



Shrove
Tuesday

In medieval times, Christians went to confession on the day before Ash Wednesday to be *shriven* (absolved) of their sins. The day before Ash Wednesday became known as "Shrove Tuesday."

Shrove Tuesday became associated with carnivals and feasting because the laws of abstinence during Lent were very strict, and included giving up eating meat, butter, cheese, milk, eggs, and all fat. These foods could not even be kept in the house, so they were consumed before Ash Wednesday in rich dishes and pastries. And so Shrove Tuesday is also known as "Fat Tuesday," which is *Mardi gras* in French and *Fetter Dienstag* in German.

Shrove Tuesday at Mount Vernon Pancake Supper

Tuesday, February 21, at 6:00 p.m.

Reservations Please Fellowship Hall

Pancakes, sausage, fried apples, juice,
hot chocolate, coffee

Our Young Adults Group is sponsoring this dinner. Donations will be taken, and the proceeds will go to "Partners for Payne," our team for Relay for Life in May.

Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent. In the Bible, sprinkling oneself with ashes was a sign of one's sorrow for having committed sins.

Ash
Wednesday



The symbolism of ashes for this day comes from the Roman Catholic practice of using the ashes from the palms in the preceding year's Palm Sunday celebration. The priest marks a cross on the forehead of each worshiper. The imposition of ashes has become a part of Ash Wednesday services in many United Methodist and other Protestant churches, and it will be part of our "Community Ash Wednesday Service."

Community Ash Wednesday Service

February 22, at 7:00 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church

Clergy, choirs, and members from Mount Vernon and other downtown churches will participate.

The Season of Lent

In early Christianity, "the forty days" of Lent came to be seen as comparable to Jesus' forty days in the wilderness, when he fasted and prepared himself for his ministry.

But the season of Lent covers a period of forty-six days, from Ash Wednesday through the Saturday before Easter. That's because every Sunday, even during Lent, is a celebration of Christ's resurrection, so the six Sundays in Lent are not counted as part of the "forty days."



By Saint Augustine's time (4th century A.D.) Christians saw Lent as a time of preparation for "that part of the year ... adjoining and touching on the Lord's passion." It was a time of penitence, of sorrow for sins and faults.

Many Lent traditions go as far back as the Roman Empire. In Germany, Christians shaped their special Lenten bread into *pretzels* ("little arms"), in the form of crossed arms in prayer. Crossed arms is a traditional symbol of penance, and reminded Christians that Lent is a time of inner searching and prayer.



The English word "Lent" initially simply meant spring (as in the German *Lenz*) and derives from the Germanic root for "long" because in the spring the days lengthen. Lent can be viewed as a time for spiritual spring cleaning: for cleaning out those things which hinder our corporate and personal relationships with Jesus Christ and our service to him.

Today, most Christian churches that observe Lent focus on it as a time of prayer, especially penance, repenting for failures and sin as a way to focus on the need for God's grace. It is really a preparation to celebrate God's marvelous redemption at Easter, and the resurrected life that we live, and hope for.

The Carpenter's Project

The first Carpenter's Project for 2012 started Wednesday, February 1, and was completed on Friday. Five volunteers worked all or part of the three days.

The homeowners were a husband and wife, both disabled, on a fixed income, living in Danville. Their home was in need of numerous repairs: some cosmetic, like painting; some safety, like hand-rails; and two structural repairs. We replaced 30 feet of soffit and built a new wooden floor for the basement.

The project cost was about \$110. The cost was kept low because we were fortunate to receive donations of materials from Habitat for Humanity.

The homeowners were very appreciative and were happy with the improvements. Please take a moment to thank the volunteers – Gary Benefield, Frank Cuthrell, Tom Savastano, and Tom Underwood – for their mission work in Danville.

- Chuck Sampson, *The Carpenter's Project*,
Missions Committee



Chuck Sampson and Frank Cuthrell make repairs.

The Carpenter's Project is a ministry of Mount Vernon Church that helps local people who are unable to make needed repairs to their homes. Most referrals are through the Danville Community Development office. Mount Vernon volunteers do the work, and other members support the ministry with prayers and donations.

"Young Adults" News

The Young Adults group is organizing a Mount Vernon team, "Partners for Payne," for the **2012 Relay for Life of Danville** on May 11-12 to honor Beth Payne and all the members of Mount Vernon who have been touched by cancer.

Everyone who supports Relay "can take pride in knowing that they are working to create a world where this disease will no longer threaten the lives of our loved ones or claim another year of anyone's life" (Relay for Life).



RELAY FOR LIFE INFORMATIONAL MEETING

Saturday, February 11, at 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall
Everyone is invited!

If you can't come to the meeting, sign up on the sheet on the "Relay for Life" bulletin board, near the church office.



Young Adults are providing the **Pancake Supper** on Shrove Tuesday, February 21, at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. This will be a fundraiser for the Relay for Life Team. Everyone is asked to wear pink to support the cause!

Young Adults Hockey Night

is Saturday, March 3: Dinner and a hockey game in Raleigh. Contact Melissa Herke ASAP (585-322-3208; missylou@yahoo.com) for details and to sign up.



Youth Retreat

Our youth will travel to the Smith Mountain Lake 4H Center February 17-19 for the annual Bi-District Youth Retreat. With outstanding speakers and musical leaders, this weekend promises to be a time of great spiritual growth, deepening of friendships, and fun! The theme is "Be Transformed." Please keep our youth and adult leaders in your prayers for this experience.

Microwave Needed

A small microwave is needed for our 2-year-old classroom that is shared by Sunday School and Children's House. If you have one you are no longer using, we could put it to good use! Thanks.

"Boomers" Class Game Night

Saturday, February 25
6:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall

Come join us for an evening of fellowship, games, and a covered-dish dinner.

If you have thought of trying this Sunday school class (geared for those born between 1946 and 1964), this would be a good time: we are starting a new book, *The Language of God: A Scientist Presents Evidence for Belief*, by Francis Collins. Dr. Collins headed the Human Genome Project.



New Members Classes 2012: February 12th and 19th

Classes are offered from 9:45 a.m. until 10:30 a.m., in the CHAPEL.

February 12 - John and Charles Wesley; United Methodist Beliefs and Traditions

February 19 - History of Mount Vernon UMC

Reception into the Church during the 11:00 a.m. worship service

All visitors and church members are welcome to participate in these sessions. Participation does not obligate anyone to join the church, nor is it required for joining the church.

SERVICE OF RECEPTION INTO THE CONGREGATION: SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19, AT 11:00 A.M.

A reception in honor of our new members will be held in the Fellowship Hall immediately following the 11:00 a.m. worship service!

Our Advent Offering for 2011

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the 2011 Advent offering at Mount Vernon. A total of \$2,775 was received! Each of three organizations has been sent \$925: The Henry Fork Service Center, the Danville Salvation Army, and the Danville Free Clinic.



What a wonderful ministry effort by the Missions Committee and the congregation. - Barry Foster

Chairs from the Fellowship Hall Still Available

Sixty of the old Fellowship Hall chairs have found new homes, but more of these solid wood captain's chairs remain. Call Gary Benefield, 489-9530, if you want one. Donations (\$25 per chair) go toward the refurbishing project.



"Second shift" youth cook stew on January 14

The two Brunswick Stews for this season raised a total of \$2,329 for our Youth Group's summer mission project, ASP: Project Crossroads! On December 3, 485 quarts were sold, and on January 14, 492 quarts were sold.



Carolyn Hitchcock Kent

Special Mission Recognition for 2011 United Methodist Women

Carolyn Kent has been a part of Mount Vernon Church life since her teens. She has been a loyal member of Mount Vernon Church since 1963, and has supported the Mount Vernon unit of United Methodist Women and its purpose for over 40 years.

She first came to Mount Vernon on Sunday evenings for MYF (youth fellowship). This was after Budge Kent got his driver's license, and it was considered a date night.

Carolyn has been a Sunday school teacher/helper. She joined the adult choir in 1974 and sang for 30 years. She has served on the Church Council in many ways, and she is a part of the Triangle Lunch Team.

Her membership with United Methodist Women began in the early '70s, when she was asked to be treasurer of the unit, an office that she currently holds. She served for many years as a circle co-leader, and - like everyone else in the UMW - she lent a helping hand at Harvest Days during all years that Mrs. Christopher reigned over the kitchen.

- From Mary Franks's remarks at the presentation at the 11 a.m. service on January 15

Godly Play

January 2012



Exciting things are happening in Godly Play as our children learn the stories of our faith. They are listening and responding in insightful ways and have much to share with each other and with all of us about how God worked in Bible times and still works in our lives today.



February

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| 7 Lee Burton
Jean Gauldin
Pierce
Turbiville
Susan Turner |  | 23 Mary Lou Dunn |
| 8 Barbara BrandeDavis | | 25 Gary Benefield
Sally Fuller
Sonny Morton
Mac Newell
Jordan Sater
Elizabeth Scott |
| 9 Jay Barker
Amanda Foster
Steve Huff
Jane McMillan
Lewis Williamson |  | 26 Chris Colbert
Steve Jones |

March

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| 11 Beth Eller
Vicki Johnston | | 1 Parson Jacob Lutz |
| 12 Wright Garrett | | 2 Sam Newell
Lauren Tatum
Neighbors |
| 14 Martha Sule | | 3 B. G. Lewis, III
Judith Terry |
| 15 Nancy Rudder
Frank Sule |  | 4 Fran Darkis |
| 17 Will Anglea
Susan Cyr
Mary Ley
Bob Sutter | | 5 Caroline Brande
Frankie Jean Thomas
Betty Lea
Peggy McFarland
Anne Wayne
Patterson |
| 18 Chris Eller
Jenny Sessoms | | 6 Sandy Burch
Shirley Duncan
Margaret Harden |
| 19 Barbara Caldwell
Glenn Giles |  | 7 Lauren Miller |
| 20 Pat Maurakis
Louis Dibrell III
Ben Hughes | | 9 Kathleen Southey |
| 21 Zane Kinn
Frances Peirce | | |

*Our deepest sympathy
to the family of Beckye Murray,
who died on January 16.*



*A memorial service was held
at Mount Vernon Church on January 31.*

In Case of Snow or Ice: To find out whether we will hold Sunday morning worship services or Wednesday night supper and programs, please check any of the following:

THE CHURCH WEB SITE
(Search "Mt Vernon, Danville VA" to find the church Web site easily.)



AM RADIO 1330 WBTM **WSLS TV 10**
FM RADIO 103.3 WAKG **WDBJ TV 7**

Please be safe! If it looks bad ... do not come out and risk an accident or injury.

In Our Thoughts and Prayers . . .

At home: Beth Payne, Jake Carter, Margaret Powell, Bill Hardy, Zane Kinn	At Stratford House: Nancy Barker, Paul and Helen Stanfield, Irene Guthrie, Marjorie Hood, Sylvia Gibbs, Becky Farthing, May Bergman
At Loyalton: Norman Athey	At Riverside Healthcare: Greg Read
At Roman Eagle: Virginia Farley, Frances Peirce, Lucy Scarce, Ann Garrett, Zula Callahan	In Rock Hill, SC: Don Moore
At Stratford House Rehab: Mildred Ferrell	At Our Lady of Hope (Richmond): Alyce Roach
In Raleigh: Vitula Porter	

Long-time Mount Vernon member **Margaret Lanham**, now living in Emory, Va., is recovering from a broken leg.

Our Worship Assistants

USHERS

February 12 - 8:30: John Morris, Tom Savastano, Butch Dalton - 11:00: Frank Grogan, J. G. Hurt, Budge Kent, Gene Saunders, John Ranson, Kelly Brande (alt)

February 19 - 8:30: Fred Duncan, James Bucklew, Bill Booker, John Morris - 11:00: Tom Leggett, Andrew Farley, David Fuquay, Tommy Hodges, Bill Smith, Frank Grogan (alt)

February 26 - 8:30: Randy Handy, Butch Dalton, Tom Savastano - 11:00: Tom Leggett, J. G. Hurt, Bill Smith, Charles Sampson, , Tom Underwood, John Ranson (alt)

March 4 - 8:30: Fred Duncan, James Bucklew, Randy Handy, John Morris (alt) - 11:00: Bill Griffith, David Fuquay, Tommy Hodges, Tom Leggett, Tom Underwood, Gene Saunders (alt)

ALTAR GUILD

February: Joyce Underwood, Leah Cooter, Shirley Duncan, Helen Stanfield
March: Katie Brooks, Sally Burton, Elizabeth Leggett, Summer Milligan, Lindsay Payne

Attendance, Tithes, and Gifts

<u>Week of</u>	<u>8:30</u>	<u>11:00</u>	<u>Contributions</u>
Jan. 1	28	78	\$10,435
Jan. 8	40	142	9,663
Jan. 15	32	120	5,017
Jan. 22	31	140	3,955
Jan. 29	27	140	4,564

SUNDAY SERVICES OF WORSHIP AT 8:30 AND 11:00 A.M

February 12

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

BOY SCOUT SUNDAY

Scripture: John 8: 31 - 36; John 14: 1 - 7

Sermon: "The Truth Shall Set You Free"

The Rev. Barry S. Foster

February 19

LAST SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY

Scripture: Mark 9: 2 - 9

Sermon: "How Do You Catch the Spirit?"

The Rev. Barry S. Foster

February 26

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

Scripture: Matthew 4: 1 - 11

Sermon:

"When We Find Ourselves in the Wilderness"

The Rev. Barry S. Foster

March 4

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

Scripture: Genesis 1: 26 - 31; 2: 1 - 3;

Colossians 1: 11 - 20

Sermon: "In My Father's Image"

The Rev. Barry S. Foster



"Wonderful Wednesdays"

6:00 p.m. — Dinner

(\$6 for adults. Children, no charge.)

6:30–7:15 p.m. — Programs and activities for all ages.

Nursery provided.

Menus

Feb. 8: Cajun/New Orleans style

Feb. 15: Tacos

Feb. 22: NO DINNER
(Ash Wednesday)

Feb. 29: Leap Year
Surprise

March 7: Covered dish

Program Options for Adults

- (1) Rev. Barry Foster continues the study, "Torah and Christianity," in the Fellowship Hall.
- (2) "Tai Chi" is led by Wyona Witcher, in the Hamlin-Buchanan room. Tai chi is meditative movements practiced as a system of exercises.
- (3) The "Young Adult Discussion Group" meets in the Young Adult Sunday school room.

"The Lost Boy" Musical for Children and Youth

- (1) Preschoolers rehearse in the children's music room
- (2) Elementary and youth rehearse in the sanctuary