



Foothills Cooperative Parish Newsletter

In This Issue:

February 2018

- ◆ Ash Wednesday Service 2/14
- ◆ A Note and a Prayer -Lori Anne
- ◆ Do-Overs -Peter
- ◆ Parish Committee Updates
- ◆ Parish Calendar

Foothills Cooperative Parish
Contact Us

Lori Anne Bowen

Parish Director & Senior Pastor
828-292-2534

lbowen@wnccumc.org

Peter Brown

Parish Associate Pastor
203-650-1404

brown@wnccumc.net

Claricea Mitchell

Parish Director of Children &
Youth Ministries (DCYM)

Office 828-754-0711

clmitchell@caldwellschools.com

Parish Website

www.foothillscooperativeparish.weebly.com

Ash Wednesday Service



**Join us for a special
worship service on
Ash Wednesday,
February 14th at
6:00pm
at Whitnel UMC.**

A Note and a Prayer

“The Lord spoke to Moses in the Sinai desert in the meeting tent on the first day of the second month, in the second year after they left the land of Egypt: ‘Take a census of the entire Israelite community by their clans and their households, recording the name of every male, 20 years old and above, who is eligible for military service to Israel.’”

Numbers 1:1-3a (CEB)

Yes, my head is floating with numbers because the end of the year reports is due in one week. They are half completed and the rest will be done by the due date (she says with uncertainty). Yearly statistics are boring and seem more like “busy” work than anything helpful.

On the Instructional video for completing the statistics, the Conference Treasurer, Mark King reminded us that the bible is filled with counting. After looking at the book of Numbers, I agree.

Numbers opens with the Lord speaking to Moses and asking for a census. The Israelites have been away from captivity in Egypt for thirteen months. They will be facing battles as they wander around the desert and prepare for habitation in the Promised Land. All the households are checked and all males of fighting age are recorded.

My sympathy lies with Moses and his brother Aaron who helped him with the census. They had to use stone tablets or notches on a stick for calculating the numbers. I at least have a computer and some good help from knowledgeable people. I do wonder how they kept up with the

For Bulletin Entries:
CUMC: Wendy Newton
leenewton2@charter.net

GUMC: Katherine Teague
teaguekb2@gmail.com

WUMC: Claricea Mitchell
clmitchell@caldwellschools.com

Submit Calendar Entries by the
20th of each month to
clmitchell@caldwellschools.com
or foothillscooperativerparish@gmail.com

Send Newsletter entries to
ourfcpnews@gmail.com by the
25th of each month.

Whitnel Pastor Preaching Schedule

Jan. 14 – Feb. 11.....Lori Anne
Feb. 14 (Ash Wed) – Mar. 30 (Good
Fri.).....Peter
April 1 - May 13.....Lori Anne
May 20 - July 1.....Peter
July 8 - August 19.....Lori Anne
August 26 - October 7.....Peter
Oct. 14 – Nov. 25.....Lori Anne
Dec. 2 – Dec. 24.....Peter
Dec. 25 - Baptism of the
Lord.....Lori Anne

numbers and knew in reality how many people were available for service. I can look at the membership records or search our pictorial directory and get an idea.

Each year when I compile the information for the reports I am reminded of the life events of the church. There are births and deaths which bring memories of baptisms and celebrations of life. We record any new members who have joined in the past year and there is also a time for saying good-bye to anyone who moved away. For me, two of the most telling factors of the church's vitality is how many people were in active, hands-on mission and ministry, and how did we spend the money we were entrusted with.

One way for seeing if a church is vital is see how many people are in the community beyond the walls of the church building serving Christ with their hands, feet, deeds, words, or actions. Where have the people shared and lived the gospel of Jesus Christ outside of their own homes and the church building. A vital church will have a larger number of people (proportionate to their average worship attendance).

Sadly, the percentages are lower for us than I would hope. We have few people who routinely step out into the community, sharing God's message of love, justice, and mercy.

Another factor, indicating church vitality is where and how money is spent or saved. Yes, operating a church building and ministries requires money for upkeep, utilities, and personnel. There are still ways for using the gifts for helping the poor, imprisoned, sick, hungry, (See Matthew 25).

Looking at the finances shows we are struggling in being faithful with all of the money we have been given. Some groups and churches are doing better in some instances. Overall, there is room for improvement.

We cannot ask for a "do-over" for last year. The statistics for 2017 are calculated and completed. Next January there will be another set of statistics where we will record membership, ministry, and finances for 2018. We have 11 months for making decisions that will help us be vital churches and a vital parish. We have 334 days for spreading the gospel with our voices, our hands, our feet, and our deeds. We have 8016 hours for coming up with innovative, daring, and imaginative ways for relating people in our community with the message of Christ.

Come on everyone! We can do this when we work together. Let's set some goals, make a plan, and live out the mission for the Church of Jesus Christ.

Loving God of second chances, you are always ready to show us grace when we do not respond well to living out your call on our lives. Give us the insight for seeing where we can go and share your love through the message of Jesus Christ. Then give us courage for going forth and fulfilling the vision you give us. We pray in the name of your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

In Christ's Love,

Lori Anne

**PRIME RIB
DINNER
FUNDRAISER**

Saturday, February 17th
from 4-8pm at GUMC

All proceeds benefit the
FCP Youth & Gamewell Elementary
Nutritional Backpack Program
See a youth member or leader to
purchase tickets.
Gourmet desserts still needed. See
Ann Watson to donate.

**SOUP AND SANDWICH
LUNCHEON
FUNDRAISER**

Sunday, February 25th at noon at
CUMC

Everyone Welcome! Any donations
accepted. All proceeds go towards
the Whitnel Elementary Nutritional
Backpack Program.

Do-Overs

“See that no one pays back evil for evil, but always try to do good to each other and to all people.” 1 Thessalonians 5:15

Many of you may remember the movie, “Groundhog Day” which featured Bill Murray as Phil Connors, a TV weatherman who is sent off to the small town of Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania to cover the annual Groundhog Day festivities.

After retiring for the night and waking up the next morning, he discovers that it's Groundhog Day again, and again, and again. It's like getting an automatic do-over every day. How intriguing, to be able to have a chance to relive your day all over again, and perhaps not make the same mistake again. In golf they call it a mulligan.

Have you ever said or done something that after you have done it, you regret it, and just wished you could do it over again? I recently saw on Facebook, an argument between two Christians; where one person had made some really hurtful remarks about the other person. Perhaps the person making the hurtful remarks wished he had the opportunity to rethink his words in such a way that they made the point that he was trying to make without being insensitive.

While on vacation recently, I saw a tee shirt printed with the following slogan: “when given the choice between being right or being kind, choose kind; that way you will always be right. “ James reminds us, *“So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin.”* James 4:17. These are strong and powerful words that remind us that as Christians we are expected to treat those we meet, whether we agree with their politics or opinions, with loving kindness as an example of the loving God who accepts us with the same kindness. Let February and every month be a month of no regrets when we reflect on our interactions with

others. With God's grace and loving strength, may you have a mulligan-free month.

God of grace and mercy, forgive us when we stumble and fall. We are so grateful that you are the God of second chances. Help us to get it right the first time and extend the love that you so freely offer us to those that we encounter each day.

Christ's Blessings to you,

Peter

Parish Committee Updates

Confirmation Class

There will be Parish Confirmation Class offered beginning in February or March for youth 6-12 grades. An informational meeting will be held on Sunday February 11, 2018 at 3:30 at Whitnel UMC. We will discuss curriculum and dates for the classes. If you have questions, please contact Lori Anne or Peter.

Parish Staff Parish Relations Committee

Next meeting date to-be-determined.

Parish Council met on January 30th for our first meeting of the year. Minutes will follow in next month's newsletter.

Congregations for Children Committee (C4C)

We are continuing the mid-year school supply drive. The list of the supplies has been in the bulletins. Here it is again for your information.

- Markers
- 3-ring binders
- 5 subject notebooks
- Kleenex
- Large Hand Sanitizers
- Sidewalk Chalk
- Band-aids
- Pencil Boxes
- Disinfectant Wipes
- S/M boys Underwear
- S/M girls Underwear
- Notebook paper
- Composition books
- Snacks
- Pencils

The schools are always in need of lunch buddies and there is still time to sign up. The children are changed by having an adult take part in their life. And the adult's life is changed by giving of her/his self.



THE FOOTHILLS COOPERATIVE PARISH

Date	Day	COLLIERS	GAMEWELL	WHITNEL
1	Th		Peter's Life Study 6:30 GUMC Parsonage	
2	F			
3	S			
4	Sun	Holy Communion & Love Offering for the Backpack Program	Serving at Soup Kitchen	
5	M			6:30pm Cub Scouts @ Scout Ctr.
6	T			6:30pm Scout Troop @ Scout Ctr.
7	W	10am Morning Circle 6pm Prayer Group	5pm Choir Practice	
8	Th		Peter's Life Study 6:30 GUMC Parsonage	
9	F			
10	S			
11	Sun	3:30 Confirmation Class Info. Mtg.	3:30 Confirmation Class Info. Mtg.	8am Prayer Breakfast 3:30 Confirmation Class Info. Mtg.
12	M	1pm Ladies Lunch 6:30 5 Means of Grace Bible Study		2pm Five Means of Grace Bible Study 6:30pm Cub Scouts @ Scout Ctr.
13	T	5-7pm Shrove Pancake Supper	6pm Admin Council Meeting	6:30pm Scout Troop @ Scout Ctr.
14	W	6pm Ash Wed. Service @ WUMC	6pm Ash Wed. Service @ WUMC	Community Meal 6pm Ash Wednesday Service
15	Th		Peter's Life Study 6:30 GUMC Parsonage	
16	F			
17	S			
18	Sun Lent 1	6pm Circle I	6-7pm UMW	
19	M	6pm Prayer Group 6:30 5 Means of Grace Bible Study	12-1pm Joy Lunch Bunch	2pm Five Means of Grace Bible Study 6:30pm Cub Scouts @ Scout Ctr.
20	T			6:30pm Scout Troop @ Scout Ctr.
21	W			
22	Th		Peter's Life Study 6:30 GUMC Parsonage	
23	F			
24	S			
25	Sun Lent 2	Noon Soup Luncheon Fundraiser for Backpack		
26	M	6:30 5 Means of Grace Bible Study		2pm Five Means of Grace Bible Study 6:30pm Cub Scouts @ Scout Ctr.
27	T			6:30pm Scout Troop @ Scout Ctr.
28	W	6pm Bible Study & Dinner		



Date	Day	YOUTH (6TH – 12TH) *KFC will not meet in January	Community (Cald. Senior Center activities are weekly on the same days)
1	Th		Silver Sneakers 10:00am Trinity UMC
2	F	5:30pm Leave for Summit	
3	S	At Summit	
4	Sun	Coming back from Summit No Youth Meeting tonight	
5	M		
6	T		
7	W		
8	Th		Silver Sneakers 10:00am Trinity UMC
9	F		
10	S		
11	Sun	5-7 Youth @ Youth House	
12	M		
13	T		
14	W		
15	Th		Silver Sneakers 10:00am Trinity UMC
16	F	Set up for Rib Fundraiser @ GUMC	
17	S	4-8p Prime Rib Dinner Fundraiser	
18	Sun	5-7 Youth @ Youth House	
19	M		
20	T		
21	W		
22	Th		Silver Sneakers 10:00am Trinity UMC
23	F		
24	S		
25	Sun	5-7 Youth @ Youth House	
26	M		
27	T		
28	W		