

# SWIFT CREEK CHRONICLE



Dear Church Family,

In two weeks, we will reflect on Ash Wednesday, which marks the beginning of Lent, a season of reflection, repentance, and renewal in the Christian liturgical calendar. This solemn day invites us to reflect on our lives and seek spiritual cleansing, preparing our hearts for the celebration of Easter. The practice of observing Ash Wednesday has its roots in ancient traditions and is reinforced by Biblical references that call for humility and repentance.

The use of ashes on Ash Wednesday is a profound symbol of mortality and repentance. In the Old Testament, ashes were often used as a sign of grief, humility, and penitence. For instance, in the book of Job, we see Job sitting in ashes as he mourns and repents:

*"Therefore I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes."* (Job 42:6, NIV) Similarly, the prophet Daniel turned to God with prayer and fasting, clothed in sackcloth and ashes: *"So I turned to the Lord God and pleaded with him in prayer and petition, in fasting, and in sackcloth and ashes."* (Daniel 9:3, NIV) These acts of humility remind us to recognize our own frailty and sinfulness and seek God's mercy and forgiveness.

Ash Wednesday is a call to repentance, echoing the messages of the prophets and the teachings of Jesus Christ. The prophet Joel called the people of Israel to return to the Lord with all their hearts, emphasizing the importance of genuine repentance: *"Even now," declares the Lord, "return to me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning." Rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the Lord your God, for He is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love, and He relents from sending calamity.*" (Joel 2:12-13, NIV) Jesus Himself preached the necessity of repentance, urging His followers to turn away from sin and embrace the Kingdom of God: *"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."* (Matthew 4:17, NIV) Ash Wednesday allows us to examine our lives, confess our sins, and to seek God's forgiveness. It is a time to acknowledge our own shortcomings and to trust in God's grace and compassion.

While Ash Wednesday focuses on repentance, it also points towards renewal and transformation. The season

of Lent is a journey of spiritual growth, leading believers to a deeper relationship with God. The apostle Paul encourages us to embrace this transformative process: *"Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—His good, pleasing and perfect will."* (Romans 12:2, NIV) Through prayer, fasting, and acts of charity, we are invited to renew our commitment to God and live out our faith in tangible ways. This period of self-discipline and reflection is about cultivating our Christian virtues and drawing closer to God.

Ash Wednesday ultimately points to the hope of the resurrection and a new life in Christ. While it begins with the somber reminder of our mortality, it leads us towards the joyous celebration of Easter, where we commemorate the resurrection of Jesus. The apostle Paul's words to the Corinthians remind us of this hope: *"For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive."* (1 Corinthians 15:21-22, NIV)

As we journey through Lent, we are reminded that our repentance and renewal are made possible through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. His victory over sin and death offers us the promise of eternal life and the assurance of God's unfailing love. Ash Wednesday is a sacred time for us all to reflect on our spiritual journey, repent of our sins, and seek renewal through God's grace. It is a day that calls us to humility and introspection, reminding us of our need for God's mercy and forgiveness. As we mark our foreheads with ashes and embark on the Lenten journey, let us remember the words of the Psalmist: *"Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me."* (Psalm 51:10-12, NIV)

May this season of Lent be a time of deepening faith, transformation, and renewed hope as we prepare to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. I love you all!

Your Servant in Christ  
Pastor Jason

## DEACONS UPDATE

We continued the discussion from our January meeting regarding not having Sunday School on select Sundays to give those teachers who teach every Sunday a rest. Jennie Jones presented a list of dates. It was decided to not have Sunday School on April 20 (Easter, we will have SonRise Service), May 11 (Mother's Day), and June 15 (Father's Day). Additional Sundays may be added.

The contracts for the Homeschool group and Swift Creek Studios are due for renewal soon. We will ask Trustees and Finance Committee to review contracts and present any updates, additions or changes they deem appropriate. We will have further discussion at our next meeting.

Dianne Davis asked if Board thought there was a need

for either the Pastor or a staff member to become a Notary. There is a class and a fee required to become a Notary. Discussion followed and it was decided to table until more information is concerning the class and cost is obtained.

Pastor Jason plans to meet with the pastors from Macedonia methodist and Ephesus Baptist churches to discuss the SonRise Service. Montague Lake will not be available this year.

Other dates mentioned to put on calendar:  
 May 18 Swift Creek Remembrance Sunday  
 May 28 Memorial Day Observance  
 June 1 Graduation Sunday

Submitted by Dianne Davis, Chair of Deacons

## WOMEN ON MISSION

Women on Mission has been considering mission opportunities at our monthly meetings. I have emailed Linda Williams at With Love From Jesus and we are making plans to assist there on a Thursday once a month. If you are interested in joining us, please contact Robin Atkins or Agnes Lasher.

For the month of March, we will be collecting diapers and toilet paper to take with us to With Love From Jesus.

The next W.O.M. meeting is Thursday, March 13, at 10:30 am. Please join us in praying for missionaries, a time of devotion and planning for upcoming events.

W.O.M. continues to support PreBorn with prayer and asking for donations for this ministry of saving the lives of babies and saving souls. We thank you all for your generous donations.

In His Service,  
 Robin Atkins

Due to upcoming events, Sunday School will be canceled on the following dates:

April 20, 2025 - Easter Sunday  
 May 11, 2025 - Mother's Day  
 June, 15, 2025 - Father's Day

Please make note of this on your calendar to avoid any confusion.

Respectfully,  
 Jennie Jones  
 Sunday School Coordinator



# ~ MARCH ~



- March 6 Jimmy Walker
- March 6 Kyle Lineback
- March 11 Betty King
- March 15 Susan Mulvihill
- March 17 Donna Lineback
- March 19 Sherman Gibbons
- March 20 Eloise Garland
- March 28 Haley Lineback

## PRE SCHOOL SCHEDULE

- March 2  
Sarah Jones, Eloise Garland
- March 9  
Lynda Hinnant, JoAnne King
- March 16  
Tiffany Arnett, Betty King
- March 23  
Lorraine Norton, Dianne Davis
- March 30  
Sharon Lawrence, Pat Mills

## MARCH AT A GLANCE

- 2 Brotherhood Breakfast 8:45 am
- 4 Deacons Meeting 6:30 pm
- 5 Meal 5:00 –5:30 / Bible Study 6:00 pm
- 9 Finance Meeting following service
- 12 Meal 5:00 –5:30 / Bible Study 6:00 pm
- 13 W.O.M. (date change) 10:30 am
- 19 Meal 5:00 –5:30 / Bible Study 6:00 pm
- 26 CARE 9:30 am
- 26 Meal 5:00 –5:30 / Bible Study 6:00 pm
- 30 Communion

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

- March 3  
Will & Lynne Cullins
- March 5  
Steve & Jeannette Cox
- March 18  
Jim & Billie Jo Cochran

## JAM SCHEDULE FOR THE YEAR

- 1st Sunday - Pat Mills
- 2nd Sunday - LaRue Holmes
- 3rd Sunday - Sue Mulvihill
- 4th Sunday - JoAnne King
- 5th Sunday - Children in Service

Thank you! 



**Brotherhood Breakfast  
Sunday, March 2,  
at 8:45 am.**

**March Wednesday Night Menu** Please sign up in advance. It's very helpful for the team so they will know how much to prepare. You can sign up on the permanent list or you can choose the weekly list. Suggested Donation, \$2.50 per person, children under 5 are free.

**The March Menu is as follows:**

- March 5**  
Baked Spaghetti
- March 12**  
Breakfast for Supper
- March 19**  
Pork Loin Sandwich
- March 26**  
Hot Dogs



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