

## **CPWM**

The Highland CPWM met Monday, March 5 in the Fellowship Hall. We discussed the Ash Wednesday service and made plans for Holy Week Services at Margaret Hank. We agreed to provide potato soup, salad, and dessert on Wednesday, March 28 following the message.

Our next meeting will be Monday, April 2 at 10:00 in the Fellowship Hall. We will be making plans for the Regional meeting scheduled for Saturday, April 21 at the Oakland CPC. Everyone is invited to attend.

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## **Session Notes**

Items approved at the March meeting:

- Hire Suzan Roberts to keep the nursery on Sunday mornings and Wednesday Evenings
  - Installation Service for Rev. Doug Hughes as Associate Pastor, April 15 at 6:00 p.m.
  - Pastor Doug will make plans for a church wide trip to the Noah's Ark Park and the Creation Museum. Dates are pending.
  - Build a ramp for Jimmy and Nancy Finnell at their home.
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## **March Numbers**

Stewardship Report as of March 26, 2018

Receipts	\$ 15,929.00
Disbursements	\$ 12,758.29

## **Attendance Record**

Morning Worship

March 4 – 97

March 11 – 85

March 18 – 88

March 25 – 105

**PCM food need** Spaghetti Sauce (NO PASTA)

## **April Calendar**

April 2 – CPWM, 10:00 a.m.

April 15 – Session meeting, 2:00 p.m.

Installation of Bro. Doug and Pot-luck, 6:00

April 21 – CPWM Spring Regional meeting

April 26 – Cumberland Pioneers, CHN Chinese Restaurant, 11:30 am

**April Elders** Randy and Debby Hughes,

Tommy Hayes, Jimmy Russell

**April Ushers** Mike Golightly, Lori Kauffman

### **Installation Service and Pot Luck**

Rev. Doug Hughes

Associate Pastor

Highland Cumberland Presbyterian Church

April 15 6:00 p.m.



Would you like to go? Let Bro. Doug know.

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## April Birthdays

- 11 – Lori Kauffman
- 12 – Mike Bryan
- 13 – David Robinson
- 15 – Brenda Dodd
  - Linda Johnson
  - Debby Hughes
- 24 – Louis McDonald
- 27 – Lindsay Gamble
- 30 – Alec Golightly

## *April Anniversaries*

- 3 – Daniel and Jennifer Rushing
- 11 – James and Marlene Wallace
- 16 – Michael and Felicia Cornwell

19 – Gordon and Kelly Foltz

28 – Max and Brenda Dodd

*And I, brethren, when I came to you, did not come with excellence of speech or of wisdom declaring to you the testimony of God. For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. 1 Corinthians 2:1-2*

The symbol of Christianity is the cross. It is the central focus in reformed tradition. It is why we have the cross in the center of our worship services. Why the cross and why is it so important?

In the scripture selection above, Paul, in a most humble fashion, is trying to explain that education, knowledge and “excellence of speech” is not the important thing. He wants the people to know and believe that the most important thing was the cross of Jesus.

In Exploring 1 Corinthians: An Expository Commentary, John Phillips makes this statement:

*Human eloquence can move people to action. Vast audiences came to hear Hitler. He had an almost hypnotic effect on them. They would cheer and chant. He could move them to tears or rage. He gave them hope and purpose. Shakespeare could do the same thing with words. In Mark Anthony's great speech at the burial of Caesar, Shakespeare shows how a clever orator can so play upon the mind and heart and will of an audience as to turn it from indifference to furious rage. Any preacher with a touch of native eloquence and some knowledge of his audience can move it to applause. Paul determined to avoid such means of getting "decisions" out of the people of Corinth. If he was to be criticized for his studied avoidance of rhetoric, cleverness, and passion, well, that was another cross he was prepared to bear.*

The cross means that Christ **needed** to die for our sins in order for us to be redeemed! That is why it is central to all Biblical theology! R C Sproul said in regard to this text:

*In placing this emphasis on the cross, Paul was speaking for all of the New Testament writers. If we could read the New Testament with virgin eyes, as if we were the first generation of people to hear the message, I think it would be clear that the crucifixion was at the very core of the preaching, teaching, and catechizing of the New Testament community—along with, of course, the attending capstone of Christ's work, His resurrection and subsequent ascension. The significance, the purpose, and the meaning of the cross of Christ are unfolded to us in the New Testament.*

If it is true that the cross is of central importance to biblical Christianity, it seems that it is essential for Christians to have some understanding of its meaning in biblical terms. That would be true in any generation, but it's particularly necessary in this one. I doubt there has been a period in the two thousand years of Christian history when the significance, the centrality, and even the necessity of the cross has been more controversial than now. There have been other periods in church history when theologies emerged that regarded the cross of Christ as an unnecessary event, but never before in Christian history has the need for an atonement been as widely challenged as it is today.

So, as we approach the cross, as we celebrate resurrection Sunday, may we do so with the understanding that without Christ's death, burial, and resurrection, we have no hope! John 3:16