

# Lent: A Journey into Devotion and Discipline by

David M. Chism

Ok, so... *Lent*. First off, let's define the thing. In *Calendar: Christ's Time for the Church*, Laurence Stookey considers Lent to be Forty days (technically forty-six days) set apart for "devotion and discipline."

Some churches choose to have a heavy emphasis of devotion and discipline year round. In such churches almost every sermon has a challenge to

pray "harder," to work more, to read more, and to celebrate less. In essence, every week becomes *Lenten* in nature. If the truth be told, the results of this sustained emphasis are usually mixed. In such environments, you typically have three camps of folks: (1) a tired and worn group of faithful disciples, (2) a group of people who *pretend* to be fully devoted and disciplined, and (3) a group who simply give up

the battle.

I applaud the first group and wish God's blessing and stamina for them. I tend to get annoyed at the second group, and I sincerely pity the third group.

There is a sad reality to be considered. Perhaps we, as fallen humanity, are just not capable of being Lenten people all year long. After all, even the Lord Jesus limited His

**Lent** continued on p. 2

Youth Trip  
to  
Winter Jam  
Sunday, March 6

Ash Wednesday  
Tracy Sugg, sculptor  
March 9  
6pm

Brunch at  
Riverbend  
Country Club  
March 27

Children's  
Activities  
See p. 3

## Songwriter's Testimony by Mike Post

Dear Church Family,  
I appreciate the interest many of you have taken in my song that has recently been nominated for a Dove Award.

The song is "You Deliver Me" and it is the title track on Selah's latest CD

on Curb Records. It was a #1 for two weeks on the Billboard Inspirational singles chart, and it was nominated for Inspirational Song of the year for the Dove Awards. The awards are on April 20, and I believe they are supposed to be aired on April

24.

The song is actually about 12 years old and was originally recorded by Clay Walker. I co-wrote it with two great friends that I have written many songs with. Because I no longer write songs professionally

**Song** continued on p. 4

### Financial Snapshot (2/6—2/20)

General Budget needed per month	\$27,850.47
General Budget received in February	\$14,830.36
Building Payment per month	\$5,427.19
Building Accounts received in February	\$3,435.00



## Lent continued from front

wilderness expedition to forty days. Perhaps it is best to set aside a *season* for focus on devotion, discipline, and even fasting. Lent gives us the opportunity to do just that.

With that said, I must insert a couple of disclaimers. First, I do not endorse the *Fat Tuesday mentality* that the non-Lenten majority of the church calendar is time set aside for sin and excess. Second, I do not criticize those in the first group,

who I mentioned were “weary and worn” from their faithful Christian service—for Christian ministry is often difficult and demanding.

The bottom line is in the affirmative: designating Lent as a season of focused devotion can make the Christian walk feel more natural throughout the rest of the year. We follow the wisdom of Solomon when we set aside a certain time for the activities under heaven. In doing this, all three of our

groups mentioned earlier are given an opportunity for improved worship. The forty-day Lent provides rest for the weary servants, authenticity for the charlatans, and perhaps restoration for those who have given up.

Lenten blessings!

David

Make plans to attend our fully vested Ash Wednesday Service March 9 at 6pm.



## Prayer Concerns of the Church

### Nursing Homes or Assisted Living

Mary Arnold  
Cecil Cleek  
*Glen Oaks Assisted Living*

Mildred Bobo  
*Christian Care Center*

Milbrey Eakin  
Melba Henry  
*Carriage House Inn*  
Opal Summerall  
*Donaldson Place*

### At Home

Joyce Boggs  
Mitzi Crick

Billy Gunter  
Normanda Huffman  
Mike Jorgenson  
Miles McCullough  
Annette Palmer  
Amy Philpott  
Bill & Naomi Thompson  
Ted York

## Anonymous Gift Breathes Life into Youth Band Project

by Kathy Reed

What is that noise, you ask? Well, I'll tell you! We are proud to announce that First Christian Church now has a youth band thanks to a generous anonymous donation. The youth say thank you from the bottom of their hearts. This is a desire the youth have had for a long time!!

With the help of Ashley Reed and Chris Marasco six youth have begun practicing weekly. Fire Proof (the band's name) is in the

learning stage, but you can expect to hear from them soon. It is amazing how quickly they are learning and wonderful they sound!

Fire Proof still needs a few items to get started. If you are interested in helping, please contact any youth leader. We still need:

- 4 or 5 music stands
- 2 guitar stands
- 3 mike stands
- Power strips

## Ash Wednesday on Madison and March Schedule

*Wednesday on Madison* classes will continue as scheduled on March 2, 16, 23 and 30. **March 9** will be a truly special Wednesday on Madison, as the church will revisit the tradition of **Ash Wednesday**, marking the beginning of the season of Lent. This will be a truly worshipful experience for all ages. Professional sculptor Tracy Sugg will join us that night. By the gift of her hands she will lead us in an artistic worship experience. As we enter into a season of corporate penance, we will consider human mortality and Christ as the second Adam. Deep topics? You bet. All are welcomed, and nursery will be provided for children up to four years of age.



### Worship & Wonder Schedule

(ages 3 years - 5th grade)

March 6

Children remain in corporate worship



March 13

Mystery of Easter

March 20

Jesus and the Storm  
Mark 4:35-41

March 27

Rich Young Ruler  
Matthew 19:16-22,  
Mark 10:17-22,  
Luke 18:18-27

Children will meet each week of Lent.

Lent is a season when we prepare for Easter...we are all on

## Children's Ministry

the way to Jerusalem, and Jesus shows us the way. The stories reflect this as we all prepare for the Mystery of Easter.

### Who's Cooking?

#### Mystery Dinner for Parents

Friday, March 11  
(RSVP by March 9)  
5:30-8:30pm  
Where: Kitchen

All children in 1st through 5th grades (and their friends) are encouraged to participate in cooking, eating and fellowship. Parents are encouraged to have the children at church by 5:30 but then parents return at 6:30 for the Mystery Dinner.

Please RSVP:

615-542-4094

[maryjanefcc@bellsouth.net](mailto:maryjanefcc@bellsouth.net)

sign up at Communication Table.

\$2 donation is encouraged



### 4th/5th Graders

#### Pizza, Pepsi & Play

Friday, March 18  
(RSVP BY March 16)  
6:00-8:30pm



Benji and Amy Philpott will join us for our time together as we share a meal, have a devotion time and playing together.

This will be a special night of laughter and enjoying being together.

Bring money for pizza.

Friends are invited!

### Vacation Bible School

June 13-17

Mark Your Calendars



## Spring Women's Retreat, March 18-20

Reservations are still available for the FCC Women's Retreat at the Sisters of Mercy retreat center in Nashville. The cost is \$110 per woman, plus activity money. Please RSVP with JoAnn Smith or Tamra Smith. A sign-up sheet is in the narthex.

Study sessions will focus on Patsy Clairmont's *Kaleidoscope: Seeing God's Wit and Wisdom in a Whole New Light* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2009).

## In the Life of the Church

### Pastor Search Team Update by Amy Mitchell

The Search Committee is in prayerful and full pursuit of an interim pastor. Once this person is in place, then we will begin the search for a senior pastor. As résumés are coming in for both positions, we are looking for God-centered, Spirit-filled, qualified applicants.

What is needed most from the congregation is prayer, prayer and more prayer. Some people have asked if they may come to the church when the committee meets and pray while we're in session. SURE. We meet on Mondays at 6:30 unless otherwise noted. Please know that we feel certain the Lord is planting a seed in the right person's heart who will eagerly want to be a part of our church.

### Disciples' Women's Ministry Report by Janelle Douglass

Our February regular meeting, facilitated by Sitter Solutions, was enjoyed by all in attendance. We thank Joyce Bell and Rhoda Gunter for covering for Janelle while she was away. We also thank Janie Burke and all her helpers from Circle III for providing the great stew lunch.

The next meeting will be March 8 at 9:30am with Helping Hands to facilitate. Lunch will be served at 11:30 followed with a program by the Society of St. Andrews. (This is the program that had to be cancelled in January due to weather.) We hope to see all the able-bodied women of the church in attendance. Working people are welcome to come during their lunch break and may leave whenever necessary.

### Song continued from front

and have been a full-time realtor for the last 5 years, it's an even bigger thrill to have a song nominated.

“You Deliver Me”

Deep as the ocean and right as rain  
This powerful emotion lifts me up above the  
plain  
It's taken me to places I never thought I'd go  
And showing me a grace I never thought I'd  
know

WHEN I FEEL LIKE I CAN'T GO ON

YOU DELIVER ME

AND WHEN THE ROAD IS WINDING AND  
WAY TOO LONG

YOU DELIVER ME

YOU DELIVER ME

I feel like a sinner whose sins have been washed clean  
An absolute beginner whose heart has never seen  
I must be forgiven for sometimes asking why  
I was chosen to be given you in this life

REPEAT CHORUS

When there's a distance  
Between what I am and who I wanna be  
You deliver me

REPEAT CHORUS

## Memorials

### GEORGE DYE

Rose Marie Clark

### EDWARD C. HUFFMANN, SR.

Roy & Janie Bartlette

Alton & Ruth Cartwright

Evelyn Coffey

Chick and DeeDee Davis

Rose Drennan

Anita, Donnye & Bonnye Fields

Billy & Rhoda Gunter

Dr. & Mrs. Mack Hamilton, DDS

Carey Hinds

Bill & Diane Hunt

Mr. & Mrs. Virgil Johnson



Marvin & Cheryl McBee

Charles & Karen Sue McDonald

Virginia Parrish

Stephen & Elain Philpott

John & Doris Seals

Pat Thomas

Roy & Lisa Turner

### SARAH LEWIS

Bill & Naomi Thompson

### MARTHA VANNATTA

Stephen & Elaine Philpott

## Nursery Schedule

March 6 Heather and Burke Conditt

March 13 Kathy Harwell

March 20 Amy Mitchell

March 27 Janie Burke

Thank you for serving in this vital ministry.



## March Birthdays

1	Janice Warren	8	Rhoda Gunter	22	Mary Jane
3	David Caldwell	9	Brian Perry		Sinquefield
	Stephen Philpott	11	Missy Eakin	23	Bryan Price
	Lita York	12	Ellen Taylor	26	Danny Whitefield
5	Jonathan Price	13	Brady O'Neal	28	Allyson Jorgenson
	Philip Womble	15	John Carlton	31	Brenda Bobo
7	Kateland Ellis		Landon O'Neal		Braxton McGill
	Kathy Harwell	19	Roger Sinquefield		

## March Elders

Frank Douglass  
Susan Derryberry

## March Deacons

George Dennis  
Roy Bartlett  
Larry Morton



# March 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Circle IV Fellowship "Helping Hands" 6pm	2 ☩	3	4 Church Women United - "World Day of Prayer" at Shiloh U.M.C. 1:30pm.	5
6 "May Fellowship Day" at First Meth- odist - 1:30pm Youth trip to Winter Jam*	7 6:30pm Pray for Pastor Search Team	8 Disciples' Wom- en's Ministry - 9:30am "Helping Hands" See p. 4	9 Ash Wednesday 6pm Tracy Sugg	10	11 Who's Cooking? 5:30pm See p. 3	12
13 Men's B'fast 7:30 Fire Proof practice 4pm Youth - 5:30pm	14 6:30pm Pray for Pastor Search Team	15 Circle I - 2pm Circle III - 6:45pm	16 ☩	17	18 ** Pizza, Pepsi, & Play (4th/5th grade) 6:00pm	19 **
20 ** Elders mtg. 8am Fire Proof - 4pm Youth - 5:30pm	21 6:30pm Pray for Pastor Search Team	22	23 ☩	24	25	26
27 Brunch at Riverbend Country Club Youth Will Not Meet	28 6:30pm Pray for Pastor Search Team	29	30 ☩	31		

\* Sunday, March 6 our youth will team up with FBC Youth group to attend Winter Jam at Bridgestone Arena. \$10 + food money. Ear plugs optional!

\*\* Spring Women's Retreat  
March 18-20 (See p. 3)

☩ Wednesday Schedule  
5:30pm Fellowship Meal  
6:00-7:15pm Classes  
7:15pm Sanctuary Choir