



Big Cove News

March 2014

Big Cove Presbyterian Church (USA)

From the Pastor ~Shepherd Groups

Almost every night, I go to bed thinking, “Oh, I missed contacting so-and-so today,” or “I wish I’d had time to give so-and-so a call. I hope I can get to it tomorrow!” My fear is that someone in our congregational family will fall through the cracks, and my heart hurts to think that I might miss someone in need or simply miss the chance to connect. But I am also aware that there is only one of me and over 100 of you! You and I are blessed with two very active deacons, Vicki Waldrop and Sally Harris, who also want to provide pastoral care, but even the three of us can’t give that personal touch to everyone. So, get ready! Shepherd Groups are here!

What is a Shepherd Group? A Shepherd Group is a cluster of seven or eight households under the care of one of our two deacons and six elders. Each deacon and elder has a group. Your personal “Shepherd” will be intentional over the course of the next six months to introduce himself/herself, let you know that he/she is available to pray for you, hear any comments or suggestions, and assist you in any way in your life at church. If you have specific needs, these shepherds can let me know, in case I somehow missed something.

Please note that Shepherd Groups are not meant to take the place of your relationship with me. My door is always open! But these groups will help assist me so that I can sleep easier at night, knowing that the flock has been checked on! ☺ What I hope will result from this shepherd-caretaking is not just being sure the leadership is aware of any needs and is making stronger relationships, but that you, the congregation, will be reminded that you, too, are called to look out for each other, pray for each other, and build relationships. Perhaps when your shepherd checks in with you, you will be reminded to follow through with that person who last popped into your mind.

So, don’t be surprised when an elder or deacon walks up to you and says, “Hi, I’m your shepherd! How are you doing?” Give them the chance to get to know you because they do truly care about you, as do I.

Congregational Care is also working on other ways to take care of, notice, pray for, and love each other. Our current team consists of our deacons, along with Pat Lutz, Glenda Harris, Jennifer Ferneau, and Melinda Harvey. We are open to suggestions!

Blessings!

~Rosemary

March Elder on Call
Debbie Book

Pastor
Rosemary McMahan

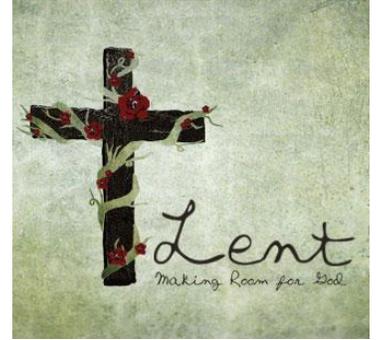
Parish Associate
Houston Hodges

Administrative Assistant
Mary Hooper

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Lent and Easter 2014



It is hard to believe that Lent is upon us, but the appearance of our Lenten Devotionals suggests that it is so. Once again, I encourage each member to try to make this a “holy” season by setting aside a bit of time to be with our Lord in an intentional manner. The Devotional booklets will help do that. Other ways to be present include making the effort to attend the following events:

March 5, 6:30: Ash Wednesday Taizé Worship Service with the Lord’s Supper and Imposition of Ashes

April 13: Seder Supper, Time TBA

April 17, 6:30 PM: Maundy Thursday Worship with the Lord’s Supper and Stripping of the Table

April 18, noon: Good Friday Meditation

April 20, 6:30 am, 9 am, and 11 am: Easter Sunday Worship

Sermon Series: Our Lenten sermon series will follow the travelers on the Road to Emmaus. Come hear what they discover on their journey and how it can influence yours. Let’s remember each other in prayer as we journey toward being Easter People!



February Session Update

At its February meeting, after praying for each other’s concerns and for guidance, the session attended to the following business:

- Held its annual meeting with the deacons
- Evaluated the 2014 active membership roster
- Received a financial review and approved raises
- Discussed leadership and vision as a team
- Moved forward on signage for the church
- Received Shepherd Group lists
- Heard reports from Christian Ed, Outreach, Worship, and Building and Grounds

As always, session meetings are open to anyone in the church. Please pray for the session as it works to minister to and with you.

Reflections on a Visit to the Presbyterian Home for Children

Wherever you go, God is sending you. Wherever you are, God has put you there. He has a purpose in your being there. Christ who indwells in you has something He wants to do through you where you are. Believe this and go in His grace and love and power. The Halverson Benediction



*Robinson Cottage at the
Presbyterian Home for Children*

This was my second visit to the Presbyterian Home for Children (more than that for others in our party) and the Halverson Benediction rings in my head each time I enter the doors to the cottage of the girls.

The first visit I participated in...I worried the girls would feel like we were “intruding” into their lives...lives that had already gone through so much. But...that thought quickly dissipated as the girls made US feel very welcome. This was very humbling...because I arrogantly (for lack of a better term) believed that it was “us” who were there to put a little Christmas Son-shine in their lives. Our group felt very privileged for being able to spend this fun time with them.

ON the second visit...I wondered if the girls would remember us (they are teenagers, after all). When we arrived at the cottage (almost a half-hour early) there was no answer at the door. Linda called and was told they may be sleeping in. We decided to leave and come back to give the girls time to wake-up. To our surprise...we were told they were out picking up tablecloths in preparation for our visit. That was a very good sign they were looking forward to our visit. As the girls crafted boxes...they chattered about all the normal things teenage girls talk about...music, boys, and the upcoming prom. The Presbyterian Home was making these girls feel loved, safe...and most of all...like family, to each other.

To emphasize how well-adjusted these young ladies are in this environment ... one senior announced proudly ... that she had been awarded multiple scholarships to an in-state college (smile) ... and was looking forward to this next chapter in her life. ALL the girls were excited about the upcoming prom. They talked about what they planned to wear, who they were going with ... and there was genuine joy in their sweet voices.

As we were leaving ... they let us know they would be excited about our next visit to them. They put in an order for some wings, baked beans ... but, then ... offered to cook for us (if we wished) for our next visit. I’m looking forward to it ... as I know the rest of the group is too!

“Wherever you are, God has put you there.” Yes, sweet girls ... yes, He is watching over you at the Presbyterian Home for Children.

~ Diane Smith

WARNING!
Deadline rapidly approaching!
LADIES WEEKEND GETAWAY 2014!

If you wish to attend this fabulous weekend with Big Cove Women, be sure to **get your \$50.00 deposit check to Linda Wheeler by March 9.** Please make your check payable to Big Cove PCUSA (“For” Ladies retreat 2014)

The total cost of the weekend will be approximately \$125-135 per person (with 4 to a cottage) plus the cost of the Saturday evening meal at The Docks. The retreat will run from May 30 - June 1 (Friday 5:00 p.m. until Sunday 11:00 a.m.), and Pastor Rosemary will be the study facilitator.

The location for the retreat is Goose Pond Colony in Scottsboro—set in the trees on the waterfront, quiet, relaxing, yet with all the comforts of home. Each cottage has 2 bedrooms with 2 queen beds, 2 bathrooms, a kitchen, dining room, living room, screened porch or deck, and grill. There are piers for the cottages if you want to sunbathe, swim, fish, read, or water gaze!

Questions: Linda Wheeler, Debbie Book, or Diane Smith.



An Evening with the Author

DON'T FORGET! that the Big Cove Presbyterian Women are sponsoring an evening with Author Judy Mitchell Rich on Thursday March 27th at 6:00.

Though the Presbyterian Women are sponsoring the event, women *and* men of the church are invited. Finger foods will be served. Judy will bring copies of her first novel, *Like Sheep*, and her latest publication, *Like a Fox*, for sale, and there will be a time for autographs.

Brief description of books:

Like Sheep: A dilapidated country church. Unfriendly people. Peculiar "ghosts" and a secretive artist. Pastor Suzanne is assigned to a country church in the wheat fields of Kansas where she encounters a mysterious challenge. Trying to solve the problem and save the church shakes the ground under her feet.

Like a Fox: Pastor Suzanne is cautioned against going to Covenant Church because they are a “clergy killers.” Three former pastors have left the ministry. She enters with caution, seeking to find the source of their problems, restore them and survive.



Important Dates in March



March 3: Presbyterian Women meet at 10 am at Gail Birdsong's home (1687 Dug Hill Road, Brownsboro)

March 3: Outreach Team Meeting 6:30

March 5: Taizé Ash Wednesday Worship 6:30 PM

March 8: Men's Bible Time 9:30

March 9: Deadline for turning in deposit for Ladies' Retreat

March 9: Daylight Savings Time begins

(turn your clocks forward one hour Saturday night/Sunday morning!)

March 17: Saint Patrick's Day

March 20: First Day of Spring!

March 27: Evening with the author Judy Mitchell Rich 6:00

Regularly Scheduled Weekly Events:

Sunday Worship, 9 am and 11 am

Christian Exploration: 9:55-10:45

Wednesday Meditative Yoga: 9:30-11 AM

Wednesday Night Immersion Study: 6-7 PM

Wednesday Night Choir Practice: 7-8 PM

Thursday Morning Prayer Group: 10-11 AM

Sunday Night Youth (SNY): 5:30-7 PM, white church

Happy March Birthday!

Amanda Vernon on the 9th

Jeff Irons on the 11th

Houston Hodges on the 15th

Whitney Smith on the 15th

John Isom on the 16th

Tennent Lee on the 19th

Adam Wheeler on the 20th

Carla Feehan on the 21st

Mary Ann Blakemore on the 23rd

Connie Sharp on the 26th

Brian Birdsong on the 31st

Happy March Anniversary!

Ron & Sally Harris on the 12th

JC & Juanice Scrimshire on the 14th

Tommy & Mary Ann Blakemore on the 19th

Aaron & Sherry Sakovich on the 30th

Brian & Robyn Birdsong on the 31st



*Please Note April
Newsletter deadline:
March 26*



Financial Corner For January 2014

Receipts:	\$20,950.00
Operation Expenses	\$24,795.52
Includes One-time benevolences	
Donations to The Children's Home:	\$133.00
Capital Campaign Donations:	\$6,980.00

Any questions relating to the above may be addressed to Diane Lee, Bookkeeper, or any of the current elders.

~Worship Leaders for March~

9AM Worship:

	<u>March 2</u>	<u>March 9</u>	<u>March 16</u>	<u>March 23</u>	<u>March 30</u>
Greeter	Kirk Finley	Nicole Harris	Savanna Harris	Alaina Harvey	Renay Nunn
Host/Hostess .	Michele Pepper	Vicki Waldrop	Debbie Book	Merrie Duncan	Christie Finley
Worship Leader .	Ron Harris	Gary Indihar	Christie Finley	Sally Harris	Tom Jones
Power Point . . .	Gary Indihar	Katrina Pepper	Sylvia Romero	Kirk Finley	Debbie Book

11 AM Worship:

	<u>March 2</u>	<u>March 9</u>	<u>March 16</u>	<u>March 23</u>	<u>March 30</u>
Usher	Pat Lutz	Mickey Sharp	Janet Pinczewski	Jane Rutledge	Gary Bass
Worship Leader .	Neva Beasley	Tennent Lee	Mickey Sharp	Pastor	Mike Feehan
First Reader	Gail Birdsong	Tom Bell	Hartwell Lutz	Connie Sharp	Neva Beasley
Second Reader .	Tennent Lee	Neva Beasley	Pat Lutz	Mickey Sharp	Tennent Lee

Care Center Pick Up

<u>March 2-8</u>	Gary Bass
<u>March 9-15</u>	Gary Bass
<u>March 16-22</u>	Gail Birdsong
<u>March 23-29</u>	Gail Birdsong
<u>March 30-April 5</u>	Pat Burke

WAVE Team

Neva Beasley
Tom & Sharon Bell
Ron Harris
Jeff & Vicki Irons
Hartwell & Pat Lutz