



NOTES FROM THE FIELD

Lent is a pilgrimage. We are on a journey in this season. We travel from ashes to an empty tomb and along the way we attend to the care of our spiritual lives.

Katherine's kindergarten teacher had a sign in her classroom that read, *Education is a journey, not a race*. I think the same could be said about Lent. This season is not about how fast we arrive at Easter day or who gets to the tomb first. It's a time to consider what God is doing in us, and through us, and with us, on the way.

Journeys have three parts: a beginning, a destination, and a route. So it is with our Lenten journey.

Our Lenten journey begins with ashes as we are confronted with our mortality. Ashes are like the dust of the earth. We were made from the dust and we return to the dust. Most life is measured by decades, and we are here for a little while. We came after others had been here and gone, and others will follow after us too.

Our Lenten begins with the ashes of our mortality and the frailty of human life. In a world so full of war, disease, addiction, illness,

poverty, and much more, ashes are the visible sign of human frailty – and it is where we begin our Lenten journey.

Journeys also have an end. We can't do thing called life on our own. When we try we get caught up in our own self-worth or power or mistakes or poor judgment. God knows this to be true,



and has come in person to mend in us what is broken and show us a more excellent way. God wills to rescue us from what we can't mend on our own, and so in Christ we are made whole. That is the triumphant news of Easter Day, and that's where we're heading in forty days' time.

The third part of a journey is the route. It is the way we travel from the ashes of our mortality to the mending we so long for from God in Christ? What route do we take on this Lenten journey?

We take the route of Isaiah 58, and we do not hold back (Isaiah's words). We travel the way of humility – an Isaiah 58 kind of humility. We loose the bonds of injustice. We share our bread (*and peanut butter!*) with the hungry. We help the poor. We clothe people.

In other words, in a world so driven by seeking personal gain, great wealth, and instant self-fame, we fast from all of that and look after another. This is the Lenten way of humility – and in looking after another we see up close how truly frail we are. We see how much each of us needs to reach this triumphant Lenten destination.

Isaiah 58 reads: Then the light shall break forth like the dawn. Then the Lord will guide you continually. Then your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt, and you shall be called a repairer of the breach, a restorer of street to live in.

Do you hear the power of this Lenten route we walk? It's the way of mercy, of care for another, of self-sacrifice. Look down to the pathway. Do you see a set of footsteps going forward ahead of us leading the way?

I wish you a good journey to Easter day – Jon

Prayer List

Richard Briscoe, Kitty Pelfrey, Tim Nichols, Leroy Jones, Sally Brown, Helen Garland, Elizabeth Ponder, Michelle Sisson, Hale triplets, Doris Poe, David King, John Briscoe, Lois Gillespie, Bob Lowe, Lynn McConnell, Nancy Thompson, Jim Groseclose, Sara Lawson, Ann Lowry, Carolyn Deaton, Virginia Thompson, Connie & Tom Counts, Edna McConnell, Bill & Marge Margerum, Emma Barton, Roberta Hale, Sandra Wimmer, Monica Hayden, Lena McVey, Dottie McGrady, Janet McCauley, Erma Combs, Rhonda Moore, Carter Garrett, Jr., Marshall Jones, Barbara Blevins, Edith Ratliff, Brenda Sprinkle, Karen Combs, Dr. Jim Gardner, Eva Bailey, Bo Miller, Phyllis Garner, Nancy Greary, Rickey White, Terry White, Jacob Andis, Margaret Altizer, Roberta Richey, Jackie Cantrell and Helen Carter.

Responding to the Good News

Date	Attendance	Offering
2-5-12	126	\$3,376.59
2-12-12	90	\$3,330.00
2-19-12	101	\$3,382.00
2-26-12	117	\$4,661.00

Easter Lilies

If you would like to place an order for an Easter lily, call the church office. The price is \$9.00. The lilies will be displayed in the sanctuary on Easter day. You can order a lily in honor of or in memory of a friend or family member. The deadline to order is March 18.

Daylight Saving Time Begins March 11th. Set your clocks ahead- 1 hour on Saturday night.

Lenten Suppers and Study

Sunday evenings in March- 5:30-7:15pm

A simple supper of soup and sandwiches followed by a time of study

March 4 – Jesus off the Page and on the Screen, part 1
March 11 – Lenten Hymns Presentation
March 19 – Jesus off the Page and on the Screen, part 2
March 25 – Lenten Taize Music Presentation



From the Choir Director-Kevin Flannagan

March 11- For the second Lenten supper program, I will be presenting a program called "Hymns and Their Stories". Come and learn the background behind such familiar hymns as "Amazing Grace", "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing" and "Shall We Gather at the River". I will also be presenting some newer hymns that I think you will enjoy. I will be joined by guest pianist Diane Thomas.

March 25- For the final Lenten supper program, we will be having a service of worship in the Taize tradition. Taize is a spiritual community in France with a unique style of worshipping through sung prayer. A small ensemble will lead the music for the service. I hope many people will come and experience this and learn more about the Taize community.

April 1- Our children will be presenting special music during the Palm Sunday worship service.

April 6- We will be combining with Old Glade Presbyterian Church from Glade Spring for a combined Good Friday Tenabre Service of music and readings. We will be hosting this service this year and it will be a powerful service you will not want to miss!

April 8- On Easter Day, our children will once again be offering special music along with the adult choir. During the 11am worship service, choral music will include songs from Tanazia, and the Caribbean along with Handel's Hallelujah Chorus.

My prayer for the Lenten season is that all the music presented will be offered to God's glory to will help us all come into a closer relationship with God.

Flower Calendar Openings!

Sign up for a Sunday in the church office.

Birthdays--March/April

- March 2-Claudia Sprinkle
- March 3-Mary Lynn Singleton
- March 3-Burton Fletcher
- March 3-Betty Sparks
- March 3-Virginia Thompson
- March 3-Jerry Wayne Wimmer
- March 5-Jon Martin
- March 8-Eugene Altizer
- March 10-Carl McCauley
- March 15-Angie Cooper
- March 16-Dakota White
- March 18-Bucky Buchanan
- March 18-David Prater
- March 22-Bobbe Harris
- March 22-Patsy Buchanan
- March 24-Sam Evans
- March 26-Alex Brown
- March 28-John Clark
- March 28-Jeanie Evans
- March 29-Bubs Nichols
- March 31-Carolyn McConnell
- April 1-Ellen McConnell
- April 4-Lee Garrett
- April 4-Aubrey Brown, Jr.
- April 5-Kelly Collins
- April 9-Larry Mullins
- April 12-Judy Mullins
- April 13-Troy Gillespie
- April 20-David King
- April 22-Deborah Weddington
- April 23-Ginger Harris
- April 23-Austin Bailey
- April 24-Eric Collins
- April 29-Norma Smith

Anniversaries--April

- April 9-Mark & Carol White
- April 23-James & Connie Hope

Nursery Helpers for March

- March 11-Barbara Quesenberry and Bonnie Keller
- March 18-Maria Briscoe and Norma Smith
- March 25-Sam and Erin Evans

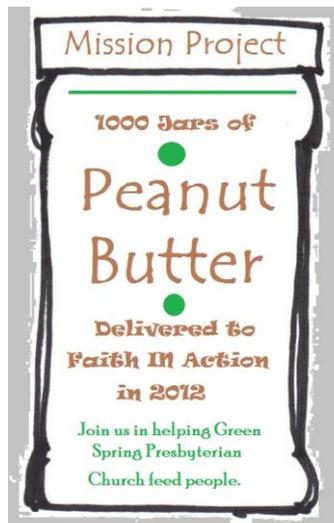


The deadline to put anything in the next issue of *Gleanings* is March 26th. Send to gspchurch@comcast.net or call the church office at 628-6288.

March *Sunday School*
SCHEDULE

9:45-10:40am

Pre-school	<i>We Learn to Love Jesus our Savior</i>
Younger Elem.	<i>Following Jesus' Commands</i>
Middle School	<i>The Divided Kingdom</i>
Adult Bible Study	<i>The Word Was in the Beginning</i>
Warner Room	<i>The Visual Gospel of Matthew</i>



Peanut Butter Offering

February 5	30
February 12	25
February 19	46
February 26	30
Feb. Total	131
Overall total	241



Find us on Facebook:
Green Spring Presbyterian Church,
Abingdon, Virginia



www.greenspringchurch.org

Youth Gathering



...and Doing Mission

The Youth Group met at the church on March 4, after worship for lunch! After lunch we baked cookies and delivered them to the Green Spring Fire Department. All middle school and high school youth and their friends are invited!

Congratulations to Loni Sophia Reynolds on receiving her PhD degree in English on March 7, 2012 at Roehampton University in London, England. Loni is the daughter of Jasper & Rita Reynolds.