



'Neath the Steeple

Quarterly Newsletter of Roberts Presbyterian Church

Organized 1789

*'Neath the steeple at Roberts Presbyterian you will find a **community** of real people who are more concerned about where you are going than where you have been. Our purpose is to ask the right questions, not provide easy answers. Here you will find unconditional **acceptance** and acts of **love**.*

Volume 10, Issue 1

First Quarter 2013

Lent ~ A Journey to the Edge

Lent calls us to journey along the edge, to anticipate that final trip to Jerusalem. Lent calls us to the cutting edge, when the wheat falls to the ground and new life comes forth; the cutting of a new covenant. Lent calls us not only to give up something, but also take upon ourselves as community the intention of true participation in the mystery of God-with-us. Lent calls us to corporate penitence, accountability and preparation. Lent calls us to concentrate upon our baptismal vocation to be a sign of the New Earth. Lent calls us to face the darkness without holding a flashlight....and look to Easter....because we are an Easter people!



Reflections by Becky

Courage to Speak ~ who would think that any of us need courage to speak our mind or say our peace? We are known for being a people who are "out-spoken...." yet that can be both good and bad. Are you as outspoken when you pray as when you speak to a friend, acquaintance or family member?

Read Psalm 70. Prayer tells us that words do matter when in conversation with God. We all know that God knows our hearts, what we desire and what we think. However, this is something uniquely important to us, as human beings, in conversing with God, putting our thoughts into special words. If we look at any religious tradition the best words in any language are used in relation to God, in our responses to God. We think of the best words possible to use in our prayer. Do they really matter when we are responding to God? If the words do matter in our relationship with God, then words do matter in our relationships with one another.

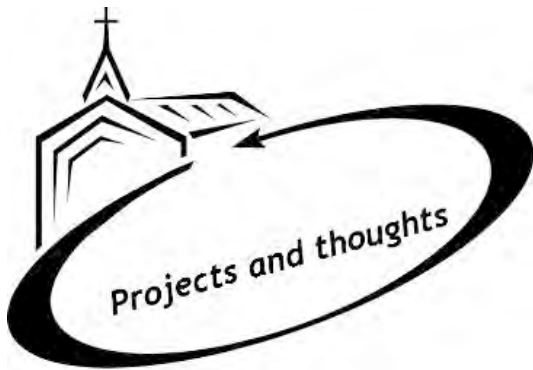
This reminds me of a Sunday I was filling in for Time with Children and I used a bowl, spoon and egg to talk with the children about words. They thought we were going to make cookies and someone would get lucky and get to lick the spoon. One little one volunteered to help me break the egg into the bowl. When it went in perfectly, he was elated... because he was going to be the lucky one to get cookie dough. I went on to talk about words and how there were good and sweet words and unkind and bad words. Once said...they can't be taken back. One might say they forgive us, but they don't forget the harsh words spoken in anger. So I asked if he could help me get the egg back into the shell...he looked so confused and said, "I can't....it's like Humpty Dumpty" and he was right...good lesson to learn! I did have a little baggie of cookies that I sent back to Children's Church for them to take home, but hopefully they remembered the words they speak and how they can't be taken back,and we should as well remember this.

During this Lenten Season, we need to re-think how we speak. I know I talk a lot to God on my drive to Roberts and then again back home. I used to think, "if only I could pray like Jack or Mike or Steve...but then, God knows what I'm thinking before I get the words out....so He is pleased that I talk with Him. This driving time is the perfect place of quiet and uninterrupted as long as traffic flows smoothly...and yes, cell phone is on "quiet..."

May you find the words to express your love, your worries, your concerns, your cares to one loving and understanding God who remains on watch with us and already knows us and our thoughts....and like a parent...loves us unconditionally even when we feel unlovable...and for that alone, we need to give thanks.

Think of Lent – is it time with Jesus you need to work on, is it prayer time, reading time, giving up or taking on? May we all take up or give up something that will be pleasing to God and we feel the spirit that moves from His pleasure with us....and may He say to us, as he did to His own Son, "You are my beloved child in whom I am well pleased..."

FOR REFLECTION ~ *What words do you most often use when you pray? Where did you learn to pray with these words? Are there other words you would like to add to your prayer vocabulary? Do you have prayers of lament? Are there words from your prayer life you wish you used more in your day to day speech? Just a little something to think on as we approach Lent.*



from your Session

Christian Education

Robert's church school offers classes for children and adults. The three adult classes are:

Fellowship Hall Class led by Bruce Ford is a discussion class. We are currently studying "A Life God Rewards, Why Everything You Do Today Matters Forever" by Bruce Wilkinson. A lively class made up of couples, singles, young and senior.

The Ladies Class meets in their classroom in the Administration Building, Sarah Walls, teacher. They are currently studying "The Present Word – Jesus is Lord."

The Reformed Newsletter Class meets in the History Room in the Administration Building. This is a discussion class led by Jon Vancil and Frank Hobgood. Participants discuss articles of interest from "The Reformed Newsletter."

The Sonflower Class meets in the basement of the Fellowship Hall. The Sonflower Class is a class taught by Amanda Vancil strictly for nurturing our children in the Christian faith. There is a lesson, activities and interaction to what has been taught by Amanda. Nurturing our children, who will be the future of our church, is one of the most integral parts of Christian Education. We are called to do as Christ said, "Suffer the little children to come unto me...."

All classes are open to all interested Robert's members and their friends. **YOU ARE NEVER TOO YOUNG OR TOO OLD TO LEARN SOMETHING NEW.**

Jon Vancil, Elder

Congregational Care

Dr. Taylor, Moderator of Session, suggested several changes to our elder responsibilities at the

January 2013 meeting. Session approved these changes by combining Church Growth and Congregational Care, and adding Long Range Planning to Personnel and Administration.

Three of our precious members, Frances Todd, Margaret Wentzky and Dick Herbert were called to their heavenly home in January. We assisted these families by serving dinner to the Todd family at their home, lunch to the Wentzky family in Fellowship Hall and dinner to the Herbert family in Fellowship Hall.

The Widow/Widowers group will meet for lunch on March 20th at 11:30 am in Fellowship Hall for the first of our Lenten Luncheons.

Speaking of Lenten Luncheons, the first Sunday of Lent is February 17th. Session approved our plans for the five weeks of Lent to serve soup for lunch followed by a short Bible study. Everyone is invited, men, women, children, neighbors, friends. Soup, cornbread and cookies will be provided. All you need to bring is your Bible and a hearty appetite for good homemade soup.

Mark the following dates on your calendar now and be ready for wonderful Christian fellowship at 11:30 a.m. on the following dates:

Wednesday February 20th
Monday February 25th
Monday March 4th
Monday March 11th
Wednesday March 20th

There will be a sign-up form in each Sunday's bulletin or you can call Becky, 225-9950, and let her know to add you to our count. We need to know how much soup to make!

Members of the Congregational Care,

Fellowship and Choir prepared and delivered fruit bags to the Hatchers, Margaret and Etrulia Wentzky, Frances Todd, Angela Hudgens and Marvin Hudgens on December 18, 2012. They had a wonderful visit with each of these members and sang Christmas songs while they were there. We also prepared fruit bags for Dr. Taylor, Becky and Joy.

Barbara McLees and I delivered unclaimed poinsettias to our homebound members on January 4 and 5, 2013. We also took poinsettias to the Huitt's and Law's.

Marie Herbert has volunteered to chair our card ministry. THANK YOU MARIE!!

Pat Jones, Elder

Fellowship

The Fellowship Committee has been involved in the First Wednesday Night Suppers. On January 9th, Vernita Brown from AIM spoke to us. On February 6th, Joy Brickman will be playing music for us to sing along to after our meal. We are working on plans for the March 6th supper. During Lent we will be involved with the Congregational Care Committee on Monday Lenten Bible studies with a soup lunch. Easter Sunday we hope to have a breakfast following the Sunrise Service. If you have any ideas that you would like us to arrange, please contact me.

Kim Holmquist, Elder

Worship

The Worship Committee is preparing for Easter. We will be ordering Easter lilies in March for the Sanctuary. We will have palms for Palm Sunday.

Holy Week ~ There will be a Maundy Thursday Service at 6:00 PM on March 28th. Communion will be served. There will be a Morning Service on Easter Sunday outside in the glen at 8:00 AM followed by breakfast in the Fellowship Hall. Our Easter Worship will be at 11:00 AM in the Sanctuary.

Ann Miller, Elder

Your Session Members and Responsibilities

Class of 2013

Ann Williams, Finance & Stewardship
Pat Jones, Congregational Care & Church Growth

Ann Miller, Worship

Class of 2014

Ryan Faulkenberry, Cemetery
Jon Vancil, CE, Children, Evangelism & Missions
Jim Welborn, Clerk

Class of 2015

DuPre Calhoun, Facilities
Kim Holmquist, Fellowship
Mike Seaborn, Administration, Personnel & Long Rang Planning

Cemetery Trustees

Class of 2013 – Bruce Ford
Class of 2014 – Shirley Holmquist
Class of 2015 – Ryan Faulkenberry

Treasurer

Manella Calhoun
Kim Holmquist, Financial Secretary

Elder on Call Schedule

February 3 – Jim Welborn
February 10 – DuPre Calhoun
February 17 – Kim Holmquist
February 24 – Mike Seaborn
March 3 – Pat Jones
March 10 – Ann Miller
March 17 – Ann Williams
March 24 – Ryan Faulkenberry
March 31 – Jon Vancil
April 7 – Jim Welborn
April 14 – DuPre Calhoun
April 21 – Kim Holmquist
April 28 – Mike Seaborn



Maundy Thursday Service – 6:00 PM
Easter Morning Service – 8:00 AM
Traditional Easter Worship – 11:00 AM



Frances K. Todd
May 9, 1923 – January 6, 2013

Margaret P. Wentzky
October 5, 1926 – January 19, 2013

Richard O. Herbert
May 19, 1922 – January 20, 2013

Easter Lilies



Name _____

In honor of: _____

In loving memory of _____

The amount for each lily is \$7.00. The deadline for ordering lilies is Sunday, March 17th.

Please pick up your lilies after worship on Easter Sunday or consider taking them to our shut-ins, people who are ill, people in local nursing homes or at Hospice of the Upstate. The promise of Easter would be deeply appreciated by all of these individuals. For additional information, please see or call Ann Miller. Thank you!

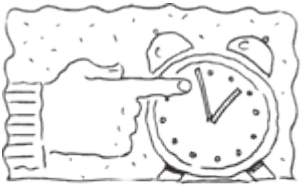
A Sign of Spring



In *The Story of the Easter Robin* (Zonderkidz), Dandi Daley Mackall retells an old Pennsylvania Dutch tale of the robin's compassion as he witnessed Jesus' death.

On Good Friday, a plain brown robin flying over Jerusalem was curious about the "nest" atop Jesus' head. When the bird realized it was a crown of thorns, he tried to dislodge it. As the robin pulled out a long thorn from Jesus' forehead, a drop of blood landed on the bird's breast, staining it red. Now the robin's red breast is a symbol of Jesus' loving sacrifice, and the robin's early-spring song is a reminder of Jesus' joyful resurrection.





SET YOUR CLOCKS Ahead!

Saturday before going to bed. Daylight Saving Time begins on Sunday, March 3rd.....you will not want to be late for Sunday School and Worship!



First Wednesday Night Suppers, 6:00 PM – Looking Ahead

- February 6 – Songs with Joy!
- March 6 – Donna Vandiver, member of PEO and accomplished musician
- April 3 – Girl Scouts and Leaders from Troop 2912
- May 1 – Frankie Adkins, ML, NBCT, Professional Storyteller



A FREE HEALTH FAIR

Saturday, April 13, 2013 – 9:00 – 1:00 PM
We are working on having a “Healthy Living Fair”. This will have a lot of representatives from different healthy living aspects here with

literature, tips on healthy living, staying well, etc. So far the following people are confirmed:

Personal Well Being
Anmed Outreach Van
Becky Kay for Mental Health America of Greenville County
Julia Palmer, Parish Nurse, Easley Baptist Hospital and Providence Presbyterian Church

Family Safety
Fire Safety House – Williford
Fire Truck – Williford

Service to Others
Anmed Blood Mobile
Keep America Beautiful (KAB) of Anderson County
Music and Nature – Working on these

Anyone with ideas for our follow-up are asked to call Brenda, Kim or Manella for your recommendations – all are welcome!



Want a Good Book to Read? Don't forget the Mobile Library comes to Roberts on Thursdays. The dates they are here are as follows: February 14, 28; March 14, 28; April 11, 25; May 9, 23; June 6. The “Mobile” is here from 2:30 – 4:30.

Serving the Church through April

Sanctuary Flowers

February 03 – Doug Bolt
February 10 – Lee Halleck
February 17 – Mike & Elise Seaborn
February 24 –
March 03 – Eunice Bailey
March 10 –
March 17 – Sam & Nancy Henderson
March 24 –
March 31 – Easter Lilies
April 07 – Ron & Joyce Currier
April 14 –
April 21 –
April 28 –

Ushers

February 03 – Ron & Joyce Currier
February 10 – Jim & Doreen Hoegler
February 17 – Barbara Dunlap & Betty Pearson
February 24 – Ron & Joyce Currier
March 03 – Mike & Elise Seaborn
March 10 – Keith & Shirley Holmquist
March 17 – Lee Halleck & Eve Bolt
March 24 – LeAnn Wilson & Eunice Bailey
March 31 – Barbra McLees & Mildred Law
April 07 – Ron & Joyce Currier
April 14 – Betty Pearson & Ann Miller
April 21 – Jim & Mary Welborn
April 28 – Jim & Doreen Hoegler

Worship Greeter:

Pat Jones



First Sunday Reminder - Please bring food for the Food

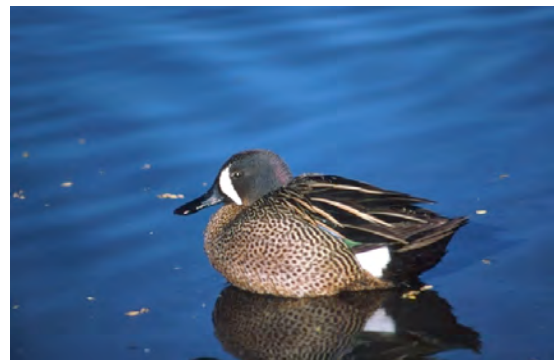
Pantry at AIM. Please pick up some extra staple items at the grocery store and place in the wagon as it comes down the isle. The Henderson's will get this taken to AIM. This is a much needed ministry since so many people in Anderson are unemployed and need our help in keeping food on their family's tables.



Third Sunday Reminder – Please bring in your items For the Babies and place in the wagon as it comes down the isle. This is a wonderful help to many parents who are struggling during this difficult time, as well, and they need our help.

Buc Outdoor Center, Foothills Presbytery, has received the 2011 Green Leaf Seal from the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s Environmental Ministries and the Presbyterian Church Camp and Conference Association. This honor speaks to the great commitment that both Buc Outdoor Center and Foothills Presbytery have to environmental stewardship.

And don't forget the Woods at Buc where you can relax, rejuvenate your spirit and enjoy family and friends. Buc offers wonderful "get aways" for children of all ages...from camping to renting a cabin and enjoying yourself.





View from the Bird Feeder

That is a beautiful thing to behold during the Christmas Season with the decorations, wreaths, candles in the windows and the beautiful tree. Everyone who worked so hard at getting the decorations up is surely appreciated for all their hard work! It got us chirping!

We just learned about Advent, Christmas and Epiphany, and now we are learning about Lent, Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday and Easter....cheep, chirp, squawk...Presbyterians are an educational group of people on the Holy Days that are celebrated.

We've noticed more and more people around the church during the evenings....understand there is something about growing and getting bigger. We don't think it can get much better, but

we are eager to learn and watch as you go out and "become fishers of people..."

- Have you noticed the group of ladies who come on Thursday and quilt? There are some beautiful quilts made by them (we really didn't know what they were called until one of them was kind enough to explain what all those fancy machines were for)...now, we want one to cover our nests on these cold and windy evenings....hint, hint!
- There have been some seasons of sadness in "our" church. Three much loved people have gone to heaven. We get glimpses of the heavens as we fly, but have no idea what it really is like...if you have ideas to share, please help us. We will miss Mrs. Todd, Mrs. Wentzky and especially Mr. Dick....he was a special man who was loved deeply, which was noticed by the many who came to the church for his funeral. Perfect healing has been granted for them.
- We heard that there was going to be a Lenten Study and luncheon beginning Wednesday, 2/20, continuing on Mondays 2/25, 3/4, 3/11 and ending on Wednesday, 3/20....maybe we can learn by sitting on the doorway or window sills....and be rewarded for being "Presbyterian Feathered Friends..."
- There will be Holy Week Services here and we understand they are deeply serious services that come together for Maundy Thursday, meditate at home on Good Friday and then here for the Holy Day of Easter! We are anxious to learn more about all of these Holy Days you worship and share with us....we learn from your sharing and spreading the word to your neighbors....someone said that Dr. Jack was the Pastor and each of you are the Ministers of this church....WOW...an awesome responsibility!
- There has been so much activity in the cemetery and yards getting everything looking good that even we got excited. There are such great things planned for this church and we want to help you spread the word about this wonderful place to Worship, learn and enjoy friends and fellowship. This sounds like our kind of church.
- We have been spreading the news you are looking for some "little ones" to come to church also....work on the parents and see if they can't bring their children here to be nurtured and loved....we know our parents work really hard keeping us in the nest and allowing us to get out when the time is right....Bird Church isn't nearly as good as the preaching and music that you have here, so we need to spread the word!
- We heard there was going to be an Easter Egg Hunt held here....don't know all about this event, but we are eager to watch and hope for a nibble of something that the children drop for us.
- Our Benediction to you during this Holy Season: "Dare we set our hope and hearts in the hands of a small-town Jewish carpenter? The answer rests in the Jerusalem graveyard. If Jesus' tomb is empty, then his promise is not."
- Until next time, "Holy, Holy, Holy!"





*We come before you, O God, in the shadow of the cross,
grateful for your great love for us. As you came to us
in Jesus to win our love and obedience, reveal yourself
among us, still. Give us courage to follow Jesus
over rocky hills where we carry our crosses and
green valleys where you restore our souls. For we pray
in the name of the shepherd whose life was laid
down for the sheep. Amen.*

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