



The Good News



My dear sisters and brothers,

We are fast approaching the holiest day of the Christian year - Easter. I know that popular opinion might lean toward Christmas for the "holiest" honor, but, if you think about it, the birth of a baby is an everyday occurrence, but a resurrection from the dead? Wow!!!

Truth be told, that IS where we focus our attention, and rightly so. But we tend to quickly gloss over the fact that for Jesus to be raised, he first had to die. In fact, our tradition insists that it was one of the most horrible deaths imaginable, torture to the nth degree.

We have tried to "pretty it up" over the centuries - we have that lovely lighted cross in our sanctuary and there are oh so many gold crosses that hang around our necks. How is it that we have taken this instrument of torture, this first-century equivalent of the electric chair, and "prettied" it? Probably, we cannot bear to leave it as it is.

So saying, we do our Lord a disservice (and ourselves as well) by jumping so quickly over the crucifixion to the resurrection. We will gather on Maundy Thursday evening (4/9) at 7:00 pm for a worship service that will remember the Last Supper and then observe the moving ritual of *Tenebrae* (darkness). This will be unlike anything you have experienced before, so I hope you will make a special commitment to be here. I can promise you it will carry you to Calvary in a way you have never been transported before. This may well be the most meaningful service you will attend all year.

On Easter Sunday, we will have two services to celebrate the resurrection - one at 8:00 AM, the second at 10:15 AM with a potluck Easter breakfast in between - Dorothy will have some special events for the youngsters. Bring muffins, fruit, breakfast casserole, whatever you feel led to share. We will have a delightful time of worship and fellowship as we celebrate this HOLIEST of holy days.

Blessings,

David



PYC EVENTS



- April 5 and 12 NO PYC (Spring Break)
- April 8 All Youth Dinner at Buffalo Wild Wings
- April 19 Help with Communion Dinner
- April 26 Sr. High Montreater Lunch
- Spirituality Centers
- May 3 Progressive Dinner

UPCOMING DPC EVENTS

First a few reminders...

- April 4-10 Pearlington Mission Trip
- April 5 First Sunday Brunch after worship

Holy Week

- April 5 Palm Sunday 10:15am
Children's Choir Singing
- April 9 Maundy Thursday Service 7:00pm
- April 12 Easter Sunday Worship 8:00am
Easter Breakfast and Egg Hunt 9:00am
Easter Sunday Worship 10:15am

EASTER SUNDAY BREAKFAST AND EGG HUNT April 12

We hope you will join us on Easter morning for a pot luck breakfast. Bring your favorite breakfast foods to share; the Fellowship Committee will provide coffee, hot chocolate, milk, and orange juice.

COMMUNION DINNER April 19

The Christian Education Committee invites all of the 1st and 2nd graders with their families for a wonderful evening to step back in history and experience the Last Supper. We will watch Jesus and the Disciples share their special meal. Then the disciples will join you and your family for dinner and talk with you about communion. You don't want to miss this dinner unlike any other!

We need the help of our congregation to make this dinner extra special. Many have already been recruited to be disciples, make costumes, provide music, serve food, and set the stage. But we still need help getting supplies. In order to make our dinner true to biblical times, we need to borrow wooden plates, bowls, trays, and utensils; ceramic or earthenware pitchers; oil lamps; wooden sawhorses; and wooden benches. If you have any of these items, and are willing to share them, please bring them to Dorothy's office by April 12th with your name on them. Thank you for your help!



SUPPER CLUBS**May 2**

Mark your calendars now for our upcoming supper clubs. You can sign up in the bulletin beginning April 12 or call the church office. This is a great chance to spend the evening with 8-12 members of your church family in a more intimate setting. The host will provide the main dish and let the guests know what they can bring to complete the meal. We always have a good time.

**LOOKING
AHEAD*****Looking Ahead...*****Womanless Beauty Pageant** on May 17**Vacation Bible School** on June 22-29**S.T.E.P.S.** workshops on August 29**Charleston Battery Soccer Game** and Tailgate on September 6**Women's Retreat** on October 9-11**The Children's Ten Commandments**

(as shared during the Children's Sermon on March 15)

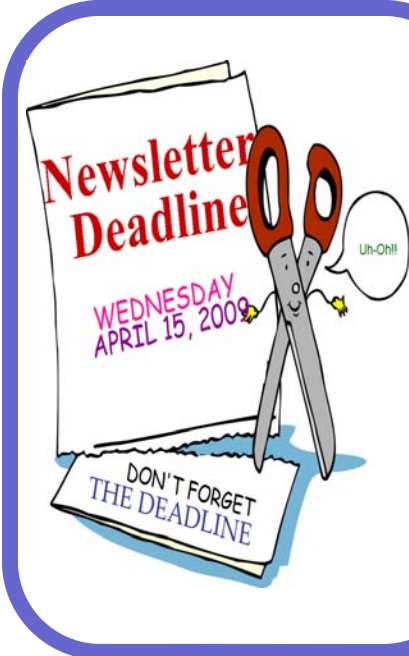
1. Love God more than love anything else.
2. Don't make anything in your life more important than God.
3. Always say God's name with love and respect.
4. Honor the Lord by resting on the seventh day of the week.
5. Love and respect your mom and dad.
6. Never hurt anyone.
7. Always be faithful to your husband or wife.
8. Don't take anything that isn't yours.
9. Always tell the truth.
10. Be happy with what you have. Don't wish for other people's things.

NEW NURSERY PAGERS

We are still in the process of fully implementing our Safe Place Policy, adopted by session in August 2008 in order to protect our children and youth from abuse and to protect our staff and volunteers from false allegations of abuse. The policy also sets up nursery guidelines to help parents feel safer about leaving their children in someone else's care – especially visitors. We can assure parents that we have trained and screened our staff and volunteers to provide the best care. We will also begin using a nursery paging system on April 5th. Parents will be given a numbered pager so that the nursery workers can get in touch with them if necessary. We will also use the pagers to ensure that the children only leave with the person who dropped them off since parents will have to return the correctly numbered pager when they come to pick up their child. This is an important step for our ministry with God's youngest children in the year 2009. Please speak with Dorothy if you have any questions about the Safe Place Policy or the paging system.

APRIL SCHEDULES

	Nursery	Children's Church
April 5	Infant: Donnelly Family Toddler: Allison Manaccia	Renee Sharp & Cody Sharp
April 12	Infant: Sue Boyd Toddler: Kristen Brame	Lindsay Stark & Lauren Veline
April 19	Infant: Dennis Pankop Toddler: Melanie Oswald	Diane Lodge & Taylor Floyd
April 26	Infant: Susan Burnette Toddler: Sande Eier	Karene & Taylor Feltner
April 5	Communion Servers Jack Judson ** Jim Mallory **Elder of the Month	Cheryl Boan TBA



STEWARDSHIP REPORT thru March 23, 2009

Income Needed to date	\$ 83,328.00
Income received to date:	\$ 65,599.01
Variance:	\$ 17,728.99

THANK YOU

My family and I thank you, the members of Dorchester, for all the cards, calls, expressions of concern and sympathy, and most of all, your prayers, during my dad's serious illness and death. You helped ease a difficult time for all of us and we really appreciate your kindness.

Thank you,
Jan Meyers-Stanfield

NATURE'S BOUNTY

Forester Doug: ready for SPRING!!

It is mid-March as I write this, so I hope you've been enjoying the "Little Sweet Betsy" trillium along the drive, the crimson "Red Maple" seeds covering the tree canopies, and the "Yellow Jasmine" blossoms.

The highway department has a plan to widen Dorchester Road. Recently several men of the church met with a lady to review the plans and to discuss the impact on the church property. While we lose a strip of land, and gain a 4-lane road and a sidewalk, my concern was the continued health of our big live oaks.

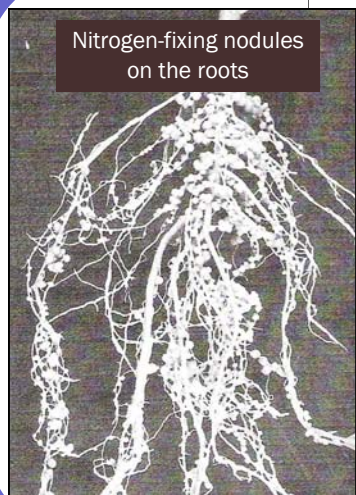
The biggest live oak, closest to the road, is beyond the edge of the right-of-way of the widening plan. Actually, the last widening project, cut down the bank and removed about 1/3-of this oak's root system. So, this oak survived that episode and will be fine.

Now, let's talk about tree roots. Plant roots do several things: they grow longer and absorb water and nutrients from the soil; they add organic matter to the soil as they die and decay; they support the stem and crown, the above ground parts. The part of the root system that absorbs water and nutrients is not the big fat roots, covered with bark, close to the tree trunk, but those way out, beyond the canopy drip-zone, even 30 to 40-feet away. At the ends of those newly formed roots is a root-cap that covers and protects the tender growth zone, the primordia, as it elongates, pushing its way around and between the soil particles. Just behind the primordial is the zone of newly formed cells which bear the root hairs. Root hairs are actually extensions of these epidermal cells. The root hairs greatly magnify the absorbing surface. It is the root hair zone that absorbs water and nutrients from the soil that is then transported upward through the roots, stems, branches, twigs and leaves.

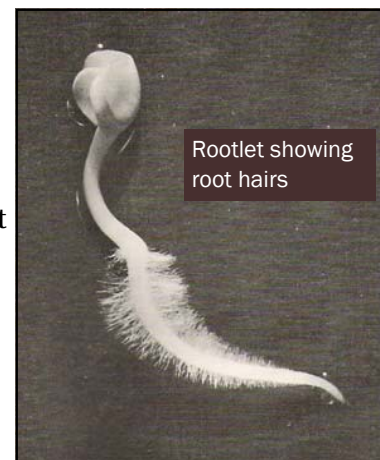
In soil are many organisms; nematodes, bacteria and fungi among them. Some of these organisms are helpful, some are harmful. There are bacteria that cause diseases, like root rots, in plants; others that decompose organic matter back to compost. One beneficial bacterium, *Pseudomonas*, grows in the root tissues of the Legumes. The infected roots form nodules, or lumps, where the bacteria actively take the nitrogen from the soil atmosphere and transform it into forms the plants can use. The insides of nodules are red to pink color where a substance related to hemoglobin forms. The *Pseudomonas* are termed, Nitrogen-Fixing Bacteria. This ability to take the nitrogen from the atmosphere, where it is unavailable to plants, and change it into plant available forms is a unique biological process yet to be duplicated by man!!

How's that for a challenge??

'till next time, Forester Doug



Nitrogen-fixing nodules on the roots



Rootlet showing root hairs

My Sister's House 4th Annual Start-up Baskets

My Sister's House is a shelter for battered women and their children who have chosen to courageously leave their abusers. While at My Sister's House they receive counseling and legal aid in dealing with the domestic violence. They arrive at My Sister's House with little or no personal belongings. When the time comes to leave their safe haven; they are in need of household items and staples in order to start over on their own. On Sunday, April 19, 2009 Dorchester Presbyterian Church will be having the annual magnets to pick up as reminders of what is needed. Return the magnet along with designated items on Sunday April 26. Your support for this worthwhile cause will be a blessing to the clients at My Sister's House. Please remember this could be someone you know and love.

Thank you, Mission Committee



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Just a reminder that the Presbyterian Women meet each month on the fourth Thursday for Bible study and fellowship. We meet every second and fourth Monday at 7 pm and the second and fourth Thursday at 10 am for crafts.



Thanks again for the support from the congregation on our prayer shawl ministry; we have made 51 shawls for this ministry since September. Heartfelt thanks to the special ones that give their talent and time to make this ministry possible by making the shawls. Making a shawl is a very rewarding opportunity to express your love and increase your prayer life. If any of you would like to learn how to knit, crochet, or quilt please join us on our craft days. If you have the need of a prayer shawl for an ill family member, friend, or someone that needs comfort and encouragement, please contact Sandy Nunn at 851-2548 or complete the form below. When possible, please request shawl early enough for us to include it in the dedication service. We do appreciate that Dorothy, giving the shawls even more meaning, dedicates the shawls in prayer. Here at Dorchester we are all aware of the power of prayer. We do have a few shawls available and someone is always working on one. Thanks again to everyone that makes this ministry possible.

Requested by: _____ Phone # _____

Requested for: _____

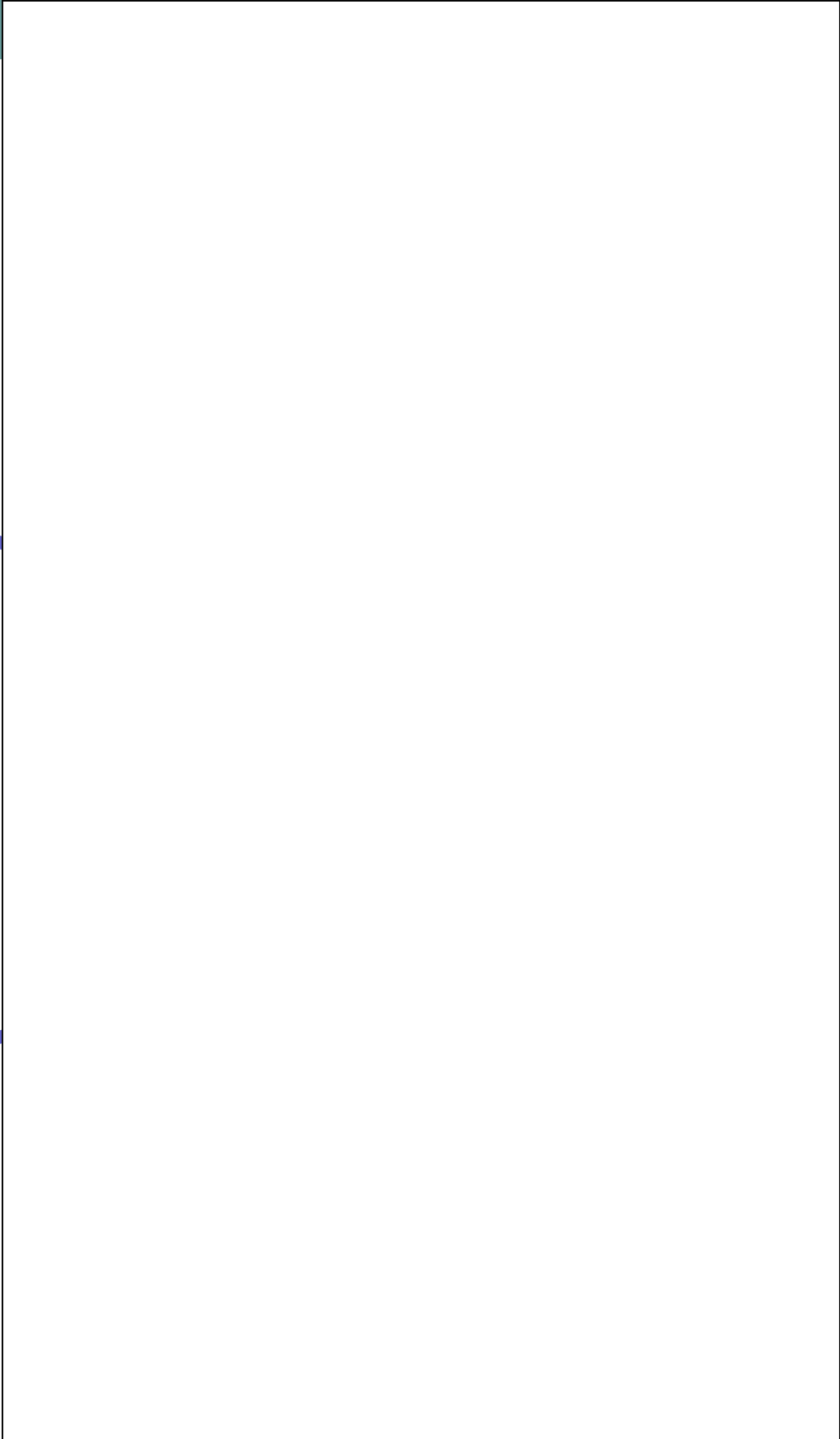
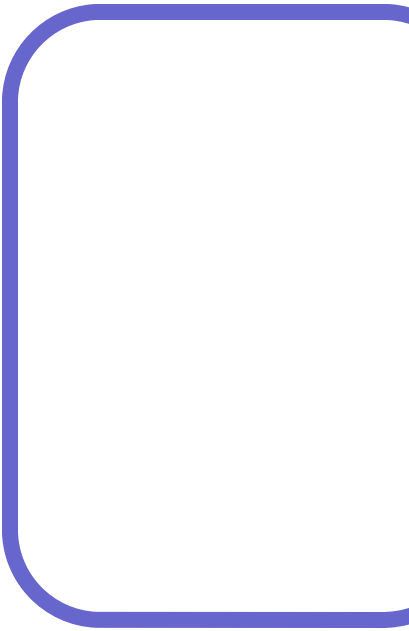
Reason for shawl _____

Triangle Shawl _____ Rectangle without fringe _____ Lap robe _____

Rectangle Shawl with fringe _____ Choice of color _____ (we will match if possible)

Date needed by _____ (we will do our best)

I would be interested in a Saturday morning class _____



DORCHESTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Summerville, SC 29485

Phone: 843-871-3572
E-mail: Dpcusa@bellsouth.net

We're on the Web!
dorchesterpresbyterian.org



Presbyterian Church
U.S.A.



We Welcome All Newcomers and Visitors

Morning Worship: 10:15 a.m.
Sunday School: 9:00 a.m.

Office Hours: M-Th - 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
F - 8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Phone: (843) 871-3572/871-3579
WebSite: dorchesterpresbyterian.org

Interim Pastor:	The Rev. Dr. David Leininger
Associate Pastor:	The Rev. Dorothy Blackwelder
Pastor Emeritus:	The Rev. Dr. Richard A. Cushman
Administrative Assistant:	Jan Meyers-Stanfield
Bookkeeper:	Karene Feltner
Music Directors:	Kevin & Jennifer Gossett
Organists:	Susan Cadwell & Angie Krouse
Director, Good Shepherd School:	Joan Farrell
Sunday Nursery Child Care-givers:	Amy Plexico & Angela Laffin
Custodian:	George McMichael