



## **THE MESSENGER**

**April 2018**

COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
P.O. BOX 36818  
1830 CELANESE ROAD  
ROCK HILL, SC 29732

### It Has the Ring of Truth

Christmas has a large and colorful cast of characters. In one form or another we have seen them represented so often that we would recognize them anywhere. We know about the birth in all its details as well as we know about the births of ourselves or our children, maybe more so. The manger is as familiar as home. We have made a major production of it, and as minor attractions we have added the carols, the tree, the presents, the cards, Santa Claus, Ebenezer Scrooge, and so on. With Easter it is entirely different.

The Gospels are far from clear as to just what happened. It began in the dark. The stone had been rolled aside. Matthew alone speaks of an earthquake. In the tomb there were two white-clad figures or possibly just one. Mary Magdalene seems to have gotten there before anybody else. There was a man she thought at first was the gardener. One account says Peter came too with one of the other disciples.

Elsewhere the suggestion is that there were only the women and that the disciples, who were somewhere else, didn't believe the women's story when they heard it. There was the sound of people running, of voices. Matthew speaks of fear and great joy. Confusion was everywhere. There is no agreement even as to the role of Jesus himself. Did he appear at the tomb or only later? Where? To whom did he appear? What did he say? What did he do?

It is not a major production at all, and the minor attractions we have created around it—the bunnies and baskets and bonnets, the dyed eggs—have so little to do with what it's all about that they neither add much nor subtract much. It's not really even much of a story when you come right down to it, and that is of course the power of it. It doesn't have the ring of great drama. It has the ring of truth. If the Gospel writers had wanted to tell it in a way to convince the world that Jesus indeed rose from the dead, they would presumably have done it with all the skill and fanfare they could muster. Here there is no skill, no fanfare. They seem to be telling it simply the way it was. The narrative is as fragmented, shadowy, incomplete as life itself. When it comes to just what happened, there can be no certainty. That something unimaginable happened, there can be no doubt.

The symbol of Easter is the empty tomb. You can't depict or domesticate emptiness. You can't make it into pageants and string it with lights. It doesn't move people to give presents to each other or sing old songs. It ebbs and flows all around us, the Eastertide. Even the great choruses of Handel's *Messiah* sound a little like a handful of crickets chirping under the moon.

He rose. A few saw him briefly and talked to him. If it is true, there is nothing left to say. If it is not true, there is nothing left to say. For believers and unbelievers both, life has never been the same again. For some,

neither has death. What is left now is the emptiness. There are those who, like Magdalene, will never stop searching for it till they find his face.

These words come from one of my favorite theologians, Frederick Buechner, in his book, Whistling in the Dark.

I hope you will take time to ponder these thoughts as we prepare to celebrate the resurrection.

DC Horne



### SESSIONAL INFORMATION

**Communion** will be served on **Sunday, April 1**.

**The Session** will meet on **Monday, April 2** at 7:00 p.m. in the Tom Worthy Classroom.

### Financial Summary-Operational Budget

Month	Jan.	Feb.	Feb/YTD
Income	8,725.50	10,316.50	19,042.00
Expenses	11,987.62	14,659.35	26,646.97
Net	-3,262.12	-4,342.85	-7,604.97

- Our income for January and February is \$7,604.97 less than our expenses.
- If you are not up to date on your pledge or giving, please try to catch up. Thanks!



### Meetings and Misc Info

**One Great Hour of Sharing** offering will be taken up on **Sunday, April 1**.

**The church office** will be closed on **Monday, April 2** in observance of Easter.

**A Gideon** representative will be in the worship service on **Sunday, April 15**.

**Legacy of Faith Award** lunch will be on **Tuesday, April 17**.

**Fifth Sunday Lunch "Bring a Friend" Sunday, April 29**.

**We would like to thank everyone at Covenant** for being there for me the last year & half, without your calls, cards, food, continuing concern and most of all your prayers, you have made it possible for Furman and I to do many things we thought would not be able to do. Covenant is a strong caring church. We are small in number but you give so much love and care for each other and our families. I am improving every day and thank each of you with God's help for making this possible. Furman and I both can speak from experience that prayers work.

God bless each one of you and we send our love to all of you,

Furman and Barbara Lewis



**Feeding the Community**

### February

- Food Lion** 517 boxes
- Publix** 104 boxes
- Papa John's** 106 pizzas
- Olive Garden** 470 lbs
- Chick-fil-a** 209 lbs
- The Food Ministry** was also able to help feed 460 people through donations given to Mt. Prospect Church and 330 people through donations to St. Mary's.

## PLENTIFUL HARVEST KITCHEN

**March 4:** 52 people served  
**11:** 41 people served  
**18:** 35 people served  
**25:** 35 people served

### PHK Greeters:

**April 1:** Dorothy Mew  
**8:** Lake Mew  
**15:** Rachel Cook  
**22:** Sue Boulware/Sheila Stewart  
**29:** Sandy & Terry Odom

### PHK Team Leader/Cooks:

**April 1:** Kirstein Seeger/Forest Hill  
**8:** Rod Hicks/First Pres-RH  
**15:** Wayne Maury/RHPD  
**22:** Stacy Cleeland/Loaves/Fishes  
**29:** Gloria Robinson/Mt. Prospect



**The last** Chancel Choir rehearsal before the summer break will be **May 23**.



## SCOUT NEWS

**4/5** 6:30 Den Meeting/Fellowship Hall  
**4/12** 6:30 Den Meeting/Fellowship Hall  
**4/19** 6:30 Den Meeting/Fellowship Hall  
**4/26** 6:30 Den Meeting/Fellowship Hall

**Any boys** K-5th grade interested in our Scouting program please contact Josh Bell 803-448-5770.



## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN NEWS

**The Spring Gathering** will be April 7, 2018 at First Church in York, S.C. Registration begins at 9 a.m. Lunch is at 12 noon.

**The Night Circle** will meet on **Monday, April 9** at **7:00 p.m.** in the home of Carol Montgomery. Sue Boulware will be the worship leader for the lesson. Light refreshments will be served. Come and enjoy the fellowship and bible study together.

**The Morning Circle** will meet in the Fellowship Hall on **Tuesday, April 10** at 10:00 a.m. Carolyn Garland will have the devotion and Win Rinehart will be the worship leader for the lesson. Everyone is invited to go out to lunch after the meeting.

**The PW Council** will meet **Monday, April 16** at 6:30 p.m. in the Tom Worthy Classroom.

**Mission Sunday is April 22.** The offering will be going to Safe Passage in Lancaster, York and Chester Counties in S.C. and Thornwell Home for children in South Carolina. Collection will be at both church doors following the worship service. Gifts of any amount will be appreciated.

**Ladies Retreat:** This year we are going to be going to the Ladies Tea and Tour at The Billy Graham Library on **Saturday, April 21st.** Please join us for a tea party, uplifting music and a stirring message by Gigi Graham, the eldest child of Ruth and Billy Graham. Guided Journey of Faith tours will follow the tea. We will be going to the first seating at 11 a.m. We will meet at the church at 10

a.m. The price is \$20 per person. Please mark your calendar!

**There will be a 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Luncheon** on April 29, 2018. Please bring a dish for your family and extra to share.

**The "Have a Heart" Calendar** for February raised \$490.00 and the money will go to the Back the Pack program. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this worthy mission.

**Please consider placing flowers** in the church in honor or memory of someone on the Sunday of your choice. The calendar is placed on the bulletin board in the hallway. If you prefer, you may make a contribution to the flower fund which will be used to purchase artificial flowers for arrangements. The week you are scheduled you will receive a reminder in the mail. Let's all help make our sanctuary beautiful on Sunday. Thanks, Carolyn

#### **PW'S TREASURER'S REPORT Jan/Feb. 2018**

Beginning Bal.	\$ 3,175.78
Expenses	\$ 644.00
Deposits	\$ 510.00
Ending Bal.	\$ 3,041.78



#### **MOC NEWS**

**The MOC Breakfast is Sunday, April 15** at 8:45 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. All men are invited to attend. Cooks are: Sam Cook, Gary Munn, Skeet Dawkins.

**The MOC will have a BBQ on Saturday, April 21** from 11-2 p.m. in the church Fellowship Hall. We will be selling fresh smoked pork

bbq, 1 lb. container \$10, plate with ½ lb. bbq, beans, slaw and bread \$8, sandwiches \$4.50 each. All proceeds are used to maintain the church property or support various community needs.



#### **From Our Treasurer**

February 2018 Income	\$10,316.50
February 2018 Expenses	\$14,659.35
YTD 2018 Income	\$19,042.00
YTD 2018 Expenses	\$26,646.97



**Communion Worker:** Sam Cook

**Greeters:** Joe & Sheryl Osborne

**Ushers:** Fed Stevens, Gary Munn, Barbara Lewis, Eloise Rosamond

**Elder in Worship:** Adam Duer

**Duty Elders:** Barbara Lewis & Eloise Rosamond



#### **Nursery Workers**

**April 1:** Sheryl Osborne & Heather Dark

**8:** Becky Carroll & Barbara Lewis

**15:** Dora Duer & Carolyn Garland

**22:** Rachel Cook & Lisa Bell

**29:** Carol Montgomery & Dora Duer

**Just a reminder,** if you cannot be present on a Sunday when you are assigned nursery duty please contact **Dora Duer at 803-517-5526**. Thank you for being willing to care for our children!



### **Birthdays**

April 7: Francine Jennings  
12: Sheryl Osborne  
19: May Williams  
22: Sharon Griffith



### **MEMBERS:**

Shirley Clark  
Mark Willis  
Mae Williams  
Betty Richardson  
Lib Childers  
Diane Barber  
Eileen Nichols  
Ron & Doris Keiber  
Clara Buchanan  
Brenda Beckham  
Eddie Montgomery  
Bobby Mew  
Janet Massey

### **SHUT-IN MEMBERS:**

Doris Wild  
George Brockelbank  
Caroline von Rosenberg  
Mattie Belk  
May Williams

### **FRIENDS & RELATIVES:**

Sam Jacob (friend of Steve Garland)  
Vera Collins (Carolyn Garland's mom)  
Jimmy Miller (Shirley Miller's brother in law)  
Jerry Coker (family friend of the Griffith's)  
James Luenstroth (Jan Goodman's brother)  
Christie Collins (cancer)  
Euris Hyatt (Dorothy Mew's brother in law)  
Bob Morgan (cancer)  
Bud Jessup (Steve's friend-hit by car)  
Jim Carey (Ed Kelley)  
Walter Grigg (Brenda's uncle)  
Bobby & Linda Beckham  
Clint Carpenter (friend of Betty Richardson)  
Lenny Sistaire  
Marge Beamon (cancer friend of Carolyn Snyder)

All Military Personnel at home and abroad  
Nick Buchanan  
Joshua Sturgis & Justin Pfaff (Eileen Nichols' grandsons)