



The Messenger

A Newsletter of the
Murfreesboro Baptist Church
February 2024



FROM THE PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE...

From the early centuries of Christianity, Christians have prepared to celebrate Easter by observing a season that came to be known as "Lent." Lent begins with Ash Wednesday. It's a period of 40 days, interspersed with six Sundays, leading up to Easter. The Sundays, ("little Easters" celebrating the resurrection), aren't included in calculating the 40 days (corresponding to Jesus' 40 days of fasting and prayer in the wilderness). The season is a period of self-examination and penitence, prayer, and fasting. That's where the custom of "giving up" something for Lent comes from. The object of observing Lent is to grow deeper in our relationship with Jesus Christ as his disciples.

Though for most of our history Baptists in general have given little attention to the Christian calendar (except for Christmas and Easter), in recent decades, a growing number of Baptists have begun to find great meaning in observing the rhythm of the Christian Year, especially the seasons of Advent and Lent. Just as Advent prepares us to celebrate Christ's coming and to look for his return, Lent prepares us to remember his passion and sacrificial death and to celebrate the victory of his resurrection! Lent reminds us that Jesus calls us to deny ourselves, take up *our* crosses, and follow him through death to resurrection. I'm grateful our church observes the Christian Year!

Our Ash Wednesday Service this year will be on February 14 at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary (in place of our regular Wednesday evening Bible study). In addition, as in past years, beginning on Ash Wednesday various churches will host Lenten Lunches during the noon hour (the schedule is elsewhere in this *Messenger* edition).

As we move through Lent toward Easter, make time to take a spiritual inventory. Ask yourself frankly, and respond to yourself and the Lord honestly, "Am I truly seeking to follow Jesus Christ as Lord and grow toward maturity in him as a part of his church?"

I invite you to join me in renewing our commitment to Jesus as his disciples. We just might be astounded at the difference it will make in our life together as a church.

Grace and peace.

Mark E. Gaskins



Ash Wednesday Service

PLEASE JOIN US

On Wednesday, February 14, we will have our annual Ash Wednesday service at 7:00 pm in the sanctuary. This service of worship reminds us that as God told Adam in Genesis 3:19, we are dust and to dust we return. This truth is symbolized by the Imposition of Ashes, in which individuals may come forward and receive ashes on their foreheads in the sign of the cross.

BIG WEDNESDAY
February 7
6:00 p.m.
Mary Etta's Menu

- Chinese Chicken Casserole •
- Green Beans, Cranberry Concealed Salad, Rolls, & Red Velvet Cake

Please call the church office to make your reservation by Monday, February 5.



KIDS' CLUB NEWS

Feb 7	Kids' Club	6:30-7:15
Feb 11	Souper Bowl of Caring Deadline	
Feb 14	No Kids' Club	
Children are encouraged to attend the Ash Wednesday service		
Feb 21	Kids' Club	6:00-6:45
Feb 28	Kids' Club	6:00-6:45



Please bring cans of soup to the box in the connector from now until Sunday, Feb 11.

This year's goal is 250 cans. The cans of soup will go in our church food pantry. We have collected 242 cans as of Jan 31. One of the children immediately said "I'll get the 8 cans to make our goal." Let's see how far we surpass our goal.
Thank you.

For The Life Of Janet August Harwood Collins

February 28, 1939 - January 14, 2024

Thanks be to God.



LENTEN LUNCH SCHEDULE

12:00 UNTIL 1:00 P.M.

† February 14
(Ash Wednesday)

**Murfreesboro
United Methodist Church**

Rev. Avery Lail
(252) 398-4556 (church) / (828) 447-3005 (cell) /
alail@ncumc.org
301 E. High Street, Murfreesboro, NC 27855

† February 21

Murfreesboro Baptist Church

Dr. Mark E. Gaskins
(252) 398-3613 (church) / (252) 395-2743 (cell) /
pastor@murf.org
200 W. Main Street, Murfreesboro, NC 27855

† February 28

Mt. Sinai Church of God

Bishop Arthur Clark
(252) 398-9369 (church) / (252) 287-7194 (cell) /
info@mtsinaicognc.org
913 Main Street, Murfreesboro, NC 27855

† March 6

**First Baptist Church
of Murfreesboro**

Rev. Robert Richardson, Pastor
Phone: (252) 398-4775 (church) / (252) 398-7359 (cell)
230 US-158 BUS, Murfreesboro, NC 27855

† March 13

To Be Determined

† March 20

Chowan University

Rev. Mari Wiles
(252) 398-6268 / wilesm@chowan.edu
1 Jones Drive, Murfreesboro, NC 27855

† March 27

Meherrin Baptist Church

Rev. John Porter
(252) 398-4663 (church) / (910) 619-3298 (cell) /
revjporter@bellsouth.net
519 Meherrin Lane, Murfreesboro, NC 27855



It's A Girl

Please Join Us for A Churchwide
Baby Shower
for
Bardin and Armando Torres
Sunday, February 18, 2024 • 2:00 until 4:00 p.m.

BLESSING MINISTRIES

FOODBANK OF THE ALBEMARLE

Volunteers are needed on February 20 by 1:30 p.m. in the church parking lot to distribute food.

FOOD PANTRY

As a reminder, if you have committed to help us keep our pantry filled, please remember to bring twelve of your selected items to the church by the 15th of each month. As always, any donations are greatly appreciated.



CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS IN FEBRUARY

- | | |
|-------------|-----------------------|
| February 4 | Hallie Moore |
| February 5 | Garth Faile |
| February 6 | Mike Alston |
| February 8 | Brooke Reich |
| February 9 | Ned Snyder |
| February 10 | Michael Bunch, II |
| February 11 | Tracey Piper |
| February 12 | Genivieve Broadhead |
| February 13 | Bern Davenport |
| February 13 | Tommy Forbes |
| February 17 | Catherine Jenkins |
| February 17 | Jon Royce |
| February 21 | Mary Dilday |
| February 21 | Mary Elizabeth Torres |
| February 23 | Joel McCormick |
| February 24 | J. E. Dilday |

Don't see your birthday? Please call the church office and let us know when your special day is.

CHURCH STAFF

Dr. Mark E. Gaskins
PASTOR

PAULA PRESSNELL..... ORGANIST
& CHOIR DIRECTOR

TOM CAULKINS.....PASTOR EMERITUS

TERESA MARTIN....ADMINISTRATIVE ASST.

UPCOMING DATES IN FEBRUARY

- | | |
|---------|---|
| Feb. 7 | Big Wednesday
Kids' Club
Bible Study |
| Feb. 11 | Souper Bowl of
Caring Deadline |
| Feb. 13 | Deacons' Meeting |
| Feb. 14 | Ash Wednesday
Lenten Lunch
Valentine's Day
No Kids' Club |
| Feb. 18 | Communion |
| Feb. 20 | Food Bank of the
Albemarle |
| Feb. 21 | Lenten Lunch
Bible Study
Kids Club |
| Feb. 28 | Lenten Lunch
Bible Study
Kids' Club |

USING THEIR GIFTS TO SERVE IN FEBRUARY

- Deacon of the Month**
T.K. Warren, III
- Opening the Church**
Colon Ballance and Wayne Brown
- Ushers**
Colon Ballance, Armando Torres,
Charlie Cole, and Dr. Garth Faile
- Radio Ministry Sponsor**
Wayne and Shirley Brown
- Caregivers**
Jan. 28-Feb. 10
Booker Daniel
Feb. 11 - Feb. 24
T.K. Warren, III
Feb. 25-Mar. 9
Diane Dixon and Alice Hassell
- Sanctuary Flowers**
Feb. 4 Available
Feb. 11 Judy Clark
Feb. 18 Lent
Feb. 25 Lent

Our Shared Commitment to Supporting Missions and Ministry for January 2024

	Jan. 7	Jan. 14	Jan. 21	Jan. 28	Monthly Total	For the Year
Weekly Budget	\$4,905.66	\$4,905.66	\$4,905.66	\$4,905.66	\$19,622.64	\$88,301.88
Weekly Tithes & Offerings	\$2,831.00	\$2,664.00	\$2,602.00	\$4,520.00	\$12,617.00	\$74,828.48
Other Income						
Over (Under)	(\$2,074.66)	(\$2,241.66)	(\$2,303.66)	(\$385.66)	(\$7,005.64)	(\$13,473.40)

Church Office Hours

Monday - Friday
8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
252-398-3613
www.murfbc.org



Murfreesboro Baptist Church
200 W. Main Street
Murfreesboro, N.C. 27855

Return Service Requested