



It's Easy to Get Stuck

I am grateful for my time in Austin. While attending Austin Presbyterian Seminary, I walked the campus of the University of Texas. Ah yes, that beautiful campus with the tower (no offense my incredible Aggie colleagues). As I walked down the stairs of the main building, I was taken back to my eighteen-year-old self who was enrolled as a freshman. I thought of the many mistakes that I made that would drastically alter the course of my life. Some of my choices left long-lasting marks of shame and regret. I kept asking myself the age-old question, "What happened to that kid? Why those choices?"

What a frustrating place in which I found myself. No matter what resolution I could find, it would not replace the opportunities that no longer existed. And then that horrid feeling of being stuck in my inability to resolve the issue kicked in. What a mess. I knew that to move forward, I would have to let go of my insane thinking. You know, the kind of thinking that allows you, in all your folly to think that you can change the past.

These thoughts seemed to illuminate from my soul as I looked at the past with eyes in the present. I began to talk to that 18-year-old boy. I gave him permission to be himself, that he was more than the scars of his childhood. I assured him that he would move past the effects of the battle wounds that he inherited, and that he would thrive past his wildest dreams. He was and is more than the sum of his failures.

So, after dipping my foot into the healing waters of forgiveness, I turned and headed back to the seminary. It was time to leave the past behind, and continue forward. I gave thanks for being able to shine a light on the realization that, while I falter, there is always the promise of a new day. If my heart learned anything, it was a sense of forgiveness of myself, along with the need to keep moving in a direction that guides me to the eternal light of God.

While thinking through my journey of forgiveness, I can't help but look forward to the Lenten season. Ash Wednesday reminds us that from dust God created us. The ashes we receive are a mark of our humanity and remembrance that we will return to that which we were created. We also share in the hope that dreams not fulfilled and joys that quickly faded into sorrow can flourish. Sometimes we do not get what we want the way we expected. God intervenes, and through the ashes of the past, we receive blessings beyond our wildest imaginations. Lent reminds us that to get the answers, we must endure the hardship of the desert, but if we are faithful, God will reward us with a holy land flowing with milk and honey.

Praise be to our wonderful Creator, who never allows us to remain in the past. And blessed are we, as we remember that we are all created in the image of God. That includes who we were, what we are, and what we will be. May we carry that promise into a future filled with the riches of our amazing Savior. Let us pray for one another as we allow God to work amazing wonders in us, through us, and around us. Through your ashes into the air and be redeemed with a new way of being in the world.

In Christ's Peace,

Pastor Joe

What is **Lent** and Why Does It Last 40 Days*

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*, which means "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** was a time to prepare new converts for baptism. Today, Christians focus on their relationship with God, often choosing to give up something or to volunteer and give of themselves for others.

Sundays in **Lent** are not counted in the forty days because each Sunday represents a "mini-Easter" and the reverent spirit of **Lent** is tempered with joyful anticipation of the Resurrection.



March 3rd: Glen & Freda Neie

March 10: Mike & Peggy Goettsch

March 17th Jarod & Brianne Allen

March 24th: Charles & Sherly Christian

March 31: Boyd & Susan White



March 3rd: Zeke Kasel, Elizabeth Mahaney, Cooper Nichols

March 10th: Alec Actkinson, Katy Mahaney, Charley Oborny

March 17th: Madison Osborn, Rory Pomper, Lane Terry

March 24th: Maryn Terry, Brody White, Caeleb MacDonald

March 31: Alec Actkinson, Elizabeth Mahaney, Lane Terry

Head Usher: Scott Terry



March 2nd Wanna Bock

March 4th Payzlee Ware

March 8th Todd Christian

March 16th Tim Kasel

March 24th Kristin Kasel

March 24th Rory Pomper

March 29th Mikayla Ware

March 30th Cindy Coburn

March 31st Sheryl Christian



March 2nd Scott and Megan Terry

March 13th Ben and Lori Osborn

March 20th Tom and Terri Nichols

SPONSORS ARE NEEDED!!!!

King's Kids Camp (entering grades 2-4)

June 7-9

Promise Seekers Camp (entering grades 4-6)

July 8-12

SYC (entering grades 7-12)

June 17-21

Music on the Mountain

(Music Camp) entering grades 7- 12)

July 7-12

April 1st Monday is our next opportunity to serve the homeless, transients, and others in need at the **Light House Mission** in Clovis. Please meet there at or after 12:30 pm CST to help prepare and serve the food, and to share Christ's Love. If you can assist with the meal or serving, please contact Diane Actkinson (806-946-7041) to help!



Bible Readings for the Month

1. Jos. 5-8
2. Jos. 9-11
3. Jos. 12-14
4. Jos. 15-17
5. Jos. 18-21
6. Jos. 22-24
7. Jdg. 1-3
8. Jdg. 4-6
9. Jdg. 7-10
10. Jdg. 11-13
11. Jdg. 14-16
12. Jdg. 17-19
13. Jdg. 20-Rth 2
14. Rth 3-1Sam. 1
15. 1 Sam 2-4
16. 1 Sam 5-7
17. 1 Sam 8-11
18. 1 Sam 12-14
19. 1 Sam 15-17
20. 1 Sam 18-20
21. 1 Sam 21-14
22. 1 Sam 24-27
23. 1 Sam 28-30
24. 1 Sam 31-2 Sam 2
25. 2 Sam 3-6
26. 2 Sam 7-9
27. 2 Sam 10-12
28. 2 Sam 13-15
29. 2 Sam 16-19
30. 2 Sam 20-22
31. 2 Sam 23-1 Kin 1



In Memory of :

Erith Hawkins given by Ann Norton

Karl J Gast "Smokey"

given by Steve & Tammy Jones

given by James & Delores Williams

given by Bonnie Howard

given by Rick & Joyce Ketcherside

given by Anne Norton

Ethel Lena "Sally" Block Whitesides

given by Steve & Tammy Jones

given by James & Delores Williams

given by Bonnie Howard

given by Rick & Joyce Ketcherside

given by Diane Actkinson

Given by Anne Norton

given by Mike & Peggy Goettsch

given by Mack & Bonnie Heald

given by Jeff & Robbi Actkinson

Judy Richardson

given by Anne Norton



We have a website! Visit

www.hamlinmemorialumc.org. It is a work in progress, so please be patient. If you have any pictures to contribute please send them to Cazandra at cazmac9910@gmail.com or text to 575-405-0768.



The Culpepper & Merriweather Circus is coming to town **Tuesday, April 2nd**

More information is coming at a later date. People from the circus will be making contact with local businesses for support. All proceeds will go to help youth.