

Reflections on Ash Wednesday

“Therefore, I despise myself,
And repent in dust and ashes.”
Job 42:6



I remember years ago at my church in Greenville, on Ash Wednesday, I gave out small post-it notes to the congregation and asked them to write down their sins...no one would see them, and if they had too many sins to go on one little page, they could use a second post-it note. Everyone came forward and deposited their sins (their post-it notes) in a big urn I had placed on the communion table. Then I threw a lit match into the urn and much to my surprise, this giant flame jumped up! It was a relatively new sanctuary and the giant flame caused the fire alarms to go off, and what would have been a very meaningful worship service was spoiled by my good intentions.

The season of Lent is a good time for many “good Christians” to reflect on their “good intentions.” What is that saying... “the spirit is willing but the flesh is weak.” Actually, Jesus is the one who first used that phrase in Matthew 26:41. By now, many folks have given up on their new year’s resolutions, realizing they had good intentions... but they just didn’t have the discipline to see them through. I think many of us lack the discipline to be disciples of Jesus. Did you notice that discipline and disciple are almost the same word? Maybe we can’t actually be one without the other!

So, I invite you to join us Wednesday night as we begin this season of reflection on our sins. I promise you won’t have to write your sins down on a post-it note and there won’t be any fires... but you will receive the ashen mark of the cross on your forehead, and who knows, maybe during Lent all your good intentions will come to fruition.

Grace and peace,
Mike

PS
Thank you to everyone who contributed cans of soup for our Souper Bowl collection yesterday. Shea Marcinak delivered them to East Cooper Community Outreach this morning.

Upcoming events:

Feb 14....Ash Wednesday Service 6:30 pm

Feb 18... Session meeting after worship

Feb 21... Lenten Bible studies begin...for 5 weeks

Feb 24... Church Oyster Roast at home of Leland and
Karen McClellan

Mar 16...Church workday for building and grounds

Mar 23...Water Missions “Walk for Water”