



The Good News



My dear sisters and brothers,

It won't be long now. According to the Naval Observatory, March 20 at 7:44 AM will mark the Vernal Equinox - SPRING will arrive. As you science majors know, equinoxes occur twice a year, when the tilt of the Earth's axis causes the Sun to be located vertically above a point on the equator. The name is derived from the Latin *aequus* (equal) and *nox* (night), because at the equinox the night and day are equally long.

I am less concerned about the scientific stuff than I am the arrival of the season. In recent years, my family and I have suffered through winters that were much worse than we have had this year in Summerville. In fact, winter here in South Carolina has been like our recent Springs in western Pennsylvania, and I am SO GLAD TO BE HERE!!! It's been wonderful.

Of course, Spring is not the only season that we note at this time of year. On the liturgical calendar we already find ourselves in the season of LENT. It began on February 25, Ash Wednesday, and will conclude with Easter on April 12. We who grew up Presbyterian have only begun to observe the Lenten season in recent years. The only thing I knew about Lent as I grew up was that this was the time my Roman Catholic or Episcopal playmates were supposed to give up something they liked (candy or ice cream or some such) as a mark of their religious devotion. Some folks still cling to that tradition and speak of giving this or that up for Lent, but the real thrust of this seven-week season prior to Easter is introspection and preparation, a time of renewal and recommitment for our individual faith journeys.

Marlene Kropf in *The Mennonite* writes, "In the daily round of life, dust and cobwebs accumulate in our souls. The hidden corners of our hearts become encrusted with grime or filled with forgotten debris. During the weeks of Lent, God's Spirit is given opportunity to clear away the clutter, sweep away the dust and wash us clean. We are invited to prepare ourselves heart, soul, mind and body for the new life of Easter."

Blessings on you as you make your Lenten journey this year. See you at worship.

Blessings,
David

Looking Ahead...

- First Sunday Brunch** on April 5
- Spring Gulf Coast Mission Trip** on April 4-10
- Maundy Thursday Service** on April 9
- Good Friday Service** on April 10
- Womanless Beauty Pageant** on May 17



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.

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 3/18, or 4/22, put your receipt in the fundraiser box, and GSS will get a portion of the proceeds.

MARCH SCHEDULES



	Nursery	Children's Church
March 1	Infant: Lisa Waring Toddler: Kylie Page	Gina Colucci & Ryan Colucci
March 8	Infant: Laura Nelson Toddler: TBA	Don & Michelle Graves & Drew Burnette
March 15	Infant: Jenny Ticknor Toddler: Kim Manaccia	David & Ann Anderson & Leigh Burnette
March 22	Infant: Julie Richardson Toddler: Barbara Chirillo	Pam Smith & Preston Smith
March 23	Infant: Sue Nelson Toddler: Moana Limehouse	Kim Dixon & Alex Hansen
March 1	Communion Servers Mike Monnet ** Bob Monnet	Shirley Monnet Robin Monnet
	**Elder of the Month	



**STEWARDSHIP
REPORT
thru
February 28, 2009**

Income Needed to date:
\$ 55,552.00
Income received to
date: \$ 46,605.61
Variance: \$- 8,946.39

CRISIS MINISTRIES SHELTER

Since 1985 members and friends of Dorchester Presbyterian Church have prepared and served the evening meal at the Interfaith Crisis Ministries shelter for the homeless in Charleston, on the third Tuesday of every other month, in addition to supplying breakfast food for the following morning. We serve an average of 110 men, and each time it takes many people to prepare and provide the food for these two meals. Dinner includes fried chicken, potato salad, green beans, bread, brownies, and lemonade. For breakfast we take cereal, hard-boiled eggs, milk, orange juice, coffee, creamer and sugar.

We will be preparing and serving dinner at the shelter on Tuesday, March 17. Please look for the sign-up sheet and basket in the narthex. Our funds for purchasing chicken, potato salad, and other supplies are rapidly depleting. Your help is needed and sincerely appreciated.

Service and Outreach

NEWS SPOT

Our music director, Kevin Gossett, was chosen as the Teacher of the year for Sedgfield Middle School in Good Creek. In addition to his duties as band director, he also serves as an active member of the district Teacher Forum and as the school's primary teacher ambassador to the community. *Congratulations, Kevin!*

Bill and Isabelle Rooney are the proud first-time great-grandparents of a little boy named Wyatt, who was born Tuesday, February 24, 2009 weighing in at 7 lbs. 10 oz, 17" long. As Isabelle writes, "Ryan, the baby's father made it through the delivery without fainting ...! Our son Bill also survived and is now the proud grandfather. Both Bill and I are too young to be great-grandparents!" *Many Congratulations!*

CHOIR NOTES



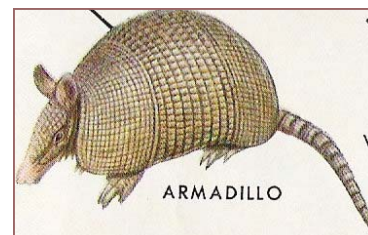
Lent is a great season to begin singing with the choir. We are beginning our work on selections for a special Tenebrae service on Maundy Thursday (April 9) as well as Easter Sunday. Rehearsal is every Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. We practice for about an hour and can accommodate for children 6 and up if you need to bring them with you. If you are blessed with musical talent, consider the choir as an outlet to give back to the church and to God. Come sing praises to His name!

NATURE'S BOUNTY

Forest Doug, back again ...

We are being invaded!! No, not by outer space aliens, but by creatures right here on earth! Let me tell you about them.

First is the NINE-BANDED ARMADILLO (*Dasypus novemcinctus*), the only species found in North America, though there are many in Central and South America. This animal's range used to be Florida and the southwest. Now ARMADILLOS are found north to Nebraska and here in South Carolina. While traveling I-95 it was usual to see a dead Armadillo on the road shoulder.



Armadillos are nearly blind, nocturnal, usually slow-moving and solitary. They have long claws and noted for digging, which is how they find the grubs, bugs, and other invertebrates that are their food. Actually, they can tear up a woody area like feral hogs. They are 30-inches long, stand 6-inches at the shoulder and weigh up to 15 pounds.

Now the reason they are found dead along highways, is this: when startled they jump straight up, then run away. This defensive action doesn't work in these times. As Armadillos walk the roads at night, a car approaches, passing over the animal, he is startled, jumps straight up and conks his head!! They can also roll into a ball, but it's not the first thing they do.

Armadillos are mammals and usually give birth to four identical quadruplets. The babies are covered with soft leathery skin, which hardens in a few weeks. They are mature in 3 to 12 months. The adult armadillo has nine overlapping plates (scutes) of dermal bone, joined by pliable skin, with rigid shields over the shoulders and hips. They can roll into a ball, completely exposing only the hard plates.

They are of interest to science for genetic studies based on the birth of the identical quadruplets, and in the study of leprosy, to which they are susceptible. These animals were named by early Spanish explorers, "the little armored creature", armadillo. They also ate them.

A giant pre-historic ancestor, the Glyptodont, stood about 4-feet at the shoulder. A nearly complete skeleton of a Glyptodont was excavated from the canal near the church and is now exhibited in the state museum in Columbia.

The other invader is the COYOTE (*Canis latrans*). They have been spotted near Summerville. This animal evolved in North America, long ago, about 2 million years ago, when the DIRE WOLF was present. There are several sub-species listed, but the Coyote is basically a "glorified dog" and breeds with wolves as well as domestic or feral dogs. They are usually grayish brown on top with whitish underparts, long narrow muzzle, black nose and yellow eyes. There is great variation in color. Coyotes run with tail down, wolves with tail straight behind and dogs with tail up. Coyotes are larger than foxes and can weigh up to 50 pounds. They are mammals, giving birth to litters that average 6, however estimates of survival are less than 50% reaching maturity. They are weaned in 35 days and fully grown in 9-12 months.

Coyotes are mostly solitary. They feed on rabbits, small mammals, snakes, carrion, but also on pet food. As there are few other carnivores, only foxes and bobcats, in our locale, there is little competition for food. So, for us the concern would be Coyotes coming into our yards for pet food, garbage and birdfeeders.

Oh! The purple violets are blooming along the trails, so back to the plant kingdom...

'til then, Forester Doug



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

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. In January, we were co-host with the senior fellowship at a luncheon for the residents at Presbyterian Village and donated paper products to the Palmetto house of Summerville.



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 _____

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 _____

Welcome to Our Newest Members



«**The Price Family**
Samuel and Susan
Ethan, Sarah,
and Hannah



The Kampwerth Family»
Kevin and Kelly
Madison, Marissa and Kathelyn



«**THE SMITH FAMILY**
Jodi and Rosie
Hampton



The Leininger Family»
Dr. David and Christie
Erin and David



Welcome
Our Newest
Members