

LENT

**Virginia Avenue
United Methodist Church**

**Reverend Terry Goodman, Pastor
1901 Virginia Avenue
Bluefield, Virginia 24605
Phone: (276) 326-3700**

Email: pastor@virginiaaveumc.com

Visit us Online at : <http://www.virginiaaveumc.com>

First Sunday During Lent
February 25, 2007

Prelude

Lighting of the Altar Candles

Processional: "What Wondrous Love is This" All

♪ *What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul, what wondrous love is this, O my soul! What Wondrous love is that that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul, to bear the dreadful curse for my soul.* ♪

Call to Worship

Pastor: Welcome, travelers, to the journey of faith.

People: the faith journey is the best route through the land called life.

Pastor: Then come and continue the quest, acting out your faith by living life to the fullest.

People: We will let our spirits soar like eagles;

Pastor: Taking a deep breath we will stretch ourselves to the limit the fully inflated balloons , colorful, hopeful, ready to sail and to soar,

People: and to drink in the world's color, absorbing its light and texture, inhaling its fragrance, dancing to its music.

Pastor: This is the way we worship God.

* Opening Hymn: "Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days" No. 269

Extending the Hand of Fellowship, Welcome and Announcements

Prayer of Confession: *(in unison)*

Merciful God, what a gentle and healing balm it is to come to you with our secret thoughts, our sad discouragements, and our noblest dreams, and find you here to listen, to forgive, and to renew us! We confess our reluctance to understand your will and our hesitancy to act upon it. We are quick to blame others and slow to accept responsibility for our selves. We wish for signs of your power even while we take for granted the beauty and love with which you have surrounded us. We desire some guarantee of your favor and, at the same time, shudder to think about the suffering of the cross and what it portends for us and for our world. Submerge us in your Spirit and grant us faith to perceive good arising from evil and to sense your immediate presence within the solitude of endless space. Amen.

A Minute of Silent Prayer

Words of Assurance

Pastor: Hear the Good News! Though our sins are punishable, God forgives us as we confess our sins. Friends, believe the Good News.

All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Morning Prayer

Pastor

The Lord's Prayer *(as found at No. 895)*

Offering

* Doxology: "Praise God, from Whom all Blessings Flow" No. 95

* Offertory Hymn: "God Will Take Care of Your" No. 130

Children's Message Rev. Goodman

Choral Praise: Choir

Scripture:

Sermon: "" Rev. Goodman

The Celebration of Holy Communion

(Please turn in your hymnal and join in the ritual as it begins on page 12. We will serve the elements via intinction. To receive the elements, you will exit the pew next to the wall and go to the front of the church. As you near the front, you may either get a small cup of juice from the tray and then get a piece of bread or you may get a piece of bread and then dip it in the common cup. You may kneel at the altar for a time of silent prayer, or return to your seat via the center aisle and be in a meditative mood.)

* Closing Hymn: "Bread of the World" No. 624

* Pastoral Benediction

* Indicates that you may stand, as you are able.

TODAY'S HOSTS

Pastor: Rev. Terry Goodman

Pianist: Debbie Dixon

Ushers: David Parris, Beverly Blalock
Jody Patton, David Alvis

Greeters: Norma Davis

Hospitality: Mary Ann Blankenship

Nursery: Sherry Cook

Children's Church: Fred & Sherry Cook

CALENDAR

Today:

9:45 a.m. Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Worship & Children's Church

Wednesday:

6:00 p.m. Youth & Children's Classes

7:00 p.m. Choir

Friday:

7:00 a.m. United Methodist Men's Breakfast

February Birthdays

26 Clyde Bowling

27 Keith Buchanan

28 Suzanne Buchanan

Karen Harlow

Psalm 91:1-2

Psalm 91

1 He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.

2 I will say of the LORD, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust."

9 If you make the Most High your dwelling—even the LORD, who is my refuge—

10 then no harm will befall you, no disaster will come near your tent.

11 For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways;

12 they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.

13 You will tread upon the lion and the cobra; you will trample the great lion and the serpent.

14 "Because he loves me," says the LORD, "I will rescue him; I will protect him, for he acknowledges my name.

15 He will call upon me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble, I will deliver him and honor him.

16 With long life will I satisfy him and show him my salvation."

Deuteronomy 26: 1-11

1 When you have entered the land the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance and have taken possession of it and settled in it, 2 take some of the firstfruits of all that you produce from the soil of the land the LORD your God is giving you and put them in a basket. Then go to the place the LORD your God will choose as a dwelling for his Name 3 and say to the priest in office at the time, "I declare today to the LORD your God that I have come to the land the LORD swore to our forefathers to give us." 4 The priest shall take the basket from your hands and set it down in front of the altar of the LORD your God. 5 Then you shall declare before the LORD your God: "My father was a wandering Aramean, and he went down into Egypt with a few people and lived there and became a great nation, powerful and numerous. 6 But the Egyptians mistreated us and made us suffer, putting us to hard labor. 7 Then we cried out to the LORD, the God of our fathers, and the LORD heard our voice and saw our misery, toil and oppression. 8 So the LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with great terror and with miraculous signs and wonders. 9 He brought us to this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey; 10 and now I bring the first fruits of the soil that you, O LORD, have given me." Place the basket before the LORD your God and bow down before him. 11 And you and the Levites and the aliens among you shall rejoice in all the good things the LORD your God has given to you and your household.

Romans 10:8b-13

8But what does it say? "The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart,"^[a] that is, the word of faith we are proclaiming: 9That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. 11As the Scripture says, "Anyone who trusts in him will never be put to shame."^[b] 12For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, 13for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

Luke 4

The Temptation of Jesus

1Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the desert, 2where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing during those days, and at the end of them he was hungry.

3The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread."

4Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone.'^[a]"

5The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. 6And he said to him, "I will give you all their authority and splendor, for it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to. 7So if you worship me, it will all be yours."

8Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.'^[b]"

9The devil led him to Jerusalem and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down from here. 10For it is written:

" He will command his angels concerning you to guard you carefully;

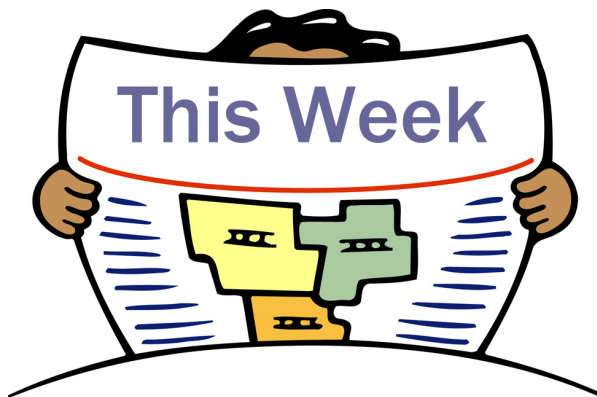
11they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.'^[c]"

12Jesus answered, "It says: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'^[d]"

13When the devil had finished all this tempting, he left him until an opportune time.

A Word of Thanks from D. J. Johnson

Joe and Jewel would like to thank everyone for the cards, prayers, calls and other expression of kindness that have been shown during Joe's recent illness.



A Word of Thanks

Last week, before his death, Layne French had sent a card of thanks to all of his friends here at the church. It has been posted on the bulletin board in the narthex for your viewing.

On the Avenue

Children, Youth, and Nursery Workers

We need all persons who have completed the Safe Sanctuaries workshop to please fill out their paperwork and turn it in to the church office. We can not make a schedule for Children's Church or the Nursery until we have enough people who have turned in the necessary forms to place on a rotation. Until we can make a schedule we will be unable to have Children's Church.

Come to the United Methodist Men's Breakfast

Weather permitting, the United Methodist Men will hold their monthly breakfast this coming Friday at 7:00 a.m. in the church fellowship hall. All men of the church are invited to attend this special meal.

Please Read Pastor's Reflections on Lent

Everyone, for whom the pastor has an email address, has been given an invitation to join with him in a daily reading/reflection during the season of Lent. The readings began on Ash Wednesday and there will be a reading for each day during the season of Lent. If you do not have access to the internet, then you may pick up a printed copy. Please note that there will be a new copy each Sunday for six weeks.

47th Annual Lenten Luncheons

First Presbyterian Church
Downtown Bluefield
11:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m.
Wednesdays February 21, 28
March 7, 14, 21, 28
Cost \$7.00



Jeff Johnson—new email address:

ignitionads@cox.net

Natalie Laccasode—correct phone #

304-952-6205

Bill Haver—correct phone #

276-970-5780

Adorning The Chancel Area During Lent

Each Sunday during Lent, as we are approaching the cross we are going to have a different setting. Each week the chancel area will reflect some of the scriptures associated with a different day during Holy Week. This week, the area reflects symbols of Jesus as he is in the Temple driving out the moneychangers. If you pay close attention, you can see turtle doves in crates, on one side of the cross, and on the other side scattered temple money, with a rope whip. (Matthew 21:12) This day is often referred to as the Day of Authority. A special thanks goes to Joyce Buchanan for her settings today and the other Sundays of the Lenten season.

Join us next Sunday for our monthly fellowship meal following the worship service. Bring along a favorite food to share with others.

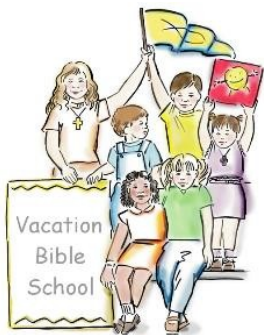


March

Luncheon



Martha Alvis
Sue Barbery
Christopher Bowen
Bessie Brewer
James Brown
Martha Jane Chudina
Jerry Connelly
Randy Davis
The French Family
Shirley Helmondollar
Vernon & Hop Hopkins
Ronnie Houchins
Joe Johnson
Nancy Lester
Juanita Maiuri
Norma Morgan
Eddie Perdue
Janet Riffe
Sydney Shepherd
Lloyd Walker
George Walker
Carlene Workman
Unspoken Requests



It's not too early to begin thinking about how you can be involved in Vacation Bible School. We are just now beginning to form the leadership team, if you can assist either through teaching, or some other manner, please let us know in the church office.

Let us pray
that this Lent will help us reproduce in our lives
the self-sacrificing love of Christ.

Father,
through our observance of Lent,
help us to understand the meaning
of your Son's death and resurrection,
and teach us to reflect it in our lives.
Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.



Prayer for Lent