

Some Explanation on the Season of Lent... Church Events

We are never too old to learn. If you already know much of this information, forgive me. Let's remember that not everyone was raised in a church context. Even if they were, the Season of Lent may not have been part of their tradition. Here are some basics for us to review.

- on the Christian calendar Lent is a six week season that leads up to Easter. While Advent is a time of rejoiceful anticipation, Lent is more commonly regarded as a period of intentional reflection. Lent is a season of observances for commemorating the death and resurrection of Jesus at Easter.
- This year Lent begins on Ash
 Wednesday February 17.

- Christians are invited to honor the 40 days and nights following Christ's baptism when He went into the wilderness without water or food and was tempted by Satan.
- Prayer often accompanies fasting as a historic tradition of Lent. Consider praying to strengthen our spiritual discipline during the preparation of Easter Sunday.
- Christians that honor and abide by the historical Lent tradition include Anglicans, Roman Catholics, Eastern Orthodox, Lutherans and Methodists.
- Other important dates this year:
- Palm Sunday—March 28th
- ♦ Maundy Thursday—April 1st
- ♦ Good Friday—April 2nd
- Easter Sunday -April 4th He is Risen Indeed!

- February 3rd—Food Distribution
- February 9th—Vida
 Cooper Circle UM
 Women Meeting
 2:30pm in the parlor
- February 10th—Food Distribution
- February 16th—Florida Conference Lay Servant Registration Due
- February 17—Food Distribution
- February 17—ASH
 Wednesday Service
 7pm
- February 24—Food Distribution
- February 21st—
 Services change to
 8:45am/11am worship

HERITAGE...

"Dry prairie" as used in this narrative, is not necessarily a specific place. It is a natural plant community of low shrubs and grasses occupying vast, level expanses of land. This community type is unique to Florida and is restricted to three major areas north and west of Lake Okeechobee. Recent interpretations of maps from the mid-1800s suggest this landscape probably covered about 1.2 million acres in Florida. Development and conversion of prairies to pasture and agricultural lands during the 20th century greatly reduced the extent of this ecosystem. Dry prairies are notable for their lack of trees, although they are otherwise like pine flatwoods communities. Research suggests there is a combination of factors inhibiting the growth of pine trees. One reason is that natural fires occur more frequently in dry prairies. This community typically occupies large stretches of land that are not dissected by streams or by other features that might inhibit the spread of fire. In addition, dry prairies hold water after a heavy summer rainfall for a longer time than do pine flatwoods. This describes the area surrounding the purchase by Raymon Jones. Today, Lake City's Dry Prairie is mostly covered in business and homes. Lake Lona itself still holds water but shrinks to a huge puddle during dry weather. I still see a rafter of turkeys feeding there at times but not in the numbers that I saw as a child.

{The following was written by Robert E. Jones.}

The large old two-story house stood silent in the night. it was late and no light showed in the windows, so rather than wake the sleeping family inside the young man climbed over the south porch to his room and slipped quietly into bed. Raymon Jones, twenty-two, oldest of the sevens sons of Robert Evans Jones and Annie Laura Jones, had returned to the roost.

The year was 1913 and the war in Europe was not yet officially declared. Folks in Iowa were concerned with more immediate matters, such as a successful corn crop or the latest price of hogs. The Jones family of Runnells, Iowa was about to make a decision that would not only change the course of their lives but would also affect the lives of three family's way down in faraway Florida!

Next morning at breakfast, Dad asked his oldest son a casual question; where would he like to travel next? Casual maybe, but to us, the heirs of the sons of Robert and Annie Jones, it was all important. Suppose, for instance, that young Raymon's choice had been the state of Washington! Fortunately (for us at least) his answer was a desire to see Florida.

On this trip his mission was to locate, somewhere in Florida, acreage suitable for investment. Raymon traveled by train to Pensacola and then on to Jacksonville. While there he learned of a small farming community sixty miles west, called Lake City. In Lake City he stayed at Mrs. Ogden's Rooming House which stood at the northeast corner of First and Duval Streets. Room and board were twelve dollars per week.

From his headquarters at the Ogden House, Raymon went in search of real estate for sale. One day he hitched a ride out to a place called "Dry Prairie" and his search was ended. After a bit of price haggling, an agreement was reached to buy, from Giles Tompkins, 280 acres at \$15/acre. The property lay along the old Lincoln Highway (U.S. Highway 90), over the south end of what is now called Lake Lona, about 10 miles west of Lake City. Raymon contacted his Dad in Iowa and informed him of the agreement to buy. Dad came down to Lake City and the transaction was completed.

Next year, 1914, all the Jones, except Raymon and Ervin, who stayed to farm the home place, make the trip down. Over the next several years, the family built a house, a service station, and a hotel. The Jones Family had arrived in Florida and the magic sand of the Sunshine State was slowly creeping into their shoes! (end of Robert's narrative)

According to the stories my grandfather told, the family prospered and expanded. The boys were adventurous and were into many scrapes. One brother fell from an airplane and was killed. The one who became my grandfather, ran away to join the circus. When that didn't work out, he joined the Navy. He did better there. I remember seeing a pair of white (gray?) uniform pants hanging in his closet. They were made of wool and had a wide flap front fastened on either side with large brass buttons.

The knowledge of family heritage is intriguing. A rich history that gives us roots and keeps us connected to our beginnings. Likewise, the knowledge of our spiritual heritage keeps us grounded in our faith and connected to God. It gives us instruction, it reproves us, it encourages us, and it teaches us the way to expand our souls. So many people are turning to websites and to DNA samples to discover their ancestry while ignoring the history of our salvation. Don't let the words in the Bible go to waste. Read your Bible! Learn your spiritual history!

2 Timothy 3:16-17 ESV

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work.



Thaddeus Grimes	02/01	Trevor Cherry	02/16
Thomas McGill	02/01	Violet Arthmann	02/17
Mary Letts	02/02	Elizabeth Gould	02/17
Jackie Lehman	02/03	Rebecca Redding	02/18
Desmond Steele	02/03	Sheri Storey	02/19
Dakota Hough	02/04	Alex Bell	02/22
Carson Hough	02/04	William Pafford	02/22
Merideth Middleton	02/06	Will Ballew	02/23
Cindy Saginario	02/06	Connor Lynn	02/26
Cody Phillips	02/11	Jenny Pfiester	02/27
Frank Siemon	02/11	Erin Pottorff	02/27
		Madeline Leaman	02/28



Tom & Carolyn Drawdy 02/02 69 Years

Khanh & Anita Tuong 02/03 14 Years

Vic & Sheila Neal 02/13 39 Years

Curtis & Krlly Warren 02/14 34 Years

Ken & Lynn Hamilton 02/22 35 Years

Want help paying for college?

If so, a Sinclair Scholarship might be right for you.

If you are a member of a United Methodist church and plan to attend a

Florida or United Methodist college or university, you may be eligible.

Sinclair scholarships are awarded on the basis of church and community service and academic performance. They are for incoming, first-year students who plan to begin classes in the fall. Awards range from \$2,000 to \$3,000 each year and are renewable for up to three additional years, provided the student remains in good standing at school.

Scholarship applications and guidelines are available on the Florida United Methodist Foundation's website at www.fumf.org or by calling 866-363-9673 (toll-free).

The deadline to apply is March 15.

The foundation's scholarship committee will consider all completed applications and interview finalists.

"It felt very rewarding to be recognized for working hard and doing the best I could.

And I was very confident I would always have someone praying for me and encouraging me during my time at school."

- Rebecca Fordham, Sinclair Scholarship recipient



You need:

- A grade point average of 2.5 or higher or academic performance that indicates ability to succeed in college.
- An essay describing your goals and record of church and community service.
- Three letters of reference (at least one from your pastor or youth director).
- An official transcript from your high school or most recently attended school.



The Sinclair Scholarship was established by the late Aleen and Carson Sinclair. It is administered by the Florida United Methodist Foundation. Scholarships are also available at www.gbhem.org.