

Pick up Your Mantle

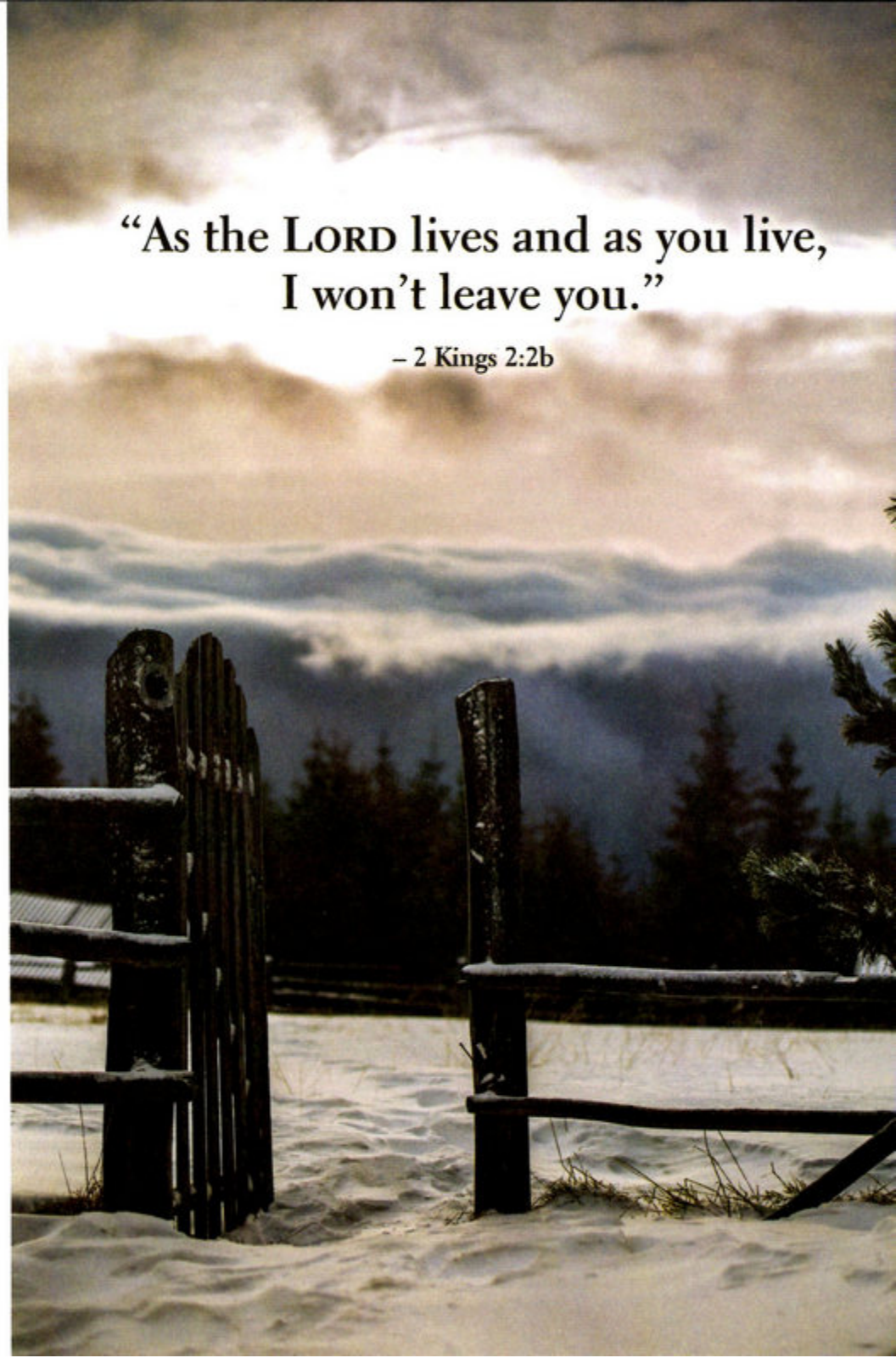
I can't read the story of Elijah's departure in the fiery chariots without thinking of the spiritual "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot." When we sang it at summer camp, it never occurred to me that Elisha might be feeling self-doubt and grief over the loss of his mentor. He was being asked to carry out Elijah's prophetic ministry, and he doubted his abilities and pleaded that he would need a double portion of blessings. Elisha doesn't want to be without his teacher, and his reaction to being separated is both emotional and physical. He rips his clothes in a fit of grief and anger. It doesn't help that fifty prophets are watching his public display of grief.

Perhaps you have followed a successful leader and thought, "I can't do this job, chair this committee, or coach this team." There is security when the mentor is in the wings and can be called upon for advice and encouragement, and doubt creeps in when that mentor is gone. Yet when the responsibility is given to you, you gather resources, figure it out, and do your best.

When we stood at camp singing, "I looked over Jordan and what did I see," it didn't occur to me that the images of passing through the water of the Jordan symbolized sacrifice, death and rebirth, which are to be expected in following Jesus. Spiritual growth and maturity involves passing through the waters of repentance, purification, and sacrifice and dying to greed, hate, selfishness, all so that we can discover new life. The process is painful and hard, and no one can do it for us, not even those who led us to this place.

Once we pass through our doubt and grief, we, like Elisha, pick up the mantle passed on to us from those who went before and follow in their footsteps, stronger and more mature.

—Dale Clem



“As the LORD lives and as you live,
I won't leave you.”

– 2 Kings 2:2b



St. Luke's United Methodist Church

Where Friends and Faith Meet

Rev. Brian Preveaux

Ron Pozsonyi, Lay Leader Joann Sandruck, Organist, Music Director

Last Sunday After Epiphany Sunday February 11, 2018

Greeters & Ushers: 8:30 Shirley and Norm Stark
10:00 Ginny and Dennis Smith

WELCOME

Our Hope is that you will experience God our Father's love in our worship service today. Please fill out the blue registration pad located on the pew and pass it to the end of the row. Visitors please take our informative brochure, located on the table in the back of the church, which provides some of St. Luke's history.

Please Silence Cell Phones

The Prelude provides the congregation a transition space. The beautiful music is intended as a gift to God and to help bring us closer to Him. Please be mindful that some use this time to pray or meditate.

PRELUDE: "Amazing Grace...My Chains are Gone.." (C. Tomlinson)

THREE BELLS: Chiming of the Trinity (See our prayer list)

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

***PASSING of the PEACE**

CALL TO WORSHIP: "My Jesus, I Love Thee" No. 172
Verse 1 and 3

OPENING PRAYER

PSALTER READING: Psalm 50: 1 – 15 No. 783

ANTHEM: "Go Now In Peace"
The Chancel Singers

***GOSPEL READING:** Matthew 16: 1 - 4
8:30 read by Ron Pozsonyi 10:00 read by Jack Strickler

***OPENING HYMN:** "Be Thou My Vision" No. 451

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:** No. 881

***GLORIA PATRI:** "Glory Be to the Father" No. 70

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER/LORD'S PRAYER

THE GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERING

OFFERTORY: [To be announced]

***DOXOLOGY:** No. 95

Genesis 9: 8 - 17
"In the Boat or In the Drink"

***HYMN OF INVITATION:** "Open My Eyes, that I May See" No. 454

The Congregation is welcome to come to the altar for prayer and meditation during the last hymn. **All worshipers are invited.**

***BENEDICTION**

****"God Be with You till We Meet Again"** (see insert on inside back cover of hymnal)

***POSTLUDE:**

***Please stand as able.**

The flowers in the sanctuary are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Vern Finch by his wife, Lois.

Church Office: 843.705.3022
Mailing Address: PO Box 2779
Location: 3080 Okatie Highway
Bluffton, SC 29910
Website: www.stlukesumc-okatie.org

Pastor's Mailing Address: **Brian Preveaux**
66 Thomas Bee Drive
Bluffton, SC 29909
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02-14 Ann and Todd Hicks, Sally and John Suberati
02-24 Anne and John Seely 02-25 Jackie and Ron Pozsonyi
02-27 Ellie and Robert Antoine

HAPPY BIRTHDAY !!!!

02-10 Walker Hamilton 02-13 John Bardoni, Gary Landin
02-13 Bill Trainer 02-15 Ron Garner
02-17 Jackie Pozsonyi 02-19 Linda Fisher
02-20 Chris Dapp 02-21 Marge Skinker

Please check your calendar and see if you are free to greet/usher and/or read the gospel. See sign-up sheet on the sanctuary board or contact **Angie Harting at 843.705.0917**

Please notify Jane Disney by **noon** on **THURSDAY**, any prayer requests, announcements, anniversaries or birthdays to be placed in the bulletin. jabdisney@gmail.com **843.707.1764**

PRAYER REQUESTS

CHURCH MEMBERS

| | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Nancy Adkins | George Batten | Jean/Doug Corkern |
| Verna Crosby | Marcia/Ron Garner | Adeline/Al Gibson |
| Eddie Goldfinch | Todd Hicks | John Hubbard |
| Marge Kirwan | Kathie Leonard | Carolyn Ransier |
| Gail Rogers | Mildred Schildkamp | Emily Simmons |
| Jane Slayton | Carol Vineyard | Shirley Wissman |

FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF MEMBERS

Richard, brother of Skip Blymiller
Susan, daughter of Ethel Lollis
Diane Manning, wife of Jim Manning's nephew
Cindy Phinney, sister of Richard Smith
Duane & Celesta Warner, brother/sister-in-law of Mildred Schildkamp
Robert Stout, son-in-law of Jane Tiffany
Howard Wick, son of Jane and Jerry Wick
Lynnie Boate, friend of Marcia Garner
Courtney, daughter of Judi Landin
Karen Roehl, friend of Bill Trainer
Mongin Smyly, father of Joy Preveaux
Nancy, sister of Dottie Apgar
Mary and Bob Burns, friends of Dottie Apgar
Hannah Nystrom, friend of Marie and John Baldauf
Carl, brother of Joann Sandruck
Jim McCarthy friend of Ginny and Dennis Smith
Pete Ender friend of Ginny and Dennis Smith
Johnny Gatch, nephew of Ouida Dell
Lois Filkins, widow of Frank Filkins
Rosalyn Perdue, Allyn's mother & Pat Simmons' mother-in-law
Gail Kraemer, daughter of Shirley Wissman

Heartfelt Christian sympathy is extended to the family of Sean O'Brien. Sean passed away on February 4th. The O'Brien's are long-time friends of Angie and Bill Harting.

Monday, Wednesday, Friday – 7:30 PM **AA Meeting**
 Wednesday – 10:30 AM **Al-Anon Meeting**
 Thursday – 7-8 PM **Women's Candlelight AA Group**

We will be rekeying the locks to both the sanctuary and fellowship hall in the near future. Let me know if you need keys. I can be contacted at jim_seymore@usa.com or 843.368.9722.
 Jim Seymore

TRUSTEE'S PROJECT OF DOCUMENTING ST. LUKE'S GRAVEYARD/CEMETERY MARKERS.

Thank you to those who have volunteered to help with the project. We will meet on **Thursday, February 22 at 10:00 a.m. in fellowship hall** to set a work date and organize how to accomplish this task. If you did not sign up to volunteer but would like to, please let me know and meet with us on Feb. 22. One or two more volunteers would be a great addition.

~Joy Preveaux

The Lenten Study entitled "24 Hours That Changed the World" is six weeks in length and will begin on Tuesday, February 13th at 10:00 and end on March 20th.
 Rev. Brian

MARCH FIRST SUNDAY FOOD MISSION. As you are gathering your items to donate to the food bank, please remember to check the **EXPIRATION DATES.** The Food Bank cannot accept items with expired dates. As always your generous contribution is greatly appreciated.

DONATION was made by Kelley Montana to the Sunshine Ladies in loving memory of Jerry Ruble.

DONATION was made by Letty Husson to the Sanctuary Flower Fund.

CAKE....be sure to stop by between services and have a slice of February birthday cake and Valentine favor with your coffee.

Lenten Schedule

Community Lenten Services will be held at 12:00 Noon as listed below:
 A light meal will be served after the service.

| Wednesday | Host Church | Host Pastor | Proclaiming Pastor |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| Feb. 14- Ash | Lowcountry Presbyterian | Rev. Chris Herrin | Rev. Brian Preveaux |
| Feb. 21 | Lord of Life Lutheran | Rev. Rick Klotz | Rev. Daniel Burbage |
| Feb. 28 | Bluffton United Methodist | Rev. Becky McCorkendale | Rev. Jon R. Black |
| Mar. 7 | St. Luke's United Methodist | Rev. Brian Preveaux | Rev. Joey McDonald |
| Mar. 14 | Campbell Chapel AME | Rev. Dr. Jon R. Black | Rev. Rick Klotz |
| Mar. 21 | Church of the Palms | Rev. Pete Berntson | Rev. Dr. Nannette Pierson |

St. Luke's will be hosting the Lenten Service and light lunch on Wednesday, March 7th at Noon. Watch for sign-up sheets for helping with meal preparation and serving. Please contact Lois Willig if you have questions. 843.304.1086 or 843.705.5725

Twice As Sweet

On Valentine's Day, we show our love;
 We express our deep affections.
 Those who are important to us
 Get cards and sweet confections.

But Christian love is not just for
 The ones we hold most dear;
 Jesus said "love everyone;"
 He made that very clear.

For Christians, it is every day
 We should care and love and serve
 Everyone we meet in life,
 Whether they do or don't deserve.

Let's follow Jesus' good command
 To love everyone we meet.
 Valentine's Day every day
 Will make life twice as sweet.

Joanna Fuchs