

The Messenger



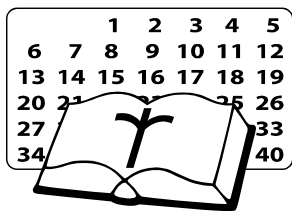
Fairfield Presbyterian Church

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February 2010



Pastor's Message for Lent

One author writes, "The road we travel on our journey of faith is a radical thing." As Christians each of us has, at some point, made a "radical reorientation" to the culture around us, denying much of its pull upon us. Jesus

told his disciples, *"If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. . . . For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life?"* (Matthew 6:24, 26)


Can you think of times or places in your life where God reoriented your life by replacing self with God at the center of your concerns? Perhaps it was saying "No" to friends who wanted to do something that you knew was wrong. Perhaps it was in foregoing something you wanted in order to help someone else. Perhaps it was stopping a habit that you finally recognized as selfish fulfillment. Those instances always place a mark upon our lives, that we are followers of Jesus.

Ash Wednesday, February 17, is the beginning of Lent, six weeks leading up to Easter. The weeks of Lent are an intentional time to keep turning toward God, and away from selfish thoughts and actions, often things that our culture wants us to keep doing.

Fairfield, our faith community, is here to support us in persevering in the faith, running the race, ever helping one another to continue to "be" Christ in the world. We can affect the world around us as we give of ourselves in selfless ways. In Christ, we can bring others hope that they matter to God and can make a difference, too, as they turn to Christ.

In faith and hope,
Dixie

P.S. During Lent, you may journey with us in an evening study focused on the prayers of Jesus, led by the pastors.



Wednesday, Feb. 17th
in the Sanctuary, 5:30pm

Come to a meditative service, preparing our hearts for the Lenten season, with the imposition of ashes as we set forth with Jesus on the journey to the cross.

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Member News

Our sympathy goes out to **Sandra Brewster** on the death of her aunt and to **Rick Houchins** on the death of his father.

Chuck & Janet Chelette are now cell-phone people with no home telephone. You can reach them at 307-5583.



Please keep the following people in your daily prayers: **Hazel Christian, Danny & Karen Couch's** grandson, Jacob and her sister Dale, **Ollie & Nancy Courtney, Ann Davis, Hattie Davis, Virginia Fraysse,**

Mildred & Nevin Funk, Ivy Gallihugh, **Ray Gammon, Alyce Haller, Bill & Dot Harding, Durward Harding, Stan & Virginia Hiner, Bryant Lowery, Christine Lowery** and her daughter Cindy, **Earl & Gloria Meador, Mildred Miller, Wendy Palmer's** aunt Doris, **Kathryn Parks, Denise Payne, Gerry Peed, Odell Scruggs, Mary Simpson's** friend, Cherry, **Bootsie Stevens, Elizabeth Wagner** and daughter Martha, **Ardy Winkle** and her brother Randy, **Greg Woodfin, Sr., Minnie Worley, Marjorie Yunkun, Trent Chelette, Charles Keese** and all the men and women who serve our nation. Also remember those who have lost jobs in the current economy.

(Please update Pastor Richard or Pastor Dixie as often as possible if you wish to keep your name or your loved one's name on this list.)

If you would like to be visited by our pastor, please call the church office to make arrangements.



"Thank you for your friendship and your thoughtfulness in my recent illness and Earl's problems. All the phone calls, cards, flowers, etc. are appreciated very much."

Love in Christ,
Earl & Gloria Meador

Dear Fairfield... Family,

I offer a huge "Thank You" for your generosity and faithful prayers, support, cards and meals during my recovery from hip replacement surgery. I am making a great recovery and have felt your love and support every day. Your words of encouragement helped me through difficult moments, and conversations have been uplifting. Thank you again and know that my heart is filled with joy knowing I am a member of the Fairfield Family, surrounded by your love and strengthened by your spirit.

God bless you all,
Mary Simpson
(Please see Ephesians 3: 14-20)

"The family of Carl and Beverly Fulwider would like to thank the congregation of Fairfield Presbyterian Church for their sympathies and support regarding the recent death of Beverly's mother, Mrs. Doris Duncanson. The many calls and sympathy cards were greatly appreciated. It was a wonderful gesture of those that were able to attend the Memorial Service at the Westminster Canterbury Chapel. Thanks again for everything, and for being such a caring church family."

HAITI CRISIS

A special Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) account has been established to receive donations for immediate relief work in Haiti. Contribute through local church channels, or call PresbyTel at (800)872-3283 or visit the PDA website to make credit card donations. The account number is "Haiti-DR000064."
[Http://www.pcusa.org/pda](http://www.pcusa.org/pda)



Justin Hale	February 1
Ann Barlow	February 2
John Crowe	February 2
Robbie Dobson	February 3
Ryan Magill	February 3
Sam Penny	February 3
Erin Reasor	February 3
Ryan Warren	February 3
Caitlin Walsh	February 5
Randi Walsh	February 5
Norman Sulser	February 7
Lauren Sykes	February 7
Gerry Underdown	February 7
Merrilyn Jones	February 8
Jamie Fisher	February 9
Robert Haller	February 9
Jean Pauli	February 9
Gail Warren	February 9
Pat Daugherty	February 10
Brittany Bessette	February 11
Ray Gammon	February 12
Tracy Young	February 12
Kristy Baker	February 16
Gene Elmore	February 16
Danny Guertler	February 16
Josh Patterson	February 16
Pamela Walsh	February 16
Roger Bessette	February 20
Jon Patterson	February 20
Beverly Ward	February 20
Ali Eubanks	February 22
Cathy Guertler	February 22
Kevin O'Kennon	February 22
Dorothy Bowen	February 23
Lynne Rudolph	February 23
Bill Davis	February 24
Richard Dunn	February 24
Edith Goodman	February 24
Harry McGhee	February 24
Charles Moore, Sr.	February 24
Donna Richbourg	February 24
Anne Young	February 24
June Helton	February 25
Stacy Moore	February 27
Andrew Dunn	February 28
John Weeks	February 28



Bobby & Robin Wilson	February 10
Craig & Sandra Brewster	February 14
Dave & Mary Love	
Schumaker	February 17
Mark & Marsha Young	February 21
William & Luella Mahone	February 25

Coming Weeks in Worship

Feb. 7	When I Find Myself in Times of Trouble, Psalm 3
Feb. 14	The Apple of Your Eye Psalm 17
Feb. 21	The Sun of Righteousness Psalm 19
Feb. 28	Create in Me a Clean Heart Psalm 51



OUR NEXT ALL-CHURCH DINNER is scheduled for **February 3rd at 5:30pm.** Our chef, Dwight Clark, will be preparing roast beef, mashed potatoes and gravy, vegetables and desert. Fill out a reservation form located in the bulletin and place it in the offering plate.

Session

On January 17th, we installed six new elders to serve on Session. They are: Kristy Baker, Janet Chelette, Peggie Rosen, Alan Brown, Dwight Clark and J. R. Marker.

Here are the elder committee assignments for 2010:

Christian Formation: Adult Discipleship - Vicky Brady & Richard Dunn
Christian Formation: Childcare - Peggie Rosen
Christian Formation: Children - Kristy Baker
Christian Formation: Sunday School: Janet Chelette
Christian Formation: Youth - Stuart Settle
Evangelism and Outreach: Stacie Herring & Jack Ward
Facility Management: Larry Covington
Member Care: Sandra Brewster & Mac Spencer
Member Assimilation: Beth Young & Dwight Clark
Missions: Nancy Gallihugh & Bob Gaston
Stewardship: Alan Brown & J. R. Marker
Worship: Mary Simpson

These are your elders who give their time, energy, and effort to serving you and the church. Their task of leading the congregation is not one they can do alone. They need you to serve on their committees with them. They need you to step up and do when you are asked. They need you to give them a word of encouragement as well as tell them your concerns. They need you to pray for them, because they also need the wisdom, insight and strength from God as they carry forth their tasks.

Elders leaving the session: Cathy Guertler, Gene Rosen, Wendy Palmer, Allison Letourneau, Chris Sorensen. Please thank these "elders-at-large" for serving our session for three years!

What is Lent?

"Lent" is derived from the Middle English "Lente" which means "springtime."

Lent is the 40 day period of repentance and renewal preceding Easter. It begins on Ash Wednesday and ends with the Easter Service.

Holy week commemorates Christ's last week of life on earth. It's the final, most important part of Lent.

Lent is a special time for meditation, prayer and penitential practices, increased understand of Christ's sacrifice and resurrection, and renewal of baptismal vows and recommitment to the Christian life.

Lent allows us time to recall the EASTER story and absorb it's meaning: Christ lived and died to redeem the world from sin and because of Christ's death and resurrection, our lives can be renewed - we can renounce sin and begin to live for God.

Committee Reports

Adult Discipleship

The Lenten season is a season of reflection—a time to reflect and pray about what Jesus did for us when He died on the cross. As we begin this very special season, we have the opportunity to learn more about Jesus and what He taught us about prayer. During Lent, our pastors, Richard and Dixie, will teach a class on prayer called “Jesus at Prayer”. This class will meet every Wednesday evening, 7:00 – 8:00 p.m., throughout the month of March. In this study, we will be exploring how Jesus prayed, when and where He prayed, and who He prayed for. Please consider joining us for this very meaningful study every Wednesday evening in March.

Attention Fairfield’s Super Singles!

It’s almost Valentine’s Day, and we would like to celebrate it together as a group! Please meet us for Sunday lunch on February 14, at 12:30 p.m. We will be meeting at the new Olive Garden located in the White Oak Village shopping center on Laburnum Ave. All single adults are invited—widowed, divorced, or never married. We hope that you can join us!



Library News

“God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.” 1 John 4, v. 15 & 16

In the month of February we celebrate Valentine’s Day and remember our loved ones. Take some time this month to reflect on God’s love for each of us.

There are many books in our library that will help us to understand the greatness of His love.

Look for My Heart’s Cry, Amazing Love and If God Loves Me Why I Can’t I Get My Locker Open (for our young people) In the children’s corner you will find Jesus Loves Me, God Is Love and Little One God Loves You.

As we go along in our spiritual journey may we always be mindful of God’s love for us.

Elizabeth Covington

Evangelism and Community Outreach

I’ve been reading the book “Give a Little”, by Wendy Smith, which I picked up at the local library. The basic premise is that when everyone gives a little of themselves, those gifts have a ripple effect, and can spread the benefits of that gift to many. Fascinating book - and I recommend it for anyone interested in charitable giving in the world.

Well, I’ve been thinking that this applies not just to monetary donations - but all of God’s gifts. When we share what we have, like our faith in Christ, that love and hope spreads to others whose lives we touch. And when their lives are more hopeful and loving through Christ, they also can positively impact others. The ripple spreads.

This is not just a new found phenomenon - it’s the mission for which Christ has called us - to spread the Good News.

The point of Wendy Smith’s book is that some of the world’s biggest threats can be eradicated through the small giving of many. Just imagine the ripple the 420 members of Fairfield Presbyterian could have in our community just by giving something small - like a kind word, an invitation to a Fairfield service, a meal, a prayer - in the name of Christ. What good can we bring to the world? Let’s find out! Let your rippling begin!

Stacie Herring

Facilities Management

Use of the Church Facilities

With our church facilities being utilized on an increasing basis it is a good time to review the procedures required to reserve space at Fairfield. All requests to reserve an area of the church should be submitted to our church office. Please forward the date/time of your event or meeting as soon as possible and include date/time of any set-up if required. If your event requires use of one of the Church's kitchens please notify the Kitchen Manager – Dwight Clark or the Assistant Kitchen Manager – Stuart Settle after your event is scheduled. If you or your committee requires help in setting up, cleaning or returning the room to its normal condition please contact Billy Putze or Bill Dobson. Following these procedures ensures our facilities will continue to be available to support our Church's mission and the community. Thanks for your assistance!

Member Assimilation

The Member Assimilation Committee has been hard at work planning events that give Fairfield members the opportunity to get together. Our next **All Church Dinner** is on **Wednesday, February 3**. Dwight and his crew will be preparing roast beef, potatoes and all the fixings. Musical entertainment will be provided by Earl Meadows and his band. Check the friendship pads for reservation forms. Please turn in your **reservations** by **Monday, February 1**, so the correct amount of food can be prepared. March's All Church dinner will be Wednesday, March 3, so mark your calendars.

On **Saturday, February 13**, at 6:00 in the Family Center, please plan to attend the **Sweetheart Dinner and Dance**. This will be an event for any and all adults. If you don't have a sweetheart, the members of the committee invite you to be our sweetheart. Tickets will be sold starting January 31 for \$10 per person. The night's dinner will feature Chicken Cordon Bleu. After dinner Rick Houchins will provide music for

your enjoyment and for dancing. Snacks will be available during this time. Proceeds from this event will be used to refurbish the small kitchen. We will also have a table to display your wedding photos. Pull them out so we can reminisce. If you are interested in serving on the Kitchen Committee, please contact Dwight Clark (539-6424) for details about training.

Beth Young

Member Care

Here are this month's featured Shepherd Groups. Please continue to pray for those in your group and reach out if you hear they are on the prayer list. We are still looking for a few more Shepherds. Please contact Sandra Brewster if you would be willing to serve as a Shepherd or if you need a new list of your group. Thank you very much.

Shepherds- Norman & Barbara Wash

Lindsey Irwin

Cathy Gatewood

Mack & Sarah Perkins

Ray Stevens

Scott Stevens

Shepherds- Mark & Marsha Young

John Gauntt

Charles Keese

Marshall & Nancy Hart

Sean & Melanie Magill

K.C. & Majken Whitaker

Shepherds-Tracy & Beth Young

Edith Flurry

Charles & Lyndell Grafton

Christine Lowery

William & Luella Mahone

Tony Underdown

Men of the Church

January 2010 meeting update

Ten Fairfield men braved the snow to join in our first breakfast of the New Year. We continue to search for new ideas on how we can help our church and community members. 2010 will prove to be a wonderful year as long as we continue to seek God's guidance in our mission of service.

We look forward to seeing all men for the **February 12th** breakfast from 6 O'clock. We will discuss more opportunities to serve in the upcoming New Year. Everyone's input is valuable and all men are welcome and encouraged to attend the fellowship at The Cold Harbor Restaurant.

Please call Bill Dobson to reserve a spot at the breakfast table. A Thursday night breakfast reminder will also be an option for anyone that needs it. We look forward to seeing you.

Service in Christ,
Bill Dobson
Billy Putze

MISSIONS

Mechanicsville Churches Emergency

Functions - www.mcefva.org

Greetings from MCEF! Spring will be here before we know it and MCEF is starting to make plans for the 2nd Annual MCEF Golf Tournament. As soon as a date is firm it will be passed to you so you can make plans to join the fun. MCEF now has a second phone line. Please make a note: for information call (804) 334-6590 and for assistance call (804) 357-4093.

The next day for donating to the Food Pantry is **Sunday, February 7, 2010.**

Upward

There was recently an article in the Halifax Community Herald – that's Halifax, N.S. The article highlighted the Living Hope Community Church in Halifax and their launching of a basketball league with a difference for boys and girls in grades 1 through 6. Upward is a

non-profit sports organization that focuses on positive sports experiences for kids.

Our own **Sharon Gaston** was part of a group that was instrumental in getting this program started in Halifax last summer. Thanks Sharon for seeing this as an important mission! Check out the article on the Mission bulletin board.

Keith and Marti Francois

Keith and Marti, along with their children Hannah and Jeremy, are missionaries in Ras an Naqab, Jordan. At year's end they are back in Jordan after spending time with family and friends here in the US. You may remember that Keith did a "minute for mission" at Fairfield during the summer. They say that they are very happy to reunite with coworkers and renew friendships with neighbors and the Bedouin out in their tents.

There is a new government and a new prime minister in Jordan. Keith and Marti appreciate your prayers for protection and for God's blessing as they continue to settle in their home there again and become accustomed to life in Ras an Naqab after being away.

Check out the picture of the Francois family on the Mission bulletin board.

CARITAS

Many thanks to all of the individuals and groups that helped with CARITAS in December. We hosted up to 40 men the week before Christmas. They all were so appreciative of a warm bed, good meals and good fellowship. Our facility served them well. From fixing and serving a meal to helping with the laundry, to just sitting and talking with someone, you have extended a part of yourself to someone who needs a helping hand. Thank you!

Richmond Friends of the Homeless

Fairfield Presbyterian Church will be serving a meal at Greater Mt. Moriah Baptist Church on Friday, **February 12.** This month the Mission Committee provides the food so your help to serve is needed. If you can spend a couple of hours helping with this ministry, please sign up in the narthex.

Nancy Gallihugh

Sunday School

Children in God's Treehouse Adventures will be studying "**The Good Samaritan**" February 7 – March 7. They'll be learning about compassion and readiness to serve others in need. We are grateful for the teachers, guides and unit leaders who contribute to helping our children learn the Christian walk.

Unit Leader – Sandra Brewster

Vine Art – Ken & Ray Hayden

Canopy Tales – Cathy Guertler

Branch Out/Science – Cindy & Kelli Cattoi

Roots 'n Berries – Erin Reasor

Compass Sunday:

Robbie Dobson (music)

Ginny Patterson (MCEF leader)

Guides: Becky Settle, Melanie Magill, Lyndell Grafton, Katrina Gauntt, Chuck Patterson & Diane Brown.

Preschoolers will also be having lessons on "**The Good Samaritan**" and sharing review of their learning on Compass Sunday, with all the children. Preschool: Donna Horn, Unit Leader, Robin Patterson, Guide, and Workshop leaders George Herring, Bettina Horn, Alison Dunn, Mitzi Marker, Troy Horn, and Melanie Rubeck.

Janet Chelette

The Foundations Sunday School class will begin a series featuring Tony Campolo in late February on living simply. The goal of the class is to have us look at our life and think about how we are living. Do we have too much stuff, too many activities (even those activities centered around *good* causes), and too much clutter in our minds to live a life devoted to God? Are we missing out on the blessings that God has given us?

One of the resources we will be using to help us reflect on our lives is "Living Simply with God: A 40 Day Hunger Calendar". The calendar is a great tool to help us focus daily on the people and blessings in our lives instead of the things and busyness in our lives. It is a good starting

point for daily personal prayer or discussion during family time.

We would love to have you join the Foundations class for this series. If you cannot join us, please take a calendar to use during Lent to reflect on your daily activities. Calendars are available in the narthex of the church and can also be found online, along with other resources, at <http://www.elca.org/Our-Faith-In-Action/Responding-to-the-World/ELCA-World-Hunger/Resources/Simple-Living/Calendar.aspx>.

Chris Sorensen

Preschool Sunday School

Feb. 7	Bettina Tanner & Robin Patterson
Feb. 14	George Herring & Melanie Rubeck
Feb. 21	Alison Dunn & Mitzi Marker
Jan. 24	Troy Horn & Robin Patterson
Jan. 31	Donna Horn Melanie Rubeck

Thinking about Summer Camp?

Camp Hanover Summer Camp brochures and applications are now available in the narthex behind the sanctuary.

Make your child's summer a wonderful experience at Camp Hanover. The camp

- challenges each camper to explore, grow in, and act on his/her Christian faith
- build a Christ-centered community
- live in and care for God's creation
- develop skills in outdoor living
- practice servant leadership
- and provides opportunities for safe fun, fellowship, adventure, and challenge.

Pick up your brochure today!

Nursery Schedules

9:00am Infant/Toddler Nursery Schedule

- Feb. 7 Miyuki O'Kennon & Brenda Blue
- Feb. 14 Janet Chelette & Courtney Fisher
- Feb. 21 Mitzi Marker & Nancy Gallihugh
- Feb. 28 Rachel White & Becky Settle

9:00am Preschool

- Feb. 7 Rob Blue & Chris O'Kennon
- Feb. 14 Bill Dobson & Bob Gaston
- Feb. 21 Kevin Beasley & Brooke Bessette
- Feb. 28 Beverly Burts & Rachel Gaston

9:00 Kid's Worship

- Feb. 7 Mary Sulser & Sharon Gaston
- Feb. 14 Laura Gauntt & Jamie Fisher
- Feb. 21 Dixie Brachlow & Julie Gee
- Feb. 28 Donna Hohman & Tom Lake

10:00am Sunday School

- Feb. 7 Peggie Rosen & Dorothy Bowen
- Feb. 14 Gene Rosen & Beverly Ward
- Feb. 21 Billy Walls & Debbie Lynn
- Feb. 28 Eva Ladd & Beverly Ward

11:00am Infant/Preschool Schedule

- Feb. 7 Dawn Williamson & Ivy Williamson
- Feb. 14 Cindy Cattoi & Ben Hohman
- Feb. 21 Cathy Guertler & Angela Schwartz
- Feb. 28 Erin Reasor & Katrina Gauntt

11:00am Kid's Worship

- Feb. 7 Dixie Brachlow
- Feb. 14 Pam Gigliotti
- Feb. 21 Anne Young
- Feb. 28 Allison Letourneau

The Heart

"Tomorrow morning," the surgeon began, "I'll open up your heart..." "You'll find Jesus there," the boy interrupted.

The surgeon looked up, annoyed "I'll cut your heart open," he continued, to see how much damage has been done... "But when you open my heart, you'll find Jesus in there," the boy said.

The surgeon looked to the parents, who sat quietly. "When I see how much damage has been done, I'll sew his heart and chest back up, and I'll plan what to do next." "But you'll find Jesus in my heart. The Bible says He lives there, the hymns all say He lives there. You'll find Him in my heart."

The surgeon had had enough. "I'll tell you what I'll find in your heart. I'll find damaged muscle, low blood supply, and weakened vessels. And I'll find out if I can make you well." "You'll find Jesus there too. He lives there."

The surgeon left. The surgeon sat in his office recording his notes from the surgery, "...damaged aorta, damaged pulmonary vein, widespread muscle degeneration. No hope for transplant, no hope for cure. Therapy: painkillers and bed rest. Prognosis: here he paused, "death within one year."

He stopped the recorder, but there was more to be said. "Why?" he asked out loud. "Why did You do this? You've put him here; you've put him in this pain; and you've cursed him to an early death. Why?"

The Lord answered and said, "The boy, my lamb, was not meant for your flock for long, for he is a part of My flock and will forever be. Here, in my flock, he will feel no pain, and will be comforted as you cannot imagine. His parents will one day join him here, and they will know peace, and my flock will continue to grow..." The surgeon's tears were hot, but his anger was hotter. "You created that boy, and You created that heart. Hell be dead in months. Why?" The Lord answered, "The boy, my lamb, shall return to my flock for he has done his duty: I did not put my lamb with your flock to lose him, but to retrieve another lost lamb."

The surgeon wept... The surgeon sat beside the boy's bed; the boy's parents sat across from him. The boy awoke and whispered, "Did you cut open my heart?"

"Yes," said the surgeon.

"What did you find?" asked the boy.

"I found Jesus there," said the surgeon.

Author Unknown

Special Ministry Night

Wednesday, Feb. 24, 6:30-8pm

Ben and Melissa Conner will speak on ministering to those with disabilities.

Benjamin Conner, PhD is director of Young Life's Capernaum in Williamsburg, a ministry that provides Christian community and social opportunities for adolescents with special needs. He is also Visiting Assistant Professor of Christian Education at Union-PSCE and is

currently under contract with Wm. B. Eerdmans to write *Amplifying Their Witness*, a book about ministry with adolescents with intellectual disabilities. Melissa Conner, his spouse, is the Program Director at Dream Catchers Therapeutic Riding Center in Norge, a facility that uses equine activities to help those with physical, intellectual and psychological challenges in the areas of recreation, socialization and skill building.

Come out to Third Presbyterian Church for a very informative evening!



Fairfield Presbyterian Church
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