



Waterin' Hole



"Moses lifted up his hand and struck the rock twice with his staff; water came out abundantly, and the congregation...drank." Numbers 20:11

Rocky River Presbyterian Church

Volume 259, Issue 3
March 2010

My Dear Friends,



You may see me in a different uniform around town, far different from the clerical collar I wore on Ash Wednesday. I have taken Christ's call to "Go therefore and make disciples" to heart through

my new involvement with the community. In addition to the administration and care of a local congregation, pastors are expected to hold positions on boards in the presbytery and community. Ordinarily, this means membership in community service organizations and presbytery committees. But, those who know me well, know that I don't do committee meetings well. I struggle with sitting for long periods of time debating concepts rather than actively engaging people in the community. This is why I have asked the session if I may venture outside of the norm and get involved in our community in a unique way.

In my previous congregation I served as the local college chaplain. In Harrisburg, I have sought similar avenues by offering to be a chaplain for the local high school football team, a chaplain for the police department and by volunteering to help new members at the local YMCA. After the first two searches came up empty, I had a conversation with the director of the Harrisburg YMCA, which showed potential. I asked if I could volunteer to help new members of the YMCA – often new members to the community – get acclimated to the fitness equipment. His response was favorable but I could not perform that duty as a

"volunteer," so he asked if I would like to be on staff instead. The role of "fitness specialist" has insurance implications for the YMCA that must be safeguarded through the rigorous screening process of hiring staff.

With much caution and prayer, I presented the idea to our session and the response was overwhelming. The comments of our elders included, "Where else can we get this kind of exposure to new members in the community?" "What a great way to serve people." "Why have you not thought of this before?" On the flip side, they were careful to acknowledge that the perception of the congregation to me serving in additional capacities in the community may appear like I have two jobs, which is the purpose of such a lengthy explanation in the newsletter. If I am to serve the community in this new additional role, it is paramount for both the YMCA and Rocky River Presbyterian to know that I am committed to my call as pastor and shepherd of Rocky River Presbyterian Church as my priority. My time at the YMCA will range between 6 and 9 hours each week and will in no way interfere with my responsibilities at Rocky River Presbyterian Church. I welcome any comments or questions people may have, and assure everyone that my heart and commitment is first with Rocky River Presbyterian.

By opening this door to more involvement in the community, I hope to grow our community's awareness of our congregation and ministry and ultimately live out that great call of Christ to "Go...and make disciples" in whatever uniform that may be. I pray that all of the members of our congregation will use every avenue they have to do the same.



Inside

Journey To the Cross	2
Communion Classes	2
Scouts	2
Presbyterian Women	2
Computers	2
Youth News	3
Give Up? Or Give In?	3
Preschool News	4
Daytrip	4
Remembering Our Military	4
A Time for Children	4
Easter Morning Schedule	5
Children's Easter Egg Hunt	5
Volunteer's Schedules	5
Prayer Requests	6



JOURNEY TO THE CROSS DURING HOLY WEEK

Join us during Holy Week to walk through the events in the last week of Jesus' life. The Fellowship Hall will be set up for people of all ages to experience a time of active worship and reflection. Children (ages 4 and older) with a parent or caregiver will have special activities at some of the stations. The Journey will be open Friday, April 2, from 7:00 - 9:00 pm and Saturday, April 3, from 1:00 - 5:00 pm. If you would like to help put the Journey together, please let Rev. Julie know.

COMMUNION CLASSES FOR CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES

Rev. Julie will offer classes about Communion for children ages 4 and up in March. Option 1: Wednesday, March 24, AND Wednesday, March 31, from 7:00 - 8:00 pm. Option 2: Sunday, March 21, from 3:00 - 5:00 pm. Adults, please come with your children.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2010

Travel to Egypt with us this summer! Friday-Sunday evenings, July 23 - 25



VENTURE HAPPENINGS

Venture Crew 83 has been enjoying an active calendar. In December, scouts completed the requirements of the Mountaineering elective, successfully climbing and rappelling from the 30-foot tower at Camp Barnhardt. In January, scouts honed their shooting skills with an introduction to high-powered rifles in preparation for our hunting trip. February was highlighted by reviewing land navigation skills and attending Scout Sunday services. Upcoming activities include: first aid/CPR certification, boar hunting, Ocean Isle Beach service project, canoeing and six weeks of fun at Camp Barnhardt for Ventures on staff.

Crew 83 invites youth ages 14 - 20 to come out and enjoy our activities. We meet on Tuesday nights from 7:00 - 8:00 at the Venture hut, across the street from church.

Thank you to members of Rocky River Presbyterian Church for your support of the scouting program.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Rocky River Presbyterian Women have two circles. The Morning Circle meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 10:00 a.m. in the Mary Morrison Sunday School classroom at the church. They will meet Tuesday, March 2. Louise Murray will be the Bible study teacher.

The Evening Circle meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in either the Church Parlor or at a member's home. Their next meeting is Tuesday, March 2. They will meet at the home of Kathy Linker. Kathy will have the devotions, and the Bible moderator will be Brenda Horton in lesson six.



All ladies of the church and community are invited to participate.

What your child/teen knows about computers--and you don't, but should

Do you worry about what your child or teen is getting into on their computer? Are they on Facebook? If so, what pictures or descriptions have they included? Do they realize that once something is in cyberspace, anyone can find it--including college admissions officers, predators, and future employers? How do parents keep up with the latest trends and gadgets? How can you know what your child/teen is doing online? If these are questions you have, come to the session Fellowship & Events ministry is having on Wednesday, **March 24, at 6:45 pm** after our Wednesday Night Fellowship. You do not have to attend the supper in order to come to this session. Kyle Hite and Ed Watson will show us how non-computer-savvy adults can navigate these potholes in cyberspace and communicate with the children/teens in our lives.

In order to figure out the space needed and whether we need activities for children while parents attend the session, we would appreciate your registering by calling the church office by March 18th.





ROCKY RIVER YOUTH NEWS

Middle School Retreat - April 17 & 18, 2010, at Camp Pee Dee in South Carolina - Cost \$40

The yearly retreat for middle school youth is always a great event. There are over 100 youth (grades 6 - 8) from the Presbytery. PYC (Presbyterian Youth Council) organizes the retreat with games, Bible study, worship and more. The registration for the middle school retreat is due March 28. See Kristen for the paperwork.

Youth Sunday at worship will be March 28 (which is also Palm Sunday). Mark your calendars!!!

Rocky River Youth Schedule:

- March 7: Youth Group 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm
- March 14: Youth Group 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm
- March 17 Wednesday Night Fellowship Hosted by the Youth
- March 21 Youth Group 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm
- March 28 Youth Group at Rocky River Coffee 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm
- April 4: Happy Easter!!



For more information or questions, please contact Kristen!

Keep up to date with youth events on the web: <http://onefaith24.blogspot.com>

You can reach her by email: Kristenesloan@gmail.com or cell phone (440) 223-1036.

TO GIVE UP OR GIVE IN FOR LENT

By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust and to dust you shall return. Genesis 3:19

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent. At Rocky River, we conducted the imposition of ashes and served communion during worship on Ash Wednesday. I think the duality of the ashes and communion is a great representation of the season of Lent.

With the imposition of ashes, we remember our mortality and that God created us out of ashes. This reminds us of our need for penitence. But, with the Sacrament of Communion we celebrate that Jesus gave his life for us. We remember that his body was broken for us and that we have forgiveness and freedom through his sacrifice.

The season of Lent is to reflect on this duality of our lives. We are broken people. Lent is the time to find those things in our life that hinder or limit our faith and find a path that brings us closer to God.

The tradition of giving up something for Lent is very popular in the U.S. The idea of giving up something you love is supposed to give us some sense of sacrifice. Often people will give up soda, candy, sweets, etc. Personally, I'm not a big fan of giving up something for Lent.

Although this isn't always true, I feel that Lent is used as diet motivator or a reason to give up something we already know is bad for us. Then, once Lent is over, we return to our bad habits.

Instead, I am an advocate of "giving in" and starting something new or different during Lent. This is the perfect time to try a new practice or discipline to revitalize your spiritual life. I have decided to wake up twenty minutes earlier every morning and devote that time to God. For me, I struggle with finding time to be still, to be in prayer, to read and reflect. I am hoping this quiet time will challenge me and strengthen my faith.

The time of preparation for Easter has begun. Take some time to seriously look at your life and how you can change your focus to grow closer to God. Maybe you will choose to give something up, or spend more time in prayer or to do yoga! But, the habits we give up or start should become a part of our daily lives, if the practice brings us closer to God. This season gives us the opportunity to transform our lives as we prepare for Easter and the glorious celebration of the Resurrection.

Try something new. Give in or give something up; but either way, lose more of you to gain more of Jesus.

Kristen Sloan





PRESCHOOL NEWS



Our preschool year is breezing by! March, our breezy month, will bring a rustle of activities that are aimed at providing the children with skill builders that are sure to please. Easter will also be included in this month's activities because our last day before spring break is April 1st.

- The first week of March will be Dr. Seuss week. We will have green eggs and ham at lunch the 3rd.
- March 17th is St. Patty's Day. Shawn, the leprechaun, wants us all to celebrate his special day. Although a party is not planned, many fun things are in store for this day.
- Earth Day is in April, but we have the opportunity to have an in-house field trip with Field Trip Factory this month. It is called, "**Bing, let's go green.**" When it arrives, we will be involved with all sorts of fun and educational projects.
- We are out of school Monday, March 29.
- Our Easter Party will be Thursday April 1, at 11:00. Each teacher will be asking for help with this. We are asking each child to bring one dozen plastic eggs filled with candy this day. Please do not use chocolate, because it tends to melt.
- We are out for spring break April 5 - 8.

If you are interested in the "Summer Blast" please register by March 15.

Godly Play Bible Stories and Verses for March

March 1 - Zacchaeus *"Zacchaeus, make haste and come down! For today, I must visit your home."*

March 9 - Bartimaeus

March 15 - The Parable of the Good Shepherd

March 23 - The Mystery of Easter

March 30-31 - Easter - Sad and Happy Day *"And shall deliver him to the Gentiles to mock, and to scourge, and to crucify him: and the third day he shall rise again."*

"Top o' the morning" from preschool.

Ms. Kathy, Director

MARCH 6 DAYTRIP COMING SOON

On Saturday, March 6, a group from our church will take a day-trip to Latta Plantation and the Carolina Raptor Center in northern Mecklenburg County. At Latta Plantation, we can watch blacksmiths working and go through the circa 1800 house with docents to tell us of the family who lived there. At the Raptor Center, we will be going to a special demonstration in the amphitheater showing some of the birds of prey. We will have a chance to walk around the grounds and see several of the birds. We do have enough folks going to qualify for the Group Rates given in the February newsletter. If you haven't already signed up to go on this trip but want to go with us, please call Marie Morrison at 704-455-2487 as soon as possible.

There is a new baby eagle at Carolina Raptor Center. As we prepare to visit the center on March 6th, you might like to check in on the babies at www.carolinaraptorcenter.org, then click on "Eagle Cam." Once on the Eagle Cam site, you can look at slides of the eaglet and its parents, Savannah and Derek.

REMEMBERING OUR MILITARY

Our wounded and recovering soldiers need our prayers and encouragement.

To help, you can send a get-well card and note to:

A Recovering American Solider
c/o Walter Reed Army Medical Center
6900 Georgia Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20307-5001

"A TIME FOR CHILDREN"

- March 7 - Jerry Clark
- March 14 - Alice Williams
- March 21 - Julie Alexander
- March 28 - Krista Eason





Happening This Month!

- March 2 - Presbyterian Women's Morning and Evening Circles
- March 3 - Wednesday Night Fellowship Potluck Dinner
- March 3 - Choir Rehearsal
- March 7 - 3rd Sunday in Lent
- March 7 - 5¢-A-Meal Offering
- March 7 - Youth Group
- March 10 - WNF
- March 10 - Choir Rehearsal
- March 14 - 4th Sunday in Lent
- March 14 - Session Meeting
- March 14 - Youth Group
- March 17 - WNF
- March 17 - Choir Rehearsal
- March 21 - 5th Sunday in Lent
- March 21 - Youth Group
- March 24 - WNF
- March 24 - Choir Rehearsal
- March 28 - Palm Sunday
- March 28 - Youth Group

Easter Morning Service & Breakfast

The Flowered Cross Service will begin at 9:30 in the grove on Easter morning, April 4. Once again we will gather as a congregation for breakfast in the Fellowship Hall following the service. There will be no Sunday School. Morning worship will follow at 11:00. If you want to help with the food or beverages for the meal or to help with serving or cleanup, please contact Ruthann McDonald at 704-786-7667 or ruthann@ctc.net.

Easter Egg Hunt for Children

Children are invited to our annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 3, at 2:00 pm. Bring your Easter basket! Donations of eggs and small candy or treats are welcome ahead of time. Please contact Stephanie Hite, Candice Shepard, Nikki Schneider or Teresa Fisher for more information or to volunteer to help. Journey to the Cross will be open, before and after the Egg Hunt, for ages 4 and up with a parent or caregiver.



BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH

- March 1 - William Howie
- March 1 - Mike Biggers
- March 2 - Bob Brombacher
- March 2 - Kelle Mott
- March 4 - Andy Jenkins
- March 4 - Alisha Williams
- March 4 - Steve Jewett
- March 6 - Marah Newton
- March 8 - Katy Thompson
- March 9 - Jerry Clark
- March 11 - Grace Bechtol
- March 13 - Candice Shepard
- March 14 - Chelsea Campbell
- March 15 - CC Hildreth
- March 15 - Ora Pharr
- March 15 - Benjamin Schneider-Kelderhouse
- March 15 - Justin Linker
- March 17 - Christine Sponsler
- March 17 - Ray Clawson
- March 17 - Kyle Hite
- March 17 - Clint Lovendahl
- March 18 - Audrey Reynolds
- March 18 - Skylar Cole
- March 19 - Leo Drakulic
- March 21 - James Byrd
- March 22 - Shawn Krypel
- March 23 - Jonathan Donnelly
- March 24 - Rebecca Graham
- March 24 - Rebecca Krypel
- March 26 - Yorke Pharr
- March 26 - Melissa Horton
- March 27 - Ruth McCachren
- March 28 - Alison Dulin
- March 28 - Robert McDonald
- March 29 - Kennerly Johnstone
- March 29 - Julie Alexander
- March 29 - Bob Hapeman
- March 30 - Will Baggs
- March 31 - Joseph Eason

Infant Nursery:

- March 7 - Alice Williams & Linda Clark
- March 14 - Shirley Rockel & Candice Shepard
- March 21 - Becky Graham & Gina Graham
- March 28 - Ashley Smith & Ree Abernethy



Toddler Nursery:

- March 7 - Niki Schneider, Megan Burr, Robin & Erin Hancock
- March 14 - Traci Bird, Pam McCachren & Blake Childers
- March 21 - Anne & Frank Emmerich and Kelle Mott
- March 28 - Carly & Lauren Jerome & Kaysea Campbell

BREAD MINISTRY

- March 7 - Priscilla Giuliano
- March 14 - Rebecca Krypel
- March 21 - Carol Lyerly
- March 28 - Harriette Jakiela



Rocky River Presbyterian Church

7940 Rocky River Road
Concord, NC 28025

Phone: 704-455-2479

Fax: 704-455-2489

E-mail: secretary@rockyriver.org

Non Profit Org.
US Postage PAID
Permit No. 31
Harrisburg, NC 28075
RETURN REQUESTED



Please keep in your prayers:

Stacy Bostic (niece of Sheila Hoots)

Louise & Bob Carter

Tom Donnelly Family

Ashley (daughter of Kathy Hoover)

Lucy Linker

Mary Jane McCachren

Ruth McCachren

Janet & Ed Hagler (friend of Brombacher's)

Mick & Lavada Freeman



Allison Murray

Ron Tanner (brother of Sheila Hoots)

Billy McDonald, Sr.

Barbara Howie

Teresa Williams

Joyce Petranick (friend of Jerry Clark)

Dawn Elwood (co-worker of Kim Kachmarik)

Kendale Young

Mary Carol Young

Please call the church office to update your prayer requests.