

# CHURCH HAPPENINGS

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

### SAVE THE DATES...

VBS will return to MO. Plans are being made to hold Bible School the week of June 17-21, 2018. It's not too early to make your plans to come and bring children, neighbors, family and friends. We are looking forward to a great week of teaching God's word.

## MIDDLE OCTORARA PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

### Lenten Tea

We had a great turnout the day of our Lenten Tea on March 20 with over 80 ladies, men and children. We enjoyed the performances from the children at the Paloma School of Irish Dancers, then enjoyed a tea with yummy sandwiches, fruit and cookies. Many thanks to those who decorated the church and social hall and to those who helped serve the tea. Planning ahead, the date for next year's tea is March 9, 2019.

### Celebration of Mothers

The month of May brings Mothers' Day celebrations. Our annual Celebration of Mothers Banquet is planned for Saturday, May 11 at 6 PM. The men of our congregation will be cooking and serving the meal. Please see Mike Hoover if you'd like to help in the kitchen in any way.

For many years, our dear friend, Carl Miller has organized the servers for the banquet and for this we have been so grateful. Is there a guy out there who would be willing to take over this job? If you are interested, please contact Boni Henry.

## MISSIONS

### LOCAL

Our **Annual Yard Sale** will be held Saturday April 21 from 7:00 am until 1:00pm. Please bring your items to the church starting Sunday April 15. All help pricing and organizing items that week would be greatly appreciated. Proceeds will benefit our mission work in Peru.

**Solid Rock Youth Ministries** is hosting their Desserts and Drama banquet on Friday, April 20 at 7pm at Encounter Church. The event is free with RSVP by April 13. Email [raeanne.nixon@gmail.com](mailto:raeanne.nixon@gmail.com) or call [717-786-8007](tel:717-786-8007) to reserve your seat! Sponsorship opportunities are still available.

### WORLDWIDE

One of the missionary families that Middle Octorara has supported, Gabriel and Lyndee Colombo, have decided to leave the mission field in Argentina and return to the US in a different role. They are now helping to raise support for other national missionaries and to help train and prepare others to go to the mission field. Continue to pray for them as they continue to search for God's leading.

## MISSION MUSINGS

I sit here today writing this month's Musings and admiring the beauty all around. The sun is shining brightly upon the brilliant white snow and melting it away. It reminds me of Jesus wiping away my sins. Of course the payment for taking away our sins cost our Savior His life. As we reflect on the price Jesus paid may we with reverence and thankfulness praise and worship Him.

Last month I wrote about faithfulness and challenged you to reflect on the people in your life who helped you along in your walk of faith. Did you do it? Did you speak to them personally, call, email or write them a note? I hope you did and I hope you took a few moments to thank God for each of them as well.

A few days ago another Middle Octorara saint went to spend eternity with his Lord and Savior. Carl Miller was a kind, gentle and wise man who reached out to help many in his family, church and community. In another part of this newsletter you can read stories about how Carl helped and touched others. Of course a favorite memory of Carl for many will be of him standing in the vestibule Sunday mornings greeting everyone with a handshake and a welcoming smile. Just goes to show that although we need missionaries to take the Gospel and love of Jesus to foreign lands there are plenty of mission opportunities right here in our area.

So I remind and challenge you once again to thank those who have and continue to influence you as you serve Jesus by serving others. Continue to pray that God will open your eyes to the opportunities He gives you to use your God given gifts to share His message of love and salvation.

God has given each person gifts to use. For some that may mean serving Him in a foreign country but for many it means serving Him right here in Lancaster County.

The Apostle Paul wrote and I am sure that God, who began the good work within you, will continue His work until it is finally finished on that day when Christ Jesus comes back again.

May we accept the mission God has given us and love others as He loves us. And all God's people say AMEN.

Romans 8:28  
Dan Henry

# REFLECTIONS

*by Barry Girvin*

## ***Florida Good, Phillies Bad, Other Thoughts***

I will try to make it short on the Phillies since I realize that most of you probably don't care. At this writing the Phillies spring training record is eight wins and twelve losses. We went to six games, and they lost them all. The starting pitching is inexperienced but talented. Newly acquired veteran Jake Arrieta will be the ace of the staff. Relief pitching looks good. New manager Gabe Kapler, will move the defense around based on statistical analysis (Money Ball). I don't like it, but I guess it works as per last year's Astros. The real problem is that the guys who were expected to do the hitting, particularly homeruns, look anemic: Santana, Hoskins, Williams, Franco, Hernandez, Altherr, and Herrera.

Shirley and I will celebrate our 58<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on March 20, and we are staying at a house in a gated community owned by Wes and Kathy – son and daughter-in-law. As Jackie Gleason would have said “how sweet it is.” This time together in Florida sunshine has made us realize how much we love each other and how blessed we really are. As always, after I relax, I swear that I will go home and take time to smell the roses. It never works – not wired that way. I have moderated my pledge and will endeavor to at least slow the pace of my life. However, when I face a new challenge I give it all I have.

Florida has many senior citizens, a surplus of lawyers and real estate agents, great beaches, fine restaurants, ample opportunities for fishing and boating, and quality museums. There are many churches but few are well attended. The headquarters of Scientology is in Clearwater. Unfortunately, this cult has a great deal of economic and political influence in the city.

We saw a church that was being converted into an office building. It reminded me of the church in Savannah that I saw a few years ago. It had been converted into a bar, stained glass and all. Is this the direction our country is headed? Is religion now passe?

## THIS- N-THAT

### YOU ARE INVITED

On Sunday, April 22, The Lancaster Chorale, conducted by Jonathan Rajaseelen, will be performing *LIFT EVERY VOICE* at 6 PM. Doors will open at 5:30 and the venue is Lancaster Calvary Church, Landis Valley Rd., Lancaster. The concert is open to the public with no admission fee. A free will offering will be collected.

Music for this Spring's concert includes: *Abide with Me, Amazing Grace, Battle Hymn of the Republic, Eternal Father Strong to Save, Ev'ry Time I Feel the Spirit, God of Our Fathers whose Almighty Hand, In Dat Great Gittin' Up Mornin', I Will Rise, Lift Every Voice, My Soul's Been Anchored in the Lord, Thou Gracious God whose Mercy Lends and There is a Balm in Gilead.* It's a wonderful compilation of music by American composers.

Our conductor is a very talented, energetic young man, who has written the arrangement for the 'Amazing Grace' number that we will be singing.

The choir of over 80 voices is made up of a few folks you may know: Koryn Barrett, Jeff Hanna, Boni Henry and Sue Ressel. Accompaniment will be provided by piano, organ and brass instruments.

You will find this concert to be a joyful listening experience and your spirits will be lifted high. Come and share a great evening of music with us.

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## NATIONAL "NO HOUSEWORK DAY" – April 7th

No Housework Day is your chance to do anything, except housework. Better still, have someone else do the chores for a day. Housework is a daily, seemingly endless and repetitive groups of tasks. It often goes unrecognized and worst of all..... taken for granted. But, watch out! If the dishes aren't done, or there's no clean towels, somebody notices. If you normally do the housework around the house, cease and desist for this day. Instead, kick back and enjoy the day. Relax and do anything, except housework.



(The editor of the newsletter will be observing this holiday!)

## BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

### April birthdays

- 3 – Edie Ambler Jackson
- 4 – Cayla Miller, Gwen Lefever
- 6 – Brandon Pfeiffer
- 8 – JoAnn Irwin
- 9 – Dale Phillips, Jr.
- 10 – Gene Graver
- 12 – Kathy Roland
- 14 – Stephanie Herr
- 18 – Amanda Dalmas, Dave Garver, John Garver, Faye Reinhart, Todd Reinhart
- 23 – Boni Henry, Cheryl Girvin
- 26 – Lindsey Neiss
- 29 – Amanda Herr

### May birthdays through the 5th

- 1 – Julian Garver
- 4 – Linda Farmer
- 5 – Robin Hammond

### April anniversaries

- 24 – James & Theresa Williams

### May anniversaries through the 5th

- 5th – Mike & Deb Hoover



# TREASURER'S REPORT

## GENERAL FUND & BENEVOLENCE FINANCES

*March 2018*

The following is the individual weekly breakdown of offerings:

March 4-	General Fund	1,639.00	Benevolence	107.00
March 11-	General Fund	1,283.00	Benevolence	125.00
March 18 -	General Fund	1,748.00	Benevolence	168.00
March 25 -	General Fund	2,119.00	Benevolence	163.00

An additional \$3,656.82 General Fund money, including manse rental and \$120.00 Benevolence money was received.

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In March we continued to meet our operating expenses. April may be more difficult, we start paying the groundskeeper for mowing and possibly will receive the snow removal bill.

### YTD GENERAL FUND & BENEVOLENCE FINANCES

	Monthly Budget	YTD Budget	Monthly Received	YTD Received	YTD <b>Expenses</b>
General Fund	11,050.28	33,150.84	10,445.82	31,488.57	33,783.32
Benevolence	615.40	1,846.20	683.00	1,905.00	





## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

(Subject to change)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
April 1	April 2	April 3 ROMEO club 9:00 a.m.	April 4	April 5	April 6	April 7
April 8	April 9 Women's bible study 9:00 a.m.	April 10 ROMEO club 9:00 a.m. Trustee mtg. 7:00 p.m.	April 11	April 12 Session Mtg. 7:00 p.m.	April 13	April 14 Flowing oil
April 15	April 16 Women's bible study 9:00 a.m.	April 17 ROMEO club 9:00 a.m.	April 18	April 19	April 20	April 21 Yard sale 7:00 – 1:00
April 22	April 23 Women's bible study 9:00 a.m.	April 24 ROMEO club 9:00 a.m.	April 25	April 26	April 27	April 28
April 29	April 30 Women's bible study 9:00 a.m.	May 1 ROMEO club 9:00 a.m.	May 2	May 3	May 4	May 5

**The remainder of this newsletter is dedicated to the memory of**

**CARL W. MILLER**



**April 17, 1937 – March 15, 2018**

## WE REMEMBER CARL

*Carl Miller was one of my Middle Octorara Heroes. He was a kind, gentle and caring man who was always there to greet each individual. His love for his family and church were always evident. He will be sorely missed by all who knew him.*

*Valeria Keene*

*Carl was one-of-a-kind!*

*He loved and served his church in many capacities. Carl was supportive of our turkey suppers and many other events - always willing to help where he could. He was a faithful deacon who made everyone feel welcome and he showed a sincere concern for those who were hurting.*

*M O can be proud to have known Carl all these years. We will miss him.*

*Shirley Girvin*

### THE DEACON

*Carl Miller loved serving as a Deacon. For many years his friendly handshakes and words of welcome have warmed the hearts of those entering our House of Worship. His greetings were love in action. There were often words of concern for families and friends which demonstrated how much he cared. When I get to those pearly gates, I fully expect to be welcomed by Carl acting as Saint Peter's right-hand angel.*

*Barry Girvin*

*Carl was always ready to welcome anyone and everyone that was at church with a smile. When he was going through medical issues, and I'd ask him how he was, he always made it sound better than it really was. He was always very proud of his girls and grandchildren. He always was telling folks how they need to go to church and know the Lord. And how it would make their life much better. When he had the body shop he always tried to be fair about the cost of repairs. He was a fine gentleman, and it is comforting to know he is now with Jesus!!*

*Rose Griest*

*Carl was a gentle, sweet man. Every time he shook your hand at church, he shared his faith and gave God the glory for his life.*

*Brenda Roark*

*Carl was always thinking of others. He would say "How is Jerry doing? Tell him I asked about him." I loved to give Carl a hug because he was such a sweetheart.*

*Nancy Minchoff*

*I remember Carl Miller as a kind, gentle, generous and wise man. I am sure there are dozens and dozens of stories of Carl's generosity and this is just one more. Several years ago as I was driving, a boy on a bicycle came out of a driveway and ran into the side of my Jeep. He was not hurt but the bike put a good sized dent in the side of the Jeep. We went to the boy's house to tell his parents. They were quite upset but of course thankful he wasn't hurt. They said get your Jeep fixed and our son will pay the bill from earnings from his part time job. I took the Jeep to Carl to look at and told him the story. A few days later Carl fixed it and it looked as good as new. When he gave me the bill he said I only charged for half my labor as I am sure the boy doesn't make much working part time. That was Carl always thinking about others and helping others. He touched so many people and our community is a bit better because Carl lived here.*

*Dan Henry*

*Carl was always like a grandfather to me, even before I married Cory. He always loved hearing music of any kind and asked me when I would be singing so he could be there. Carl was such a lovely, beautiful man inside and out and he will be very surely missed. But his work here is done and he is rejoicing with his Jesus in Heaven.*

*Koryn Barrett*   

*Every time I would come home or see Pop he would tell me that he was proud of me and I would always say I'm proud of you too pop and go on with what I was doing. On the day that he passed I whispered to him that I was proud of him because he was strong enough to let go because he knew we were going to be okay. I love you and miss you.*

*Cayla Miller*

*Today we lost a good man, the one who taught me my love and hate for mechanics. lol..I'm one of the lucky ones who got to spend the past 27 years with you. I love ya pop and miss ya already.*

*Greg Trout*

*I only got to have you in my life for a decade but it felt like an eternity the way you always made me feel part of the family. I have no doubt you helped in making Gregory Trout become the man he is today, and I will forever be thankful for that. I am truly blessed in being a part of your family, the love, support, and closeness everyone shows is heartwarming. We sure do miss you and that contagious smile but have peace knowing you are pain free and we will meet again one day. We love ya Pop.*

*Rachel Trout*

*As much as it hurts to not have you here on earth, yesterday heaven gained another angel! We miss you so much already Pop, but we know you are standing at the gates of heaven welcoming all who follow you! Your kind heart and contagious smile left an incredible impact on all those who knew you! I know many who will miss seeing you sitting on your front porch waving to those going by on a warm summer day...wearing your winter coat at that! We will miss popping in to help you put a 1000 piece puzzle together, that you manage to get done in only a couple days! We will miss your Army stories and the countless words of wisdom and advice, you are deeply loved and will truly be missed but we know we will see you again one day.*

*Chris & Stephanie Pfeiffer*

*Carl was always one of those who worked behind the scenes. This past Sunday was the first Sunday that Deb was unable to be there that Carl didn't tell me to let her know how many people he counted in attendance today. I know that like many others I will miss his Sunday morning greeting, handshake and conversation. I will miss him in May also. For the Mothers dinners he was responsible to line up the dining room staff and he always made sure I had plenty of help in the kitchen.*

*Mike Hoover*

*As many others have said, I enjoyed Carl's friendly advice and encouragement the years that I have known him. His love for his family was always shared as well as his love for God. Every Sunday he was in church, he would count how many were in attendance for me for year end statistical reports that I do. Even though I was expecting him, he would startle me when he came up behind me and whisper how many people were there that morning. I know that he never meant to, it is just that I was paying attention to the service and would forget that he was coming.*

*Also I will have good memories of "sweet corn" season. As many of you know my dad and I would take our extra sweet corn to the Miller's and they cut it off and freeze it for the church soup/sub sales and the turkey dinner. Sometimes I would take corn to them every day for a week or two and a lot of it because it would all mature at once and be ready. He was probably so sick of seeing corn after the first week, but he never showed it. I would say that to him and he would smile and usually just say that it is helping the church, people come and help us and we will get it done.*

*I feel blessed to have known Carl and to be part of his life here on earth and know that one day I will see him again in heaven.*

*Deb Hoover*

*Carl Miller, A Friend*

*A gentle man, caring, loving and kind,  
A sense of humor, with a sharp and witty mind.  
A hard working man, always giving a helping hand,  
He lived each day of life according to God's plan.*

*Willing to help, whatever the need,  
He was truly a Friend to all, indeed.  
No matter the time, circumstance or place,  
He served with kindness and a heart of grace.*

*He made each day of life worthwhile,  
And greeted everyone with a big smile.  
A joy for others he would impart  
With a life of serving and a loving heart.*

*He battled many obstacles in life,  
His strength was his faith, a loving family and wife.  
He loved his God, His church and His Family,  
A life of love, He served them faithfully.*

*God said, you have done your very best,  
You have earned eternal rest.  
Come now and spend eternity,  
For you have pleased the Holy Trinity.  
With love, Sam & Faye Reinhart*

