

Fellowship Report

From the Pastor

Love Alive!



Love is faith in action. Faith without works is dead. Jesus' life was truth in action. We are called to act in love, faith and truth with resilient hope. And we are called to *be* Jesus Christ in action through the endowed power of the Holy Spirit. Our actions are propelled by the spiritual communication that we refer to as the "prayers of the righteous."

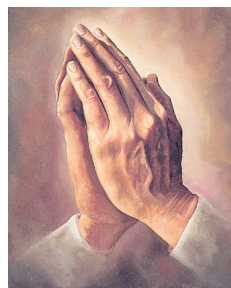
A new decade marks a new beginning. *Praise the Lord!* My prayer is that we will vow and pledge our support to the people of Haiti **three hundred sixty-five days (365)** a year. Prayer, and not money, is our very first line of defense in any and all situations that cause calamity, tragedy or despair. In faithful, effectual, fervent prayer we communicate to the sovereign God our total trust in his grace, his mercy and his omnipotence, even when we cannot fully understand prevailing circumstances.

We can only pray in faith for people if we truly care about them, and that caring begins with love. No amount or intensity of media sensationalism can spark genuine love. Only God through the power of the Holy Spirit can establish love in our hearts for people we have never met. Paul's "love letter" to the Corinthians is a timeless testimony of God's truth reigning supreme over many centuries. No one before or since has breathed such sustaining life and power in written or spoken word. God's word is The Living Word!

I encourage you to copy, cut out, or tear off the reprint in this newsletter of the English Standard Version of *1 Corinthians 13* (on page 2) and put it on your refrigerator, tape it near the bathroom or bedroom mirror, hang it in your office or work cubicle, or fold and put it in your purse or on the passenger seat of the car. And read it each day for as long as you feel so led. In fact, don't just read it – *pray* the scripture – read it like a prayer.

God's word is still "sharper than any two-edged sword." We might say that God's word cuts through everything around it, especially the bunk we are fed from so many directions in our lives. This gospel scripture is both milk and meat. Whenever you speak it, many will be fed to satisfaction, especially *you*.

Yours in **Love** and **Faith**, and with sincere **Hope** for new beginnings in **Haiti**,



Pastor Joyce

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Scripture is on the top of Page 2.

1 Corinthians 13 (English Standard Version) The Way of Love

“If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became an adult, I gave up childish ways. For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.

So now **faith, hope, and love** abide, these three; **but the greatest of these is love.”**

*UMW
et al*

*Friday, February 12
(Well, it's almost Valentine's Day!)*



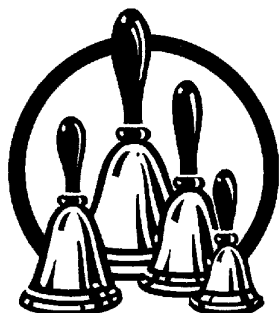
Friday, February 12 is the day of our **Valentine Dinner!** We've been planning this special "Love Day" event for some time and we're all looking forward to it. Of course, everyone is invited to join us—spouses, friends, family members. The dinner will be held at the Bookend Café on Route 23 in Phoenixville at 6 p.m. The Café is located just east of Whitehorse Road.



The entrée choices are prime rib or chicken marsala. The cost is \$30 per person. Feel free to e-mail Patty Reed-Davis or phone her at 610-917-3363 with your reservation and choice of entrée. We must let the restaurant know on February 8 (Monday), so don't delay. We're looking forward to slowing down for an evening, catching up with each other and enjoying this time of good food and good fellowship.

MISSIONS & OUTREACH

The Missions & Outreach Committee wishes to thank everybody who participated in the “Soup-er” Sunday food drive to benefit PACS during the month of January. We donated many items to PACS during January and PACS was *very* appreciative. Perhaps we could continue this “activity” and try to bring a non-perishable item of your choice a couple of Sundays per month. There are many needy families in Phoenixville, and we are all so blessed. Maybe we could think about it as a New Year’s resolution for 2010.



HANDBELL
PERFORMANCE

The Valley Forge UMC Bell Choir will perform in worship on February 21. In preparation for that service, rehearsals will be held on the following dates:

February 4

February 11

February 18 (if required)

There will be no rehearsal on February 25

**Rehearsals are held at 7:30 on
Thursdays evenings, after
Sanctuary Choir rehearsal.**

Nancy Loane, *Conductor*

Prayer List Process

Our Weekly Prayer List, which appears in our Sunday worship bulletin, proves that we are a connected church community that cares about its family members. It is evidence of our faith and trust in the Lord, who answers prayers and wants the best for His children. We want to maintain this list as accurately as possible so everybody who needs special prayer at a time of health or personal crisis is remembered in prayer and meditation on a regular basis by members of our church family.

In order to effectively and efficiently maintain our prayer list, a procedure was developed and approved by our Mission/Outreach Committee. This procedure is displayed here for your use.

1. When you have a prayer need, complete the Prayer Request card located in the pew racks.
2. Place the completed card in the collection plate or give it to the Pastor as you leave the Sanctuary.
3. The administrative assistant includes the names of the persons needing prayer on the prayer list for the bulletin.
4. After the name has been on the list for a month, the person submitting the name for prayer should resubmit the name by completing another Prayer Request card. If the name is not resubmitted, it will be removed from the weekly prayer list.

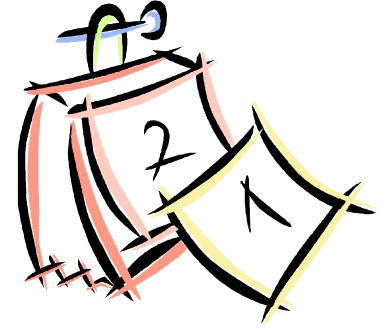
If you have questions about this procedure, please contact Patty Reed-Davis.



Upcoming Events

at Valley Forge United Methodist Church

- February 4 Sanctuary Choir Practice, 6:30 p.m.
Bell Choir Practice, 7:30 p.m.
- February 7 Sunday Worship, 10:30 p.m.
- February 10 Wednesday Night Bible Study (Scottie), 7:30 p.m.
(Meets each Wednesday)
- February 11 Sanctuary Choir Practice, 6:30 p.m.
Bell Choir Practice, 7:30 p.m.
- February 12 Valentine Dinner, 6 p.m., Bookend Café (UMW)
- February 14 Sunday Worship, 10:30 p.m.
Leadership/Discipleship/Worship Committee Meeting, 11:45 a.m.
- February 17 Ash Wednesday Soup Supper, 6:15 p.m.
Participants may attend Community Worship Service at 7:30 p.m.
- February 18 Sanctuary Choir Practice, 6:30 p.m.
Bell Choir Practice, 7:30 p.m. (if required)
- February 20 Men's Breakfast, 9 a.m.
- February 21 Sunday Worship, 10:30 a.m., Bell Choir plays
Hospitality/Fellowship Committee Meeting, 11:45 a.m.
- February 22 Administrative Board Meeting, 7 p.m.
- February 24 Lenten Soup Supper, 6:15 p.m.
- February 25 Sanctuary Choir Practice, 6:30 p.m.
- February 28 Sunday Worship, 10:30 a.m.
Missions/Outreach Committee Meeting, 11:45 a.m.



February Lectionary

February 7—Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 6:1-8 (9-13) 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Luke 5: 1-11

February 14—Transfiguration Sunday

Exodus 34:29-35 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2

Luke 9:28-36 (37-43)

February 21—First Sunday in Lent

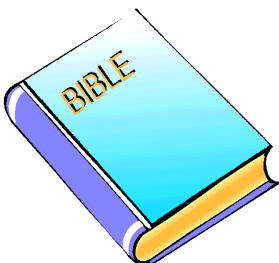
Deuteronomy 26:1-11 Romans 10:8b-13

Luke 4:1-13

February 28—Second Sunday in Lent

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18 Philemon 3:17-4:1

Luke 13:31-35





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Forward Service Requested

Don't forget . . .

- . . . to check the weekly bulletin and the bulletin boards in the Education Building for announcements, interesting community events, musical programs, classes and other activities to enhance your life.*
- . . . to check the kitchen if you are missing a container or dish. We have begun another collection of dishes that don't belong to the Church.*

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Karalyn Fielding 3

There are no anniversaries in the month of February.



*Many thanks to
Tom Loane
for revamping the
computer system at the
administrative assistant's
desk. Although it's a work
in progress, many wiring and
logistical issues have been
resolved and the result is
spacious and wonderful!*