

1st NEWS

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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March 22, 2017

SERVICES FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

SUNDAY, MARCH 26 at 11:00 A.M.

SERMON: "Once Blind, Now Sent"

TEXTS: 1 Samuel 16:1-13 and John 9:1-41

SUNDAY, APRIL 2 at 11:00 A.M.

SERMON: "Thinking About Death"

TEXTS: Ezekiel 37:1-14 and John 11:17-44

Sacrament of Holy Communion

LENTEN SEASON LEADS TO SPIRITUAL REFLECTION

By the time you read this newsletter, I will be on the way home from my trip to Cameroon. However, I am writing this essay before departing since I have been told by a Presbyterian missionary that there is no internet service in Dikome Balue. I will be staying in the hometown of First member, Felix Etinge. I know I will have plenty to write about in the coming weeks!

The other day, a friend remarked to me over lunch how glad he was that Lent had begun. "I need to be reminded," he said. "I need Lent to remind me." The funny thing is that I didn't have to ask him just what it is which he needs to be reminded. I knew what he meant and so do you.

We need Lent to remind us that it is God who has made us and not we ourselves, to remind us that Christ lived among us and died as one of us. We need Lent to remind us that we live in and are responsible for a world preoccupied with old grudges and new excuses. We need Lent to remind us that God saves us and not our own feeble efforts. We need Lent to remind us that God gave us the church as stewards to care for the church, not as possessors who own it.

There is an art book which contains a state portrait of King Louis XIV of France. Louis stands erect in the portrait, clothed in ermine, gold, and velvet. His legs are covered in white silk and his high heeled shoes are bright red. The curls of a beautiful wig fall down over his shoulders. It is an impressive portrait of an important man. Turn the page of the book, though, and there is another portrait showing him in the same pose, but without the regal garments, the high heeled shoes, the wig. In this portrait we see Louis as he really was: bald, pot-bellied, pear shaped, unattractive and very ordinary. The reality was so different from the public image!

Do you begin to understand why my friend told me that he needed Lent? We need Lent because it is a reality check, a look at ourselves as we really are, and not as we want the world to see us. We need Lent because our souls need time to tear away our false claims and to see where true righteousness is to be found. We need Lent because only God's truth can set us free.

I pray that Lent will be a liberating experience for each of us. We are now half way along our Lenten pilgrimage—may it be a pilgrimage deep and hearty. --SCW

*Coming Home for Holy Week
Palm Sunday, April 9
Join us for worship and then stay for lunch!*

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, March 26	9:00 a.m.	Prayer Service with Holy Communion
	9:30 a.m.	Sunday School, Confirmation ClassFirst Ringers, Room 111
	10:30 a.m.	Coffee Fellowship, Chancel Choir
	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, March 27	9:00 a.m.	Knitting Prayer Shawls
	12:00 p.m.	Lunch Bunch, Sweet Potatoes Restaurant
	7:00 p.m.	Session Meeting
Tuesday, March 28	7:30 a.m.	Morning Missions at Emmaus House
Wednesday, March 29	1:30 p.m.	Jail Ministry
	5:30 p.m.	Kinder Choir
	6:00 p.m.	Wonderful Wednesday Dinner
	6:45 p.m.	Children's Choir
	6:45 p.m.	Lenten Service
	7:30 p.m.	Chancel Choir
Friday, March 31	12:00 p.m.	Centering Prayer, Library
	6:30 p.m.	Dinner Group, Tybee Island Social Club
Saturday, April 1	6:30 p.m.	Bruce Feiler Program
	7:30 p.m.	Reception and Book Signing
Sunday, April 2	9:00 a.m.	Prayer Service with Holy Communion
	9:30 a.m.	Sunday School, Confirmation ClassFirst Ringers, Room 111
	10:30 a.m.	Coffee Fellowship, Chancel Choir
	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, April 3	9:00 a.m.	Knitting Prayer Shawls
Tuesday, April 4	7:30 a.m.	Morning Missions at Emmaus House
Wednesday, April 5	1:30 p.m.	Jail Ministry
	5:30 p.m.	Kinder Choir
	6:00 p.m.	Wonderful Wednesday Dinner
	6:45 p.m.	Children's Choir
	6:45 p.m.	Lenten Service
	7:30 p.m.	Chancel Choir
Thursday, April 6	6:30 p.m.	Grace & Joy Circle, Imlay House
Friday, April 7	11:00 a.m.	Prime Timers
Saturday, April 8	12:00 p.m.	Centering Prayer, Library
	9:00 p.m.	Annual church clean-up

PRAYER CONCERNS, RECORD OF OUR FAITHFULNESS, ETC.

March 12: attendance at worship: 103; Sunday School attendance: 51; visitors: 6. March 19: attendance at worship: 130; Sunday School attendance: 40; visitors: 3.....

Bruce Feiler, New York Times bestselling author, will speak about his new book. *"The First Love Story: Adam and Eve and Us,"* Saturday, April 1. The program begins at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary followed by a reception and book signing in Stewart Hall at 7:30 p.m. There is no charge for this event.

Mid-week Lenten services follow the fellowship supper on Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. Attend a forty-minute service in the sanctuary that will include reflections by two First members along with prayers and special music. March 8 - April 5. The theme is "Summoned, Called and Named".

Practice Centering Prayer during the season of Lent by attending Centering Prayer on Fridays at noon in the church library, March 3 - 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.

Dinner Group will meet at 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.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE will sponsor the annual clean-up morning on Saturday, April 8, 9:00 a.m. – Noon. Help spruce up First's buildings and grounds for Holy Week. Tasks for all skill levels, inside and outside, rain or shine!

Prime Timers, First's older adult ministry, will tour SCAD's Industrial Design Department that includes a computer assisted design lab and a computer controlled machine shop followed by lunch at Montgomery Hall on Friday, April 7. The shuttle bus departs at 11:00 a.m. and returns about 1:30 p.m. Email judith@savannahfpc.org for reservations.

Wednesday Evening Lenten Services begin at 6:45 p.m. The theme is "Summoned, Called and Named." Topics and speakers for March 22 – "Isaiah" and "Philip and the Ethiopian". For March 29 – "Jeremiah" and "Peter and Andrew, James and John".