

NEWSLETTER

WORDS FROM JASON

Ash Wednesday is coming soon. Most don't get very excited about Ash Wednesday – it seems to be a strange day in our contemporary culture. No gifts are exchanged. No parties are thrown. Some even would say that the whole day is a little depressing. So why do we have Ash Wednesday?

Technically speaking, we have Ash Wednesday because it marks the beginning of the forty day period leading up to Easter. Ash Wednesday serves to kick off a special season of the Church calendar known as Lent.

Theologically speaking, Ash Wednesday is a day that serves as a somber reminder of our own mortality and dependence on God. It is a day that we remember that we are made from dust and to dust we shall return. It is a day of repentance and of laying aside the sins that pollute our souls, keeping us from experiencing God the way we were intended. Many choose to give something up on this day for the duration of Lent (chocolate, cokes, caffeine, TV, etc). Others make a renewed commitment to daily spiritual practices such as Scripture reading, prayer, fasting, or meditation. All of these practices serve to turn our hearts to God, reminding us of the sacrifice that Christ made for us on the Cross and emp-

tying ourselves of things that distract us so that God's voice might be more clearly heard.

It is easy to see why Ash Wednesday doesn't always get good press. Our culture values entertainment, celebration and excitement. Ash Wednesday and Lent offer none of the above. What this time of year does offer, however, is an opportunity to reconnect: Reconnect with God. Reconnect with who God made you to be. Reconnect with your inward spiritual goals.

Another reason to recognize Ash Wednesday: celebration is so much sweeter when you've had to struggle to achieve the victory. Ash Wednesday and Lent provide us the invitation to share (if even only in a small way) in the sacrifice and suffering of our Risen Lord. Easter morning, with its white flowers and Resurrection joy has so much more meaning if we have taken the time to consider the alternative: death.

I hope that you will attend our Ash Wednesday worship service this year. It will be held at 7PM on February 21st. It will be a time of prayer, confession, repentance, pardon, and reconnecting with our humanity as well as our source of Hope. In order to help you prepare for Easter, we will also have available Lenten daily devotionals. They will be located in the foyer. We ask a \$1 donation to cover printing costs.

It is my prayer that Lent would be a special season of communion with God for you this year. May we all hear the Voice of the One who calls us to a life of eternal Joy!

See You Sunday!

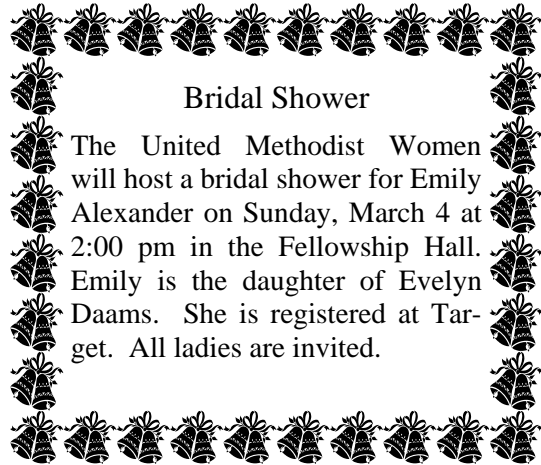
Jason

**Silver Creek United
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www.silvercreekumc.org

Pastor. . . Jason Hamilton
Secretary.Volunteers
Youth Director. . Robert Goodrich
Children's Co-or. . Karen Samford
Music DirectorLisa Screeton
Nursery. . . .Keturah Sims



Bridal Shower

The United Methodist Women will host a bridal shower for Emily Alexander on Sunday, March 4 at 2:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Emily is the daughter of Evelyn Daams. She is registered at Target. All ladies are invited.

Cancer Fundraiser

Keturah Sims is going to be walking The3Day for Breast Cancer in October. She has to raise a large sum of money. To help her, the church is planning a bake sale to be held on Mother's Day, May 13. You can get dessert for your Mother's Day dinner. If you wish to help with baked goods, see Linda Schairbaum or Nancy Davis.

Prayer Concerns

- Don Wright
- Monica (Wright) Boyd
- The Coleman Family
- Sims Family—death of Cheryll's father
- Christine Screeton

	Attendance		Offerings	
	<u>Worship</u>		<u>S. S.</u>	<u>Budget</u>
	<u>A.M.</u>	<u>P.M.</u>		<u>Other</u>
Jan. 7	98	30	30	\$ 2104.20
Jan. 14	Closed due to bad weather			
Jan. 21				\$.
Jan. 28	108	35	31	\$ 2414.69

Children's Corner

Lessons for December:

Sunday School

Children's Church

February 4

Ruth
(Ruth 1-4)

White Manna
(Exodus 16:31)

February 11

Great Commandment
(Luke 10:25-37)

Hearts-Valentine's Day
(John 15:12)

February 18

The Four Friends
(Mark 2:1-12)

The Yellow Sun
(Genesis 1:16)

February 25

A Love Letter
(I Corinthians 13)

Wild Things
(Daniel 6:16)

Mid-Stream

MidStream begins each Wednesday with dinner at 5:30 pm. Be sure to sign the reservation sheet posted in the church foyer if you plan to eat. No Mid-Stream will be held on Valentine's Day, Feb. 14. On Feb. 21 there will be Ash Wednesday services for everyone at 7:00 pm instead of Mid-Stream activities. Current menus :

Feb. 21 Spaghetti, salad, bread, dessert

Feb. 28 Turkey and noodles, green beans,
bread, dessert

Mar. 7 Tater Tot casserole, carrots, green
beans, bread, dessert

Submit your newsletter articles by the last Sunday each month to Cheryl Sims. You can also send it by email to: newsletter@silvercreekumc.org.

Dinner Party

The annual adult progressive dinner has been rescheduled to Saturday, March 3rd. The hosts will be the same as planned. If you had signed up to help a host and would still like to please get with them. We will be at the church at 5:45 to carpool to the Machado's. There will be a sign up sheet in the foyer so we'll have a head count. If you have any questions, please call Linda Schairbaum @ 817-441-7157.

Ladies Circle

The monthly meeting of the Ladies Circle of the United Methodist Women will be on Sunday, Feb. 18 in the Fellowship Hall. We are changing the regular meeting time to 4:30 p.m. to give everyone enough time to attend Synergy Worship at 6:00 p.m. Each lady is asked to bring an appetizer for our meal. All ladies of the church are welcome.

YOUR INFORMATION

COULD BE HERE!

If you have announcements or other information for the church, send it to newsletter@silvercreekumc.org or the church office. We are also looking for volunteers to help hand out the newsletters to the congregation on Sunday morning and/or evening.

Weekly Schedule:

Sundays:

Choir practice 9:15-9:45 a.m.

Sunday School: 10:00 a.m.

Traditional Worship Service: 11:00 a.m.

Youth: 4:00 p.m.

Ladies Circle of United Methodist Women: 4:30 p.m. (third Sunday)

Synergy Worship: 6:00 p.m.

Tuesdays:

Weekday Circle of United Methodist Women: 10:00 a.m. (second Tuesday)

Wednesdays:

MidStream Family Night 5:30—7:30 p.m.

Synergy rehearsal 7:30 p.m.

Thursdays

Playday 10:00—11:30 a.m. (alternate weeks)

Saturdays:

Food Pantry Open 10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.

Church work/cleanup day, sponsored by United Methodist Men - 8:00 a.m.

All church members invited. (fourth Saturday of each month)

Silver Creek United Methodist Church
2200 Church Road
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