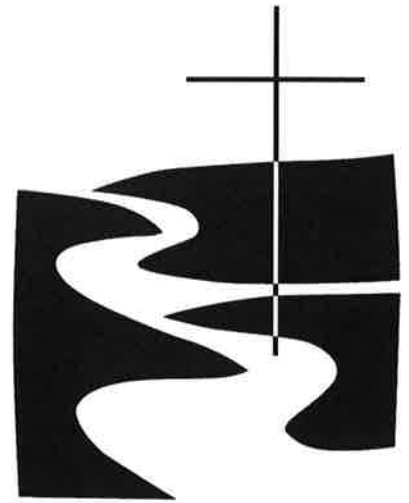




The Response

Monthly Newsletter of Shades Valley Presbyterian Church
March, 2017



From the desk of Rev. Lindsey Wade

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This year, March 1 is Ash Wednesday, which marks the beginning of Lent. Traditionally, Lent is a “time of prayer, fasting and self-examination in preparation for the celebration of the resurrection of the Lord at Easter. It is a period of 40 days — like the flood of Genesis, Moses’ sojourn at Mount Sinai, Elijah’s journey to Mount Horeb, Jonah’s call to Ninevah to repent and Jesus’ time of testing in the wilderness.” (www.pcusa.org)

Most of us tend to think of this period of “fasting and self-examination” as a time to be very serious and somber and sad as we hear again the stories of Jesus’ journey to his death and resurrection. Lent should definitely be a time for reflection and preparation, but it doesn’t necessarily have to be forty days of sadness and deprivation. This year, for Lent, our Sunday morning theme will be “Enjoy LENT: fasting from fear, feasting on joy.” We’re going to be exploring stories and scriptures of joy, looking at what Christian joy truly is and trying to discover ways to find joy in unexpected places. You’ll find more about this sermon series below along with information in this Response about our wonderful Wednesday night worship services and other exciting happenings around Shades Valley.

I hope that this Lent will be a time of joy-filled reflection, fasting, and prayer and that you will join us for a meaning-filled Lent at SVPC.

Your Transitional Pastor,
Rev. Lindsey Wade

Enjoy LENT Sermon Series: Fasting from fear. Feasting on joy.

Sunday, March 5 Isaiah 12

Sunday, March 12 Isaiah 35

Sunday, March 19 Ecclesiastes 9:7-11, 13-18

Sunday, March 26 James 1:1-4, 19-27

April 2 John 16:16-24

Sunday, April 9 - Palm/Passion Sunday Hebrews 12:1-4, 12-13

Sunday, April 15 - Easter Luke 24:13-32

(Enjoy LENT theme inspired by Rev. Whitney Wilkinson)



During the congregational meeting on February 26, the congregation of Shades Valley Presbyterian Church voted unanimously to call the Rev. Leanne Pearce Reed as the next pastor of SVPC. Rev. Reed will begin her time with SVPC at the beginning of May and you will be hearing more about this transition in the coming weeks. Many thanks to the Pastor Nominating Committee for their hard work and good listening to the Holy Spirit.

A Message from Leanne

Dear friends,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ! I am grateful for the chance to introduce myself and honored to be asked to share in ministry with you at Shades Valley Presbyterian Church.

I was baptized and grew up in the Homewood Cumberland Presbyterian Church, just a few miles down the road. After graduating from John Carroll High School, I spent my undergraduate years at Georgetown University in Washington, DC studying international economics. I thought I was preparing for a career in business, but God had other plans for me! After graduation, I spent two years in volunteer service, first at a shelter for homeless women in Washington, DC and then as a PC(USA) mission volunteer in Central America. Through these experiences, I began to sense my call to ministry, which led me to McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago. My first call following seminary was as a mission co-worker, coordinating a mission exchange program between the PC(USA) and our partners in Central America.

Since then, I have served more than ten years in parish ministry. I love to preach and lead worship, and seek to offer meaningful worship that glorifies God and nourishes and equips God's people. I am a passionate learner and teacher with a wide range of experiences in teaching in the church. As a leader, I focus on forming relationships of trust and respect. I enjoy working with people to discern a common vision, and together, to develop goals and take action to live out that vision. Over the years, I have come to realize that while I am no longer a missionary, mission is still at the heart of my call. Our life in Christian community grounds and sustains us for our mission in the world, as we go out to share God's love and contribute to God's kingdom.

I share my life with my husband Mark and our two children, Thomas (11) and Adam (8). Mark teaches math and science in Shelby County. Thomas is a sixth grader at Homewood Middle School and Adam is in third grade at Edgewood Elementary. We all look forward to this community becoming home for us.

Your Pastor Nominating Committee has represented you well! With faithfulness and diligence, they have shared with me some of the stories and hopes of this congregation. SVPC has such a strong tradition of worship, faith formation and mission service, and so much possibility for the years to come. Now I can't wait to meet you in person. I look forward to getting to know you, hearing your stories, and sharing in meals, worship, and service. I am excited for us to discover together how God is calling this congregation into the future.

Grace and peace,
Leanne

BOOK CLUB




We typically meet in the church library on the 2nd Wednesday of each month following dinner, however during Lent (March and April), we will not be meeting. Instead we would like for everyone to join together for the Lenten services. Our upcoming book for May is shown below: Come join us!

May: Ordinary Thunderstorms by William Boyd

HAPPY BIRTHDAYS!

MARCH

- 
- March 4 – Elaine Robertson, Elaine Pickett, Stephen Byrd
 - March 5 – Richard Lewis, Jr.
 - March 7 – Lydia Wilfong, Tracy Hudson
 - March 9 – Bob Tate, Lindsey Wade
 - March 10 – Daniel Miles
 - March 13 – Sid Trant
 - March 14 – Mark Nelson, Jim Archibald, Kate Richardson
 - March 15 – Mary Marshall Whatley
 - March 16 – Barbara Cole
 - March 21 – John Eagan, Jr.
 - March 22 – Marilyn Isaminger, Allie Trant
 - March 23 – Paul Hopkins
 - March 27 – Beatty Richardson, Sarah Beth Ausbeck

Wednesday Night Dinner/Programs

March 1—Dinner: Soup, Loaded Baked Potatoes, Tossed Salad, Dessert Program: Ash Wednesday Worship Service.

March 8—Dinner: Chicken Cordon Bleu, Mashed Potatoes/Gravy, Seasoned Vegetable, Tossed Salad, Rolls, Dessert. Program: Lenten Worship Service.


March 15—Dinner: Chicken Spaghetti, Vegetables, Tossed Salad, Garlic Toast, Dessert. Program: Lenten Worship Service.

March 22—Dinner: Meat Loaf, Mashed Potatoes, Seasoned Vegetables, Tossed Salad, Rolls, Dessert. Program: Lenten Worship Service.

March 29—Dinner: Chicken Pot Pie, Tossed Salad, Rolls, Dessert. Program: Lenten Worship Service

If you haven't joined us lately for the Wednesday night fellowship dinners, we hope you start soon!! We have a great crowd and wonderful food!

FROM OUR MAILBOX



*Dear Friends and Family of SVPC,
Cecil joins me in thanking you for all the food, prayers and calls you have made concerning him. The food has been amazing! From the yummy chocolate cake to the soups, stews and everything in between... Thank you!*

Cecil continues to improve and is beginning to walk a little on his own. Please come by and visit us. Afternoons are best.

*Thank you for your friendship and love.
Jane Culverhouse*

What's Going on With Birmingham Youth Group (BYG)

Since February 12, we have been meeting at First Presbyterian Church learning what it means to be a neighbor. We've focused on the Good Samaritan and on how we can have simple, yet deep conversations with new people and find common grounds of joy and concern. The youth, as always, have inspired with their insight and willingness to learn and grow.

Over the next few weeks, here are our plans:

February 26, serve a meal at First Light: Meet at the regular time (5pm-7pm) but a different place - First Light Shelter: 2230 4th Ave N, Birmingham, AL 35203. We will be serving the meal and getting to know the residents. If you can come a little early or stay a little later to help with set up and clean up, that would be welcome. This continues our "Who Is Our Neighbor?" series.

March 5, Birmingham Boys Choir + 3 on a String Concert in Trussville. DIFFERENT TIME! 3:15-7:00

March 12, We change locations to Southminster Presbyterian Church! Regular time: 5pm-7pm

Worship Workshop: Youth will create some worship elements that can be used in various Youth Sunday worship services at each of the Presbyterian BYG churches this spring.

MONTHLY DONATIONS COLLECTED FOR Presbyterian Home for Children Thrift Store at SVPC

The next collection date is Saturday, March 4. Bring your usable discards and gently used clothing to the Presbyterian Home for Children's reception center in the rear parking lot, below the playground, of SVPC. Volunteers will be on hand to unload your vehicle and to give you a receipt for your tax-deductible donation. The Center will be open from 8 am to 12 noon.

Wednesday Night Lenten Worship Services

Supper at 5:45

Worship Services Begin at 6:40

Lent is a time to pause and reflect. To think on the things we have and how we show thankfulness for all our blessings. To consider how we interact with others and show love to our neighbor. To plan for ways to deepen our connection to Jesus as we seek to follow His path more purposefully.

Our Wednesday night programs for the six weeks of Lent seek to highlight people who have done just that. People in the Bible who took a moment to think on an encounter they had with Jesus. To reflect on meeting Jesus. Some meetings were brief; some were long. But all of them made an impact on the lives of those He touched. Together we will explore those connections as we attempt to dive more deeply into our own spirituality. Each week we will examine how Jesus touched a life and changed a heart or mind. In doing so, hopefully we will all be changed as well.

March 1: Traditional Ash Wednesday Worship with Imposition of Ashes. Mary: preparing to meet Jesus

March 8: Nathanael: moving past our expectations & prejudices

March 15: Centurion: the healing of Jesus

March 22: James: storms in life

March 29: Young Boy: no gift too small

April 5: Mother of James and John: bold and humble faith

April 12: No Wednesday Night Meal/Program ~ Maundy Thursday dinner and worship service on April 13

The 2017 Lenten Daily Devotional booklets are available in the church office. "Meeting Jesus" provides a daily Lenten reading that you can do independently. This will also be the guide for our Wednesday night services as well as the study guide for a couple of our Sunday School classes.

On Display Now!

We received a Cents-Ability Certificate of Appreciation from the Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley! Each month we collect the 2-Cents a Meal Offering and we're making a huge impact with this offering being designed to fighting hunger. Our certificate reads ... In recognition of 1st place overall giving to the Cents-Ability offering in 2016. Thanks everyone!



Many thanks to all Shades Valley members for the generous Christmas Love Gift! We love working with all of you and look forward to what God has in store for our congregation in 2017!

Lindsey

Kyle

Quincy

Ty

Marilyn

Jennifer

Lana

Walt

Bobby

Notes from the February 19, 2017 Stated Session Meeting



The Session received as information or approved the following items:

- Received a request from the Pulpit Nominating Committee (PNC) and approved a **called meeting of the congregation** for the purpose of hearing and acting upon the PNC's final report and to elect the next pastor of SVPC. The Congregational Meeting will be at **9:45 AM on Sunday, February 26, 2017 in the sanctuary.**
- Approved the appointment of John Childers as Treasurer for 2017.
- Approved a motion to request that the Foundation make 3,000.00 dollars available during 2017 to subsidize paid meals (primarily Wednesday nights) as outreach for our guests from Safehaven and Salvation Army.
- Approved removing Brian and Sarah Heckert from the membership roll as they have joined Trinity Episcopal Church in Florence, AL.
- The Property Committee will hold a workday at the church on Saturday, May 6, 2017 to do some interior painting touch up and to do some clean-up outside.
- The Wednesday night programs during Lent will use the "Meeting Jesus" book for worship.
- Rev. Wade is assembling a hospital and home visitation team, including tips and guidelines for them to use. Let Rev. Wade know if you are interested in joining that ministry.
- The Finance/Stewardship Team plans to present the 2017 budget for approval at the stated Session meeting on March 19, 2017.
- Approved the 2016 Statistical Report for SVPC (included elsewhere in The Response).
- Our "Blue Shirts" are working on a house in Ensley.

Attention Campers!



SVPC campers will be gathering at Gulf State Park for Memorial Day weekend. Come join us!

Call 800-252-7275 or 251-948-7275 and make your reservation now. Campsites are going fast! For more information, email Elaine Peavy at ewpeavy@bellsouth.net.



Thank you for Souper Bowl Sunday!

Once again we had a marvelous gathering to break bread and fellowship together at our Souper Bowl. My deepest thanks to all of you who so willingly said "Yes" when asked to provide the soups, stews, desserts, and drinks for this fun event. Without your overwhelming generosity it would not happen!

Many thanks to those who so willingly helped with the set-up and clean-up. These are vital jobs that often go unlauded. You have my deepest appreciation!!

Gayle Moore

Inheritance House Open House at SVPC

The Inheritance House Counseling Program for sexually trafficked girls will celebrate an Open House on Thursday, March 21. All interested friends please join us in Shades Valley Presbyterian Church's room 312 from 11:30 AM until 1:00 PM. Enjoy a light lunch with us and meet staff and prayer partners as we begin this healing ministry of the Lord.

Shades Valley Presbyterian Church
Preliminary
Summary of Income and Expenses YTD through Jan. 2017

Income	January YTD 2,017	Budget YTD 2,017	January YTD 2,016
General Offerings			
General Offerings	105,857	N/A	61,419
Interest Revenue	4	N/A	14
Miscellaneous Revenue	0	N/A	60
Total Income	105,860	0	61,492
Expenses			
Personnel	18,656	N/A	27,564
Operating Expenses	10,751	N/A	9,061
Build, Bond, & Go Beyond	5,134	N/A	473
Session & Misc. & Pulp. Nom. Comm.	0	N/A	0
Total Expenses	34,540	0	37,097
Net Total	71,320	0	24,395

NOTE: The Session expects to approve a budget for 2017 at the stated Session mtg. on March 19.

Finance Committee: Anne Doty (Co-Chair), Ray McIntosh (Co-Chair), Jim O'Connor, Mary Wyatt Bowers, John Childers (Treasurer), and Henry McPherson
A complete 2017 budget will be available in the church office soon.

2016 Church Statistical Information

Membership Statistics

Membership as of December 31, 2015: 257

For Year Ending 12/31/2016: Gains 3 (3 new members)
Losses 16 (deaths 7, 9 moved to inactive*)
*no attendance and no contribution during past 12+ month time period

Total ending membership as of December 31, 2016: 244

Financial Data

Budget Figures

Potential Giving Units 154; Budgeted Income \$399,856; Budgeted Expenses \$469,269

Receipts

Regular Contributions \$447,291; Investment Income \$108

Expenditures

Local Program \$432,045; Local Mission \$15,227; Per Capita Apport \$3,944;
Validated Mission \$5,800; Other Mission \$1,950

This information is reported to the Presbytery as a part of our year-end church statistics.
If any additional information is needed on the Membership Statistics, please see Lana Allman.
If information is needed on the Financial Data, please see Marilyn Isaming.

March 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>5</p> <p>8:30 & 11 a.m.—Worship Svcs. 9:30 a.m.—Sunday School</p>	<p>6</p> <p>6:00 pm.—Spirituality Mtg 6:30 p.m.—Handbells 6:30 p.m.—Choral Meeting</p>	<p>7</p> <p>10:00 a.m.—Bible Study 10:00 a.m.—Grief Support 5:30 p.m.—Handbells 5:00 p.m.—Grief Support</p>	<p>8</p> <p>5:45 p.m.—Dinner/Program 7:30 p.m. - Sanctuary Choir</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Bday: Elaine Robertson, Elaine Pickett, Stephen Byrd</p>
<p>Bday: Richard Lewis, Jr.</p>		<p>Bday: Lydia Wilfong, Tracy Hudson</p>		<p>Bday: Bob Tate, Lindsey Wade</p>	<p>Bday: Daniel Miles</p>	
<p>12</p> <p>8:30 & 11 a.m.—Worship Svcs. 9:30 a.m.—Sunday School</p>	<p>13</p> <p>10:30 a.m.—Circle 2/3, 4 6:00 p.m.—Circle 7 6:00 pm.—Spirituality Mtg 6:30 p.m.—Choral Meeting 6:30 p.m.—Handbells</p>	<p>14</p> <p>10:00 a.m.—Bible Study 12:00 p.m.—Circle 5 5:00 p.m.—Grief Support 5:30 p.m.—Handbells</p>	<p>15</p> <p>5:45 p.m.—Dinner/Program 7:30 p.m. - Sanctuary Choir</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>
	<p>Bday: Sid Trant</p>	<p>Bday: Mark Nelson, Jim Archibald, Kate Richardson</p>	<p>Bday: Mary Marshall Whalley</p>	<p>Bday: Barbara Cole</p>		
<p>19</p> <p>8:30 & 11 a.m.—Worship Svcs. 9:30 a.m.—Sunday School</p>	<p>20</p> <p>6:00 pm.—Spirituality Mtg 6:30 p.m.—Handbells 6:30 p.m.—Choral Meeting</p>	<p>21</p> <p>10:00 a.m.—Bible Study 10:00 a.m.—Grief Support 11:30 a.m.—Inheritance House Open House 5:00 p.m.—Grief Support 5:30 p.m.—Handbells</p>	<p>22</p> <p>5:45 p.m.—Dinner/Program 7:30 p.m. - Sanctuary Choir</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>
		<p>Bday: John Eagan, Jr.</p>	<p>Bday: Marilyn Isaminger, Allie Trant</p>	<p>Bday: Paul Hopkins</p>		
<p>26</p> <p>8:30 & 11 a.m.—Worship Svcs. 9:30 a.m.—Sunday School</p>	<p>27</p> <p>6:00 pm.—Spirituality Mtg 6:30 p.m.—Handbells 6:30 p.m.—Choral Meeting</p>	<p>28</p> <p>10:00 a.m.—Bible Study 5:30 p.m.—Handbells</p>	<p>29</p> <p>5:45 p.m.—Dinner/Program 7:30 p.m. - Sanctuary Choir</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p> <p>7 a.m.—Men's Breakfast and Bible Study</p>	
	<p>Bday: Beatty Richardson, Sarah Beth Ausbeck</p>					

Shades Valley Presbyterian Church

2305 Montevallo Road
Birmingham, AL 35223

Church Telephone: (205) 871-7309
Church Web Page: www.svpcusa.org

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



The deadline to submit articles for the April issue of the Response is Thursday, March 23 at 9 a.m. Articles received after the deadline will be held for the next newsletter or used in our weekly congregational emails.

OUR VISION

*Shades Valley Presbyterian Church exists through God's love to
BUILD a strong spiritual foundation,
BOND together in Christian fellowship,
GO BEYOND our walls to serve in Mission and bear Witness
to the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ..*

THE SESSION

Class of 2017: Courtney Brown, Anne Doty, Jim Gray, Mark Nelson, Cindy Tarrant • Trustee: Ed Parrish
Class of 2018: Martha Ann Cooper, John Eagan, Jim Isaminger, Elaine Peavy, Jennifer Riggs • Trustee: Lydia Wilfong
Class of 2019: Mary Wyatt Bowers, Laura McDonald, Ray McIntosh, Dot Riley, Joe Rives • Trustee: Augusta Forbes

Armed Services: Lt. J.G. Erin Bischoff, Lt. Col. J.B. Marshall
Mission Co-Workers in Congo: Bob and Kristi Rice; John and Gwenda Fletcher
