



The Season of Lent Begins Ash Wednesday, March 1

The word "Lent" is related to the Middle English word "lenten" and the Anglo Saxon word "lenten" which means spring and from lang, which means long and refers to the lengthening of the days in spring in the northern hemisphere.

The Christian liturgical season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and lasts for 40 days (not counting Sundays) concluding at midnight the Saturday before Easter. The first mention of a period of forty days of fasting and preparation, which probably meant the time we now call Lent, was made in the Canons of Nicaea in A.D. 325. The custom may have started because persons joining the church were usually baptized during the Vigil of Easter. They prepared for this sacrament by fasting. The idea of having forty days may stem from the forty days that Jesus spent in the wilderness. Yet, the number of days included in Lent varied throughout the church. What was eaten and when people could eat also varied throughout the centuries.

Today, during Lent, some choose to abstain from festivities, spend time in worship and meditation and give of their resources to help others. They think about the suffering of our Lord, his death, and his resurrection. They also walk with Jesus on the road toward Jerusalem and the Cross.

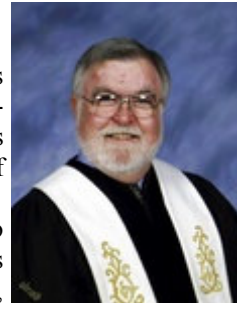
We will have our **traditional Ash Wednesday Service** at 6:00 p.m. on March 1st in the Chapel right after our WWNF meal. All are invited.

This Sunday you can pick up your **Lenten devotional booklet, Fellowship of Prayer**, at the Welcome Center. This publication has devotions for each day in Lent to be used by individuals or families. Everyone is also invited to participate in the **Monday Noon Prayer Service** in the chapel for each Monday in Lent. This service will have a Lenten theme and will conclude with a brownbag lunch at 12:30 p.m. Those dates are: March 6, 13, 20, 27, April 3 and 10.

...According to John

This Wednesday, March 1st, is Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent, a fact that is highlighted on the front page of this *Church Visitor*. When I was growing up in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) I never heard Lent mentioned in church, rather it was something that my Roman Catholic friends and family talked about, particularly in terms of “giving up something”. That was certainly the norm in the early 1960’s.

In 1959, not long after his election as Pope, John XXIII gave notice of his intention to convene the Second Vatican Council. While he expressed his intentions in many messages over the next three years in formal detail, one of the best known images is of Pope John, when asked why the Council was needed, reportedly opening a window and saying, "I want to throw open the windows of the Church so that we can see out and the people can see in." It was a wonderful, historic and momentous time for all of Christianity. Many amazing changes were made in the Catholic church as well as within Protestant communities. Among the changes, the Catholics began to put a greater emphasis on preaching, or the homily, as a result of Protestant influence. Protestants began to embrace the wonderful traditions of the historic church, including the celebration of the seasons of the liturgical calendar, including Advent and Lent.



Lent is a time of preparation, discipline and reflection which takes us to Easter. We will observe Lent in a variety of ways here at Central Christian Church:

- There will be an **Ash Wednesday Service** in the chapel at 6:00 p.m. on March 1st as a part of our regular WWNF activities. We will participate in the imposition of ashes. All are welcome.
- **Each Monday during the lunch hour** our regular prayer service will be expanded to a **Lenten service** with hymns, prayers, and a brief meditation. Following the service at 12:30 we will have a brown-bag lunch and time of fellowship. The service will begin at 12:05 and the lunch will conclude at 12:55 to accommodate work “lunch hours”. All are welcome.
- **Lenten devotional booklets, Fellowship of Prayer**, are available at the Welcome Center. You are invited to a special time of disciplined devotions, using this resource, during your Lenten journey.
- **Palm Sunday is April 9th**. Our **Chancel Choir** will present their **cantata** at the 10:15 a.m. service.
- **WWNF will NOT be held on Wednesday, April 12th**.
- On **Thursday, April 13th**, we will gather in the Sanctuary for our traditional **Maundy Thursday Communion Service** at 7:00 p.m.
- On **Friday, April 14th**, everyone is invited to a **Tenebrae Service** at 7:00 p.m.
- There will be a **Prayer Vigil** in the small chapel by the offices on **Saturday, April 15th**. You will be invited to “sign-up” for 30 minute segments of this vigil.
- **Easter Sunday is April 16th**. There will be a **Sunrise Service** led by our youth and **one grand service Resurrection at 10:15 a.m.** in the sanctuary.

I always say, pick the services and activities that will enhance your faith journey. Come as an expression of faith, not as an expression of obligation.

Grace and peace,



In case of an emergency please call Rev. McLemore any time at the office at 233-1214. If you are unable to reach him at the office, his cell phone number is (580)402-2522, or you can reach him by calling his home 233-4214.

SUNDAY'S STATISTICS

February 19, 2005

Chapel Worship.....	45
Sanctuary Worship.....	216
Saturday Night Worship.....	7

VAN DRIVER SCHEDULE

Sunday, February 26, Brian Meyer

REPORTED ILL

St. Mary's: Beryl Bigger, Sarah Hobbs
Bass: Opal Gearhard, Grace Morris
Dismissed: Hermine Woelke, Art Gamble

DIACONATE TEAM

SERVING NEXT 2 SUNDAYS

Mike O'Banion, Thom Bushman, Richard Swanson, Annella Baker, Phyllis Phillips, Murel Denny, Chuck Waldrip, Rick Little, Van Schuermann, Rick Hill, Sonya Waldrip, Dave Chael, Laurie Bushman, Wilson Buvinger, Mary Suzan Chambers, LaVena Hardin, Zach Chael, Taleya Coulter, Sarah Ballew, Jay Lohmeyer, Janet Lohmeyer.

The Dial-A-Prayer is now working. If you would like to record a prayer please stop by the church office any time during office hours.

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Sunday, February 26

- 8:00—Chapel Service
- 9:00—Church School
- 10:15—Sanctuary Worship Service
- 1:00—Quilt-a-Thon
- 2:00—Ray Townley Retirement Reception
- 2:30—CCC Worship Service on Pegasys
- 4:00—Youth Meeting

Monday, February 27

- 12:00—Noon Prayer Service

Tuesday, February 28

- 11:45—Brown Bag Bible Study
- 6:00—Master Planning Task Force Meeting
- 7:00—Quilt Central

Wednesday, March 1

- 9:45—CWF Lesson Leaders
- 10:45—CWF Executive Meeting
- 12:00—CWF Luncheon
- 4:30—CCC Worship Service on Pegasys
- 4:30—Children's Handbells
- 5:00—JYF/Youth Choir
- 5:15—WWNF Meal
- 6:00—Ash Wednesday Service
- 6:30—WWNF Classes
- 6:30—Chancel Choir Practice
- 7:30—Chancel Handbell Practice

Saturday, March 4

- 5:30—Saturday Evening Worship Service

IN MEMORIAM
MARGARET HARMON
SEPTEMBER 22, 1917- FEBRUARY 22, 2006

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2006

Chapel Worship Service.....	8:00 a.m.
Church School.....	9:00 a.m.
Sanctuary Worship Service.....	10:15 a.m.
Sermon.....“He Picked Up the Mantle”.....	Rev. John McLemore
Scripture.....	2 Kings 2:1-14
Anthem.....“So Rich A Crown”.....	Chancel Choir
Special Music.....“Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty”.....	Kristal Bell Choir
Elders: 8:00—Chuck Crites; 10:15—Mary Johnson, Mary Beach	

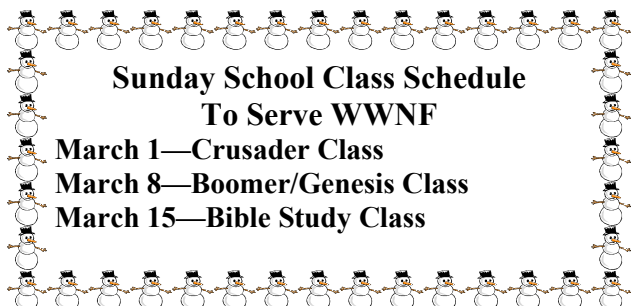
SUNDAY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

February 19, 2006

Nursery/Preschool.....	9
Elementary.....	15
Youth.....	20
Adult Bible Study.....	29
Boomers.....	11
Crusaders.....	12
Genesis.....	20
Sooners.....	39
Young Adults.....	5
Jubilee Class.....	5
Total.....	169

MEADOWS POINT MEAL DELIVERY

The Sooner Sunday School Class is in charge of meal delivery to Meadows Point Tuesday, February 28 through Friday, March 3.



**Sunday School Class Schedule
To Serve WWNF**

- March 1—Crusader Class**
- March 8—Boomer/Genesis Class**
- March 15—Bible Study Class**

*Memorial Park Cemetery
Is hosting a reception
In honor of the retirement of
Ray Townley
and the celebration of
50 years of service of
Bonnie Klein
Sunday, February 26
2:00—4:00
Central Christian Church
Fellowship Hall*

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

The following individuals are either undergoing cancer/leukemia treatments or have been diagnosed with cancer Clifford Lewis, Emma Jean Floyd, Gene Olbert, Cody Miller, Tim Hopkins, Carson Bandy, Hope Weiden, Joan Winterringer, Della Huckleberry, Don Whitsitt, Harriett Brown, Elbert Wheeler, David Bratina, Norma McIntyre, Ralph Baker, Brenda Brown and Ray Townley.....The family of Margaret Harmon on her passing. Funeral services will be held Saturday, February 25 at 2:00 p.m.

CARD OF THANKS

We want to thank our church family for all the wonderful phone calls and cards, and Don Johnson for coming to our home for prayer, scripture and comforting words.

Also, John McLemore with his busy schedule going to Alva to be with us at the memorial service for our grandson.

These acts of kindness meant more to us than you will ever know.

We are so glad to be members of Central.
In Christian love,
Joe & June Frei

QUILT-A-THON

The "Turning Scrappy" Quilt-a-thon will continue for two more Sundays. We've really accomplished a lot in the first two weeks. As a special treat, on Sunday, February 26, we are going to show the movie "How to Make an American Quilt". So come and join us for a good time from 1 pm to 4 pm.

Jubilee Class (Rm.# 208)

This week we continue our study of "Forgiveness" in Christian Friendship through the parable of The Prodigal Son. The scripture reference is Luke 15: 11-32. Our prayer is that you will join us in our weekly Bible study. We always have an "empty chair" and we keep praying that God will fill it for us.

Soup 'R Chili Social

Come gather at the church on Sunday, March 5, at 6:00 p.m. for food, fun, and fellowship. Bring a pot of your favorite soup or chili, or a dessert to share. For entertainment, the "mic" will be open for favorite jokes that can be shared with the whole family.



Our congregation is continuing to pray for other churches in our area. This week we have been asked to pray for **University Place Christian Church**. Please keep them in your prayers this week.



IT'S A GIRL!!!

Congratulations go out to Sean & Sarah Hobbs on the birth of their daughter Erica Elizabeth Hobbs, born Tuesday, February 21. Erica weighed in at 6 pounds 10 ounces and is 19-1/2" long.

CARD OF THANKS

Thank you for all your prayers, thoughts, and concerns during Dorothy's illness.

We especially wish to thank the Caregivers, the Sooner Class and the congregation who kept her in their prayers.

We appreciate John McLemore and Don Johnson's generous and gracious support given to her and her family while she was in the hospital.

God bless Central Christian.

Leonard Edwards & Family

SINGLE WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The Single Women's Fellowship group has changed their meeting place. They will now meet at 8:15 a.m. every 3rd Tuesday at the Ramada Inn.

Your Only True Treasure

Matthew 6:21 "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. "

Read Matthew 6:21

Apply Jesus tells us the most important lesson about money. Our heart, our desire and hope, is tied closely to our treasure. Our money and our heart go together. We all know that, of course, to some extent. But when Jesus calls our attention to this part of our character, he confronts us. He alerts us to the powerful tug that material wealth possesses, an allure that makes us do and act and believe contrary to our Christian beliefs. We say that we live for God. Our pocket-book shows us what we really live for. Jesus calls us to examine where we place our money and our heart: earthly pleasures that fade away or eternal investments that last forever.

1. Where is most of your treasure? Is that where your heart is?

2. When you give, does that frighten you or excite you? Why?

Pray For a renewed heart that tells treasure what to do, not more treasure that tells your heart what to do.

Do Look at your bank statement and your credit card statements. Specifically, where does most of your money go? Are those your priorities?

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CYF (High School)

Rock-A-Thon: I need all envelopes and money turned in to me this Sunday (February 26th).

Jr. High Dance: We will have a Jr. High dance on March 10th. The date was changed due to scheduling conflict. It will run from 8:30-11:00 p.m. We need parents and the CYF to be sponsors. If you would like to sponsor please call me at the office. We will use this as a fundraiser for our mission trip.

Mission Trip: Hurricane Relief. Leaving Sunday March 12 after the 8:00 service. We return Saturday the 18th. We need all the help we can get on our fundraisers. So please participate. **Registration forms are due to me no later than 2/26.**

Horn of Plenty Food Drive: March 26th

SpringFest: March 31st through April 2nd. Cost will be \$40.00. We will meet at the church at 5:00 on Friday. We will eat on the way down and back. We will return sometime around 2:30 Sunday afternoon.

Chi-Rho (Jr. High)

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Horn of Plenty Food Drive: March 26th

Young Adults

Mission Trip: Hurricane Relief. We leave Sunday March 12 after the 8:00 service. Returning on Saturday the 18th. **Registration forms are due to me no later than February 26th.**

Horn of Plenty Food Drive: March 26th

KIDS CORNER

Acolytes – February 26

Katie Bushman, Rachel Meyer

Kids Time Staff – February 12

Carolyn, Mitchie, Michael, Dylan

MEMORY VERSE – *We have 7-8 who have memorized the verse so good for you!!!* **Our memory verse for our Elijah study is: “Trust in the LORD with all your heart and do not rely on your own insight. In all your ways, acknowledge Him and He will make straight your paths.” Proverbs 3:5-7** *Don't forget we are in a “challenge” for learning our Bible verses. The deadline for the Bible Reader award is the end of June and I sure would like for ALL OF YOU to get your names put on the Bible Reader plaque!*

BAPTISM CAMP – Baptism Camp will be March 17—18. If you want to be baptized this year, please come to Baptism Camp. If you've already been baptized and want to come to Baptism Camp, please come. We need parents to go with us to assist with meals and sponsoring (and playing games while John has the kids!). Of course your child can go even if you can't. We just need 2-3 parents to assist. **Cost will be \$10.00 per family to offset total cost of \$22.00 per person.** Think about it

CHURCH CAMP SUNDAY – February 26th will be church camp Sunday. Be sure to look for applications and information at our Camp Sunday tables.

MAP – DON'T FORGET TO BRING YOUR MAPS BACK WITH NAZARETH CIRCLED. YOU'LL GET AN ICE CREAM CONE COUPON.

BOOKS OF THE BIBLE – Be sure to memorize the books of the Bible through Esther. You'll be glad you did, if you know what I mean. For those of you who weren't here, I'll get you a Bible bookmark on Sunday that has the books of the Bible on it so you can learn them, too.

FYI – There will be NO WWNF (INCLUDING JYF AND CCF) ON 3/15 AND 4/12. JUST A HEADS UP FOR YOU so you can get those dates on your calendars and not be confused about things.