



Faith Matters

Volume 13, Issue 3

Faith Presbyterian Church

March 2010

Rincon, GA

From the Pastor's Desk

Does our monthly quote look familiar? It's the same one I used last month! Not a particularly cheery one to use two months in a row, right? Well, I want to change your mind about that.

Last month we reported that Savannah Presbytery, through the M.K. Pentecost Fund, had given Faith Presbyterian Church an additional \$1,500 toward our "Going Green in God's Backyard" grant. The original grant of \$400, matched by a member of the congregation, will help us create a wildlife habitat, and raised garden beds in our church's backyard so that we can teach about caring for God's creation. And a part of that grant was to begin composting scraps from our many dinners and dining opportunities.

Now, I'm not sure exactly what that will look like in practice, but I'm very familiar with the science of it all. And that's where our scripture passage comes in: "you are dust and to dust you shall return." Our physical bodies were not meant to last forever. Nor was our food. Twinkies excluded – I'm not sure they ever decompose – most of the waste we have left over after a meal can be converted from waste to useful gardening mulch. All we have to do is combine it with leaves and other natural materials and give Mother Nature time to work her magic.

So here's the theological reflection on that – God can take all the metaphorical waste in our lives and turn it into fertile soil too. Sometimes we mess up. God forgives us. And sometimes we learn the greatest

lessons of our lives from our biggest mistakes. Sometime circumstances just seem to dump on us. Give it some time, and we'll often see how even these rough times – the garbage of our lives – form us and make us stronger. Paul says it this way:

"We also boast of our troubles, because we know that trouble produces endurance, endurance brings God's approval, and his approval creates hope." [Good News]

Sometimes what we have to "throw away" isn't bad at all. At our dinners we often simply have too much of a good thing.

Later in Lent we are going to hear the parable of the fig tree in worship. Jesus tells the story of the orchard owner who wants to cut down the fig tree that is not bearing fruit, but the gardener suggests leaving it just one more year. "Let me just spread some compost around it," he suggests tenderly. We won't grow and bear fruit if something else doesn't break down, from dust to dust, dirt to dirt, soil to soil.

It may take a while for the things we throw away to break down into something useful, nurturing even. Can we be patient gardeners? Fortunately, our gardener in heaven seems to have even time in the palm of his hands.

And by the way – if you have any great ideas about making composting happen next month in our church, let us know! Blessings,

Pastor Mary

Remember that "you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

--Genesis 3:19 (NRSV)

Finance Report: January 2010

by Lewis Miles

January collections totaled \$3,600.63, and February collections were \$3,498.05. These numbers are in line with our collections from September, October, and December of last year. Unfortunately, our expenses generally run about \$1,500/month more than this. Our reserve funds in our checking account have declined from \$8,537.91 at the end of December to \$3,519.78 at the end of February. All members are encouraged to pray over their personal financial giving to the church, and pray for the church itself.



Wednesday Evenings in Lent

by Mary Beene

Even if you are not a Wednesday evening regular, consider coming out during March, the final weeks of Lent. After a great dinner each week, we will have two opportunities for teens and adults: short video discussions or creative prayer workshops. Each week is designed so that you can come to

one or the other, even if you've never participated before. The children will be working on a special outreach Easter project for one of our local nursing homes. Dinner is at 6 pm and studies begin at 7:00 pm. Please join us for this special season.



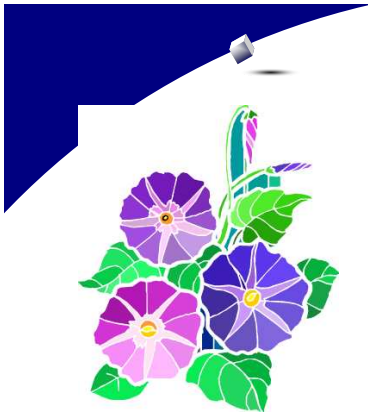
Holy Week

by Mary Beene

Mark your calendar. Holy Week, the week before Easter is March 28-April 3. March 28th we will have a special presentation, as well as celebrating Palm Sunday with the children. Monday – Friday, there will be community worship at noon in a local congregation – be on the lookout for further information about these

wonderful ½ hour lunch-time services that are a beautiful way to observe the season with our brothers and sisters in Christ. There will be no Wednesday evening program that week. However, we will celebrate our Lord's last supper with his disciples, Maundy Thursday, with a service at 7 pm on Thursday evening, April 1.





Thank You

by Brenda Harrelson

Thank you to everyone for your thoughts and prayers during the time of my injury and surgery. It is without a doubt that I felt your concern and prayers of healing upon me. It is especially during times such as these

that we are so thankful and blessed to have our wonderful church family at Faith PC.

Many thanks and much love,
Brenda



Worship Committee Meeting

by Julia Pratt

Worship Committee will meet BRIEFLY during/after Second Cup on Sun., March 7. If you are not on the committee, but are

willing to help with worship tasks, please join us.

Christian Education

by Amy Greene

Christian Education is pleased to announce the addition of Becky Lango and Kelly Woodruff as approved Christian education teachers. Welcome!

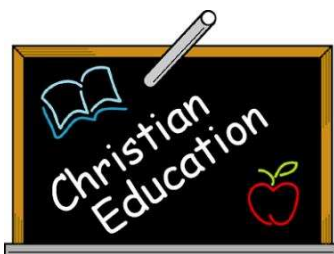
During the month of March, we will be completing a craft project painting sun catchers to deliver to the residents of the nursing home at the hospital in Springfield. If you are interested in helping us deliver these to the residents prior to Easter, please let me know. We will coordinate a time that works best for all involved.

Our Youth are planning a mission trip to Sautee, Georgia, from June 13th—19th.

More information to come on this exciting and meaningful event.

Other exciting youth events coming up this summer include Vacation Bible School (June 7th—11th) at New Ebenezer Retreat Center and Summer Camp (June 20th—26th) at New Ebenezer Retreat Center. More details coming soon!

A committee meeting is planned for Sunday, March 7th, after 2nd cup. Please plan to attend if you are involved in Christian Education or would like to be.

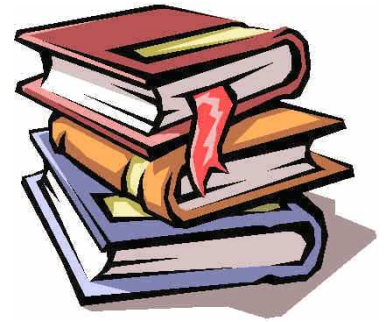


VTS Summer Collegium

by Mary Beene

Earlier this year, Pastor Mary and session applied for a coveted spot in an all-expenses paid study leave opportunity at the Virginia Theological Seminary in Alexandria, Virginia. The Summer Collegium is a special opportunity for small church pastors and their spouses to study together at the seminary for nine days with pastors from all over the country working in congregations of less than 100 members. Faith was chosen from a pool of 125 applications – a very special

honor. In preparation for this June trip, Mary will be writing up our experiences with drawing a congregational timeline last year, writing a case study and reading a book on small church ministry. The session is looking forward to learning what other small churches are doing. Pastor Mary, on the other hand, is excited to brag a little about what Faith has been doing – so far we seem on track as a “small, strong” congregation as described in the required reading!



Ken McKenzie Preaching

by Mary Beene

Ken McKenzie, Savannah Presbytery's new General Presbyter will be preaching on March 14th at Faith. Be sure to be here to welcome him to the Presbytery – and check out our bulletin board to find out more about him. He's been very involved in Presbytery

Disaster Assistance, so be sure to ask him about ongoing work in Mississippi, where our mission teams have gone on several trips and PDA's work for Haiti.



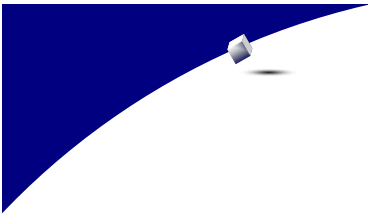
You can help increase mission sending

by Mary Beene

Are you called to mission service or know somebody who might be? Presbyterian World Mission currently has openings in Brazil, Ethiopia, Haiti and Sudan, among other countries. [Visit One Door](#) to view the openings. World Mission's goal is to recruit, train and send 22 more mission co-

workers this year, but meeting that goal depends on the financial support of Presbyterians. The more Presbyterians give, the more mission personnel can be sent. [Contribute to mission personnel support online](#) or call (800) 728-7228, x5628.



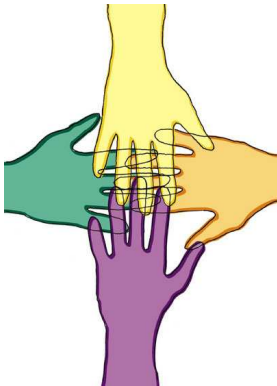


Help Build for Swainsboro Apartments

By Mary Beene

The Men at White Bluff PC are getting ready to build a deck at the Swainsboro Presbyterian Apartments, a residence for low income elderly people that was started by and still cared for and supported by our presbytery. It will be a 24 foot x 48 foot deck,

and they will work on it Saturdays starting March 20, 2010. They could use some additional help, so if you are willing to pitch in, please contact Karl Branch at 912-925-7441.



Stewardship

by Brian Greene

I'm pleased to have the opportunity to work with our session and congregation as the lead for our Stewardship efforts. In the coming weeks, our Stewardship Committee will be meeting. All are invited to attend.

Please be prayerful about the gifts you have to offer the church in both money, time, and talents.



Presbyterian Women

by Julia Pratt

Please join us for the Presbyterian Women's Bible Study on Monday, March 15th, @ 6:30 pm at Baibry's in Rincon. We will begin our study of *Bad Girls of the Bible* by Liz Curtis Higgs. Used, inexpensive copies are available through ABEbooks.com or

Amazon.com and other outlets. The Public Library system has only one copy, and I've placed a hold on it and will share with others when it arrives.

March Birthdays & Anniversaries

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| 8 – Jennifer Hinton | 20 – Sonny Hansen |
| 8 – Taylor Hoffman | 24 – Mary Beene |
| 13 – Melissa Miles | 28 – Grace Harrigan |
| 17 – Parker Campanella | |



March Volunteers

Volunteers are needed for March! Please sign up on the sheet hanging on the bulletin board outside of the Fellowship Hall.

	March 7th	March 14th	March 21st	March 28th
Acolyte				
Usher 1	Amy Greene			
Usher 2	Brian Greene			
Communion 1	Amy Greene			
Communion 2	Jerry Shaufelberger			
Children's Sermon	Amy Greene			
Liturgist				
2nd Cup	McClain	Hansen	Harrigan	Miles

The Faithful Chef – Healthy Eating for a Healthy You

(Recipe courtesy of AllRecipes.com)

Fresh Broccoli Salad

Ingredients

- 2 heads fresh broccoli
- 1 red onion
- 1/2 pound bacon
- 3/4 cup raisins
- 3/4 cup sliced almonds (or other nut)
- 1 cup mayonnaise
- 1/2 cup white sugar (or Splenda)
- 2 tablespoons white wine vinegar

Directions

1. Place bacon in a deep skillet and cook over medium high heat until evenly brown. Cool and crumble.
2. Cut the broccoli into bite-size pieces and cut the onion into thin bite-size slices. Combine with the bacon, raisins, your favorite nuts and mix well.

To prepare the dressing, mix the mayonnaise, sugar and vinegar together until smooth. Stir into the salad, let chill and serve.

Nutritional Information

Amount Per Serving Calories: 374 | Total Fat: 27.2g | Cholesterol: 18mg





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