



Gulf Breezes

February, 2018

A recent [online, non-scientific survey](#) by *Christianity Today* revealed the most popular things people give up for Lent: 1) social networking, 2) chocolate, 3) Twitter, 4) alcohol, and 5) chips. I for one am giving up the use of electronic devices at the dinner table!! My two girls are giving up boys...(that's easy now, because they think they're gross!)

As I've thought about it, there are some deeper parts of your life that you might consider giving up for Lent, for the sake of your own spiritual maturity and personal development. In no particular order, and by no means exclusive here are some things I thought of that you might want to consider as part of your Lenten journey this year:

Give up the need to have things all figured out.

Embrace mystery. Dance with your doubts. Acknowledge that you do not and cannot know it all. Resist the temptation to rationalize the irrational parts of your faith, and recognize that some of the greatest things in life are those things that cannot be explained or fully understood. Things like God's love for you, and how God is with you even when you don't believe it. (Romans 11:33-36)

Give up the need to be right all the time.

Business author Patrick Lencioni said, "People don't need to feel like they are right, as much as they need to feel like they've been heard." Yes, claim your voice, assert your convictions, and engage the issues that matter to you. But once you've been heard, consider the possibility that you might have something to learn from someone who disagrees with you. That's often how we learn our most important lessons in life. (James 1:19)

Give up your fears of the future.

I get it. These are frightening times for many people. There is great nervousness about the way things are in the world. And I would guess that you are dealing with fears yourself. I have learned over my twenty years of parish ministry that everyone — without exception — has something with which that they are dealing with. We all have our fears, but we don't need to be defined by them. For God is a God of hope. (Matthew 6:33-34)

Give up the need to be in control.

This one is at the heart of the season of Lent. It is a reminder that we ultimately are not in control of what happens to us. We cannot control others, and we can hardly claim to have full control of ourselves and our future. Let the Covenant Prayer of Wesley be your guide, to remind you that you are not your own; you belong to God. For we must ultimately surrender our control over to a God who has created us and claimed us from the beginning. (Matthew 16:24-25)

Give up anesthetizing yourself to pain and suffering.

The long shadow of suffering is cast in many shades, like loneliness, grief, abandonment, and betrayal. None of us enjoys going through difficulties, and our instinct is often to numb ourselves from the pain in ways that are actually self-destructive: giving in to addictions, accumulating possessions, pursuing temporal pleasures, and cocooning ourselves from the rest of the world. These might anesthetize us in the short term, but they prevent us from allowing that pain to help us stretch, grow, and trust in God. (Romans 5:3-5)

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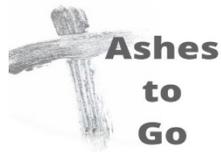
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FYI: For Your Information & Interest

Give up the need to make everyone happy.

It's not like you can, anyway. You may have a knack for understanding what others want from you, but you must also claim your own convictions and understand your limitations. Your job is not to be all things to all people and please everyone you know. God calls you to live a life of integrity, uncompromising in your commitment to Jesus Christ. For God, after all, is the only one you need to please. (Galatians 1:10)

Blessings to you on your Lenten journey! Pastor Mike



Ashes to go Wednesday February 14, 7-9 am.

Start your Lenten season off with the sign of the cross, either in ashes or symbolically. Pastor Mike will be at the front of the church with ashes and coffee.

THANK YOU

Dear Church on behalf of my entire family, THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU for such a great Christmas Season, and also for all of your Prayers, Cards, and gifts. Kelly, Myleigh, Karlie, and I are truly honored, and proud to be part of this family, and look forward to many, many, many more Christmas seasons with you all. Mike.

Scriptures -February, 2018

2/4

"Achoooo!"

1 Corinthians 9:16-23

2/11

"Razzle Dazzle"

Mark 9:2-9

The following is a Lenten sermon series with the main title: "REHAB"

2/18

"Wilderness"

Mark 1:9-15

2/25

"Intervention"

Mark 8:31-38



Ladies Lunch Out will be at Ruby Tuesday's on Sunday, February 4 at 12:30. Please join us! Contact Sandy Doty at 941- 875-4199 or ssdoty975@yahoo.com or Deb Howell at 330-441-2852 or debhowell3902@yahoo.com.



Start Your Lenten Season with a Simple Soup and Bread meal and a Worship Service. Wednesday, February 14. The meal will be served at 5:30pm with the worship service at 6pm.

THANK YOU

A huge THANK YOU to everyone who volunteered to ring bells for the Salvation Army this season. The contributions were amazing. The total contributions at Publix were \$22,961.43 and at Winn Dixie were \$6,984.50, for a total of \$29,945.93...just \$55 from \$30,000. The contributions were \$2,812 over last year. THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!! It wouldn't have been possible without all the hours covered from November 10 to December 23. I look forward to next year and everyone volunteering again. (If you have a favorite time, let me know and I'll put it on the schedule...yes, it's ready for next year.) Blessings to everyone for a happy and healthy New Year. ...Sandy Doty

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING



Hey Football fans! It's Super Bowl Season and with that it's our annual "Souper Bowl of Caring" campaign. This year's collection date will be held on Super Bowl Sunday,

February 4. Show your support by wearing your favorite NFL team shirt! Remember all funds and food items go directly to Englewood Helping Hand - there are no administration costs whatsoever! **Don't forget to wear your favorite team jersey that Sunday!**

FINANCES

FUNDING GOD'S MINISTRY for December 2017

		YTD
TOTAL INCOME	\$51,214.58	\$416,323.05
OPERATING EXPENSE	\$7,866.53	\$104,540.37
EDUCATION/NURTURE	\$545.79	\$8,913.33
APPORTIONMENTS	\$4,252.40	\$42,524.00
STAFF SUPPORT	\$23,224.25	\$274,866.19
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>\$35,888.97</u>	<u>\$430,843.89</u>
SURPLUS/DEFICIT	\$15,325.61	(\$14,520.84)
RESERVE FUND	17,875.62	

"FOOD FOR THE SOUL"



Please join us on Wednesday nights for a chance to grow closer to God and others in our church family. Dinner is served from 5:30-

6:00pm. The weekly cost is: \$4/per Adult; \$2.50/per Child under 12; \$12/Family maximum. This month's menu includes

- Feb. 7-Chicken & Rice Casserole
- Feb. 14-Simple Soup & Bread
- Feb. 21 -Beef & Macaroni
- Feb. 28-Meatball Sandwich

Reservation deadline is the previous Sunday--you can list your reservation on the pew attendance pad on Sunday mornings: Mark "Food" & the number of people.

Clean-up is at 6pm, then there are various activities for ALL ages. Children have Jesus Rocks in #109/110; Youth, gr. 6-12, meet in P #206; and an adult Bible study, the After Dinner Group, meets in #102. At 6:15pm, Genesis Small Group, another adult Bible Study, meets in the Sanctuary. For those who prefer an earlier evening, Pastor Mike leads a Bible study at 4:30pm in P#201 where they study the scripture text he will be using for the following Sunday's sermon. You can join a study group without having dinner; likewise eat dinner without joining a study group. Please make Wednesday nights a time you spend with your church family so you can feed your body...and soul!

February BIRTHDAYS

2/01 Pam Richter	2/01 Linda Starck
2/01 Mike Lackney	2/03 Dean Corrie
2/04 Beverly Fonder	2/06 Trish Chamberlain
2/07 Randy Clarke	2/08 Mary Robinson
2/08 Ken Baus	2/08 John MacKenzie
2/10 Margaret Case	2/10 Rick Nyalka
2/10 Dallis Walchle II	2/13 Gary St. Martin
2/14 Joan Calisti	2/15 Jessie Choate
2/16 Lois Moore	2/16 Renee McVety
2/17 Madi Gowdy	2/19 Alberta Weinheimer
2/19 Deb Crandall	2/19 Bryan McDaniel
2/21 John Kotula	2/22 Corey Pooler
2/22 Walt Stull	2/22 Carol Ankeney
2/22 Tom Shatzer	2/23 Joe Marchert
2/23 Linda Atkinson	2/24 Sue Pickell
2/24 Mike Thonnerieux	2/25 Bill Kennedy
2/26 Mary Cantrell	2/28 Mark Porter
2/28 Anna Wenzel	

February ANNIVERSARIES

2/07 Randy & Beth Clarke
2/08 Tom & Margaret Case
2/08 Larry & Brenda Dalton
2/14 Herb & Edna Bradley
2/14 Ralph & Marilyn Calladine
2/21 Sam & Becky Walters
2/23 Jonnie & Shirley Webber
2/23 Carl & Alice Horecki
2/26 Bill & Alberta Weinheimer
2/27 John & Elaine Dorotics
2/27 Sarge & LuAnn Joys

"WHAT DO I HAVE?"

What do I have, Lord, that you would need me as a servant? Eyes, he said, to see the beauty in all that I've made — and my children as they travel life's highway.

Hands, he said, to reach out and touch hurting souls, to give a hug or encouraging pat on the back.

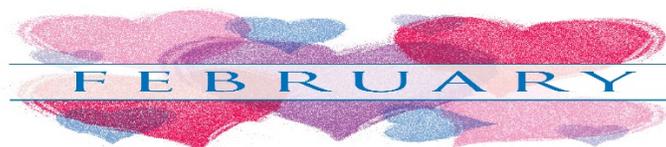
Feet, he said, to lead my children through this world of strife and to help them run from sin and follow me.

Mouth, he said, to lift up your voice and sing praises to me so others may hear the joy in your heart.

Ears, he said, to listen to my still, small voice of love and to hear my children when they cry for help.

Heart, he said, so you may know the full love of my Spirit and love my children as I have loved you.

—Thomas Butler



Calendar Highlights

Feb 3	9:30-12pm	Saturday	Closet of Hope P#204	2:30pm		Inglenook
Feb 4		Sunday	Souper Bowl Sunday	5:30pm		Simple Soup & Bread
	12:15pm		Ladies' Day Out	6pm		Ash Wednesday Service
Feb 6	8am	Tuesday	GCUM Men's Breakfast	Feb 17	9:30-12pm	Saturday Closet of Hope P#204
Feb 9	11-7pm	Friday	Pig Pick'in & Cookie Dash	Feb 19		Monday Office Closed
Feb 10	9:30-3pm	Saturday	THRIVE Edgewater	Feb 20	8am	Tuesday GCUM Men's Breakfast
Feb 11	8:30	Sunday	Blood Drive		7pm	Finance Meeting #103
Feb 12	12:00pm	Monday	Newsletter Deadline	Feb 24	7:30-11-30	Saturday Scouts' Pancake Breakfast
	7:00pm		Trustee Meeting #103	Feb 26	7:00pm	Monday Church Council Meeting
Feb 14	7-9am	Wednesday	Ashes To Go			

Sundays:

8am	Traditional Service	
9:30am	Contemporary Service	
	Seekers II Sunday School	P#201
	Kids' Church/Sunday School	#109/110
	Youth Sunday School	P#206
11am	Adult Sunday School	#109/110
	Sermon Discussion	P#201
	Traditional Service	
5-8pm	Youth Group Gr.6-12	P#206
6:30pm	Family Bowling	

Mondays:

7pm	Boy Scouts	P#201
7:30pm	AA Support Group	#109/110

Tuesdays:

1pm	Friend to Friend	#109/110
7pm	Al-Anon	#109/110
	Journey In Faith	P#201

Wednesdays:

12pm	Weekly Bulletin Deadline
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	Mid-Week Boost	#102
4:30pm	Pastor's Bible Study	P#201
5:30pm	Food for the Soul Dinner	
6pm	Jesus Rocks	#109/110
	After Dinner Group	#102
	Youth Group Gr. 6-12	P#206
	Ever After Bible Study	P#201
6:15pm	Genesis Group	Sanctuary

Thursdays:

	8am Grounds Main't Crew @ Barn	
	9am Crafty Ladies	Oak's Cove
4:45pm	Handbells	P#203
5:30pm	Praise Team	Sanctuary
6:30pm	Girl Scouts	109/110
	Choir Rehearsal	P#203

Fridays

2-4pm	Journey In Faith	P#201
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