

March: Observing Lent and Preparing for Easter

By Rev. Frank Wyche, Pastor

How quickly the seasons are moving this year! Just three months ago, at the end of November, we began to observe Advent, the season of preparation before Christmas. Now here we are, well into Lent, which is the season of preparation before Easter.

Lent is always 3 or 4 months after the beginning of Advent, but since we had to cancel worship services three times between Dec. 20 and Feb. 7, and we had reduced attendance because of bad weather many other Sundays, it feels like we have barely been together at worship more than a couple of times since Christmas!

The interesting thing about observing Lent or observing Advent is that, in one sense, we really don't have to do anything different from any other day.

We are not really called to do anything differently from any other day, because what Lent and Advent really are, are reminders of how God calls us to live all the time. The purpose of observing Lent and Advent is simply to make us focus on living the Christian life. We use the occasions to make ourselves focus, because everyday life is so filled with busy-ness and distractions that we too often neglect our spiritual obligations to love God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength,

If Church Needs To Be Canceled...

If winter weather is ever severe enough to make us need to cancel church, we will notify television station WHSV-TV3 in Harrisonburg to announce the cancellation.

Also, in the event that church is canceled because of severe winter weather, we will put a message on the church answering machine, so you can call the church office at 885-1648. Ordinarily, we would make a decision to cancel church by 9:00 a.m.

In any case, please use common sense when we have severe winter weather, even if you don't see an announcement! Above all, be safe. If your own driveway or street or road is hazardous, please do not take any foolish or unnecessary risks.

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Friday, March 3 – Church Women United observe World Day of Prayer, 9:30 a.m., Cherryvale UMC.

Sunday, March 7 – *Third Sunday of Lent*. Youth Group meets, 6:30 p.m. Bible Study, 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, March 9 – Circles 1 & 2 meet, 1:30 p.m.

Sunday, March 14 – *Fourth Sunday of Lent*. Soup, sandwich, and dessert lunch in Fellowship Hall after worship for Souper Bowl of Caring to fight hunger. Bible Study, 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, March 17 – *St. Patrick's Day*; remember to wear something green!

Saturday, March 20 – *Spring begins*.

Sunday, March 21 – *Fifth Sunday of Lent*. Youth Group meets, 6:30 p.m. Bible Study, 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, March 28 – *Palm Sunday; Passion Sunday; Final Sunday of Lent; Holy Week Begins*. Hunger Offering. Bible Study, 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, March 31 – PEP Club, 1:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall.

and to love our neighbors as ourselves. Observing Lent or Advent simply means re-focusing and re-committing to the Christian life before we observe the two most important Christian holidays: Easter and Christmas.

Sometimes, many of us need a little nudge, a gentle reminder, or something to call us back to paying attention to what really matters. It isn't that the day-to-day things aren't important too; after all, when we look back, we see that most of our lives are simply the day-to-day things all added together.

But at Easter and Christmas (and, therefore, during Lent and Advent), we are especially mindful that the most important thing of all is God. There is nothing more important than new life in Christ here, with the assurance of eternal life with God in heaven, because of God's gift of himself in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. We know this and joyfully celebrate it on Easter and Christmas.

In fact, we should be celebrating this every single day
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Minutes For Regular Session Meeting Held Jan. 28

The Session of Hebron Presbyterian Church held its stated monthly meeting on Thursday, Jan. 28, at 7:00 p.m. Minutes of the meeting were approved at the Feb. 18 Session meeting and are printed here:

Present: Elders Lorrie Dean, Glenn Mader, Lora Turnage, Jan Botkin, Joan Wright, Jeff Simmons, Jon Arneson, Fred Smiley, Hannah Bush, Tom Cook, Martha Sieck, Clerk of Session Alan Mayer; Moderator Rev. Frank Wyche; Treasurer Michael Ruleman.

Excused: Frank Henderson, Theresa Moore.

Guest: Youth representative Maryanna Turnage.

The Moderator opened the meeting with prayer at 7:00 p.m. A quorum was declared present. The Moderator offered a devotional using 1 Corinthians 12:27-28 and its relation to the Book of Order G-6.0100 concerning offices of ministry in the church.

Session approved as submitted the minutes of the Dec. 17, 2009, stated meeting; the Jan 10, 2010, called meeting; and the Jan. 24, 2010, congregational meeting.

Elder Lorrie Dean was selected as commissioner to the Feb. 13, 2010, meeting of Shenandoah Presbytery to be held at Spring Hill Presbyterian Church.

Annual Business of the Session

Session elected Alan L. Mayer as Clerk of Session for 2010.

Session elected Michael Ruleman as Treasurer for 2010.

Session referred the denominationally required annual financial audit to the Stewardship/Finance/Memorial Committee.

Session elected Elders Jeff Simmons and Frank Henderson to the 2010 Church Nominating Committee, with Jeff Simmons to serve as chair.

Session approved the date and time for 2010 Stated Session meetings as the third Thursday in each month at 7:00 p.m.

The moderator received committee preferences from all elders attending and will announcement assignments at the February meeting.

Clerk's Report: Session approved the 2009 Annual Statistical Report as presented by the Clerk. A Certificate of Ordination was presented to newly ordained elder Tom Cook. Thanks were expressed to Joan Wright for doing the calligraphy on the certificate. The Clerk collected contact information from all elders present and will distribute it to all Session members.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Mike Ruleman presented a detailed Report of Fund Balances as of Jan. 20, 2010, and a Report of Receipts and Disbursements since the last meeting. The General Fund grew from



\$7,172.82 last month to \$13,097.53 because of end of year giving. The report was approved as presented.

Old Business: The Presbytery 2010 Questionnaire will be discussed at the next Stated Meeting.

Committee Reports

Commitment/Witness (Lorrie Dean): Lorrie Dean distributed the minutes of the Jan. 6, 2010, committee meeting. Highlights were updates on the offerings, activities, and projects of the committee. Session approved the committee recommendation that Hebron support the missionary work of Mark Andrew Hare in Port au Prince, Haiti. Mark's background and current work in Haiti were discussed, and information was passed out about his biography and mission projects.

Congregational Ministries (Fred Smiley, Jon Arneson, Glenn Mader): Chair Fred Smiley said one meeting has been held in 2010 and activities of the committee are continuing.

Fellowship (Joan Wright): No report.

Personnel (Jeff Simmons): No report.

Property: A number of small repairs are being made to the church, manse, and scout hut.

Stewardship: No report.

Worship (Jan Botkin): A report of the Jan. 6, 2010, committee meeting was distributed. Session approved the committee recommendation that Communion be celebrated on Sunday, Feb. 14, 2010 (Transfiguration of the Lord Sunday).

Cemetery (Alan Mayer): No report.

Christian Ed (Lora Turnage): Session approved a committee recommendation that Vacation Bible School be held at Hebron in the evenings on Sunday-Thursday, June 13-17, 2010. Nicola Cahill will serve as VBS director. A planning meeting is scheduled for Feb. 21, 2010, at 6:00 p.m.

Pastor's Report: The latest round of home communion was concluded following the Jan. 3, 2010, observance. New Officer training will continue and additional training will be scheduled according to officers'

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Young People In Church

By the Congregational Ministreis Committee

Did you hear? Did you know?

Andrew Wyche was one of two students at Buffalo Gap High School to participate in the RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Award) Conference Dec. 11-13, 2009, at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg. He is the son of Elaine and Frank Wyche.

In a recent Science Fair held at Beverley Manor Middle School, three of our young people – Áine Waller, Lynne Moore, and Maryanna Turnage – were recognized for their projects. Áine placed third in the biological division then went on to Regional where she got an honorable mention. In March she will take part in the Science Fair at James Madison University. Honorable mention went to Lynne in the biological division. Maryanna earned fifth place in physical science. These young people are the children of Joann and Brett Waller, Theresa and David Moore, and Lora and Noah Turnage.

Parker Turnage auditioned for the All-County Chorus and will be a part of this group performing in March.

Brock Moore has been chosen to be on the all-star basketball team for the Buffalo Gap Parks and Recreation League.

Two of our young people who attend Buffalo Gap High School have been selected to attend the Model General Assembly in May. They are Martha Moore, Theresa and David's daughter, and Andrew Wyche, son of Elaine and Frank. Martha will serve as clerk, and Andrew will serve as a page. They are the only two from the Junior Class to be chosen for this honor.

Aren't we proud of these young folks!!! Let us continue to support them in their endeavors.

Session Minutes From Jan. 28

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availability/preference, with an emphasis this year on working with committees.

New Business: After a question was raised concerning the "Call the Question" function of Roberts Rules of Order, the moderator discussed its application and use in congregational meetings and Session meetings.

The next Stated Session Meeting will be Feb. 18, 2010, at 7:00 p.m. Joys and Concerns: The blessings and prayer concerns of the congregation, friends, and relatives were shared by the moderator and Session for corporate and individual prayer. The meeting was adjourned with prayer by the moderator at 8:30 p.m.

Easter Egg Hunt Will Be April 3

Hebron's Easter Egg Hunt will be held Saturday, April 3, rain or shine, beginning at 10:00 a.m., with a hot dog lunch to follow.



Children who are toddlers through grade 5 are invited to participate in the hunt from 10:00 a.m. until 12 noon. If the weather is good, the hunt will be held outside. If the weather is bad, the hunt will be held inside.

Please join us in the Fellowship Hall at 10:00 a.m. for the hunt, and stay for the hot dog lunch at 12 noon.

Donations of candy, stickers, coins, etc. to stuff the eggs are needed. You can place donations in the box outside the church office.

Lost And Found: A Saucepan

A heavy Wearever saucepan has been found. If you are missing one, it can be picked up in the church office.

Report From Last Fall's CROP Walk

Last fall 21 churches participated in the Staunton CROP Walk. The event raised \$5,857.30. Hebron gave \$820.00. Thanks to all who contributed, and to all who participated in the walk!

Lenten Devotional Booklets Available

Hebron's Presbyterian Women will once again provide booklets for daily devotion throughout the season Lent.

This year's booklet, *The Sanctuary for Lent*, is by Robert V. Dodd, a United Methodist minister and the award-winning internationally published author of twelve books and booklets, as well as a variety of devotional articles, Bible study and curriculum materials. He was also the author of *Advent: A Calendar of Devotions*, which was the devotional booklet the Presbyterian Women provided for Advent a few months ago.

Monthly Message From The Pastor

(Continued From Page 1)

of our lives. We should not need a special occasion to give thanks to God for the gift of Jesus Christ, and for the personal relationship we have with God through Jesus.

In the Old Testament, God's people are told to remember the Sabbath as a day dedicated to God. We Christians don't observe the Sabbath on Saturday; we have made our holy day Sunday, because Easter, the Day of Resurrection, occurred on a Sunday. We remember that each week.

In the same way, we remember the Resurrection every Lent.

Pastor Frank

Time To Buy Flowers To Decorate The Sanctuary For Easter

Presbytery Report Describes Area Hunger Ministries

(The following report is from Shenandoah Presbytery's Hunger Action Enabler, describing area ministries.)

West Rockingham Food Pantry opened its doors to the community March 26, 2009, almost a year ago. Eleven families were served on that day and by October more than 49 families received 2,116 pounds of food. With the cooperation of 10 churches, 3 Ruritan Clubs and a Boy Scout Troop, the hungry living in west Rockingham County have a lifeline. Those served include children to the elderly to the homeless and an abused women's shelter. The pantry has become an essential part of a community that cares for each other with great compassion.

The Valley Mission located in Staunton, continues to be a vital lifeline for the lonely, hungry and homeless in Augusta County. Their increased capacity houses 85 people for short periods of time until they are able to be on their own. Many churches have committed to provide regular meals and other groups do periodic meals as they are able. New programs help people sustain their dignity such as a "Giving Library," a new Thrift Store in Waynesboro, expanded single women's dorm and single rooms for families. The Mission was also

recognized by philanthropists as a worthwhile agency to support.

Jefferson County Community Ministries in Charles Town, WV, is a cooperative ministry of local churches assisting people in need in Jefferson County. For 25 years, they have fed, clothed and provided financial assistance and winter warmth to nearly 3,200 families. They also cooperate with other state and local agencies to provide this support. Their Food Pantry collects and distributes food, personal hygiene items, and household cleaning supplies on a regular basis.

Kingsway Help Center and Rockbridge Area Relief Association, located in Rockbridge County, VA, provide a much needed service to the communities in and around Lexington. The two food pantries provide hunger relief to the poor and the hungry who are in need. With the support of churches and community groups around Rockbridge County and Shenandoah Presbytery, fewer people need go hungry.

Matthew 25:37, 40: Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when did we see thee hungry and feed thee, or thirsty and give thee drink?" And the King will answer them, "Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me."

PEP Club Will Meet March 31

The PEP Club (People Enjoying People) will hold its monthly covered-dish luncheon on Wednesday, March 31, 2010, at 1:00 P.M. in the Fellowship Hall. Larry Mayer will present a program on a trip he and Gail made to Alaska.

Please bring a covered dish and join us for a great time of food and fellowship!

Church Yard Sale April 16-17

Hebron's annual Yard, Bake and Jelly Sale will be held in the Fellowship Hall on Friday and Saturday, April 16-17, from 8:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. both days. There will be a food booth, so come for lunch.



Please look twice at anything you might throw away in spring cleaning, and consider putting it aside and keeping it just a little bit longer, in order to help the church!

We hope to have a large variety of items to sell such as antiques, glassware, household items, linens, jewelry, small pieces of furniture, yard/garden tools (yes, we *do* have men shoppers!), perennials, toys, knick-knacks, etc.

We also hope everyone will make at least one item for the baked goods to be sold.

Please save these dates, and contact Betty Piner or Shirley Shomo for details or to offer help. Thanks!

Scout Sunday Observance Postponed

Hebron's observance of Scout Sunday, scheduled for Feb. 7, was also postponed due to weather and the cancellation of church services and activities.

Scout Sunday will be observed later in the spring, after Easter.

On Scout Sunday, all the loose offering is equally divided between Boy Scout Troop 122 and Cub Scout Pack 122.

World Day of Prayer March 5

Church Women United of Staunton will observe World Day of Prayer on Friday, March 5, with a program at Cherryvale United Methodist Church.

Registration is at 9:30 a.m., the meeting at 10:00, and dismissal will be by 11:00.

Giving Statements and Envelopes

Several giving statements for 2009 and offering envelopes 2010 have not yet been picked up from the table in the Session Room. Please pick up yours, to save postage costs.

Souper Bowl Sunday Now March 14

The Hebron Youth Group will host a lunch of soup, sandwiches and dessert on Sunday, March 14, in the church Fellowship Hall immediately following morning worship.

Everyone is invited to attend and to make a freewill offering in support of the Souper Bowl of Caring, a national program to fight hunger in local communities and throughout the world.



The event was originally planned for Feb. 7, when the Super Bowl football game was played, but had to be postponed because church was canceled due to heavy snow and dangerously cold temperatures.

Please join us for this important event on a new date!

The following additional information is adapted from the website, superbowl.org.

In Romans 12:13 we are told: "Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality" (NIV). This congregation certainly obeys that command.

The Souper Bowl of Caring is a grassroots, faith-based crusade against hunger. We join other churches, schools, organizations and individuals across the country to fight hunger and poverty by collecting dollars in soup pots. What is collected stays in the community to help fight hunger, but we report our total to the Souper Bowl of Caring headquarters so that they can come up with a grand total.

Rev. Dr. Brad Smith, founder and executive director said, "It is a way for young people to put God's love into action by developing a heart for helping others. The goal is for these young people to see they can make a difference, and for them to continue contributing through volunteerism when they reach adulthood."

In 2009, over 13,000 groups raised over \$10 million for soup kitchens, food banks and other helping charities. Since the Souper Bowl of Caring began in 1990, over \$60 million has been given to help those in need. The Souper Bowl of Caring most often benefits local food banks and soup kitchens, but world hunger organizations, denominational missions and other international ministries have also been recipients of Souper Bowl of Caring dollars.

This year, the Hebron Youth Group will offer a soup and sandwich lunch as a way of collecting for the Souper Bowl of Caring. Our lunch will be March 14, immediately after church, and will include a variety of soups, sandwiches, and dessert, prepared by the young people and their families. ALL money collected will go to the Verona Food Pantry.

May God bless our gifts.

6 *Presbyterian Women's News*

The Circles did not meet in February because of the bad weather, so we will be studying Bible Lesson No. 6 and fixing two "goodie boxes" at our meeting on March 9. If you would like to contribute goodies, please bring them to the church by Tuesday, March 9 at 1:30 p.m. Thanks!

Don't forget that our Yard Sale will be April 16-17 this year (see story, page 5). In the past, our Yard, Bake, and Jelly Sales have been most successful:

2004 – made \$1,903 for the organ fund;

2005 – made \$1,552 for the organ fund;

2006 – made \$2,514 for the organ fund;

2007 – made \$2,000 for the sanctuary fund;

2008 – made \$2,040 for Staunton/Beverley Manor and Churchville WRE;

2009 – made \$2,036 for Staunton/Beverley Manor and Church WRE.

And every year we also contributed many things to various local causes.

Did you read the Women's financial report in the Annual Report? Even though we do not have a large attendance at the Circle meetings and/or General Gatherings, many work behind the scenes, proving that the women's work is very strong at Hebron! Our sincere thanks to each and every one of you for all you did in 2009 to further the work of the church and the community, as well as foreign missions.

Our money was received through offerings, serving meals to the Men, yard sales, and special offerings.

Our donations/disbursements included:

Cash contributions to Verona Food Pantry \$850, Valley Mission \$100, Free meals at Trinity Episcopal Church \$100, a family needing financial assistance \$200, Presbytery/Birthday Offering \$352, Blue Ridge Food Bank \$250, New Directions \$200, Free Clinic \$200, Relay for Life \$75, and CROP Walk \$100.

We also gave SACRA \$500 and collected 203 pounds of canned items at our Dinner Theater.

Purchased and decorated two Christmas trees for Hospice which sold for \$300,

Provided Advent and Lent devotional books for the congregation.

Purchased Bible Study literature, \$238.

Had two pictures of Hebron Church framed, \$332.

Bought parts for dishwasher repair, \$593.

Bought sweatpants for clients at Western State Hospital, \$122.

Bought material for a tablecloth for the table in the Session Room, \$21.

Placed roses in the sanctuary honoring new babies, \$46.

March Birthdays And Anniversaries

March birthdays are:

Jordan Shull	6		
Ross Shull	6		
Dwight Wood	6		
Marian Mader	7		
Joseph Martin	7		
Joseph Marino	10		
Elva Tuttle	15		
Janet Tuttle	16		
Joyce Eavers	17		
Karen Marino	17	Parker Turnage	26
Bob Moody	17	Brittany Wyche	28
Wendy Kennedy	22	Raylee Shull	31
Lynne Moore	22	Lora Turnage	31



Special birthday wishes Elva Tuttle who will be 83 on March 15.

Reminder: If you have been omitted from our birthday list, or if you know of someone who should be included, please call the church at 886-1648 with the information, as we don't want to miss anyone.

Thanks For Your Generosity

(The following letter of thanks was sent to Hebron in thanks for the congregation's gifts in support of medical services provided to the needy around the world.)

Dear Hebron: In the Year of our Lord 2010, as the New Year begins, we thank God for another year in which to serve you with in sharing Christ's healing love with those in medical need.

We thank you for your gift of \$125 for the work of Medical Benevolence Foundation. Like you, we pray for the strengthening of the economy around the world so that the people we serve may be in less dire circumstance and so that we and our partners will have the resources to meet the deep need so many people face. Trusting in God to answer our prayer, we look ahead to 2010 as a year in which we will grow Medical Benevolence Foundation's capacity to support medical mission work through finances, people, and equipment and supplies.

We look forward to 2010 as a year in which we, in God's grace, deepen relationships with you, with international partners, and with those we serve. Thank you again for your gift and may God's blessings be upon you during this coming year.

Yours in Christ's service,

Will Browne, Executive Director,
Medical Benevolence Foundation

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HEBRON HERALD

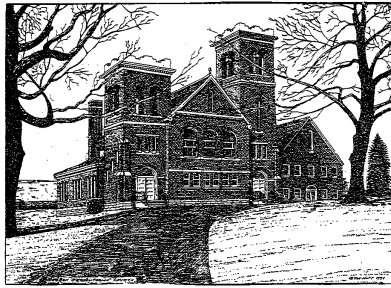
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Hebron Presbyterian Church

Rev. Frank H. Wyche, Pastor
Ministries available to all ages

Sunday Services:

Youth Choir, 9:15 a.m.

Sunday School, 9:55 a.m.

Morning Worship, 11:00 a.m.

Evening Bible Study, 7:00 p.m.

Youth Group, 6:30-8:00 p.m., 1st & 3rd Sundays

March 2010						
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21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			



Annual Easter Activities Begin At End Of March

The end of March will be the beginning of Hebron's Easter activities, with Sunday, March 28, being Palm Sunday/Passion Sunday, and the final Sunday of Lent, which is the season of preparation for Easter.

Because March 28 is also the beginning of Holy Week, many annual events and activities will be held between then and Easter Sunday, April 4.

Some of our annual activities include the following.

Sunday, March 28 – The worship will have a dual emphasis on both Palm Sunday and Passion Sunday. Palm Sunday is a day of celebration, as we remember what is called Christ's Triumphant Entry into Jerusalem, when Jesus entered the city of Jerusalem to a great celebration and shouts of "Hosanna!" as people waved palmed branches and laid branches in the road along his way. It is also called Passion Sunday because it is the last Sunday before Easter, so it is an occasion to remember Jesus' Passion (that is, his suffering from the agony in the Garden of Gethsemane through his be-

trayal, trial, humiliation, crucifixion, and death).

Thursday, April 1 – Maundy Thursday worship service at 7:30 p.m. in the sanctuary, including the celebration of the Lord's Supper by intinction (tearing a piece of bread off the loaf, and dipping it into the cup).

Friday, April 2 – Good Friday. The sanctuary will be open for personal prayer and private reflection from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.

Saturday, April 3 – Annual Easter Egg Hunt, rain or shine, 10:00 a.m. until 12 noon. A hot dog lunch will then be served beginning at noon. Children from toddlers through 5th grade are invited to participate. (Contributions for the eggs are needed. See story, page 3.)

Sunday, April 4 – Easter Sunday, the Day of Resurrection of our Lord. There will not be a sunrise service this year. Everyone is invited to attend a church breakfast at 9:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Sunday School is at 9:55 a.m. Morning worship is at 11:00 a.m.

Please join us for all these special activities!