



LAUREL
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

Laurel Gazette

February 2018



SAINT TO SAINT...

Panic at Diamond Head... At eight minutes after eight in the morning on Saturday, January 13 in the Hawaiian Islands, approximately a million people received the following text on their cell phones, "Emergency

Alert: Ballistic missile threat inbound to Hawaii. Seek immediate shelter. This is not a drill," and, at that precise moment, approximately a million people were thrown into a state of panic.

How to respond?... While it was true that air raid sirens were supposed to accompany any text warning, it's likely that the great majority of visitors and residents took this message very seriously and sought to prepare for what may come. For some this meant prayer or contacting loved ones on the mainland. For others, it involved scurrying into basements or away from populated areas. Given the size of the Hawaiian Islands, however, and the power understood to be contained in modern-day thermonuclear weapons, it's likely many people contemplated meeting the end of their lives.

Where fears and hopes come together...

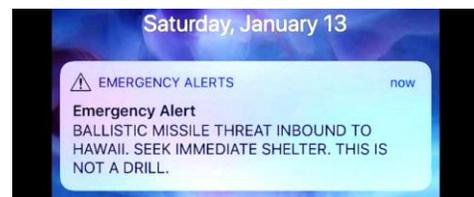
Thirty-eight minutes later a new message appeared on cell phones informing those million people that it had all been a mistake and not to worry... but it's likely thousands of individuals, if only, for a brief moment, were made keenly aware of their mortality. If this had been you, what thoughts might have gone through your mind? What actions would you have taken? How would you evaluate your life to that moment – your triumphs, your failures, your loves, your fears and perhaps hopes that could now be dashed in a flash of light.

Fundamental questions and Jesus... As terrible and gut-wrenching as this terrible mistake was, at some level, it does remind us of the profound issues of life and death surrounding the season of Lent: why Jesus came to die, why

people who once cheered him on now returned his love with jeers, why those closest to him deserted him at this time of greatest need, and how those same sins today tug at our heels trying to upset our lives and pull us away from the only One who can usher us into life that is abundant and also eternal. And, of course, it asks the question of 8:08 am, "What do you do now?"

Lent: a moment to pause and consider...

During these six weeks before Easter, we join Christians all over globe in a serious process of self-examination of our lives, our faith and future hopes as they relate to the Cross and the events of Holy Week. At Laurel, we invite you to journey with us in worship and study and prayer this Lenten season, as we seek to faithfully follow Jesus, who promised that that, through him, those who are prepared to lose their life will, incredibly and wonderfully, gain it (Matthew 16:25)!



Together with you in ministry,

Pastor Mark





LAUREL FEBRUARY CALENDAR DATES

Saturday, February 3

7:30 am Men's Breakfast (IHOP)

11:00 am Memorial Svc. – Lorraine Binford

Sunday, February 4

8:45 am Adult Study

10:00 am Worship – Communion

11:10 am Session Teams Meet

Wednesday, February 7

7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, February 11

8:45 am Adult Study

10:00 am Worship

11:10 am Session Meets

Monday, February 12

10:00 am Elsie Bradshaw Circle Study

Wednesday, February 14

6:15 pm Soup 'n' Salad Supper

7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Worship

7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, February 18

8:45 am Adult Study

10:00 am Worship

11:00 am Luncheon

Tuesday, February 20

7:00 pm Grace Group Alpha

Wednesday, February 21

7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, February 22

10:00 am Grace Group Omega

Sunday, February 26

8:45 am Adult Study

10:00 am Worship

***Choir meets each Wednesday evening at 7:00pm**

***LAMB's Basket 1st Monday and 4th Tuesday of each month**

****Faith Revival Church will meet each Sunday 6:00 pm. Tuesdays, 7:30 pm, Fridays 7:30 pm, Saturdays 7:30pm**

*****Toastmasters meet the 1st, 3rd and 5th Mondays of each month 6-8:30 pm**



The **Shepherds on Call** for the month of **February** are Marshall and Gladys Chamberlayne. They may be reached at 755-6172. Please let them know if you know of anyone in need of a phone call or visit.



SANCTUARY FLOWERS FOR FEBRUARY

February 4 - Carolyn Stinger - to the Glory of God and in honor of our choir.

February 11- Karen Johnson & Carl Carpenter - to the Glory of God and in honor of David and the Laurel Choir.

February 18 - Brenda MacRae - in memory of my father, John Ruser on his birthday.

February 25 - Carol Short - to the glory of God and in honor of Rick's 70th birthday.



Join the men of Laurel on Saturday, February 3 at the IHOP, 9820 Broad at 7:30 am for an hour of good food and fellowship!



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO THE FOLLOWING FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF LAUREL!

Emmett Roeder (3)

Alex MacRae (4)

Rick Short (27)

Margaret Fitch (28)

Worship

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4 – In his message, *To Taste Living Water*, Pastor Mark explores the engaging story of Jesus’ encounter with the Samaritan woman at the well. Rejected by some according to the social mores of the time, this strong woman goes head-to-head with Jesus, finding acceptance and a new way of living to tell others about. Read John 4:1-42 to prepare. We also celebrate the Lord’s Supper and receive the Good Samaritan Offering.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11 – *A Sight for Sore Eyes* brings us a look at the miraculous healing of “the man born blind” described in John 9:1-41. On this Second Sunday preaching adventure, all will have a chance to comment upon how Jesus might bring his light to the world today.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14 – ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP – 7:00 pm - Join us with the ancient symbol of ashes as we confess our total dependence upon the God who’s so ready to bless us. Share a simple meal at 6:15 pm prior to the service.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18 – FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT - Pastor Mark leads us into the story of the raising of Lazarus with his message, *Letting Go of What’s Holding Us Back*. Lazarus didn’t regain life on his own but the help of Jesus and his

friends and family. How can we discern resources about us that will help us to maximize our potential as a child of God? Read John 11:1-44 to prepare. We will also join Gingerbread Cottage Preschool in celebrating 40 years of operation with a visit from Director Debbie Long and a slideshow. Stay for the congregational luncheon after the service.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25 – SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT – People often say that faith is more caught than taught. Pastor Mark considers Jesus’ model of faithfulness as he washed the feet of his disciples in his message, *Leading by Example*. Read John 13:1-17 to prepare. We will receive the 5-Cents-a-Meal offering on this day.

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CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The congregation met on Sunday, January 28 for its Annual Meeting. Look for a full report of the meeting and the financial reports shared there, including the 2018 Budget, in the March issue of the *Gazette*.

MEMORIAL SERVICE – FEBRUARY 3



There will be a memorial service for Lorraine Binford on Saturday, February 3 at 11:00 am at Laurel with a light luncheon to follow in the Fellowship Hall. All members and friends of Lorraine are invited to

come together to celebrate her memory.

GRACE GROUPS RETURN IN FEBRUARY



For some, the Holy Season of Lent is a time for giving up, yet for others it’s a wonderful opportunity to add on! We hope that you will “add on” participation in a Grace Group in February and March. Meeting for 1-1/2 hours each week and led by Pastor Mark, each Grace Group provides time for fellowship, study, community

singing and prayer. Our five weeks together will give us a chance to make new friends and deepen old relationships.

There is an evening group (Tuesdays, 7:00-8:30 pm) and a morning group (Thursdays 10:00-11:30 am). Both meet in the parlor at Laurel. Each begins the first week in Lent (Tuesday, February 20; Thursday, February 22) and continues through the last week in March. (Note: Pastor Mark will be out of the office the week of February 26 – March 4, and there will be no meetings that week.) You do not need to be present at all meetings to participate.

The focus of our study time will be the Psalms, a different one each week. For many hundreds of years, this group of poems/songs has served to lift up our spirits, help us better understand the heart of our Creator, and give new words to our own prayers and laments about the ups-and-downs of daily living. In giving careful study to these, we will possess a kind of magnifying glass that will enable us to peer into the deepest human need and also into God's most loving response. You will never read those words in the same way again!

To register for the groups, sign up at the church at the easel in the hallway or call or email Pastor Mark of your interest (804-672-6810, laurelpres@verizon.net.) Let God grow your spirit this Lenten Season: be a part of a Grace Group!



NEW SUNDAY MORNING LENTEN CLASS

Beginning Sunday, February 18, in the series, *Pausing on the Road to Bethlehem*, the Adult Class will

take a look at six encounters of Jesus that led to important teachings about the Christian life. Using materials from the popular, *The Thoughtful*

Christian series, the class will reflect upon a prepared reading each week from the Gospel of Luke that will include, among other themes, what it means to “take up the cross” and the grace revealed in the story of the Prodigal Son.

This brief reading for class members will be available the week before on Sunday mornings and on the church web site. Deepen your experience of the Lenten Season as you “pause” with us on Jesus’ journey to Jerusalem! Sunday mornings, 8:45 am in the Fellowship Hall.

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Upon the cross of Jesus mine eye at times can see The very dying form of One who suffered there for me;

And from my stricken heart with tears two wonders I confess; The wonders of redeeming love and my unworthiness.

These words from the Lenten hymn *Beneath the Cross of Jesus* remind us of one of the great paradoxes of the Christian faith: despite the fact that we did nothing, nor could we do anything, to deserve it, Jesus loved us... to death. The six weeks of the holy season of Lent give us an opportunity to reflect upon this “wonder.”

And that season begins on Ash Wednesday, February 14 at 7:00 pm in our sanctuary when, through Scripture, prayer and song we will recall Jesus’ deep love and contemplate how we can now respond. During this brief service, the choir will give us a lovely anthem, and there will be the traditional “imposition of ashes” for those who desire it. Our time of worship will be preceded by a light meal in the Fellowship Hall at 6:15 pm. Please join us for this meaningful service.

PASTOR MARK ON STUDY LEAVE

Pastor Mark will be attending an event in Baltimore this year sponsored by “NextChurch,” a group of Presbyterians seeking to cast a new vision of the faithful church for the 21st century. Hundreds of Presbyterian pastors and church members will be attending presentations and

participating in discussions about the future of the church, and how the Gospel can speak freshly in an age of rapid change. Pastor Mark looks forward to share insights he will have gained with both the Session and the congregation. He will be out of the office February 26 through March 4. If you have a pastoral emergency during this time, please call Margaret Fitch 804-755-7201 or Carl Carpenter 804-447-4383.

A FRIEND NAMED CHARLIE NEEL (PAST ELDER OF LAUREL IN THE 90'S)

In 1996 Charlie Neel rescued Billie Summers from a swirling current in the James River after most of the group had left the area. Billie was 67 years old. She went on her first tubing trip with the same group (LPC) in 1994, voted as her most fun day of 1994. But, what if, Charlie and Flash were not there for her? Flash has kept in contact with Charlie, who now lives in Texas. Charlie, Wade Lail (former member who left Laurel to go to his wife's church), Doris Nixon (moved to be closer to her children in Camden NC, is 92 years old now), and Billie (will be 89 on 5/13/18) all served on the session together at that time. Charlie was instrumental in our getting our pipe organ. Also, Wade Lail played a great part in explaining why we needed to add the \$250,000 addition to our church, which the GBC has helped us pay for. This was paid in full a few years ago. No wonder Billie cares so much for the property. Herb Bowles (Gladys' character of a husband) furnished the tubes (truck sized). His employer was Dyke Tire. Thank you Charlie Neel and for Flash (79 on 1/10/18) who keeps in touch.

Billie Summers



Do you love to sing? Do you enjoy beautiful music? Then consider joining Laurel's choir. New members are always welcome. For more information see our Choir Director, David Clatterbuck after church.



New additions to the list are in bold type

Let us keep the following people in our prayers, sharing in both their joys and needs:

Our First Responders – Police, Fire, Rescue
Our Military Personnel

Corinne Augustine – mother of Carol Short

Family of Lorraine Binford

Flash Bowlin

The Chamberlayne Family

Vickie Chaplin

Don and Bonnie Clatterbuck

Jean Cole

Wayne Deisher

Susan Dyson

The Keller family

Sherri Kolb, daughter of Vickie Chaplin

Ann Leveridge

Buddy Mallory

Eddie Ann Mathewson

Ann McDermott

The Mertens Family

Shirley Milliken

Trudy Moolenaar

Richard Rader, nephew of Bonnie Poff

Cathy Roeder

Nana Sarfo-Kantanka

John Schutrumpf

Tripp Shepherd

Bobby Sprouse

Jackie and Jan Stevens

Dan and Andrea Stone

Billie Summers

Family of Phoebe Toney

Prayers for Ruling Elders

Prayers for friends and families

Prayers for the Middle East countries

Prayers for the homeless

Prayers for Laurel's mission

Prayers for New Beginnings

If you know of someone in need of prayer or are in need of prayer, please call Flash Bowlin at 672-6009



MEMBER CARE AND MISSION REPORT

January 14, 2018

We had prayer and member concerns.

We discussed feeding the homeless on January 22 at Second Presbyterian Church. A sign-up sheet is in the narthex.

For our February lunch on Sunday February 18 after church, we decided to use Mary Scearce's suggestion to make Mary Yelton's (a longtime member) recipe of meatloaf. Everyone liked this idea and volunteered to help. Worship and Education will provide dessert as this was their lingering month.

We would like to sponsor a food drive for Coal Pit in February. Gladys will call them and see what they need.

Becky is working on the memoriam board to add Loraine Binford and Phoebe Toney to the list.

Margaret Fitch

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4 WEEKS to HEALTHIER HABITS HEART HEALTH INITIATIVE

Getting healthy starts small, one step at a time.

By adding a new habit each week, you can build on the great lifestyle choices you've already established, while supporting total wellness.

<p>WEEK 1: EAT WELL</p> <p>Clear your kitchen of foods containing the following: high sodium content, solid fats, trans fatty acids (especially partially-hydrogenated oils), refined grain, and added sugar.</p> <p>When shopping, fill a third of your cart with fresh foods.</p>	<p>WEEK 2: GET MOVING</p> <p>Take a walk every day. Mark your calendar to help remind and encourage yourself.</p> <p>Start with 10 minutes, and add one minute each day.</p> <p>By the end of week 4, that's 24 minutes per day! Keep at it until you reach or surpass 30 minutes, then work to increase the intensity of activity.</p>
<p>WEEK 3: FIND BALANCE</p> <p>Locate a quiet place where you can be alone and free from distraction, and sit quietly.</p> <p>Breathe in slowly through your nose and out through your mouth.</p> <p>Continue for five minutes or longer, depending on how much "calm" time you need to counterbalance your day, every day.</p>	<p>WEEK 4: SLEEP MORE</p> <p>Turn down lights and "disconnect" from screens (television, computer, phone) 30 minutes before bedtime.</p> <p>Practice the deep breathing you started in week 3 to calm down before turning in.</p> <p>Go to bed 15 minutes earlier, and do so each day until you wake up feeling energized and refreshed.</p>



Join us for lunch and fellowship after service on Sunday February 18! We will be serving meatloaf and more!



WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY GROUP

Come join the Elsie Bradshaw Circle at Laurel Presbyterian Church. They meet the second Monday of each month at 10:00am. Serving God through...Study and Scripture, Service and Stewardship, Seeking and Sharing.



Love

Hi, can you come out and play with me?
We'll sing and dance 'round the Mulberry Tree
And then play a game of "Hide-and-Seek"
We both promised not to peek.
Those words began a lifetime of friendship
That turned into a carefree teenage love.

The time to play soon passed away
Leaving us wondering, puzzling
Is this for real – will it last?
Should we store our memories
Forget the past or turn a page
Trust the future, look for a new love
To explore and nurture?

Our love did not waver
We knew it would last
It would bring a happiness
That we could hold and savor
Along with memories of the past.

So let's hold on to what we have
And thank God for our love
For it surely must come from Heaven
That beautiful Land up above.

By Nancy C. Kinch

February 2018

Task/ Responsibility	2-4-18	2-11-18	2-18-25	2-25-18	
	<i>Communion</i>				
Usher Captain	Michael Henderson	Ann Whitby	Wayne Deisher	Steve Searce	
Usher Team	Gladys Chamberlayne	Michael Whitby	Marcia Deisher	Mary Searce	
Usher Team	Ginger Lanier	Steve Searce	Peter Coulson	Michelle McBane	
Usher Team	Becky Zolnai	Mary Searce	Linda Coulson	Rob McBane	
Sound System	Bob Anderson	Rob McBane	Rudy van't Riet	Rudy van't Riet	
Projectionist	Rudy van't Riet	Jacob Searce	Karen Johnson	Jacob Searce	
All month prep:					
Lay Reader	Cheryl Dorman	Gladys Bowles	Pete MacRae	Carol Short	
Nursery	Kathy Horigan	Michelle McBane	Gladys Chamberlayne	Kathy Horigan	
/Children's Church	Margaret Fitch	Gladys Chamberlayne	Mary Searce	Margaret Fitch	
Communion Prep	Gladys Chamberlayne				
Communion Prep					
Communion Captain	Steve Searce				
Communion Server	Mary Searce				
Communion Server	Michelle McBane				
Communion Server	Rob McBane				

If unable to serve your commitment, please contact another to serve in your place and contact the Pastor with the updated information. !!!Thank you for volunteering!!!

DEADLINE FOR GAZETTE – 19th OF EACH MONTH

Consider going paperless and receiving the Gazette via email. Just send me a message at the below address and I will take care of the rest.

Gazette email: pbmacrae@comcast.net

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