

Lent: An Increased Devotional Life Before Easter

By Rev. Frank Wyche, Pastor

Ash Wednesday on March 5 marks the beginning of Lent, the 46 days (40 weekdays plus six Sundays) that are the Christian season of preparation before Easter.

Lent is usually observed in three ways: by penitence (self-examination and self-denial); by increased almsgiving (and other good works); and by increased devotional activities (attending regular and special worship services, and increased prayer and devotional study).

Many of us grew up paying little or no attention to Lent, because it was considered a "Catholic" holiday in which Protestants did not participate. In fact, Lent is an important season of the Christian liturgical year, and its observance is far older than the split between Protestants and Catholics. Those of us who did not observe Lent were not avoiding a Roman Catholic practice—we were missing a traditional Christian observance.

The English name "Lent" originated before 1000 A.D. and came from the Old English word "lencten" or "lengten," which literally meant "lengthening (of daylight hours)" and came to mean "spring" — since daylight hours lengthen during the season of spring, which is when Easter occurs.

Many people "give up" something for Lent. The idea is not simply to practice self-denial or self-discipline, but to re-direct one's thoughts and activities toward God, instead of everyday thoughts and activities.

For example, if someone decided to give up sodas or soft drinks for Lent, the idea would be to take the money that would have been spent on those beverages and use it to make an extra charitable contribution to the



Sunday, March 2 – *Transfiguration Sunday, the Lord's Supper*; Sunday School, 9:55 a.m.; Worship, 11:00 a.m.; Youth Group, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, March 5 – *Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent*

Sunday, March 9 – *Daylight Saving Time Begins, 2:00 a.m. (spring forward); First Sunday in Lent*; Sunday School, 9:55 a.m.; Worship, 11:00 a.m.; Youth Group, 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, March 11 – Circles 1 & 2, 1:30 p.m.

Sunday, March 16 – *Second Sunday in Lent; Annual Meeting of the Congregation follows morning worship*; Sunday School, 9:55 a.m.; Worship, 11:00 a.m.; Youth Group, 6:30 p.m.

Monday, March 17 – *St. Patrick's Day, wear green!*

Thursday, March 20 – *Spring begins!*

Sunday, March 23 – *Third Sunday in Lent*; Sunday School, 9:55 a.m.; Worship, 11:00 a.m.; Youth Group, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, March 26 – PEP Club, 1:00 p.m.

Thursday, March 27 – Session meets, 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, March 30—*Fourth Sunday in Lent*; Sunday School, 9:55 a.m.; Worship, 11:00 a.m.; Youth Group, 6:30 p.m.

church or some other charitable or worthwhile cause. Also, every time one felt the strong desire for the bev-

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If Weather Cancels Church, Check Channel 3 or Call the Church Office

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 at 885-1648. The decision on whether to cancel church will be made by 9:00 a.m.

In any case please use your common sense when we have

severe winter weather, even if you don't see an announcement on Channel 3!

Above all, *be safe!*

If your own walkway or driveway, street or road, is hazardous, please do not take any foolish or unnecessary risks.



No Session Minutes This Month

No Session minutes are included in this month's newsletter because the Session did not meet in February due to severe weather. Reporting of Session minutes will resume next month.

Lent Begins On March 5

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erage, it would be a reminder about God instead of our own wants and appetites, and to engage in prayer and devotional activities in the time we would have spent drinking the beverage.

In the first centuries after Christ's resurrection, it was a common practice of the Church to baptize new members on Easter Sunday. Prospective members underwent a lengthy period of preparation before being baptized – sometimes up to three years.

It was also customary to give the final lessons and to conduct the final training during the last 40 days before Easter. That special period of preparation immediately before Easter Sunday is what has become the observance of Lent today.

Sunday, March 2, is Transfiguration of the Lord on this year's Christian calendar, because the last Sunday before Lent is always Transfiguration Sunday.

Many cultures celebrate Carnivale as a time for celebrations and parties before the self-denial and extra devotional acts of Lent. The last day of Carnivale is Mardi Gras (literally, "Fat Tuesday" in French), which is the day before Lent begins. The idea is that if we are to deny ourselves for 46 days, let's have one last time to get fat before the lean days ahead.

While most Protestants don't observe Carnivale or Mardi Gras (because they are cultural festivals rather than religious observations), we do often observe Lent by having fewer parties and celebrations. For example, significantly fewer weddings are held during Lent than in other seasons of the year.

While the culture knows the parties of Carnivale and Mardi Gras, and while many churches have special events during Holy Week from Palm Sunday/Passion Sunday through Easter, observing Lent means preparing for Easter in those three most familiar ways: increased self-examination and acts of devotion, including prayer and study; self-denial as a means of redirecting our thoughts and activities toward God instead of ourselves; and increased acts of almsgiving, especially redirecting what we would have spent on ourselves.

Hebron's Presbyterian Women will provide daily Lenten devotional booklets to help you with increasing your spiritual activities during Lent.

Pastor Frank

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		
Eric Waller	10		
Elva Tuttle	15		
Janet Tuttle	16		
Karen Marino	17	Parker Turnage	26
Bob Moody	17	Phil Adams	27
Wendy Kennedy	22	Brittany Wyche	28
Lynne Moore	22	Raylee Shull	31



Very special birthday wishes to Elva Tuttle, who will be 87 on March 15.

If you know of someone who should be included, please call the church at 885-1648.

Church's Annual Meeting March 16

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation of Hebron Presbyterian Church will be held Sunday, March 16, following morning worship. The congregation will receive the Annual Report, including the 2014 budget, and will conduct annual business, including review of the pastor's terms of call.

Copies of the 2014 budget will be available in the church Vestibules, the Session Room and the church office, so members can review it in advance, in case they have any questions about it at the annual meeting. You can also speak with treasurer Michael Ruleman or any member of the Session before the meeting if you have questions about the budget.

PW Devotional Booklets for Lent

The Presbyterian Women have again ordered daily devotional booklets for Lent, and you are invited to use them as part of your devotional activities for the season.

The booklets have been ordered but delivery was delayed because of severe weather nationally; they will be available in the church Vestibules and in the Session Room when they arrive.

PEP Club Will Meet March 26

The PEP Club (People Enjoying People) will hold its monthly covered-dish luncheon on Wednesday, March 26, at 1:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Bring a dish and come join us for this time of food and fun and fellowship!



March 2014

Hebron Presbyterian Church

Sunday School 9:55 A.M./Worship 11 A.M.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat																																																																																																															
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2 <i>Transfiguration Sunday, the Lord's Supper</i> Youth Group 6:30 p.m.	3	4 <i>Mardi Gras (Fat Tuesday) ~ Last Day Before Lent</i>	5 <i>Ash Wednesday, Lent Begins</i> Bible Study, 10 Property Cmte., 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice, 7:30 p.m.	6	7 <i>World Day Of Prayer, 10:00 a.m.</i> Staunton Church of the Brethren	8 <i>Daylight Saving Time Begins On March 9 ~ Turn Clocks Forward At Bedtime</i>																																																																																																															
9 <i>Daylight Saving Time begins at 2:00 a.m. 1st Sunday in Lent</i> Christian Ed. Cmte., 6 p.m.	10 Commitment/ Witness Committee, 6:15 p.m.	11 Circles 1 & 2 Meet, 1:30 p.m.	12 Bible Study, 10 a.m. Congregational Ministries, 6:30 p.m. Choir, 7:30	13	14	15																																																																																																															
16 <i>2nd Sunday in Lent</i> Annual Meeting Youth Group 6:30 p.m.	17 <i>Saint Patrick's Day</i> 	18	19 Bible Study, 10 a.m. Worship Cmte. 6:30 p.m. Choir Prac- tice 7:30 pm	20 <i>Spring Begins</i> 	21	22																																																																																																															
23 <i>3rd Sunday in Lent</i> Youth Group 6:30 p.m.	24	25	26 Bible Study, 10 a.m. PEP Club, 1:00 Choir Prac- tice 7:30 pm	27 Session Meets, 7:00 p.m.	28	29																																																																																																															
30 <i>4th Sunday in Lent</i> Youth Group 6:30 p.m.	31	<i>April 7-10</i> Set-up for PW Yard, Bake and Jelly Sale	<i>April 11-12</i> Presbyterian Women's Yard, Bake and Jelly Sale	<i>April 13</i> Palm Sunday Beginning of Holy Week	<i>April 18</i> Good Friday Worship Service, 7:00 p.m.	<i>April 20</i> Easter Fellowship Breakfast, 9:00 a.m.																																																																																																															

HEBRON HERALD

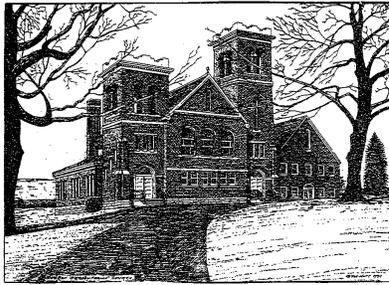
Hebron Presbyterian Church
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Church FAX: (540) 885-9512

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Website: www.hebronpc.com



Hebron Presbyterian Church

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

Sunday Services:

Sunday School, 9:55 A.M.

Morning Worship, 11:00 A.M.

Youth Group, 6:30-8:00 P.M.

Bible Study: Wednesday, 10:00 A.M.

March 2014						
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Looking Ahead: Hebron Women's Yard Sale April 11-12

Hebron's annual Yard, Bake and Jelly Sale will be held in the Fellowship Hall on Friday and Saturday, April 11-12, from 8:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. both days. There will be a food booth, so come for lunch.

The Presbyterian Women 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, perennials, toys, knickknacks, etc.

Hebron Youth Help Verona Food Pantry

The Hebron Youth Group raised over \$1,000 at the Feb. 23 Souper Bowl of Caring luncheon coordinated by Robin Ruleman. Many thanks to all who made soup and all who attended – almost 90 people were served!

The Youth Group also made \$325 catering a Boy Scout training event held at the church on Feb. 1, so Hebron's young people have made almost \$1,400 to go to the Verona Food Pantry to help the hungry in our area.

Congratulations and thanks to the Youth Group!

In order to have time to price and display items nicely, all donations must be received by Monday, April 7, at 4:00 p.m. Many volunteers will be needed the week of April 7 to unpack, display, price and sell items.

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

We will be advertising when we get closer to the date, but we will need everyone to help "spread the word" before then. Posters will be available in the vestibules for you to take your place of business, etc.

All profits will go to support the Beverley Manor Weekday Religious Education program. Everyone's help and donations are needed to make this another successful event!

