



**Time to Spring Forward**  
 Don't forget to set your clocks forward  
 one hour before you go to sleep on  
**Saturday, March 12.**

**CARING Through CHRIST Support Group**

**Monday, March 14, at 6:00 p.m.**  
 in the Outreach Center.



**Adult Game Night**  
**Tuesday, March 29, at 6:00 p.m.**  
 in the Family Life Center

**Altar Flowers**

Please sign up to provide flowers for the altar.  
 Sign-up sheets are in the lobby of the church office,  
 or you can call the church office.



**To The CBC Family**  
 Barbara Stern



**January**

Received in General Fund:	\$	20,908.00
Received in Designated Funds:	\$	428.00
Total Received:	\$	21,336.00
Expenses (new roof included):	\$	56,475.00

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**The  
 Potter's  
 Wheel**

**Monthly Newsletter from  
 Clarkesville Baptist Church**

**March 2022**

They are making their way back! I am making reference to the Spring flock of birds that come back each year to remove all the red berries from the holly trees located near the Outreach Center. I find myself checking to see if they are coming back year to year. And before I know it, they are back in full force consuming every one of those red berries.

I find myself thinking the same way about the church. Where are the people? Will they ever return? That question isn't just mine. It's on the heart of almost every minister. After dealing with the pandemic, it seems that anywhere from 30-50% of our congregations have disappeared. So, I find myself asking, "What's going on?"

Maybe it was from the lack of a vaccine. But now, there's every kind of vaccine available for everyone. Then it was the variants that followed. Or was it that the people were just generally fearful. But those thoughts don't work either. Many of those who haven't returned to church have no trouble finding their way to Walmart, a sporting event, a vacation or wherever they want to go! So what gives?

What I am being told from people who haven't returned to church, and even some who have returned, that it is not fear but indifference. They know what the church is; and after the habit disruption that happened during COVID, they grew indifferent to in-person attendance. Indifference is seen as a lack of interest, concern, or unimportance. No they don't hate in-person church; there's no strong surge of emotions. Church has just become no longer important. And for me, that is so sad.

They're not mad nor afraid. They're just indifferent as to whether they should return to church or not. I'd like to think they have assessed their lives and decided that attending church wasn't that important in the end. Believe me that is discouraging to say the least, but there is a lesson for all of us.

It's time we all look at our passion for Christ and the church. The mission of the church gets accomplished as well or better outside the walls of the church. Maybe it is time we start thinking beyond the building! I think it is time we start to focus not so much on gathering as we should shift our focus to sending and connecting. May God help us find the new ways needed to renew our congregation's passion for Christ and the people who need Him.

Join us Sunday as we continue to search for our passion for Christ...

Your pastor and friend,

*Grady*

## ♪ From Your Music Minister ♪

We sing hymns and for good reason. They are scriptural. We sing psalms and for good reason. They are directly from the Old Testament. We sing spiritual songs and for good reason. God's word tells us to teach and admonish each other with these type of songs. We read and learn from Ephesians 5:19 to "speak to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord."

The Psalms are the Old Testament temple songs that have the texts to lead us to begin worship with praise and adoration of our Creator. Hymns contain the rich depth that can improve our discipleship if we will simply read, be inspired, and follow the meaning and the spirit of the text. The spiritual songs are those new songs that move our hearts and emotions to be moved to love Jesus more dearly. "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord." Colossians 3:15

Where is my mind and heart when we sing the songs in worship? Am I deeply involved into the songs meaning; that the beat, the style, and the familiarity is secondary to hearing what God has to say to me and my spiritual growth? Worshipers in the spirit, seek to listen intently to the prayers, the music, the scripture, and the various messages from God and seek communication with God's Spirit. Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

*Curt*

## From Your Bible Study Director

March 17 is St. Patrick's Day. What comes to mind? Wearing green? Shamrocks? Leprechauns? Well, how about decisions? Remember the old Price Is Right where contestants had to choose Door 1, 2, or 3? They didn't know what lay behind each door, but they had to make a decision.

Well, back in the 5<sup>th</sup> century, Maewyn Succat (St Patrick's real name) had to make some pretty big choices. See, he had been kidnapped as a teenager and enslaved for 6 years in Ireland before escaping to his home in England. While a slave, he was mistreated, abused, jailed and almost killed. But, after returning home, he had a vision where God told him, "You will walk among the Irish." He had to make some decisions. Would he ignore God or obey Him? Would he forgive those people in order to serve them? Well, he made the choices. He became a priest, spent about 40 years in Ireland, and started about 300 churches and schools.

Our situation may not be as ominous as St. Patrick's, but we have the same choices. What will you choose? Forgive or resent? Ignore or obey? Hope you'll choose to come together on Sunday mornings to learn, share, worship and serve.

*Carol*



Ash Wednesday  
— Lent Begins

Ash Wednesday/Lent Begins

**Wednesday, March 2.**

Lent Ends **Saturday, April 16.**

Week of Prayer for North American Missions

**Sunday, March 6-Sunday, March 13, with  
the Annie Armstrong offering on the 13th.**

Our goal is \$2,000.



Join us for...  
Ladies  
Bible Study

Ladies Bible Study

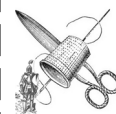
**Mondays, 1:00-3:00 p.m., (March 7-April 11)**

Study will be on the book "He Chose the Nails" by Max Lucado. Sign-up sheet is on the credenza in the church office lobby. Cost of book is \$16.00.

Women on Missions

**Tuesday, March 8, at 6:00 p.m.**

in the Family Life Center



The Sewing Ladies

**Wednesday, March 9 & 23, at  
10:00 a.m. in the Holcomb Center**