



The Old Is New News

Keeping our church family connected and informed.

A Word from Our Pastor



Much credit for my thoughts that follow are owed to Matt Smethurst and his article *Journey to the Cross: A Devotional Guide**.

Lent...such a simple sounding word...humble, yet sturdy...the English spoken version might perhaps bring to mind what's filtered out in the dryer after doing a large load of clothes (as in lint). On the contrary, Lent is in many ways itself a filter. Or maybe more accurately it is the filter holder. It's that time in a Christian's life spent preparing for the anticipated day when we celebrate the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The actual filter would be better imagined as the prayer, fasting, humble contemplation, and time spent in repentance during the 40 days between Ash Wednesday and Easter Sunday. Matt Smethurst described Lent as being "first and foremost about the gospel making its way deeper into our lives."

John the Baptist proclaimed Jesus's coming as the fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy of a voice crying out "in the wilderness, prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God." (Isaiah 40:3) That is in essence the Lenten Battle cry: Prepare the way of the Lord! Make room for Him in your thoughts, your actions, your desires, and your worship. So, what is the proper response to an announcement of such magnitude? For the Christian, a good place to start might be by refocusing our lives around means of grace that strengthen our connection to God. Indeed, it could be said that the whole point of this enigmatic season on the Church calendar is about reconsidering how we are living in light of God's presence and power made available to us in Jesus Christ. Or more concisely, it's about reorienting our life God-ward.

Jesus modeled this for us in the guise of a wilderness experience. In modern terms we might think about it as gaining new insight or perspective on life. Kind of like when someone goes on a hike in the mountains or on a trip to a third world country where they are stripped of their usual comforts and removed from the safety (and distraction) of family. Such contexts often force people to see the world from a different perspective. That's what we should strive for at Lent. We should be looking for ways to shake up our lives to the extent that when we naturally reach for our usual comforts and find they aren't there, we will be forced to rely more heavily on Christ and the grace He gave us in His journey to the cross.

I often reflect on the counter intuitiveness inherent in the Christian faith. But the truth is, it's not Christianity that is counter intuitive. Counter-cultural yes, but the counter intuitiveness resides in fallen humanity. The world is the one that is upside down. Christ is the corrective. Christ sets things right and reminds us of what is truly important in the world.

When we give up something important to us during Lent, it's not to be reminded how much we miss those things when we don't have them, but rather to be awakened to how much we miss God and long for His life-giving Spirit in our daily lives. In other words, it's not only about giving things up, but also about adding things to our lives...God things. For example: If you give up Facebook for Lent, who might you then devote meaningful conversation to in the void? If you give up tv as a default activity, how can you use that time to cultivate quality family time? Are you fasting for Lent? How will you then rely on God for the strength of "food from heaven"?

The practice of giving things up for Lent is a way of entering into the wilderness with Jesus. You don't have to worry about whether your sacrifice is a good one, or whether you could do something more. As long as it is sincere and about striving to know Christ more fully and trusting Him more completely to lead you where you need to go, it will be a time of growth in your relationship with Jesus. This is the whole idea behind Jesus's command that "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me." (Matthew 16:24) What do you need to give up this Lent in order to grow closer to God?

Pastor Ted

[*https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/lent-is-about-jesus-a-free-devotional-guide/](https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/lent-is-about-jesus-a-free-devotional-guide/)

In the Know

MEN'S CLUB

All men are invited to Men's Club on Monday, March 4 at 5:30 pm in the Family Life Center.

NURSING HOME VISITATION

Congregational Care will be visiting the area nursing homes on Saturday, March 16. They invite you to join them at the church at 9:30 am to go.

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

The Administrative Council will meet on Sunday, March 17 at 11 am.

MES CIRCLE

All ladies are invited to MES Circle on Monday, March 25 at 6 pm in the Family Life Center. We will be having a VBS Workshop.



Nomads



If you notice some RV's parked by the pavilion in March, that means the Nomads are here! This is a group of individuals who travel the country in their RV's being the hands and feet of Christ as they work on various projects. They will be here in the Hattiesburg area continuing to help repair homes damaged by tornadoes. During their stay, they will be worshipping with us, so please make them feel welcome at OGC!



Curtiss Ann Matlock

southern stories of grace and grit

On Monday, February 26 the MES Circle welcomed author, Curtiss Ann Matlock, as their guest speaker.

Ms. Matlock who has a gift for telling what she calls "the secret lives of ordinary people" shared with the group how she began her journey as an author and the trials she endured along the way as she realized how God was leading her in her storytelling.

You can find out more about Curtiss Ann and her books on her website

curtissanmatlock.com.

Children & Youth

Mark your calendars for the upcoming events that you won't want to miss!

Sunday, March 3rd - Pancake Supper and a Wacky Night of Misfortune

This event is to raise money to send our kids to Camp Wesley Pines this summer. Tickets are \$10 for adults/youth and \$5.00 for kids under 12. It will be a night of fun and laughter. Pastor Ted and Jamie will be raising funds for the camp cause and the one with the most funds raised will have to partake of a Misfortunate Event. While they are busy trying to fill their buckets, there will be some very brave and courageous church members awaiting their fate as the Wheel of Misfortune is spun! Bring your family and friends and come enjoy some good food and entertainment!

Sunday, March 10th - Baby Shower for Ellen Frazier

The Children's Department is hosting a baby shower for one of our favorite J.A.M. teachers. We just love the energy and excitement Ellen brings to our kids on Wednesday nights and we want to show her how much we appreciate her. All are invited to come and help us welcome the newest addition to our church family!

Thursday, March 14th - Kids Day at Triple R Farms

Bring your kids (Pre-K – 6th grade) to the church at 1:00 pm. We will spend the afternoon visiting Triple R Farms. **Please sign up to go by Wednesday, March 6th.** There will be a sign-up sheet in the FLC

and also on my Bulletin Board by my office.

Friday, March 15 – DEADLINE to register for Camp Wesley Pines

Please see me to get registered as soon as possible.

Sunday, March 24th – Palm Sunday

All children from nursery on up are welcome to join in our annual Palm Parade. Please have your kids in the FLC Hallway to get their palm branches by 9:50 a.m.

Sunday, March 24th – Easter Eggstravaganza!

It's our annual Community Easter Egg Hunt day! I am looking for volunteers to help with the event. Please let me know if you are willing to help with this fun opportunity to share our love to the community. Also, candy donations are most welcomed!

June 9 – June 13th VBS - The Great Jungle Journey

This year's VBS is going to be the best yet! It will be our very 1st VBS as Oak Grove Church and I am praying that we will be busting at the seams with children to share God's message with! It is a wonderful opportunity to invite our friends and community to church. If you are willing to assist us in this exciting adventure in any way no matter how big or how small, please let me know. Planning is already underway, so please be in prayer for this year's Vacation Bible School.

Thanks so much for all who are so willing

to volunteer and assist with our Children's Ministry. I am so blessed to have you as my church family. Your love and prayers make my job so enjoyable! In His Service,
Kaycee



Youth

Upcoming events for Youth:

Mission Days: Please sign up to work at the Food Pantry or assist with Meals on Wheels during Spring Break.

Youth will assist with Kid's Pancake Supper, Sunday, March 3

Youth will assist with Easter Eggstravaganza, Sunday, March 24

Global Wildlife: Trip to Global Wildlife is set for Sunday, March 17th in Folsom, LA.

Check with Mrs. Kaycee for more details on the trip.



**PRINCESS BALL
2024**





Wednesday Night Meal

5:30-6:15 pm

Adults \$6 Children \$3 Family Plan \$20

March 6

Menu: Chicken and Wild Rice Casserole,
Creamed Corn, Green Beans, Garden Salad,
Rolls, Cobbler/Brownies/Ice Cream

Children's Menu: Chicken Nuggets/FF

Shoppers: Nancy Amacker/Pat Bennett

Class to Serve: Youth

Dessert: Cobbler/Brownies/Ice Cream

March 13

Menu: Beef Tips w/rice, Whole Green Beans,
Garden Salad, Biscuits, Assorted Desserts

Children's Menu: Fish Sticks/Tater Tots

Shoppers: Kaycee Hairston/Lori Terrill

Class to Serve: Youth

Desserts: Adelia Powe, Eva Ratliff, Molly
Reynolds, Heather Richardson, Gayle Shearer,
Cindy Smith

March 20

Menu: Hamburger Steak w/Onions & Gravy,
Mashed Potatoes, Seasoned Green Beans,
Tossed Salad, Rolls, Assorted Desserts

Children's Menu: Hamburgers/Tater Tots

Shoppers: Laura Baird/Peggy Woodruff

Class to Serve: Youth

Desserts: Hagan Smith, Carol Standland,
Shannon Sterling, Lori Terrill, Brenda Walker,
Gloria Watkins

March 27

Menu: Chicken Spaghetti, Broccoli, Garden
Salad, Rolls, Assorted Desserts

Children's Menu: Pizza and Salad

Shoppers: Fred/Jane Boudreaux

Class to Serve: Young at Heart

Desserts: Peggy Woodruff, Nancy Amacker,
Esther Attkisson, Beth Bankston, Pat Bennett,
Jane Boudreaux



Anniversaries & Birthdays

ANNIVERSARIES

- 7 Perry/Kay Arnold
- 8 Larry/Gloria Harms
- 13 Grady/Jane Aultman
- Josh/Megan Mathias
- 23 John/Laura Hojem
- 29 Craig/Trista Boudreaux

- Elizabeth Goff
- 5 Jane Boudreaux
- 8 Grady Aultman
- Fred Boudreaux
- Landon Frazier
- 10 Nancy Barnette
- Roland Pimm
- Patrick Smith

- 20 Hoppy Bennett
- Greg Langford
- 21 Robert Hammond
- Jenny Langley
- 22 Noel Dickerson
- 23 Riley Barber Spiers
- 24 Heather Richardson
- 26 Roxy Barber

BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Jimmy Carpenter
- 2 Jamie O'Quinn
- 3 Sarah Findley
- Bowen Terrill
- 4 Jeanette Breland

- 11 Charlie Fulmar
- 12 Dempsey Amacker
- Lath Hairston
- David Oubre
- 15 Leigh Shelton
- 18 Cindy Oubre

- Betty Entrekin
- Jacob Hammond
- Anna Oubre Pitfield
- 27 Vickie Durant
- 31 Eva Ratliff
- Ryan Grace Wesley

Please contact the church office to add an anniversary or birthday!

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