



The Williams Bell

Williams Memorial Presbyterian Church
4700 Beatties Ford Road
Charlotte, NC 28216-2845

Vol. 57

March/April 2019

No. 3/4

Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. This year it begins Wednesday, March 6 with Ash Wednesday and ends Saturday, April 20. Congregants from Roman Catholic churches and many Protestants can be seen wearing ash crosses upon their foreheads. The ashes were prepared by burning palm branches from the previous Palm Sunday. Lent comes from the Anglo-Saxon word *lencten*, which means "spring". The forty days represents the time Jesus spent in the wilderness, enduring the temptation of Satan and preparing to begin his ministry.

Lent is a time of repentance, fasting and preparation for the coming of Easter. It is a time of self-examination and reflection. In the early church, Lent was a time to prepare new converts for baptism. Today, Christians focus on their relationship with God, often abstaining from a certain food or activity, and, more importantly, to volunteer and give of themselves for others.

Sundays in Lent are not counted in the forty days because each Sunday represents a "mini-Easter" and the reverent spirit of Lent is tempered with joyful anticipation of the Resurrection.

Lent provides the opportunity to take a moment to reevaluate our relationship with God and our relationship with others. The truth is God is always there, but sometimes we are far from God. Sometimes we only address God when we want something for ourselves. There is nothing wrong with seeking God in our need, but shouldn't we also seek God when things are going well? Or shouldn't we just seek God, period.

The season of Lent reminds us that the Christian walk includes a time of personal devotion, commitment from a community, and love from above. At some point in our life we need to decide if following an obscure itinerant preacher from two thousand years ago is a wise thing to do. And if it is, then are we willing to pay the cost in time and effort. It is a personal promise that will extract the deepest commitment from us. Discipleship can be costly, but it is always worth it.

Such personal devotion is not something we can achieve on our own. We will need an emotional support base which will stand by us when the world around us seems to be dragging us down. We will need encouragement during our darkest hours. We will need to be inspired to hope when people around us are giving up. We will need a community that will stand with us through thick and thin. The living saints of Williams Memorial Presbyterian Church are such a community.

This Christian walk will not be left to our own devotional devices. Nor can we only rely on the people around us, as good as they are, to help us keep walking through the tough times. God sent his Son for our redemption because He loves us. This love will surround us, envelop us, and carry

us through the toughest times. I hope and pray that you will experience this love and know that God wants the best for you. God has promised us peace and joy.

Rev John-Nelson Pope

Fun and Fellowship

March meeting—Meet for lunch at Sports Page on Tuesday March 12th at 11:30

April Meeting – Meet at Chic-Fil-A outside NorthLake Mall at 11:30 on April 9th

March Birthdays

13 th	Luke Jordan	26 th	Nathaniel Jones, Jr.
14 th	Don Fisher, Amy Morgan	27 th	Betty Brown
17 th	Merlin Fidler.	30 th	Marilyn Earnhardt
21 st	Bill Hassell		

April Birthdays

8 th	– Fran Ambrovich	18 th	– Wayne Dunn
9 th	– Megan Murray	19 th	– Ty Leatherwood

Memorials Received:

In Memory of Ruth Reynolds, Wilbur & Doris Goodwin given by Billie McConnell

In Memory of Sarah Puckett given by Fleta Windell

In Memory of Eddie Stroupe, Bill McConnell, Moffett Honeycutt given by Laura Stroupe

In Memory of Robert & Bett Eatman given by Robert & Janice Bearden

Williams Bell Deadlines Our goal is to make the Bell available on the last Sunday of the month. In order to make that deadline please provide May/June Bell submissions by April 21.

Join us for Pancake Breakfast during the Sunday School Hour – March 3rd

In the event of an emergency or a phone tree request please contact Pastor John, Cell 941.704.0561 or john-nelson.pope@montreat.edu

60 Annual Trinity UMC BBQ, Thursday, March 7 – 11am Until Cost: \$10- per plate or 3 sandwiches \$10 per pound

The Williams Bell

Williams Memorial Presbyterian Church
4700 Beatties Ford Road
Charlotte, NC 28216-2845



March/April 2019

Phone 704 392-8816

E-mail wmpcsecretary1885@yahoo.com

Sunday Schedule

10:00 am Sunday School

11:00 am Worship Service

Church Staff

John-Nelson Pope – Pastor

Billie McConnell – Music Director

Ted Auten – Custodian

~~~~~

*Amy Auten – Editor Secretary*

*Wendy Leatherwood – Financial Secretary*