

*Farmville Baptist
Church*

*The Informer
March 2019*

March 6, 2019



**FARMVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH
132 N. MAIN STREET
FARMVILLE, VA 23901
www.farmvillebaptist.org
434-392-5041**

Dear Friends,

Lent begins neatly on the very first week of March this year, meaning that Easter will be fairly late. I love a late Easter because it means that the earth itself is closer to Spring and the joyful message of resurrection—the fresh smell of damp soil, and all the buds, and the birds, and the flowers lending a kind of emotional power to the mystery of new life that we proclaim. (Of course, as of this writing, in late-February, we've already got daffodils coming up around our sign at the front of the church.) According to the ancient plan of the church, Lent begins in the cold and dark, then journeys slowly toward warmth and light.

Oh, I know, it all sounds so medieval to ask people to torment themselves with deprivations and to feel guilty about their shortcomings just because Easter is coming. I've never been much of one to promote self-flagellation, hair shirts, cats-of-nine-tails, or even fasting. The old traditions of Lent include a lot of penitential acts that were meant to tame the willful flesh of its sinful desires. I was a little bit amused to come across a Protestant publication from the 1880s that suggested the following rules for Lent: "Eat nothing sweet. Do not put salt, pepper, or mustard on your food. Put no sugar or cream in your coffee or tea. Read nothing amusing, including novels, poetry, or humorous nonfiction. Eat no meat one or two days a week, and give the money you would have spent on meat to the church. Get up five minutes early each day to pray or read devotional literature."

My first reaction to this list was, "Mustard! How hard would it be to give up mustard? What about ketchup? Horseradish sauce? Salsa?" If we were to extend the spirit of these rules to the 21st century, we might include: Watch nothing on TV but the news. Stay off Facebook. Don't play Candy Crunch—or whatever. In fact, get off the electronic devices altogether. It's just 40 days, not counting Sundays, for Sundays are never "fast days."

No, I don't often ask people to "give things up for Lent." As your pastor, I'm much more likely to ask you to take up a good cause for Lent, or a good habit, or a productive activity. And yet...I've got to admit that there's something powerful about occasionally saying no to our desires. There's something compelling, perhaps even something wise, about practicing resistance against the constant urge to indulge ourselves.

When we deny ourselves the luxuries that we're used to, we learn a liberating thing: we need very little in life. And though denying ourselves mustard doesn't teach us what it's like to be poor, it does remind us that there are those in the world who struggle to survive, who cannot afford even the smallest indulgences. When we deny ourselves the excesses of life, we learn a new appreciation for things we once took for granted. Most importantly, perhaps, when we say no to our desires, we become their master. And in a society that is largely ruled by its empty wishes and desires, how peace-giving and empowering it is to become their master. And all those abstract indulgences like gossip, self-pity, jealousy, rage... You'll never regret giving those up for forty days, for after Lent is over, you'll have learned that you have it in your power to give them up for life, just by consistently refusing them.

Lent is a holy time, a joyful time to discover anew what it means to be spiritual beings, following after the way of the Christ. I hope you'll use this time intentionally and well.

You Are Much Loved!



Ronnie Kiehm

Introducing...

Garrison Stuart Taney, the newest member of the Taney family: Daddy Ryan, Mama Kat, and Sister Madison. Garrison made his entry into the world on January 31, 2019, at 3:58 a.m., weighing 8 lbs. 5 oz., and 21 inches long. Congratulations to the Taney Family!



Baby Dedications

We have two baby dedications on the horizon:

March 10, Ellison Southall

March 24, Garrison Taney

Lenten Services

March 06, Psalm 6, Farmville Methodist Church (212 High Street)

March 13, Psalm 32, St. John's Lutheran Church (1301 Milwood Road)

March 20, Psalm 38, Heritage Baptist Church (700 Milwood Road)

March 27, Psalm 51, St. Theresa Roman Catholic Church (709 Buffalo Street)

April 03, Psalm 102, Farmville Presbyterian Church (200 W. Third Street)

April 10, Psalm 130, Jericho Baptist Church (615 Franklin Street)

April 19, Psalm 22, Farmville Baptist Church (132 N. Main Street)



The lunch that is served afterward is normally something simple like several kinds of soup, bread, and some cookies, but, creativity is encouraged and appreciated.

2019

Valentine's Day Luncheon

A good time was had by all! Thank you, Deacons, for your hospitality and a wonderful lunch. A special "thank you" to Ken Copeland and Kerby Moore for arriving early to deep fry the turkeys, which, by the way, were moist and delicious.



Twenty-seven (27) Faithful Years

On February 17, 2019, we celebrated Mc Amoss's twenty-seven years of faithful service as organist and accompanist for the sanctuary choir at Farmville Baptist Church. To honor the occasion, the church commissioned David Schwoebel, Music Minister/Composer in Residence at Derbyshire Baptist Church in Richmond, Virginia, to arrange a choral work based on the hymn *A Charge to Keep I Have* by Charles Wesley. Mc was presented with a framed copy of the first page of David's handwritten manuscript with the inscription "*Commissioned by Farmville Baptist Church, Farmville, VA, to honor Dr. Benjamin McRae Amoss, on the occasion of his twenty-seventh anniversary of faithful and devoted service as Church Organist and Sanctuary Choir accompanist.*" Mc's mother and sister traveled from Atlanta to also surprise Mc and were in attendance for the presentation. Thank you, Mc, for sharing your time and talents with Farmville Baptist Church. You are a blessing!



Visioning Process

The following teams have been formed as a result of our visioning process: Koinonia Team, Communications Team, and Faith Expressions Team.

Koinonia Team members are charged with creating and scheduling events. These events and gatherings draw the Farmville Baptist faith community and guests into intentional moments of fellowship and group building.

Communications Team is tasked with extending our reach in all areas of publicity and information related to Farmville Baptist. They will be enhancing our print, digital, social, and audio platforms.

Faith Expressions Team will assess and upgrade our interior and exterior expressions and symbols of faith. Items such as crosses, banners, scriptures, paintings, sculptures, depictions of biblical stories, and other important Christian faith related expressions will be implemented throughout our facility.

Should you have interest or questions about where you feel called to serve, contact the office or speak with Ronnie or Janice Kiehm directly.

Faith Expressions

Penny Huskey
Joyce Dav
Kim Davis
Janett Southall

Koinonia

Ken & Kathryn Copelan
Jim Davis
Jack & Kim Davis
Gene & Patsy Watson
Chuck Daniel
George Carter

Communications Team

Lorraine Carter
Cindy Cave
Kat Taney
Katherine Austin
Daniel McClemore
Becky Kelly
Tim Trent
Janet Moore, Ex-officio

Farmville Baptist Church,

Thankful for all the prayers, cards, visits, etc., during my confinement.

Love,
Peggy Cave

Dear Friends,

With David Schwoebel's composition of a piece for our choir and my mother and sister's presence at church Sunday - surprise upon surprise - you've given me an overwhelming gift, one that I'll never forget! The experience of twenty-seven years as church organist has meant more to me - in ways both spiritual and personal - than I can ever say.

Thank you for it all.

Love,
Mc

Dear Choir and Congregation,

Words cannot express the joy I experienced Sunday as you celebrated Mc's twenty-seventh anniversary as organist and pianist at your church. Sandy and I were so happy to be invited to join the surprise celebration. Your planning and execution in keeping it a surprise was truly amazing.

What a tribute to present to Mc a song composed in his honor. Your thoughtfulness and generosity in planning such a special gift and joyous occasion is very much appreciated

The Valentine luncheon was an added treat for us. The decorations were beautiful, and the food was delicious. Thanks to all of you for welcoming Sandy and me with your love.

Love and Blessings
Sharlene Amoss

<i>Upcoming Events Through April 2019</i>		
<i>March 3</i>	<i>Deacons' Meeting, Parlor</i>	<i>8:30 a.m.</i>
<i>March 6</i>	<i>Ash Wednesday</i>	<i>6:00 p.m.</i>
<i>March 10</i>	<i>Daylight Savings Time begins</i>	
<i>March 10</i>	<i>Fellowship Sunday, Fellowship Hall</i>	<i>10:30 a.m.</i>
<i>March 17</i>	<i>Church Council, Parlor</i>	<i>8:30 a.m.</i>
<i>March 28 & 30</i>	<i>FACES food packaging and distribution</i>	<i>5:00 p.m. /8:00 a.m.</i>
<i>April 14</i>	<i>Quarterly Church-wide Business Meeting</i>	<i>9:45 a.m.</i>
<i>April 14</i>	<i>Palm Sunday Services</i>	<i>11:00 a.m.</i>
<i>April 17</i>	<i>Maundy Wednesday with Service of Shadows, Sanctuary</i>	<i>6:00 p.m.</i>
<i>April 19</i>	<i>Good Friday—FBC</i>	<i>Noon</i>
<i>April 20</i>	<i>Easter Egg Hunt at the home of the Kiehms</i>	<i>11:00 a.m.</i>
<i>April 21</i>	<i>Easter Services</i>	<i>11:00 a.m.</i>
<i>April 24</i>	<i>Fun Bunch Lunch—Merks</i>	<i>Noon</i>

Monthly Financial Report For the Month Ended January 2019	
YTD Budget Needs	\$205,220.00
January Receipts	\$ 12,279.00
YTD Receipts-undesignated	\$ 12,279.00
January Expenditures	\$ 15,594.57
YTD Expenditures	\$ 15,595.57

Personal Announcements

If anyone has anything to submit for the newsletter, such as events, wedding announcements, births, graduations, showers, etc., we are happy to include the announcement in the newsletter. Please let the church office have this information by the third week in the month.

Worship Volunteers

If you would like to help lead our worship services for March, you may visit our webpage, farmvillebaptist.org, and click on the link **Worship Volunteer Sign-Up List** "[Click Here to Sign Up](#)". Or, you may contact Janice Kiehm at 478-363-6499. Your participation is always appreciated and needed.

<u>DEACON FAMILY MINISTRIES</u>					
Cindy Cave	A-Bh	Kerby Moore	Dr-E	Jack Davis	P-R
Jack Davis	Bi-Coo	Ken Copeland	F-L	Chuck Daniel	S-Tn
Janet Southall	Cop-Dq	Becky Kelly	M-O	George Carter	To-Z
Life Deacons: Peggy Cave, Jack Davis, Jim Davis, Joyce Davis, Gene Watson, Cecil Yeatts					