

February Grapevine



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Inside This Issue of the Grapevine

Table of Contents

| | |
|--|---|
| <i>From Pastor Doty</i> | 3 |
| <i>Musical Notes</i> | 4 |
| <i>Presbyterian Women</i> | 5 |
| <i>Prayers of the People</i> | 5 |
| <i>Announcements & News</i> | 5 |
| <i>Geneseo Food Pantry</i> | 6 |
| <i>Birthdays and Anniversaries</i> | 7 |
| <i>God's Valentine Gift</i> | 8 |
| <i>February Worship Schedule</i> | 9 |

From Pastor Doty

I wish we protestants were more serious about saints. Off the top of my head, I can only think of three we actually honor in any way. Saint Nicholas is one, though most of us know him better as Santa Claus. He has made his way into our celebration of Christmas as the “jolly old elf” who brings toys to the good girls and boys. But he was no elf at all. Rather he was the bishop of Myra in Asia Minor (modern Turkey) where he earned a reputation for generosity by anonymously caring for the poor of his parish. Santa Claus has become the great sugar daddy of Christmas. But he should be considered a great example of the biblical saying, “It is more blessed to give than to receive.”

Another is Saint Patrick. He made his way into American culture and hearts along with millions of immigrants from old Ireland in the 19th century. Saint Patrick lived in the 5th century and is credited with converting the Irish to Christianity as well as driving the snakes out of Ireland (using his drum, a novel twist to the church’s music program). We celebrate his day with parades and green beer, but we could also learn something about evangelism from good Saint Patrick.

This is the month of Saint Valentine. Actually almost nothing is known about this saint—or actually saints, since there are three saints named Valentinius. Two were Roman Christians who were martyred in the third century in Rome. The other was a North African martyr of the same era. The connection of love and romance with Saint Valentine’s Day most likely comes from the medieval French and English, who noted that in their lands the birds begin to pair off in mid-February. Now how romantic is that? But perhaps the real Saints Valentines can teach us something of devotion—devotion to their Lord Jesus Christ.

There are many saints whose stories, whether steeped in legend or grounded in history, can inspire us to greater faith in God and unselfish service to others. Saints exist not to be worshiped but to be honored and to serve as examples of a devoted Christian life. As another saint, Saint Paul, said, “It was not because we have not that right, but *to give you in our conduct an example to imitate.*” (2 Thess. 3:9)

Pastor Tim



Musical Notes

I think I'm ready for Spring. Usually this time of year I'm looking forward to the temperature to be consistently above freezing. Now, I'd like it to be above zero. There is some solace in our household though: I have two beautiful geraniums blooming in our dining room. Being the frugal type (or, as Deb says, *cheap*), I thought I'd try and save last year's geraniums, all 18 of them, to plant again in the spring. Well, they started growing sooner than I had anticipated and now - blooms. The side effect is I'm anxious to get out into the yard; I think I need it both mentally and physically. Yard work is exhilarating, soothing, and quiet. It's a time to think and a time to talk with the good Lord.

One of the hymns we will be singing on February 16 is "Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive". In researching this song, I found that the author of the text, Rosamond Herklots, must have similar thoughts about "Garden Therapy". She writes as follows:

"The idea of writing the 'Forgiveness' Hymn came to me some years ago when I was digging up docks (*a noxious weed*) in a long neglected garden. Realizing how these deeply-rooted weeds were choking the life out of the flowers in the garden, I came to feel that deeply-rooted resentments in our lives could destroy every Christian virtue and all joy and peace unless, by God's grace, we learned to forgive."

The text of the hymn:

"Forgive our sins as we forgive,' you taught us Lord to pray, but you alone can grant us grace to live the words we pray.

How can Your pardon reach and bless the unforgiving heart that broods all wrongs and will not let Old bitterness depart?

In blazing light Your cross reveals the truth we dimly knew: What trivial debts are owed to us, How great our debt to You.

Lord, cleanse the debts within our souls and bid resentment cease. Then, bound to all in bonds of love, our lives will spread your peace."

I thank God every day for the life He has given me. I thank Him for the Cross that has taken away my many sins. I thank Him for the flowers in our dining room, which helps buoy my spirit and keeps me mindful that He is with me, providing guiding and comfort.

Peace to you all George

Presbyterian Women

Proverbs 31:30

“Charm is deceptive, and beauty does not last; but a woman who fears the Lord will be greatly praised.”
(NLT)

PW FEBRUARY MEETINGS

Faith Circle

Date: Feb. 19th
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Hostess: Cathy Hadley
Asst.: Louise Rash
Lesson: Louise Rash

Lamplighters

Date: Feb. 24th
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Hostess: Marilyn McGaughy
Asst.:
Lesson: Sharon Esche

Prayers of the People



Our prayers continue for Shane Haas, Janet Borkgren, Sandy Haas, Carol (Mrs. R.C.) Johnson, Phyllis Keag, Pat Williams, Julie Rash Ulven, Nathan Simpson, Archie Cullen, & Gen Atwell

Announcements & News

Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting is scheduled for Sunday February 28th. The Annual Report will be ready for handout on Sunday February 16th.

Office Hours

The office hours are changing. I have been given a promotion at one of my other jobs, and this will require me to work mornings there. My hours at the church will be late morning early afternoon most days, unless I am off then I will be here in the morning. I will be posting my hours on the office door and on the back door of the church to help give a better idea of when I will be in the office. I want to thank Session for approving my request to change my hours! It has helped me greatly and now I will be able to work two instead of three jobs! Thanks again my family and I appreciate it so very much!

Angela

From the Geneseo Food Pantry

February 2014 Newsletter



Our prayers are filled with thanks and gratitude for the many blessings that have come from throughout the community during the past holiday season and all of 2013. Our clients have had the opportunity to see God's love at work through the donations of time, clothing, toys, food, and money. This lesson is learned and remembered by many who are helped. Geneseo is a giving and caring place, and we are lucky to experience the love for others that is shared on a day-to-day basis.

Beginning February 3rd representatives from AARP will be at the Geneseo Public Library to assist people with tax preparation. They will be available every Monday and Wednesday afternoon from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm. This service is provided free of charge.

In February and March we will continue our focus of encouraging clients to make wise choices to stretch what little food dollars they may have. A representative from the University of IL Extension Outreach Program is periodically available when clients come to pick up food. She provides low cost recipe ideas using ingredients that the Food Pantry has available. She also takes a minute to speak personally with each client. It is challenging to consistently find low cost nutritional foods that all members of the family enjoy, and people appreciate her help.

If your closets have too many clothes and not enough space, you might consider donating outgrown or no longer needed clothing items to the Food Pantry. We especially need baby and children's clothing of all sizes. We also take household items. We have an ongoing need for items such as kitchen utensils, pots and pans, plates, cups, silverware, etc. Your help is appreciated!

Unemployment remains high in our area, and many people with jobs have had their hours cut. These facts contribute to a steady increase in the number of people who need assistance from the Food Pantry to feed their families. Monthly client numbers average between 70-80 families and singles. Your prayers, support, and donations are helping us keep up with the increased need and we appreciate the many ways in which you provide assistance to those who need it.

Food needs for February are: sugar, flour, ketchup, mustard, mayo, and jelly.

Non-food needs are: toilet paper, laundry detergent, baby wipes, band-aids, and Tylenol.

Drop boxes at the church for Food Pantry donations are located outside the church office and in the coat room off the front entrance of the church. Donations are always appreciated and especially encouraged on the third Sunday of the month, which is designated Food Pantry Sunday.

Birthdays and Anniversaries



February 2014

| | |
|----|-------------------|
| 1 | Sheldon Schroeder |
| 2 | Barb Palmer |
| 8 | Jamison Weisser |
| 9 | Callie Happel |
| 12 | Marilyn McGaughy |
| 17 | Carrie Kocourek |
| 19 | Jami Burbridge |
| 19 | Helen Ellsberry |
| 19 | Sylvia Hein |
| 22 | Naida Moberg |
| 22 | Joe Wright |
| 24 | Joseph Gragg |
| 25 | Matthew Carlson |
| 26 | Holly Brookens |
| 27 | Alyssa Simpson |
| 28 | Amanda Esche |

February
anniversaries

February 13th – Robert & Joyce Will

If your birthday or anniversary is not listed, please call the church office.



God's Valentine Gift

*God's Valentine gift of love to us
Was not a bunch of flowers;
It wasn't candy, or a book
To while away the hours.
His gift was to become a man,
So He could freely give
His sacrificial love for us,
So you and I could live.
He gave us sweet salvation, and
Instruction, good and true--
To love our friends and enemies
And love our Savior, too.
So as we give our Valentines,
Let's thank our Lord and King;
The reason we have love to give
Is that He gave everything.*

By Joanna Fuchs

February Worship Schedule

February 2nd

4th Sun. after Epiphany
4th Sun. in Ordinary Time
Communion Sunday
9:45 a.m. Sunday school
& Confirmation Class
11:00 a.m. Worship
12:00 p.m. After Church Coffee
Sermon: "You Don't Need to Know
Everything-Just Enough"
(Micah 6:1-8; Matthew 5:1-12)

February 16th

6th Sun. after Epiphany
6th Sun. in Ordinary Time
9:45 a.m. Sunday school
& Confirmation Class
11:00 a.m. Worship
12:00 p.m. After Church Coffee
Sermon: "Trail the Eagle"
(Deut. 30:15-20; 1 Cor. 3:1-9)

February 9th

5th Sun. after Epiphany
5th Sun. in Ordinary Time
9:45 a.m. Sunday school
& Confirmation Class
11:00 a.m. Worship
12:00 p.m. After Church Coffee
Sermon: "A Visit to the
House of God"
(Psalm 84; Luke 22:22-40)

February 23rd

7th Sun. after Epiphany
7th Sun. in Ordinary Time
9:45 a.m. Sunday school
& Confirmation Class
11:00 a.m. Worship
12:00 p.m. After Church Coffee
Sermon: "How Good Do"
You Have to Be?"
(Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18
& Matthew 5:38-48)

Deadline for Grapevine article submission will be February 20th for March's Grapevine.



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