



Third Presbyterian Church

4019 Central Ave. Charlotte, NC 28205

thirdpresbyterian.com

February to April 2024



The season of Lent begins on February 14 with Ash Wednesday and concludes on Holy Saturday, March 30. Lent is a season of self-examination and repentance of our sin and our sinful choices.

What is your response when the subject of sin is preached in sermons or taught in Sunday School classes? Is your attitude like the one expressed in the following poem entitled "Not About Me!"?

Preach about yesterday, Preacher, the time so far away when the hand of Deity smote and slew and the heathen played the stiff-necked jew. Or when the Man of sorrows came, and blessed the people who cursed His name. Preach about yesterday, Preacher, not about today!

Preach about the old sins, Preacher, not about the new. The man who cheats and lies, the man who drinks and beats his wife, the man who is lazy and shirks responsibility. Preach about the other man, Preacher, not about me!

The attitude of many Christians is, "Preach about sin, preacher, just not about mine."

One of Scripture's most notorious sinners was also one of the Bible most famous saints: Israel's greatest king--King David. Yet, David is as much remembered for his sins with Bathsheba and Uriah as he was for his many great acts of faith and courage. Notice the process that led from the actual sins to the granting of God's forgiveness for his sins:

1. There was the **Temptation**: David saw Bathsheba bathe on adjoining roof. Lust!
2. There was the **Attitude that led to the Action**: His covetous spirit led to adultery.
3. There was the **Complication**: Bathsheba informed David, "I am pregnant."
4. There was the **Compounding** of the problem. The murder of Uriah, Bathsheba's husband.
5. There was the **Spiritual Hiding** from God.
6. There was the **Conviction and Confession of sin**: "I have sinned against the LORD."
7. There was the **Forgiveness by God for David's sins**: "The LORD has taken away your sin."

Even though David's sins were very public, God still granted forgiveness. Did you know that the Bible refers to David as "*a man after God's own heart?*" Why? Because, even though David sinned grievously, he did not deny his sin forever. Eventually, convicted, he cried to God for mercy. "*I have sinned against the Lord.*" God will never turn his back on repentant sinners.

The season of Lent reminds us that we are sinners. When convicted of our sins, we need to confess them to God, turn from them unto God's will and entrust ourselves to His mercy. Our sinfulness is the reason Christ came and was crucified for us. Our repentance, "I have sinned against the Lord" leads to the assurance of pardon that "Jesus died for me."

Church Family Condolences to the Clinton and Michelle Jordan Family

In the last two months, we have lost two devoted church members and two Christians devoted to Jesus Christ. Both from the same family, they died 25 days apart. Joyous funeral services were held at the church for these women. We are grateful for the ways Clinton and Michelle served Jesus Christ and His church here at Third. Please keep the Jordan family in your prayers as they lost both their beloved mother and sister.

JANUARY Birthdays: 1-Saba, 26-Sonny **FEBRUARY:** 2-Tihtina 17-Barry, 26-Angie, 27-Hailab

MARCH: 8-MaryAnn, 8-Bob, 13-Darleen, 20-Jane Parham, 21-Travis,
28-Nate, 29-Cody

APRIL: 4-Tim, 5-Bennie, 5-Rachael, 9-Jennifer, 11-Wayne, 17- Beth, 20-Dave



End-of-year financial report for 2023: We were able to exceed all budget expenses in 2023 which allowed the session to give bonuses and cost-of-living raises to all staff members for 2024. Also, three church members were received into heaven: Nita Smith, Al Selby and Clinton Jordan. Please pray for our church as God leads us to a fruitful year in 2024.

Rev. Jay, Jane, Brad and Eleanor thank the session and the congregation for the generous yearend bonuses they were given. Your generosity is appreciated!



Holy Week services: **Palm Sunday** is on March 24.

--**Maundy Thursday** is on March 28 with meal at 6:00 PM and Holy Communion at 7:00 PM.

--**Easter Sunrise** is on March 31 at 7:15 AM, followed by the Men of the Church cooking breakfast for the congregation at about 8:00 AM. Please bring flowers to cover the cross.

--**Our main Easter service** at 11:00 AM with the sacrament of Holy Communion!

OUR ELDERS for 2024: *Margaret Robinson Arnold, Clerk of Session; Jim Hanline, Worship; Jeff Pennington, Human Services; Joe Payne, Finance and Personnel; Bill Parham, Property; Len Hull, Discernment Team.*

No Batteries Needed by Clinton Jordan (reprinted February 2013 newsletter)

Have you ever noticed that when you need a battery you never seem to have one? We Christians have the power given to us through Jesus Christ who gave His life that we might have a source of power that's always available to us. We need to be charged up, but the Source is always there. God supplies us with everything we need — the Word of God, the power of prayer. So let's get charged up for Christ!



When we run low on power, the station is always open. The Agent is always present, there is no purchase price, and it's already been paid. Let's fill up and get going for Christ.