

SO HOW SHOULD WE “DO” LENT THIS YEAR?

Scripture Lesson: Matthew 5:17-37

Meditation: “. . . unless your righteousness surpasses . . .”

While reading *The Greatest Generation*, I was reminded of the spirit that Jesus encouraged us to have. Author Tom Brokaw often refers to the way the young people who came of age in the 1940s shouldered responsibility. The privations of the Depression years and the discipline of the war effort shaped them into creative adults. That’s what Jesus calls his followers to be: responsible and creative persons, formed by sacrifice and self-discipline.

The season of Lent starts soon. (Ash Wednesday this year is March 1st). Lent traditionally has been a time of concentrated spiritual reflection and discipline in preparation for the observance of Holy Week, culminating in Good Friday and Easter. *But what kind of reflection? What kind of discipline?*

How surprised the disciples must have been when Jesus said they had to be better than the religious professionals of their time. How did the disciples interpret that? How do we understand it today? Little by little, the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew’s Gospel clarifies Jesus’ meaning: refraining from evil acts isn’t enough. Keeping small precepts isn’t enough. *Not doing evil* is just the beginning; there’s a whole “world” of good to be done! “Don’t hurt others” is only one side of the coin; “do help them” is the second side. We’re asked to “go beyond.”

Jesus proclaims the Beatitudes in Matthew 5:3-12. He points out some works of mercy in Matthew 25:35-36. Other works of mercy include: to instruct the uneducated, to advise the unsure, to comfort the sorrowful, to forgive those who hurt us, to challenge the wayward, to pray for the living and deceased. . .

We're not asked to do everything. Each of us is called to find our own way --- praying for God's guidance and choosing the things that we know or think are the best for us do here and now.

Prayer:

Father in Heaven, help us to use our freedom wisely and well this Lent and always. May the teachings of Jesus in the Gospels, be like sails for us, allowing us to catch the wind of your Spirit. Sensitize us, sensitize me, to the action of your Spirit, who moves when and where it wills, so that we can all live generously.

Contemplation:

Go beyond.

(Similar gospel reflections are found several times per week in my "Pastor's Blog" on the TPC website.)

Wishing you a wonderful Lent!

Dave Gilbert



LENT

Prayer Concerns



New Concerns

NANCY SISCO, NANCY ALTIZER, DAWN & DAVID OLINGER

Church Family

*MARTHA & RANDALL COOPER
(DEATH OF JUANITA BOLING)*

LAURA KINCER

MADELINE HURT

CHARLIE ASBURY

SUE KEENE

PEGGY ASBURY

RICHARD WITTEN

SAM ADKINS

EDDIE NASH

MARTHA MASSIE

JEANETTE RAMEY

RENIA HALE PEERY

VICKY RINEHART

PRISCILLA DILLOW

BOB PARKS

BARBARA STANSBURY

CONNIE FLETCHER

BETTY KELLY

GEORGIA HALE

DOROTHY NUCKLES

Active Military Personnel: *John Patrick Flynn, and Jon Wright*

Missionaries: *The Wellers and The Ardnts*

Others

Stevie Mitchem

James Asbury & Connie Honaker (all friends of Kincer family)

Regina Horne

Bernard Brooks (Pam Irvin's father)

Barb Gillespie's cousin Heather & great-niece Aubree

Rae Farley

Jo Lynn Gacek

Pam Killen (knee surgery)

Sarah Kitts (granddaughter of Carolyn Kitts)

Trish Cox

Larry Stroup & Ed Smith (neighbors of Randall & Martha Cooper)

Shelley Keene-Walsh (daughter of Sue Keene)

Jeannie Putman (Connie Fletcher's niece)

Jimmy O'Neill (Dora's grand-nephew)

Charlotte Wilson (daughter of Martha Massie)

Gilliam Shelton (Debbie Crews' father)

Dustin Hicks

Blanche Carpenter (Ron Carpenter's mother)

February 2017 Session Action

- † Josh Thompson addressed the Session in regard to PROJECT13THREE, a program for released prisoners to assist them with reentering daily life. He and Pastor Manny Elswick are spearheading this nondenominational effort and ask for your individual support through the church.
- † Property Chair Debby Crews reported that three Wi-Fi extenders are being installed which will allow good access in the building.
- † Worship Chair Carol Weaver reminded the congregation that new hymn books can be purchased for \$20 in memory or in honor of someone. Forms are in the bulletins. The deadline is April 15.
- † Save the date of September 16, 2017 for Mountain Top at Royal Oak Presbyterian in Marion.
- † Please check out the web site for Pastor Dave's blogs and new information.

UPCOMING Events

Ash Wednesday will mark the beginning of the season of Lent. We will begin our Lenten season with a special worship service on March 1st at 6:30 pm. The congregation and ministry staff of Main Street United Methodist Church will be joining us in this special service. The service will feature the imposition of ashes on the forehead as a symbol of penitence and human mortality. The Ash Wednesday service has an austere character, encouraging thoughtful meditation on the meaning of the day and of the Lenten season to Good Friday. As ashes are placed on our foreheads in the sign of the cross, we are reminded, *“Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return”* (Genesis 3:19). The service will be approximately 40 minutes in length and will take place in the Tazewell Presbyterian Church sanctuary. All are encouraged to invite neighbors and friends to this meaningful service.

UPCOMING Events

“Help Get the Word Out!” Thursday Noonday Prayer Services Starting Soon at TPC: Beginning March 2nd, services of noonday prayer will be held every Thursday in the Tazewell Presbyterian Church sanctuary. Providing a welcome oasis in the middle of a busy week, each service will be approximately 20-30 minutes in length and will feature an opening hymn, a psalm for responsive reading, a brief scripture selection for meditation, and of course a time of prayer. The services will be led by Rev. Dave Gilbert, and by Revs. Anthony Grills and Manny Elswick from the Main Street United Methodist Church on a rotating basis. The services are open to all in the larger community. Help us get the word out by mentioning the services to your neighbors and friends. Thank you!!

“Read All About It!” A Lenten Book Study will be held Tuesdays at noon in the church’s fellowship hall on March 7, 14, 21, 28, and April 4. Join us as we dive each week into a different short story written by the great southern writer, Flannery O’Connor. O’Connor’s stories reveal a highly developed sense of comedy, deep faith, and great intelligence. Rev. Dave Gilbert will facilitate the discussion of O’Connor’s stories with an eye to points of convergence with Lent, our lives beneath the cross, and our resurrection hope.



MUSIC News



New Hymnal Update

We are moving toward the purchase of Glory to God, the newest Presbyterian hymnal, for use in our worship services at TPC and Black's Chapel.

If you wish to purchase hymnals to be designated in honor or in memory of someone, we need your commitment forms by April 15, 2017. You may place these in the Sunday offering plate or turn them in to the church office.

Hymnals are \$20 each. Your donation may be submitted at any time by placing it in the offering plate or bringing/ mailing it to the church office. Be sure that your check indicates "hymnals" on the memo line.

THANK YOU!

Thank you so much for your prayers and visits with Mom while she was in Heritage Hall. She loved her Church Family so much! Many thanks for your thoughts, messages, prayers and food during her sudden passing. Special thanks to Pastor Dave for his support, ministry, and encouragement during this difficult time and to Mrs. Pat for the beautiful music she provided during Mom's funeral service. All the prayers and encouragement have been so greatly appreciated by our family.

*Love,
Martha & Randall Cooper*



Congratulations!

Madeline Hurt
for the birth of her great-grandchild,
Hudson Walker Ketron
Joined his Sister Avery,
on January 30th, adorable & healthy!



It's a boy!

