



# Greensboro Gleanings

February 2016

## From the pastor's desk ...

Dear Friends,

Lent, the forty days (excluding Sundays) before Easter, has historically been seen as a time of preparation for the Easter celebration, a time often marked by penitence and acts of self-denial. We often speak of some habit or indulgence that we plan to "give up for Lent." This can make Lent seem rather dreary. Another approach, a more joyous approach, is to use Lent as a time of deepening in our spiritual lives. The Rev. Martin L. Smith titles his marvelous book of Lenten readings, *A Season for the Spirit*. How might we explore Lent as a "Season for the Spirit"? Greensboro United Church of Christ will be offering several opportunities in the upcoming weeks.

One time-honored way is through a Lenten book study. I would like to offer a book study, but, because I am fairly new here, I'm not sure which book to choose. For a more academic study, I would suggest *The Last Week: What the Gospels Really Teach About Jesus's Final Days in Jerusalem*, by Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan. For a more spiritual exploration, I would offer the lovely book, *Learning to Fall: The Blessings of an Imperfect Life*, by Philip Simmons. And either of two recent books, *America's Original Sin: Racism, White Privilege, and the Bridge to a New America*, by Jim Wallis, or *The Fear of Islam: An Introduction to Islamophobia in the West*, by Todd Green, would provide the opportunity to study a pressing problem of our times. I would love to have your input on which book you would like to study!

Prayer is another way to deepen our experience of this season for the spirit. In response to requests, and to my own interest, I am planning to begin a weekly meditation group, with instruction in both mindfulness practices and the Christian practice of Centering Prayer. Many of us find deep refreshment for our spirits in the time we spend in private prayer, but there is some special way in which the spirit seems to move in groups that pray/meditate together.

We can explore the spirit of generosity and care for others through taking part in the Mission Board's effort to collect materials for Hygiene and Health kits (see Mission article in this newsletter). Perhaps, rather than giving something up for Lent, we could take something on, like supplying a quantity of a single needed item or all the items for one or more kits. Donations are also welcome to fill in the kits as needed.

"Spirit" can also be found in activities that are enjoyable and energizing—something we often need at this time of year. I am grateful that Judy and Roger Waible have offered to take on the Cabin Fever Follies (just for this year). I've been told that the Follies are great fun, and proceeds from free-will donations go toward camperships for Greensboro children.

And finally, let's not forget worship. I am planning a sermon series for the first four Sundays of Lent which will take a look at some fascinating new work on the meaning of the cross. And, as always, there will be time for singing, prayer, and the wonderful music of Hal, the choir, and the Early Music group on the last Sunday of February. Please join us to feel the Spirit and enliven your spirit!

*Rona*

## THANK YOU



### February Ushers and Greeters

- Feb. 7 — Jeff & Chris Pierpont
- Feb. 14 — Tim & Bobbie Nisbet
- Feb. 21 — Alden & Patty Launer
- Feb. 28 — John Rohnert & Lucy Keefe



### February Coffee Hour Hosts

- Feb. 7 — Ken & Janney Johnston
- Feb. 14 — Nancy Hill
- Feb. 21 — Shelly Jungwirth
- Feb. 28 — Jan Travers

## NOTE FROM YOUR TREASURER

I'd appreciate very much receiving completed pledge cards by February 29. For those who have already pledged, thank you very much.

*Janet Long, Treasurer*

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# February 2016

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	1 Mondays and Wednesdays 10-11am <b>Growing Stronger</b> Fellowship Hall	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9 4:00pm <b>Christian Educ.</b> Church Library 7:00pm <b>Church Council</b> Church Library	10	11	12	13
14 11:00am Congregation meets to approve <b>pastoral search committee</b>	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 4:00pm <b>Kathy Charlestream's Students' Recital</b> Sanctuary	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29					

## *Milestones & Miscellany*

### *Happy February Birthday to*

Kyle Behrsing, Sheila Carver, Patrick Coffey, Mio Feroletto, Brian Gilmartin, Katie Gilmartin, Ercel Harvey, Nathaniel and Gabriel Hill, Keilah Figueroa, Anne McPherson, Brian Niemi, and Colton Niemi. **And A Happy Anniversary To:** Clive Gray and Nancy Hill and Janice and Mike Leonard.

*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.*

### *CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS*

The Christian Education board, after having many conversations over the past six months, has decided to step away from a formal, but modestly active education program. We want to explore alternative paradigms for our young people and families, as well as adults. The adult program has been very active; however, and there will not likely be much change in the regular study and reflections that are held through the year.

These changes in direction for Christian Education lead us to gratefully acknowledge Sonia Dunbar's service as Christian Education Coordinator. In her role she has served to both young people and adults of our community. We will miss her eager spirit.

As many of you may know, the Follies is an evening to refresh our sagging winter spirits (though this year seems less saggy). The Follies has also served as a fundraiser for youth camper-ships. CE holds the responsibility for the Follies (to some of our surprise ) and this year Judy and Roger Waible have asked to chair the event in early March. We are very thankful , since the CE board was not prepared to take this on this year.

We will continue to keep you apprised of our study. please pray for us, and for our children and families.

*Shelly Jungwirth, Chair*

### *FROM THE MISSION BOARD*

The Mission Board received information from Church World Service about donating Kits this spring. Many thanks to Rona for contacting them to ask about the types of kits they were looking for. There have been some changes that we would like to share. One is that they have decided to discontinue Baby kits. They thanked us for doing Baby kits in the past. The plan is for leftover items to be donated to refugees in Vermont.

Church World Service is now focusing primarily on Hygiene kits, School kits, and blankets. These are in high demand both in the U.S. and internationally. They thanked us for our past support and hope that we will be able to support them again this year. We hope that you will support this project again this year.

Hygiene kits include: One hand towel @ 16" x 28", one washcloth, one wide-tooth comb, one nail clipper, one bar of soap (bath side in wrapper), one toothbrush (in original packaging), six standard size Band-Aids.

School kits include: One pair of blunt metal scissors (rounded tip), three 70-count spiral notebooks, one 30-centimeter ruler (12"), one hand held pencil sharpener, one large eraser, six new pencils with erasers, and one box of 24 crayons.

A box will be placed in Fellowship Hall for donations. Please consider purchasing items to help complete one or more kits.

*Cathy Pollard, Chair*

### *The Follies Are Coming!!*



### *The Follies Are Coming!!*

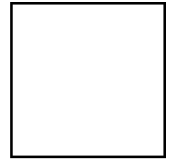
Sunday, March 13th is the date. We begin the evening with a potluck supper from 5:30-6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. The show starts at 7 p.m. in the Sanctuary. This is a family event; open to children, youth, and adults of all ages. Musicians, Poets/Readings, Skits and more are featured! All proceeds will benefit summer camp scholarships for area children.

For more information, or if you'd like to participate, or know someone who might be interested in participating, please contact the Waibles at 533-9894, or rogerw@myfairpoint.net, jwaible@myfairpoint.net or the church office at 533-2223, greensboro-church@gmail.com.



NEWS FROM  
THE GREENSBORO UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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**Upcoming Lectionary Readings**

Feb. 7 ~Exodus 34:29-35 ~Psalm 99 ~2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2 ~ Luke 9:28-36 (37-43)

Feb. 14 ~Deuteronomy 26:1-11 ~Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16 ~ Romans 10:8b-13 ~Luke 4:1-13

Feb. 21 ~Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18 ~Psalm 27 ~Philippians 3:17-4:1 ~Luke 13:31-35 or ~Luke 9:28-36 (37-43a)

Feb. 28 ~ Isaiah 55:1-9 ~ Psalm 63:18 ~ 1 Corinthians 10:1-13 ~ Luke 13:1-9



**THE MUSIC CORNER**

Our Martin Luther King Jr. service was made very special with Brent Kinsley and his sax solo on *Precious Lord*. We thank him for his musical contribution and hope he will return often to enhance our music. As our mission is to “serve God through music,” here is what we will be offering in February:

7<sup>th</sup>: For communion will be sing *The Upper Room*. This music is in a gentle, free style that speaks of the last supper and remembrance. It will feature a soloist and piano accompaniment.

14<sup>th</sup>: in honor of this special day we will sing *Let Us Love One Another*. This anthem reminds us that all love comes from God and asks the question: “God’s only son died for our sins, is there no greater love than this?”

21<sup>st</sup>: The Welsh hymn *Aberystwyth* is the basic melody for our anthem *Praise to God, Immortal Praise*. We will use the organ and our wonderful soprano section will float a lovely descant that will complete this powerful piece that is presented Andante maestoso.

28<sup>th</sup>: *Exultate Justi In Domino* by Italian composer Lodovico Grossi da Viadana (1564-1627) will speak of “triumph and rejoicing in the Lord.” It is a challenging anthem in the madrigal tradition that will be performed in Latin that is crisp, light and joyful.

**Hal Parker, Music Director**



**LENTEN BOOK STUDY**

There will be a bulletin insert, this Sunday and the next, offering the following choices for a Lenten Book Study. If you are interested in participating, and don’t have a chance to fill out the bulletin insert, you may also email Rona your choices at ronakinsley@gmail.com. If you are interested in more than one, please rate them, with “1” being first choice, and let me know your preferred meeting day and time.

\_\_\_\_\_ *The Last Week: What the Gospels Really Teach About Jesus’s Final Days in Jerusalem.* New Testament scholars Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan explore Jesus’ final days in their socio-political religious setting.

\_\_\_\_\_ *Learning to Fall: The Blessings of an Imperfect Life.* Stricken with ALS, writer and professor Philip Simmons shares his beautiful reflections on living and dying.

\_\_\_\_\_ *America’s Original Sin: Racism, White Privilege, and the Bridge to a New America.* This is a brand new book by author and theologian, Jim Wallis.

\_\_\_\_\_ *The Fear of Islam: An Introduction to Islamophobia in the West.* Also a new book, by religion professor, Todd Green.

I would prefer to meet:

\_\_\_\_\_ Sunday, after Coffee Hour, \_\_\_\_\_ Tuesday evening,  
\_\_\_\_\_ Thursday afternoon.

**Rona**