



The Church Mouse

The Newsletter

Presbyterian Church (USA) In Clinton



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Preaching through the 23rd Psalm during Lent this year is not only giving me a new appreciation for the psalm, but also helping me see this part of the church year with new eyes. Each week brings new discoveries as I spend time thinking and praying about the next passage and how that verse is illustrated in the larger context of the scriptures.

Looking ahead to Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, and Easter Sunday, I am especially excited to approach these services through the lens of the psalmist. Pairing anointing with Jesus' triumphant ride into Jerusalem, the table spread in the presence of enemies with the Last Supper, and dwelling in the Lord's house forever with the resurrection makes wonderful sense to me.

One of the major themes for Palm Sunday is always the Kingship of Christ, and what it means for Jesus to be crowned King as opposed to what it meant to crown King David. One of the rituals associated with choosing a king was the anointing, a sign of being set apart as one chosen by God.

When we pair Psalm 23 with Palm Sunday, and read that the Lord anoints our heads with oil so that our cup overflows, we are invited into the story as the chosen people of God. Suddenly, it's not just Jesus who is hailed with the words, "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord;" those words are for us as well. We are heirs with Christ according to the Epistles, and we are also anointed to be bearers of blessing and good news.

When we join Jesus at table in the celebration of the Last Supper, it is especially poignant to hear the words, "You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies." We know that Jesus will be betrayed, not just by Judas, but by all of his friends as they scatter in fear and deny his name. The table Jesus presided over that night was indeed prepared by the Lord, and it is at that table that we remember God's promises to us again and again.

The glory of the resurrection becomes even more personal when we celebrate God's goodness in our own lives. The victory of Easter is not reserved only for Jesus; it is for us as well. It is because of God's never-ending love for us that Jesus is raised from the dead, it is because God intends to travel through our lives by our side that the grave has lost its sting.

Of course, these are just the closing verses of the psalm. In order to fully grasp the impact of Christ as our Shepherd, we have to journey through the whole psalm, verse by verse, promise by promise, image by image. I hope this journey will bring each one of us closer to following the footsteps of the One who leads us with such loving care.

Pastor Cindy

FROM THE PULPIT

- 3/7 "He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake." *Righteousness ≠ Fun*
- 3/14 "Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me." *Nothing Can Separate*
- 3/21 "Your rod and your staff, they comfort me." *Comfort Rules*
- 3/28 "You anoint my head with oil, my cup overflows." *All Are Anointed*
- 4/1 Maundy Thursday
"You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies." *A Godly Spread*
- 4/4 "Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever." *Alleluia Today and Ever More!*



MARCH

- 3 Joseph Awasume
- 3 Patience Awasume
- 13 Barbara Braunhardt
- 16 Andrew Miller
- 17 Carolyn Ann Garvey
- 27 Steve Carlin
- 30 Princely Tamfu
- 30 Paul Girouard

Volunteer Schedule for March:

<p><i>Greeter:</i></p> <p>7 Tanya Adams 14 Louann Joyce 21 Judy Malcolmson 22 Anna Foster</p>	<p><i>Worship Leader:</i></p> <p>Robin LeRoy Scott Dickinson Susan Dullea Bob Kellegrew</p>
<p><i>Counters:</i></p> <p>7 Robin LeRoy 14 Scott Dickinson 21 David Leigon 28 Dot Grady</p>	<p><i>Coffee Host:</i></p> <p>Jennifer Dickinson Judy Malcolmson Anna Foster Nicki Brandt</p>
<p><i>Children's Church:</i></p> <p>7 Closed-Communion 14 Devin/Lisa 21 Shelby/Bonnie 28 Closed</p>	<p><i>Youth Message</i></p> <p>Lisa Carlin David Leigon Susan Dullea Joanne Thomas</p>

Directory Update:
 Marie Malcolmson
 44 Flagg Street
 Clinton MA 01510-1508
 617-888-4632 (preferred)
 978-333-3037
 littlemissmuffet09@gmail.com



Session – Clerk: David Leigon
 Session members: Devin Berry, David Leigon, Paul Rundlett, Joseph Awasume, Caroline Tamfu, Butch Lemere, Paul Girouard, Jackie Mongo, Lisa Carlin
 Deacons:
 Moderator: Jennifer Dickinson
 Colleen Coughlan, Nicki Brandt, Bridgette Nkwelle, Nancy Swearas, Marie Malcolmson

Ode to Constance R. Szewczyk

She'd give you good advice but never preach.
 She could teach crochet and knitting skills, for each.
 Our very gracious Connie
 Always made life far more bonny
 And she sure enjoyed vacations at the beach.

She showed a certain winsomeness of grace,
 With a most engaging smile upon her face.
 Our very gracious Connie
 Made our lives a bit more bonny,
 As a friend whom we will never quite replace.

Animal Rescue

I'm fond of verses 5 through 9
Psalm 35, please underline.
 Shows God preserves us, though deceased,
 Humanity and even beast.
 And that includes all pets of mine.

Robert J. Malcolmson



of the work will be explained by Habitat staff at that time. For more information, call 978-348-2749 X205.

LINKING FOR MINISTRY

An event for smaller membership congregations interested in learning about cooperative ministry (clustering) for the purpose of ministry and mission.

This 3-day conference is designed to excite, encourage and empower small churches towards new possibilities and opportunities through joint mission and ministry. Learn more about how “clustering” can revitalize the small church, enlarge its vision and expand its capacity for worship, work and witness.

- Staffing
- Mission
- Christian Education
- Leader Training

June 2-4, 2010

Thornwell Home Campus
302 South Broad Street
Clinton, SC 29325

Plenary Speakers:

Dr. Marilyn Borst, Outreach Foundation

Dr. George Bullard, The Columbia Partnership

Rev. Phil Tom, Small Church and Community

Ministry Office, PC(USA)

Registration fee is \$50, which includes three meals.

For more information on this event and how to register, please visit Trinity Presbytery’s website at www.trinity-presbytery.org and follow the links.

Event questions: contact Dr. Herb Codington phone at (864) 833-5763 or by email at herbcod@yahoo.com

Event is hosted by: The Laurens County Cluster of Smaller Membership Churches, in conjunction with Presbyterians for Renewal’s Wee Kirk Ministry and the Outreach Foundation, The Small Church and Community Ministry Office of the PC(USA), Presbyterian Frontier Fellowship and Trinity Presbytery.

Marcia Clark Myers, Director

Office of Vocation, PCUSA

502-569-5753

marcia.myers@pcusa.org

www.pcusa.org/vocation

Habitat for Humanity: Will be planning a complete rehab of a Lancaster home on March 11th and April 1st at 7:30 pm at the Lancaster Town Hall. Overviews



PRAYER CONCERNS FOR....

Continued prayers for Haiti as it recovers from the earthquake, for those who mourn and for those offering aid and comfort

Julia, that she may have a healthy continuing pregnancy

Thelma and her family as they mourn the death of her brother, CT, Karin's mother as she begins chemotherapy

Bob and Sue as they cope with Taylor, and that they may have wisdom and patience and love

Connie's family as they mourn her sudden passing

McDermott Family as they mourn the loss of their 21 year old daughter, Maia

Devin as she heals from a sprained ankle

Haiti as they continue to recover, PDA has received \$500,000

William is starting a new program and going back to school

Lisa's friend, Doug – for healing while coping with diabetes

Sue D's mother, Kate, as she was in the hospital with congestive heart failure, that she may be at peace and relax back to normal

Thelma's niece, Terry

Ginger's baby is in the ICU

Bridgette as she nears term with the baby

For those seeking jobs, that they may find positions and keep their spirits up – for Scott, Nicki, Paul R.

Eileen Stevenson

Our military and their families

PRAISES FOR...

Shelby and Lindsey turn 18!

Joanne's daughter and daughter-in-law are thriving in their pregnancies

Blessings for the prayer shawl for baby Chris

Marissa has been accepted to 3 colleges and is waiting to hear from more

Francisco was uninjured in a car accident

Our many blessings

Ladies Lunch Bunch

Our monthly women's group meeting will be held on the first Sunday afternoon of the month at the church to have a time of fellowship and discussion over a luncheon. We will be starting a new study on Feb 7th: Max Lucado's Books of Esther & Ruth.



Easter Lilies

There will be a sign-up sheet
in the Fellowship Hall
for Memorial/Celebratory Easter Lilies.
The cost is \$9 per plant again this year.
Once you sign up, please make sure
you give your lily money
to Jennifer Dickinson.
The last day to sign up will be March 28th.

There will be a free-will offering to
sponsor our expense of the little
spring bulb plants that we give to
the kids Easter morning.
Please donate generously!



Remember to turn your clocks forward!



March 14th

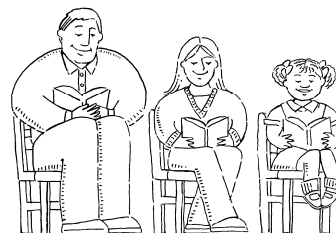
Mark Your Calendars:

- Mar 2 – Choir 7 pm
- Mar 13 – Men's Breakfast 9 am
- Mar 14 – Daylight Savings– Turns Clocks Ahead
Deacon's Meeting 12:30 pm
Pastor Jack's 50th Ordination Anniv.
- Mar 16 – Session 7 pm
- Mar 17 – Prayer Shawl Ministry 1 pm
- Mar 21 – Choir 12:30 pm
- Mar 22 – Presbytery Meets at our church!!!
- Mar 23 – Choir 7 pm
- Mar 28 – Communion/Palm Sunday



About our Sunday School program:

We offer weekly Sunday School for Pre-K and Elementary school children (using One Room School House) and Adults at 9:30 am (they have a varied curriculum). Our High School/Youth class meets bi-weekly, or a schedule that best fits that age group (they are just finishing a course on World Religions). We also offer Children's Church for kids up to and including second grade during church services. As we only have 4 adult volunteers, we only offer this program twice a month. Our Safe Church policy requires that there be two adults as teachers in every class. If you are interested in participating as a teacher, please contact Jennifer Dickinson or Pastor Cindy



There's a Class for You!