

First United Methodist Church Messenger

drawing near to the heart of Christ

Newsletter - March 2011

NUMBERS...

Numbers are funny things. They convey meaning just by seeing them or hearing them or saying them.

How about these:

13 or 7 or 16 or 21. Maybe you look forward to being "65" or felt sick at "50."

911.

Numbers are funny things. They convey meaning

Forty. Four...Zero. 40.

It rained 40 days and 40 nights while Noah's family was in the ark.

The Hebrew people wandered in the wilderness for 40 years.

Jesus retreated to the desert for 40 days of fasting, of prayer, of wrestling with the Tempter.

Forty. Four...Zero. 40.

We count days during Lent...40 days of soul-searching, of prayer, of listening and learning from the Spirit of God as we prepare for Holy Week. Lent is a chance to re-examine our life, our faith, our relationship with God and our family. It is a chance to walk with Jesus toward the cross.



If you are counting...it doesn't add up does it? There are more than 40 days from Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday. Forty seven to be exact. And that's the thing. Even in the midst of our reflection and our inner journey to seek forgiveness in Lent. Even when we know the cross is coming, and we fast and pray, there is a recurring reminder that the cross is not the end of God's story for humanity. There are 40 days of Lent. And in Lent there are 7 Easters. Each Sunday as we gather for worship we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus. We proclaim that he has lived and died and that he lives again.

Numbers are funny things.

40 days of repentance and prayer.

7 Sundays to celebrate.


A chance to draw closer to the heart of Jesus in the depths our being.

Grace and peace for the Journey of Lent.

**Our Christian
Sympathy....
...to the family of
Bibby Tate.
...to the family of
Mary Bates.
...to the family of
Hilda Comfort.
...to the family of
Ruth Campbell.
...to the family of
Charlotte Parker.**



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Worship - Formation - Service

under the Dome of God's watchfulness & care

Youth News *by Chris Ray*

The youth have just finished a series on the book titled "Crazy Love" by Frances Chan. The youth also just participated in the 30-Hour Famine. The 30-Hour Famine is an opportunity for the youth and those participating in it to get just a small glimpse of what it would be like for us to go without food. Although we have a set number of hours and know there is an end coming, we do this to raise funds to help feed hungry children and to raise awareness within the church and within ourselves. Thanks to all who supported us with donations and with prayers.

Our next series for youth is titled "The Air I Breathe-Worship as a Way of Life."

For some, it's the office, for others, the mirror. "When you follow the trail of your time, energy, affection, and money," says Louie Giglio, "you find a throne. And whatever or whomever is on that throne is the object of your worship!" Draw in the fresh wind of this eternal worship-and learn to give all your life to the only One worthy of it.

Dates:

- March 1: Discover 6:30-8
- March 6: No Youth
- March 8: Discover 6:30-8
- March 13: "The Air I breathe" pt. 1. 5-6:30
- March 15: Discover 6:30-8
- March 20: "The Air I breathe" pt 2 5-6:30
- March 22: Discover 5-6:30
- March 27: "The Air I breathe" pt. 3
- March 29: Discover 5-6:30



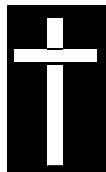
Please Join Us

The Christian Women's service projects for March include packing bag lunches for "Feed My

Sheep" March 8. We will hand them out at the 19th street facility on March 20. We will also share lunch and fellowship with Wesley student club members at USM in Long Beach on March 24. Our upcoming meeting is March 8 in the fellowship room (parlor) under the Church at 12:00. A light lunch will be provided. Come join us. POC Diane Miller or Ginny Cooley.

Benchwork Industries, a

sheltered workshop for developmentally delayed or handicapped adults, is collecting **Mardi Gras beads for recycling**. They provide employment and income for the clients. Please call Sarah Holderer (864-5404) or bring beads to the church office. Thank you.



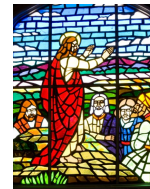
Sassy Seniors

The Sassy Seniors go on the Road to the church's Fellowship Hall on Wednesday, March 16. We,

the Sassy Seniors and Wesley Searcher's SS Class, will prepare the food for the Lenten Luncheon on Wednesday, March 16. The luncheon begins at 11:30 a.m. **FOR THOSE WHO WILL HELP, PLEASE ARRIVE BETWEEN 10:30 & 10:45 A.M. SO WE CAN SET UP AND HEAT UP THE DISHES WE WILL BRING FROM HOME, IF NEEDED.** We will prepare a light lunch. I hope the Sassy Seniors will attend. Please let Ada Reid know by the Friday before so we will know how many of our group to plan for and add on an approximate number of others who will be attending. Call me, 864-4721 or email me at: slntonsr@cableone.net.

Seniors 2011 is set for

Thursday, March 24 at 2 p.m. at Handsboro Community Center on Switzer Rd. An ENT physician will share with seniors on the subject "Is It a Cold, Sinus or Allergies" and how to treat them. There will also be entertainment. The monthly program, sponsored by Garden Park Medical Center and hosted by Ada Reid. It is free and all seniors and interested others are invited to attend. Free refreshments, door prizes and handouts are available.



Friends of Mary

The Friends of Mary will meet on Tuesday, March 8 at 9:30 in the sanctuary parlor (yes, it is Mardi Gras day, but we are meeting at our regular time). We will continue our study of the Beatitudes. We invite all ladies of the church to join us.

The Messenger
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Gifts Given

In loving memory of Mrs. Gladys M. Hansen
Given by: The Path-Finders Sunday School Class

In loving memory of Juanita Tanner
Given by: Margaret Westbrook,
Mary McCay and Fay Kizzire

In loving memory of Katherine Stokes
Given by: Mary McCay

In loving memory of Juanell Meeks
Given by: J.C. Meek

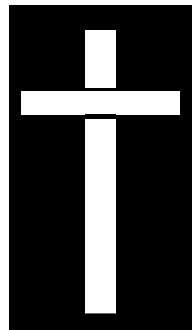
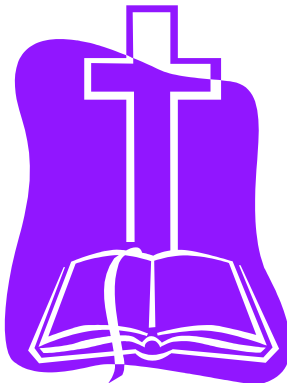
In loving memory of Rodney Van Loon
Given by: Ellen and Larry Montoya

In loving memory of Hilda Comfort
Given by: Sarah Holderer,
Tom and Nancy Holderer,
Margaret Westbrook

In loving memory of Ruth Campbell
Given by: Margaret Westbrook

In loving memory of Charlotte Parker
Given by: Catherine and Gary Whitener

In honor of Lydia McCormick
Given by: Beulah and Eddie Upchurch



ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES: NOON & 6:30 In the Sanctuary

Wednesday Lenten Luncheons
and Inspirational Programs

Light Lunch all dates at 11:30 -
Donation

(All dates except on Ash Wednesday
we will Worship at Noon in
the Fellowship Hall)

Mid-Week Lenten Series
March 9, 16, 23, 30, April 6 and 13

Would you prepare for worship during Lent?

LENT PEOPLE OF FAITH in Matthew

March 13	Matt 4.1-11	Jesus' Temptation
March 20	Matt 8.9-13	Centurion's faith
March 27	Matt 9.1-13	Healing, Calling Sinners (Matthew)
April 3	Matt 15.21-28 Communion	Canaanite Woman
April 10	Matt 9.18-26	Dead Girl & Sick Woman
April 17	Matt 21.1-11	Palm Sunday