



February Visitor



Dear Friends,

Have you ever imagined what brings joy to the Holy One? We might wonder specifically how our sharing makes the heart of God sing. Scriptures help us understand this more fully; God seems to be pleased by: steadfast love, justice, and righteousness (Jeremiah 9:24), the well-being of God's people (Psalms 35:27b), a generous hand outstretched to help another (Matthew 22:37-40), a cheerful giver (2 Corinthians 9:7).

God knows joy when we take actions that restore the well-being of God's children everywhere. When we reach out to others with helping hands, we share love and justice with our brothers and sisters with whom we are one.

In his second letter to the Corinthians, Paul seemed to highlight financial gifts first as he encouraged the Corinthian church to give to the collection for the believers in Jerusalem (2 Corinthians 9:6-15); but sharing never stops with coins or bills. Just as it was for Paul, the Corinthians, and the recipients of these gifts who lived in Jerusalem, money is often the logical and practical step in providing the tangible gifts others need. In our century, the funds we gather together and share during our Week of Compassion become very real gifts of love, joy, and restoration.

Like the Corinthians, through our sharing an amazing "domino effect" of joy starts. We begin to see ourselves as part of all of God's children everywhere. We come to understand that others who happen to be in need are not simply recipients of our charity, but sisters and brothers with whom we are called to live justly and share abundantly. We recognize our abundance as a gift from God, and are more willing to let go of the fear of scarcity that can inhibit our generosity. Joy-filled sharing shows that our hearts and hands are open — open to giving that fosters restoration of shalom — open to generosity that speaks of God's love.

When we cannot physically go to meet needs in person, our gifts go together to assist others. Knowing we willingly share with them, others are reminded of who they are: beloved children of the Creator, family of us all, each one a person of sacred worth also imbued with possibilities for sharing joy. Thanksgiving to God will abound, and even more people will come to see how the Holy One works in and through us. Surely such a sharing of joy makes God, our divine parent, joyous for a world made better by love.

As you commit your offering to Week of Compassion this year, remember the myriad ways your gifts bring joy, to you as God's precious child, to all of God's other cherished children, and especially to the Holy One. Share cheerfully and abundantly, knowing that you are not only sharing your resources, you are helping to change lives. May your worship be amazingly joyful. May your sharing be delightfully abundant. May God be made glad by your cheerful generosity!

Joyfully Serving with You,
Rev. Amy Gopp
Executive Director, Week of Compassion



VALENTINE DINNER AND BINGO



Our entire church family is invited to a special Valentine Dinner to be held on Saturday evening, February 9, at 6:00 p.m. in the Upstairs Fellowship Hall, hosted by the Christian Men's Fellowship. •You may choose from two entrees:

Grilled Steak, Baked Potato, Salad and Dessert—\$10.00 per person.

or

Grilled Chicken, Baked Potato, Salad and Dessert —\$7.00 person.

Please sign-up in the Narthex or call the church office no later than Wednesday, February 6. We will enjoy an exciting game of *Bingo* following the meal, and lots of donated prizes will be needed. •Some of our favorite Bingo prizes can't be bought, like home-canned veggies, delicious baked goodies, crafts, etc. •Prizes may be left in the church office or brought the evening of the 9th.

Thank you for your support in making this a great night of fun and fellowship.

Invite your friends and neighbors; this is a great way to introduce them to our church!

Please remember to sign-up by Wednesday, February 6!

A Backwards Glance at Last Year's Numbers

Each year we look back over the past year's attendance figures to see what wisdom we can glean, if any. Here are the highest attendance Sundays of 2012:

142 on Mother's Day
110 on Christmas Sunday
106 on Easter Sunday
101 on Scout Sunday
91 on storage building dedication Sunday

It seems that what was true of us two years ago is true again: "special" Sundays mean higher attendance, and also Sundays seem to increase in numbers when children/youth are involved. In a way, this makes sense. Parents come to church to see their children's involvement. Grandparents...well, they are all on the front seat when their grandchildren are participating (and they applaud loudly and take a lot of pictures, too). Good for them; they've earned the privilege!

Folks seem to try harder to be present when the season is special (such as Christmas and Easter). Clergy even joke about those who are never seen in the pews except for on two special Sundays. They're jokingly called "Christers," (a combination of the words "Christmas" and "Easter.") But joking aside...what helps to boost attendance? What hurts attendance?

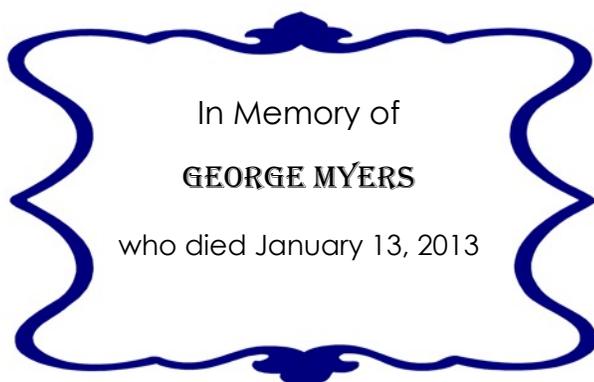
We all hope that church attendees are motivated by their need to be where other Christians gather, where prayers are said, and where spirituality is fed. It builds community. It nourishes the souls of those who attend. We both receive and give in such circumstances. Regardless of good intentions, though, influences such as weather, health (mental & physical), and additional obligations can influence even the dedicated attendee.

It seems good to take notice of "numbers," but not to put them in the center of our focus. The center of our focus should always be the love of God and the gift of the Christ. Over time, numbers will increase and diminish because of a variety of reasons. God's love for us is limitless and never diminishes. Whatever we do in love—*THAT* will grow the church. This, we are taught, is what is pleasing to God.

—debbie

Fellowship of Prayer Booklets

Our *Fellowship of Prayer* Lenten Devotional booklets are available to you in the Narthex beginning the first Sunday in February. These are daily devotions that take you through the season of Lent. Consider the reading of these devotionals as a part of your spiritual discipline during Lent, the preparation time leading to the celebration of Easter. Take one home and begin your daily devotions!



Continue to hold Ruth and her family in your prayers.

NEW MEMBERS

In the last issue of *The Visitor* we welcomed Fred and Irma Muetzel into the fellowship of our membership. Now we have more information to add to your Yearbooks. Fred's birthday is April 19, and Irma's birthday is June 14. Their anniversary date is September 26. Their phone number is 924-9402. On a personal note, Fred enjoys gardening and painting (portraits, flowers, and landscapes). Irma enjoys cooking German foods, knitting, and reading (especially history). We welcome the Muetzels again and look forward to getting to know them even better as we fellowship together.

NOTE THESE ADDRESS CHANGES FOR YOUR YEARBOOK

Ludie Blakley
Bermuda Commons Nursing (Rm 104)
316 NC Hwy 801 S
Advance, NC 27006

Gettys Pratt
Silas Creek Manor
3350 Silas Creek Pky, Rm 154
Winston-Salem, NC 27103

Ludie Blakley has been moved to Room 104 at Bermuda Commons Nursing, 316 NC Hwy 801S, Advance, NC 27006.

The CWF will have its February meeting on the 19th at 6:00 in the DFH. Women, please bring a covered dish or dessert. You are also invited to bring any ideas you may have concerning upcoming CWF meetings (speakers, craft projects, etc.). Thank you!

-Lorrie

Goodtimers to Meet

The Goodtimers will meet on February 11, at 11:30 a.m. in the Lower Fellowship Hall for a meal followed by a very special and entertaining program presented by the Rev. Chip Webb, minister at Brookstown United Methodist Church. (Many of you remember Chip and his very entertaining program for us a couple of years ago). We hope all "Goodtimers" will come out for this very special meeting. Everyone is welcome! Tell your friends and neighbors to join you!

P.S. Due to a rainy day and the cold/flu season, we were missing many of you at the January meeting. Hoping everyone is feeling much better and you can join us this month! Please call the church office if you need a ride.

Thanks,
Tim

Music Notes

-Tim Shoaf

On Epiphany Sunday, January 6, Dan Showers and I sang a duet in the Worship Service entitled "Wise Men Saw the Light." Several of you found the text of this selection very meaningful and expressed interest in a copy of the text, so as we continue to celebrate the Epiphany season through February 8, I decided to include it in our February newsletter for all of us, as Christians, to reflect upon as we remember the journey of the Wise Men as they, too, found the joy of the Christ Child—the "light" of the world, and offered gifts as we, too, offer our own special gifts for His glory:

Wise Men Saw the Light

While the world lay sleeping,
Dreaming through the night,
Wise Men searched the heavens
Looking for the light.

One star was a diamond
Burning in the sky.
Dreamers missed the meaning;
Sleeper missed the sign.

Far from home they traveled,
Walking day and night.
Though their feet were weary,
They pursued the light!

Till they found the promise,
There would be no rest.
Dreamers missed the journey;
Sleeper missed the quest.

When the star had lingered
Where the infant lay,
They were filled with gladness
As they knelt to pray.

When the night had ended,
And through the sun was bright,
Dreamers missed the miracle;
Wise Men saw the light.

Pamela Martin

Ash Wednesday Worship

The Cross Tree

In the Season of Lent—the time when all God's people prepare to celebrate the mystery of Easter—a branch will stand in our sanctuary, and each week of the Lenten season our children will help create a cross to hang on the branch as part of our worship service. These crosses of many shapes and sizes will focus our attention on the rich symbolism of Lent.

On the fourth Sunday of Lent, we invite the entire congregation to bring crosses to church. We trust God's people will spend time preparing the crosses, either handmade or special to you.

—the Worship Committee

Ash Wednesday is the beginning of Lent, the 40 days before Easter. These 40 days remind us of the time Jesus spent in the wilderness, seeking God's guidance before he started his ministry. During Lent this year, we can open *ourselves* to God's guidance, just as Jesus did in the wilderness. We will begin our observance of Lent with a special worship experience on Ash Wednesday, February 13. Our worship will begin at 7:00 p.m., and I sincerely ask you join me in setting this time aside as an opportunity to deepen our spiritual relationship with God. Mark your calendar now, to prevent something far less important from keeping you away. I will look forward to praying with you at this special time.

—Bob

PIES STILL AVAILABLE

THE CWF still has chicken pies available for sale. Boxes (one large or two small) are \$12 per box. If you are interested in purchasing chicken pies, please call Ann Fletcher at home at 924-5965. Leave a message if there is no answer, and Ann will get back with you.

Save Your Coats!

Do you have a coat that you might not keep for next winter? If so, hold on to it, because our Outreach committee is planning a project during Lent to collect coats for people who will need them. More information will be coming soon.

Memorial Gifts Received

Two memorial gifts were recently presented to the church in loving memory of Rob Romanello. Using some of Rob's memorial fund, his family has provided two very meaningful gifts to the church:

- The beautiful luminaries that enhanced the beauty of our church lawn and sidewalks during the Christmas season.
- A 4th octave addition of Malmark handchimes for our handbell choir.

We thank the Romanello family and everyone who provided a gift in Rob's memory for these excellent additions to Pfafftown Christian Church. In light of Rob's love of music and his appreciation of the beauty of our church grounds, these are special gifts, indeed.

Pfafftown Christian Church
Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual
 July through November 2012

	<u>Jul - Nov 12</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>\$ Over Budget</u>
Income			
Contributions Income	47,113.32	70,509.00	-23,395.68
Loose Offering	743.85	1,125.00	-381.15
Sales Tax Refund	0.00	417.00	-417.00
Building Rental	450.00	209.00	241.00
Investment Earnings	4,453.82	4,222.00	231.82
R G Flynt Endowment	2,782.50	2,588.00	194.50
Yard Sale	5,200.00	2,085.00	3,115.00
Drink Machines	85.12		
Total Income	<u>60,828.61</u>	<u>81,155.00</u>	<u>-20,326.39</u>
Expense			
Administrative Expense	57,887.04	58,278.00	-390.96
Christian Eduation	167.48	625.00	-457.52
Stewardship	0.00	22.00	-22.00
Evangelism	0.00	125.00	-125.00
Membership	202.26	292.00	-89.74
Fellowship	567.31	708.00	-140.69
Childcare	0.00	63.00	-63.00
Property	17,185.90	19,385.00	-2,199.10
Worship	117.50	1,657.00	-1,539.50
Total Expense	<u>76,127.49</u>	<u>81,155.00</u>	<u>-5,027.51</u>
Income over Expenses	<u><u>-15,298.88</u></u>	<u><u>0.00</u></u>	<u><u>-15,298.88</u></u>

Treasurer's Report



**PFAFFTOWN CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)**

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Pastor's Cell: 703-8433
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www.pfafftownchristian.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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**"LOVE ONE ANOTHER"
-JESUS**

Rev Bob Parvin,
Pastor

Rev Tim Shoaf,
Minister of Music & Director of Programs

Ralph Botte,
Ministerial Intern

Debbie W Parvin,
Secretary



Quotes about love:

Let us be grateful to people who make us happy; they are the charming gardeners who make our souls blossom. —Marcel Proust

Shared joy is a double joy; shared sorrow is half a sorrow. —Swedish Proverb

If you were going to die soon and had only one phone call you could make, who would you call and what would you say? And why are you waiting? —Stephen Levine

Someone to tell it to is one of the fundamental needs of human beings. —Miles Franklin

God is Love. —the Bible

You can kiss your family and friends good-bye and put miles between you, but at the same time you carry them with you in your heart, your mind, your stomach, because you do not just live in a world, but a world lives in you. —Frederick Buechner

HOLD IN YOUR PRAYERS

Church Family

Ruth Myers, Dick Flynt, Dot Jodrey,
Bud Barker, Mary Ferguson,
Doris Spaugh, Ludie Blakley,
Jake & Evelyn Nifong, Gettys Pratt

Others

Kim Crabill, Jane Browder, Jim McClure (Megan Downing McClure's father-in-law), Clive & Opal Miller (neighbors of the Clodfelters), Raye Feltner-Kapornyai, Margee Kjelson, Linda Rephan (friend of Frank & Kay Range), Mark Depew (friend of Kent Doub), Wade Tuttle, Cassie Mackie (Mary Timmon's sister), Carolyn Bennett, Bill Showers (brother of Dan), Barbara Hester (Jill Robertson's aunt), Jonathan Schaffer, Joy Beck (Jo Stanley's mother), Mary Ellen Cutter (Art Boulware's sister)

SERVERS for FEBRUARY

ELDERS: Susie Lanier, Beth Faircloth

DEACONS: Bob Faircloth, Chip Lanier
Nancey Cost, Betty Kiger

COMMUNION: Paul & Jeanette Shropshire

OPENING/CLOSING: Jack Groff

NURSERY

03 Beth Faircloth
10 Jo Stanley
17 Ruth Saalweachter
24 Kitty Hunt

SUNDAY SCHOOL

03 Jackie Romanello
10 Debbie Fletcher
17 Ralph Botte
24 Jill Robertson

Loved Ones in the Military

PRAN Joshua Hughes/Norfolk, VA
1LT Hope Tucci/Texas
Sgt. Samantha Goliat/Egypt
Specialist Victor Sechrist/Alaska
1LT John G. Van Hoy, IV/ WA
Chase Lee/New Haven, CT



February 2013



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Crisis Control Donation Item Of the Month: 100% Fruit Juice					1	2
3	4 6:00 Jr. Girl Scouts 7:00 Scouts/ Handbells	5 11:00 Staff meeting	6 6:00 Supper 7:15 Choir Rehearsal	7 7:00 <i>Gospel of John</i>	8	9 6:00 Valentine Banquet & Bingo (UFH)
10	11 11:30 Goodtimers 7:00 Scouts/ Handbells	12 11:00 Staff meeting 7:00 Elders	13 7:00 Ash Wednesday service 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	14 Valentine's Day  7:00 NIN	15 Newsletter deadline	16
17 Week of Compassion offering received	18 President's Day 6:00 Jr. Girl Scouts 7:00 Scouts/ Handbells	19 11:00 Staff meeting 6:00 CWF	20 6:00 Supper 7:15 Choir Rehearsal	21 7:00 <i>Gospel of John</i> (final class)	22	23
24 Week of Compassion offering received	25 7:00 Scouts/ Handbells	26 11:00 Staff meeting 7:00 Board	27 10:30 Newsletter Crew 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	28 UFH reserved	*See the Treasurer's Financial Report on the back of the calendar.	



BIRTHDAYS

- 04 Erleen Rhein
- 06 Dan Showers
- 10 Ruth Saalweachter
- 11 Nancey Cost
- 14 Amanda Davis
- 16 Julie Tilley
- 17 Meghan Bryant
- 17 Jerry Edwards
- 24 Margie Sorrells
- 24 Caila Luper
- 27 Matt Scharf
- 27 Yvonne Hedrick



ANNIVERSARIES

- 10 Edmund & Amanda Davis