



Remember: Set your clocks ahead 1 hour before going to bed on Saturday, March 9th!

Crisis Control Food Drive will be held Saturday, March 8th, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm (weather permitting) at the Union Cross Food Lion Parking Lot. March’s food for the month is pancake mix and syrup.

Church Conference will be on Wednesday, March 19th at 7:00 pm. Please make plans to attend.

Children’s Church - Ages 3 to 10

March 2 nd	Marianne Casas
March 9 th	Cindy Clark
March 16 th	Julie Striplin
March 23 rd	Kathy Horton
March 30 th	Lisa Young



March Birthdays

3/2	Jason Horton
3/6	Julie Striplin, Sierra Hurley
3/12	Ron Mills
3/15	Ellen Bobbitt
3/19	Mattie McCann
3/22	Tony Phillips
3/29	Melvin Duncan

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Return Service
Requested

Dr. Adam Woods
Mrs. Gayle Smith
Rev. Marty Daniels
Mrs. Angie Weavil
Mrs. Sara VonCannon
Mrs. Teresa Tucker

Pastor
Music Director
Minister of Education
Organist
Pianist
Office Administrator

Union Cross Baptist News

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Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. Lent comes from the Anglo Saxon word *lencten*, meaning “lengthen” and refers to the lengthening days of spring. The forty days represents the time Jesus spent in the wilderness, enduring the temptation of Satan and preparing to begin his ministry.

Lent is a time of repentance, fasting and preparation for the coming of Easter. It is a time of self-examination and reflection. In the early church, Lent began as a period of fasting and preparation for baptism by new converts and then became a time of penance by all Christians. Today, Christians focus on relationship with God, growing as disciples and extending ourselves, often choosing to give up something or to volunteer and give of ourselves for others.

Sundays in Lent are not counted in the forty days because each Sunday represents a "mini-Easter." This is why you will see the designation "Sunday in Lent" rather than "Sunday of Lent" in the naming of these Sundays. On each Lord's Day in Lent, while Lenten fasts continue, the reverent spirit of Lent is tempered with joyful anticipation of the Resurrection

Ash Wednesday Service

March 5th at 7:00 pm

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the season of Lent. Lent is a time when many Christians prepare for Easter by observing a period of fasting, repentance, moderation, and spiritual discipline.

Ash Wednesday emphasizes two themes: our sinfulness before God and our human mortality. The service focuses on both themes, helping us to realize that both have been triumphed through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

During some Ash Wednesday services, the minister will lightly rub the sign of the cross with ashes onto the foreheads of worshipers. The use of ashes as a sign of mortality and repentance has a long history in Jewish and Christian worship. Historically, ashes signified purification and sorrow for sins. It is traditional to save the palm branches from the previous Palm Sunday service to burn to produce ashes for this service. Sometimes a small card or piece of paper is distributed on which each person writes a sin or hurtful or unjust characteristic. The cards are then brought to the altar to be burned with the palm branches. The ash cross on the forehead is an outward sign of our sorrow and repentance for sins.

Before our service at 7:00 pm we will have our Family Night Supper at 6:00 pm.

Sisters in Christ Events

- March 5th @ 6pm 'Bake Sale' during Family Night Dinner. If you are bringing items to donate, please let Lisa Young know.
- March 14th-16th—Women's Retreat in Wilmington
- April 5th @ 6pm—Barn Dinner Theater 'Riverside 2nd Chance Choir'. Groups of 20 are \$69-\$73 including dinner. Everyone is invited. Self-pay. Sign up ASAP!

Senior Moments Highlights: On Tuesday, March 11th we will be going to Hamrick's for a fun day of shopping. If you would like to carpool, we will leave the church by 8:30 am. Our covered dish luncheon will be Wednesday, March 20th at 10:45 am.



(friend of Mark Reavis), Bettie Spencer, and Roger Burnett (Lisa Young's father).

Ellen Bobbitt, Ellen Cook, Bobby & Irene Cheek, Rex Church (John Church's brother), Marty & Judy Daniels, Larry Davis (Susan Hilton's nephew), Ann Huth, Laura (friend of Kathy Mills), Ritchie Longworth, Juan & Lidia Mendoza (neighbors of Hal & Melissa Little), Ron Mills, Derek Reavis

Financial Summary

	February 2 nd	
Undesignated Gifts	\$ 2,940.00	
Designated Gifts	\$ 60.00	
Total Offering	\$ 3,000.00	
	February 9 th	
Undesignated Gifts	\$ 6,700.00	
Designated Gifts	\$ 1,148.00	
Total Offering	\$ 7,848.00	
	February 16 th	
Undesignated Gifts	\$ 2,560.00	
Designated Gifts	\$ 818.00	
Total Offering	\$ 3,378.00	

General Fund

January General Fund Receipts	\$ 10,029.00
January General Fund Expenses	- \$ 16,276.43
January General Fund Net	- \$ 6,247.43
January Fund Balance	\$ 94,638.35



Women on Mission ladies had their February email meeting on February 13, 2025.

FEBRUARY WOM ACTIVITIES:

Hospice Ministry Note: Snack donations continued at both WS & HP Hospice Homes.

February Mission Projects and Outreach

- Approved a possible additional needed expenditure of \$150 to purchase additional warm clothing items, washcloths & combs/brushes for the Appalachian Backpack Ministry.
- Voted to transfer \$150 of WOM to Annie Armstrong Easter Offering.
- Approved the purchase of Easter cards & cross necklace kits for our shut-ins and the residents of Bradford Village West at an estimated cost of \$130 to \$150. A hands-on event is being planned for WOM to meet on a Saturday in March or early April to sign the cards & to assemble the cross necklaces.

Upcoming Events:

- ❖ March 9th - Baptist Women's Day with ladies of the church in charge of the 11:00 am Worship Service & the WOM sponsored International Supper @ 5:00 pm (*Everyone is encouraged to bring a dish with emphasis on a foreign country where missionaries are serving. Of course, a good old American dish will be gladly shared as well.*) We will also have a tribute to missionaries during this fellowship time.
- ❖ Other mission projects are being planned as well as another craft day to make gifts for Appalachian & Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes. Date & details are to be determined.

Recently I was given a small desk top plaque that read "Have You Prayed About It?" So many times, we get so caught up in worrying about various things that we forget to pray. I find that very true of myself at least. Perfect examples for me are planning mission projects, securing speakers for BWD & trying to balance age, health, time deadlines, etc. but what a difference it makes to see that little plaque to remind me that God is always near & waiting to hear my concerns. May we all join in prayer for ourselves, each other and those fellowmen who are dealing with adversities of various kinds and may we always remember to demonstrate how **UNION CROSS REACHES OUT TO SHOW HIS LOVE.** --Jane Sutphin