



Seaside Tidings

St. Matthews By-The-Sea United Methodist Church
Dagsboro Street & Coastal Highway
Fenwick Island, Delaware 19944



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Rev. Bruce Miller, Pastor

VOL. 28, NO. 1

WINTER 2019

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK: 2018 was a difficult year in many ways for our country and for the world. Angry voices signified the lack of unity in both. Not so at St. Matthews By-The-Sea. We have never demanded conformity from the members of our church family. We don't insist that everyone look alike, sound alike, or believe alike. We are an orchestra not a drum and bugle corp. And this year more than ever, we have been keeping our eyes on the Conductor, Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

2019 will be a time of transition for the people of this church. I will be leaving to enter retirement on July 1, 2019. The St. Matthews flock will have a new shepherd, but not a new Savior. Jesus is the head of this church. He always has been and will continue always to be. Everything we do, say, spend or plan must first be approved by Him. He is higher than any member or committee chairperson. He is higher than any pastor, higher even than any district superintendent or bishop or collection of bishops. He has supremacy in all things.

And His leadership style, if it may be so termed, places great emphasis on love. We are to love our neighbor, He says, regardless of color, gender, sexual orientation, economic status, hair, clothes, status, or culture. It is my hope and expectation that no matter who fills the pulpit during the coming church year, St. Matthews By-The-Sea will continue to be guided by the law of love.

Nevertheless, there are storm clouds on the horizon that could threaten not only the harmony which exists at St. Matthews, but the harmony and unity which exists within the United Methodist Church. The UMC Council of Bishops has called for a Special Session of the Church's General Conference to convene in St. Louis this coming February. The purpose will be to receive and act on a report from a 32-member Commission authorized by the Council in 2016 to examine paragraphs in the Book of Discipline concerning human sexuality particularly as regards ordination and marriage. The Commission met nine times over the last two years and listened to a variety of viewpoints. At the Special Session, it will present three plans for the General Conference's consideration.

This is a matter of great interest to quite a few within our congregation. If you are one of them and would like to acquaint the delegates from the Peninsula-Delaware Conference with what you believe, I can provide you with their names and e-mail addresses.

As for St. Matthews itself, I do not believe that you, its members, will allow this issue to fracture either your unity or love. And if that love begins with your loving God with all your heart, mind, soul, and being, then 2019 will be the best year the church at the corner of Coastal Highway and Dagsboro Street has ever known.

Though, after July 1, I will be apart from you in body, I expect, as Scripture says, to hear of your love and good deeds and glorify your Father in Heaven. In the meantime, my deepest thanks for your allowing me to serve you during these last and best two decades of my life.

With great affection,

Bruce Miller



Sunday Worship

Worship Services – 8:30 and 10:45 AM
Sunday School – 9:30 AM

Church Leadership

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2019

Let HOPE light your way. As a new year comes to all of us, what better companion could we have? As you move into the New Year: hope that difficulties will pass; hope that storms will cease; hope that pain will end; hope that weakness will overcome. You do not go into the New Year on your own, but with the loving God who has walked with you ever since you were a young child. Light the flame of hope and watch the shadows vanish.

~ Norman Vincent Peale



Barbara Lewis - October 26
Chuck Childress - November 14

Grief is born from love...



Don't marry the person you think you can live with; marry only the individual you think you can't live without.

~ James Dobson

Glenn & Ronnie Williams - Oct. 12, 2013
Don & Alison Godfrey - Jan. 11, 1969
Sam & Doris Pierce - Jan. 16, 1954



Spring



Summer



Autumn



Winter

God is with you through every season.



The smile on my face doesn't mean my life is perfect. It means I appreciate what I have and what I have been blessed with. I choose to be happy.

~ Charles Schulz

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

We are a family of believers: growing in the love of Jesus, sharing the joy of worship, serving our community and beyond.

Anna Eikenberg
134 Captains Quarters Rd #11
Ocean City, MD 21842
443-880-6529

David Herr
10758 St. Martin's Neck Rd.
Bishopville, MD 21812
410-352-5382

Gary & Alice Ward
37127 Sawmill Lane
Selbyville, DE 19975
Gary cell: 301-875-4747
Alice cell: 301-536-9089



A man went to the Pastor of his church one Sunday afternoon and said, "I won't be attending church anymore," to which the

Pastor replied, "May I ask why?"

"Well," the man said, "I see people on their cell phones texting and some are texting during the service, some are gossiping and others just aren't living right. Some are sleeping and some are staring at me. They are all just hypocrites." The Pastor was silent. Then he said to the man, "Can I ask you to do something for me before you make your final decision," to which the man replied, "Why yes. What is it you'd like me to do?"

Quick with the answer the Pastor responded. "I would like for you to come back next Sunday. As the service starts I want you to go to the water fountain and fill the large glass to the brim with water. I will have a glass sitting next to the fountain awaiting you. Once you fill the glass with water I want you to walk around the outer parameter of the church pews twice and up the middle isle and back to the water fountain. Then I want you to water the plant by the fountain drain. Lastly, please wait for me after the service so that we can speak." Although the man thought the Pastors request was a little weird, he agreed; he'd return next Sunday and do as the Pastor had asked.

Throughout the week the man thought and thought to himself as to the significance of the Pastors request. Was it trickery or was it that he had been the chosen one to somehow take this glass full of water and turn it into some kind of holy water. He had completely out thought the task to his imaginable limits. Finally the time had come. The man, eager to get to church, greeted the Pastor at the door, the Pastor welcoming him with a hand shake as he entered the church. Soon the Pastor was walking up the aisle as he had always done and then took to his normal pulpit position.

Without delay, the man excused himself and headed to the water fountain. There he found the glass the Pastor had left for him and filled the glass to its brim. As the Pastor began the service, the man began his careful journey around the pews...once, twice and then up the center aisle he went. He proceeded to the back of the church to the water fountain with the glass of water and lastly, watered the plant.

As the service ended, the Pastor headed down the aisle and wished the members of the congregation a blessed day and week. The man of course was last in line and for good reason as the Pastor wanted to chat.

"Well thank you for watering the beautiful plant as I asked." "Oh you're welcome Pastor," the man replied. "May I ask if you happened to see anyone on their cell phones or texting while you circled the pews? Did you see anyone gossiping? Was anyone living wrong? Did you see anyone sleeping while you circled the pews?" the Pastor asked the man. "No," replied the man, "I didn't see anything because I was so focused on the glass so the water wouldn't spill."

"Well," said the Pastor, when you come to church, you should be focused on God like you were that glass of water so that YOU don't fall. That's why Jesus said, "Follow Me." "He did not say follow them."



invited.

The fourth Friday of January, February, March and April there will be a "gathering" at the church at noon for lunch, fellowship and an activity such as a movie. All members of the congregation are invited.
Sherry Van Dyke

Don't let your relationship with God be determined by how others relate with God. Let it be determined by how focused you are with God.



FAITH, HOPE & LOVE

QUILTERS: Quilting is a sport. It involves Batting, Running, Stitches, Pumping Iron, Rowing, Hooping and

Hunting (for fabric). Come join us and be an athlete on the 3rd & 5th Monday each month at 10:00AM.

Shirley Loveland

As I faced my Maker at the last Judgement, I knelt before the Lord along with the other souls. Before each of us laid our lives, like the squares of a quilt, in many piles. An Angel sat before each of us sewing our quilt squares together into a tapestry that was our life. But as my Angel took each piece of cloth off the pile, I noticed how ragged and empty each of my squares were. They were filled with giant holes! Each square was labeled with a part of my life that had been difficult, the challenges and temptations I was faced with in everyday life. I saw hardships that I had endured (which were the largest holes of all). I glanced around me. Nobody else had such squares. Others had a tiny hole here and there. Other tapestries were filled with rich color and the bright hues of worldly fortune. I gazed upon my own life and was disheartened. My Angel was sewing the ragged pieces of cloth together, threadbare and empty, like binding air.

Finally, the time came when each life was to be displayed, held up to the light and the scrutiny of truth. The others rose, each in turn, holding up their tapestries. So filled their lives had been. My Angel looked upon me and nodded for me to rise. My gaze dropped to the ground in shame. I hadn't had all the earthly fortunes.

I had love in my life and laughter. But there had also been trials of illness, death, and false accusations that took from me, my world as I knew it. I had to start over many times. I often struggled with the temptation to quit, only to somehow muster the strength to pick up and begin again. I had spent many nights on my knees in prayer, asking for help and guidance in my life. I had often been held up to ridicule, which I endured painfully; each time offering it up to the Father, in hopes that I would not melt

within my skin beneath the judgmental gaze of those who unfairly judged me.

And now, I had to face the truth. My life was what it was, and I had to accept it for what it had been. I rose and slowly lifted the combined squares of my life to the light. An awe-filled gasp filled the air. I gazed around at the others who stared at me with eyes wide.

Then, I looked upon the tapestry before me. Light flooded through the many holes, creating an image. The face of Christ. Then our Lord stood before me, with warmth and love in His eyes. He said, "Every time you gave over your life to Me, it became My life, My hardships, and My struggles. Each point of light in your life is when you stepped aside and let Me shine through until there was more of Me than there was of you...Welcome Home My Child."



CRAFTS GROUP: We made over \$1700 in proceeds from our Christmas bazaar. Thank you to everyone who helped in any way, buying, selling and contributing food and crafts. We have a very talented and faithful group of workers. I especially thank all who stayed to pack up all the leftovers at the end of the sale. We meet on Tuesdays at 9:00AM in Clendaniel Hall - come join us!

Dee Granger



SINGLE SENIORS:

In December we went to 3 events at the South Coastal Library in Bethany Beach: a chocolate making demonstration (yum), a concert by the Mariners Bell Choir, and a cooking event with Chef Charles. January is the annual birthday bingo and luncheon get together held at SMBTS. February is to be determined. The information will be in the church bulletin when finalized.

Wanda Bagarus



Always believe something wonderful is going to happen. Even with all the ups and downs, never take a day for granted. Smile, cherish the little things and remember to hug the ones you really love.



SPRING AHEAD: Set your clocks **FORWARD ONE HOUR** prior to going to bed **SATURDAY, MARCH 9TH**.

Check your batteries in your smoke detectors. If you need help, please call the office. If you need smoke detectors, you can call the office as we have access to smoke detectors from the local fire companies. Arizona and Hawaii are now the only states that don't observe daylight savings time.

One thing you can learn while watching the clock is that it passes time by keeping its hands busy.

Wake at dawn with a winged heart and give thanks for another day of loving.

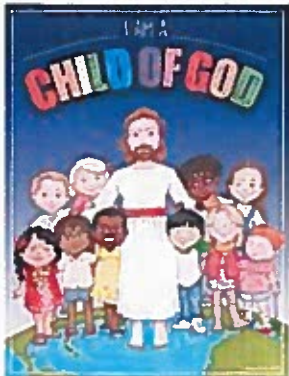
~ Kahlil Gibran



SMILING IS BENEFICIAL:

It's good for the heart. Releases feel-good hormones. Just as good as eating chocolate. Really???

- Makes you more approachable.
- Makes you stand out during job interviews.
- Helps retain your brain
- May boost your creativity.

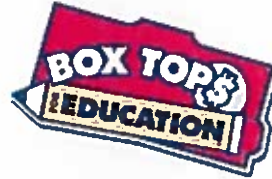


As children of God, we can find *Joy* in every day, not because life is always so good but because *God is!*

HUGS I love the kind of hugs where you can physically feel the sadness leaving your body.



No more saving Campbell's labels or Target Take Charge for Education, but you can still help Red Bird Mission by participating in saving these corporate rewards programs:



Smiling is infectious; you catch it like the flu.



When someone smiled at me today I started smiling too.

I walked around the corner and someone saw me grin.

When he smiled I realized I had passed it on to him.

I thought about the smile and then realized its worth.

A single smile like mine could travel around the earth.

So if you feel a smile begin don't leave it undetected.

Start an epidemic and get the world infected.

~ Spike Milligan



PRAYER GROUP: *No prayer is too small for our Lord to handle...when we pray, God hears more than we say, answers more than we ask, gives more than we can imagine in His own time and in His own way.*

We invite all who believe in the power of prayer to join us on Monday mornings at 9:00AM in the Baker Parlor for an hour of praise and supplication. Start your work week with your friends in the Prayer Group.

I thank God for my handicaps for, through them, I have found myself, my work, and my God.
~ Helen Keller



SHEPHERD MINISTRY:

Our Shepherds continue to give comfort and care as needed by either visitations at individual's home, rehab facilities or hospitals. We also send cards and notes offering prayers and encouragement as well as phone calls to the person needing help or a family member as appropriate.

Wanda Bagarus



WHO IS GOD TO ME?

He is **A**mazing, **B**eautiful, my **C**reator, my **D**eliverer, my **E**verything, **F**aithful, **G**enerous, **H**oly, the **I**am, **J**ealous for me, **K**ind, **L**ove, **M**erciful, **N**oble, the **O**ne and only, my **P**rovider, **Q**uick to forgive, my **R**edeemer, **S**trength, my strong **T**ower, **U**nchangeable, my **V**ictory, **W**ise, **e**Xalted, the **Y**es & Amen, **Z**ealous... for me.

Why don't you start believing that no matter what you have or haven't done, that your best days are still out in front of you.
~ Joel Osteen

A kind word can lift the spirit and completely turn a person's day around.



The speaker at our October meeting was from Love Inc. of Mid-Delmarva. This group provides food, clothing and housing for homeless people in the area under the name of Code Purple Sussex County. They also provide transportation, Bible study, tutoring for GED preparation, and help with job skills. We made a donation of \$100. Carol Hahn, Ruth Sheaffer, and Anita Angeny traveled to the UMCOR Hub in Christiana to assemble Hygiene kits for victims of disasters in the U.S. The annual craft Bazaar was successful in making over \$1700. All the soup, chili, baked goods and volunteers were greatly appreciated. Our December meeting was a cookie exchange, carol singing and the installation of officers for 2019. The new president is Sherry VanDyke, Vice president: Doris Ann Pierce, Treasurer: Mary Brennan, and returning to her Secretary post is Janet Hess. Kaye Reese is the new Membership coordinator and, Rose Oruc returns as the Reading program coordinator. Outgoing president, Anita Angeny, thanks everyone who helped to make our UMW a loving, caring, and spiritual unit. God is good!

Anita Angeny



A simple prayer: "Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those who are without a bowl of soup to eat" inspired a youth group to help hungry and hurting people around the world. Why not use Super Bowl Sunday, a time when people come together for football and fun, to also unify the nation for a higher good: collecting canned food for the needy? Since 1990 they have raised more than \$33 million for individual charities across the country. It is also turning our nation's biggest weekend of football into its largest weekend of giving. PLEASE BRING A CAN OF SOUP WITH YOU FEBRUARY 3rd AND PLACE IN THE NARTHEX. "Lord, as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us to be mindful of those without a bowl of soup to eat."

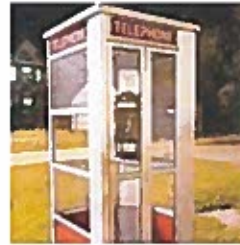


**LIFE LESSONS (WRITTEN BY A
100 YR OLD MAN (ANDY
ANDERSON):**

1. Always maintain a good sense of humor.
2. Never be too good to start at the bottom (without going to college, he worked his way to the top, becoming the corporate manager of the dairy department of Safeway for the entire country - he earned the nickname Mr. Cheese).
3. Exercise every single day, even when you don't feel like it.
4. Don't spend more money than you make.
5. Drink orange juice every day.
6. Love at first sight is not a fable (he met a gal on a Saturday and married her the next Saturday - they were married 67 years).
7. Having a bad job is better than no job at all.
8. Eat around the mold - don't go wasting food.
9. Your family is the most precious thing you will ever have in life.
10. Eat sausage every day - it worked for me.
11. Your life is delicate, and if you neglect yourself, you'll spoil - that's what cheese taught me.
12. Don't ever be afraid to be your true self.
13. Everyone has too many clothes. Wear what you have, and quit buying more.
14. You must be able to forgive, even if it's difficult to do.
15. Save your money now and spend it later.
16. Love is not always easy - sometimes you have to work at it.
17. Find something comical in every situation.
18. If you're faced with a problem, don't delay trying to figure it out; but if there's no way to figure it out, you have to forget about it.
19. Make sure you're doing what you love; don't be afraid to follow those dreams you have for yourself.
20. Education is important, but not necessary. Life can be an education in itself.
21. Explore your world and stay curious.
22. Try not to take yourself so seriously.
23. My full name is William Bradford James Anderson, and my initials always remind me to ask myself, "Why Be Just Anybody?"

24. Have common sense. Think about the most reasonable answer to every question.
25. Life is a gift that you must unwrap. It's up to you to determine if what's inside will lead you to happiness or dismay. You have the power to make that decision for yourself.

(Right now he is planning on what to do when he starts to get old...)

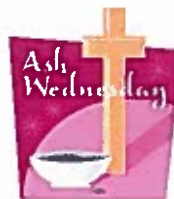


In the heart of Memphis, Tennessee, stands a phone booth powered by prayer. It's called the Phone of the Spirit, the inspiration of designer Emily Harvey. In 2015, Emily lost her ex-boyfriend to a heroin overdose. Much had been left unsaid. Then Emily heard about a phone booth in Japan that allows the grieving to "call" deceased loved ones. Moved, Emily searched Craigslist and found an old booth with a baby pink telephone. Her church, St. John's United Methodist, let her install the booth in its garden. The Phone of the Spirit doesn't take money. There's no dial tone, instead, Emily says, "it's a place for people to come and grieve or pray or meditate and just feel connected to loved ones again."



A cheerful heart is good medicine.

~ Proverb 17:22



March 6th: First day of Lent...
40 days until Good Friday.
"All are from dust, and to dust all return."

Ecclesiastes 3:20

As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them.

~ John F. Kennedy

SIMPLE FORMULA FOR LIVING:

Live beneath your means.
Return everything you borrow.
Stop blaming other people for your problems.
Admit it when you make a mistake.
Give clothes not worn to charity.
Do something nice and try not to get caught.
Listen more, talk less.
Every day take a 30 minute walk.
Strive for excellence, not perfection.
Be on time - don't make excuses.
Don't argue.
Get organized.
Be kind to unkind people.
Let someone cut ahead of you in line.
Take time to be alone.
Cultivate good manners.
Be humble.
Realize and accept that life isn't fair.
Know when to keep your mouth shut.
Go an entire day without criticizing anyone.
Learn from the past - plan for the future.
Live in the present.
Don't sweat the small stuff.
It's all small stuff.
Make life easy - make it fun!



YES, I'M A SENIOR CITIZEN! I'm the life of the party... even if it lasts until 8:00 PM.

I'm very good at opening childproof caps... with a hammer.

I'm awake many hours before my body allows me to get up.

I'm smiling all the time... because I can't hear a thing you're saying.

I'm sure everything I can't find is in a safe secure place... somewhere.

I'm wrinkled, saggy, lumpy, and that's just my left leg.

I'm beginning to realize that aging is not for wimps.

Yes, I'm a SENIOR CITIZEN and I think I am having the time of my life!

Spread the laughter

Share the cheer

Let's be happy

While we're here.

~ submitted by Bebe Antonini

ANSWERING THE CALL:

With special thanks to Glenn Pierce for the invitation, introductions and guidance for this experience to New Bern, North Carolina. Glen's former church home in Asheville assisted with recovery efforts in New Bern and he was kind enough to think of Nate and myself for this opportunity. We had the chance to work alongside some of the hardest working men I have ever had the pleasure to be with, a group of homeless veterans. Our work groups helped feed those in need from a food pantry and we also assisted with tearing out houses down to studs and beams so the houses could begin drying out and the rebuilding could begin. A fresh start. The homeowners were at both houses while we were working and they were looking forward to a new beginning. A very hard few days but as many would attest on a trip like this, we came home feeling as though we received more than we gave... the chance for fellowship, the local hospitality, meeting new people and leaving with lifelong memories.

Gratefully yours, Jamie and Nate Hayman

Gratitude is the memory of the heart.
~ French Proverb



PLYLE CENTER

Please remember to bring a food item with you when you come to worship. There are bins in our Narthex to receive your food gifts. We will see to it that your donation gets to

the Pyle Center where it will find its way to someone who hears hunger knocking on their door.

When you carry out acts of kindness you get a wonderful feeling inside. It is as though something inside your body responds and says, yes, this is how I ought to feel.

~ Rabbi Harold Kushner

Carry a heart that never hates, a smile that never fades, and a touch that never hurts.

THE FOUR CANDLES:

Four candles slowly burned. The ambiance was so soft; one could almost hear them talking...

The first candle said, "I am Peace!" "The world is full of anger and fighting. Nobody can keep me lit." Then the flame of Peace went out completely.

The second candle said, "I am Faith!" "I am no longer indispensable. It doesn't make sense that I stay lit

another moment." Just then a breeze softly blew Faith's flame.

Sadly the third candle began to speak, "I am Love!" "People don't understand my importance so they simply put me aside. They even forget to love those nearest to them." And waiting no longer, Love's flame went out.

Suddenly... a child entered the room and saw the three unlit candles. "Why aren't you burning? You're supposed to stay lit til the end." Saying this, the child began to cry.

Then the fourth candle answered: "Don't be afraid, I am Hope!" "While I am still burning, we can relight the other candles." With shining eyes, the child took the candle of Hope and lit the other candles.

The greatest of these is Love...but the flame of Hope should never go out of your life.

With Hope, each of us can live with Peace, Faith and Love.



I think the most important thing about music is the sense of escape.

~ Thom Yorke

As 2018 comes to a close, it seems the perfect time to reflect back on the musical miracles that have happened here at SMBTS.

Our bell and chancel choirs continue to evolve into new entities each and every Sunday. We have had some severe medical issues both with our choir members and with their families. We serve a God who provides, and that is exactly what He has done. No matter what the crisis, He provides us with people to carry us through it. Dedication and perseverance continue to abound as we lead each Sunday worship service with our music family available to participate. As always, we seek to expand our music ministry and welcome new members at any time.

On Sunday, March 17th we will dedicate our new set of fifth octave hand bells. When the congregation was approached to help with this "Here We Grow Again" project, you responded quickly and overwhelmingly. Within twenty days the complete octave was funded. The bells have now been ordered and we anticipate delivery mid-February. Some bell choir members are actually looking forward to making the trip to the factory to take a tour and to pick them up. How fun and exciting is that? Thank you to each and every one of you who contributed in any amount or with your prayers and blessings. Another miracle has happened! We're looking forward to adding these new bells to expand depth in our music.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the following people who stepped outside the walls of SMBTS and helped my music students at Phillip C. Showell: JoAnn Strawser, the adult Sunday School class, Neighbors Helping Neighbors, and Sherry Van Dyke have provided funding so three of my music students now have access to drums and xylophones. Charlie Zonko helped me with music storage in my room by providing and delivering filings cabinets to school. I appreciate what each person has done to assist as I begin my new journey in the music program at PCS. You have assisted in its success. Thank you so very much!

May your Christmas season be filled with the joy and beauty of music! Debby Dudley

JAMMIN' BY-THE-SEA:

Come join our jam sessions of gospel, Blue grass, and enjoy the songs of yesteryear on the FIRST &

THIRD FRIDAY'S OF EACH MONTH FROM 4:00-6:00PM. Musicians play their instruments, raising the roof in Clendaniel Hall. Enjoy the music you grew up hearing.

Merle Dimeler

FIRST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH following Jammin' By-The-Sea, come join us at 6:00PM. Bring a covered dish. After dinner will be followed by an old fashioned

social and hymn sing. Bring a friend!

**FRIDAY
FUN
NIGHT!!!**

social and hymn sing. Bring a friend!



If you have not already picked up your "gift that keeps on giving" 2019 offering envelopes, they are available



YOUR OFFERING HELPS:

NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS:

Assisting those who cannot pay their heating bills during the winter weather and supplying food baskets, especially during the holidays when people feel alone.

THE MISSIONS COMMITTEE: Providing financial assistance to a variety of charitable organizations which support numerous people in times of need.

THE EVANGELISM PROGRAM: Reaching out to the unchurched and visitors to our beach communities.

THE SHEPHERD MINISTRY: Visiting the sick and distributing Communion to those who are bedridden.

THE CHECKERBOARD MINISTRY: Providing social activities for those who are physically and mentally challenged.

THE QUILTER AND SHAWL MINISTRY: Creating these items for people who are sick, hospitalized and/or homebound.

THE SAMARITAN THRIFT SHOP: Providing clothing and household items at a reasonable price while earning money to provide funds for food banks to assist the less fortunate in our community.



A visiting minister was attending a men's breakfast in Farm County. He asked one of the impressive older farmers in attendance to say the prayer that morning. After all were seated, the older farmer began...

"Lord, I hate buttermilk." The minister opened one eye and wondered to himself where this was going. Then the farmer loudly proclaimed, "Lord, I hate lard." Now the minister was overly worried. However, without missing a beat, the farmer prayed on, "And Lord, you know I don't care much for raw white flour."

Just as the Minister was ready to stand and stop everything, the farmer continued... "But Lord, when you mix 'em all together and bakes 'em up, I do love me those fresh

biscuits. So Lord, when things come up we don't like, when life gets hard, when we just don't understand what you are saying to us, we just need to relax and wait 'till You are done fix-in' and probably it will be something even better than biscuits."



FROM CHRIS KING:

Yesterday I saw a man try to take his own life. I was in my cell when I heard the atmosphere in the pod change. I looked out and saw some commotion under the steps leading to the top tier. Someone who is fairly new to the pod unit had tied a sheet around his neck and was quickly looping the other end around the pole on top of the railing. Before I knew what was really going on he jumped. By this time a few of the other inmates had made it over to him and were holding him up. He was struggling to be let free to hang. When someone untied the top of the sheet he ran back up the stairs. By this time some officers had arrived on the unit and when the inmate swung his leg over the top pole he was tackled and put into restraints and dragged away. I started asking around about why he wanted to die. This place can drive you to madness. I heard that the other inmates were cruel to him. I could definitely relate to this man's feelings of desperation and helplessness. The feeling that I most relate to is the loneliness. I reach out to the others and share what I have but there is no real connection in this place. It's too dangerous. This is currently my 6th holiday season since my return to prison. Every day is hard. This place is full of hatred, loneliness and sadness. I miss my freedom more than words can describe. Most of the time I feel like an eagle locked in a Tweety bird cage. I carry around an ache in my sternum that I literally gave my life to erase. Now that I walk with Christ I try my best to be grateful for the smallest of blessings. Yesterday was Thanksgiving and we were given a huge feast. It was a wonderful surprise and I spent the day reflecting on all I have to be thankful for. Without my church family I'm not sure if I'd still have the fortitude to stay the course. Because of all of you, most days Satan loses in the battle for my attention. I can still give thanks to God for giving me strength to carry on in this dark and unforgiving place.

GOD IS NEVER WRONG: a King, who did not believe in the goodness of God, had a slave who, in all circumstances would always say "My King, do not be discouraged, because everything God does is perfect. He makes no mistakes!" One day they went hunting and along the way a wild animal attacked the King. His slave managed to kill the animal, but could not prevent his majesty from losing a finger. Furious and without showing his gratitude for being saved, the nobleman asked, "Is God good? If He was good, I would not have been attacked and lost my finger." The slave replied: "My King, despite all these things, I can only tell you that God is good, and he knows why these things happened. What God does is perfect. He is never wrong!" Outraged by the response, the King ordered the arrest of his slave.

Later, the King left for another hunt, this time alone. He was captured by savages who engaged in human sacrifices. On the altar and ready to sacrifice the nobleman, the savages discovered that their victim did not have one of his fingers. According to them, only a whole person with all his/her parts intact could be offered to the gods. The King without a finger was deemed an abominable sacrifice for their gods. So they released the King.

Upon his return to the palace, the King authorized the release of his slave. He received the slave affectionately. "God was really good to me! I was almost killed by the wild men, but for lack of a single finger, I was let go. But I have a question: If God is so good, why did he allow me to put you in jail?" The slave answered, "My King, if I had gone with you on this hunt, I would have been sacrificed instead because I have no missing finger. Remember everything God does is perfect. He is never wrong. He made you keep me in jail so I would not be with you on the hunt."

Often we complain about life, and negative things that happen to us, forgetting that nothing is random and that everything has a purpose. Every morning, offer your day to God, don't be in a rush. Ask God to inspire your thoughts, guide your actions, and ease your feelings. And do not be afraid. God is never wrong!

You have made some mistakes, and you may not be where you want to be, but that has nothing to do with your future.

~ Zig Ziglar



LOVE IS: Listening to each other with the heart, hearing what is often unspoken. Love is putting another's happiness and well being ahead of our own, and doing so cheerfully. Love is giving your best to someone else...love is a gift that never ends. Love speaks a language all its own without a word or sound...it comes from deep within the heart where all true joy is found. It's whispered in the loving trust two people give each other, and noticed in the gentle way they cherish one another.



Why do we close our eyes when we pray? When we cry? When we dream? Or when we kiss? Because we know that the most beautiful things in life are not seen, but felt by the heart.

LOVE Speaks a language all its own without a word or sound...it comes from deep within the heart where all true joy is found. It's whispered in the loving trust two people give each other, and noticed in the gentle way they cherish one another. Take love with you in all you do and leave only ripples of kindness behind you.



St. Patrick's Day is an enchanting time – a day to begin transforming winter's dreams into summer's magic.

~ Adrienne Cook

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS: J-1 VISA (our cultural exchange program) brings university students here to work 4 months. Last Spring/Summer we had 4,146 students from 58 countries. Throughout the year we had over 100,000. By working here they learn more of the English language and help our economy. Learn their names. Remember to be friendly and smile - a smile is international!



Birthdays This Quarter
HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



- 1 Herb Chapman
- 2 Sally Craig
Carolyn Knicely
Gina Plocek
Thomas Smith
- 3 Mary Brennan
- 6 Vernon Ittner
- 7 Ali Ambrose
- 8 Ron McLain
Shari Robinson
- 9 Alfred P. Buhr
Sheila Gunter
Robert Norton
- 10 Amy Coy
- 12 Regina Smith
- 13 Virginia Davidson
Carol Hahn
- 17 Trippe VanDyke
- 18 Monica Hafner
- 19 Jean James
- 20 Richard Bauermeister
Sue Clark
- 21 Carol West
- 23 Page Cosgrove
Bill Seeds
- 24 Pam Rimkis
- 25 Kathy Huegal
- 26 Luke Miller
- 27 Anne Hodges
- 28 Lloyd Morris
- 31 Aubree Gilland
George Reynolds
Phyllis Stecker
Betty White

- 1 Jesse Marden
Don Yelton
- 2 Rich Evans
Bud Latham
- 3 Emery Anthony
Sandra Steiner-Ball
- 4 Jenny Logan
Shirley Loveland
- 5 Kelsey Korrell
- 6 Kent Fredericksen
Sam Pierce
- 7 Becki Hayman
- 8 Jeanne Fohl
Merrick Stecker
- 9 Sandy Argo
Hank Housman
Jesse Sheppard
- 12 Cathy Bowden
Julie Moore
Linda Price
- 15 Alice Kelser
Sue Seeds
- 19 Nancy Hargis
Bob Jones
- 21 Brian Cosgrove
- 23 Sam Mooney
- 24 Bob Ball
- 25 Ellie Schaeffer
- 26 George Bell
- 27 Robert Meyer III
Joe Rimkis
Nathan Young
- 28 Paul Daisey
Melissa Enck
Joyce Grimm
- 29 Ron Schaefer

- 1 Melanie Brack
Hannah Dunlap
Barry Harbold
Carol McCloud
- 3 Patsy Phillips
- 5 Danielle Blanchard
Hope Evans
Lorraine Van Wagner
Susan Yocum
- 6 Jennifer Marsiglia
- 7 Rollin Otto
- 9 Anita Angeny
Shirley Wiley
- 10 Don Herr
Sheryll Law
Ron Nagers
- 11 Norma Lewis
- 12 Mildred Herr
Michele Overend
- 13 El Barrett
Frank Evans
Charlotte Hawkins
Karen Nowell
- 15 Lou Rixham
- 16 Rich Robinson
- 18 Bob Nickle
Owen Gibson
- 19 Ken Anderson
- 20 Ida Saymon
- 21 Judy Schoellkopf
- 25 Sean Hubley
- 26 Christa Brack
- 28 Charlie Dukes
- 29 Mike Houser
Philip Staurowsky
- 30 Nanci Byrne
Brad Gibson
John Hafner
Cheryl Loveland
- 31 Dave Whitney

"I spent my whole childhood
 wishing I were older and now
 I'm spending my adulthood
 wishing I were younger."
 ~ Ricky Schroder

JANUARY 2019



Updated 12/21/2018

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 New Year's Day Office Closed	2 4:30-6pm: Bell Practice 6:45-8:45pm - Choir Rehearsal	3 5:30pm Yoga	4 4-6pm Jamming BTS	5
6 Epiphany of the Lord Communion Sunday 12:00 Trustees	7 9AM: Prayer Group 7PM: AA Mtg. 7PM: AL Anon	8 9AM Crafts 12:30 UMW Meeting 8:00pm AA	9 4:30-6pm: Bell Practice 6:45-8:45pm - Choir Rehearsal	10 5:30pm Yoga	11	12
13 12:00 Admin Council	14 9AM: Prayer Group 7PM: AA Mtg. 7PM: AL Anon	15 9AM Crafts 8:00 pm AA	16 1pm – Missions Meeting 4:30-6pm: Bell Practice 6:45-8:45pm - Choir Rehearsal	17 9:30am UMW Atlantic Shores 5:30pm Yoga 6:00pm – UMM Dinner Clendaniel Hall	18 4-6pm Jamming BTS	19
20	21 9am Prayer Group 10am Quilters 7pm AA Mtg. 7pm AL Anon	22 9AM Crafts 8:00pm AA	23 4:30-6pm: Bell Practice 6:45-8:45pm - Choir Rehearsal	24 5:30pm Yoga	25 12:00 Church Luncheon	26
27	28 9am Prayer Group 7am AA Mtg. 7am AL Anon	29 9:00AM Crafts 8:00pm AA	30 4:30-6pm: Bell Practice 6:45-8:45pm - Choir Rehearsal	31 5:30pm Yoga		

FEBRUARY

2019



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 4-6 pm Jamming BTS	2
3 Communion Sunday	4 9am Prayer Group 7am AA Mtg. 7am AL Anon	5 9am Crafts 8:00pm AA	6 4:30-6pm: Bell Practice 6:45-8pm - Choir Rehearsal	7 5:30 pm Yoga	8	9
10	11 9am Prayer Group 7am AA Mtg. 7am AL Anon	12 9am Crafts 12:30 UMW Meeting 8:00pm AA	13 4:30-6pm: Bell Practice 6:45-8pm - Choir Rehearsal	14 5:30 pm Yoga	15 4-6 pm Jamming BTS	16
17	18 9AM: Prayer Group 10am Quilters 7am AA Mtg. 7am AL Anon	19 9am Crafts 8:00pm AA	20 4:30-6pm: Bell Practice 6:45-8pm - Choir Rehearsal	21 9:30 am UMW at Atlantic Shores 5:30 pm Yoga 6:00pm - UMM Dinner Clendaniel Hall	22 12:00 Church Luncheon	23
24	25 9am Prayer Group 7am AA Mtg. 7am AL Anon	26 9am Crafts 8:00pm AA	27 4:30-6pm: Bell Practice 6:45-8pm - Choir Rehearsal	28 5:30 pm Yoga		

MARCH 2019



Updated 12/21/2018

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 4-6pm Jamming BTS	2
3 Communion Sunday	4 9AM: Prayer Group 7PM: AA Mtg. 7PM: AL Anon	5 9AM Crafts 8:00pm AA	6 4:30-6pm: Bell Practice 6:45-8:45pm - Choir Rehearsal	7 5:30pm Yoga	8	9 Women's Retreat
10 1 st Sunday in Lent	11 9AM: Prayer Group 7PM: AA Mtg. 7PM: AL Anon	12 9AM Crafts 12:30 UMW Meeting 8:00pm AA	13 4:30-6pm: Bell Practice 6:45-8:30pm - Choir Rehearsal	14 5:30pm Yoga	15 4-6pm Jamming BTS	16
17 2 nd Sunday in Lent	18 9AM: Prayer Group 10AM Quilters 7PM: AA Mtg. 7PM: AL Anon	19 9AM Crafts 8:00pm AA	20 4:30-6pm: Bell Practice 6:45-8:30pm - Choir Rehearsal	21 9:30am UMW Atlantic Shores 5:30pm Yoga 6:00pm: UMM Dinner Clendaniel Hall	22 12:00 Church Luncheon	23
24 3 rd Sunday in Lent <hr/> 31 4 th Sunday in Lent Praise and Testimony Service	25 9AM: Prayer Group 7PM: AA Mtg. 7PM: AL Anon	26 9AM Crafts 8:00pm AA	27 4:30-6pm: Bell Practice 6:45-8:30pm - Choir Rehearsal	28 5:30 pm Yoga	29	30

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