



# The Messenger

Newsletter of The Walhalla Presbyterian Church  
and  
The West Union Chapel  
Volume No. 151, Issue No. 3 & 4 March/April 2017

Dear Church Family,

The 40 days of Lent always begin on Ash Wednesday. This year, Ash Wednesday falls on March 1. Our 2017 Ash Wednesday service will be held at Walhalla Presbyterian Church at 7:00 PM. I always enjoy Ash Wednesday services because they tend to be deeply moving worship experiences, and they provide a special opportunity for repentance and rededication. I hope you will join us for this important worship experience!

Because I grew up in a non-liturgical Presbyterian church, I used to think that Lent was a Roman Catholic thing. However, as seminary student I learned that in the year 325, the Council of Nicaea—the council that produced the first edition of the Nicene Creed—endorsed *a 40-day period of spiritual preparation for Easter*. Thus, Lent originated long before there were different denominations. Consequently, Lent is part of the spiritual heritage of all Christians.

Many Protestants also think that receiving ashes on the forehead is a Roman Catholic practice. It is not! The concept of Ash Wednesday services predates the Reformation by at least 500 years. And long before Jesus died for our sins, the people of God in the Old Testament used ashes as a symbol of *repentance*. The Old Testament books of Job, Jonah, Jeremiah, and Daniel all mention the use of ashes to symbolize repentance. And **Jesus** refers to ashes as a sign of repentance in Matthew 11.21 and in Luke 10.13. In passages like Genesis 18.27 and Job 30.19, ashes also symbolize *humility*. On Ash Wednesday, people who so desire have the opportunity to receive ashes as a symbol of humility and repentance. ***The ashes we will receive will be applied in the shape of a cross because Jesus, the crucified Lord, is our model and source of perfect humility, and because it is through Jesus and his cross that our repentance is accepted and our sins are forgiven!***

Some people do various kinds of *fasting* during Lent. To fast is to voluntarily abstain from something for a set period of time. Abstaining becomes a *spiritual* activity when we do it as an expression of our love, need, or desire for God. Ideally, the time gained by abstaining from an activity is given back to God in prayer, Bible reading, or service. Fasting is not limited to food; modern Americans might consider fasting from TV, cell phones, media, or technology. Any fasting is better than none. Fasts need not last for 40 days! Even if you do choose to give up something for *all* of Lent, Lent does not include Sundays because every Sunday is “The Lord’s Day,” a day for celebrating the resurrection. This means that if you give up something for Lent, then you can enjoy that thing on Sundays because Sundays are not part of Lent.

Thomas à Kempis (*Imitation of Christ*, 1.19) states that “fasting helps to bridle every inclination of the flesh.” Calvin agrees (*Institutes*, 4.12.15). Most importantly, Jesus does not say to us, “IF you fast...” He says to us, “WHEN you fast...” (Mt. 6.16).

We can also prepare ourselves for Easter by *adding* things for Lent. We can increase our openness to God’s loving presence and transforming work by adding as little as 10 extra minutes a day in Bible reading/study, or prayer, or sitting in silence with God.

Lent, ashes, and spiritual practices cannot save, but they can help us focus on the Savior! The spiritual practices help open us to God’s loving presence and transforming work. This Lent, may each of us give a little more of ourselves to God, and may each of us recognize, experience, and enjoy more of God.

Love, grace, and peace in Christ to you all!

*Vaughan*



## WPC Capital Campaign to Sponsor BBQ

Submitted by Don Neal

On Saturday, April 15, the WPC Capital Campaign will sponsor a barbecue lunch. The purpose of the event is to raise money to pay toward the church debt incurred during the church rebuilding.

The meal will feature barbecue, slaw, baked beans, bread, water, and a brownie at a cost of \$8 per plate.

The barbecue plates will be sold in the church parking lot between 11 am and 2 pm.

Please advertise this event to friends and family. We will not sell advance tickets for the event.

We need our church family to help with serving. If you can volunteer, please contact Don Neal at 864-638-5640 or 864-404-8953.

## Women of the Church

Submitted by Sharon Welfare

The Women of the Church would like to remember two special ladies we lost in December 2016: Roberta Head (83) on December 20 and Lou Abercombie (81) on December 25. We celebrated their Christian lives on December 27 (Roberta) and December 28 (Lou) with some tears, much laughter, and a great deal of love. Both loved and cherished their extended families and many friends. Both embodied the spirit of a true Southern Lady and lived the words of John 14: "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God... I am the way and the truth and the life." We miss their sweet smiles and know without a doubt they rest peacefully. God bless them and their families.



## Chapel News

Submitted by Sue Caldwell

We will have 3rd Sunday Lunch on March 19th following Worship services. Hope to have a big crowd since it has been a while since the last one. There will be no 3rd Sunday Lunch in April or May.

There will not be a Sunrise Service at the Chapel this year on Easter Sunday. We will have our regular worship time beginning at 9:30am.

The Sunday School building porch will be having some renovations. There will soon be a new epoxy coating on the porch. When this is applied, you may walk on the surface, but please no coverings or mats for at least 3 weeks.

Please mark your calendars now for the church picnic! It will be on August 5th at High Falls Park. More details to follow.

Come join us at the chapel. All are welcome.



### Dedicated to Cora Long

*When a candle goes out so suddenly,  
The darkness can be overwhelming.  
But in the heart there is a glimmer of light,  
Because love holds the memories  
that gently keeps glowing forever.*

**We will miss you**

Submitted by Kitty Coffee

## Calling All Prayer Warriors

Submitted by Rosemary Bailes

If you use e-mail and would like to be part of an e-prayer circle, this is an invitation for you.

We have established a prayer circle of Walhalla Presbyterian and West Union Chapel members and friends who utilize email. Membership costs only a few minutes of your time each week. Qualifications for joining are a prayerful heart, concern for those who have prayer requests, access to a computer, and an email address. If you wish to be part of this ministry, please send an email to Rosemary Bailes at [bailesrf@gmail.com](mailto:bailesrf@gmail.com) and tell Rosemary that you want to join the WPC Prayer Circle. As Rosemary learns of prayer needs via church members or personal requests from individuals, she sends a message to Prayer Circle members. If you wish to ask for prayer but prefer to maintain confidentiality, your request will be honored. "Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need." -- Hebrews 10:22

# HOLY WEEK



## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

<u>DAY</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>HOST CHURCH</u>	<u>PREACHING</u>
Monday	April 10	Seneca	Vaughan Smith
Tuesday	April 11	Walhalla	Frank Strickland
Wednesday	April 12	Bethel	Nancy Morris
Maundy Thursday	April 13	*Westminster	Audrey Reese
Good Friday	April 14	* West Union	Guest

**ALL SERVICES BEGIN AT 7 PM *except Good Friday* [ @ 8 PM ]**

**\*NO REFRESHMENTS**

## Church Directory Update

Submitted by Rosemary Bailes

WPC and WUC members and friends indicate that they like our member/friend directory and use it frequently as a reference. Now, several months after the directories were distributed, we have a number of new "regular attenders" and a few family status changes. While a new directory isn't feasible at this time, we do plan to provide some update pages. If you are not listed in our directory but would like to be included, please contact Donna Pankratz or Rosemary Bailes within the next two weeks (by March 15). You may reach Donna at [donnampankratz@gmail.com](mailto:donnampankratz@gmail.com) or 864-719-0321; you may reach Rosemary at [bailesrf@gmail.com](mailto:bailesrf@gmail.com) or 864-638-3058.

Our WPC/WUC congregation is a family of believers; we need to know each other as well as possible, regardless of whether we worship in West Union or Walhalla. Please help us keep your information current.

## Christian Education

Submitted by Anna Davison

The spotlight is on Mrs. Annette's class or (Mrs. Nim) as the youth know her. She has been teaching on Moses for the last several weeks. She has taught the Birth of Moses, the Burning Bush, 10 Plagues, Goodbye Egypt where God leads them crossing the Red Sea, Sweet water manna & quail, and Water from the rock - Amalek's battle at Horeb & Rephidim. They will be starting the 10 Commandments and Mrs. Nim always has fun crafts to go with each lesson. They have made burning bushes, had manna from Heaven (oyster crackers) and made the scene from them crossing the Red Sea in edible form. Mrs. Nim is a true blessing to her class.

The Christian Education Committee will be meeting soon to discuss options for summer camp since Camp Buc was sold and other options for the spring and summer.



# Walhalla Presbyterian Church & West Union Chapel



## MEET YOUR ELDERS

### CLASS OF 2017

**John Bickford** jabickford75@hotmail.com  
119 Pine View Drive, Walhalla 29691  
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**Jim Elder** jimelder925@gmail.com  
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**Sonny Petty** RitaAPetty@att.net  
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### CLASS OF 2018

**Rosemary Bailes** bailesrf@gmail.com  
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**Janet Neville** janet.neville13@gmail.com  
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**Anna Davison** adavison@oconeesc.com  
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### CLASS OF 2019

**Sue Caldwell** (no email)  
201 Fowler Road, Walhalla 29691  
864-638-5032, 864-280-2551

**Don Manly** donmanly@bellsouth.net  
52 Par Harbor Way, Salem 29676  
864-944-5731

**Deb Wickliffe** wicklifd@bellsouth.net  
125 Cliffwick Lane, Seneca 29672  
864-710-4133

## THE CHURCH: LEADERSHIP

## New Church Leaders

Submitted by  
Rosemary Bailes

At a congregational meeting on January 22, WPC/WUC members elected church leaders for the next three years. These are the individuals nominated by the Congregational Nominating Committee and confirmed by the congregation for service in the Class of 2019.

Elected as elders were Sue Caldwell, Don Manly, and Deb Wickliffe. They will join the Session to serve alongside John Bickford, Jim Elder, Doug Keel, Rosemary Bailes, Janet Neville, and Anna Davison. According to the Book of Order, your Ruling Elders are called by God and elected by peers to be the governing and spiritual leaders of the church, serving with the Teaching Elder, whom we know as our Pastor.

Also re-elected as members of the Memorials Committee were Alton Barnett, John Bickford, John Harper, and Don Neal. These are the individuals who serve as “managers” of the undesignated memorials funds of the church.

Members elected to serve as the Congregational Nominating Committee were Lamar Bailes, Alton Barnett, Doug Keel, Susan Neal, and Sharon Welfare. These servants of the church will prayerfully seek nominees for leaders of the Class of 2020, to be elected at the end of 2017.

Serving as trustees of the Walhalla Presbyterian Church Corporation will be Frank Forbes, Joe McCall, Deb Wickliffe, and Don Manly. These are the officers of the Corporation, which is the body responsible for legal matters relating to church property ownership.

Our church family extends appreciation to these members for their willingness to serve our Lord as they lead us in the various functions of the church. Please pray for each of them as they carry out their duties of service.

# Hymn of the Month

Submitted by Doug Keel

## *Now the Day Is Over*

1865

*When you lie down, you will not be afraid;  
Yes, you will lie down and your sleep will be sweet.*  
Proverbs 3:24

**H**ighly productive people have one thing in common—they know how to plunge into their work.

Basketball star Jerry West said, “You can’t get much done in life if you only work on the days when you feel good.”

That was the attitude of British pastor Sabine Baring-Gould, author of “Onward Christian Soldiers.” In addition to shepherding his village church, teaching in the local college, dabbling in archaeology, publishing travelogues, and writing hymns, he wrote fiction. For many years he published a new novel annually. His novels have recently been republished in England and are finding a new generation of fans.

He also wrote “Lives of the Saints,” “Curious Myths of the Middle Ages,” and, “The Book of Werewolves: Being an Account of Terrible Superstition.”

He is primarily remembered in southwest England for his work as a collector of local folk songs. For years, he traveled through the west of England, visiting old people and recording the songs they remembered from childhood. In 1889, he published a remarkable book, “Songs of the West” which established him as an authority in the field of British folk music.

No one really knows how many other books and publications he penned. It was an astonishing number—at one time, he was responsible for more books in the British Museum Library than any other author.

The ensuing income allowed him to travel, explore, compose poetry, raise a family of fifteen children, restore his vast family estate, rebuild the old village church, and pursue his multitude of hobbies.

Sabine Baring-Gould declared that he often did his best work when he felt least inclined to apply himself to the task. Rather than waiting for inspiration, he plunged into his work and plodded on until it was finished. “The secret is simply that I stick to task when I begin it,” he said. “It would never do to wait from day to day for some moments that might seem favorable for work.”

Did his massive workload shorten his life? No, he lived to be ninety, and was buried in his own churchyard across the street from his estate.

“Now the Day is Over” is fitting epitaph for this prodigious man. It was written for a vesper service in 1865, based on Proverbs 3:24, and is one of Church history’s classic “bedtime prayers.”

From Robert J. Morgan’s “*Then Sings My Soul*”, copyright, 2003



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and West Union Presbyterian Chapel



## The Messenger

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## Our Staff

Pastor: Dr. Vaughan M. Smith  
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Yard Maintenance: C & M Lawn Services  
Clerk of Session: Rosemary Bailes 864-638-3058

**Purpose:** To publicize the good news of the mission and ministry of Walhalla Presbyterian Church and West Union Presbyterian Chapel for the glory of God.

# MARCH

# 2017

# APRIL

**1 Wed** 7pm Ash Wednesday Worship Service/WPC  
**2 Thu**  
**3 Fri**  
**4 Sat**  
**5 Sun** WPC Communion Sunday  
**6 Mon**  
**7 Tue** 9am WUC Administration Meeting  
 10am Carolyn Rogers Myers Circle Mtg WUC  
**8 Wed**  
**9 Thu** 3pm Netting Long Circle/WPC  
**10 Fri**  
**11 Sat** Set your clocks up 1 hour tonight! Spring ahead!  
**12 Sun** Daylight Savings begins! Don't be late for church!  
**13 Mon**  
**14 Tue**  
**15 Wed** 5pm Session Meeting/WPC  
**16 Thu**  
**17 Fri**  
**18 Sat**  
**19 Sun** 12:15pm Third Sunday Lunch/WUC  
**20 Mon**  
**21 Tue**  
**22 Wed**  
**23 Thu**  
**24 Fri**  
**25 Sat**  
**26 Sun**  
**27 Mon**  
**28 Tue**  
**29 Wed**  
**30 Thu**  
**31 Fri**

**1 Sat**  
**2 Sun** WUC Communion Sunday  
**3 Mon**  
**4 Tue**  
**5 Wed**  
**6 Thu**  
**7 Fri**  
**8 Sat**  
**9 Sun** Palm Sunday / One Great Hour of Sharing  
**10 Mon**  
**11 Tue** 9am WUC Administration Meeting  
 10am Carolyn Rogers Myers Circle Mtg/WUC  
**12 Wed**  
**13 Thu**  
**14 Fri** Good Friday  
**15 Sat** 11am-2pm BBQ to benefit Capital Campaign  
**16 Sun** Easter Worship hours WUC 9:30am/WPC 11am  
**17 Mon**  
**18 Tue**  
**19 Wed**  
**20 Thu**  
**21 Fri**  
**22 Sat**  
**23 Sun**  
**24 Mon**  
**25 Tue** **MESSENGER DEADLINE**  
**26 Wed**  
**27 Thu**  
**28 Fri**  
**29 Sat** Lunch for Life  
**30 Sun**