

NEW HORIZONS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

March Newsletter

Important Dates for March

Ash Wednesday	March 1
World Day of Prayer	March 3
International Women's Day	March 8
Daylight Savings	March 12
St. Patrick's Day	March 17
Father's Day	March 19

Church Office Hours:
Tu, Th, F: 8:30am—2:00pm

Phone: (314) 427-0841

Fax: (314) 427-0568

Email: newhorizonspcusa@sbcglobal.net

Website: www.newhorizons-pcusa.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/NewHorizonsPCUSA



NEW HORIZONS PC(USA)

News 'n Views

Seek ye the Lord, with heart, mind, and soul

Words from Rev. Mark

Dear friends:

As I write this, Ash Wednesday has come and gone. I was once asked why we use ashes on Ash Wednesday. Does it have anything to do with something Jesus did? Not really. Unlike other rituals of the church which Jesus commanded us to do like baptism and the Lord's Supper, the imposition of ashes on our foreheads is not a requirement from Jesus. Rather, ashes are an ancient symbol of repentance which Christians have borrowed to mark the beginning of Lent. Lent is the period of preparation before the celebration of Easter. During Lent, Christians pause to reflect upon their sins, repent, and seek God's forgiveness. Why are ashes a symbol of repentance? The exact reason is lost in the mists of history, but ashes remind us of our mortality. A familiar line in the funeral liturgy is "dust to dust and ashes to ashes." This reminds us that all human life ends up on the ash heap of history. Furthermore, ashes are the residue of fire which is a symbol of judgment and purification. As human beings face the reality of death and judgment and seek God's love and forgiveness, it seems only natural that we would use ashes to signify our willingness to repent of sin and turn back to God as we ask for forgiveness. A dramatic example from the Bible occurs in Jonah. Jonah was sent by God to proclaim judgment on the city of Ninevah. At first, he didn't want to go and fled in the other direction. During his attempt to escape from God's commandment, he was swallowed by "a large fish." Eventually, he did go to Ninevah where he announced, "Forty days more and Ninevah shall be overthrown!" (Jonah 3: 4.) When the king heard about this, he "removed his robe, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes." (Jonah 3: 6.)

Another question we might ask during Lent is why forty days? For unknown reasons, the number forty is very important in the Bible. Moses and the Israelites wandered forty years in the wilderness before reaching the Promised Land. Jonah announced that Ninevah would be destroyed in forty days. After his baptism, Jesus spent forty days in the wilderness being tempted



Lee Crisler
Faith Gillespie
Elaine & Tom Shanahan
Jeff Johnson
Frazier Family
Debbie Frazier
Jim Cochran
Lucille Yamnitz
Evelyn Reed
Kathryn Byrd
Edie Roberts
Marion Brewer
Lore Bailey
Laura Ringling
Nancy Yamnitz
Rhonda McClain-Wright
Tom Highfill
Peg Berger
Dorothy Alexander
The Family and Friends of Betty Wetzel
The Family and Friends of Laverne Bunting

****The Prayer List is located in the Narthex.
Please write in prayer requests throughout the
month, and they will be added promptly.**

Office Hours:

Tues, Thurs, Fri 8:30am—2pm

Pastor's Hours:

Tues & Thurs 11:00am—1pm

Office phone: (314) 427-0841
Pastor's home phone: (314) 395-8242
Pastor's cell phone: (314) 779-6940
Pastor's email: mark.strothmann@att.net

by the devil. After his resurrection, but before his ascension, Jesus spent forty more days on earth. The season of Lent developed because Christians sensed the need for repentance in preparation for the celebration of Easter. Like Jesus, who was in the wilderness for forty days with the devil, we too need time to face our temptations before we can accept the wonderful gift of new life given to us through the resurrection of Jesus. During the forty days of Lent, we "give up" things that tempt us as we contemplate our sins and seek forgiveness as we prepare for Easter.

It is interesting to note that the forty days of Lent do not include Sundays. The reason for this is that every Sunday is a celebration of the resurrection. Since Lent is a period of preparation for Easter, it would be inappropriate to include Sundays, which are already celebrations of the resurrection. Thus, counting back from Easter, Lent consists of six weeks of six days and four days from the week of Ash Wednesday.

All of this is more than church history trivia. For centuries, Christians have honored Lent as a time of preparation before Easter. This includes honest and sincere repentance as we openly struggle with our sins and seek forgiveness from God. Many Christians express their sorrow for sin with fasting and special worship services which also prepare us for the celebration of new life on Easter. For example, we are hosting a series of Lenten Lunches in our Fellowship Hall every Thursday day in Lent. We began on March 2 and we will continue through April 6. This is a program of the Ritenour Ministerial Association and features a Bluegrass band from Overland Baptist Church at 11:30, lunch at 11:45, followed a devotion every week by one of the local pastors. The theme is mountains of the Bible and I will talk about God's command to Abraham to sacrifice Isaac on Mt. Moriah on March 9 (this week!) Be sure to join us!

Pastor Mark

Newsletter Deadline

Newsletter articles for the April Issue should be submitted to **the office** by March 25, 2015.

Comedy Night & Spaghetti Dinner

Saturday, April 1, 2017

6pm—9pm

The Ritenour Co-Care Food Pantry presents "April Fool's Comedy Night & Spaghetti Dinner" featuring comedian Tim McClendon (timmclendoncomedy.com)! Join us for a family friendly night to remember filled with laughs and meatballs! Adult admission is \$12; child admission is \$5. Kids under 4 eat *free*!

To reserve your tickets, call: (314) 427-7204

or email: rccfoodpantry@att.net

(tickets at the door: adult \$15/child \$7)

**6-8 Overland Lions Hall
2358 Lackland Rd.**

All proceeds benefit the RCC Food Pantry

Overland Craft & Vendor Fair

Saturday, March 18th

9am—3pm

Do you need a special gift for someone for the holidays? The City of Overland will be hosting their Annual Spring Craft & Vendor Fair on March 18, 2017 at the Overland Community Center from 9am-3pm.

This spring craft fair will feature hand-made items or items of a craft nature. A wide variety of wonderful hand crafted and specialty novelty items will be available along with delicious baked goods! A food concession will be available to customers and all vendors between the hours of 11:30am and 2pm.

Lenten Prayer Retreat

Saturday, April 1st

9am—12pm

Cost: \$10 per person, includes materials and a light breakfast. You are invited to join Rev. Dr. Dieter Heinzl and Anne Peacock as we create space for God in our lives through contemplative prayer (the pure gift of God) and lectio divina (the sacred reading of the scriptures). Continuing to practice spiritual disciplines allows our lives to be transformed in ways we hadn't planned or counted on, for God works in wonderful and surprising ways. We are called to love God and neighbor with our whole heart, soul, mind and strength (Luke 10:27). RSVP by Monday, March 27, by calling Anne Peacock at: 314-993-4771, ext. 3122 or by emailing: apeacock@laduechapel.org

“Is Today Really That Bad?”

We tend to look at the past wistfully, the present critically, and the future fearfully. But as Christians we are called to look at life through a different lens. We are called to look at the past realistically, the present faithfully, and the future hopefully.

Do you remember how great life used to be? I mean before we had cell phones and computers and internet and email and Facebook and Snapchat and Instagram and,... and,... and,...? Do you remember when people used to pick up their phones and actually talk with each other? Do you remember when we used to be able to go through the day without hearing a ringtone or feeling a buzz? Weren't those wonderful times?

It depends on how we look at them. Yes, people could pick up a phone and talk, but that doesn't mean they did. Many families are closer now because of modern technology. Back then, we didn't actually know what our kids were doing once they left home for the evening on a date. Certainly trying to get tickets to a sporting event, a play, flights, a concert, or anything was a lot harder. It seemed like a golden age, but there are things about today that are golden, too. We just won't notice how golden for another 30 years.

Do you remember when everyone was much more self-reliant, people got along with each other, people didn't argue as much, and life was simpler? It depends on how you look at it. Blatant bigotry was much more acceptable, women were less equal, there were fewer opportunities to feel self-reliant, and the country was torn apart by protests over civil rights, war, equal rights, equal access, and so much more.

The point is that we've always tended to look at the past wistfully, the present critically, and the future fearfully. But much of the past was terrible, and our present/their future has become much better. We don't see it because any present time still has many conflicts and problems. Our view of the past is always shrouded by clouds of "wist."

We've always tended to look at the past wistfully, the present critically, and the future fearfully.

When we look at the past wistfully, the present critically, and the future fearfully, it actually harms us spiritually. How? By allowing us to act as though God was more present in the past, while diminishing how God is calling us to serve today. The truth is that in so many ways the present is better than the past, but in any present age we are always called to make today better than yesterday, and tomorrow better than today.

To do this we first have to get rid of the "golden age" dust we tend to sprinkle over our memories so we can look realistically at the past with all its warts. The further back we go, the worse the world really was, especially if we weren't born into more privileged circumstances. If you were an immigrant, an African-American, Latino, poor, or at a disadvantage in some other way, life was harder, and sometimes it could be brutal. People didn't love each other as much as we suppose, and much of the past missed God's mark.

Second, we're called to look at the present faithfully—to ask, "God, how are you calling me to make this world better?" How are we called to make compassion, patience, kindness, generosity, love, and peace more tangible and more available? We are all called to work in the world to share Christ's love so that future generations can wistfully look at our times as a golden age, even if their age is better.

Finally, we are called to look at the future hopefully, trusting that we are part of God's work to always make it better than the present and the past. As Christians, we are called to discourage discouragement. In other words, never give up hope that God is at work, and no matter how bad today may be, there are many, many blessings to come if we are willing to work to bear them into the world.

The Rev. N. Graham Standish, Ph.D., M.S.W. is senior pastor of Calvin Presbyterian Church in Zelienople, Pennsylvania. He is the author of seven books on spirituality and church transformation, and is an adjunct faculty member of Pittsburgh Theological and Tyndale Seminaries. He also has a background as a spiritual director, and as an individual and family therapist.

One Great Hour of Sharing

As usual at our church, and across the country, Presbyterians celebrate One Great Hour of Sharing during Lent and receive the money at Easter. This offering helps Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Presbyterian Hunger Program and Self-Development of People.

The Christian reason of Lent is historically marked with fasting, a traditional practice of giving up food and devoting yourself to prayer. But this isn't the only type of fasting the Bible talks about. Isaiah 58 describes a new kind of fasting, not to give up bread, but to *share it*. Isaiah calls us to "loose the bonds of injustice," to "let the oppressed go free," to "share bread with the hungry," and to "invite the homeless poor into our home." One way we can answer this call is through our gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing. Please give generously at Easter—Sunday, April 16th.



Words to Live By

"You shall love your neighbor as yourself."
- Leviticus 19:18

Let Us Pray

Holy God, I call upon you with a renewed spirit. Reveal yourself to me in fresh ways today. Show me the paths you have placed before me. Be with me in every decision I make. Amen.

Opportunities in PC(USA)

Giddings-Lovejoy Presbytery (St. Louis, MO) is looking for an Office Manager full time, non-exempt position, for an indefinite term with an annual review conducted by the Presbytery Leader in consultation with the Personnel Work Group. If interested, please contact Personnel Convener, Rev. Dr. David Holyan, personnel@glpby.org

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

One person was killed in the storm, centered on the small community of Perryville, Tuesday night, and at least 10 others were injured. Rescuers searched 180 homes, and about 60 percent of them had moderate to major damage. The EF-3 tornado that roared across Perry County tore a 15-mile-long path and cost 60 families just about everything,

The Presbytery Disaster Assistance is on the scene, touring Perryville and is assessing the damage for a formal report of need to PC(USA). It is in times like these we remember that we respond in mission to our friends and family in Perryville, particularly the congregation of First Presbyterian Church, Perryville. Please pray for Rev. Nancy Gillard and their congregation as they respond to the immediate needs of the community.

It is of critical importance that we remember their financial needs at this time. It is with that in mind that the Presbytery of Giddings-Lovejoy has created an account for this tragic event, in hopes of helping that congregation where it helps the most. No amount of giving is too small.

Please send donations of any amount to:

Presbytery of Giddings-Lovejoy
ATTN: Perryville
2236 Tower Grove Ave.
St. Louis, MO 63110-3596

March Birthdays

Anthony Brannon	03/02
Jim Cochran	03/06
Michelle Albin	03/19
Christopher Albin	03/20
Dan Fletcher	03/20
Lore Bailey	03/22
David Frazier	03/26

March Anniversaries

Alva & Lucille Yamnitz	03/08
Dan & Terri Fletcher	03/19

“All of It Matters”

My 1-year old daughter is finally starting to enjoy it when we read a story together. Or maybe it's actually me who is starting to enjoy it. My husband and I have tried to read to her since the very beginning, just as all the child-rearing gurus urge parents to do. But I struggled with the activity. I wanted to start at the front of the book, tell her the title and author (just as my librarian father always did) and then read the story cover to cover. We would stop to look at pictures along the way, of course, but otherwise I wanted to move through the book in a forward, linear way.

Obviously, this strategy was not very successful. My baby would always want to look at the previous page, rather than the upcoming one. She would sit on my lap for 37 seconds in order to look at two pages before she was done. Most of all, she preferred eating the pages to looking at the animals and faces on them. I got stressed and frustrated, worried that our reading wasn't successful. My struggle was that I was trying to do the reading thing right. They say you have to read to them, so that's what I was seeking to do. But since it wasn't working well, I wasn't pulling out books as often as I probably should have. As with many parts of parenting, I am frequently worried that I'm not doing it the proper way.

This is my struggle with spiritual practices, too. There is not a lot of time in my life to be alone and quiet for extended periods, which seem to be the right conditions for prayer and Scripture reading. Being unable to do those practices in what I saw as the right way, I let those practices go for a while. But in the last months, I have been able to pick up them again. That is in large part because I have retrained myself about what it means to do these practices in the right way, just as I am learning what reading to a baby actually means.

The parenting blogs have helped me see that reading to my child means looking at one page at a time and then dropping the book to pick up another toy. Reading means studying one picture intently and then choosing another book entirely. It counts as reading whether she

has the pages upside down or whether she sucks on the pages in between turning them, as long as we are there talking about it together. We are reading when we point to the cow and say, “moo,” just as much as when she now sucks her thumb, holds her blanket and listens to one story all the way through before bed. All of it counts as reading. All of it matters.

Spiritual practices are like that for me, right now, too. I have come to accept that they don't have to be done in a way that feels perfect and holy. I don't always feel like I can sink in and feast on the word. Instead, I feel like I am snacking or munching on it in bits and pieces, here and there. Instead of time spent in a book, I take a couple of minutes to open the Daily Prayer app on my phone and briefly ponder the snippet from the Gospel. My prayers for parishioners and loved ones are sometimes done at my desk to start my day. But often they are interspersed between phone calls and emails. Reading with my daughter is teaching me that all of this is OK. The act of doing these things is what is important. Letting go of my expectations of what is right and proper actually empowers my practice. Whether it's concentrated time or moments of devotion interspersed here and there, all of it counts. All of it matters.

EMMA NICKEL serves as interim pastor at Beulah Presbyterian Church in Louisville, Kentucky. She is passionate about congregational ministry, trying new recipes and keeping her baby's naps on schedule. She lives in Louisville with her husband, Matt, and their young daughter.

New Horizons Newsletter

Don't forget that you are welcome and invited to submit items for the Monthly Newsletter here at New Horizons! Simply leave a submission on the office desk, in the After Hours Office Mailbox, or in the “Newsletter” box in the office mailroom!

In Celebration of Life & Loving Memory

Our sincerest prayers go out to the family and friends of Betty Wetzel and Laverne Bunting who passed away in February.



Please keep their loved ones in your thoughts and prayers during this time.



Sponsored by Ritenour Ministerial Association

Soup/ Sandwich Lunch (\$3 suggested donation)
Featuring Live Bluegrass Gospel Music
Brief Devotional from a Different Area Pastor Each Week

11:30 AM – 12:30 PM

Thursdays in the Season of Lent:

March 2, March 9, March 16, March 24, March 30, April 6

At New Horizons Presbyterian Church
9424 Everman Ave.

The ground-level entrance to the New Horizons Fellowship Hall is at the back door of the church building. Any proceeds from the lunch will benefit the Rent & Utility Program operated by the Ritenour Ministerial Alliance.

Here's a Peek at the Peaks!

Thursday, March 2- Mount Ararat
Genesis 9: God's Covenant With Noah

Thursday, March 9 – Mount Moriah
Genesis 22: Abraham's Offering of Isaac

Thursday, March 16 – Mount Sinai
Exodus 19, 20: Moses Receives the Law

Thursday, March 24 – Mount Carmel
Exodus 18: Elijah and the Prophets of Baal

Thursday, March 30 – Mount Hermon
Matthew 17 :The Transfiguration Matthew

Thursday, April 6 – Mount of Olives
Matthew 26: Jesus in Gethsemane

All of them building to Mount Calvary

March 2017 - New Horizons' Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 10:30am Worship 12:30pm Pendo Comm.	27 10:00am Free to be Me AI-Anon (JH)	28 7:00pm Narcotics Anon (JH)	1 8:30am Mission Sewing 7:00pm Ash Wednesday Service	2 11:30am Lenten Lunch 7:00pm Narcotics Anon (FH) 7:00pm Choir	3 10:00am Freedom AI-Anon (JH)	4 10:00am Pendo Prayers in Sanct. 10:00am Betty Wetzel Memorial Service
5 10:30am Worship & Communion 12:30pm Pendo Comm.	6 10:00am Free to be Me AI-Anon (JH)	7 7:00pm Narcotics Anon (JH)	8 8:30am Mission Sewing 6:30pm Session Mtg	9 11:30am Lenten Lunch 7:00pm Narcotics Anon (FH) 7:00pm Choir	10 10:00am Freedom AI-Anon (JH)	11 10:00am Pendo Prayers in Sanct.
12 10:30am Worship 12:00pm Mission Mtg 12:00pm Deacon Potluck 12:30pm Pendo Comm.	13 10:00am Free to be Me AI-Anon (JH)	14 7:00pm Narcotics Anon (JH)	15 8:30am Mission Sewing	16 11:30am Lenten Lunch 7:00pm Narcotics Anon (FH) 7:00pm Choir	17 10:00am Freedom AI-Anon (JH)	18 10:00am Pendo Prayers in Sanct.
19 10:30am Worship 12:15pm Deacon Mtg 12:30pm Pendo Comm.	20 10:00am Free to be Me AI-Anon (JH)	21 10:00am Presby. Women Mtg (JH) 7:00pm Narcotics Anon (JH)	22 8:30am Mission Sewing	23 11:30am Lenten Lunch 7:00pm Narcotics Anon (FH) 7:00pm Choir	24 10:00am Freedom AI-Anon (JH)	25 10:00am Pendo Prayers in Sanct.
26 10:30am Worship 12:30pm Pendo Comm.	27 10:00am Free to be Me AI-Anon (JH)	28 7:00pm Narcotics Anon (JH)	29 8:30am Mission Sewing	30 11:30am Lenten Lunch 7:00pm Narcotics Anon (FH) 7:00pm Choir	31 10:00am Freedom AI-Anon (JH)	1 10:00am Pendo Prayers in Sanct.