

# *Tidings*

**Clover Presbyterian Church**

Sister Congregation of Larne First Presbyterian Church  
Larne, Northern Ireland



*March, 2011*

## ***Things You Need to Know:***

- **Ash Wednesday:** Join us as we set off on our Lenten Journey of preparation, reflection and repentance together on Wednesday, March 9. The youth Pancake Supper at will start at 5:30 with Worship following in the sanctuary at 6:30.
- Join us for **Breakfast each Sunday in Lent** ~ March 13—April 17 at 8am in the Fellowship Hall.
- The **Lenten Devotional Table** is in the Hall outside the Parlor off the Fellowship Hall. You can find a variety of devotional materials there to guide your family's observation of the Lenten season as we journey toward Holy and Easter.
- **Daylight Savings Time:** Remember to move your clocks **AHEAD** one hour on Saturday, March 12th. Don't be late for Breakfast!
- **Worship and Music Ministry** team will meet on Thursday, March 10 at 7:00 in the Pastor's Study.
- The **Board of Deacons** will meet on Sunday, March 13 at 5:30 (daylight time!) in the Conference Room.
- The **Session** will meet on Sunday, March 20 at 6:00 in the conference room.
- **Wanted: Additional Ushers** for the 11:00 worship service. Looking for a way to serve the church and meet a need of the congregation at the same time? Why not serve on one of our ushering teams, greeting people as they arrive and collecting the offering during the service? If you are interested and available to help talk to Ted McCarley or a member of the worship ministry team. Thanks!
- **Join the Easter Choir!** We had so much fun with the Christmas Cantata that we want to try it again for Easter! The news is just as good and the music is even more joyful! Join us as rehearsal starts this Wednesday night at 7:45. He is Risen; he is risen indeed!
- The Spring **Senior High Lock-in** and work day will be held March 18-19. A night of watching movies and hanging out will be followed by a Saturday of work around the church grounds. All youth, grades 9-12 are invited to join us for the fun, fellowship and service!
- **Farm Fun Day**, to benefit this summer's mission trip to Chiapas in Mexico will be held March 19th at the home of Tammie and Chad Anderson. The festivities will begin at 4:00 with horseback riding and other outdoor games. Dinner and a campfire will follow. All proceed collected will assist those traveling to Mexico. Call Tammie for more information.
- The **Senior Adult Dinner** is coming up on Saturday April 9th. All of our Senior adults are invited to this night of fun, fellowship and BINGO! Thanks to the Adult 1 Sunday school class for providing this great opportunity.
- **The CPC Open** Returns! Golfers mark your calendars for Saturday, May 14 and join us for the third annual CPC Open. We will shotgun start the captains choice festivities at 1:30 pm at Carolina Crossings Golf Club. Entry fee is \$50 per golfer or \$200 per team. Holes (tees and greens) can be sponsored for \$50. Proceeds support our youth trip to the Montreat youth Conference in June.

*Things You Need To Know* Continue on Page 7



## Keynotes: Lent ~ How My Mind Was Changed

*For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it.  
For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do.*

Romans 7:18-19

For years I think I've gotten the season of Lent wrong. Presbyterians have long regarded the season with a fair amount of skepticism. Our more rigidly reformed brothers and sisters still hold Lent in disrepute. They abstain from Ash Wednesday services and refuse to acknowledge anything distinctive about the weeks leading up to Palm Sunday and Easter. There's not a word about Lent in the Bible, they point out. Of course the Bible doesn't mention Advent either, but that does not stop us from lighting the Advent wreath the four Sundays before Christmas. Calvin hated Lent, they add (really, he did, they're right about this one). As his theological descendants we should part company with Calvin only after careful reflection and rigorous debate. We should not casually assume that Calvin is wrong about things like this.

To be fair, Calvin rejected Lent as an unnecessary burden imposed on the church by the Roman Catholic hierarchy. The Lenten fast had become a public display of piety the likes of which Jesus himself had condemned. It was, he believed, an "occasion to boast." Calvin rejected a lot of practices and superstitions that had attached themselves to Christian faith during the middle ages on the same ground. Lenten practice was surely corrupt in the church that Calvin sought to reform.

But is the idea of Lent, of a season of self-discipline and reflection, repentance and confession, theologically bankrupt in itself? That is the traditional view of Reformed theology and Presbyterian practice. What Calvin rejected was not the corrupted Lenten practice of his generation, but the very notion that by some act of will we could in any way prepare ourselves to receive the good news of Easter morning. If that were true then why devote a mere 40 days to such a task when a lifetime of Lenten discipline would be so much better? In fact, there is nothing

we can do to add anything at all of value to the reality of the empty tomb, or the proclamation "Christ is risen, he is risen indeed!" The resurrection is entirely and exclusively God's act. If in Lent we seek to add our own effort to the accomplishment of God in the resurrection, then we are most deceived as to our capacity and potential. The conceit of festivals and seasons, of holy days set aside for particular reverence, is the suggestion that we are not ever sinful and ever called unto repentance. Lent or no lent.

That traditional reformed critique of Lent is still persuasive for many Presbyterians. Any Presbyterian who insists on recovering some valid Lenten practice for the church today, who invites the church to assume the Lenten discipline as a faithful devotional sacrifice, must answer those questions. How can it be appropriate to set aside certain days, limited in number, for reflection and repentance when we are always and ever lost in sin? And, how it is that we can add anything by our own effort to the magnitude of the Easter miracle?

For years I have defended Lenten practice on the solid Calvinist ground of Total Depravity. We are sinners. We know this. It is an inescapable fact of life. So pervasive and corrosive is the power of sin in our lives that a season set aside expressly for the purpose of pondering the many ways we rebel against God is in fact a means of grace. Absent such a season, I have argued into the wee hours of the morning with my rigidly reformed brothers, we will sinfully neglect our constant need for repentance and will avoid appropriate grief for our many sins. In fact, people who insist that Lent is unnecessary and even detrimental to the life of faith, I have suggested, are often times those who need of a season devoted to such repentance the most. (Methinks they protesteth Lent too much.) Sometimes we avoid Lent in order to hide from our sins.

Worshipping ~ Praying ~ Reading ~ Welcoming ~ Serving ~ Giving



# Keynotes:

That Lent is not endless, that it is emphatically a **season** and not a lifetime, acknowledges that however powerful and pervasive our sin may be, it is not decisive. Its power has been broken. Our lives are redeemed. We have been saved from the fear that our sin might yet seal our doom and destruction. We need not go about constantly fasting and wearing ashes, for we have been reclaimed and set free for mission and service. Easter morning dawns and we receive new life.

I have always been convinced that we reformed Christians need Lent. It is a good thing; a practice worth recovering. We need Lent, I have long believed, in order to sensitize our hearts and minds to the magnitude of the Easter gift. Spend 40 days grieving your sins, pondering the extent to which you have turned away from God, remembering every opportunity you have missed to surrender your life to the service of his kingdom - and the new life discovered in the emptiness of the tomb will bring forth the most profound Alleluia!

That is what I have long thought. I love Lent precisely because it is not a command but an opportunity; the ashes are not a sacrament but a choice; the season is one of self-discipline in the midst of a culture devoted entirely to self-empowerment. For 40 days, a tithe of the year, we devote ourselves to humility and fearless self-examination. We need a good, holy Lent.

It has only now dawned on me how much that really misses the Lenten point. It's not really about our holiness, our penitence, our readiness to receive the good news of Easter morning. Of course Calvin is right that there is nothing we can contribute to that moment, to that revelation, to that victory. If we accept the discipline of Lenten reflection and confession in search of a greater holiness or purity of heart, then all we will have gained for ourselves on Easter is a heart more thoroughly self-deceived.

It seems to me now that the point of Lent is instead its very impossibility. It is the futility of the quest for a "prepared heart" that makes Easter most meaningful. The best Lent is the failed Lent, for in the wake of a failed Lent we gaze upon the mystery of God's continued compassion and mercy with all the more awe and reverence. We seek not a good and holy Lent, a Lent where we meet all of our goals and perform all of the necessary disciplines, a Lent where our expertise proves us worthy of the cross and grave of Christ - but instead a somewhat troubled Lent, a partial Lent, an incomplete and still somehow fearful Lent that is incapable of a thorough purging of sin and iniquity. Lent is not about what we can do but what we discover we cannot do.

For no one and nothing is able to cleanse us from sin, purify our hearts, sanctify our prayers, or receive our sacrifice of praise, except the risen Christ himself. And Christ has not won this victory for some perfected version of us, some sanitized person we aspire to be for him, but for us as we are.

These 40 days are a gift, an inheritance from the earliest, most ancient of our ancestors. In them we discover who we are, and the unlikely prospect that God loves us enough to save us anyway.

Let us be off; the journey awaits.

Peace,

*Sunday's in Lent::  
(March 13—April 17)*

- 8:00 Lenten Prayer Breakfast
- 8:45 Contemporary Worship
- 10:00 Sunday School
- 11:00 Traditional Worship

*Presbyterian  
Women*

The PW Council will meet on **Monday, March 7** at the home of Linda Lunsford at 7pm.

Circle 1 will meet on **Monday, March 14** at 10:00am at the church.

Circle 2 will meet on **Monday, March 14** at 7:00pm at the home of Liz Zeibel.

*Flower Calendar for March*

06	Available
13	Available
20	Available
27	Available

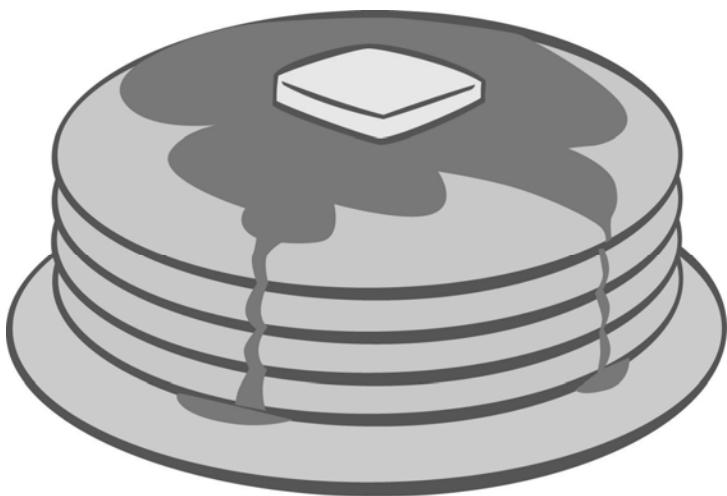
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*March, 2011*

***Things You Need to Do:***

- **Join an Adult Sunday school class:** Adult 1 (Church Parlor), The Seekers (Church Library), Ladies Bible Class (Ladies Classroom), and Men's Bible Class (Recreation Building).
- **Repent!!** It's Lent, a time for reflection and repentance.
- **CAAC Collection.** This Month ~ Peanut Butter.
- **Cans Cans Cans!** Aluminum funds youth ministry. Bring us your cans.
- **Sing sing sing:** Children, youth adults.  
Pick a choir and bring your voice (unless you can't in which case... Really, we understand.)
- **Bible Study:** New Study starting March 16!
- **Give:** We need \$7,067 per week in order to fund our operations inside the church building. There is no where else to cut the church budget without eliminating valuable ministry.
- **Usher?** At 11:00 worship service.
- **Offer your gifts talents and skills** to the work of the church.

Worshiping ~ Praying ~ Reading ~ Welcoming ~ Serving ~ Giving



**Pancake Supper**

**Wednesday 5:30**

**Fellowship Hall**

Proceeds help send  
our youth to the

**Montreat Youth Conference**

March, 2011

## *People Who Need Your Prayers:*

The one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church; The leaders of our world and nation, the men and women in the military, our President – Barack Obama, our Governor - Nikki Haley, our Mayor - Donnie Grice, our missionaries: Jim & Jodi McGill, Mark & Miriam Adams and Tony & Connie Johnson.

**Our Known Sick:** Grant McLean, Taze Bennett, Ruby Bennett, Robin Davis, Ollie Robertson, Gene Bowman, Kimberly Sanders, Jim Wylie and Jerrod Nichols.

**Those unable to worship with us:** Mary Alice McCarter, Beth Hinshaw, Dean Miller, Ruth Ramsey, Mary Anne Hall, Mary Lou Sifford and Gene & Mary Sifford.

### **Friends and Relatives:**

JoAnn Barnes – mother of Lois Talbert, Rush Smith—dad of Andy Smith, Lee Killian, Alice Fowler—aunt of Julia Smith, Jake Pritchard—grandson of Bill & Pat King, Terry Florence—friend of Don & Donna Hartsoe, Elizabeth Barnett—mother of Tom Redmond, Eddie Doss—friend of Don & Donna Hartsoe, Alex VanEtten, mentor student of Libby Sprouse, Earl Sprouse, uncle to Julie Preston and Scott Sprouse, Tom Warrick, father of Dawn Dawes, Dan Hartsoe—father of Don Hartsoe, Anne Fishburne, Vanessa Henkel—sister of Julie Preston, Gail Windell—friend of Tommy & Susie McLean, Debra Good—friend of Jeannie Edmunds, Bruce Clark—friend of Kathy Key, Ida & Ernest Cagle—grandparents of Mike Carpenter, Carly Bennett—granddaughter of Don & Kay Westmoreland, Dian Timms, mother of Paula Clayton, Cam Robinson, brother of Brad Robinson, Mary Jo Harvey—cousin of Charlotte Jackson, Joan Blalock & Jennifer Brown—friend of Hartsoe family, Ronnie Bell—uncle of Terry Swanner, Ticker Spurrier—mother of Wes Spurrier, David Stanton, Jr.—friend of Harry & Ann Hogue, Mickey Gordon—sister-in-law of Joe & Kay Gordon, David Patterson—friend of Jessica Swanner, Kristin McDonough—friend of Scott & Holly Frisk, Jim Carroll—nephew of Ann Goode & Barbara Beamguard, Don Dawes—father of Marc Dawes, Faye Cloaninger—aunt of Tommy McCall & Wes Spurrier, Sara Anderson—sister-in-law of Tammie Anderson, Rex Pritt—cousin of Lois Talbert, Drew & Riley Davis—family of Debra Bellinger and Jill Bailey—friend of Doug Henry.

Worshiping ~ Praying ~ Reading ~ Welcoming ~ Serving ~ Giving

March, 2011

## *Places You Need to Be:*

- Choir Practice ~ Wednesday, 7:00
- Praise Team Rehearsal ~ Wednesdays @ 7:00.
- Wednesday Night Fellowship ~ Wednesdays, 5:30.
- Presbytery Meeting ~ March 3, Unity PC, Fort Mill.
- Ash Wednesday Supper and Service ~ March 9.
- Deacons Meeting ~ March 13
- Farm Fun Day ~ March 19
- Session Meeting ~ March 20
- Lenten Breakfast ~ Sundays, 8:00 am.

# Serving the church in March

*Closing* - Ted McCarley

## *Ushers ~ 11:00am*

06 Ann Goode, Jane McCall, Ted McCarley, Bill King, Gary Love, Garrison Love  
13 Lillian Lawrence, Sally Mann, Ted McCarley, Bob Mann, Tommy McLean, Bill Brooks  
20 Pat Lowe, Linda Henry, Ted McCarley, Mack Henry, Jack Scott, Eric Scott, Wes Spurrier  
27 Millie Jones, Peggy Adams, Ted McCarley, Bill King, Tommy McLean

## *Worship Leaders ~ 11:00am*

06 Will Baker  
13 Jim Kosko  
20 Dave Cyphers  
27 Jeff Sanders

## *Worship Leaders ~ 8:45am*

06 Georgia Westmoreland  
13 Jennifer Johnson  
20 Terry Swanner  
27 Melanie Wall

## *Acolytes 11:00*

06 Mary Mason Carpenter  
13 Alex Owings  
20 Laney Preston  
27 Skylar Redmond

## *Nursery Volunteers (11:00)*

06 Evelyn Edmunds  
13 Janelle Brackett  
20 Heather McCarley  
27 Libby Sprouse

## *Children's Church 11:00*

### *3 & 4 year olds*

06 Buddy & Paula Clayton  
13 Carl & Mary Adams  
20 Phyllis & Allison Maynard  
27 Greg & Kristy Rowland

### *K-2nd grade*

06 Paula Brinkley & Brittney Brinkley  
13 John & Julie Preston  
20 Bill & Libby Brooks  
27 Katie Benton & Evelyn Pendleton

## *Sunday School*

### *Ladies Bible Class ~ Ladies Classroom*

06 Kay Gordon  
13 Willie Westmoreland  
20 Pat Lowe  
27 Myrna Kosko

### *Men's Bible Class ~ Rec. Building*

06 J.S. Edmunds  
13 Don Westmoreland  
20 Dave Cyphers  
27 Charles McLean

### *Adult 1 Class ~ Church Parlor*

06 Greg Rowland  
13 Candy McCain  
20 Donna Hartsoe  
27 Jane McCall

### *The Seekers Class ~ Church Library*

06 Bruce Elliott  
13 Jack Scott  
20 Class member  
27 Terry Swanner

## *Youth Suppers*

06 Mary & Wesley Edmunds  
13 Becky & Jerry Sellers  
20 Georgia & Doug Westmoreland  
27 Alisa & Robert Johnson

If you would like to prepare supper for our youth,  
please contact Sue Love at 222-6549 or [thecloverloves@bellsouth.net](mailto:thecloverloves@bellsouth.net)



March, 2011

# Things You Need to Know (con't):

- **Cans Into Ca\$h!:** Did you know that **ALL** the aluminum that we recycle here at the church is sold and the money supports our **Youth Program Funds**?

So... If you are in the (very good and environmentally responsible) habit of throwing your aluminum cans in with the rest of your household recycling here's an easy New Year's resolution for you: separate those drink cans (regardless of what they once held—really—we don't judge!) and bring them to the church so that we can turn those cans into cash! Drop them in ANY of the recycling bins around the church and we (Roy Brinkley) will do the rest. Thanks!

- Everyone is invited to celebrate **World Day of Prayer** on Friday, March 4 at Clover ARP Church at 12noon. A light lunch will follow the service in the fellowship hall.
- Red Cross Blood Drive ~ **Tuesday, March 29** from 2:30pm - 7:00pm.

	<h2 style="margin: 0;">Financial Update</h2> <h3 style="margin: 0;">Operating Expenses</h3> <p style="margin: 0;">YTD as of February 28, 2011</p>	
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	<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>Change</u>
<u>Regular Contributions</u>	\$56,357	\$60,925	(\$4,568)
Weekly Average	\$6,261	\$6,769	(\$508)
<u>Expense Needs:</u>	<u>Monthly</u>	<u>Weekly</u>	<u>Shortfall-To-Date</u>
202 Kings Mountain Street	\$30,623	\$6,933	\$672/wk - \$4,889ytd
Total	\$33,364	\$7,700	\$1,439/wk - \$10,371ytd

### Explanation of Financial Needs:

Through the first seven weeks of 2011 we continue to lose ground to our budgeted expense needs and benevolent commitments. .

The information shown above distinguishes between those expenses that we incur for staff, overhead, supplies and programs that we provide here at the church for our members (202 Kings Mountain St Expenses); and our total expense budget when you include the commitments that we make to other outside mission and charitable agencies. When we do not fully meet our expenses we are not able to be in mission beyond the church walls in ways that are faithful and

# March 2011 at Clover Presbyterian Church

## Wednesday Activities:

4:45am Music Garten, Children's Choir  
 5:30pm Supper  
 6:00pm Bible Study for all ages  
 7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Praise Team Rehearsal

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 5:30pm AA	2 Wednesday Activities	3 8:00pm AA	4 8:00pm NA	5
6 8:45am Worship 10:00am Sunday School 11:00am Worship 6:00pm Youth Fellowship AA	7 7:00pm PW Council ~ at <i>the home of Linda Lunsford</i>	8 5:30pm AA	9 4:45pm Children's Choir 5:30pm Pancake Supper 6:30pm Ash Wednesday Service 7:00pm Chancel Choir & Praise Team Rehearsal	10 8:00pm AA	11 8:00pm NA	12
13 8:45am Worship 10:00am Sunday School 11:00am Worship 5:30pm Deacon MT Meeting 6:00pm Deacon Bible Study Youth Fellowship AA 6:30pm Deacon Meeting	14	15 5:30pm AA	16 Wednesday Activities	17 8:00pm AA	18 8:00pm NA	19 4:00pm—8:00pm Farm Fun Day at <i>the Anderson's home.</i>
20 8:45am Worship 10:00am Sunday School 11:00am Worship 6:00pm Youth Fellowship AA Session Bible Study 6:30pm Session Meeting	21	22 5:30pm AA	23 Wednesday Activities	24 8:00pm AA	25 8:00pm NA	26
27 8:45am Worship 10:00am Sunday School 11:00am Worship 6:00pm Youth Fellowship AA	28	29 2:30pm—7:00pm Blood Drive 5:30pm AA	30 Wednesday Activities	31 8:00pm AA		

# MARCH

01 Adam Crowe  
Faye Williams  
02 Libby Sprouse  
03 Mack Henry  
07 Jill Sifford  
08 Ken Graham  
10 Jack Scott  
Jack Westmoreland  
12 Ann Goode  
Mary Edmunds  
13 Dave Cyphers  
Laura Smith  
17 Olivia Smithson  
18 Alex Mcleod  
19 Daisy Perez  
Callie Hart  
21 Mary Emma Dickson  
22 Mary Mason Carpenter  
Rebecca Hart  
23 Bryson Talbert  
24 T.M. Thomas, Jr.  
26 Phyllis Maynard  
28 Charlotte Jackson  
Michael Lucas  
29 Cindy Adams-Maldonado  
Sue McLean  
31 Susie McLean



13 Bill & Libby Brooks  
21 James & Laura Johnson  
24 Britt & Angela Dickerson  
30 Jeff & Kimberly Sanders  
31 Charles & Sue McLean



**www.cloverpres.org**

More information about events and activities available online:

Director of Preschool:  
Wanda Whitesides  
*wandawhitesides@yahoo.com*

Music Director/Organist:  
Barbara Quinn  
*barbq@carolina.rr.com*

Secretary:  
Pam Fowler  
*Pamtfowler@gmail.com*

Director of Christian Education:  
Debbie Dixon  
*bluehose1@yahoo.com*

Pastor:  
Douglass Key  
*preacherdkey@gmail.com*

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