, and welcome Christ. When you give through OGHS to those who suffer from natural disasters, war, or systemic poverty, you let them know: You are here.*

The date for the One Great Hour of Sharing offering in 2017 is Sunday, March 26.

NEWS FROM  
THE GREENSBORO UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION  
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802-533-2223  
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### *Upcoming Lectionary Readings*

March 5 ~Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7 ~Psalm 32 ~Romans  
5:12-19 ~Matthew 4:1-11

March 12 ~Genesis 12:1-4a ~Psalm 121 ~Romans 4:1  
-5, 13-17 ~John 3:1-17 or Matthew 17:1-9

March 12 19 ~Exodus 17:1-7 ~Psalm 95 ~Romans 5:1  
-11 ~John 4:5-42

March 26 ~1 Samuel 16:1-13 ~Psalm 23 ~Ephesians  
5:8-14 ~John 9:1-41



Greensboro United Church of Christ

### *Mud Season Follies*

*.....to benefit local children for  
summer camperships at Wonder and Wisdom*

**March 18th, 2017**

We begin the evening with a potluck supper from 5:30-6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. The show starts at 7 p.m. in the Sanctuary. This is a family event; open to children, youth, and adults, performers and audience alike.

Will you sing, dance, play an instrument, perform a skit, offer a reading, create and/or perform with puppets, interpret a piece of art or create one live? Perhaps you have another idea. Let Judy or Roger Waible know.

**Contact  
Judy Waible at  
jwaible@myfairpoint.net  
or 533-9894 to offer  
your participation as  
a performer or to be  
on the set-up or clean-up crew.**

### *PASTORAL SEARCH COMMITTEE*

Our progress is steady but the solution is unpredictable. We currently are taking a second or third step with a couple of candidates.

While we know that we are getting closer, the outcome remains unknown.

This process is like working a thousand-piece jigsaw puzzle. The border may be complete, but the inside remains a question. The objective is that when all the pieces have been used there will not be many missing ones. The many eyes and many voices of our committee, along with input solicited from the congregation, are keeping this on track.

Faith and hope need to be the foundations of this process. We continue asking our perfect Creator to match the needs of our congregation with the gifts of a pastor in a way that will serve Him the best. Thank you for your continued prayers that give strength and purpose to this search.

Please feel free to contact any of the Search Committee members with questions or suggestions.

The committee members are Susan Coffey, Nancy Hill, Shelly Jungwirth, Jeff Pierpont, Janet Travers, Roger Waible, and John Hewett.

***Roger Waible***  
Chair, Search Committee