

Guilford College United Methodist Church
1205 Fleming Road
Greensboro, NC27410
(336) 292-5833

Non-Profit Org.
US POSTAGE PAID
Permit #146
Greensboro, NC

Return Service Requested



GuilfordCollege United MethodistChurch
strives to be a vibrant Christian community
that *transforms* lives, *strengthens* believers,
and *equips* disciples to *live beyond ourselves*
in the light of Jesus Christ.

Guilford College UMC
Living Beyond Ourselves



Ash Wednesday, February 14

The Youth Works Mission Team, youth and parents will be serving pancakes, sausage and fruit for WNO (5:15-6:30 pm) on February 14 as a fundraiser. Come enjoy an Ash Wednesday meal, followed by an Ash Wednesday worship service at 6:30 pm in the sanctuary to begin the season of Lent.



GCUMC SPRING CONSIGNMENT SALE

Thursday, March 15, 5:30-9:00 pm
Friday, March 16, 9:00 am-7:00 pm
Saturday, March 17, 9:00-1:00 pm

If you would like to be a Consignor or a Volunteer, you may sign up by e-mail

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0544abaf0-gcumc1>

or by calling 336-292-5833, mailbox 60.

CROW'S NEST

Vol. XVIII, No. 3

www.guilfordcollegeumc.org

February 7, 2018

Matt's Note...

This year marks 25 years since the release of one of the all-time great film comedies, *Groundhog Day*. Bill Murray plays a world-weary Philadelphia weatherman named Phil Connors, who is bitter about being sent to Punxsutawney to see if the town's most famous resident will see his shadow. Weatherman Phil says in a deadpan to the camera, "This is one time where television really fails to capture the true excitement of a large squirrel predicting the weather."

Phil Connors is anxious to get out of town that first day, but his plans are disrupted by a snowstorm he didn't predict. When he awakes on what should be the next morning, he's shocked to learn that it's again February 2. Phil is stuck reliving his worst day in a town he hates with people to whom he feels superior, and he does so repeatedly. Should he see his predicament as a chance to be selfish? Is it a curse that should cause him to despair? Why not eat a box of doughnuts and drink syrup from the server? What would happen if he kidnapped the groundhog and let it help him drive?

Bill Murray's character tries all this and more before he decides to take the opportunity to improve upon himself. He learns to play piano. He starts to care about the locals. He endures people that bother him. He stops trying to seduce his producer and genuinely falls in love with her. He saves a child falling from a tree and a choking man in a restaurant, but has to come to terms with one homeless man that he can't save, no matter how hard he tries. It's only after Phil has his most truly selfless day that he gets to move on with his life.

Our books and movies are full of these magical interludes where people get to step outside the normal flow of time and see how their life impacts others, for good or bad. Like Scrooge or George Bailey, they can either amend their ways or recommit their lives to selflessness. We don't have the gift of that perspective. We don't get to have do-overs and we don't get to see all the ripples that extend from us into the world. All we have is this one short life where the stakes are always high, our wisdom is limited and we are only guaranteed this present moment.

Given this hatful of limitations, the question God asks of us, paraphrasing Jesus, is "How are you going to express your love for God and neighbor right now?" Will you love God and others more than yourself? Are you growing in that love or are you stuck, like Phil Connors, feeling like you're reliving your worst day in a town you hate with people to whom you feel superior? If so, is it bringing you as much misery as it brings others?

The Christian season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, February 14. Lent is that season in the church leading into Easter. During these forty days we're invited to consider our lives in the light of our own mortality, faults and failings. We draw closer to the holy mystery that Christ gave himself for us while we were yet sinners. As we comprehend the depth of his sacrifice for us, we are invited to die to sin and selfishness, and live more fully for God and others than ever before.

And we're invited to do all this on the only day we're certain we can (a.k.a. today).

God's peace,
Matt

Caring

Prayer Concerns: Marie Follo, Harry Tangen, Polly Scott, Marie Evans, Ellen Lancaster, Edna Blackwelder, Lisa Shaw, Rachel Brawley, Lib Connell, Marjorie Liles, Kay Blackwelder, Vicki Tate, families facing storms in life, the leaders of our nation and world; flood victims, those affected by violence, and those serving in the military.

Prayer Concerns - Extended Family

H'Joang Enuol, H'Ne Enuol's mother; Lavonne James' mother, Aileen Waugh; Vicki Kidd's friend, Karl; Dan & Pat Routh's daughter, Nancy Meyers; Jeannie Howard's father, Tommy Howard; Luke Roman, friend of Shannon Martin; Sandra Pearman's daughter and son-in-law; Steve Roberts, Barbara McDonald's sister, Nancy Neese; Ybion Mlo's brother, Suan Mlo; our sister church in Kinanduba, Kenya

Caring

In Home and Senior Living Facilities:

Blumenthals – Paige & Shirley Stout; **Friends Home Guilford** – Pat Kittrell, Rachel Brawley, Sue Gerringer, Florence Hardison, Blanche Rogers; **Friends Home West** – Betty Kirkman, Don Beam, Barbara Jones; Walter & Esther Jones - **Pennybyrn** – Roland Sasseville; **Greensboro Retirement Center** - Y'Wing Enuol; **Richland Place** – Mike Dawkins, George Holmes; **Whitestone** – Laura Tew **Abbottwood** – Dot Brogan; **Heritage Green** – Ellen Lancaster, Jean Wilson, Polly Scott, Gay Fischer; Anne Mullis; **Brookdale North, High Point** – Beth Carter; **Brighton Gardens** - Jean & Harry Tangen; Walter Zur; **Well Spring** – Barbara Ebert, Lib Connell; **In Home** –Edna Derrick, Terri Hastings, Jack Kayler, Chris Perkins, Barbara Leadbetter

Welcome New Members

A sincere welcome is extended to Jason and Jamie Simmons and their daughter, Gracie, who joined GCUMC on January 28th. Their address is 5012 Marigold Way, Greensboro 27410, phone #336-601-0995 & 336-601-0986. Welcome to our fellowship!

OUR GUESTS IN WORSHIP

Jan. 28: Jim & Reggie Reid; Chandra & Brock Brown; Bridgett Comer; Jackie Dougherty; Dianna Swift; Margaret Griffin; Ruthie Deviney & Jinx Woodward; Jackie Hardcastle; Jessica, Jacques & Kyra Dalton; Zoey Payne; Dennis Creamer; Charlie Henson; Joyce Mitchell; David Savery; Becky & Dwight Thomas; Gina Hayes; Bryan & Deann Gilliam; Linda Martin; Elizabeth & Barry Ellison; Millie Hartwich; Bob & Karen Jenkins

Feb. 4: Bridgett Comer; R.J. & Summer Beasley; Chet Carpenter; Tom Waynick; Beth & Dennis Creamer; Ruthie Deviney & Jinx Woodward; Denny Young; Grace Murphy; Gina Hayes; Betty Smith; Jackie Hardcastle

Connecting

VALENTINE'S



LUNCHEON

INVITATION

All senior adults, age 60 and over, are invited to a Valentine luncheon on Sunday, February 11th, following the 11:00 Worship service. Please RSVP to Matt Price if you plan to attend.



American Red Cross

Thank you to all the volunteers and a special thank you to all the blood donors that made our

January 25th Red Cross Blood Drive successful. We had 48 donors presented, and we collected 45 units of blood. Thank you for giving "The Gift of Life." Our Spring Blood Drive will be held on April 12, 2018.

Thank You Note

We would like to thank everyone at GCUMC for all their prayers, cards, food and many acts of kindness. You have all helped us through a very difficult time.

Barbara Jones and family

ADULT INFORMATION MEETINGS

February 25

All youth and adult Sunday morning groups are encouraged to attend a church-wide information session in the Fellowship Hall from 9:45-10:45 a.m. The results of a recent church-wide study of our facility and how this fits into our overall church mission will be discussed. Your attendance is vital.

March 4

Representatives from the study group will come to each classroom seeking your feedback on the presentation made on February 25.

Please mark your calendars for both dates to attend and participate in the life of our church. Thank you.

Wednesday Nite Out

5:15-6:30 pm

February 14, 2018 – Ash Wednesday

Pancakes & fruit

Volunteer Group: Youth

February 21

Baked spaghetti, garlic bread, salad bar, ice cream
Kids' menu – Noodles & cheese

Volunteer Group: Passages Class

Cost is \$5.00 – adults, \$3.00 child, \$15 max per family

Connecting

What's Going on with the Youth!!!!

Feb. 11th – Valentines Day Banquet

- Join us after church for a banquet celebrating the young at heart in our church. All adults ages 60+ are welcome to attend. Contact Matt Price (mprice@guilfordcollegeumc.org) to RSVP.

Feb. 14th – Youth Works Pancake Dinner

- Come join us on Ash Wednesday for a pancake supper supporting the youth attending the Youth Works Mission Trip to South Dakota in the summer!

Consignment Sale: March 15th – 17th

- Sign ups are now available online to volunteer! Check out guilfordcollegeumc.org for more information and to sign up!

ReCreation Mission Trip: April 1st – 5th

- This mission trip takes place in Weaverville, NC and is a great starting point for students and adults who have never experienced mission work.

Youth Works Mission Trip: June 15th – 22nd

- Our juniors and seniors will be travelling to South Dakota to do mission work on a First Nation Reservation.

ASP Mission Trip: July 8th - 14th

- Our youth group will be travelling with several local UMC churches in the area to Tennessee to do work in the Appalachian Mountain communities. Sign-Up outside of Matt's office for more information

For more information or to find out ways to help serve the youth of our church contact Matt Price (mprice@guilfordcollegeumc.org/205-617-4776)



BUDDIES FOR CHILDREN

ADULTS needed to be a one-on-one buddy for children needing personal attention. Immediate desire is for children and buddies to attend Children's Worship on Sunday mornings during 11:00 a.m. worship. If you are interested in serving on a rotating basis, please notify Donna Ford, dford@guilfordcollegeumc.org or 336-292-5833.

Learning

FEBRUARY 11 KIDS' MISSION DAY

Preschool through Grade 6 kids will meet during the Sunday morning hour for a mission event to help senior adults in our community! They will make no sew pillows and cards and then deliver at noon to a local adult living facility. Adults are needed to assist the children during the event. Families will gather at noon and we will go to the facility as a group. Parents are encouraged to take your children and leave from the facility when we are finished. Our stay at the facility will be brief. Please let Donna Ford know if you are available to help from 9:45-10:45 a.m. with the project. *"We love because God first loved us."* – 1 John 4:19

FEBRUARY 14 KIDS' ASH WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE

No Children's Choirs
Faith Friends (Grades K-3) and Faith Files (Grades 4-6) – meet in the regular classrooms at 6:15 p.m. to attend the Ash Wednesday service as a group. After the service, the groups will return to their classrooms for a lesson and activities. Parents may pick up at regular time of 7:30 p.m.

UMW Circle Meetings

EVE REBEKAH CIRCLE will meet on Tuesday, Feb. 13, at 10:00 am in the Rock.

SARAH CIRCLE will meet on Tuesday, Feb. 20, at 10:00 am in the Rock.

UMW EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE will meet on Thursday, Feb. 22, at 11:30 am in A10.

BRUNSWICK STEW SALE

Collins Grove UMC is selling Brunswick stew on Sat., Feb. 24, 11:00 am-3:00 pm. Stew is selling for \$8.00 a quart and you can pre-order at 336-314-7434. The church is located at 5210 Collins Grove Church Rd.



WHAT IS MILESTONE MINISTRY?

Milestone Ministry is a series of events that are designed for parent and child to learn and explore together. Each event is held from 9:45-10:45 a.m. in Room C14, second floor children's building. Each event includes a short lesson, craft, and hands-on activities. The focus of each event is an age-appropriate lesson/experience that will help give your child a solid foundation on which to build his/her faith.
Upcoming Milestone event: February 25 – Grade 2 Learn About Communion

Learning

February 25 – Grade 2 Communion Milestone Ministry
 March 11 – Grades 5 & 6 Serving Milestone Ministry
 March 24 – 2:30-5:00 p.m. – Egg-Stravaganza and Children's Carnival
 May 20 – Confirmation Sunday
 June 24-28 – VBS evenings
 July 9-12 – Camp GuilRock Early Elementary Camp
 July 29-August 4 – Camp Tekoa Residential Camp



CHILDREN'S CHOIRS on Wednesdays in Room C14:

5:25-5:50 pm – Joyful Noise – age 4 through Grade 1
 6:00-6:40 pm – Jubilee Kids – Grades 2-6



CHILDREN'S WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDIES meet on

Wednesday evenings
 Faith Friends (K-Grade 3) and Faith Files (Grades 4-6) will meet from 6:00-7:00 p.m.

OUR ATTENDANCE Jan.. 28, 2017

Worship.....421
 (8:30 - 104.....11:00 - 317)

Feb. 4, 2017

Worship.....273
 (8:30 – 80.....Prayer service - 16.....11:00 – 177)

HONORARIUMS

In Honor of Nancy Furnas
Richard and Janet Potter

In Honor of the Choir
Barbara Jones

Serving

FINANCE COMMITTEE will meet on Monday, Feb. 12, at 7:00 pm in room A4.

CHURCH COUNCIL will meet on Tuesday, Feb. 20, at 7:00 pm in C1.

Volunteers for February 11, 2018

8:30 service

Lay Reader: Jackie Firebaugh
 Stephen Minister: Tom Southerland
 Ushers: Larry Glover, Captain; Bob Beasley, Ron Frazier, Tyrone McDuffie, David Saunders, Terry Weatherford, Terry Wert, Derek Young

11:00 service

Lay Reader: Lindsay Fusaiotti
 Acolytes: Amelia Hicks, Tinsley Grove
 Children's Worship Shepherds: Mike or Amy Moriarty, Mike Garcia, Lisa Shaw
 Stephen Minister: Becky Archer
 Ushers: Richard Blackwelder, Captain; Larry Cline, Harold Eagle, Charlie Eichhorn, Brent Gentry, John Hodges, Josh McDonald, Ralph Munday, Jim Taney, Jack Vanstory, Logan Woodrum
 Counters: Mike Ballard, Bob Beasley
 Van Driver: Mike Garcia

Altar Guild: (Feb. 5-11) Sandra Myers, Janice Kirkman

Volunteers for February 18, 2018

8:30 service

Lay Reader: Susan Wells
 Stephen Minister: Sandy Pearman
 Ushers: Larry Glover, Captain; Bob Beasley, Ron Frazier, Jim Holmes, Tyrone McDuffie, David Saunders, Terry Weatherford, Terry Wert, Derek Young

11:00 service

Lay Reader: Mike Symonds
 Acolytes: Katie Gillman, Raegan Gillman
 Children's Worship Shepherds: Monica Bush, Lindsay Fusaiotti, Tim or Elizabeth Kota
 Stephen Minister: Nancy Munday
 Ushers: Richard Blackwelder, Captain; Larry Cline, Harold Eagle, Charlie Eichhorn, Brent Gentry, John Hodges, Josh McDonald, Ralph Munday, Jim Taney, Jack Vanstory, Logan Woodrum
 Counters: Sandra Pearman, Margaret Woodrum
 Van Driver: Richard Blackwelder
 Altar Guild (Feb. 12-18) Trisha Moore, Karen Stone

OUR GIVING

Budget for 2018..... \$ 1,014,495.00
 Amt. needed weekly..... 19,433.00
 Amt. needed to date..... 97,165.00
 Amt. received through 2/04/2018..... 89,764.92
 Difference..... **.(\$7,400.00)**

Serving

Calendar for Feb. 11, 2018

Sunday, February 11

8:30 am Early Worship
9:30 am Confirmation (D4,D5)
9:45 am Learning Groups
11:00 am Worship
12:00 pm Valentine's Luncheon for Seniors (FH)
1:30 pm Bunong Worship Service (Sanctuary)
5:00 pm Trustees (A10)

Monday, February 12

6:30 pm Finance Committee (A4)
7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous (FH)

Tuesday, February 13

10:00 am Eve Rebekah Circle (Rock)
7:00 pm Handbells

Wednesday, February 14- Ash Wednesday

9:30 am Daniel Study (A4)
10:00 am Dementia/Alzheimers Support (A2)
5:15-6:30 pm WNO (FH)
5:20 pm No Joyful Noise Choir (C14)
6:00 pm No Jubilee Kids Choir (C14)
6:30 pm Ash Wednesday Service (Sanctuary)
7:00 pm Daniel Study (A4)
7:00 pm Experiencing God Study (A6)
6:15 pm Children's Small Groups (C11,C15)
7:00 pm Youth Small Groups (Rock, Youth Wing)
7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, February 15

10:00 am HUGS Shawl Ministry (A6)
7:00 pm New Direction Nar-Anon (Rock)

Saturday, February 17

Sunday, February 18

8:30 am Early worship
9:30 am Confirmation (D4, D5)
9:45 am Learning groups
11:00 am Worship
12:00 pm Children's Ministry Team (Rock)
1:30-3:30 pm Bunong Worship Service (FH)
5:30 pm UMYF (Rock)

Monday, February 19

7:00 pm Evangelism (A6)
7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous (FH)

Tuesday, February 20

10:00 am Sarah Circle (Rock)
7:00 pm Church Council (C1)
7:00 pm Handbells

Wednesday, February 21

9:30 am Daniel Study (A4)
9:30 am "If You Want to Walk on Water" Study (B6)
5:15-6:30 pm WNO (FH)
5:20 pm Joyful Noise Choir (C14)
6:00 pm Jubilee Kids Choir (C14)
6:30 pm Daniel Study (A4)
6:30 pm Experiencing God Study (A6)
6:45 pm Children's Small Groups (C11,C15)
6:45 pm Youth Small Groups (Rock, Youth Wing)
7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, February 22

11:30 am UMW Executive Committee (A10)
6:30 pm New Direction Nar-Anon (Rock)

Saturday, February 24

8:00-1:00 pm Lay Servant Training Academy

MEMORIALS

In Memory of Pete Eller

*Donna Bowman
Gary and Gay Brown
Jerry and Becky Carrick
Ralph and Anne Cummings
James and Barbara Cummings
Wayne and Brenda Cummings
Wayne and Cindy Davidson
Mike and Ellie Dawkins
Elizabeth Dunsmore
Carrie Gowen
Doris Henderson
Dan and Ginger Jones
Jean S. Marshall
Marion McNeal
Jane S. Newman & Dallas Smith
Patricia and Elton Roberson
Diane T. Shields
Tom and Joy Southerland
Benjamin M. Steele
Jim Wilson*

In Memory of Steve Eller (Leslie Southerland's father)

Tom and Joy Southerland

In Memory of Barry Jones

*Mike and Ellie Dawkins
Jack and Nancy Vanstory
Jim Wilson*

In Memory of Jim Kittrell

*Donna Bowman
Gary and Gay Brown
Billings Golf Group
Mike and Ellie Dawkins
Sarah Gorham
Carrie Gowen
Wes and Janice Kirkman
Marion McNeal
Len and Sandra Myers
Steve and Tina Sumner
Ed and Barbara Travis
Jack and Nancy Vanstory
Jim Wilson*

OBSERVING LENT IN YOUR FAMILY

Ash Wednesday, February 14, marks the beginning of the six-week observance of Lent in the church. Lent culminates in the events of Holy Week, leading up to the great celebration of Resurrection Sunday. Because the mood of Lent itself is somber and introspective -- some would even say gloomy -- we often don't think to include young children in its observance, short of the almost obligatory food bank.

But Lent doesn't have to be gloomy. Solemn, yes; but not gloomy. And children can do solemn! Perhaps we should ask ourselves why the opportunity to become more Christ-like is often presented as such a gloomy prospect.

True, denial, abstinence, and sacrifice have long been Lenten emphases but not simply for the sake of going without. Rather, these practices are to help us to focus on Christ, to help us to draw closer to Christ, to immerse ourselves in Christian living, to become more Christ-like.

Families with preschool and elementary-age children can observe the Lenten season as a time when we focus on growing closer to Jesus. For very young children, one of the best ways to talk about Jesus is Jesus as the Good Shepherd (John 10:3-5, 14-16; Luke 15:4-6). For school-age children, families can focus on Gospel readings (Mark 1:9-15; Mark 8:31-38; John 2:13-22; John 3:14-21; John 12:20-33; Mark 14:1-15:47; Mark 15:1-39, 40-47).

Let children either draw the story on regular paper and tie their drawings on a Lenten tree (a bare branch set in a tall vase or a can filled with rocks or marbles) or draw the story using felt markers on heavy, transparent plastic (obtainable at an office supply store) and mount the drawings on windows for a stained-glass effect. You could read one of Jesus' parables each week and let children illustrate it. Listed below are additional ideas for observing Lent at home.

Create a Lenten worship center (or change your existing worship center). Use a purple cloth. Include a Bible opened to the Gospel lesson, an empty bowl to symbolize fasting, a sharing box for money for the poor, perhaps a cactus to symbolize a desert journey, and a cross of small branches tied together with twine.

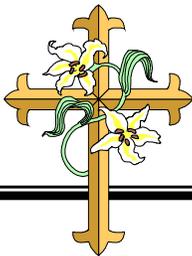
Practice simplicity. An emphasis on simplicity is customary during Lent both to reflect gospel values and to be in unity and sharing with others. Although children won't necessarily understand these reasons, just growing up in a home where simplicity is practiced is in itself spiritual formation. Here are some ways to practice simplicity:

- Plan to eat one simple meal each week, perhaps a soup supper or a rice-and-beans meal. Put the money you save by eating simply in your sharing box to donate to the church's Easter offering for Greensboro Urban Ministry.
- Go through closets and donate gently used toys and clothing.
- Turn off TV one night a week and play family games.
- Plant spring seeds. If it's still too cold outside, start them in a pot. On Easter Sunday transfer some of the seedlings outside.
- Tell "I-remember-when" family stories.
- Help children decide on one small thing to give up (to "fast" from, even though it may not be food) to help them focus on the purpose of Lent.
- Practice the ancient custom of "burying" (putting away) something for Lent and taking it out again with great joy on Easter Sunday. You could put away a particularly decorative household item, or your family could make an alleluia banner to put away until Easter Sunday.
- Take on an act of service as a family. Suggestions include adopting a grandparent, visiting a homebound neighbor or church member, serving in a soup kitchen, or collecting blankets for homeless shelters.
- Each week let each person draw the name of someone in the family to do something nice for. That something nice can be as simple as giving someone a hug.

Understanding Lent

The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and continues for 40 days (not including Sundays), ending at sunset on the eve of Resurrection Day. This year, Ash Wednesday and the beginning of the Lenten season is February 14. The exact date of Ash Wednesday is set according to the date of Resurrection Day. The date for Resurrection Day is the first Sunday after the first full moon after the vernal equinox (April 1 this year).

Lent is a season of spiritual renewal, a time for us to examine our lives and strengthen our faith. It is a time of preparation for and remembering Resurrection Day which is the celebration of Jesus' resurrection! Many people believe in giving up something they enjoy during Lent. For example, many give up a favorite food or fast during a particular meal. Others may choose to give up a favorite activity. Those who do so offer these sacrifices as praise to God, and believe it will help them remember Jesus every time they deny themselves. Making a sacrifice, even a small one, helps people recall the great sacrifice Christ made for us all. While some believers give up something during Lent, others add on special activities. Many people offer time and talents to help others by participating in additional community or church work. Whatever we do during this time of repentance and rededication, we offer it to the glory of God, not man. We need not feel compelled to share with others what we give up or add to during Lent.



Why 40 Days?

The 40 days are symbolic of Jesus' trials and temptations during the 40 days he was alone in the desert after this baptism and before the beginning of his ministry. (*Matthew 4:2*)

Other important Biblical stories showing the significance of 40:

- _ Noah's ark floated in the flood for 40 days (*Genesis 7:4*)
- _ Moses fasted 40 days before he received the Ten Commandments (*Exodus 24:18*)
- _ The Israelites wandered in the desert for 40 years before entering the Promised Land (*Exodus 16:35*)
- _ The Risen Christ walked with his disciples for 40 days between Easter and Ascension (*Acts 1:3*)

Why Are Sundays Not Included in The Time Set Aside for Lent?

Each Sunday, we come to worship our Risen Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Since each Sunday is a "little Resurrection Day," Sundays are not included in the 40 days set aside to prepare for Resurrection Day.

How Did Ash Wednesday Get Its Name?

Ashes have been used since early biblical times as a symbol of repentance of sin or grief (see Numbers 19:9, 17; Hebrews 9:13; Jonah 3:6; Matthew 11:21, and Luke 10:13). The early Hebrews worshiped God by burning a sacrifice. The ashes were the remains of the burnt offering. Placing ashes on their body showed others that they were sorrowful and desired to renew their relationship with God. On Ash Wednesday, we burn the palms from the previous Palm Sunday and make a cross with the ashes on the forehead of each worshiper. As the ashes are placed on the forehead, words such as these are spoken: "Remember that you are from dust and to dust you shall return," recalling God's words to Adam in Genesis 3:19. The connection between Palm Sunday and Ash Wednesday is appropriate since Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem led him quickly to his death.

Helping Children Understand Ash Wednesday

Children will better understand the cross on their forehead as a "dirt" cross. It reminds us that sin or bad actions and mean words get our lives dirty. As we get ready for Resurrection Day, in the season we call Lent, we are to remember that when Jesus died on the cross, he took the dirt in our lives away. To be with God we need to be clean and perfect. No one is perfect. But now we can appear clean and perfect before God because Jesus died to take away all our dirt and sin.

"It is as if you did something bad and when it came time to be punished, Jesus came to you and said, 'I was punished for you.' Do you know anyone else who would love you so much they would do that for you or even die for you? That is one very special friend! And that is just what Jesus did for you."

The crucifixion and death of Jesus are critical to understanding the true love and grace that God gives all of us. Do not be afraid to share Ash Wednesday with your children. Children need to know how far God was willing to go on their behalf because of His great love for them.

Suggested Scriptures for Ash Wednesday

Psalm 51:1-17
Joel 2:1-2, 12-17
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21
2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10
1 Peter 5:6-11

Suggested Scriptures for Lent

<i>Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16</i>	<i>Romans 10:8b-13</i>
<i>Luke 4:1-13</i>	<i>Psalm 27</i>
<i>Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18</i>	<i>Luke 13:31-35</i>
<i>Philippians 3:17-4:1</i>	<i>Psalm 63:1-8</i>
<i>Isaiah 55:1-91</i>	<i>Corinthians 10:1-13</i>
<i>Luke 13:1-9</i>	<i>Psalm 32</i>
<i>2 Corinthians 5:16-21</i>	<i>Psalm 126</i>
<i>Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32</i>	<i>Isaiah 43:16-21</i>
<i>John 12:1-8</i>	<i>Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29</i>

Souper Bowl Sunday Results

We received over 300 cans (lbs.) of food for Greensboro Urban Ministry's food bank. More food is continuing to be donated this week! (We think the Eagles won!)

Stop Hunger Now!

Thanks to everyone who came out to pack food. We had over 100 people to help and everything was packed, including the truck in 80 minutes!

Church Basketball Games this week:

**HS Girls – Double-header Saturday, 10:15 am
@Oak Ridge UMC/2:00 pm @Cornerstone Baptist
HS Boys #2 – 11:30 am @ Cornerstone Baptist
HS Boys #1 – 12:45 pm @Cornerstone Baptist**

These are big matchups, so come out and root for our teams!