



From the Pastor ...

On defining 'Christian', Frederick Buechner writes, "Jesus said, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but by me' (John 14:6). He didn't say that any particular ethic, doctrine, or religion was the way, the truth, and the life. He said that he was. He didn't say that it was by believing or doing anything in particular that you could 'come to the Father.' He said that it was only by him – by living, participating in, being caught up by the way of life that he embodied, that was his way." (*Wishful Thinking*, p. 16)

Lent is a serious season for Christians, typically a time to reflect on our own walks with Jesus. The 3-D Rule of Life, which I outlined during the 2/23 worship service, is one great way of becoming more intentional about your own walk of faith. In addition, we have several worship services planned for Lent, beginning with the traditional Ash Wednesday service. This will be on March 5 at 6:30pm, in lieu of the usual Wednesday supper and study. No supper, but the next day, Thursday, March 6, we will have the usual supper and study, and our guest speaker will be Marilyn Borst, from the Outreach Foundation, to speak more about her work with pastors and elders in the Middle East. Marilyn led our delegation to Syria and Lebanon this past January.

Another opportunity for group study will begin Tuesday, March 11, and continue each Tuesday morning for an hour at 10:30am. We will walk through the final few chapters of the gospel of Luke, as we prepare for Holy Week. The Wednesday evening studies will also center around Lenten themes, in particular, 'Seeing Ourselves in those Confronted by Jesus.'

Let us all endeavor to get 'caught up in the way of life that [Jesus] embodied', as Buechner writes. And I hope you invite a friend!

I continue serving in Christ,

Pastor Toby

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March Volunteer Schedule

	3/2/2014	3/9/2014	3/16/2014	3/23/2014	3/30/2014
Liturgists	John Jordan	Turner Matthews	Ceil Hydrick	Barbara Allen	Faye Anderson
Ushers	Ceil Hydrick Turner Matthews Harold Moore Brantley Motes	David Nelson John Newbill John Shull Stu Strong	Greg Vogel Dan Watt John Abbott Jim Bochte	Jim Boyd Lee Brown Doug Coshow Harold Culbert	Ann D'Olive Matt D'Olive Dave Ellerbe George Hilliary
Children's Worker	Faye Anderson	B. J. Breeding	Cheryl Ellerbe	Ceil Hydrick	Joan Jordan
Nursery Worker	Leigh Zeiher	Ruth Bochte	Joan Jordan	Lee Brown	B J Breeding
Communion Servers	John Jordan, Turner Matthews, Ceil Hydrick, Barbara Allen, Faye Anderson		Communion Preparation	John & Joan Jordan	

March Celebrations

Birthdays

March 2 - Betty Matthews

March 7 - Cicily Crow

March 10 - Jan Foster

- Patrick Terry

March 14 - Harold Moore

March 21 - Don Breeding

- Alex Kelley

- Wayne Simmons

March 30 - Kyle Strong

Anniversaries

March 6 - Jerry & Jane Blevins

March 24 - Wayne & Kathy Simmons

March 26 - Bernard & Jane Blake



Financial Report

Our income and expenses for YTD January 2014 were as follows:

Contributions for January YTD 2014	\$16,635
Expenses for January 2014 YTD	\$17,749
Budgeted income & expenses	\$19,320

Our income for the first month of 2014 has tracked our pledged income pretty closely. Our expenses trailed the budgeted level by just over \$1500. We still have some unknowns concerning our losses from the break-in, but it will probably be our deductible of \$1000. A detailed report of this information is posted on the bulletin board across from the fellowship hall.

Activities around our church have picked up speed and you can find people at the building most any day. The Session has decided to use some of our accumulated Memorial Funds for adding electronic projection to our education aids. This will be primarily for the Bible Study time on Wednesday but will be available for Sunday School classes as well. Also approved was a collection fund for "Designated Missions", with the first one being the food kits for Syrian refugees. Exciting times! Don't miss out on all of the action.

If you have any questions about our income or budget, please contact me.

Dan Watt, Treasurer

FACEBOOK

Did you know that St. Andrew has a page on FaceBook?

Go to **your** FaceBook page and search for Friends of St. Andrew Presbyterian, Decatur. You may request to be a friend so you can see all the pictures and read all the news and posts.



Mission Opportunity

Our next Soup Kitchen meal will be Monday. You are invited to come join in the fellowship as we prepare the meal on Sunday afternoon at the church, or to help serve the meal on March 3 at the CCC. There are sign-up sheets on the bulletin board. **We need cornbread and desserts.**

"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink."
Matt. 25:35 NIV

Margaret Marsh

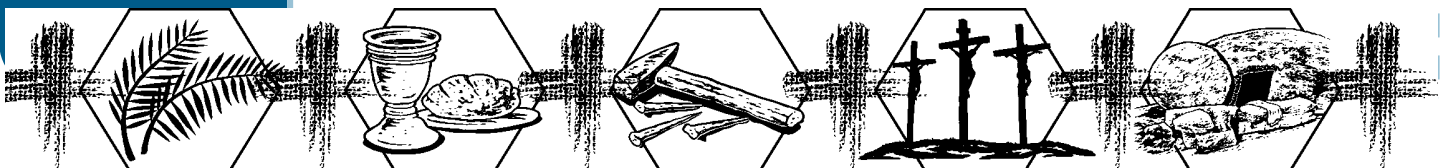
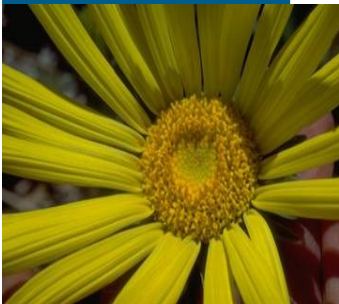
Session Notes

The following are highlights from the February 17, 2014 Stated Session Meeting

1. Due to scheduling conflicts, there was no Stated Session Meeting in January 2014.
2. Rev. Mueller opened the meeting with a prayer and a study on Transformational Leaders, Chapter 2: Worship.
3. Our membership is at 123 as of January 31, 2014.
4. The Session confirmed an earlier email decision to designate February 9, 2014 as Scout Sunday and approved the use of our facility for the Cub Scout Blue and Gold Banquet on February 22, 2014.
5. We have been notified by Probate Judge Greg Cain that our facility will no longer be used as a polling place due to consolidation of polling places resulting from redistricting.
6. The minutes for the Stated Meeting of December 16, 2013 were approved as amended and the minutes of the Congregational Meeting of January 5, 2014 were approved as distributed.
7. The Session approved the 2013 Statistical Report and it was submitted to North Alabama Presbytery.
8. Numerous approvals were given for the use of our facility to Decatur Music Club, AlaCare Hospice and to members for family gatherings. See the church calendar for details.
9. Turner Matthews distributed his report of the Winter Meeting of North Alabama Presbytery which was held on Saturday, February 15, 2014 at Fellowship Presbyterian Church in Huntsville.

The next Stated Session meeting will be on March 17, 2014 at 6:00 pm.

Stu Strong
Clerk of Session





**FEED THE
HUNGRY**

CCC Donations

The first Sunday of every month is "Collection Sunday" for the CCC Food Pantry. Please bring canned food donations and leave them in the shopping cart or on the tables outside the Fellowship Hall. If you happen to forget them on Sunday morning, you can leave them anytime during the week. The Mission Team will deliver them to the CCC the following week.

Thanks for helping the needy in Decatur.

John Jordan, Missions Committee

See What's New in the Library

We have had several new books donated to the Library. Stop by and "check one out."

These books were donated in Honor of the Page Turners:

White Dog Fell from the Sky by Eleanor Morse

Cutting for Stone, by Abraham Verghese

Desert Queen by Janet Wallach

CeeCee Honeycutt by Beth Hoffman

This book was donated in Honor of the Probers Sunday School Class:

South Calling by Julie Ruth Harley

These books were donated in Honor of St. Andrew Session by Barbara Allen:

A Sustainable Presbyterian Church by Louis B. Weeks

Power Surge by Michael W. Foss

This book was donated by the North Alabama Presbytery:

The Tangible Kingdom by Hugh Halter and Matt Smay

Thank you for your donations. There are many books for all ages to enjoy!

Rita Abbott & the Library Staff



Lent Bible Study— Every Tuesday, March 11—April 15

10:30-11:30 am at St. Andrew

Lent Devotional Calendars available.

Wednesday Night Hosts

March 6	Nellie Gates (No supper on Ash Wednesday)
March 12	Barb Mouton and Addi Zeiher
March 19	Need a Host, sign up on bulletin board
March 26	Need a Host, sign up on bulletin board

Speaker Marilyn Borst, Associate Director, The Outreach Foundation Thursday, March 6 at 6:00 pm at St. Andrew Presbyterian Church

Please join us at St. Andrew Presbyterian Church, Decatur, on **Thursday, March 6, 2014 at 6:00 pm** for dinner, and then to hear from Marilyn Borst, Associate Director of The Outreach Foundation who will be speaking on “To Be a Christian in the Middle East Today: Stories of Faithfulness.” I just returned from traveling with Marilyn to both Lebanon and Syria and I know that she will share compelling insights into the Presbyterian Church in those places---as well as in Iraq and Egypt---which is living out its call to mission and ministry in response to God’s future when “every knee shall bow... and every tongue confess that Jesus is Lord.”



With years of experience in building relationships in the Middle East with churches and ministry leaders, conducting mission-vision teams there and even organizing Christian conferences in places like Beirut, Damascus and Erbil, Marilyn is uniquely gifted to help congregations here in the U.S. find ways to come along God’s work in lands which are both *historic* to our faith but also *strategic* to the spread of God’s Kingdom.

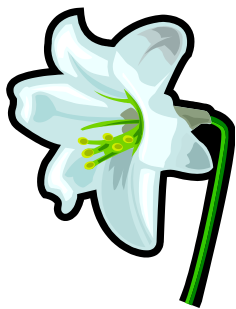
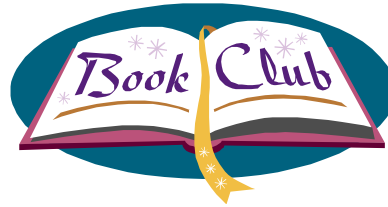
L-R: Dr. George Sabra (President, Near East School of Theology,) Marilyn Borst (The Outreach Foundation,) Stephen Burgess (Omaha, NE,) Toby and Mark Mueller. Picture taken at the Near East School of Theology, Beirut, Lebanon (January 2014)

Page Turners Book Club

Page Turners meet the 4th Tuesday of the month at 9:30 am. The next meeting is March 25 at 9:30 am and the book is The Light Between Oceans by M. L. Stedman.

Tom Sherbourne returns to Australia after serving on the Western Front. He takes a job as the lighthouse keeper on Janus Rock. To this isolated island, he brings a young wife. Years later the childless couple hears a baby crying from a boat that has washed ashore with a dead man and a living baby. Against Tom's judgment, they claim the baby, Lucy. When she is two, Tom and Isabel return to the mainland and are reminded that there are other people in the world.

Come join us for the discussion.
Barbara Allen

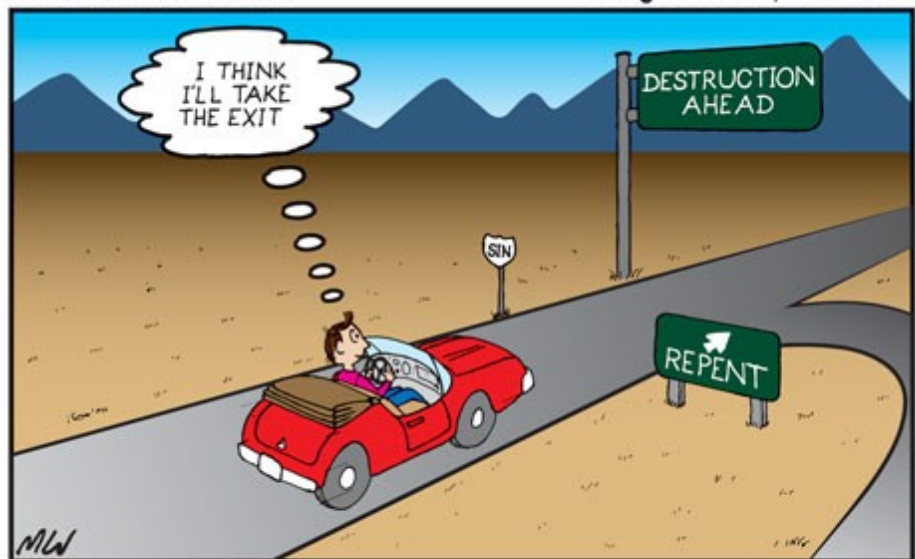


Easter Lilies

If you would like to place a lily in the sanctuary for Easter Sunday, please sign up in the church office. The cost is \$10 each. Please make check payable to St. Andrew Church, due by March 30.

HIGHWAY EXIT

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it.
— MATTHEW 7:13 NIV



Tennessee Valley Presbyterian Cursillo

April 2 (5:00 pm) - April 6 (4:00 pm)

A 3-day (Thursday-Sunday) retreat to renew and refresh our faith and commitment to Jesus Christ, but also a time of fun, fellowship, music, learning and worship in a casual and relaxed setting. Any Presbyterian adult (18+) can attend. Brochures are available on the bulletin board and church office. Questions? See Ceil Hydrick or Pastor Toby.

"If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone and the new has come." II Cor. 5:17



**Calling all Presbyterian Women
Spring Gathering:
"One Body, One Spirit"
Tuesday, April 8, at 10:00 am
First Presbyterian Church
Huntsville, AL
See Linda Grissom for more information.**

**Living and Leaving A Legacy
Saturday, May 3, 2014
Fellowship Presbyterian Church, Huntsville
9:00 am—Noon**

**A Workshop for Good Presbyterians Interested in
Investing Good Presbyterian Dollars in
The Future God has in Store for the Church.**

Who should attend?

Members of Steward Committees, Members of Finance Committees
Anyone interested in Legacies, Wills, Bequests, and anyone who has questions about planned/long-range giving: AND YOU CAN ASK!

**Leader: The Rev. Dr. James Foster Reese
Minister for Specialized Interpretation
Presbyterian Foundation**

March 2014

Service Times: Sunday School - 9:00 a.m.
Morning Worship -10:00 a.m.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 Communion Sunday Food Collection for CCC	3 CCC Lunch	4 Scouts - 6:30 PW 7:00	5 Ash Wednesday 6:30 pm Choir 7:30	6 Dinner 6:00 pm Marilyn Borst, Associate Director, The Outreach Foundation	7 Memorial Service w AlaCare Hospice 6:30pm	8
9 1st Sun in Lent Daylight Savings Time Begins	10 Chapel Hill Neighborhood 7 pm	11 Bible Study 10:30-11:30 am Scouts 6:30	12 Supper - 6:00 Bible Study - 6:30 Kids Prog. - 6:30 Choir - 7:30	13	14	15 1:00 pm Tom VanNatta Memorial Service
16 2nd Sun in Lent Piano Recital 1:30p-4p	17 Session Mtg 6:00 pm Scout Leaders mtg. - 6:30	18 Bible Study 10:30-11:30 am Scouts - 6:30	19 Supper - 6:00 Bible Study - 6:30 Kids Prog. - 6:30 Choir - 7:30	20 T. Meier—FH 5-9:00 pm	21	22
23 3rd Sun in Lent	24	25 Page Turners Book Club - 9:30 am Bible Study 10:30-11:30 am Scouts 6:30	26 Supper - 6:00 Bible Study - 6:30 Kids Prog. - 6:30 Choir - 7:30	27	28	29
30 4th Sun in Lent	31					



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Where God's Love Transforms Lives"