

Mountain Messenger

March 2018

Newsletter



E A S T E R

A T M C C O N N E L L C H U R C H

*Jesus is not here, for He has risen,
just as He said. Go quickly and tell...*

Matthew 28: 6-7

Pastor's Pen...

Pastor Steve

Dust, Ashes, and an Empty Tomb
March 2018

By the time you get this newsletter, Ash Wednesday will have come and gone and we will be in the midst of the Lenten Season. Where has the time gone? It wasn't until I was in seminary that I learned and understood what the Lenten season is all about. Not having grown up in a liturgical denomination, my family didn't pay much attention to the Christian calendar except for Christmas and Easter. Looking back on it now, I realize there were many things that I missed out on that would have deepened and strengthened my faith.

Historically, Lent was a 40 day period of pre-baptismal preparation for new Christians. It was a season of confession and repentance that was meant to point them to the price Christ paid for our salvation. For them, it was a meaningful time of remembrance but for many of us... not so much.

For many, Lent is just another season where we go through the motions of but have lost touch with the meaning. Lent is more than deciding on what you are going to give up for 40 days in observance of Lent. It should be a season of true repentance and change. At least, that's what God said about it.

"Come back to me and really mean it! Come fasting and weeping, sorry for your sins!" Change your life, not just your clothes. Come back to GOD, your God. And here's why: God is kind and merciful. He takes a deep breath, puts up with a lot, this most patient God, extravagant in love, always ready to cancel catastrophe." Joel 2:12-13 (MSG)

Repentance isn't just a change of mind but also a change of course and direction. Often times, our repentance is nothing more than a changing of the outward actions without redirecting the inward attitudes of the heart. Repentance is all about correcting and redirecting, making necessary adjustments, and then practicing them until they become permanent.

How easy is that? Harder than you think. If your doctor told you that you had to "change or die", do you think you could do it? The reality is that most people don't change even if their life depends on it. Why? True change is harder than we think.

Read About It: Isa. 58:1-5, Psalm 51:10

David knew that he couldn't change without God's help. Neither can we. We need help. So let me ask you something. What really needs to change? Right now, where are you going through the motions in your spiritual life? What are you doing about it?

On a personal note: I have been battling back pain for about 15 months and it's gotten to the point where I need to get something done about it. By the time you get this, I will have already had surgery and will be out for a couple of weeks. I am hoping to return on a limited basis before Easter, so pray for a speedy recovery and for Pastor Danny and Pastor Jeremy. They will be dividing up the preaching and teaching load until I am able to return. I'm counting on them, but I'm also counting on you to encourage them and uplift them in your prayers and with your presence.

ANNIE ARMSTRONG WEEK OF PRAYER

The Annie Armstrong Week of Prayer is annually observed by SBC churches to specifically pray for missionaries on the field, the needs of their ministries and the needs of their families. Prayer is the fuel enabling God to spiritually and emotionally sustain missionaries in places where the gospel is greatly needed, but often opposed.



This year's week of prayer is March 4th through March 11th. MMBC's goal for the 2018 Easter Offering is \$12,000. One hundred percent of gifts to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering are used to support Southern Baptist missionaries serving across the U.S. and Canada.

Ray Nicholson Scholarship

Attention High School Seniors: Applications are now available in the Church Office Monday through Thursday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Fridays 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. for the Ray Nicholson Scholarship. Applicants must be a resident of Towns, Union or Clay Counties and a high school senior. Applications must be submitted to the Church Office no later than Monday, April 9th at 5 p.m.

Grief Support Group

GriefShare begins their weekly meetings Thursdays, March 1st through May 24th, at 10:00 a.m. in room 219 of the FLC. GriefShare is a grief support group which provides help and encouragement after the death of a spouse, child, family member or friend. The group is led by caring people who have experienced grief and have successfully rebuilt their lives. You're welcome to begin attending at any point. Each session is "self-contained", so you don't have to attend in sequence. Contact the Church Office for more information at 706-896-2281 or go to www.griefshare.org.



A Special Thank You....

thank you

to all of you who have generously given warm clothes and coats this winter to the Hope Room Clothes Closet. We are currently out of space and won't be taking any additional donations until Tuesday, April 3rd. At that time we'll be taking clothing donations for spring and summer.

Find us on 

Our services are streamed live on Facebook every Sunday morning at 10:15. am!



Loving God Loving Kids

"Each seed planted in a young child's life will save and enrich many lives for generations to come!"

P.E.A.K. Kids Law Enforcement Appreciation Day was held Wednesday, February 14th. The children made Valentine cards and provided sweet treats for our local law enforcement officers. This was a great opportunity for our children to meet some of the officers, and the officers seemed to appreciate the thoughtful Valentine's and treats!

COMING SOON

The **P.E.A.K. Kids Choir** will perform at the morning service on Sunday, March 4th.

The **Awana Grand Prix & Chili Cookoff** will be held **Sunday, March 18th** at 4:30 p.m. in the FLC. The Awana Grand Prix is a Pinewood-Derby style racing event. This fun and exciting event is about more than building a race car, it helps to build a bond between kids and their parents as they work together to build the best car ever! It's not only about winning the race, but winning moms, dads and kids to Christ. All are invited to bring your fastest car and best chili! Special races for adults. For more information contact David Keating at 706-897-0378.



Wednesday, March 21st - Paint & Praise fun. The kids will enjoy sharing their artistic gifts while singing along to praise music and playing musical games.

SAVE THE DATE: Vacation Bible School will be held this year Monday, June 25th through Thursday, June 28th from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, so be sure to mark your calendars! If you'd like to sign up to volunteer, please give Betty Jones, Children's Minister, a call at the church office at 706-896-2281.

**Miss Betty
Children's Minister**



PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION

Preschool registration for the 2018/2019 school year for McConnell Church members and current enrollees will begin on Monday, March 5th. Registration will be open to the public beginning Monday, March 19th. For more information contact Emily Winn, Director at 706-896-2281.

EASTER LILIES

Easter Lilies for the Church can be ordered in memory of, or in honor of a loved one for \$6.50 each. Order forms will be available at the Welcome Desk Sundays, March 4th through March 18th, or weekdays in the Church Office. The lilies will be used to decorate the Worship Center during Easter and can be picked up on Easter Day following the morning service.



NEW COMERS CLASS

The First Steps New Comers Class will meet on Wednesday, March 21st, at 6:00 p.m. in Room #219 of the Family Life Center. Please call the Church Office at 706-896-2281, if you have questions or would like to attend.

MCCONNELL LANDSCAPE WORKDAY

It's time to tidy up our landscape! Please join us on Saturday, March 24th, from 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon. Bring your yard tools and help beautify our grounds for spring!



ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

McConnell's English as a Second Language, (ESL), ministry teaches English to people from other countries as well as provides child care for their children during that time. This ministry meets on Thursday nights from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. We're in need of substitute teachers and childcare workers. If you would be interested in helping, please call Mary Dolvin at 828-389-9451.

SPECIAL PERFORMANCE BY 3:16

Truett McConnell University's auditioned sacred contemporary ensemble, **3:16**, will lead worship on Sunday, March 18th during the morning service. The ensemble is directed by Dennis Allen, who's been in the Christian music ministry for over thirty years and is a 3-time winner of the GMA Dove Award. McConnell's own Emily Blair has been traveling with the group while studying at Truett. We are blessed to have them worship with us!

EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE

A community sunrise service will be held at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds, Upper Pavilion at 7:00 a.m. Easter Sunday, April 1st.



Servants in Ministry

SUNDAY SERVANTS - 3.4.18

INFANTS & 2 YR OLDS, 3 & 4 YR OLDS

L. Corn, G. Chambers, M. Mauldin

GREETERS – Team # 7 **SECURITY** - G. Wright

FIRST TOUCH - B. & J. Crowder

WELCOME DESK - N. Youngblood & Montana Stickeler

WELCOME CARTS - Capt. - C. Nicholson

S. Reaves, J. Barco, D. Shively

SUNDAY SERVANTS - 3.11.18

INFANTS & 2 YR OLDS, 3 & 4 YR OLDS

C. Therrel, M. Thomson, S. Nichols

GREETERS – Team # 7 **SECURITY** – G. Wright

FIRST TOUCH - M. & L. Avery

WELCOME DESK - R. & C. Larson

WELCOME CARTS – Capt. - D. Wilson

J.C. Berrong, R. Moody, D. Phillips

SUNDAY SERVANTS - 3.18.18

INFANTS & 2 YR OLDS, 3 & 4 YR OLDS

K. Clark, V. Turner, C. Clark

GREETERS – Team # 7 **SECURITY** – G. Wright

FIRST TOUCH - D. & M. Meeks

WELCOME DESK - J. Benson & L. Thomas

WELCOME CARTS - Capt. - J. Townsend

F. Witkowski, H. Goddard, K. Joyner

SUNDAY SERVANTS - 3.25.18

INFANTS & 2 YR OLDS, 3 & 4 YR OLDS

S. Adams, M. Nicholson, F. Ayers

GREETERS – Team # 7 **SECURITY** – G. Wright

FIRST TOUCH - M. & M. Hedden

WELCOME DESK - R. & S. Moody

WELCOME CARTS - Capt. - R. Parkman

R. Wark, G. Wright, C. Houser

March Ushers

Balcony usher: B. Cone

Morning service: J. Hedden - Head Usher

D. Gardner, H. Harper, S. Ledford,

T. Shook, A. Saylor, R. Shattles, J. Wagoner

Evening service: Ray Wine - Head Usher

our deepest sympathy to

The family of Dorothy Maul.

The family of John Schindelar.

Garry Denton, at the death of his brother-in-law, Phil Nichols.

Brenda Lindeland, at the death of her brother, Ricky Thompson.

Easter Schedule

Friday, March 30th

Good Friday

Church Office Closed

Easter Sunday,

Current Resident or

Helping People Find and Follow Jesus

Hiwassee, GA 30546

84 Church Street



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Hiwassee, GA

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