

THE  
FORTY  
DAYS  
of LENT

BELIEVING  
IS  
SEEING

## **LENT: February 18th to April 4th**

**Soup & Bread Dinner**  
**February 18th 6:00 PM**  
**Ash Wednesday Service**  
**February 18th 7:00 PM**

January, 2015

Volume 37 No. 1



# The Church Mouse



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## Chatting with Charlie – January, 2015

As January draws to a close we look ahead to February. February 8<sup>th</sup> is Scout Sunday at our worship service followed by the annual Spaghetti Dinner. We look forward to another moving service led by the Scouts and Leaders of our Boy Scout Troop #113. We will also be commissioning the Scouts and their mentors who are participating in the 2015 God and Country program. We will be singing some of our favorite patriotic hymns. It will truly be a celebration of God and Country. We know that the Spaghetti dinner will be delicious as usual and is still a bargain at only \$5. Please come and bring a friend on the 8<sup>th</sup>.

On Wednesday February 18<sup>th</sup> we will celebrate the beginning of Lent with a fellowship supper at 6:00pm followed by our Ash Wednesday service at 7:00 pm. It is a time to turn around, to change directions, to repent. We must be willing to die to our old selves if we are to be raised to new life with Christ. We are called to acknowledge and confront our mortality - individually and corporately. This is 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) are repeated again and again. The ashes we wear on our Lenten journey 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 reminds us of the spiritual hunger that we need to feel to be truly alive. 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 give alms 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, something amazing happens - 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 we discover the poverty of our prayer, the emptiness of our words and the shallowness of our silence. Hopefully we recognize the generosity of God, who gladly accepts that we want to pray. In the end we find that through our prayers God has changed us and let us recognize ourselves for who we really are. I hope you and a friend can join us on the 18<sup>th</sup> to begin our Lenten journey together.

Your brother in Christ, Charlie

## HIGHLIGHTS OF STATED SESSION MEETING January, 2015

- Annual elections were held with the results being Elaine Morris as Treasurer, Sara Jane Vincent as Assistant Treasurer, and Sue Cordle as Clerk.
- Dishwashers in Douglas Hall were repaired.
- A commissioning service will be added to the Worship service on Feb. 8th for Scouts and their mentors attending the God and Country Program.
- The Fellowship calendar is posted for the new year.
- New office computers have arrived and will be installed Jan. 24th.
- Committee reports are due in the office by Jan. 31st. The annual meeting will be held on Feb. 22nd.
- Session approved having a Columbia Seminary student join us as a learning opportunity during their time in Seminary.

Respectfully submitted by Sue Cordle, Clerk of Session

## CRAFT BAZAAR MEETING

We will be meeting Saturday, Jan. 31st, at 9:00 AM to begin making our crafts in the craft room downstairs in Douglas Hall. Those who don't craft can help by packing and labeling crafts from our last show.

Come enjoy the excitement and creativity!

Elaine Rumpel 821-0055



## BOY SCOUT SPAGHETTI DINNER

**February 8th**

The Boy Scouts are planning their annual spaghetti dinner. Purchase your tickets from any scout for \$5.00. They will be serving all you can eat spaghetti, salad, bread, drinks and dessert.

You just cannot get a better deal than that for an excellent meal!

## Senior Singles Evening Postponed

Due to the third Wednesday of the month being Ash Wednesday in February, the seniors will be going out on Feb. 25th instead of on the 18th. Tentatively, they are planning a trip to Sam's St. John's Seafood Restaurant across from Wal-Mart. The meeting time will be the usual 5:00 PM.

Updated details will follow in future Sunday bulletins.

## LOOKING FOR VOICES

**ANYONE interested in singing in the CHOIR????**

Please join us in the choir loft  
right after church on February 1, 2015!

OR

Contact Linda Spence at 352-653-8835  
Or Starr Patterson at 352-408-5986.



**Sign Up  
for CHOIR**



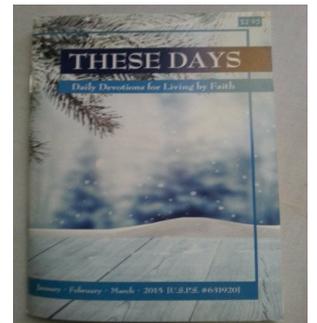
## The 2015 Planners Have Arrived!

The 2015 Calendar/Planners have arrived and are in the Narthex. Please pick up one for your family after worship this morning.

## The Devotionals Are Here

The quarterly devotion booklets THESE DAYS for January through March are in the Narthex.

There is a “Devotional Cup” on the table. Though it is not required, if you take one, would you consider dropping some coins in it to help defray the cost of the devotionals? It would be appreciated.



## Offering Envelopes



## Pledge Envelopes

The new blue pledge envelopes are in the Narthex for 2015. Your names and newly assigned numbers are on the tags. Please pick them up as soon as possible.

## Altar Flowers



*Altar Flowers*

There are a plenty of openings in the next few months for altar flower sponsorship. February 1st & 22nd, March 1st, 15th & 29th and April 12th & 26th and all of May are Sundays that are available.

If you would like to purchase the altar flowers for a Sunday worship service, the forms are in the doc holder in the Narthex. They are \$25.00 for a beautiful altar arrangement.

## Ash Wednesday

Before Ash Wednesday Church Service at 7:00 PM, there will be a soup and bread dinner at 6:00 PM. If you would like to help prepare a soup for that meal, please contact Betty McEuen at 245-9412 or Elaine Morris at 245-7426.



We all love to eat, and when we taste something really special, we want the recipe! Occasionally, it would be fun to put a favored recipe in the newsletter. If you have one you would like to share, send it to the office and it just might get published.

### Carrot Souffle

1 lb carrots, scraped and cut into 2-3" chunks or use baby carrots  
3 large eggs, beaten lightly  
1/2 cup sugar  
1/2 cup melted butter  
3 TBS all-purpose flour  
1 tsp baking powder  
1 tsp vanilla extract

Boil carrots in plain water (no salt added) for about 45 minutes or until very tender. Drain.

Process carrots in a food processor until smooth. You can mash them by other means, but get them as smooth as possible.

Preheat oven to 350°; grease or spray a 1 quart baking dish. Glass is best because of the smooth sides but can be cooked in a metal pan too.

Combine the carrot puree, eggs and all other ingredients in a medium sized bowl. Use a hand mixer to blend evenly.

Spoon into the greased backing dish. NO LID on dish! Optional: Sprinkle a little cinnamon on top.

Bake for 45 minutes or until set. Serve warm.

For larger groups, double the recipe and put in a 2 quart dish.

Recipe offered by Linda Spence



The sewing group which makes the ditty bags and Christmas stockings for our troops stationed over seas is meeting in Douglas Hall on the second and fourth Mondays each month. February meetings will be on the 9th and 23rd.

Your help is needed no matter what level of skill you have. Some tasks include cutting, sewing, and crocheting.

Diana Harris coordinates sewing sessions at church and delivers the items to Operation Shoebox. She can be reached at 352-425-4351 or at 352-625-6021.

Receiving news from our troops is always a heart warming experience. They love the ditty bags and Christmas stockings that are put together with such care and love for them, and they return their gratefulness with wonderful letters. Here is one.

*I want to thank you for what you folks do. The goodies and snacks in these bags bring joy to our day. My husband and I are both over here. So it is nice to receive things like this since we can't really send to each other. Just to let you know a little about me, I am a 21 year old. I have been in the Army for a little over 2 years. My husband is 22 and has been in the Army for a little over a year. We got married back in November. I love to write so if anyone is interested in being a penpal, I am here. (:*

*Again, thank you so much for what you folks do.*

*SPC Kirsten Stallsworth,*

*TF Thunder,*

*APO AE 90354*



Those who **hope** in the **LORD**  
will **renew** their **strength**.  
**They will soar on wings like eagles.**

ISAIAH 40:31, NIV

## REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

- Pray for Ken Hovis who is suffering from stage 4 cancer and his family.
- Pray for healing for Marie Oille who has gone into the hospital with pneumonia.
- Linda Spence asks for prayer for her mother-in-law Mary Spence who has serious kidney problems.
- Linda Spence asks for prayer for healing for her stepson Bo who had his gall bladder removed.

For further prayer requests, contact the following:

Ann Myers                      653-3319  
Robbie Bourque              350-3750 (C) or 391-9538 (H)



## PRAYER CHAIN INFORMATION

If you have a prayer request, please call **Ann Myers** at 653-3319 or **Robbie Bourque** on her cell at 350-3750 or at home at 391-9538.

Also, if you would be interested in helping on the prayer chain, call either Ann or Robbie and let them know.



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  
P.O. Box 96  
Weirsdale, FL 32195

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

## GIFTING THROUGH THE YEAR

1. The new forms for **Altar Flowers for 2015** are in the Narthex. If you are so moved to sponsor the flowers for a Sunday service, please fill out a form and return it to the office or put in the collection plate on Sundays. The flowers are only \$25.00 and add to the beauty of the sanctuary and service.
2. The **Love INC** gas cans are always conveniently located in the Narthex and Douglas Hall so you can drop your change in them as you are coming or going. The little amounts that you leave make such a big difference to those in need of your help.
3. The first Sunday of each month is **Food Pantry Sunday**. Please put your items in Douglas Hall in the designated area. They are always in extra need of peanut butter, jelly, cereal, applesauce and personal toiletries.

**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@gmail.com  
Website: www.weirsdalepresbyterianchurch.org



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

## *Dates to Remember*

Jan 31, End of Year Reports Due  
Jan 31, Crafters Meet, Douglas Hall Craft Rm, 9:00 AM  
Feb 1, **No** Adult Sunday School, 9:00 AM  
Feb 1, Sunday Worship & Communion, 10:30 AM  
Feb 1, Food Pantry Sunday  
Feb 1, Fellowship, 11:30 AM  
Feb 3, Tuesday Time Out, 11:30 AM  
Feb 4, **No** Small Groups , 10:00 AM & 2:00 PM  
Feb 4, Boy Scouts, 7:30 PM  
Feb 5, Women's Bible Study, Douglas Hall, 10:00 AM  
Feb 7, DEACONS Meet  
Feb 8, **No** Adult Sunday School, 9:00 AM  
Feb 8, Sunday Worship, Boy Scout Sunday, 10:30 AM  
Feb 8, Fellowship **Boy Scout Spaghetti Dinner**, 11:30 AM  
Feb 9, Sewing Group, Douglas Hall, 9:00 AM  
Feb 10, Tuesday Time Out, 11:30 AM  
Feb 11, **No** Small Groups , 10:00 AM & 2:00 PM  
Feb 11, Boy Scouts, 7:30 PM  
Feb 12, Women's Bible Study, Douglas Hall, 10:00 AM  
Feb 14, Valentine's Day  
Feb 15, Adult Sunday School, 9:00 AM  
Feb 15, Sunday Worship, 10:30 AM  
Feb 15, Fellowship, 11:30 AM  
Feb 15, SESSION Meets  
Feb 17, Tuesday Time Out, 11:30 AM  
Feb 18, Small Groups , 10:00 AM & 2:00 PM  
Feb 18, **No** Sr. Singles--moved to Feb. 25, 5:00 PM  
Feb 18, Soup & Bread before service, 6:00 PM  
Feb 18, **ASH WEDNESDAY** Service, 7:00 PM  
Feb 18, Boy Scouts, 7:30 PM  
Feb 19, Women's Bible Study, Douglas Hall, 10:00 AM  
Feb 22, Adult Sunday School, 9:00 AM  
Feb 22, Sunday Worship, 1st Sunday of Lent, 10:30 AM  
Feb 22, Annual Congregational Meeting, 11:30 AM  
Feb 22, Fellowship, Potluck, 11:30 AM  
Feb 23, Sewing Group, Douglas Hall, 9:00 AM  
Feb 24, Tuesday Time Out, 11:30 AM

Feb 25, Small Groups , 10:00 AM & 2:00 PM  
Feb 25, Sr. Singles, Sam's St. Johns (tentative), 5:00 PM  
Feb 25, Boy Scouts, 7:30 PM  
Feb 26, Women's Bible Study, Douglas Hall, 10:00 AM

**Check Us Out—Keep in Touch!**

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

[weirsdalepres@gmail.com](mailto:weirsdalepres@gmail.com)

### 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

