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MESSENGER

SUNDAY SERVICE

March 11, 2018
FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT
10:30 AM

Rev. Dr. Roger Verse

Scripture readings:

Psalm 107
Numbers 21: 4 - 9
John 3: 14 - 21

*Sermon: "What Do You Believe
and Where Will It Take You?"*

The scripture readings this Sunday are connected through a conversation between Jesus and Nicodemus, recorded in the book of John, referencing the time when the Israelites became impatient as Moses was leading them to the Promised Land. They spoke against both Moses and God, saying that they were being brought out of Egypt only to die in the wilderness for lack of food and water. God sent poisonous serpents among the people, and the people, realizing that they had sinned by speaking against the Lord, asked Moses to pray to God to take away the serpents from them.

In this week's **Posts from the Presbytery of Tropical Florida**, the relationship between these two readings is discussed. John places the story from the book of Numbers early on in his Gospel "as almost a foreshadowing of that which is to come where we see a developing theology of the cross".

As the story functions, it works in such a way that its role is to serve both as a source of memory and power, and also as a glimpse or sign of how the future will come about.

In Numbers, their memory was the issue. They were not remembering. All their

memories and those of the “Go Back to Egypt Committee,” were about THEM. They were not remembering God. They were not remembering that it was God who not only delivered them from slavery, but it was God who made a sure and strong covenant with them, and that very God was delivering them to the Land of the Promise.

The poisonous serpents helped to re-direct their corporate memory. From grumble and murmur, to remember that God is at hand. From complain, to remember that God is the one who is in covenant relationship with them.

That fact becomes the larger narrative of our living. It becomes the backdrop of how we make our way in the world. It is our story. It is where the action is at. That God is the ONE who makes a difference in our living or succumbing to the serpents. It is the power of God alive and well in our living right now.

That IS our story. We look to the cross and we remember. We can rely on what happened there. It is our story. It is the story of the God who remembers us, even and especially in and at that moment when we don't think ourselves worthy of being remembered. Right then and there God continues to lay a claim on us and move mightily in our lives.

LENTEN AND HOLY WEEK ACTIVITIES

30 Minutes with God A LENTEN LUNCH-TIME CONCERT SERIES

On each Wednesday during Lent, at noon, the Sanctuary will be open for prayer and meditation. Our Minister of Music, **Brandon Glick**, and some other local musicians will provide music selections appropriate to the Lenten Season.

The March 7 **Lenten Lunch-Time Concert** featured students from the Music Division of Hobe Sound Bible College.

Familiar selections of sacred music were performed individually by these talented musicians. It was a peaceful time in the middle of a busy day to pause, to meditate and to reflect on the meaning of the Lenten Season.



Pictured with Minister of Music **Brandon Glick** are **Tim Anderson**, pianist; **Annalisa Taylor**, violinist; **Daniel Lu**, violinist; **Amelia Winnert**, vocalist; and **Julianna Bozone**, violin and vocalist. Pianist **Sarah Stetler** is not pictured

The series will continue as follows:

March 14 Featuring Selma Verse, organist

March 21 Featuring Dr. Randall McElwain, pianist
March 28 Featuring the Gunter String Trio

Each session will be followed by fellowship time in the social hall with coffee and cold drinks provided for those who bring their lunches or who just want a little refreshment before returning to the work of the day.

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY

The topic for this Bible Study is "The Holy Book for Unholy Times. How the Scriptures, now over 2,000 years old, still speak to us during Lent 2018."

Study began on Ash Wednesday, February 14, at 10:45AM, and will continue at the same time each week through Lent. It is being team taught by **Dr. Roger Verse and Rev. Spencer vanGulick** and meets in the office conference room.

This topic provides for very timely study and discussion. You are welcome to come to any or all of the sessions and learn how God speaks to us through scripture about current concerns.

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SERVICES

Palm Sunday, March 25.

Informal Sunrise Service, 7:00 A.M. at the home of Judy Doverspike,
141 N Beach Road, Hobe Sound, FL 33455.
Traditional Worship Service at 10:30 am.

Maundy Thursday, March 29.

HSCPC traditional soup and bread supper at 6:00 pm, followed by Worship
Service at 7:00 pm. with Celebration of the Lord's Supper.

Easter Sunday, April 1.

Two Worship Services, 8:30 am. and 10:30 am. There will be fellowship time between the services, including appropriate activities for children. To alleviate the usual crowd at the 10:30 service, you are encouraged to attend the 8:30 service if you don't mind getting up and ready a little earlier than usual.

South Fork High School Carillon Choir.

On Sunday, March 4, the HSCPC Church courtyard rang out with the beautiful voices of the **South Fork High School Carillon Choir**. In spite of having to battle a sometimes gusting wind, this talented 60 member choir, under the direction of **Eileen Wallentin**, rewarded the very appreciative audience with an interesting variety of selections from sacred hymns to African folk music.



Following the concert, donations were accepted to help the choir with expenses they will incur as they travel to upcoming vocal competitions.

HSCPC Winter/Spring Concert Series: There is one more concert coming up in this series. These concerts have been offered free of charge to our members and the surrounding community, with a free will offering received at the conclusion of each concert to help support the HSCPC concert program.



Instrumental concert, featuring flute, oboe and piano.

Tuesday, April 10 at 7:00pm in the Sanctuary.
Amy Clark on flute, **Carrie Fox** on oboe and our own **Brandon Glick** on piano will join together to fill the church sanctuary with beautiful music.

2018 PIANO EXTRAVAGANZA

Brandon's next big project is as director of the **2018 Piano Extravaganza**, which features a dozen talented pianists and six grand pianos on one stage. It is presented by the Faculty, Staff and Students of Hobe Sound Ministries.

Music selections are varied and include sacred, classical and popular compositions. A medley from West Side Story appropriately celebrates the 100th anniversary of Leonard Bernstein's birth.

It is held on the **campus of Hobe Sound Bible College**,
11295 S.E. Gomez Ave. Hobe Sound.

Friday and Saturday, March 9 and 10,
7 PM, (doors open at 6 PM.)

An offering will be received.



DR. VERSE'S CONTRACT HAS BEEN EXTENDED

Dr. Verse's current contract runs through Easter Sunday. At the February Session meeting, the elders voted to extend his contract until June 13, at which time he and Selma will be leaving for a pre-arranged 6 week vacation. He has agreed to this extension, and it has been approved by the Presbytery Committee on Ministry. It will become effective on April 2.

DR. VERSE'S OFFICE HOURS: Dr. Verse's office hours are **Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9AM until Noon**. He would love to have you drop in for a visit if you are in the area. However, if you have a special need to speak with him it would be best to call ahead to see if he is available; often meetings or pastoral visits will necessitate his being out of the office at times during his scheduled hours.

CLASS FOR NEW MEMBERS

Dr. Verse is preparing a series of classes for people interested in joining our Church. If you are considering becoming a member of HSCPC please contact Dr. Verse for further details. A time will be determined that is convenient for all.

OCCASIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS NEEDED

If you would like to volunteer to teach Sunday School when needed, please contact Karen Kienzle, 561 379-7900, or karenkienzle@hotmail.com, or personally at church on Sunday.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY DIRECTOR PART-TIME JOB OPENING

HSCPC is looking for a Part-time Children's Ministry Director. Are you looking for a fulfilling opportunity to work with the children of our church? or, do you know someone who might be interested and qualified to fill this part-time position?. This position would be perfect for a person with a CE or educational background who wants to stay active in CE work but is unable to commit to a full-time position.

Please see the ink below (posted on the Presbytery website) for Job Posting, <http://www.tfpby.org/administration/employment/> and/or send your resume to church@hscpc.org

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- March 1** - Pastor Roger Verse
March 2 - Ruth LaPrise
March 6 - Arline Holloway
March 7 - Sylvia Ryan
March 11 - Lilly Rodrigues
March 17 - Gwen Altman
March 17 - Jim Wiggin
March 17 - Bill Carlson
March 19 - Pati Higgenbotham
March 19 - Ethan Rausch
March 19 - Stan Ball
March 28 - Brandon Glick
March 30 - Zachary Anderson

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

- March 2** - John and Connie Frazee

(If we have missed your birthday or anniversary, please let us know so you can be included here for the rest of the month.)

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Alex Lopez-Estrada
- George Mulleneix
- Gary Shriver
- Betty Marshall
- Skip Barlow
- Judy McCloy
- Kris Herd
- Josephine Scricca
- Mary Wilburn
- Bill Carlson
- Hisa Clark
- Bob Kehres
- Maureen Dalton
- Lee and Lloyd Howard
- Terry McCloy
- Laurie Updegrave
- Sarah Williams

Names will be removed from this list after three weeks unless a request is made to keep them on. This request should be made to Diane Atkisson in the church office. Phone – 772-546-5043, email – church@hscpc.org

WHEN YOU WANT TO MAKE A PRAYER REQUEST: To request prayers through the Prayer Circle, for yourself or someone else, contact Jan Norrish, 772-486-5514, jannorrish@hotmail.com, To have a prayer request included in the Church Sunday bulletin and the MESSENGER, fill out the prayer request card found in the Church pews or contact Diane Atkisson in the church office. Phone – 772 546-5043, email - church@hscpc.org

HSCPC WEBSITE: The MESSENGER is posted on our website each week. If you want to check content from a previous week, just go to www.hscpc.org and click on the Newsletter link.

Visit our website: www.hscpc.org

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