The image features three black crosses of varying heights silhouetted against a sunset sky. The sky transitions from a deep purple at the top to a bright orange near the horizon where the sun is setting. The foreground is a dark silhouette of a hillside. The text is overlaid on the lower portion of the image.

IN HIS GREAT MERCY

he has given us  
**new birth** into a  
**living hope**  
through the resurrection  
of **Jesus Christ...**

1 P E T E R 1 : 3 , N I V

March, 2014

Volume 36 No. 3



# The Church Mouse



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## Chatting with Charlie – March 2014

On Wednesday March 5th we celebrated the beginning of Lent with a fellowship supper followed by our Ash Wednesday service. 60 of you attended the supper and were joined by roughly 20 Boy Scouts for the Service. We were called to acknowledge and confront our mortality - individually and corporately. That was symbolized through the imposition of ashes—placing a cross of ashes on one's forehead – as the words: “You are dust, and to dust you shall return” (Gen. 3:19) were repeated again and again. The ashes symbolize the dust and broken debris of our lives as well as the reality that eventually each of us will die.

The fleshly hunger that we feel as the result of our fasting should remind us that hunger for God is our truly healthy state. An empty stomach gives us hope that our hearts may become empty enough to receive God who is our only satisfying food.

We have the opportunity to help people in need or distress. We can give money and visit the sick, the lonely, people in prison. As we reach out to others, we are made a bit more compassionate and our lives are changed forever.

Perhaps we pray more than usual during the forty days of Lent. As we pray hopefully we recognize the generosity of God, who gladly accepts what we want to pray. In the end we find that through our prayers God has changed us and let's recognize ourselves for who we really are.

As you spend time alone with God during your Lenten journey, I hope you will be guided by the words of Edwina Gateley's poem *Let Your God Love You* - "Be silent. Be still. Alone. Empty before your God. Say nothing. Ask nothing. Be silent. Be still. Let your God look upon you. That is all. God knows. God understands. God loves you with an enormous love, and only wants to look upon you with that love. Quiet. Still. Be. Let your God Love you."

As we press onto the most glorious day of the year, Easter Sunday April 20<sup>th</sup>, please also take the opportunity to reflect on the sacrifice that Christ made on the Cross for you and give thanks to God for graciously enabling you to place your faith and trust in Him as your Lord and Savior and to be united with our Triune God and your fellow believers for eternity. Christ is risen. Christ is risen indeed.

Happy Easter to my brothers and sisters in Christ, Charlie.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF SESSION MEETING MARCH 16, 2014

\*WPC is the named sponsor for Stanton Weirsdale School's "Celebration Day" on May 16<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers are needed.

\*The website should be up and going by the end of the month. The website will feature current and archived services as well as current and archived copies of "The Mouse".

\*Spring Cleanup Day will be April 12<sup>th</sup> from 8 a.m. to noon. Lunch will be provided.

\*A new hot water tank was installed in Douglas Hall. The old dividers in Douglas Hall were removed. New doors were ordered for the front of Douglas Hall.

\*There will be a three week study on Forgiveness in April and May, after the study on "The Shack" is finished.

\*The Village View Men's Chorus accompanied by Frani Moir will be performing during Worship on March 30<sup>th</sup>.

Respectfully submitted by Sue Cordle, Clerk of Session

### INTRODUCING JOSH LEGGETT

We want to introduce our new choir director Josh Leggett. He came to us through a series of emails and felt called to respond to our request for a music leader.



Born in Huntsville Alabama Josh Leggett begun singing at a very early age. Growing up singing in his church he soon discovered his love for music and performing. In his early years he sang at EPCOT for their Candlelight Ceremony Christmas Celebration's from 1999-2010. Soon after he was discovered singing locally and became a regular artist in the Villages singing in various venues such as Church on the Square, Tierra De Sol, Havana, The Savannah Center and Katie Belle's. He also has recently traveled to Milan, Italy and Rome where he sang for the Pope and performed in concerts accompanied and directed by Maestro Doherty at the piano. Josh is currently a seasonal performer on Royal Caribbean cruise line throughout the year.

Josh, welcome to Weirsdale Presbyterian Church.



And along with our announcement of a new choir director, we want to let you know that choir rehearsals have resumed. Choir meets on Thursdays at 1:30 (with a break and no rehearsal on April 3).

Don't be shy. Josh has invited all to participate whether you think you can sing or not. All voices are beautiful to God, and it is all in praise of our Lord!



## **YARD & BAKE SALE**

### **PLACE:**

**Weirsdale Presbyterian Church  
16303 SE 137th Court, Weirsdale  
Near the junction of CR 42 and 25**

### **DATE:**

**Friday, March 28th  
9 AM to 2 PM**

**Come browse through a variety of items:**

**Jewelry, Furniture, Clothing**

**Kitchen Items, Art and More**

**Enjoy a light lunch of Pulled Pork Sandwiches and**

**Home Baked Desserts**

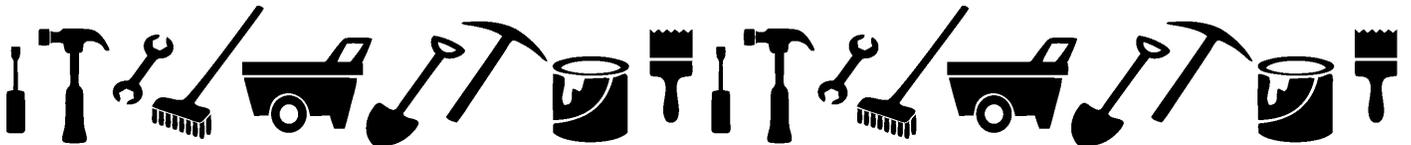
**We have it ALL!**



### **Spring Clean Up Day**

The Building & Grounds Committee announces a church clean-up day! Roll up your sleeves and give a hand at sprucing up the place. The grounds need a little weeding and raking around the beds. The insides could use some freshening up and dusting.

Put it all together and we end up with a sparkling clean church and grounds.





[www.weirsdalepresbyterianchurch.org](http://www.weirsdalepresbyterianchurch.org)

After many months of effort, the new Weirsdale Presbyterian Church website is live on the internet!

It is hoped that you will enjoy visiting it and find it useful.

When you arrive at the site, you will find menu tabs across the top for current church information and at the bottom, there are links to other important Presbyterian websites.

We are excited that the monthly newsletters AND the weekly worship services will all be there to keep everyone up to date on current church events.

The information will be continually updated, and we look forward to your input so that it is accurate and complete.

If you have questions or need help maneuvering through the different windows, do not hesitate to call Linda in the office at 352-821-2757 for guidance. She is open to comments and suggestions and will be happy to help in any way.

### Guest Musicians

Frani Moir and The Men of Action will be with us during the service Sunday, March 30th.



## Douglas Hall Renovation in Progress

Have you noticed that Douglas Hall is getting spruced up? Walls, interior doors and trim have all been brightened up with fresh paint. New front doors are being installed. There is a new water heater so there will be plenty of hot water for all those dishes!

More surprises are coming in the future. Keep your eyes open and see if you can spot them!

These improvements are possible due to the proceeds of the Harvest Happenings Fair last Fall.

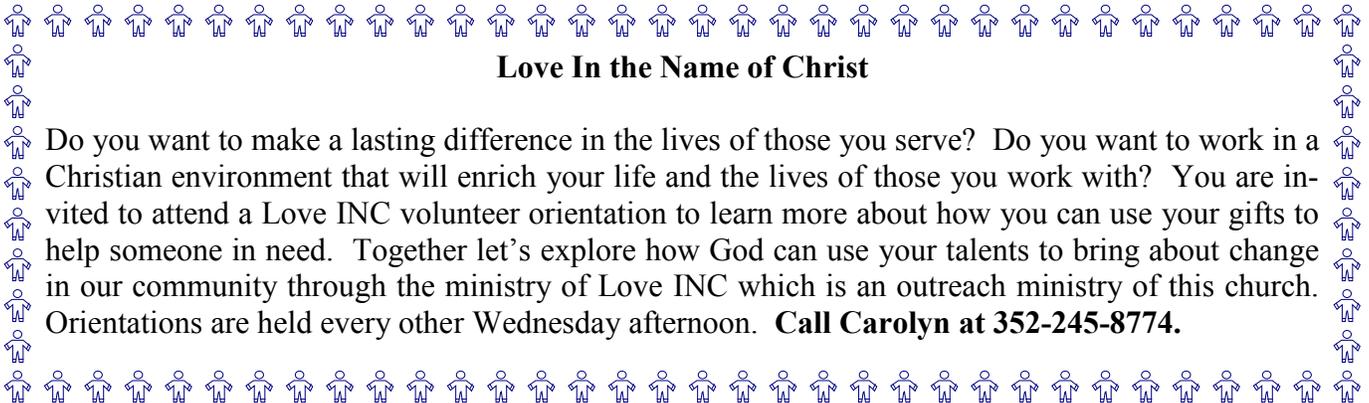


It is time to order Easter Lilies!



The order forms are in the Narthex. If you want a plant(s), please fill out the form(s) completely and place in the offering plate or turn in at the office by **Tuesday, April 1**. Make your check payable to the church and note that it is for an Easter Lily.

They are \$6.00 each.



### Love In the Name of Christ

Do you want to make a lasting difference in the lives of those you serve? Do you want to work in a Christian environment that will enrich your life and the lives of those you work with? You are invited to attend a Love INC volunteer orientation to learn more about how you can use your gifts to help someone in need. Together let's explore how God can use your talents to bring about change in our community through the ministry of Love INC which is an outreach ministry of this church. Orientations are held every other Wednesday afternoon. **Call Carolyn at 352-245-8774.**

### SIGN UP FOR ART CLASS!

Glass etching will be the activity for the April 26th art class by Diana Harris. Be sure to let her know if you will be attending on Saturday, April 26th. \$10.00 furnishes you with all needed supplies.



Call Diana at 352-425-4351 and plan to have a great time!

### Contact Information

Though the Church directory has been recently updated, we know that people continue to change addresses and phone numbers. Please remember to take a Contact Update Form (in Narthex), fill it out with any updated information and turn it in so the church records are always current.



## Operation Shoebox

The sewing group will be working in Douglas Hall on Monday, March 31, from 9:30AM to 2PM making ditty bags for our men and women in the military. We need sewers, sergers, cutters, & crocheters for strings. Bring your sewing equipment if you have any: portable sewing machines and sergers, scissors, etc. Bring a bag lunch and join the fun -- it makes you feel good just knowing you are bringing joy to those who are making our lives a bit safer here at home.

Donations of cotton or cotton blend fabrics, yarn and threads as well as monetary donations are also needed.

If you are unable to attend but would like to sew at home, we will provide you with a kit containing the cut fabric and sewing instructions.

Our heart-felt thanks to all who have contributed your time, talents and donations in the past and those who continue to support our mission. This would not be possible without your help.

Call Carol Dalbeck at 352-307-2093 if you plan to attend or have any questions.

### FROM THE TROOPS

Many notes of appreciation have been sent to Operation Shoebox by our troops stationed overseas. Here is one we received:

Dear Mrs. Kroes,

I want to thank you and all of your friends for the wonderful Christmas Stocking. I have no idea how I got on your list, but I am glad I did. I have gone years without a Christmas stocking because I did not want to buy one. I have been waiting, hoping that one day—without me asking—somebody would make a stocking by hand for me. Now I will cherish this stocking. I will take it home with me and hang it every year for Christmas. It will be a reminder of the difficulties I faced this year and of the Grace of God who got me through it. It will be a reminder of all the beautiful people like you that make every sacrifice seem insignificant. I am so proud of my country, honored to have the privilege of serving my country and doing my small part to keep our citizens happy and safe. I love the crocheted string. I love the happy, festive fabric, and I love the fact that God answers even our smallest, most unimportant wishes. How much more will He answer our important prayers.

Please tell off of your friends what a blessing it was for me to receive your special package and how it made my Christmas/Birthday away from home a little nicer. You are all doing a tremendous, great thing. May you all be blessed and rewarded for your immeasurable kindness.

Thank you.

CW2 Kelley Alayon

## REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Continued prayers are needed for the following:

1. Mary Grant who is recovering from a lung infection.
2. Cathy Skoff's Aunt Cora who is recovering from two hip surgeries.
3. Marie Oille who is receiving chemo.
4. The Kroe's friend's young grandson who received a liver transplant.
5. Cathie Vibber who is presently finished with cancer treatments but needs our continued prayers.

For further prayer requests, contact the following:

Alice Ralph	347-6647
Linda Spence	653-8835
Marie Oille	750-6452



## Prayer Requests



1. Mary Grimes is improving.
2. Eva Deeb is home from rehab.
3. Sue Rice is home and recovering from hip surgery.



Remember our friends who are homebound or in a care facility by sending them a card to brighten their day:

Al Bunce  
1626 Bay Meadows Lane  
Lady Lake, FL 32159

Gene Pratt  
3131 TCU Blvd.  
Orlando, FL 32817

Eleanor Redding  
16161 SE 117 Ave.  
P.O. Box 96  
Weirsdale, FL 32195

Marilyn Smith  
15020 SE 140th Ave. Rd.  
Weirsdale, FL 32195

### Community of Gratitude, Inc. Emergency Food Center Report

Community of Gratitude wants to thank you all for you continued support.

#### January, 2014

Total Individuals: 847  
Number of Households: 321  
Equivalent to 7623 meals  
Children ages 1-17 231

#### February, 2014

Total Individuals: 675  
Number of Households: 263  
Equivalent to 6075 meals  
Children ages 1-17 163

### GIFTING THROUGH THE NEW YEAR

1. The green forms for Altar flowers are in the Narthex. We have only two families signed up for flowers in April and one for May. What a lovely donation to the worship service when you pick a week and remember or honor a loved one. Still only \$25.00!
2. The Community of Gratitude Food Pantry and Love Inc Gas Cans can always use a refill. Bring non-perishable food and personal care items and place them in the basket in Douglas Hall. These items are being placed in the Narthex. Then drop some of that heavy change in your pocket into the gas cans. Your generosity has been overwhelming and both missions look forward to your continued assistance.

**WEIRSDALE  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH**

16303 SE 137th Court  
P. O. Box 269  
Weirsdale, FL 32195

Phone: 352-821-2757  
Fax: 352-821-3554  
E-mail: weirsdalepres@yahoo.com  
Website: www.weirsdalepresbyterianchurch.org



**Our Mission:  
Bring People to Christ  
Develop our Discipleship**

*Dates to Remember*

- Mar. 25, Small Study Group, THE SHACK, 10:00 AM
- Mar. 25, Tuesday Time Out, Noon
- Mar. 26, Boy Scouts, 7:30 PM
- Mar. 27, Women's Bible Study, 10:00 AM
- Mar. 27, Choir Rehearsal, 1:30 PM
- Mar. 28, YARD & BAKE SALE, 9 AM to 2 PM
- Mar. 30, Sunday Worship Service, 10:30 AM
- Apr. 1, Final Class for THE SHACK Study Group 10:00 AM
- Apr. 1, Tuesday Time Out, 12:00 Noon
- Apr. 2, Boy Scouts Meet, 7:30 PM
- Apr. 3, Women's Bible Study, 10:00 AM
- Apr. 3, NO Choir Rehearsal this week
- Apr. 5, DEACONS Meet, 9:00 AM
- Apr. 6, Sunday Worship Service & Holy Communion, 10:30AM
- Apr. 8, Tuesday Time Out, Noon
- Apr. 9, Boy Scouts, 7:30 PM
- Apr. 10, Women's Bible Study, 10:00 AM
- Apr. 10, Choir Rehearsal, 1:30 PM
- Apr. 13, PALM SUNDAY  
Sunday Worship Service & Holy Communion, 10:30AM
- Apr. 15, Tuesday Time Out, Noon
- Apr. 16, Sr. Singles, Meet Douglas Hall, 5:00 PM
- Apr. 16, Boy Scouts, 7:30 PM
- Apr. 17, Women's Bible Study, 10:00 AM
- Apr. 17, Choir Rehearsal, 1:30 PM
- Apr. 17, Maundy Thursday Soup Supper, 6:00 PM
- Apr. 17, Maundy Thursday Worship Service, 7:00 PM
- Apr. 18, GOOD FRIDAY
- Apr. 20, EASTER SUNDAY  
Sunday Worship Service & Holy Communion, 10:30AM
- Apr. 22, Tuesday Time Out, Noon
- Apr. 23, Boy Scouts, 7:30 PM
- Apr. 24, Women's Bible Study, 10:00 AM
- Apr. 24, Choir breaks for the Summer; Resumes next Fall
- Apr. 27, Sunday Worship Service & Holy Communion, 10:30AM
- Apr. 29, Tuesday Time Out, Noon
- Apr. 30, Boy Scouts, 7:30 PM
- May 1, Women's Bible Study, 10:00 AM
- May 3, DEACONS Meet, 9:00 AM



Email us at:  
**weirsdalepres@yahoo.com**

Check us out at  
**www.weirsdalepresbyterianchurch.org**

**Love INC**

Help with bills, housing, clothing and food  
Monday—Thursday: 9 AM to Noon  
352-245-8774 or 352-245-5632

**Community of Gratitude**

Emergency Food Pantry  
Tuesday 10AM to Noon  
Thursday 1PM to 3PM  
Saturday 10AM to Noon  
352-288-3499

Keep our troops in your prayers and pray for a safe return of all who are on foreign soils.

