



The Fowler Flashes

Volume 66

Issue 2

February 2022

Dear friends...I hope and pray that this note finds you well. As I sit in front of my desk in my sparsely decorated office and begin writing this note, it feels to me that I have just written a Flash about Lent last week, maybe last month, and wow, here it is again already, with Easter Sunday hastening right behind it. There is something about Covid that just messes with my sense of time. I guess most of us would rather forget these past two, two and a half years. It must be my brain trying to protect myself, lol.

But regardless of how I feel about the timing, Ash Wednesday is next week (March 2nd). So historically I and we (Fowler) have done an Ash Wednesday service in the evening. There we are blessed with a short service and an ashen cross on our foreheads. But, it is nighttime and by the next morning the cross is all but gone. This year I would like to open the Sanctuary, play some slides and some music from 9 to Noon. Give people a chance to walk away from their everyday routines and spend some time in prayer and meditation. We will also receive the ashen cross on our foreheads, but now we are also giving the opportunity to walk around with the cross for the rest of the day...who knows, maybe someone will ask you about it, and you get to share your testimony...

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Easter is all about Joy! I am a beloved child of God. That is such a great reason to be joyful...God's voice was spoken to Jesus at his Baptism: "You are my beloved." That truth made all the difference in Jesus' life and his ministry. It is the same voice and the same message to which you and I are invited to a beloved child of God. We need to own that, claim it! We're either owned by God or we're owned by our past and this world. I am owned by God. I am a beloved child of God.

So this year during lent let us spend some time daily pondering about and getting to know this child of God better (me) with some daily thoughts/exercises/practices.

These practices are great to work through for us as individuals, but...are also very powerful when shared in a group setting. Transformation occurs in the context of community. Find yourself a group or a friend, share your experiences to benefit you as well as others. Share what works and what doesn't work. Pray together.

Below find your thoughts/exercises/practices for the next 40 days. I know that some of you already have practices in place, or gave up chocolate or TV, but consider this my challenge to you, maybe we will even take some time during Worship on Sunday mornings to share with each other...see you then.

If you or your loved ones
are in need of prayer,
please contact the office
to be added to the
prayer list.



March Birthdays and Anniversaries

Pray for

For our Church

Upcoming Move

For Linda Hammer

The Russia/Ukraine situation

Move to assisted living

Grandson in search of a home

RJ with the passing of his Step-father

The Lindley's for direction and peace

Health and Healing

Cory Williams needs healing prayers

Wanda Haggerdy in a care center with Dementia

Don Cosner health issues

Thanksgiving

For Blessings

Prayer Box

Pray for me my enemies have camped around
me. Please pray for me to have victory over them

1st - Roger McVey

2nd - David Olsen

Marc Walker

4th - Karla Kirby

7th - Debbie McMurtery

9th - Bionkah Craven

Vonnie Fergen

10th - Lounigan Mohamad

14th - Amanda Nilles

Sindee Price

June Nelson

15th - Barbara Ritchey

17th - Adrian Hammer

20th - Bob & Melanie Nilles

21st - Etienne LeRoux

22nd - Kim Berg

23rd - Mary Russell

27th - Lorraine Chase

30th - Joan Schuman

Wishing our friends a "happy. . .",
a "merry. . .",
a "best wishes . . .",
and a "blessings . . ."
for their special day.

March 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 9:00 - Tops 10:00 - Prayer Group 11:00 - Koinonia 1:00 - Bible Study 2pn - Life's Lessons	2	3 Noon UMW Men's Lunch at Golden Corral at noon	4	5
6 Adult Bible Study at 9amWorship at 10:30am	7	8 9:00 - Tops 10:00 - Prayer Group 11:00 - Koinonia 1:00 - Bible Study 2pn - Life's Lesson	9	10 Sewing Group @ 9	11	12
13 Adult Bible Study at 9amWorship & Sunday School at 10:30am	14	15 9:00 - Tops 10:00 - Prayer Group 11:00 - Koinonia 1:00 - Bible Study 2pn - Life's Lesson	16	17	18	19
20 Adult Bible Study at 9amWorship & Sunday School at 10:30am Ad Board Meeting with Greg Sealy @12	21	22 9:00 - Tops 10:00 - Prayer Group 11:00 - Koinonia 1:00 - Bible Study 2pn - Life's Lesson	23 Flashes Articles Due	24 Sewing Group @ 9	25	26
27 Adult Bible Study at 9amWorship & Sunday School at 10:30am Ad Board Meeting @ 12	28	29 9:00 - Tops 10:00 - Prayer Group 11:00 - Koinonia 1:00 - Bible Study 2pn - Life's Lesson	30	31		

Fowler United Methodist Women

Join the Fowler UMW on Thursday March 3rd at noon. Bring a brown bag lunch, dessert and coffee will be provided. Our program will feature videos of some UMW history and where in the world United Methodist Women are today. We will also hear from Katherine Parker, missionary in Nepal.

Last month Bob Walker let us know what is happening at the Caritas Food Bank. Check your Fowler emails each week to see what needs are greatest. He also said fresh produce is always welcome. If you have extra in your garden this summer, they will be happy to take it. We will be setting our budget for this year. Bring any fundraising ideas you may have. Pray that this epidemic has finally run its course and we can all unmask.

United Methodist Women: Faith, Hope and Love in Action

Sharon Stovall, Local unit president



GIVE ME THAT OLD-TIME RELIGION

I often think that things are different in the church now than they were in times past. Maybe that's good and maybe not. Maybe it would benefit us to have a look at the origin of what we Christians have held throughout history, to be the basics. That might include documents, standards, practices, and traditions. Maybe you have an interest too – if you do, please let me know and we'll explore and discuss together. For today, let's have a look at The Nicene Creed, where did it come from, why is it important, why do we say it, is it relevant today?

A creed is simply a statement of belief. In the history of the church, there have been times where disagreements arose about doctrine or the essentials of the faith so creeds settled controversial issues and demonstrated who were true believers according to Scripture and who were heretics.

First came the Apostles Creed, then a controversy about the nature of God and hence, The Nicene Creed of 325AD.

The following centuries were to produce several more rites, ecumenical councils, and professions to settle and further define the essentials of the faith. As it is used today, the wording may differ slightly “We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of all things visible and invisible” from the First Council of Nicaea 325AD and “We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and all things visible and invisible” (the First Council of Constantinople 381AD) depending on the denomination but it is essentially the same.

The Nicene Creed – *We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him, all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit, he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.*

On the third day, he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures: he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. We believe in one holy catholic (universal) church and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen (the Book of Common Prayer)

Its importance is to set in place a standard of agreed-upon truths, derived from Holy Scripture, upon which we base our faith, our lives, and practices. Because God is unchanging, His Church and His truth should reflect the same. Therefore, our faith should more closely reflect that of our fathers than current fads, changes in cultural values and social mores or ethnic practices. **Christians the world over should more closely resemble one another than they reflect their culture. The Body of Christ ought to supersede culture and eras of time.**

Saying the Nicene Creed reminds us of the truths we profess to believe and reinforces their importance. It refreshes our memories, convicts our consciousness if we have strayed, and calls us to repent and bring current our relationship to Christ.

Our current culture encourages tolerance of non-biblical behaviors, legislates a moral standard that is far below Biblical standards, and penalizes those who hold to long-held Biblical standards. That makes it all the more necessary to uphold and be reminded of the basics of the Christian faith. **That is also why it is relevant today. The church should not conform to the culture or its place in time but to Scripture and that's why that old-time religion is important.**

“ 5 Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith; examine yourselves! Or do you not recognize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you—unless indeed you fail the test? 6 But I trust that you will realize that we ourselves do not fail the test. 7 Now we pray to God that you do no wrong; not that we ourselves may appear approved, but that you may do what is right, even though we may appear unapproved. 8 For we can do nothing against the truth, but only for the truth. 2 Corinthians 13:5-8

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Fowler Flashes

is published monthly by

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