

THE CROSS AND TOWER

“OPEN HEARTS, OPEN MINDS, OPEN DOORS”

MARCH - 2010



Mission Statement: To make disciples for Jesus Christ through our witness, worship, and work.

Our Vision: To become a vigorous, flourishing congregation for Jesus Christ.

Our Plan:

1. To become an inviting and welcoming church.
2. To become a church for all of God's children.
3. To find new ways of reaching out for Jesus Christ in our community.
4. To become a mission-minded church by becoming actively involved in missions, disaster work teams, and hands-on mission projects.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Friends,

Don't forget our Holy Week services March 28th through April 1st. We have some fine preachers coming to share with us. They are:

Sunday, March 28th - Rev. Marvin Vickers, Enterprise, retired Army Chaplain, Blue Lake Director

Monday, Marcy 29th - Revs. Wesley and Meghan Kelley

Tuesday, March 30th - Rev. Dean Moore, Heritage UMC, Enterprise

Wednesday, March 31st - Rev. Gary Daniel, FUMC, Enterprise

Thursday night, April 1st, I will lead us in our Holy Thursday-Tenebrae Service at 7:00 p.m. The service on Sunday, March 28th, will be at 6:00 p.m. with a finger-food supper to follow. On Monday through Wednesday, supper will be at 6:00 p.m. with the service following at 7:00 p.m. We will have covered-dish suppers on Monday and Tuesday. On Wednesday, we will have our regular meal (reservations need to be called in). Meal prices for Wednesday are as follows: \$2.00 for small children and \$5.00 for adults. We will not have a meal following services on Thursday night. Be sure to join us for these special Lenten services.

Let us join together on Easter Sunday, April 4th, to celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord. The Chancel Choir will present special music and I will preach a Resurrection sermon. The children and youth will place live flowers on the cross. The choir will dismiss us with Handel's "Hallelujah Chorus." What a glorious way to celebrate Easter!

Hope to See You Sunday,

Bro. Stanley

P.S. Be sure to remember in prayer all those serving in our military, our police officers and our firefighters. Also, please remember the people in Haiti as they recover from the earthquake.

MARCH ACTIVITIES

March 3 - Wednesday night activities (continue study of Angels)
March 4 - Elba Ministerial Association
March 6 - Elba Lions' Club pancake breakfast
March 6 - Bro. Stanley in Graceville (Alpha Training)
March 7 - Communion and "Can-Do" Sunday
March 8 - Bros Stanley at Bishop's Day Apart, Montgomery
March 9 - Frazer lunch
March 10 - Wednesday night activities
March 14 - Daylight Saving Time begins
March 17 - Wednesday night activities
March 20 - Spring begins
March 21 - Community Men's Breakfast at EUMC (Wesley Kelley will be guest speaker)
March 21 - "Project ABC" Sunday
March 21 - meeting with Gary Allen following morning worship concerning lawn care
March 22 - UMW
March 24 - Wednesday night activities
March 25 - Special Persons
March 25 - Grief Support Group begins (6:00 - 7:30)
March 28 - Palm Sunday
March 28 - April 1 - Holy Week Revival
March 31 - Wednesday night supper at 6:00 - Holy Week Revival at 7:00 - "Super Kids" will not meet

CHILDREN'S PROGRAM

March 7 - Elaine Martin
March 14 - Carol Jackson
March 21 - Jean Helms
March 28 - Karen Davis

FLOWER CALENDAR

March 7 - Communion
March 14 - Mary Alice Lee
March 21 - Betty Cox
March 28 - volunteer?

GREETERS

March 7 - Lee and Harriette Boyd
March 14 - Robbie and Debbie Curran
March 21 - Mary Brunson and Carolyn Stokes
March 28 - Charlotte Hobson and Sue Boggan

USHERS

Head Usher: Joe Lassiter
Gary Allen Bob Cannon
Barry Giles Phillip Hamm

SCRIPTURE READERS

March 7 - Janice Phillips - John 13:1-7 (p. 107)
March 14 - Sara Smith - Luke 4:1-13 (p. 61)
March 21 - Eddie Vaughan - Matthew 16:13-20 (p. 18)
March 28 - Mark Vaughan - Luke 19:28-44 (p. 83)

UMYF SNACK SUPPER

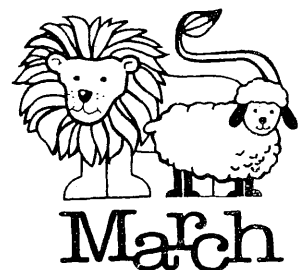
March 7 - Kevin Allen
March 14 - Colton Vaughan
March 21 - Merrill Curran
March 28 - Gunnar & Cammie McCollough

NURSERY WORKERS

March 7 - Connie Moseley
March 14 - Sara Smith
March 21 - Sue Boggan
March 28 - Jenny Allen

KITCHEN HELP

March 3 - Laura Lassiter
March 10 - Donna Stokes
March 17 - Freddie Pearce
March 24 - Kerry Rodriguez
March 31 - Hedly Cox



CHILDREN'S NEWS

By Miss Nancy and Miss Lynda

We want to thank those who bought "Hearts-for-Haiti" from the children. We collected \$78.00 for the UMCOR Haiti appeal. We had fun at our Valentine Party. We are busy working on our singing and we will lead the congregation in a litany at worship soon. On March 28th, Palm Sunday, we will march in with palms for the opening of our worship service. Remember the Easter Egg Hunt on April 3rd from 10:30 a.m. until noon. Also remember that "Super Kids" meets on Sundays at 5:00 p.m. and Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m.

"RELAY-FOR-LIFE"

"Relay-for-Life" 2010 will be Friday night, May 14th, at the Enterprise-Ozark Community College. We plan to have a church team (please join) and take the church bus to "Relay." We expect "Relay", as usual, to be a time of good fellowship, good food, good remembrances, and celebrations for all survivors and all progress that has been, and is being made, in fighting cancer.

We will have our "traditional" hamburger and dessert luncheon following morning worship on April 11th. The cost for this lunch will be a donation to "Relay-for-Life." Please help with the following (if any problems call Janice at 897-6012):

Meat: Men's Club

Buns and Tea: Candlelighters Sunday School Class

Chips: Garrett, Dunaway, Foster Sunday School Class

Baked Beans: Cornerstones Sunday School Class

Desserts: Team Members

Side Fixings": Pairs and Spares Sunday School Class

Luminaries to be lighted at "Relay" in honor of survivors and in memory of those who have passed away will be on sale for \$10.00. A notification card will be sent upon request. We also gladly accept donations in any amount.

In Christ,
Janice

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteers are needed to place flowers in church on March 28th and April 18th and 25th.

Volunteers are also needed for church clean-up the 2nd week of March (8-13) and the 3rd week of April (19-24). Sign-up calendars are on the bulletin board.

LAWN CARE

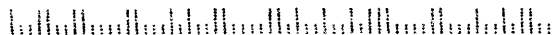
There will be a short meeting following morning worship on Sunday, March 21st, concerning the lawn care of the church. If anyone is interested in mowing, etc., please contact Gary Allen at 897-2069, gallen1210@yahoo.com, or call the church office at 897-2219.

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 Elba, AL 36323

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Minister Rev. Stanley Carter	Youth Rene Zeringue & Scott Batson	Chancel Choir Travis Adams	Pianist Nancy Brunson	Hostess Myrtle Marler	Youth Children's C Travis Adams
Secretary Jo Anne Jones	Children Nancy Carter & Lynda Biddle	Financial Secretary Carrie King	Organist Pam Baker	Nursery	Custodian

The 40 Days of Lent

Lent is the name given to the period of preparation for the chief Christian festival, Easter. The word *Lent* comes from the Anglo-Saxon word *Lenten*, meaning "Spring." Christians have developed various traditions within their respective denominations for the preparation of the great festival season of Easter.

Questions have been raised about the symbolism of this significant season. Why is it 40 days long? Sundays are not counted in the days between Ash Wednesday and Easter. Forty hours were first devoted to this observance in token of the time Jesus spent in the tomb. By the third century, however, this observance had been extended to a 40-day period.

The 40 days have been likened to a number of Biblical parallels: Moses' fast on Mount Sinai; the number of years of wandering in the wilderness; Elijah's fast on his journey to Mount Horeb; the 40 days grace given to Ninevah in Jonah's preaching; and Jesus' fast at the beginning of public ministry.

--Ronald E. Ingram