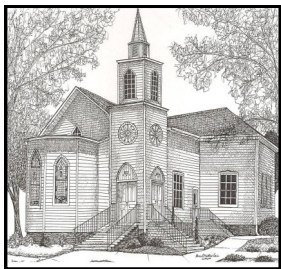


THE ABBEY NEWS



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MARCH 2020

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FROM THE PASTOR

Every so often, one of you sends along a Facebook post or an article that hits home with you, and inadvertently, with me. One such article was forwarded by a member who recently had to miss church due to illness, and was completely out of sorts because of it. This month, I'm going to share part of that article as a challenge to you—if you are able, will you commit to being in church every week for seven weeks? That's each week of Lent, plus Easter. How would your relationships change if you made church a priority over everything else? Whether church for you is here at WPC, or broadcast over your airwaves, or Vespers at Presbyterian Communities, or church wherever business takes you, I encourage and challenge you to spend Lent immersed in worship and God's Word. Here's the some of the article from Grayson Gilbert:

"I am under the unwavering conviction that unless I am genuinely ill, people are in the throes of death, my legs are rendered inoperable, or we are trapped in our house, church attendance is mandatory. I will not miss it. Even when I've had to miss it under those circumstances, which is quite rare indeed, I have hated it. However, for the sake of being completely transparent, this was not always the case, especially early on in my faith. There was a point in my life where I consistently worked on Sundays. I was a Christian and had been for only a couple years at that point, yet I considered myself to be a faithful Christian who was stuck in between a rock and a hard place. I had no other means of income that I was bringing into the family at that time. My wife worked, but we needed both streams of income to make ends meet and care for our newborn—and yet there was a steadily growing conviction in my heart that I should be coming to church every single Sunday.

While the argument could be made that it was necessary for me to miss due to the circumstances I found myself in, the reality was that I needed to swallow my pride, get another job that could allow me to attend church on a weekly basis, and just be found faithful to come. At some point, the conviction came to me that church was a non-negotiable. What's more than this is that I came to believe church attendance is a non-negotiable for every Christian. The reason this is so is that I believe the New Testament teaches that our time together as believers in formal, corporate worship, is to be one of the most precious things we partake in as Christians. I believe that regular attendance is so important that it reveals our hearts and priorities. It reveals much of what we treasure, and likewise, much of what we don't. It especially reveals what we understand about the person of Christ and His saving work upon the cross. Right then and there is where I lost several of the readers."

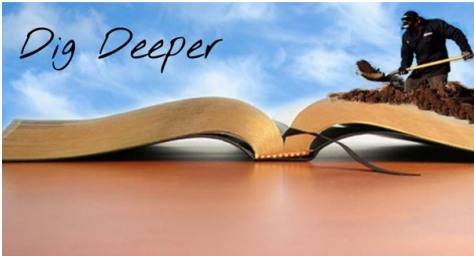
Rev. Gilbert goes on to write: "At the onset, I will clarify that there are extenuating circumstances that allow for people to miss church. There are always exceptions to the rule, but exceptions exist as exceptions because they *are not* the rule. Exceptions to the rule *prove* the rule. Often, people capitalize on the exceptions to the rule because they have no real intent to be found faithful to the rule itself. Thus, they can confidently assert there *are* valid reasons to miss church, and thereby assuage their conscience. I would argue that not only does this fundamentally misunderstand the point of *why* the body of Christ gathers together to worship corporately on Sundays, but the thing which garners their focus is the wrong thing. We ought not to be looking for all the reasons we can miss church. We ought to be looking for all the reasons we should come to church."

What brings you here each week? What tempts you to stay home? How can we help one another be faithful worship attenders during Lent? I hope to see you all each week, and pray for your journey during Lent, as we remember the dance of our Lord, who came that we might live abundantly.

Blessings!
Rev. Audrey

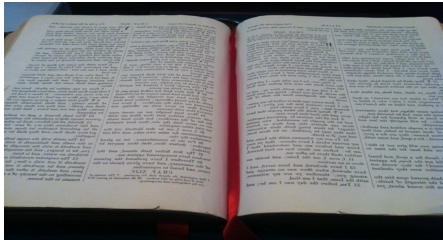


We are so blessed to have a loving and caring church family here at WPC! If you would like to be a part of this family, we would LOVE to have you! You are only a visitor once at WPC! There are so many offerings of service through our church. There is one for YOU!



Do you find yourself wanting more after the sermon is over? Do you want to learn more about the Scripture lessons Rev. Audrey preaches on each Sunday? Now is your chance to dig deeper into our weekly scripture lessons! Join Rev. Audrey in Gossett each Sunday through Lent at 10! We will dig deeper into the word from 10-10:20, then have time for prayer requests and fellowship until 10:45! We begin next Sunday, March 1! Questions? Please talk to Rev. Audrey!

We will celebrate Holy Communion on March 22nd during the morning worship hour.



MARCH SERMONS

- 1: "Pray in this Way" Matthew 6:5-14 (Sermon on the Mount Series 5)
- 8: "Fast in this Way" Matthew 6:16-18 (Sermon on the Mount Series 6)
- 15: Guest Preacher (Association of Smaller congregations in St. Simons)
- 22: "Serve in this Way" Matthew 6:19-24 (Sermon on the Mount Series 7)
- 29: "Live in this Way" Matthew 6:25-34 (Sermon on the Mount Series 8)



Thanks so much to all who made our Valentines Dinner so extra special!



We had a wonderful time at Magnolia Manor for our Lunch Bunch get together! We are looking forward to another one real soon!



We are so blessed with so many opportunities to worship and study God's Word! If you are looking for more ways to serve and grow in Christ, please check out the many ways you can do so here at WPC!





January receipts: \$10,985.16
 expenses 10,963.39
 + 21.77



Your giving to WPC directly affects the ministry and programs of our church. We are grateful for all that you give in your time, talents and money!

May 16, 2020

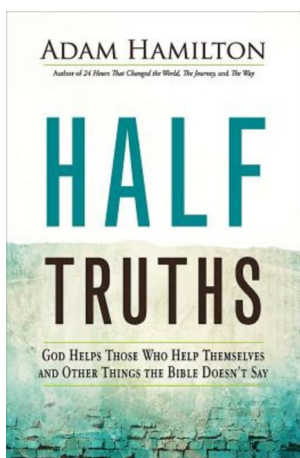
Let's get together for a community social full of fellowship, fun, and a time to get to know one another! We'll have ice cream, music, and bouncy houses for kids of all ages! RSVP to: revaudrey-hreese@gmail.com or 864-276-2987 with the total number from your church by May 1 if possible. We are planning a get together for the churches in our area! Don't miss this fun event!



Presbyterian Women Circles

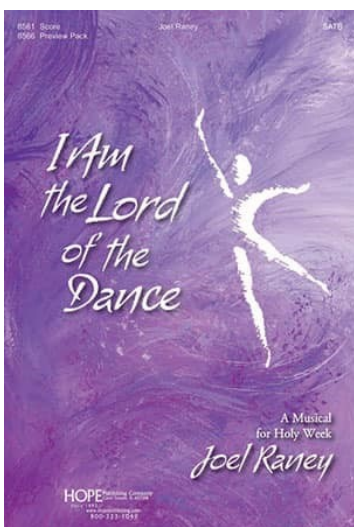
Ladies, remember our Circle Meetings on March 2nd. Morning Circle will meet at 10:00 am and Evening Circle will meet at 5:30 pm.

We will have our annual joint meeting of our Circles on March 30th, 5:30 pm, for our Passover Meal and Communion. Don't miss this extra special time of sister fellowship!



BIBLE STUDY

Join us each Wednesday at 5:30 pm in Gossett Hall each week through Lent for our Soup and Study. This year's Lent Study will be "Half Truths" by Adam Hamilton. Let me know if you plan to attend so we can order enough books. We will also do this book club style like we did our Advent study. Come join us and grow in God's Word!



Adult Choir

Our adult choir will be presenting Joel Raney's beautiful cantata "I am the Lord of the Dance" which features many familiar hymns and uses the story of the life of Jesus in the Lord of the Dance hymn. Don't miss this awesome worship opportunity on **March 29th** during the worship hour, **11:00 am.**

March Flowers



During the Lenten Season there will not be flowers in our sanctuary. We will be displaying the Crosses to remind us of our dear Savior's sacrifice to save us all and His promise of eternal Life with Him.

Meet your new Session!

Clerk: Brad Stancil
Congregational Care: Martha Brancazio
Mission/Outreach: Trish McCoy
Worship: Virginia Gordon
Christian Education: Lou Haynes
Property: John Merritt
Stewardship/Finance: Michael Meades

****SESSION REPORTS ARE DUE ON
MARCH 11TH. SESSION WILL MEET ON
MARCH 15TH AT 12:15****

March Greeters

1- Henry Gordon
8- Tom Multer
15- De French
22- Linda White
29- Martha Brancazio

Remember our Shut-Ins and College Aged Adults!



Everyone loves to be remembered with a card or letter! Please consider sending one or more to our most treasured members!



MARCH CALENDAR DATES

2: Morning Circle 10 am Evening Circle 5:30 pm
4,11,18,25: Lent Bible Study, 5:30pm in Gossett Hall
4: Dot's Kitchen
10: Dot's Kitchen
11: Session reports due
15: Session 12:15 pm
29: Lenten Cantata "Lord of the Dance: 11:00 am
30: Joint Circle Meeting in Gossett Hall 5:30 pm in Gossett Hall for our annual Passover Meal and Holy Communion



Praying for You

Imogene Giles
Ruth Payne
Kathy Darnell
Mary Frances Mabry
Robbie McClure (Marie
Dunnam's brother)
Nancy Dougherty



WPC VISITATION TEAM

Our visitation team continues to be a blessing! .If you would like to join our team of servants, please contact Martha Brancazio.



Rev. Audrey will continue her sermon series on the Sermon on the Mount. You don't want to miss this one! Join us as we worship and hear God's words through the words of His Son, Jesus Christ. Invite a friend or friends to join us!

Scenes from PW February Circle Meetings



Humor is Good for the Soul!



A couple was celebrating their golden wedding anniversary. Their domestic tranquility had long been the talk of the town, and on this special occasion, a local newspaper reporter paid them a visit. He inquired as to the secret of their long and happy marriage.

"Well," explained the husband, "it all goes back to our honeymoon. We visited the Grand Canyon and took a trip down to the bottom of the canyon by pack mule."

"We hadn't gone too far when my wife's mule stumbled. My wife quietly said 'That's once.' We proceeded a little farther when the mule stumbled again. Once more my wife quietly spoke: 'That's twice.' We hadn't gone a half-mile when the mule stumbled a third time. My wife promptly removed a revolver from her purse, hopped down off the beast, and shot the mule dead."

"I started to protest over her treatment of the mule when she looked at me and quietly said, 'That's once.'"