

# LENT

**Virginia Avenue  
United Methodist Church**

**Reverend Terry Goodman, Pastor  
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**Visit us Online at : <http://www.virginiaaveumc.com>**

Second Sunday During Lent  
March 18, 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: O magnify the Lord with me; let us exalt God's name together!

**People: For when we judge ourselves unworthy to be called the children of God, the Lord looks upon us with compassion, and runs to embrace us while we are still far away.**

Pastor: O magnify the Lord with me; let us exalt God's name together!

**People: Fro when we judge our neighbors unworthy to be called the children of God, the Lord looks upon them and weeps for joy, and makes a great feast while we stand at a distance.**

Pastor: O magnify the Lord with me; let us exalt God's name together!

**ALL: For the humble shall be received with honor, and the haughty shall be humbled; every prodigal shall return with hope, and every elder shall rejoice with gladness!**

\*Opening Hymn: "Alas, and Did My Savior Bleed"

No. 359

Extending the Hand of Fellowship, Welcome and Announcements

**Prayer of Confession:** *(in unison)*

**Reconciling God, compassionate Christ, we realize that we have often resembled enemy agents more than ministers of reconciliation. With angry words and vindictive actions we have harmed our brothers and sisters. We have dehumanized those we do not wish to understand. We distance ourselves from those who disappoint us or remind us of our own human frailty. Forgive us, O God; lift us to a higher, holier purpose. Help us to draw close to each other as you drew to us in Christ. Help us to regard persons no longer from a human point of view but from the vantage point of the cross where all hostility was conquered, all forgiveness assured. Amen**

A Minute of Silent Prayer

**Words of Assurance**

Know that God always goes with us. Know that God is always there to lead us, guide us, forgive us, comfort us, and encourage us. Know that God is always near to us, now and forever.

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: "What Wondrous Love is This" No. 292

Children's Message

Rev. Goodman

Choral Praise:

Choir

Scripture:

Sermon:

Rev. Goodman

\* Closing Hymn: "Softly & Tenderly Jesus is Calling" No. 348

\* Pastoral Benediction

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

**TODAY'S HOSTS**

**Pastor:** Rev. Terry Goodman

**Pianist:** Debbie Dixon

**Ushers:** Bill Haver, Jeter Workman  
Joe T. Johnson, Tom Carter

**Greeters:**

**Hospitality:**

**Nursery:**

**Children's Church: Class will not meet today.**

**CALENDAR**

**Today:**

9:45 a.m. Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Worship

**Monday:**

7:00 p.m. Council on Ministries

**Wednesday:**

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

7:00 p.m. Choir

**Birthdays**

18 Charlotte Nuckols

Darrow Harman

20 Nancy Patton

David Alvis

21 Judith Smith

Jonathan Angove

24 Shelby Ward

**Anniversaries**

### Psalm 32

1 Blessed is he whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.  
2 Blessed is the man whose sin the LORD does not count against him and in whose spirit is no deceit.  
3 When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long.  
4 For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was sapped as in the heat of summer. Selah  
5 Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD"—and you forgave the guilt of my sin. Selah  
6 Therefore let everyone who is godly pray to you while you may be found; surely when the mighty waters rise, they will not reach him.  
7 You are my hiding place; you will protect me from trouble and surround me with songs of deliverance. Selah  
8 I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you and watch over you.  
9 Do not be like the horse or the mule, which have no understanding but must be controlled by bit and bridle or they will not come to you.  
10 Many are the woes of the wicked, but the LORD's unfailing love surrounds the man who trusts in him.  
11 Rejoice in the LORD and be glad, you righteous; sing, all you who are upright in

### Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

1 Now the tax collectors and "sinners" were all gathering around to hear him. 2 But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them." 3 Then Jesus told them this parable:  
11 Jesus continued: "There was a man who had two sons. 12 The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them. 13 Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. 14 After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. 15 So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. 16 He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything. 17 When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired men have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! 18 I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. 19 I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired men.' 20 So he got up and went to his father. 21 But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him. 22 The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'<sup>[a]</sup> 23 But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. 24 Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. 25 For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate. 26 Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. 27 So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. 28 'Your brother has come,' he replied, 'and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.' 29 The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. 30 But he answered his father, 'Look! All these years I've been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. 31 But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!' 32 'My son,' the father said, 'you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. 33 But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' "

### 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

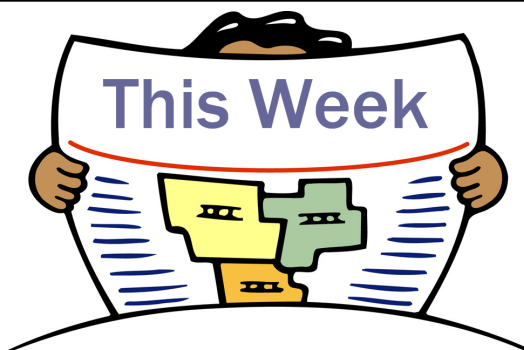
16 So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. 17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! 18 All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: 19 that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. 20 We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. 21 God made him who had no sin to be sin<sup>[a]</sup> for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

### Joshua 5:9-12

9 Then the LORD said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away the reproach of Egypt from you." So the place has been called Gilgal<sup>[a]</sup> to this day.  
10 On the evening of the fourteenth day of the month, while camped at Gilgal on the plains of Jericho, the Israelites celebrated the Passover. 11 The day after the Passover, that very day, they ate some of the produce of the land: unleavened bread and roasted grain. 12 The manna stopped the day after<sup>[b]</sup> they ate this food from the land; there was no longer any manna for the Israelites,

## Easter Memorial Bulletin

We will be printing a Easter Memorial Bulletin again this year. You may submit names to be honored or memorialized. For a donation of \$5.00 we will include as many names as you wish to submit. Please fill in the insert in today's bulletin and place it in the offering plate. All donations will be applied toward paying our Fair Share Apportionment.



## On the Avenue

### Offering Being Taken for Easter Egg Hunt

If you would like to donate funds so that we can purchase plastic Easter eggs and treats, then please do so in the next few weeks. We will need to purchase the materials and get the eggs filled with treats so that we can have everything ready for the egg hunt by April 7th. Please be sure to mark your offering so that we know it is for the Easter Egg Hunt. All donations need to be in by Sunday, April 1st.

### Upcoming Meetings to Note

- The Council on Ministries will meet tomorrow night April 19th at 7:00 p.m. All members of the Council are asked to attend.

### Congratulations are in Order!

Dr. Susan (Kirby) Robinett, Concord University Associate Professor of Business, has been awarded the prestigious honor of the West Virginia Business Education Collegiate Teacher of the Year for 2007. Susan is the daughter of Tom & Dona Kirby.



#### New Address:

Deana & Michael Hicks  
1000 West Cumberland  
Bluefield, WV 24701

#### Birthday & Anniversary

Peggy & Preston Horton

Peggy—8/2

Preston —1/22

Anniversary— 6/1



### Baby Bottle Boomerang

It is time to return the bottles you have been filling with change for the Abel Center. Please bring them in by next Sunday, March 25, and leave them in the church office on the counter. Thank you for helping area



Rev. Goodman invites you to reflect on the Gospel of John with him during the season of Lent. If you have internet access, you are encouraged to read the reflections online at <http://revtdg.wordpress.com>. If you don't have internet access, then copies will be made available for each week of Lent. Make sure to get a new copy each week.



## 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 Sunday is referred to as the **Day of**

**Fellowship.** On one side of the cross there is a model of Jesus and the 12 at a table with the Passover meal. ( Matthew 26:17-19). On the other side of the cross is a model of Jesus praying in the Garden of Gethsemane (Luke 22:42-46)

Let us pray that by growing in love this Lenten season we may bring the peace of Christ to our world.



## Prayer for Lent

God our Father, your Word, Jesus Christ, spoke peace to a sinful world and brought mankind the gift of reconciliation by the suffering and death he endured. Teach us, the people who bear his name, to follow the example he gave us: may our faith, hope and charity turn hatred into love, conflict into peace, death to eternal life.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.



Steve Alexander  
Bonnie Angove  
Christopher Bowen  
Bessie Brewer  
James Brown  
Martha Jane Chudina  
Jerry Connelly  
David Danley  
Randy Davis  
Roscoe & Margaret Farmer  
Nell Fulcher  
Mary Beth Gills  
Crickett Green  
Shirley Helmondollar  
Deana Hicks  
Vernon & Hop Hopkins  
Ronnie Houchins  
Earnest & Ruth Kirby  
Tracy & Betty Janutolo  
Nancy Lester  
Juanita Maiuri  
Freeman Mitchell  
Norma Morgan  
Thelma Moten  
Dave Parris  
Herman Patton  
Eddie Perdue  
Carter Richardson  
Faye Robinett  
Jessica Ruble  
Chad Scarberry  
Larry Smith  
Workman Family  
Charlie Wood  
Carlene Workman  
Unspoken Requests

VBS 2007  
June 24-28  
6:00 — 8:30



Volunteers are invited to Take the Plunge and help our children and youth learn how Jesus used a very common element—water—to

teach some uncommon lessons.

Take a minute to fill in the insert in today's bulletin to tell us how you would be willing to help with VBS 2007. We are in the planning stages and need to know who we can count on to make this year's VBS an adventure that kids will love!



Join us for our Annual Easter Egg Hunt for Kids  
Saturday April 7th  
1:00-3:00 p.m.

We will meet at the church from 1:00-3:00 p.m. and, weather permitting, hide eggs at Dudley School. We will also have hot dogs, chips, cookies, and drinks.