



Big Cove News

March 2015

Big Cove Presbyterian Church (USA)

March Elder on Call

Debbie Book

Pastor

Rosemary McMahan

Parish Associate

Houston Hodges

Administrative

Assistant

Mary Hooper

Lenten and Holy Week Schedule

Sundays in Lent: Sermon series ~ On the Road with Jesus

Mondays in Lent: Contemplative Prayer each Monday evening from 6-6:45 pm. See description in newsletter article.

March 29 (Palm Sunday): Seder Supper at 6 pm

April 2: Maundy Thursday Worship with Stripping of the Table at 6:30 pm

April 3: Tenebrae Candle Service at 6:30 PM

April 5 (Easter): SonRise Service 6:30 am

Services at regular times 9:00 & 11:00 am

Fellowship time at 10:00

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From the Pastor~

Who Are We and Where Are We Going??

Lately, I've heard several church members, along with elders on session, wonder "What's next?" now that we have settled into the "new" (2+ year old) building. Unfortunately, "Build it and they will come" didn't quite pan out as we had hoped, but we didn't take the leap of faith to build simply to attract people. We built to be a presence in our community, to better serve our community, and to be disciples who make disciples.

The question now is: Has that vision changed?

In order to answer that question and to ascertain how the congregation currently sees itself and where it wants to go, the session has approved taking the **Church Assessment Tool (CATWalk)**, a questionnaire with 85 standard questions. The **CAT** is useful for transitioning leadership, undertaking strategic planning, measuring the level of satisfaction and energy in the congregation, discovering where to go in the future, and gauging readiness for change. Trained volunteer coaches (members of the NAP) will work with us to analyze the responses, pool the data, and present us with a snapshot of who we are, along with areas that need some attention for us to be the vibrant, energetic, effective congregation we hope to be.

We will be working with the coaches to schedule taking this assessment. All members of the church are invited and encouraged to participate. We need everyone's input!

Our denomination continues to work hard for its churches. This assessment, along with the coaching, will be free of charge to us, thanks to a grant from General Assembly's Mission Development Resource Team (MDRT). Please be watching for details, and let's get rolling!

Blessings! *Rosemary*

Easter Worship

Easter is the primary festival day for Christians worldwide. This year, we will have three opportunities to announce that **the Lord is Risen!**

~**SonRise Worship** at 6:30 am—A volunteer team will lead this service. Please bring a simple breakfast item to share with fellow early risers after worship. Juice and milk always welcome, along with someone in charge of coffee.

See Todd Worthington or Debbie Book.

~**First Light Worship with Communion** at 9:00 am

~**Traditional Worship with Choir and Communion** at 11:00 am

Between the 9 and 11 am services, a simple brunch will be hosted for any worshippers to visit with each other in the vestibule.

Contact Christie Finley to help.



Your Session at Work in February

The session met for its regular monthly meeting on Feb. 23. The following actions took place:

- Yearly meeting and check-in with deacons
- Discussion of Chapter One of the Sailboat Church
- Approval of routine reports
- Update on Winter North Alabama Presbytery Meeting and approval by our presbytery of adding the Belhar Confession to our Book of Confessions and approval, 28-24, of the expansion of the definition of marriage to grant pastors *who so choose* to perform marriages for homosexual couples. Both of these items are still being voted on by other presbyteries with final results due in June
- Agreement to compose instructions for clean up and worship area set up for those who use the multipurpose room for something other than worship
- Congregational Care, Outreach, and Worship team reports accepted. Times of Easter Service approved. The SonRise service will be led by a volunteer team this year instead of the pastor
- Permission for Camp Maranatha to use the Big Cove Church parking lots for camp pick up and drop off during the summer months
- Approval for Elder Don Barnhart to preach on March 22



Session meetings are held the last Tuesday of each month at 6 PM in the large classroom upstairs.



Presbyterian Women

The regular March meeting of the Presbyterian Women of Big Cove will take place on Monday, March 5, at 10:00 at the church. We will complete our study of the book of Esther (9:1-10:3).

Ready to Explore?

We are excited to announce the re-invigoration of *the Adult Christian Exploration program!*

We will be starting off with a bang on March 1st with a discussion of "God's Violence in the Old Testament." We have a mother-daughter team coming on March 15th to discuss their Muslim faith.

Other topics coming in March include: "What Kind of Christian are You?" - questionnaire and discussion; "What happens When We Die?"; and "Can Christians Believe in Evolution?"

Come check it out Sundays at 10:00! And if there's a topic you'd like to discuss, please let Debbie Book know.

We're all **Christian "explorers"** - come join us on the trek!!



Save the Date! 4th Annual Vine Fundraiser

Branches of The Vine

- A Spring Celebration

Come to Baron Bluff of Burritt on the Mountain on April 16, 2015 for live music and time with friends. Hors d'oeuvres will

be provided by LeeLee Wiginton, a 2013 winner on *Cut-Throat Kitchen*, of Lyn's Gracious Goodness.

At the center of this evening will be a silent auction. This year we are limiting our art pieces to 50 items. We will be adding other vacation, local interest and garden items to deliver a Spring theme. We are also still collecting items for the silent auction. If you have anything you would like to donate please see or email Vicki Waldrop.

Please plan now, to attend this worthy fundraising event! All proceeds will go to provide Scholarship Assisted sessions so that all who need counseling may have access to it.

If you are interested in going, and have not received an invitation, please see or email Vicki Waldrop. THANKS! -Vicki



Important Dates in March



- March 2: Presbyterian Women 10:00**
Each Monday through Lent Contemplative Prayer session 6:00
March 4: Bags of Blessings Pack Night 6:00
March 8: Daylight Savings Time begins
March 14: Second Saturday Bible Time 9:30
March 15: Youth Event (Watch e-mail and midweeks for details)
March 17: Saint Patrick's Day
March 29-April 5: Palm Sunday & Holy Week
March 29: Seder Supper 6:00
March 31: Session meeting 6:00

Regularly Scheduled Events:

- Sunday Worship, 9 am and 11 am**
Christian Exploration Sundays 9:55
Youth Activity 3rd Sundays
Mondays in Lent: Contemplative Prayer session 6:00
Wednesday Night Immersion Bible Study 6-7 PM
(Fellowship and Bring Your Own Bag supper starts at 5:30)
Wednesday Night Choir Practice: 7-8 PM
Thursday Morning Prayer Group: 10-11 AM

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
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 and Mary Ann Blakemore on the 19th
Aaron & Sherry Sakovich on the 30th
Brian & Robyn Birdsong on the 31st



March
 In like a lion,
 out like a lamb!

Financial Corner	For January 2015
Receipts:	\$12,605.00
Operation Expenses:	\$14,109.64*
Donations to the Children's Home:	\$105.42
Capital Campaign Donations:	\$930.00
*Includes annual Apportionment to NAP (\$1,552.17) and quarterly benevolence payment (\$1,125.00) to NAP	
Any questions relating to the above may be addressed to Diane Lee, Bookkeeper, or any of the current elders.	

*Please Note April Newsletter
 deadline: March 26*

Calling All Worship Leaders (and Potential Worship Leaders)!



Hurray for greeters, ushers, readers, worship leaders, readers, power point rangers, and lay preachers who help to lead worship services with willing joy and dedication! Thank you!

Clearly, it takes a lot of people to make a worship service, and though Big Cove has a lot of great leaders, a church can hardly have too many. Any community members who are considering becoming more active and visible in worship participation, please let the pastor and me know soon, and I will add your name to the rotation for the second quarter 2015 schedule. If you have questions about what is required of these leadership positions, feel free to ask the pastor or someone who is already serving in these roles.

Speaking of the new schedule for the next quarter, I will be working on those for the second quarter this week, and I hope to have them sent out by the end of next week (around the 12th). If you already know you'll be unavailable any Sundays in April, May, or June, please let me know the dates you won't be available and I will do my best to work around those dates for you when I make up the new schedule.

I have been sending out the quarter's schedules via e-mail, but if it helps you remember better to have a paper copy of the schedule to post on your refrigerator or bulletin board, let me know, and I will gladly send you one.

I am also planning to send out, on Monday or Tuesday of each week, an e-mail reminder to leaders for the following Sunday so that you will get a reminder a little earlier in the week than the midweek reminders on Wednesday. Thanks for your commitment to worship! --Mary



~Worship Leaders for March~

9AM Worship:

	<u>March 1</u>	<u>March 8</u>	<u>March 15</u>	<u>March 22</u>	<u>March 29</u>
Greeter.	Whitney Smith	Daniel Waldrop	Vicki Waldrop	Kirk Finley	Ryan Pepper
Host/Hostess. .	Melinda Harvey	Michele Pepper	Vicki Waldrop	Debbie Book	Merrie Duncan
Worship Leader.	Ron Harris	Gary Indihar	Ross Rutledge	Tom Jones	Michele Pepper
Power Point . .	Kirk Finley	Gary Indihar	Dennis McMahan	Gary Indihar	Gary Indihar

11 AM Worship:

	<u>March 1</u>	<u>March 8</u>	<u>March 15</u>	<u>March 22</u>	<u>March 29</u>
Usher	Gary Bass	Larry Clark	Dexter Gentle	Kay Hanks	Jeff & Vicki Irons
Worship Leader .	Pastor	Mickey Sharp	Neva Beasley	Mike Feehan	Tennent Lee
First Reader . .	Tennent Lee	Hartwell Lutz	Connie Sharp	Kathy Barnhart	Gail Birdsong
Second Reader .	David Lilly	Todd Worthington	Mickey Sharp	Neva Beasley	Larry Clark

Care Center Pick Up

<u>March 1-7</u>	Pat Burke
<u>March 8-14</u>	Pat Burke
<u>March 15-21</u>	Joyce Clark
<u>March 22-28</u>	Joyce Clark
<u>March 29- April 4</u>	Kay Hanks

WAVE Team

Merrie Duncan
Ron Harris
Jeff & Vicki Irons
Hartwell & Pat Lutz
Jane Rutledge

