

The Epistle

ST. PAUL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, GREENSBORO, NORTH CAROLINA
February, 2011 Volume 12, Number 2

FROM THE PASTOR



February is the month in which we observe the “day of love” – St. Valentine’s Day. Even Valentine’s Day, like Halloween, has Christian beginnings, but the world has taken them over and removed any trace, like many are trying to do with Easter and Christmas as well.

According to church tradition St. Valentine was a priest near Rome in about the year A.D. 270. Now some have rejected the following story because of its similarity to that of Paul. But at that time the Roman Emperor was imprisoning Christians for not worshipping the Roman gods. During this persecution Valentine was arrested. Some say he was arrested because he was performing Christian marriages, but others say it was for helping Christians escape prison.

During the trial they asked Valentine what he thought of the Roman gods Jupiter and Mercury. Of course Valentine said they were false gods and that the God that Jesus called Father was the only true God. So the Romans threw him in prison for insulting the gods.

While in prison, Valentine continued to minister. He witnessed to the guards. One of the guards was a good man who had adopted a blind girl. He asked Valentine if his God could help his daughter. Valentine prayed and the girl was given her sight. The guard and his whole family, 46 people, believed in Jesus and were baptized. Because these people had come to know Jesus, Valentine praised God right there in his prison cell. When the emperor heard about this he was furious that Valentine was still making converts even in prison, so he had Valentine beheaded.

But regardless of the accuracy of the tradition, we continue to celebrate Valentine’s Day on February 14, and if this year is like Valentine’s Days of the past, over \$1 billion will be spent on chocolate, \$1 billion on cards, and 218 million roses will be bought in the pursuit of or in an attempt to demonstrate love.

The Bible tells us that God sent the first Valentine. He showed what true love is. He demonstrated His love for you and me over 2000 years ago when He sent Jesus Christ to pay the price for your sin and mine.

God didn’t love you just enough simply to tell you about it. He didn’t love you just enough so that he settled for having it written in the clouds by angels in flaming chariots. He didn’t love you just enough that he stopped at sending you a love note, or a card, or calling you, He loved you enough that he sent Jesus, the Christ.

You see, when it came to demonstrating love, FTD was not fragrant enough, chocolate was not sweet enough, and Hallmark couldn’t find the words to set you free. But God had the perfect answer – “This is real love—not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sin” (1 John 4:9-10 NLT). What wondrous love is this!

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(From the Pastor – continued from page 1)

A personal note: I want to express my appreciation to you for the many cards and other birthday remembrances. I am grateful for your caring and support, and also for the opportunity to serve with you here at St. Paul.

See you in church!

Jay



FOOD CART

In 2011 our church members collected 2031 pounds of food for Greensboro Urban Ministry! Can we try in 2012 to collect at least 2032 pounds of food? Can you please bring one featured item and put it in our food cart? In February our food cart item is fruit. So please bring canned fruit or fruit cups. No glass jars, please.

-Gayle Lancaster



Birthdays This Month

- February 3 Aiden French
- 15 Jamie Metzler
- 20 Marjorie Herndon
- 25 Doug Coleman
- 26 Anna Pace
- 28 David Lancaster
- 28 Andy Taylor



Anniversaries

- February 14 – Andy and Diane Taylor
- 14 – Earney and Jan Walker

“Being deeply loved by someone gives you strength, while loving someone deeply gives you courage”

-Laozi



A NOTE FROM JUDY McCANN

Dear St. Paul Members,

Jerry and I appreciated all of the Christmas messages and good wishes in your cards. Jerry stated that it was “nice to be remembered.” The cards mean a lot to him. With the Alzheimers he has days of some confusion and days of clarity (don’t we all?!) He is otherwise doing well for one nearing 85 years. Blessings for a healthful 2012.

-Jerry and Judy McCann



FEBRUARY HYMN OF THE MONTH #212 – “Within Your Shelter, Loving God”

The text of this hymn is a paraphrase of Psalm 91, but also includes references to Matthew 4:6 and Luke 4:10-11. It is a very powerful statement of the beauty and surety of placing our complete trust in God.

The text was written by John G. Dunn in 1982. Dunn is principal and musical director of the Boston Archdiocesan Choir School at St. Paul's, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

The tune, ABBEY, is one of the twelve common tunes from the Scottish Psalter, CL Psalms of David (1615). This collection was the work of Andro Hart (d. 1621), a Scottish bookseller and printer. It was the first psalter to name tunes.



THE WORD PROCLAIMED

	<u>Sermon topics</u>	<u>Scripture Readers</u>
February 5	“Spending Time With God” Text: Mark 1:29-39	Karen Krone Reading: Isaiah 40:21-31
February 12	“Seeing As Jesus Sees” Text: Mark 1:40-45	Diane Taylor Reading: 2 Kings 5:1-14
February 19	“Renewing the Vision” Text: Mark 9:2-9	Jeannine Bailer Reading: 2 Kings 2:1-12
February 22	(Ash Wednesday) “Now Is the Time” Text: Matthew 6:1-6; 16-21	Jean Shuping Readings: Joel 2:1-2; 12-17 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:20
February 26	“Being Prepared” Text: Mark 1:9-15	Janet Walker Reading: Genesis 9:8-17

TEST YOUR BIBLE KNOWLEDGE: What person is mentioned in the New Testament more often than any other? (Put your answer on a slip in the offering plate. We'll announce the winner[s].)



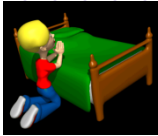
IN HIS SERVICE

FEBRUARY USHERS

Earney Walker
 Jan Walker
 Janet Walker
 Bronda Coleman

FEBRUARY COMMUNION SERVERS

Sunday, February 5 – Earney Walker
 Jack Brewer
 Carole Park
 Bronda Coleman



PRAYER CONCERNS: Luke Finison, Jack and Louise Coble, Barbara Carter, Diane Hancock, Marjorie and Jack Herndon, Tony Jones, Andy Bristow, Jim Tewes, Anna Pace, Lucy Smith, John Perkins, Edith Taylor, Aiden and Jeanetta French, Beverly Long, Dale Holder, Jane Christopher, Jean Shuford, Roger Coleman, Mark Griffin, Luke Neal, Carl Hollman, Becky Trollinger, Kevin Tewes, Ron Ervin, Chris Westmoreland, Joyce Myers, Benzena Purvis, J. D. Hall, Jo Hall, Zachary Reavis, Eric Laming, Joe Herndon, Tim Gard, and our own family members in the military: James Lochbaum, Andy Bristow II, Shane Finison, Brian Fountain, Amy Losoncy, Rob Salka and all who serve in our armed forces.

*** * * OUR JANUARY RECORD * * ***

		<u>Worship Attendance</u>	<u>Stewardship</u>
Jan .	1	58	\$4,160.00
	8	62	\$1,755.00
	15	68	\$1,625.00
	22	52	\$1,276.00
	29	62	\$2,846.80

BIBLE STUDY

Presbyterians have always believed that the Bible is the most authoritative source for faith and practice for all people, and that the study and understanding of scripture is an essential part of our Christian experience. In our weekly Wednesday evening Bible study we are exploring not only the intent of the writers but also what the writings have to say to us in today's world. We would like to have more of our members involved in this study. We know that some are not able to drive at night, but if you would let us know that you are interested and willing to come, perhaps a ride can be arranged. Join us!

OUR MONTHLY "REGULARS"

Sunday School – Sundays, 9:45am

Worship – Sundays, 11:00am

Good News Ringers – Sundays, 5:00pm

Bell Tones – Mondays, 6:15pm

Alanon – Mondays, 7:00pm

Men's Fellowship – First Tuesday, 7:00am, Tex and Shirley's

All other weeks, Mondays, 7:30am at the church

Bag Supper – Wednesdays, 5:30pm

Bible Study – Wednesdays, 6:15pm

Youth Fellowship – 1st and 3rd Wednesdays, 6:30pm

Choir Rehearsal – Wednesdays, 7:30pm

ANOTHER REQUEST FOR HELP

We still need volunteers who would be willing to help with the sound system during services. Lane and Janet do a great job, but there are times when they need to be away and it would be a big help to have others who could fill in. It is not at all difficult to learn. See Lane if you would be willing to help.

SALEM PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Salem Presbyterian Women's Spiritual Enrichment Day will be held on Saturday, February 25 at Parkway Presbyterian Church in Winston-Salem. Registration begins at 9:30am and the event will conclude with lunch at noon. Featured speaker will be Dr. Dianna Wright, Associate Presbyter/African American Advocate of Salem Presbytery. A registration form, directions and other information are available on the Salem Presbytery website, www.salempresbytery.org. Registration deadline is February 17.

Our church is the designated East Neighborhood church on the Presbytery prayer list for February 12. Many people throughout the Presbytery will be praying for us on that day.



BELLS IN WORSHIP

This month will provide several opportunities to hear our handbell ministry leading in worship. On Sunday, February 5, the Children's Melody Bells will be featured as the "Children's Sermon." On February 19 the St. Paul Bell Tones will play both the prelude and the offertory. And the prelude and the offertory will be played by the Good News Ringers on February 26. We are grateful for what all these groups bring to our music ministry and our worship.

THANK YOU!

"Thanks so much for your prayers, cards, phone calls and visits during our recent hospitalization and confinement at home. We miss our wonderful friends at St. Paul. You are the best. A special thanks to Pastor Jay. God bless you all."

Yours in Christian Faith
We love you all,
Jack and Marjorie Herndon

CHANGES IN SESSION TERMS

By unanimous vote of the congregation at a called meeting on January 29, 2012, the terms of Active Elders Janice Woods and Lane Bauserman were extended by one year to December 31, 2013. This will give us three elders in each "class" and bring us in line with the requirements of the PC(USA) Book of Order.

SPECIAL APPRECIATION TO SAM MARSHALL

On Saturday, January 14, The Rev. Sam Marshall, General Presbyter for Salem Presbytery, led our session in a discussion of the new form of government in the PC(USA). He also covered a number of other important items pertaining to leadership in the church. We extend our appreciation to Sam for taking time from his busy schedule to be with us.

