

## From Martha

What is Lent? And why would we talk about it as part of Baptist worship? I did not grow up hearing about Lent in my church. In fact, in my church, there was Christmas, then, a few months later, there was Easter. Advent was something that grew on our consciousness over the years, but I was an adult before I even heard about Lent, and then it was only as something that Catholic people and Episcopalians practiced. Over the years, though, I have come to really appreciate the season of Lent. Practiced in healthy circumstances, I have experienced Lent as a period for self-reflection—a time to back away from the world and to practice spiritual disciplines that help me to grow as a person. I did not find “giving up something for Lent” to be all that useful (although it may be to you), but I have found adding spiritual practices or focusing on a spiritual practice to be helpful to me in my day-to-day life.

Our Spiritual Formation Team decided, at our Jan. 25<sup>th</sup> meeting, that during the season of Lent this year, we would like to focus on the spiritual disciplines which are outlined in Richard Foster’s book, *Celebration of Discipline*. Each Sunday, during Lent, we will focus on one or two of the spiritual disciplines, practicing them during worship and encouraging their use during the week. Our theme for Lent is “Untangling the Knots,” that is, looking for the habits in our lives which are not serving us well, which lead us into anger or knee-jerk reactions to the events of our lives. The purpose of spiritual practices is to find the truest place in ourselves from which to make decisions, to invite God’s presence into the daily elements of our lives and to free ourselves from the habits that break our peacefulness and lead us down destructive paths. If you would like some scripture to be reading and meditating on during this season, we will stay in the book of Matthew, specifically in these passages: chapters 6, 13, 17, 26 and 28.

Sunday, February 23rd, we held our first Youth Hours at McNeely’s! We had 10 from the Under 18 crowd (and a few in the Older Than 18 But Still Pretty Fun crowd) and we ate lunch together, played some ping-pong and pool, then spent an hour creating amazing pieces from cardboard, packing foam, fabric, duct tape and air dry clay. So much creativity and talent in that room! We will aim for a monthly gathering, with our next one on March 23rd from 12:30-3:30 our theme for that day will be ADVENTURE!



## JOIN US SUNDAY MORNINGS!

### SEARCHERS

Meets in the Brooks *Education* Wing downstairs @ 9:45 a.m.

### FORMATIONS

Meets in the Parlor @ 9:45 a.m.

### THE FORUM

Meets in the Brooks education Wing downstairs @ 10:00 a.m.

### BIBLE BASICS

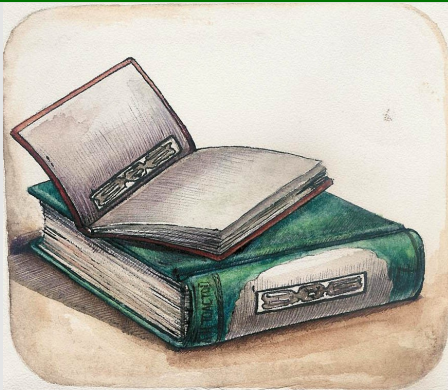
Meets in the McNeely room @ 9:45 a.m.

**Worship @ 11:00 a.m.**

## Bible Basics

This is a once-monthly class, offered during the Sunday School hour (9:45-10:45 on Sunday mornings). This class is open to all ages, and will focus on gaining Bible knowledge—learning the books of the Bible, learning how the Bible was formed, learning about the different genres of Bible books, and what each one means in terms of interpreting those books. We will play games, have Bible drills and enjoy breakfast snacks together on the following dates:

**3.29 4.26 5.24**



# Join Us!

## Christian Writers Group

*Proposal for new offering!*

Meeting on Saturday mornings: 10-noon in the Parlor

Rev. Dwight Mays is inviting anyone who may be interested in writing to engage in biblical texts, in other words, to explore deeper meanings than what is on the printed page. To write devotional material suitable for publications. Such as, Reflections or The Secret Place. Also, to read and discuss works by other Christian writers.

For church members and their guests.

Contact the church office or Dwight Mays if you are interested.

## Searchers Class

In March the Searchers Class will focus on *Can You Drink the Cup?* by Henri Nouwen. This is the last book published before Nouwen's death and was written during a sabbatical from the L'Arche Daybreak community. Nouwen meditates on holding, lifting, and drinking the cup—looking at who we really are, celebrating life together, and fulling loving and trusting God. Join us as we look at Jesus's question to his Disciples—and to us.

## IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

PBC Office

434-384-2031

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Pastor

The Rev. Dr. Martha D. Kearse

704-223-4251 mdkearse@outlook.com



## Read all about it!

Here at PBC, we have been making so many wonderful changes, updates and improvements! It's an exciting time to be a part of this one-of-a-kind church! We are always looking for ways we can improve. We started recycling some time ago, but it's time to step up our game! Introducing PBC's "*Earth Friendly Initiative*"! After some careful research, we have decided to try and use, not only recyclable materials, but also **BIODEGRADABLE**, in addition to making better use of our **REUSEABLE**! There will be some minor changes, but overall, we will all adjust, given some quick instruction. The biggest change will be *WHERE* we dispose of our trash. Instead of letting items go to the landfills, where trash takes years, or may never breakdown, we are sending earth friendly products that will eventually become a part of the earth! We will be using up the supplies we already have on hand first, but once they are gone, we will be using biodegradable and/or washable! The **biodegradable items** will need to go into the **biodegradable trash bags** in order to decompose, but these trash receptacles will be clearly marked. Be on the lookout for a video in the coming weeks to explain this initiative in fuller detail. Nicole will be in charge of what items are ordered, so she welcomes any feedback on the quality of these products as we go along. Any and **ALL** feedback will be welcome!

### VISION STATEMENT

*We are faithful and loving servants of God who believe that Jesus Christ is the risen Lord. We are a spiritual, ecumenical congregation, called by God, bound by faith, united in fellowship, dedicated to freedom, and engaged in God's work of mission and outreach.*

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### CHURCH STAFF:

The Rev. Dr. Martha D. Kearse  
Rev. Nathan C. Brooks, III  
Nicole Zulauf

Pastor  
Pastor Emeritus  
Office Administrator

Susan Allen  
Debbie Burton  
Allan Heer

Financial Assistant  
Music Director  
Organist

# March

## March Happenings

- 1 Communion
- 2 Lent Begins
- 5 WOM Meeting at Milano's at 6:00 p. m.
- 8 **Daylight Savings Time**
- 8 International Women's Day
- 8 Finance Meeting following worship Parlor
- 8 Spiritual Formations Meeting following worship Fellowship Hall
- 17 **St. Patrick's Day**
- 19 **First Day of Spring!**
- 20 Youth time with Martha at McNeely's 12:30-3:30 p. m.
- 29 Bible Basics
- 29 Congregational Council following worship Parlor

## March Birthdays

- 3 Denise Hunt
- 8 Juanita Phillips
- 8 Mary Rockwell
- 12 Will Moseley
- 13 Anna Kears
- 15 Don Riley
- 16 Anna Sloan
- 17 Kelly Thomasson Mack
- 18 Barbara Lee
- 18 Purnell Pettyjohn
- 20 Susan Epling
- 20 Farshid Shahrokhi
- 21 Hayden Dietz
- 24 Nancy Rice
- 24 Sam Whitesell
- 31 Suzanne McNeely
- 31 Taylor Riley

## PBC Weekly Happenings

- Sunday:** Christian Education 9:45 & 10:00 am  
Worship 11:00 am
- Monday:** McNeely Group 7:30 am  
Yoga Class 3:30 pm Fellowship Hall
- Tuesday:** Craft Group 4:00 pm McNeely's
- Wednesday:** Bible Study 10:30 am Parlor
- Thursday:** Choir Practice 7:30 pm Fellowship Hall

The Lynchburg Rotary Club is presenting its 4th Annual ,Bingo for Books and More, a fundraiser that provides personal reading books for first and second graders in all City Elementary Schools.

Join us at Oakwood, 5:30-8:30 p.m. on April 16. Your \$50 ticket includes heavy hors d'oeuvres, cash bar and 20 games of bingo. See Jackie Asbury for tickets (384-3399 or [jacquelineasbury@verizon.net](mailto:jacquelineasbury@verizon.net))