

The Centenarian

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Centenary UMC,

Lent is such an important part of the Christian journey. It is a time set apart to read, reflect, and prepare. As members of the United Methodist Denomination, we have time of preparation with Advent. We prepare our hearts for the birth of the Christ Child. Advent is an exciting, happy event, and truly celebrated by people of all ages. Lent is considered a different journey. It consists of 46 days in all – around 7 weeks. Lent leads us to the most affirming event of the Christian faith – the resurrection of Jesus Christ; however, we must face the cruelty of the cross, as well as the darkness of our failure and sin, before the celebration of forgiveness and hope which Christ instills within us on Easter.

This month of March is all about the walk toward the cross with both the valleys and hills, the mountains and deserts. I pray that we are doing something intentional that is different from our ordinary routine, in order to deepen our relationship with Christ.

As Leonard Sweet states, "Lent started early this year. With the east coast up to its eyebrows in snow, the Lenten season was underway. Sweet stated that he only learned recently that every year Fat Tuesday comes to an abrupt end at midnight. This year, New Orleans police shut down the Mardi Gras festivities promptly at 12 am in reverence for Ash Wednesday. This is when people began giving up something for Lent. Some gave up meat. Others gave up sweets, or alcohol, or television. If you want to face a real Lenten challenge, try giving up your cell phone for forty days! That might be enough to get you into a true Lenten mood." Preacher Kimberly Long tells this story at the beginning of one of her Lenten sermons. Entering church on Ash Wednesday, Nora Gallagher encounters—Anne's giving up drinking, Terri's giving up chocolate, and I'm just giving up. Sweet reflects, —Have you ever felt like giving up?"

Lent asks us to make the choice to sacrifice – to give up self to Christ. Jesus certainly gave up a lot for each of us. He gave us himself. He made the journey to Jerusalem and met head on the traumatic tradition of that city encapsulated in this phrase —Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it. Jesus will give up everything, his very life, in order to fulfill his eternal mission of salvation. Let me put it as clearly as I can: Jesus will —give it up in order that we might —get it all.

This is my prayer for you this Lenten season – give up your power, your control, your desire in order to receive all the assurance, the promises, and the hopes of Jesus the Christ.

Leonard Sweet says to —give up on a career that is taking out your soul, give up on that relationship that is debilitating or deforming or dementing you, give up on a grudge that is gouging out a cavity in your heart, give up on an addictive escape – be it drugs, alcohol, sex, power, speed, beauty, or authority and find renewed meaning and purpose in reality.

Jesus did not give up his own safety, security, and self-preservation, but he did give up to God's divine plan for salvation.

During this Lent – Are you giving up or taking on? Will you give up the sacred sense of



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control you imagine you have over your life?

Once you give up to God your desires, you will give in to a new challenge, a new mission, and a God- charted direction and design for your life which is more —throw your hat into the ring of God's uncharted territory and divine possibilities?

I pray that you allow Jesus to carry you on your Lenten journey. Please participate with our congregation and community in the Lenten activities.

Lenten Prayer:

Lord, grant us the privilege of your companionship in any desert, and let us not be afraid to open the doors to difficulty. Be with us, O God, and grant us the courage to face what we must. Bring us out on the other side of this season as a matured and chastened people. And let our blessing be a blessing to your church. Amen.

In Christ's grace,

Kelley



Game Day!

On Tuesday, March 24 we will meet from 1:30-4:00 in the Fellowship Hall for cards and games, laughter and fellowship. Bring your favorite game to share! Learn a new card game or brush up on an old one. For more information contact Adele Singletary at 336-272-3919.

Friendship Club

Friendship Club will meet Tuesday, March 10 at Noon. Lunch will be Shepherd's Pie, fresh greens, bread, and an Irish themed dessert. Call the church office to make your reservation 336-299-9643. Lunch is \$8 and payable at the door. Please make checks payable to Friendship Club.

March—Paul Stewart on piano will present American Rag-time Music and its influences.

April—The Centenary UMC Medical Mission Team to the Dominican Republic will talk about their trip.

Lenten Bible Study

Tuesday's March 3—April 7 at 10:00 AM or 6:00 PM. The Lenten Bible Study is *The Walk* by Adam Hamilton. How do we walk with Christ—daily follow him, grow in him, and faithfully serve him? In *The Walk*, Adam Hamilton focuses on five essential spiritual practices that are rooted in Jesus' own walk with God and taught throughout the New Testament. Deepen your walk with Christ as we explore the practices of worship, study, serving, giving, and bearing witness to our faith. Sign-up in the Narthex or call the church office. Books are \$14 each. Make checks payable to CUMC and "The Walk" on the memo line.

United Methodist Women

On February 23, the Methodist Women invited Sandra Williamson, Northern Piedmont District UMW President, to bring the message at the 11:00 AM service of worship.

Celebrate Women will be held in the Fellowship Hall on Saturday, April 25 from 11:00 AM—1:00 PM. "Why are you looking for the Wizard?" will be presented by speaker, Laura Hamilton. Tickets are \$10 each and sold by UMW members and in the Narthex, beginning in March.



L to R: Barbara Wolfe (pianist), Diane Stanley, Betty Durham, Sandra Williamson (speaker), Tarron McCord (soloist), Debra Schlueter, Rev. Kelley Groce, and Emily Lawing.

March Meetings & Events

UMW Board Meeting—March 2 at 10:00 AM

Lenten Bible Study—Tuesdays at 10:00 AM & 6:00 PM

UMW Stanley Fellowship—March 9 at 6:30 PM

Friendship Club—March 10 at 12:00 PM

Community Breakfast/Clothes Closet—Mar 14 at 8:00 AM

Wesley Class Dinner—March 14 at 6:00 PM

UMW Daiber/Pruitt Fellowship—March 16 at 10:00 AM

Kelly at Conference Board Mtgs—March 17-19

Book Club—March 19 at 6:30 PM

Jeremy Troxler, Speaker—March 22 at 1:00 PM

Game Day! - March 24 from 1:30-4:00 PM

Kelley at Friends Homes Guilford & West—March 25

Church Wide Supper with UMAR —March 25 at 6:00 PM

Centenary Community Concert —March 29 at 3:00 PM

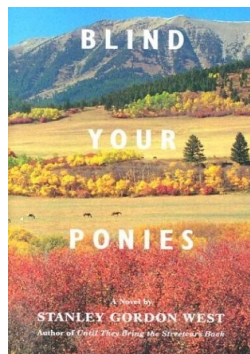
Church Wide Supper

Wednesday, March 25 at 6:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall everyone is welcome to come share a meal with our UMAR guests.

Centenary Starlight Book Club

The Starlight Book Club will meet Thursday, March 19, 2020 at 6:30 PM at Lucky 32 to discuss – Blind Your Ponies by Stanley Gordon West

Willow Creek, Montana. With bold strokes on a large canvas, Stanley West has drawn an entire village of curious and outlandish characters who have been cast so vividly that one can see them, hear them, laugh with them, feel with them - people as real as relatives. When Sam Pickett comes to the quiet little village to hide from the violence and madness that have shattered his life, he discovers buried and shadowed stories fraught with aching regret, human wreckage, and heartrending bravery - people silently bearing their broken dreams and unbearable sorrows. Can they be aroused by the most unexpected and least likely source in their midst? Encouraged and uplifted to embrace life for all its worth? Out of these utterly ordinary lives, West brings forth a startling glimpse into the hidden places of the human heart and characters who will stay with you like old friends long after you've turned the last page.



On **Scout Sunday**, February 9, Noah Demmitt helped with the worship service and the delicious brunch that was served to the congregation.

The boys went **Scouting for Food**, collecting a trunk load of donations for Greensboro Urban Ministry.



Communion and Devotion

Rev. Kelley will be at Friends Homes Guilford and West on Wednesday afternoon **March 25 for Communion and Devotion.**

Mission & Outreach Opportunities

♦ **Greensboro Urban Ministry** Please continue to support Greensboro Urban Ministry with your donations of non-perishable food items. Collection bins are located throughout the church.



♦ **Community Breakfast** Volunteers are needed to cook, set-up, clean-up, and fellowship with our guests on Saturday, March 14 from 8:00-10:00 AM in the Fellowship Hall. Contact Robin Garner at 336-964-2474

♦ **Clothing Closet** from 8:00-10:00 AM on Saturday, March 14. Donations

of gently used men's and children's clothing are cleaned and distributed to our guests in need. Contact Adele Singletary for more information at 336-272-3919.

Helping Your Congregation

Prepare for General Conference: An Event for Clergy and Laity

March 29, 2020 – 4:00-5:30pm

Christ UMC (Greensboro), in the Sanctuary
410 North Holden Road, Greensboro, NC

Join us for a time of **holy conferencing** to help prepare our congregations for General Conference 2020. We will join in prayer, share information, and lay hands on our elected delegates from the Northern Piedmont District. **Assistant to the Bishop and General Conference Delegate Amy Coles** will join us for our time together.

There will be an opportunity for you to submit written questions, thoughts and concerns that will be forwarded to our Western North Carolina Conference delegation. Those questions, thoughts and concerns can also be submitted on our conference website at: <https://www.wnccumc.org/gc2020thoughts> or by sending an email to delegation@wnccumc.org.

Please allow us to assist you as you shepherd your congregation prayerfully and lovingly through this time of change. We trust that our afternoon together will honor God, encourage our delegates, and benefit your congregation. We hope you can come! - from Bev Coppley, District Superintendent

General Conference Questions & Answers—March 22

Rev. Jeremy Troxler, pastor at Guilford UMC, will speak at 1:00 PM on Sunday, March 22 in the Fellowship Hall. He will take questions regarding General Conference. Join us for lunch, following the 11:00 AM worship service. RSVP to the church office by Thursday, March 19. Call 336-299-9643 or email Lisa@CentenaryUMCGreensboro.org.

From the Welch's

It has almost been 10 years since I was struck down while serving at Harmony Grove...more since we served at Centenary. We are doing well, and **feeling blessed**. We briefly lived in Franklin, but moved back to our home in Hendersonville...giving us more access to Drs. and music venues. Two of our children, their spouses and 4 grandchildren are near by. Our other two children are in Wilmington and Hawaii with their spouses and 3 of our grandchildren. We see all of them as often as we can.

Gail was diagnosed with Trigeminal Neurology and MS in 2014 which explained symptoms she had had for many years. She is responding well to the medicines prescribed.

I have had another small stroke and various transient medical issues.

Since becoming disabled,(2010), I have been in Physical therapy regularly, and I found that I could use my music to get my fingers and brain working again. There are many open mic opportunities in Asheville, and I have created 8 albums on cdbaby. A record company called Fervor Records purchased two of my Christian songs and one other...since I could not read or do most ministerial kinds of things, (talk/walk), I have been actively placing/marketing my songs both secular and Christian...in an attempt to remake myself and hopefully supplement my retirement.

Please share this information with the people of Centenary. Most of my songs can be listened to on www.reverbnation.com/revdocwelch. All albums are available digitally at cdbaby.com and there I am Patrick P Welch. Here is a link to cdbaby. <http://store.cdbaby.com/Artist/PatrickPWelch> On Spotify and other social media I am revdocwelch...please like or follow me on these. Happy New Year!
- Patrick and Gail Welch.



Founder and Minister, Donnetta McRae started a new ministry that meets at Centenary UMC on the 4th Thursday of every month. Shattered to Wholeness Ministries will gather at 7:00 PM on March 26 in the Wesley Classroom. Call 336-312-8096 for more information.

Bringing healing and wholeness to
shattered lives is the vision of
Shattered to Wholeness Ministries.

MARCH 2020

Sunday Morning Worship

9:00 AM Modern Worship Service

10:00 AM Sunday School

11:00 AM Traditional Worship Service

AA—Alcoholics Anonymous

DA—Debtors Anonymous

Al-Anon—Support for family & friends of AA

Compassionate Friends—Supporting families after a child dies

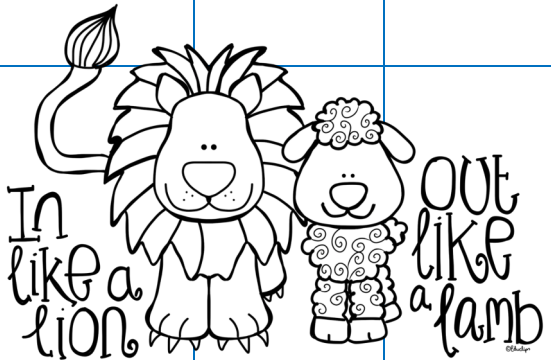
LIFT Luncheon—fellowship for individuals who have lost a spouse

TCS—The Covenant School

ACES—Guilford County Schools

STWM—Shattered to Wholeness Ministries

HPH—Half-Pint Harmonies

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 First Sunday of Lent Communion	2 UMW Board Mtg 10 AM HPH Free Demo 10 AM Compassionate Friends 7 PM	3 Lenten Bible Study @ 10 & 6 TCS Mtg 11:30 AA 8 PM	4 Choir Practice 6:30 PM Handbells 7:30 PM	5 TCS Info Mtg 6:30 PM DA 7:30 PM	6 TCS Teacher Workday 9 AM Al-Anon 8 PM	7
8 Second Sunday of Lent	9 HPH 10 AM UMW Fellowship 6:30 PM	10 Lenten Bible Study @ 10 & 6 Friendship Club 12 Noon AA 8 PM	11 Piedmont-Doll Club 1 PM Choir Practice 6:30 PM Handbells 7:30 PM	12 TCS Moms in Prayer 8:45 AM DA 7:30 PM	13 Al-Anon 8 PM	14 Community Breakfast & Clothes Closet 8-10 AM Wesley Class Dinner 6 PM
15 Third Sunday of Lent	16 HPH 10 AM UMW Fellowship 10 AM	17 Lenten Bible Study @ 10 & 6 AA 8 PM	18 Choir Practice 6:30 PM Handbells 7:30 PM	19 ACES 8 AM Book Club 6:30 @ Lucky 32 DA 7:30 PM	20 Al-Anon 8 PM	21 Pilgrimage 8 AM
22 Fourth Sunday of Lent 12 PM Lunch 1 PM Q & A with Jeremy Troxler	23 HPH 10 AM	24 Lenten Bible Study @ 10 & 6 Game Day 1:30 AA 8 PM	25 Churchwide Supper 6 PM Choir Practice 6:30 PM Handbells 7:30 PM	26 LIFT 11:15 AM STWM 7 PM DA 7:30 PM	27 Al-Anon 8 PM	28
29 Fifth Sunday of Lent Community Concert with James Esterline 3 PM	30 HPH 10 AM	31 Lenten Bible Study @ 10 & 6 AA 8 PM				

CENTENARY COMMUNITY CONCERTS

presents

PIANIST JAMES ESTERLINE

GARDENING IN THE GRAVEYARD

a Spartan Open Pantry benefit concert

Music by Drozdoff, Madetoja,
Rheinberger, Chaminade,
Rachmaninoff,
Medtner,
Bach,
and Dohnányi

SUNDAY, MARCH 29 AT 3:00 PM
2300 W FRIENDLY AVE, GREENSBORO

Love offering for SOP to be collected in lieu of admission
For more information, contact jhesterlin@gmail.com

BACKGROUND IMAGE: DETAIL OF
KUOLEMAN PUUTARHA [THE GARDEN OF DEATH], BY HUGO SIMBERG

Thank You

Thanks to everyone that came to Mothers birthday and received her with such love. She appreciated the visits, cards and presents from everyone in the congregation. She opened the presents with reckless abandon, so please forgive me if I did not acknowledge your gift personally. She appreciated everything and it made her feel very appreciated. Thank you again for the love of the congregation.

Also, to the United Methodist Men, we thank them immensely for the dinner and tribute to my mother, Lucille Crawford. It moved her to tears. It was beautiful and a pleasure to attend. - Jackie Thompson



PHOTOS BY H. SCOTT HOFFMANN/News & Record
Dawn Riddle takes part in a drive-through Ash Wednesday service at Centenary United Methodist Church in Greensboro. Riddle said she never misses a service. "It reminds us of our humanity," she said. "Life is fleeting, from ashes we come and to ashes we will return."

Road to repentance: Church offers drive-up Ash Wednesday service

By H. SCOTT HOFFMANN
scott.hoffmann@greensboro.com

GREENSBORO — Jenny Hansen and her mother, Dawn Riddle, never miss Ash Wednesday services. "It reminds us of our humanity," Dawn Riddle said. "Life is fleeting, from ashes we come and to ashes we will return."

This year, they climbed out of their car to take part in an Ash Wednesday drive-through service at Centenary United Methodist Church on West Friendly Avenue. It's the third year that Centenary has held the modern twist on a religious ceremony that dates back to Jesus Christ and the 40 days he was tempted by the devil, said the Rev. Kelley Groce.



Jenny Hansen is marked with mother Dawn Riddle by her side. They like the interaction rather than staying in the car, as many do. "It made it more personal, more private," Riddle said. "We like it when we meet other people around town who have the ashes on their foreheads. It shows that we are all brothers and sisters in Christ. We have more in common than we have differences."



Tokens were given to worshippers who took part in the Ash Wednesday service.

In the News!

Centenary UMC had an article in the News & Record on Thursday, February 27 about our Ashes to Go drive-up Ash Wednesday service. Ashes were rubbed in a crucifix symbol on the foreheads of those who wanted to demonstrate their faith. Rev. Kelley Groce, Caryn Hull, Abbie Samuels, Rev. Susan Carrick, Betty Durham, and Harold Billings prayed with participants while they sat in their cars, or got out for a more personal and private experience. Between the Ashes to Go drive-up, a service at Carolina Pines, and our Church Wide Supper with UMAR, more than 150 people were blessed on Ash Wednesday.

Gifts for the Budget: February 1-28, 2020

In Memory of Mildred Rives

The Roach Class
Ann Atchison
Mickey & Gwen Barnhill
Carolyn Barr
Harold & Linda Billings
Anthony & Beth Blackman
Lindy Hutchison
Polly Bowman
Jean Brincefield
Gary & Gay Brown
Marie Clark
Jack Cole
Sally Conterno
George & Estelle Cranford
The Daiber/Pruitt Fellowship
Duilla Harkins
Ruth Howerton
Edward & Gail Kemm
Joann Martin
Coak & Nancy May
Todd & Beth McKay
Karen McNeil
Nollie Neill, Jr.
Mark & Debra Schlueter
Bob & Mary Skenes
Charlie & Patsy Stamey
Jimmy & Diane Stanley
Phoebe Swing
United Methodist Men
Jim & Brenda Wilson
Barbara Wolfe

March Birthdays

1st	Jim Wilson
2nd	Chrissy Verchick
3rd	Frazier Robinson
4th	Lisa Bunch
6th	Frank York
7th	Estelle Cranford and Jean York
10th	Dottie Rayburn
11th	Bo Billings and Rachel Sheppard
12th	Marty Mikles
14th	Ginny Taylor (101!)
15th	Pat Stevenson
16th	Kristina Kinard
19th	Harold Billings
22nd	Charles Sartore
24th	Doris Pruitt
29th	Cindie Sillmon
31st	Caryn Hull



If you, or a loved one, have been left off the birthday list, please contact Lisa Bunch at 336-299-9643.

Financial Update

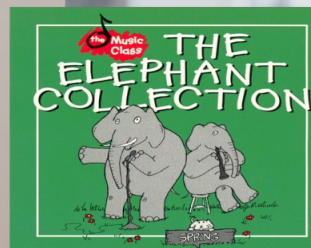
Year-to-Date Giving/Expenses—Ending 2/28/2020

Revenues	\$ 95,386
Expenses	\$ 56,112
Profit or (Loss) for 2 months	\$ 39,274
Unrestricted cash available for operations:	\$110,589



The Elephant Collection

With  **Half-Pint Harmonies**



Music Classes

MONDAYS 10AM

AGES 0-5 & CAREGIVER
CLASSES BEGIN 3/9

CENTENARY UMC • 2300 WEST FRIENDLY AVE. GREENSBORO, NC 27403 •

Half-Pint Harmonies begins on Monday, March 9. A **FREE** demonstration class will be held on Monday, March 2 at 10:00 AM in the Providence Room. Parents, grandparents, and caregivers of little ones (0-5 years old), are invited to attend. Contact Carrie for more information carrie@halfpinharmonies.com 678-687-1116

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Visit us online!

<https://www.CentenaryUMCGreensboro.org/>



Our Mission:

To experience God's life changing love and take God's love into the world.

Our Vision:

To be a church where everyone is involved in ministry.

Periodical Postage

Paid at

Greensboro, NC

Gifts for the Budget: February 1-28, 2020
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In Memory of Bob White

The Pittard Class
Harold & Linda Billings
Polly Bowman
Jean Brincefield
Jack Cole
Don & Clara Ellis
David & Patti Fagan
The Cemala Foundation—Susan Schwartz
Mary Catherine Goff
Frank Hinshaw
Richard & Sandra Hogan
Gary & Donna Lynch
Joann Martin
Coak & Nancy May
Phoebe Swing
United Methodist Men
Michael & Sara White
Barbara Wolfe

In Memory of Larry Swindell

Peggy & Nann Ambrose
Harold & Linda Billings
Bill Black Chevrolet Cadillac
Charlene Cartwright

In Memory of Larry Swindell, continued

Don & Clara Ellis
Jack Cole
Frank Hinshaw
Joann Martin
Coak & Nancy May
Raymond & Celtic Skinner
Phoebe Swing
United Methodist Men
Barbara Wolfe

In Honor of Lucille Crawford's 100th Birthday

Jack Cole

In Memory of Hilda Layton

Don & Clara Ellis
Duilla Harkins

In Memory of Maureen Esterline

Duilla Harkins

In Memory of Hazel Moore (Nancy May's aunt)

Duilla Harkins
Mark & Debra Schlueter

In Memory of Brandon Drinkard

Duilla Harkins