



The Good News



My dear sisters and brothers,

One of our tasks during this interim period between installed pastors is to look at how we have come to be the congregation that we are. Sometimes, as this piece from my friend, Shannon Webster, makes clear, we are in for a surprise. He writes,

“I stepped in it the first church I served out of seminary, in Wichita. In 1978, some of the women of the church came and asked if they could organize a women's group. I said of course. It was not until later that I figured out why there was disapproval among some quarters.”

Shannon says that the group soon asked to hold a bake sale to raise funds to do some sprucing up around the place. The Session said OK, and “That's when it hit the fan - angry calls about money changers in the church, even name-calling, etc. Totally out of character for the gracious little church I knew. I called a special Session meeting and we met at the church; the elders had no more idea than I why this was happening, and didn't seem to be able to find out. The Clerk brought the old Session records and we divided them up around table and began reading. It was about 45 minutes later when elder Dorothy Crandall yelled: ‘I found it!’

“Indeed she had. In 1952 the Women of the Church organization had a fund-raiser, selling vanilla extract to buy the church dishes we were still using - gold rim and embossed name. The debate then (as we were finally able to ferret out the story) was why the women were selling alcohol (some decent alcohol content in extract) in the church.” What a mess! The motion to allow the fund-raiser was tabled in 1952 and was never taken off the table. “This explained why there was no women's organization in the church. “The Bake Sale War of 1978 was simply unfinished business, a renewed eruption of the Vanilla Extract War of 1952.”

Shannon was able to get things fixed and peace was restored, but the story is a valuable reminder that how we got to where we are is sometimes by a rather circuitous route. In the coming weeks we will look at our Dorchester past to help us understand our Dorchester present. It should be interesting.

Blessings,

David

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER **February 24**

We will celebrate Mardi Gras and Shrove Tuesday with a fun-filled evening. Shrove Tuesday is also called Fat Tuesday because the tradition is to eat all of your leavened bread before the beginning of Lent, a time of fasting. We may not eat all of our leavened bread, but we will fill up on pancakes and other yummy breakfast dishes. Sign-ups will begin February 8th in your bulletin or the church office.

NEW OUTDOOR WORSHIP SPACE **March 14**

Preston Smith has adopted the building of an outdoor worship space behind the pavilion as his Eagle Scout Project. He is asking for volunteers to let him borrow tools and for volunteers to help build the space. Please contact him if you can help. This will be a wonderful space for worship and fellowship in a beautiful setting on the borders of our Wilderness Sanctuary that people will enjoy for many generations.

BETHELWOODS CHURCH RETREAT **March 27-29**

Registration Forms are now available in the church office and narthex and online. This promises to be a wonderful relaxing weekend with your church family with time for fellowship, exploration, a low ropes course, a kickball game, campfire, and hayride. Sign up today!

Looking Ahead...

First Sunday Fellowship on March 1

Spring Gulf Coast Mission Trip on April 4-10

**FUNDRAISING AT THE GOOD SHEPHERD SCHOOL**

In order to keep the cost of tuition low at the school, but also pay fair wages for the staff and provide good programs for the children, some of the parents have organized several fundraisers. Since GSS is a mission of our church, we are invited to participate.

Children's Clothes Yard Sale

You can donate gently used children's clothes anytime before February 2nd and can come on Friday, February 6, from 2—6 p.m. and Saturday, February 7th, from 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. In the fellowship Hall to shop.

Dinner at CiCi's Pizza

Eat dinners at CiCi's Pizza on the fourth Tuesday of every month, and put your receipt in the fundraiser box. A portion of the proceeds will go to GSS.

Dinner at Chick-Fil-A

Just as with CiCi's – eat dinner (eat-in, drive-thru, or take-out) on 2/25, 3/18, or 4/22, put your receipt in the fundraiser box, and GSS will get a portion of the proceeds.

**Upcoming
Events**

ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP

The Session has called for us to be more intentional in our Lenten observance at Dorchester this year and has scheduled an Ash Wednesday worship service at 7:00 PM on February 25 to begin our journey. Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent, that 40-day period of fasting and renewal which corresponds to Christ's forty-day fast in the desert (Matt. 4:2). By counting forty days back from Easter (excluding Sundays, which remain "feast" days), we arrive at the Wednesday seven weeks before Easter. At one time Lent was primarily viewed as a period during which converts prepared for baptism on Easter Sunday, but later the season became a general time of penitence and renewal for all Christians. Thus Ash Wednesday became the day that marked the beginning of the Lenten renewal.



The aim of Ash Wednesday worship is threefold: to meditate on our mortality, sinfulness, and need of a savior; to renew our commitment to repentance in the Lenten season and in all of life; and to remember with confidence and gratitude that Christ has conquered death and sin. The imposition of ashes is a central part of the worship service. In scripture ashes or dust symbolize frailty or death, sadness or mourning, judgment and repentance. Some traditions also have considered ash a purifying or cleansing agent. All these images are caught up in the church's use of ashes as a symbol appropriate for Lent. As worshipers come forward, the ministers dip a finger in the moist ash and make a cross on each person's forehead (the "imposition"), saying "Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return." Plan on being a part of this most meaningful experience.

HELP NEEDED AT THE PALMETTO HOUSE ... Summerville's Homeless Shelter

In order to establish a stronger relationship with the Palmetto House, the Service and Outreach Committee is asking for individuals of the congregation to volunteer for 2 hours once a month. The time on Saturday will be used to teach the residents of the Palmetto House some skill or activity in which the church member is proficient. This program began in November and continues each month. The volunteer will serve one month.

In November each resident made a lollipop wreath and in December, a stocking.

Suggested skills or activities could include, but is not limited to, the following:

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| Sewing | Crocheting | Applying Makeup |
| Quilting | Cooking | Personal Defense |
| Weaving | Flower Arranging | Creative Writing |
| Carpentry | First Aid | Budget Building |
| Art in any medium | | Job Applications |

Your supplies and assistance will be provided by the Service and Outreach Committee. Please call Mary Lee (871-1585) or Robin Bowers (873-4548) for more details.

NATURE'S BOUNTY

Forester Doug here,

This month I decided to cross over from the plant world to the animal kingdom.

Although I haven't had many personal encounters with 'possums, that's what's been on my mind, the VIRGINIA OPOSSUM (*Didelphis virginiana*).

The most famous 'possum is POGO, of the comics, the spokesperson for the Okefenokee Swamp. Actually, real opossums are slow, dim-witted and nocturnal. The single distinction of opossums is that they are the only marsupial animal in North America! While marsupials are mammals, their young are "born" poorly developed and the mother moves the tiny babies into her pouch where they latch onto her teats. The babies stay in the pouch gaining size and strength for a few weeks. A litter may be as large as 12 to 15 babies, so when they grow larger they leave the pouch and cling to mother's fur along her back until about 2 months old, when they are old enough to be on their own way.



Opossums have a long, scaly, rat-like tail, which they can curl around a branch with a secure hold, and just hang there. This trait is another unusual ability of the possums.

Another attribute is the "opposing thumb" feature of its feet, both front and hind, which helps it to climb trees and grip food.

When surprised or startled the 'possum often rolls over on its back, lets its tongue loll-out and "plays dead". This could be a defensive method learned long ago.

Now, what got me thinking about opossums in this question: Why does the USA have only one marsupial animal while over in Australia literally ALL the animals are marsupials? The answer seems to be that marsupials evolved early and Australia was part of a larger landmass, it broke off and drifted away carrying the fore-bearers of the marsupials. In other land areas, the marsupials were replaced by more advanced animals that produced more fully developed young, which were stronger, smarter and swifter competitors. Meanwhile, in Australia the marsupials matured into the kinds of animals there today. Quite a varied lot!

I was thinking maybe The Creator ran an experiment and put the 'possum on this continent as a test, to see how it fared with all the other mammals here, so to compare it with the marsupials in Australia. It was just a thought.

'Til next time, Forester Doug



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



The Presbyterian Women would like to thank the congregation for their response to our Prayer Shawl Ministry. We have supplied 35 shawls since our ministry started in September and thanks to your donations, we are able to keep a supply of yarn on hand. We have several shawls ready now and plan to have another dedication soon. We can also make our quilts with prayers.

Anyone who can knit or crochet and do not attend the Presbyterian Women meeting and want to make shawls, please get in touch with us and we will get a pattern for you or you may go online at www.prayershawlministry.com. If you would like to learn how to knit or crochet one, please come to one of our craft meetings. We invite everyone to join us.

We are considering a Saturday class to teach knitting, crocheting, and quilting for those that cannot attend the craft meeting. If you are interested in a Saturday class, please contact Sandy Nunn or complete the form below. If we have enough interested, we will plan a class.

If you need a prayer shawl for a seriously ill family member, friend, or someone going through hard times or a time of celebration, please call Sandy Nunn at 851-2548 or complete the form below. When possible, please make your request for a shawl in time for us to make the shawl and pray for your loved one by name. It will be more meaningful at the dedication and you will be sure to have one ready for you.

 Requested by: _____

Phone # _____

Requested for: _____

Reason for shawl _____

Triangle Shawl _____ Rectangle without fringe _____

Rectangle Shawl with fringe _____ Lap robe _____

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 _____

Groups

SYMPATHY

Jean Ann Brezden, age 65, wife of Pete Brezden, died January 21, 2009 with her family at her side. A memorial service was held Saturday, January 24, at Dorchester Presbyterian Church. Burial was private.

NEWS SPOT

Spence Howell, a 7th grader at Oakbrook Middle School, has been named 8th chair trumpet for the Regional Band, and will tryout for All-State Band this month. *Way to go, Spence!*



**STEWARDSHIP
REPORT
thru
January 31, 2009**

Income received
to date:
\$ 23,648.50

**BENEVOLENT GIVING AT
DORCHESTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH FOR 2008**

Charleston Atlantic Presbytery (Undesig)	\$23,000.00
One Great Hour of Sharing	\$ 1,701.80
Presbyterian Disaster Relief	\$ 220.00
Mother's Day Offering	\$ 582.00
Peace Offering	\$ 406.00
Witness Season	\$ 233.00
Christmas Joy Offering	\$ 280.00
Disaster Relief – Katrina	\$ 1,736.00
Thornwell Offering	\$ 525.25
Ronald McDonald House	\$ 238.00
Seminary Scholarship	\$ 1,696.50
God's Gift Shop	\$ 4,270.98
Habitat for Humanity – Aluminum Cans	\$ 173.18
Habitat for Humanity – Prayer Books	\$ 1,620.00
Haiti	\$ 2,148.40
Cookie Walk for PYC	\$ 506.60
Dorchester County DSS – Shoe Fund	\$ 1,867.30
DARFUR – Souper Bowl of Caring	\$ 801.43
Charleston Crisis Ministry	\$ 1,062.00
Endowment – Women's Concerns	\$ 50.00

Capital Funds:

HELP of Summerville	\$ 1,000.00
My Sister's House	\$ 500.00
Habitat for Humanity – Dorchester County	\$ 2,000.00
Hands of Christ	\$ 385.00
Thornwell	\$ 800.00
Palmetto House	\$ 500.00

TOTAL: \$48,303.44