

SERVICES FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

TRANSFIGURATION

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26 AT 11:00 A.M.

SERMON: "Craving a Mountain Top Experience?"

TEXTS: Exodus 24:12-18 and Matthew 17:1-9

Sacrament of Baptism

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

SUNDAY, MARCH 5 AT 11:00 A.M.

SERMON "Lead Us Not Into Temptation"

TEXTS: Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7 and Matthew 4:1-11

Sacrament of Holy Communion

THE CHALLENGE OF MINISTRY WITH THE COMMUNITY

Last Friday and Saturday, Savannah Presbytery hosted its annual Leadership Development Conference at St. Simons Island. We gathered on the beautiful campus of Epworth-by-the-Sea. One of the keynote speakers mentioned the work of L'Arche. This is a collection of intentional communities where people with developmental disabilities live with those without disabilities. In the last ten years of his life, the theologian Henri Nouwen chose to live in a L'Arche community in Toronto. The motto of these communities is living with as opposed to doing for. In the words of the founder of L'Arche, Jean Vanier, "those who follow this call do not live together as carer and cared for but as fellow human beings who share care and need." This illustration reminded me of how churches practice various models of ministry in the city.

First, there is the church in the city where its members drive into the city to attend worship. Maybe they grew up in the church and moved away or they attend for the special programs. After Sunday morning, they return home, which is sometimes at a distance. The church is literally located in the city.

The second approach of ministry is the church for the city. In this model, the church is aware that there are great needs in their urban setting. The church develops responses to the significant challenges in the city. The church moves from being merely geographically present to looking outward. This is an important step, however there is a problem. This stance can create a culture where "we" are doing for "them."

The third and ideal approach according to Vanier is ministry with the wider community. The church does not determine needs and create a response on its own. There is a mutual, long-term discernment process. And this is not easy or quickly achieved. It is a reminder for us to work at ways to tear down the walls between those who give and those who receive. What does it look like when everyone resolves to stand together to be a flourishing community working and ministering side by side? --SCW

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, February 26	9:30 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:30 a.m.	Chancel Choir, Coffee Fellowship
	11:00 a.m.	Worship Service
	5:00 p.m.	Youth Handbells
	5:30 p.m.	Youth Supper
	6:00 p.m.	Youth Choir
	6:30 p.m.	Junior Choir
Monday, February 27	9:00 a.m.	Knitting Prayer Shawls
	12:00 p.m.	Lunch Bunch, Bow Tie Restaurant
Tuesday, February 28	7:30 a.m.	Morning Missions at Emmaus House
	5:30 p.m.	Kinder Children's Choir
	6:00 p.m.	Pancakes & Jazz
Wednesday, March 1	1:30 p.m.	Jail Ministry
	6:30 p.m.	Ash Wednesday Service Butler Presbyterian Church
	6:30 p.m.	First Ringers, Rm 215
	7:30 p.m.	Chancel Choir
Thursday, March 2	6:30 p.m.	Grace & Joy Circle, Imlay House
Friday, March 3	12:00 p.m.	Centering Prayer, Library
Sunday, March 5	9:00 a.m.	Lenten Prayer Service
	9:30 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:30 a.m.	Chancel Choir, Coffee Fellowship
	11:00 a.m.	Worship Service
	12:15 p.m.	Mission Committee Mtg, Room 110
	3:00 p.m.	Music With A Mission
	5:00 p.m.	Youth Handbells
	5:30 p.m.	Youth Supper
	6:00 p.m.	Youth Choir
	6:30 p.m.	Junior Choir
	Monday, March 6	9:00 a.m.
Tuesday, March 7	7:30 a.m.	Morning Missions at Emmaus House
Wednesday, 8	1:30 p.m.	Jail Ministry
	5:30 p.m.	Kinder Choir
	6:00 p.m.	Wednesday Dinner
	6:45 p.m.	Lenten Service
	6:45 p.m.	First Ringers, Rm 215
	6:45 p.m.	Children's Choirs
Friday, March 10	7:30 p.m.	Chancel Choir
	9:00 a.m.	Little Lambs Sale
Saturday, March 11	12:00 p.m.	Centering Prayer, Library
	9:00 a.m.	Little Lambs Sale

PRAYER CONCERNS, RECORD OF OUR FAITHFULNESS, ETC.

February 12: attendance at worship: 191; Sunday School attendance: 60; visitors: 14. February 19: attendance at worship: 151; Sunday School attendance: 68; visitors: 0....Many thanks to those who helped two families who are temporarily homeless stay at the church the week of February 5. In addition, students and teachers from Bethesda Academy prepared and served one dinner to the families....

Confirmation Class is set to begin. A class of eight young people along with parents and elder mentors met on February 12. The three-month course will be held on Sundays at 9:30 a.m. culminating with a service of confirmation on Pentecost, June 4.

Ash Wednesday Service with imposition of ashes. This annual service shared with Butler/First will be held on Wednesday, March 1 at 6:30 p.m. This year Butler Memorial Presbyterian Church, 603 West Victory Drive, will host the service. If you wish to go in the church shuttle bus which will depart First at 6:15 p.m, email Judith@savannahfpc.org.

Practice Centering Prayer during the season of Lent by attending Centering Prayer on Fridays at noon in the church library, March 3 through April 14. Centering prayer is a method of Christian meditation which facilitates closer communion with God. Centering Prayer will include a series of 45 minute sessions which will use readings, video and audio to explore the practice of resting in God's presence. You are welcome to bring a brown bag lunch.

Music with a Mission concert will be held on Sunday, March 5 at 3:00 p.m. Chamber Music Southeast will perform a program of mostly Romantic-era music. We'll also hear violist Daniel Sweaney and oboist Rebecca Nagel. The concert will benefit Senior Citizens Inc., providing services for senior citizens which include Meals on Wheels, Sterling Rides, Adult Daycare and The Learning Center.

First Presbyterian Preschool will hold their annual Little Lambs Spring Consignment Sale on March 10 and March 11. Friday the sale will be 9:00 am – 1:00 pm and 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm. Saturday the hours will be 9:00 am – 12:00 pm.

Dinner Group will meet at the Tybee Island Social Club, 1311 Butler Avenue on Friday, March 31 at 6:30 p.m. One review gushes, "A great relaxed setting and the shrimp and grits are perfect!" Some will want to stay and enjoy Jason Salzer performing at 8:00 p.m. Email LarryStuber@bellsouth.net for reservations.

In Sharing Faith listening opens the door to speaking. Listening to God is essential in prayer, and listening to others is a requirement for witnessing. Talking about faith begins not in our speaking but in our hearing. Genuinely loving and caring for others and hearing their story precedes our telling our faith story. Our prayer needs to, "O Lord, make me a good listener." ---from *The Faith-Sharing New Testament with the Psalms*.

Prime Timers will tour the Goodwill facility on Sallie Mood Drive where there is a job placement center as well as a fabrication shop for Gulfstream, followed by lunch at Sweet Potatoes on Friday, February 24th. The shuttle bus will depart the church at 11:00 a.m. and return around 1:30 p.m. Call the church for reservations. All are welcome.

Young adults of First Presbyterian Church are having a "Mix & Mingle" at Imlay House on Friday, February 24, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. There will be plenty of great conversation, good food and free child care. Please bring an appetizer to share. For reservations contact Will Shelburne...will@savannahfpc.org or call 354-7615.

PANCAKES & JAZZ

Tuesday, February 28 at 6:00 p.m.

All ages are invited to enjoy a pancake dinner, \$6/adult, \$2/child under 12, while the talented SkyeLite Jazz Band from the Savannah Arts Academy, directed by Michael Nestor, plays Dixieland music. There will be crafts for the children and even a dance floor. Invite a neighbor!

PLAN ON ATTENDING THE MID-WEEK LENTEN SERVICES
Wednesdays, March 8 through April 5 at 6:45 p.m. in the sanctuary
“Summoned, Called and Named”
Dinner line opens at 6:00 p.m. in Stewart Hall

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE STATED SESSION MEETING

The Session meeting on Monday, February 20 began at 7:00 p.m. with a study of the second ordination vow. This vow asks, “Do you accept the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be, by the Holy Spirit, the unique and authoritative witness to Jesus Christ in the church universal, and God’s Word to you?” This year, the stated meetings begin with a presentation about the nine ordination vows of the Presbyterian Church. The time of study concluded with a dramatic recounting of Jesus rebuking Satan in the wilderness with the stirring, “One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.” The Finance Committee reported overall income in 2016 was greater than in 2015. A surplus was transferred to a reserve account. Income for January against expenses was presented. This is a typical pattern with some households prepaying pledges for the entire year. Committees made reports about worship plans during Lent and ongoing efforts to help a family from Syria settle in Savannah. The Session discussed how to use a generous bequest. The statistical report for 2016 was received, a baptism was approved and the meeting closed with prayer at 8:15 p.m.

STATISTICAL REPORT FOR 2016	
Membership 01/01-2016	482
<u>Gains</u>	
Profession/Reaffirmation of Faith	16
Letters of Transfer	5
<u>Losses</u>	
Letters of Transfer	8
Deaths	7
Other	0
Membership 12/31/2016	488
Baptisms	7
Births	5