



Vol. CXLVII, No. 155

The GLEANER

February, 2018

The McConnellsburg United Presbyterian Church
Office: 485-4400
email: office@mupc.org • web page: www.mupc.org

LOVE IS IN THE AIR!

February is often remembered for “Valentine’s Day,” observed on the 14th. This year it is significant that the 14th of February is “Ash Wednesday,” marking the beginning of our Lenten Journey, sometimes referred to as “the way of the Cross.” Ash Wednesday gets us thinking about the ultimate act of love offered by our Savior, Jesus, who gave his life willingly as a sacrifice to atone for your sins and mine. In the Upper Room with his pending crucifixion in mind, Jesus told his disciples, “Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.” And Jesus would demonstrate even greater love than that by laying down his life for friends and enemies alike!

Jesus reminds us that “love” like that is intentional; it is more than mere emotion; it is the result of conscious decision-making. When Jesus said “love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you” (Matthew 5:43), he was telling us to make a conscious decision to do something that is contrary to human nature. This year, the “star” I selected for my Epiphany “light project” was “love.” I have tried to remember to think about “love” in the way that Jesus demonstrated it daily. His love for us was sacrificial and selfless. I have reflected on my own “self-serving” tendencies, and I want to commit myself daily to being more like Jesus. Believe me – it is a challenge! It is so easy to fall back into putting myself first, and thinking that everything should go my way, and everyone around me should do it my way!

Reflecting on sacrificial love this month, I am always humbled by the real life example of four military chaplains. As a career Navy Chaplains, these guys really set the standard for “love in action” (even though they were Army!). February 3rd, 1943, the US Troop Transport, SS Dorchester, carrying 904 men, was torpedoed by a German U-Boat in the North Atlantic, and sank within a short period of time. Four Army Chaplains aboard, George Fox (United Methodist), Alexander Goode (Jewish), Clark Poling (Reformed Church of America), and John Washington (Roman Catholic), went into action immediately as the ship began to sink. They helped calm panicking soldiers, guided them to lifeboats, and helped them with lifejackets,

Cont.

ultimately giving up their own jackets to those who had none. They were last seen by some of the 230 survivors on the bow of the ship arm in arm, singing hymns and praying for the safety of the troops. Theirs was an act of “love.”

None of us will ever be able to love as Jesus loved, but this month as we begin our journey to the cross, may we stand in awe of God’s love - sacrificial, selfless - that served us on an old rugged cross. And may God’s love for us be the example that inspires us and guides us in all our relationships – within our families, our church, and our community. Our world needs the transforming love of God!

Pastor Dale



3-Isla Hu
5-Tim Drover
7-Stanley Kerlin
Patty Rhodes
9-Leo Spriggs
10-Conner Fitz
11-Chris Youngblood
Monteir Spriggs
16-Nathan Horton
17-Dennis Rauffer
20-Kevin Reed
Preston Carbaugh III
21-John LeCornu
23-Garrison Behan
25-William Dovey
28-Lois Croom
Anne Gobin
Roger Horton
Joyce Hornberger

Prayer Concerns: Please be in prayer for those listed below and their families: **Short Term:** Joyce Hornberger & Family following the death of her sister, Family of Helen Clusman, Mary Jane LeFevre, & PNC. **Long Term:** Chas Howells, Ella Spriggs, Audrey Mitchell, Esther Webb (Bill Warthin's sister), Chuck Wissinger (friend of Bill & Janet McGinnis)



Belated Congratulations to

Taureem & Lesley Spriggs on the birth of their daughter, Margo Spriggs on 9-29-2017.

In honor of St. Andrew's Day, celebrated in many Presbyterian churches to highlight its Scottish heritage, a Clergy tartan banner is displayed in the church vestibule near the lift entrance. An illustration of the colors of the tartan is posted on the church basement bulletin board along with the complete article giving the history of the Clergy tartan. The pattern and colors of the tartan have evolved over the past 200 years. The following is an excerpt from that article.

Soup Night



Soup night began on January 31 and runs through March 21. Times will be 5:30-6:30. Church boards and various groups please sign up for the week/weeks that you could host. (Sign up sheets are in the basement.) Please continue to support this valuable outreach. Thank you, the Session.

The Tartan of the Cleric ~ Breacan na'n clerach

The Clergy tartan has been described as the only occupational tartan.

There is no such thing as a "right" or "entitlement" to wear a tartan. However, when you wear a named tartan, you are identifying yourself with whatever that tartan represents. The Clergy tartan is widely recognized as representing the ministry,

The Clergy tartan does not represent any particular sect or denomination. While it is perhaps most popularly used by ministers of the Church of Scotland (Presbyterians), there is no evidence to suggest that its use was ever limited to one group. Keep in mind that until the Reformation of the sixteenth century, all of Scotland was Catholic. Even after that time, the Highlands of Scotland remained Catholic much longer than the Lowlands. And while Presbyterians are most common among Protestants, you also have the Church of England, the Scottish Episcopal Church, and many other denominations in more recent times. Yet the Clergy tartan was never mentioned in



Myers Kimmel
10815 McFarland Drive
Mercersburg, PA 17236

association with one particular sect. It was always simply said to be used by "Highland Clergy."

**©2005 Matthew A. C. Newsome, FSA
Scot, GTS
published in the Scottish Banner,
September 2005**

More writings on Highland Dress can be found on his web site, www.albanach.org.

We will not plan on making major improvements until Session approves a long range building use plan.

It is our hope that our more attractive facilities, and all the good things happening around our church, you will invite others to join our church community.

Ron Mitchell, secretary



January 4, 2018

We met in the Fellowship House, January 4 with all present.

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, February 13, 7 pm

Most of our 2017 projects have been completed. The most recent were the lighting of the windows along Second Street with LED fixtures. We have installed shelving in the Church furnace room for the many Soup Night items kept there.

Contracts are now in place to maintain our HVAC/furnaces, our lift (elevator) and a few other things.

We will continue to maintain and improve our facilities as needed or requested. It is our

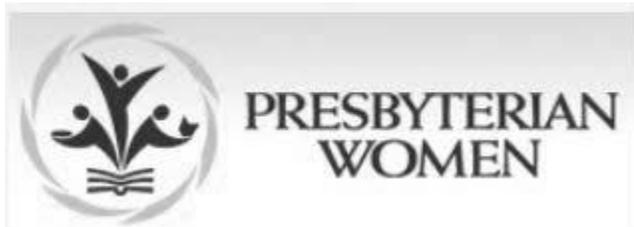
hope to remove items stored in our facilities that are no longer needed. If anyone has items in our buildings that are no longer being used and want them back, please get them.



January 21, 2018

Session met for their stated January 21, 2018 meeting in the Fellowship House with elders Carolyn Kerlin, Donna Ankney, Al Clark, Mary Lou Eisenhower, LeeAnne Kendall, Tim Drover and the moderator, Rev. Dale Williams present. The meeting was opened with devotions by Elder Kendall. The newly nominated officers were examined and approved. The meeting agenda was approved, as well as the minutes of the December 13 stated Session meeting. The average attendance for December was 74. One hundred forty attended the service on Christmas Eve. The offering on Christmas Eve exceeded \$18,000.00. Dale will provide

scripture and readings for each soup night. He will conduct training for officers on January 31 following soup night. He asked for approval to use the church basement for a reunion of the participants of the trip to Scotland. Elder Eisenhower reported that the PNC continues to meet every Monday and continues to pursue suitable candidates to serve as our pastor. Approval was given to go ahead with organ repair and maintenance which will cost approximately \$74,000.00. The repairs will be paid for out of the Lorentz fund which was set up for organ repair and maintenance. The work will be done during the summer. Elder Drover gave the financial report and presented the budget for 2018 which was approved to be presented at the annual meeting. Elder Clark reported that the schedule for hosting soup night is filled. The fellowship committee will help the Presbyterian Women with the congregational dinner. Boy Scout Sunday will be February 4. The scouts will host soup night on March 14. Elder Kerlin asked for approval to use the church basement for a bridal shower on June 2. The new deacons and trustee will be ordained/installed on February 11. The new elder will be ordained/installed on February 18. New prayer partners were assigned. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 with prayer by the moderator.



January 10, 2018

The January 10 meeting of the Presbyterian Women was opened by moderator,

Carolyn Kneas. Eleven ladies were present. The minutes of the December meeting were read and approved. The treasurer's report was given by Marion Walker. The December offering was \$90.00 leaving a balance of \$ 421.73. This year's Thank Offering was \$1700.00. Special prayers for: Kenny and Ella Spriggs, Mary Jane and Feree Lefevre, Ben and Betty Gail Faunce, Bernice Stewart, Nolan Heronimus, Audrey Mitchell, Tammy Metz, Darryl Mitchell, Meyers Kimmel, Charlotte Fowler, Barb Leese, Anne Howard, Martha Seville, Harvey Kneas, Family of Dale Williams, and all in need of his healing touch. Marion reported that Mary Jane Lefevre is doing very well. Marion, Mary Lou and Richard attended the funeral of Dale Williams' father. A discussion was held about the congregational dinner to be held on Feb. 4. We will serve ham. Barb MacDonald will take care of getting the ham. We will ask the fellowship committee to help. Setup will be on February 3 at 10:00. Carolyn turned the program over to Becky Drover, Joyce Hornberger, Linda Heuston, and Barb MacDonald who shared experiences and pictures from their trip to Scotland in October. Thank you ladies for an interesting, enjoyable, and informative program. Delicious refreshments were prepared by Donna Ankney and Deb Reed and served by Deb Reed. The next meeting will be on February 14. There will be no hostesses due to soup night. For the program, we will assemble infant kits for Central Mennonite Committee.



December 13, 2017

Meeting was opened at 7:15pm. Present were Stanley Kerlin, Barbara MacDonald, Connie Brown, April Leese, Jo Ann Carlson and Joyce Hornberger.

Previous minutes were approved after one correction. Giving tree announcement should have read Sisters Martha and Margie. Prayer concerns and visits were discussed, and prayer list updated.

Old Business

Blood drive was a success with 29 donors coming to participate.

Giving tree presents were delivered by April to the Catholic Church. We sponsored 35 children with gifts this year.

New Business

Donation offer of a wheelchair for use in the church was accepted. Wheelchair to be folded and stored in elevator alcove of lower level.

Ron presented request for donation to help offset the cost of Christmas Dinner that the Men's Breakfast Club sponsors.

Benevolences

\$2680.90 available

Loves Closet \$100.00

Christmas Dinner \$300.00

Food Basket \$500.00

Fuel Mission \$1000.00

"Santa" gifts for residents at Senior living apartments \$50.00

Personal assistance \$700.00

Cookie platters were assembled after Stanley adjourned the meeting with prayer. Next meeting will be January 3, 2018.

**Deacons Minutes
January 3, 2018**

The meeting was officially opened with prayer by Stanley Kerlin. Also present were Jo Ann Carlson, April Leese, Barbara MacDonald, Connie Brown, Patty Rhodes and Joyce Hornberger.

December's minutes were reviewed and approved.

Prayer concerns were discussed and lists were updated

New Business

Soup nights start on January 31 this year. The deacons are signed up to host on March 7.

Reorganization of the board was deferred until next meeting when the new deacons will be on board.

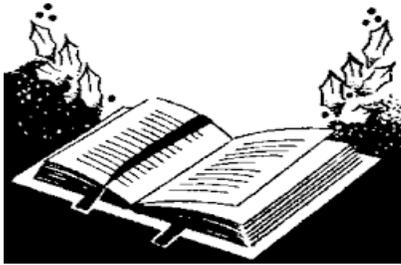
Benevolences

Loves Closet \$100.00

Fulton County Fuel Mission \$1000.00

Donation to Wounded Warrior Project in memory of Fred Williams (father of Pastor Dale Williams) \$500.00

Next meeting will be February 14 at 7:30 pm following the Ash Wednesday service. Meeting was closed with prayer by Jo Ann Carlson.



Ash Wednesday Service will be held on February 14th at 7 PM.

February Lectionary Readings

Week of February 4

5th Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 40: 21-31
Psalms 147: 1-11, 20c
1 Corinthians 9: 16-23
Mark 1: 29-39

Week February 11

Transfiguration of the Lord

2 Kings 2: 1-12
Psalms 50: 1-6
2 Corinthians 4: 3-6
Mark 9: 2-9

Week of February 18

1st Sunday in Lent

Communion

Genesis 9: 8-17
Psalms 25: 1-10
1 Peter 3: 18-22
Mark 1: 9-15

Week of February 25

2nd Sunday in Lent

Genesis 17: 1-7, 15-16
Psalms 22: 23-31
Romans 4: 13-25
Mark 8: 31-38

GLEENER DEADLINE for the March issue is February 27, 2018. Please submit your information by 10 AM that day. If you can't email it, feel free to call or lay a hand written document on the secretary's desk.