

Crossings

March 2014



Beginning March 5
Sundays at 11am

Prayer is always an important part of church life. But how often do we pray intentionally in our own lives?

During Lent, we will reflect on different aspects of prayer as we continue to become a praying community. There will be opportunities before, during, and after worship to gather and practice the discipline of prayer.

March 5, 7pm

Ash Wednesday (communion)
Taizé worship service of music and prayer

March 9: *Prayer: Preparation*
Marthame Sanders preaching

March 16: *Prayer: Openness*
A group conversation about prayer

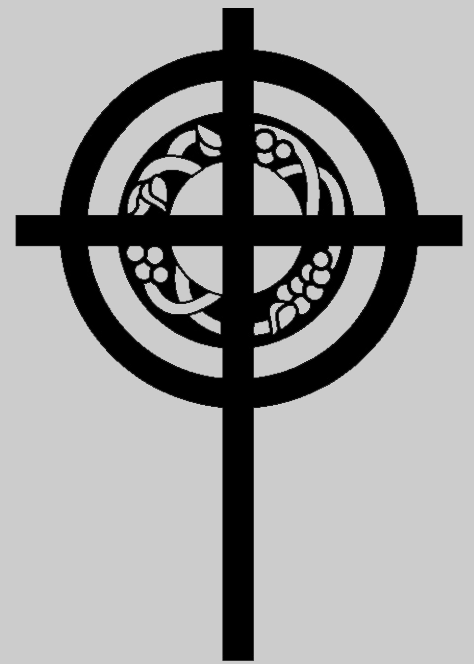
March 23: *Prayer: Accountability*
Marthame Sanders preaching

March 30: *Prayer: Focus*
Marthame Sanders preaching

April 13: *Prayer: Hosanna*
Marthame Sanders preaching

April 16, 6:30pm
Maundy Thursday Meal and Worship (communion)
Allison Wehrung preaching

April 17, 7pm
Good Friday (communion)
Taizé worship service of music and prayer



What's Inside:

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CHURCH STAFF

Pastoral

The Rev. Marthame Sanders
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Ministers
All Members of OPC

SUNDAY SCHEDULE
9:45am Sunday School
11am Worship

Next Deadline
March 20, 2014

www.opcbrookhaven.org

The community is our congregation.

CLERK'S CORNER

Mary Ann Hawthorne

At its monthly meeting on Sunday, February 16, the Session approved the following items:

- Approved Session minutes from January 19, 2014
- Received February Clerk's report and approved the Annual Statistical Report for 2013
- Received the February Pastor's report
- Called a congregational meeting for Sunday, March 16, to elect elders and deacons
- Approved the Preschool By-Laws
- Appointed a design team to explore prayer space in the Sanctuary, members to be determined
- Moved Sunday School to 9am in June and July; worship will be at 10 am and opportunities for fellowship will be at 11 am
- Approved a provisional budget through March 31, 2014

Session meetings are open meetings and are usually held the third Sunday of the month following worship.

Oglethorpe Presbyterian has an open book policy. To see the Session minutes or the financials, please make an appointment with the church office.

DEACONS

People in Our Prayers

Joe Hensley (JoAnn Kearns' father); Ennis Coble; Krysten Huduke (Pat Morrison's family); Bob Allison (Steve's father); Jerry Crouse (Victoria Weaver's friend); Jerry Romano (Amanda Marshall's father); Owen Mulvaney (Marshalls' friend); Nick Isley (Rachel's cousin); Sophie Essex (Weavers' friend); Sharon Kirkpatrick (Weavers' friend); Richard Stephenson (Barbara Landes' friend); Lee Andrews (Elizabeth Sanders' mother); Guadalupe Villareal (Francisco Flores' uncle); David Vickers (friend of Lorraine Jones Wynn); Diane Powell; Tony Zacek (Amy Chance's father); William Ransom (Pat Morrison's family); Mary Ann Hartman (Cheryl's mother); Louise Timmons (Brock & Eleanor's daughter-in-law); Denny Spear (Balmers' friend); Harmon Family (Mary Ann Hawthorne's friends); Leo Costa; Brian Delinski; Dave Kelley (Diane Leyburn's Cousin); Jeff & Erin Schneider (Betty Dalziel's friends); Jake Buchanan (Margy Jones' family); Grace's granddaughter (Ted Kloss' friend); Guy and Lee Marley; John Suder; Ted Kloss; Betty Jackson (Genie Stringer's friend); Beth and Steve Cunningham (Beth's brother); Martha Hyducke (Pat Morrison's niece); Elaine Lord (Victoria Weaver's mother); Mary Ratliff; Doug Hill (Eleanor Timmons' brother-in-law); Fiona Isham (Cassidys' friend); Dolly Azar (Coulter's friend); George Featherstone (Ted Kloss' friend); Linda Marley (Guy and Lee's daughter-in-law); Jane Newton (Kyle's family); Diana Miller (Jim Coulter's cousin); Dan Hagler (Bo's father); Dot Gunter (John's mother); George Kelly (Ingrid's father); Mike & Carole Noonan (Betty Sanders' friends); Frances Bockman (Marthame Sanders' cousin); Rachel Galotti (preschool teacher); Al Paul; Patty Livingston (Georgia Gunter's cousin); Lawrence Docherty (Betty Dalziel's nephew); Hilde Hildebrandt (Chris Hagler's mother); Connie Delinski; Mary Zumot; Martha Stoy; Florence and Helen Ottah Aleh (Florence's mother); friends at Journey Night Shelter; Neal Presa (Moderator of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)).

In Memoriam

Anna Jo Weeks

George Leymeister

(Adam Weaver's grandfather)

*Nothing in all creation
will be able to separate us
from the love of God .
in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

-Romans 8

Calendar: March, 2014

Stewards Serving on Sundays at OPC

March 2, Transfiguration Sunday (Communion):

music: Tim Hsu, Chancel Choir; **liturgist:** Bethany Benz; **usher/greeters:** Jean Cox, Dan Delinski; **usher/counters:** Jim Anderson, Jardon Bouska; **sound/open:** Jeff Morris; **refreshments:** Svetlana Sobolevskaya; **PowerPoint:** Christopher Soltis; **nursery:** Barbara Coble.

March 9:

music: Tim Hsu, Handbell Choir; Chancel Choir; **liturgist:** Margy Jones; **usher/greeters:** Charles Hawthorne, Eleanor Davis; **usher/counters:** Georgia Gunter, Jim Anderson; **sound/open:** _____; **refreshments:** Julia Berry; **PowerPoint:** Brian Pierce; **nursery:** Barbara Coble.

March 16:

music: Tim Hsu, Chancel Choir; **liturgist:** Georgia Gunter; **usher/greeters:** Steve Greene, Molly Pierce; **usher/counters:** Eka Cox, Brandon Cassidy; **sound/open:** Cortlandt Minnich; **refreshments:** Cindy Alexander; **PowerPoint:** Mike Poley; **nursery:** Jen Allison.

March 23:

music: Tim Hsu, Chancel Choir; **liturgist:** Donna Poseidon; **usher/greeters:** Kelly Norris; _____; **usher/counters:** Jardon Bouska, Marilyn Peatman; **sound/open:** Jean Cox; **refreshments:** Pat Morrison; **PowerPoint:** Mary Ann Hawthorne; **nursery:** Kristi Stephenson.

March 30:

music: Tim Hsu, Handbell Choir; Chancel Choir; **liturgist:** Weston Manders; **usher/greeters:** Bill Balmer, Diane Powell.; **usher/counters:** Donna Poseidon, Margy Jones; **sound/open:** Mark Kelly; **refreshments:** Jan Thomas; **PowerPoint:** Steve Allison; **nursery:** Molly Pierce.

April 6:

music: Tim Hsu, Chancel Choir; **liturgist:** Gini Hazen; **usher/greeters:** Linda Morris, Jeff Morris.; **usher/counters:** Bill Cox, Georgia Gunter.; **sound/open:** Geoff Stephenson; **refreshments:** Mary Frances Jung; **PowerPoint:** Mike Poley; **nursery:** Ingrid Kelly.

April 13: Palm Sunday (communion)

music: Tim Hsu, Handbell Choir; Chancel Choir; **liturgist:** Elizabeth Parks; **usher/greeters:** Ruth Walker, Jennifer Soltis; **usher/counters:** Eleanor Timmons, Chris Soltis.; **sound/open:** Mike Lopata; **refreshments:** Mary Ann Hawthorne; **PowerPoint:** Trent Lopata; **nursery:** Steve Allison.

Regular Meetings

(except when noted elsewhere)

Weekly

Sundays:

9:45-10:45 Sunday School for all ages
11:00am Worship

Tuesdays:

10am Food Pantry at Suthers Center
8pm Alcoholics Anonymous (FH)

Wednesdays:

5:15pm Centering Prayer Group (Parlor)
6:15pm Handbell Choir (Sanctuary)
7:30pm Chancel Choir (Choir Room)

Fridays:

10 am Food Pantry at Suthers Center
8pm Alcoholics Anonymous (FH)

Monthly

First Sundays after Worship
Lunch at OU

Third Sundays after Worship
Session Meeting

Fourth Saturdays
OPC Serves Dinner at Journey

Sunday Morning Hospitality

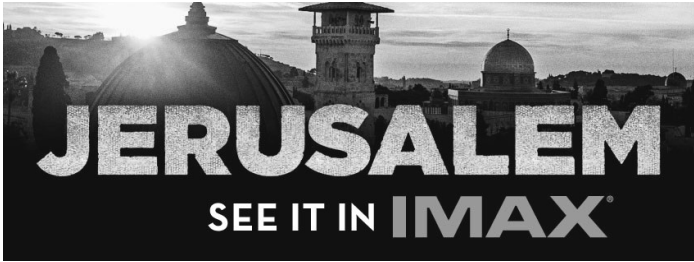
It takes many hands to make Sunday morning run smoothly. In an effort to share the fun and responsibility, we are aiming for a three-month rotation in our various roles. And we are very, very close!

We are looking for a few more folks to lend a hand with ushering, the sound system, PowerPoint, and in the nursery.

Want to get involved? Contact the church office: 404.233.5469, office@opcbrookhaven.org.

FELLOWSHIP

Jean Cox



The Evangelism and Fellowship ministry teams together invite you to join others from Oglethorpe Presbyterian and our friends on Saturday, March 8, for the 1pm showing of the IMAX film *Jerusalem* at the Fernbank Museum of Natural History Theater, 767 Clifton Road, NE.

This 43-minute National Geographic film takes us to holy sites such as the Dome of the Rock, the Jordan River, the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, and the Western Wall. Three teens - one Christian, one Muslim and one Jew - serve as tour guides in the film. They come from different parts of the city and tell the story of their love of Jerusalem, its history, and their families' place there.

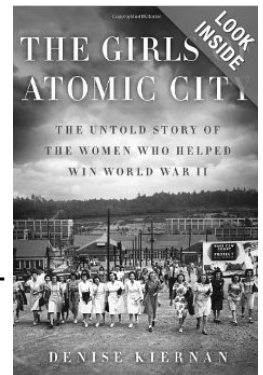
Tickets are \$13, with discounts for Seniors (\$12, 62 and up), children (\$11, ages 3-11), and Fernbank members (\$8).

A sign-up sheet is located in the Narthex, just outside the Sanctuary. Please note if you can drive or need a ride. Carpooling will be organized closer to the movie date. Bring a friend!

Questions? Contact Donna Poseidon or Jean Cox, or contact the office (404.233.5469, office@opcbrookhaven.org).

Book Club

This month, the book club meets at Donna Poseidon's home on Monday, March 10, from 7 to 9pm. We will discuss *The Girls of Atomic City: The Untold Story of the Women Who Helped Win WWII* by Denise Kiernan.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Kristi Stephenson

Easter Is Coming!

Easter is coming and we are getting ready!

As we know, Easter Sunday is one of the highest attendance days in the life of the church.

For some of those visitors, it will be the first time they set foot in Oglethorpe Presbyterian on a Sunday. And so we are looking for a few extra hands on Sunday, April 20.

If you are available and able to give some time to the Nursery or to hospitality (such as greeting and ushering), please contact Cheryl in the office



and let her know (404.233.5469, info@opcbrookhaven.org).

The Christian Education Committee is also asking for volunteers to fill plastic eggs for the Easter Egg Hunt. You will soon see a box of bagged empty eggs waiting to be filled. Please take some home and return them with Easter goodies inside. We are also looking for some folks to help us hide the eggs on Easter morning.

If you are able to lend a hand with any of these activities, or if you have any questions whatsoever, please contact Cheryl Hartman or Kristi Stephenson and let them know.

STEWARDSHIP

Cindy Alexander

The Feeding Station

"Look at the birds. They don't plant or harvest or store food in barns, for your heavenly Father feeds them. And aren't you far more valuable to God than they are?"

- Matthew 6:26

The cold, snowy days of early February answered one casual question for many of us: how many families of cardinals live around our back yards?

As snow covered the ground, the males' bright red coats stood in stark contrast to the whitened landscape. And with their usual feeding places buried and frozen, they seemed to visit our feeding stations far more often.

It raises the question: how do they survive this bitter cold? Maybe Jesus wondered the same thing, for even in the middle East, snow and cold are not uncommon, and no doubt Jesus in his thirty or so years watched the birds search for food in the winter.

His answer to this and to similar questions was always the same: God is your loving parent and



will always care for you. God's care may appear through your neighbor's kindness, or your parents' love, or your friend's thoughtfulness, or from the actions of someone totally unknown.

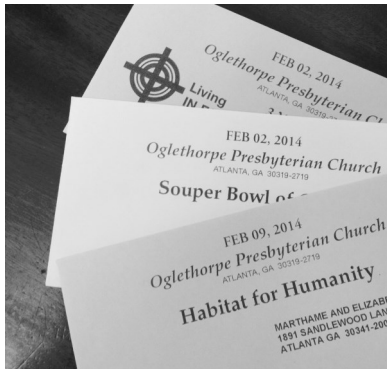
What are the feeding stations in your life? And how are you a feeding station to others?

As always, thank you for your concern for others and your support of our church family. Blessings to you!

2014 Giving Envelopes

If you give regularly to Oglethorpe Presbyterian, you may have noticed a change in our envelope service.

Instead of getting a box of envelopes for the whole year, you will be getting two months of envelopes in the mail at a time. These mailings will also include envelopes for special offerings, including the Capital Campaign, Habi-



tat, and special offerings of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

Your envelopes should be delivered to your house in the middle of February, April, June, August, and October.

If you are not receiving your envelopes in the mail, please contact the church office (404.233.5469, office@opcbrookhaven.org) so that we can make this transition as smoothly as possible.

Thank you for all you do to support Oglethorpe Presbyterian!

How's Your Prayer Life?

Each Sunday since the first of the year, Pastor Marthame has posed this question in worship. We've been asked to challenge ourselves to put daily prayer into our lives. Finding five minutes a day for prayer doesn't seem like a tall order, but if you're anything like the members of the iTeam (short for Invitation Team), you may be finding it tougher than you thought. The iTeam has been working on this since Advent, and we're still not where we hope to be. We thought it might help you if we share some of our thoughts and experiences with you - after all, as a community of faith, we are on this journey together:



“Being disciplined in prayer, even for five or ten minutes per day, has proved a challenge for me. I have realized that putting prayer first, as opposed to trying to fit it into a crowded schedule, is critical to creating that daily experience. Designating a prayer space, with a candle for focus, has helped me move more quickly away from those everyday worries that clutter my thoughts. Finally, having a prayer partner helps me feel a deeper sense of accountability. I am eager to continue to explore and expand this practice and to receive the spiritual perspective it provides.”

“My daily prayer time is not yet where I think it should be and it has been a challenge to get that laser focus to make this a daily discipline in my life. In today's world, with the busy-ness of everyday life, it is easy to miss God's presence. I know that if I start slowly I will get to where I want and need to be. It seems like I am always filling my everyday life with things to do, places to go and people to see. When I learn to direct that passion and take the time each day to sit and be with God and listen for God's voice, I will eventually discover what God is telling me.”

“Although consistency remains a struggle, attempting a daily routine has helped me recognize instances of 'free' time. For instance, a 15-minute commute in the car is an opportunity for quiet reflection and prayer. Those for whom driving is not quite as therapeutic may find reflective opportuni-

ties in the midst of exercise routines or while walking to the parking lot from work. To achieve consistency, I constantly need to remind myself of the numerous opportunities I have, however short, to reflect, pray, and listen.”

“I so want to have daily, focused prayer time in my life. I think of myself as a fairly disciplined person, and I figured setting aside a five minute time slot dedicated to something I really wanted to do would be simple - was I wrong! I struggled to find a time of day where I could pull myself away from whatever I was doing. I started out in the evening, but somehow life's busy-ness distracted me, and suddenly the day was over. Lately I've set aside time in the morning as my prayer time, before my day's work begins. Although I still seem to miss a day here and there, this has helped tremendously. Now I want to focus on really *listening* to God.”

We hope our stories help inspire you, and we encourage you in turn to share your experience with us. In spite of the challenges, we are passionate and motivated to continue to grow in prayer - together.

Yours in Christ,
The iTeam: Jeff Chance, Andrew Hazen, Linda Morris and Donna Poseidon

MISSION

Jeff Morris

Thank You!

In December 2013, OPC members and friends donated \$355 through the Alternative Gift Market, all of which went to the Thornwell Children's Home in Clinton, South Carolina. In early February 2014, we collected over \$600 during the Souper Bowl of Caring special offering, a nationwide effort to fight hunger. All of this money went to the OPC food pantry. Also in February, we met our Habitat challenge goal of \$3000, with work slated to start in May.

Thank you for your support of these important ministries!

Bargain Shop April 4-5

Our next Bargain Shop will be held April 4-5. This means the last week of March will be a busy week of pulling things out and setting up for the sale. If you have items to donate, please bring them to the church by April 2. If you can help set up the Bargain Shop, please contact Pat Morrison. Remember that many hands make light work!



Volunteers are needed to serve dinner at the Journey Night Shelter on 4th Saturday of each month. Serving in this ministry is fun and easy! Just coordinate your menu in advance with your fellow volunteers, arrive to prepare the meal at 6:30 p.m., and serve the meal at 7pm. We typically depart by 8pm.

Journey Night Shelter is located at Druid Hills Presbyterian Church, 1026 Ponce de Leon Avenue (30306).

If you'd like to volunteer, please sign up in the narthex or contact Jeff Morris at 770.452.1799.

WORSHIP

Ingrid Kelly

Lenten Singing by Tim Hsu

Moving into the Lenten season, I want to take this space to write about a recent tradition here. During both Lent and Advent, we have used a chant as our call to worship. The congregation and choir all sing a refrain together. This is followed by a four-part chant loosely based on traditional Anglican chant. In these chants, the choir sings text in an un-metrical manner. Often many syllables and words linger on one note or chord until the end of the sentence, where the music resolves. The text is emphasized in these chants, and the natural spoken flow of the words dictates the rhythm by which it is sung.

Anglican chant was developed in the 18th century. It is our hope that our adaption can allow you to focus on worship and come closer to God during this Lenten season.

Ash Wednesday

"Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." - Genesis 3:19

Join us for a Taizé worship service on Wednesday, March 5, at 7pm as we begin the Lenten Season. Ash Wednesday is the solemn beginning of Lent, a period of forty days of prayer and repentance leading up to Easter Sunday.

Taizé is a candlelight service offering reflective music and chants, Scripture readings, and periods of silence, allowing the participants to move deeply into prayer contemplation in the presence of God and the community of believers.

The forty days of Lent remind us of Jesus' time in the wilderness. Tempted by Satan, he focused on God and emerged stronger.

Come and worship with us as we begin this holy season together.

Next Care Day on March 8

Weather permitting, we will spend Saturday, March 8, getting our pre-spring yard work done by pruning, moving bushes, weeding, and spreading pre-emergent weed control.

In case of rain, we have dozens of indoor projects needing attention such as painting the boiler room floor, repairing ceiling tiles, touch-up painting, and cleaning out storage rooms, among many others.

Come and lend a hand on Saturday, March 8, from 9am to 12pm.

Lent

For many years now, a cross has been planted at the corner of our Lanier and Woodrow to mark the beginning of Lent. It remains there until Pentecost, with different colored fabrics representing our walk through the seasons.



This year, in addition to the cross, you will notice that we have added something to help us focus on the meaning of Easter in the midst of Lent.

Keep your eyes open for developments!

Oglethorpe Presbyterian Church
Sunday School for All Ages: 9:45 am • Worship: 11 am
404.233.5469 • www.opcbrookhaven.org • info@opcbrookhaven.org

Oglethorpe Presbyterian Church
3016 Lanier Drive, NE
Atlanta, Georgia 30319

*If you don't want to receive this by mail,
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