

Macedonian Call

March 2023



Looking for leprechauns, drinking green beer, decorating with shamrocks, dying rivers green, wearing green and pinching those who don't, enjoying Irish music and eating corned beef and cabbage (definitely the only one of the above I'll do) are some of the ways people celebrate St. Patrick's Day (March 17th). I imagine few people who use St. Patrick's Day as an occasion to tie-one-on, are aware that their excuse for partying may be attributed to a great 5th century missionary to Ireland. One author labels Patrick as "one of the most misrepresented figures in church history." Patrick was born into a Christian family in the Roman province of Britain around AD 389. His father was a deacon and his grandfather a priest in the Celtic church. While Patrick was in his teens, the west coast of Britain was invaded by a band of Irish raiders that captured many of the young boys in that region, taking them back to Ireland to be sold as slaves. Young Patrick, who was among the group, found himself enslaved as a "pig-herder" for six years. At the time of his capture, Patrick wasn't a believer. But, over the years of captivity he began to think about God and his spiritual condition. According to Patrick, the Lord opened his understanding and he became a devout follower of Jesus Christ. As a believer Patrick became devoted to having an intense and persistent prayer life. Eventually he came to believe that it was God's will for him to escape slavery. He did so, hopping onboard a ship which carried him to an island off the coast of the French Riviera. There he found refuge in a monastery. Ultimately returning home, Patrick began training for the ministry. He was ordained as a deacon and set the goal of returning to Ireland as a missionary. Though he was met with some disapproval by church leaders, Patrick arrived back in Ireland—the land of his captivity—in AD 432. He immediately encountered stiff opposition by the

druids—pagans who worshiped the sun, moon and the earth's elements. Magic and human sacrifices were also part of their worship. But by AD 447, after 15 years of preaching the gospel, much of Ireland had been evangelized. Patrick's success as a missionary evangelist was evident in the some 200 churches he planted and the estimated 100,000 converts to Christianity. So, this St. Patrick's Day when an acquaintance praises the opportunity to celebrate the holiday with a mug of green beer or a co-worker or friend jokingly pinches you for not wearing green or as you sit down to a delicious plate of corned beef and cabbage, remember Patrick's difficult journey to Jesus. Take a few moments to thank God for raising up unlikely people like Patrick who commit their lives to sharing Christ's Gospel. And finally, ask yourself, "What am I doing to tell others about the Savior?" ~ Pastor Randy

¹Ruth A. Tucker, *From Jerusalem to Irian Jaya: A Biographical History of Christian Missions* (Zondervan: Grand Rapids, 2004), 37-40.



Sunday, March 12th

Creation Seminar with Steve Levinson

Steve will lead us in a joint Sunday School Class in the Worship Center (9:45 am), deliver a message during morning worship (11:00 am) and an evening message (6:00 pm). The topics for the day include: "Creation 2 Communion," "Foundations Under Fire," and "Fossils, the Flood, Noah's Ark and Dinosaurs."



A Note From Susan

"Stand Up, Stand Up For Jesus"

At the request of Pastor Joe, this month we look at the history behind the hymn "Stand Up, Stand Up For Jesus". The history of the hymn begins in 1858, just before the start of the Civil War. Dudley Atkins Tyng was an evangelist and an abolitionist who had just finished preaching a service at a mission in Philadelphia. On March 30, 1858, 1,000 men gave their hearts to God. Some that were present at the last service that Tyng preached have shared that he said, "I would rather that this right arm were amputated at the trunk than that I should come short of my duty to you in delivering God's message." Shortly after that compelling message, Tyng went back to his farm to rest and was walking through his barn when he came upon a mule that was working a machine shelling corn. He reached out to pet the mule and when he did his shirt sleeve became caught in the cogs of the machine and quickly, and severely, lacerated his arm to the point of detachment. Subsequently, Tyng suffered from an infection and died. George Duffield was one of his assistants at the time and was at the funeral service for Tyng. Duffield penned the words to the hymn after Tyng's death and had it sung at the close of the service. It was soon printed in a Sunday School paper and became very popular as it was sung on both sides during the Civil War.

There is only one way to stand in this evil day and that is to have the power of the Holy Spirit working inside! He overcame and He has sent us the Comforter so that we could do the same. He even told us, "Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father." John 14:12 ESV.

So even if it isn't popular, even if it is dangerous, even if we are the only ones standing... Stand up! Stand up for Jesus! ~ Susan



CARE Night
Wednesday, March 1st
Meal @ 6:00
Ministry @ 6:30
Project: Gift bags for Heath House residents.



CrossWalk Small Group Adult Bible
Studies Wednesdays @ 6:30 pm
beginning March 22nd

Instruction in Righteousness through
the Stories of Women in the Bible
Women's Study—Leader: Kathy Heafner

Spiritual Warfare
Leaders: Nellene Carter & Pastor Randy Setzer

Master View of Our Foundation
Leader: Pastor Joe Canipe

Embrace Women's Ministry & our Outreach Ministry will team together for a night of ministering to our Foster Families in Lincoln County. We will provide a meal and childcare at the DSS office so the families can attend mandatory training. Everyone is invited to join us for this outreach event.



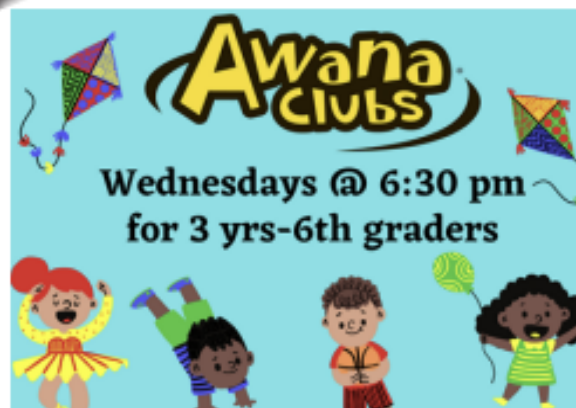
MEN'S
FELLOWSHIP

Saturday, March 25th
7:00 am in the
Fellowship Hall



Bible
— Drill —

Sundays @
5pm in the
Fellowship Hall



Student Ministry Bible Study
Wednesdays @ 6:30 pm in the
Youth Room



A Note From Ashley

"Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you." John 15:4-7 provides an essential reminder for believers. If we do not abide in Christ we will be drained spiritually. If we constantly pour into others but forget to be refilled, we will have nothing left to give. How do we accomplish this? Going even further, how can we receive a *constant* overflow of Christ's power and provision? Time. Spending time in God's Word, intentionally meditating on what we can learn from Scripture, how we can apply it to our lives, and fervently praying for the movement of the Holy Spirit is the answer to our spiritual exhaustion. Overflow comes from intimacy with God. If we do not allow ourselves time to be spiritually fed not only will we be empty, we will most likely seek out other ways to fill that emptiness. Do not give the enemy that opportunity to have a foothold in your life. God wants to draw near to us, but in order to do so we must give Him our time and attention.

~ Ashley

UNITE
STUDENT CONFERENCE
Shelby, NC ☒ March 3-4, 2023
YOUTH CONFERENCE & LOCK-IN

Student Ministry Fundraiser BBQ
 prepared by Sweetfire BBQ.
 Saturday, March 25th 5-7 pm
 \$12 per plate

Dine in or carry out

Purchase tickets at the Welcome Center
 following morning services on
 March 5th, 12th & 19th.



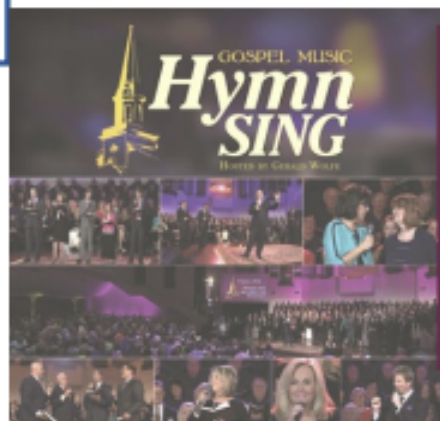
A Note From Pastor Joe

February 26, 1987 President Ronald Reagan officially declared Proclamation 5613 making March "National Disabilities Awareness Month." The proclamation called for people to provide understanding, encouragement and opportunities to help persons with disabilities to lead productive and fulfilling lives. President Reagan could only make the proclamation. The people had to listen and carry out. The word proclamation is defined as, *a public announcement especially one dealing with a matter of great importance.* Which leads me to my proclamation: I, Joe Canipe, member of the most blessed Macedonia Baptist Church family, do proclaim March 2023 as church-wide "Spiritual abilities awareness month." We need to look for opportunities to encourage and strengthen those in our church and our sphere of influence that need us. Too many are living with unmet needs because no one takes time to care. Let's start a habit of intentional caring and carry it on through the year.

~ (John 15:8) Pastor Joe



Weekly Bible study, Thursdays at 11:00 am in the JOY Classroom. This is a very special time of fellowship, prayer and Bible study. We invite all senior adults to join us.



Saturday, March 4th
 We will leave the church at 11:30 am
 The Hymn Sing is at 1:00 pm and we will eat a late lunch on our way home.

You are invited to join us for Sunday School each week at 9:45. We have classes available for everyone from nursery to senior adults!

**BIBLE
 STUDIES
 FOR LIFE.**