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The Tower

Cahaba Heights UMC

March 2014

Letter from the Pastor

“Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing.” -Joel 2:12-13

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

On Wednesday, March 5th we will celebrate Ash Wednesday with a worship service at 6:30 pm. Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent, the forty-day period (excluding Sundays)

before Easter Sunday. The forty days of Lent are a reminder of the forty days that Jesus spent praying and fasting in the wilderness before beginning his ministry. We exclude Sundays because they are “little Easters,” or feast days, on which we look forward to Easter, the resurrection of Christ, and the end of the Lenten season. The purpose of Lent is to re-focus our lives and re-orient our practices toward God. We also use this as a time to recognize the fact that in our everyday lives, God is often quite far from our thoughts. During Lent, we try to change that by changing our habits. Many people

“give up” something for Lent, while others may “take on” a new practice, like reading a devotional each day or volunteering among the poor on the weekends.

On Ash Wednesday, take time to come to the church for worship. You will receive ashes, in the sign of a cross, on your forehead, if you would like. The ashes help us to remember our own mortality and are a sign of our repentance (or, desire to change our ways). This is an ancient and meaningful way to begin the Lenten season along with other Christians who will be taking the same forty-day journey with you.

In Christ,

Rev. Kelsey Johnson

Lenten Guides/Schedule

During the season of Lent we will have two special worship services:

Our Ash Wednesday Service will take place on Wednesday, March 5th in the Sanctuary. Please join us for dinner at 5:30 that evening and then stay for the traditional service and imposition of the ashes.

Our Good Friday service

will take place at 6:30 pm in the Sanctuary on Friday, April 18th, and will be an entirely musical service presented by our Chancel Choir. We hope you will join us for both of these meaningful worship times.

Please remember that Lenten Devotional Guides are available to you for use throughout

Lent. In these guides, a different CHUM member has written a devotional for each day of Lent. The Guides are available free of charge in the Narthex of the church (on the table next to the Sanctuary doors).

Please take one home and enjoy a quiet time with God and your fellow members each day during Lent.



Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who helped with the Valentine's Luncheon and to all of those who attended on February 23rd. J.P. provided a delicious meal, Melinda James decorated beautifully, and the

men, as always, did a great job serving and organizing.

We are so grateful to everyone who made a donation at the luncheon. As a group, you donated \$1000 to

the Men's Club! This money will be used throughout the year to fund the Men's Club's numerous projects, which benefit both the church and the community. Thank you!

*Nothing graces the Christian soul so much as mercy; mercy as shown chiefly towards the poor, that thou mayest treat them as sharers in common with thee in the produce of nature, which brings forth the fruits of the earth for use to all.
-St. Ambrose*

Missions Update

Thank you to everyone who brought in canned goods and staples to our Food Pantry Collection in January! As you know, some of the food went to feed our guests who sheltered with us during the snow storm a few weeks ago. The rest will go to a local food pantry. Thank you for your donations!

This month, our Senior High

youth will begin a new project here in Birmingham. Once a month, they will join with another local congregation to provide a meal at Changed Lives Christian Center. CLCC provides transitional housing to men who are on their way to recovering from homelessness. The meals that our youth provide will help to feed

the CLCC's guest population. If you would like to learn more about CLCC, please visit www.cl-cc.org. If you are interested in helping the youth with this project, either with your time or a donation, please see Justin Banks, our senior high youth director, or email him at: justinmbanks83@gmail.com.

The Wizard of Oz

Benito Ramirez will be acting in the Wizard of Oz Production at Samford University this May! The production is: Friday, May 2 at 7:30

Saturday, May 3 at 7:30 and

Sunday, May 4 at 2:30

Tickets can be purchased online at the Samford University Website for \$12.00 and will need to be printed out or in person at the Samford Box Office. Here is the website info: <https://tickets.Samford.edu/Online/> Scroll to the bottom and look for the Wizard of Oz event. Click "view" then pick which date and time and click "Buy." The box office phone number is (205) 726-2853.

If anyone needs assistance purchasing tickets they can talk to Lisa Ramirez and she can get the tickets for them because she is on campus almost every day. Her cell phone number is 702-824-1264 and her email is lramirez@samford.edu.



March 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 10:00 am Sunday school 11:00 am Worship 4:00 pm Choir 5:30 pm Kids/Youth	3 8:00 am M-Team 6:00 pm Trustees Meals on Wheels (all week)	4 7:00 am Men's Prayer Group	5 9:00 am Women's Prayer Group 5:30 pm Dinner 6:30 pm Ash Wednesday Service	6	7	8
9 10:00 am Sunday school 11:00 am Worship 4:00 pm Choir 5:30 pm Kids/Youth	10 6:30 pm Men's Club Meeting	11 7:00 am Men's Prayer Group	12 9:00 am Women's Prayer Group 5:30 pm Dinner 6:30 pm Programs	13	14	15
16 10:00 am Sunday school 11:00 am Worship 4:00 pm Choir 5:30 pm Kids/Youth	17	18 7:00 am Men's Prayer Group	19 9:00 am Women's Prayer Group 5:30 pm Dinner 6:30 pm Programs	20	21	22
23 10:00 am Sunday school 11:00 am Worship 4:00 pm Choir 5:30 pm Kids/Youth	24	25 7:00 am Men's Prayer Group	26 9:00 am Women's Prayer Group 5:30 pm Dinner 6:30 pm Programs	27	28	29
30 10:00 am Sunday school 11:00 am Worship 4:00 pm Choir 5:30 pm Kids/Youth	31					

March Birthdays

3 Freddie Huey
6 Jack Connor
16 Al Tomlin,
Elizabeth Burleson
17 Don Harbison
18 Carroll Gardner
22 Debbie Ponder
24 Sylvia Barrow,
Brandon Busby

Wednesday Night Programs

Our regular Wednesday night programs will resume on March 12th. Please join us for Crafts Class, Bible study, Kids/Youth, or young adult fellowship at 6:30 each Wednesday night.

Cahaba Heights United Methodist Church

3139 Cahaba Heights Road

Birmingham, AL 35243

(205) 967-0470

www.CahabaHeightsUMC.org

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March Servants

Readers:

2: Susan Maxey

9: Don Harbison

16: Richard Barrow

23: Brandon Busby

30: Bill White

Hosts/Greeters:

2: Bobby Williams, Bill Maze

9: Freddie Huey, Mike Mizerany

16: Gerald Gann, Marla Monk

23: Mike Mizerany, Bill Maze

30: Gerald Gann, Freddie Huey

Spring Break at CHUM

Don't forget!

The preschool will be closed for Spring Break March 24th-28th. Be safe, have fun, and we will see you when you get back!

C.H.U.M.S.

This month the Cahaba Heights United Methodist Seniors will be enjoying lunch together on Tuesday, March 11th, at Red Lobster in Vestavia (by popular request!). Please meet at the Red Lobster at 11:00 am, or meet at the church at 10:30 am if you would like a ride to the restaurant. Either way, be sure to call Gwen in the church office by Thursday, March 6th, so that we can let the restaurant know how many will be joining us for lunch. The church number is (205) 967-0470. We hope you will join us for lunch at Red Lobster!