

CHURCH HAPPENINGS

CHOIR

Save the date. Middle Octorara will host the annual Palm Sunday Choirfest at 7 PM on March 25. Little Britain and Union churches will again be joining us. There will be some special piano and organ music as well. Please consider adding this to your Easter season celebration. The offering will again go to the Solanco Neighborhood Ministries. There will be refreshments and fellowship time afterwards.

DEACONS

At our February meeting we prepared 15 thinking of you cards. Next Deacon meeting will be March 4th right after church. There will be pizza.

MEMBER ADDRESS CHANGES

Sandra Shenk – 653 Baumgardner Rd., Lancaster, PA 17603

Doris Williams – 46 Little Britain Rd., Nottingham, PA 19362

James & Theresa Williams – 46 Little Britain Rd., Nottingham, PA 19362

MIDDLE OCTORARA PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

SUB SALE Many thanks to all who helped make our latest sub sale a success. Your efforts are greatly appreciated, and the profits will be used to provide necessary items for our church kitchen and social hall. Many funds are also given to local and global missions as the need arises. We are pleased to report that each year we give \$2000 to those in need.

LENTEN TEA Our annual Lenten Tea is planned for March 10th, beginning at 2 PM. The program will be presented by the Lancaster Paloma Irish Dancers, which will be enjoyed by all ages. After the program, we will serve the tea in the Social Hall. There is no attendance fee, but donations will be accepted.

Gather up your family and friends and come enjoy an afternoon of fun and fellowship with the ladies of our local community. Please notify Boni Henry as to the number who will be in your party. Boni's email: dpwsp@aol.com Cell phone: 717-808-4534

LAP ROBES We are pleased to report that in February, dozens of lap robes were donated to the Gap VFW for distribution to the VA Hospital in Coatesville. Many thanks to all the talented ladies who faithfully give their time throughout the whole year to make the robes.

LET'S HEAR IT FOR THE GIRLS A six – lesson Study on the books of Esther and Ruth starting April 9th from 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. at the church. Join us for a 6 week study of the books of Esther and Ruth. We will spend four weeks studying the book of Esther and then two weeks studying Ruth. In these books, we will learn about God's providential care, even in times of adversity; the importance of Ruth in the lineage of Jesus; how we are not where we are by accident; and God's love for His people and unseen hand in all circumstances.

TRUSTEES

The Board of Trustees reviewed the costs of grave plots and costs of burials that we currently charge. We got prices from a few other cemeteries to compare and decided not to raise the rates at this time. We also discussed whether to allow more than one burial per plot, such as a traditional and a cremation. We cannot stack 2 caskets as we would have to dig too deeply. However we could put a cremation on top of a casket. But cannot put a casket on top of a cremation, because it would disturb the ashes to dig. We can put 2 cremations side by side. The burial costs would still have to be paid for each to help cover perpetual care. The bylaws will be changed to reflect this.

Work day will be held March 24th beginning around 8a.m. with a rain date of March 31st. There will be a break time but no lunch. We need lots of help, with raking, cleaning off the old decorations in the cemetery, pick up sticks, and whatever else needs attention. Bring tarps, blowers, chain saws, rakes, clippers, etc. If you prefer to work inside, you could organize shelves, scrub down bathrooms, or other things that need attention. Remember this is YOUR church and we all need to work together to keep it looking good.

MISSIONS

LOCAL

Sunday April 8th – help is needed to set up tables and chairs for Flowing Oil

Saturday, April 14th – Flowing Oil at our church. A sign up sheet for help will be posted in the near future.

Saturday, July 7th – Help hand out food bank flyers at Ferguson & Hasslers from 9:00 a.m. -11:00 a.m.

WORLDWIDE



Please find the latest news from Transitions Orphan Assistance Foundation on the table near the sanctuary. They are in the process of building 3 New Hope Transitional Homes. In these homes, the older orphans have an opportunity to live in a safe, family-oriented environment while they complete their formal education. In these homes the students learn life skills along the way from their house parents. Below there is a mailing address, phone #'s and an address for sending support.

Audrey Ball, Director

Transitions Orphan Assistance Foundation, Inc. www.transitionsoaf.com

Phone: [+38093 533 9142](tel:+380935339142) (in Ukraine)

[407-929-4907](tel:4079294907) (in USA)

Donations may be made to:
Transitions Orphan Assistance Foundation, Inc.
3530 Diamond Leaf Lane
Oviedo, FL 32766

or

Winter Park Presbyterian Church
Attn: Audrey Ball Ukraine Mission
400 S. Lakemont Avenue
Winter Park, FL 32792 USA

MISSION MUSINGS

Today I am thinking about faithfulness. Richard Keene and I are filling in at teaching Sunday School while Barry and Shirley Girvin are taking a well-deserved get away basking in the sun in Florida. Several weeks ago I had chosen faithfulness for today's lesson.

Then earlier this week Rev. Billy Graham passed away at the age of 99. When I and I am sure many others consider people who have lived a life of faithfulness to others and God, Billy is at or near the top of the list. A man devoted to preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ and leading millions to salvation through Jesus. Billy, like the Apostle Paul would say I want no fame from preaching the gospel, may all the glory go to Jesus.

Although we may not have known Billy Graham personally many have watched his crusades on television and heard him preach the gospel message.

If we stop and think about it each of us have folks in our lives who are faithful to us, others and God. As we move forward towards our 300th anniversary of Middle Octorara Presbyterian Church we should be thankful and grateful for the faithful who have served here throughout the years.

I challenge you to think of the people who have helped you in your life and thank God for them. Then take time to thank those people as well for the blessing they are in your life.

I can think of many faithful servants who have influenced me. Many are right here at Middle Octorara. Some have gone from the church militant to their reward with the church triumphant. Others are serving today to continue spreading the love of Jesus.

Two people who have been faithful to me, each other and God are my mother and father. Dad passed away 10 years ago. When he passed away he and Mom had been married for over 57 years.

Talk about faithfulness. I had forgotten about one example of their faithfulness to God until I heard my brother Dave tell this true story during a sermon. When we were children we had an old black and white television in our living room. At some point the television broke and no longer worked. There were plenty of other bills to pay and a television was not a necessity so for some time the old television just sat on the TV table. But every Sunday morning there were 3 quarters on top of the TV, one for each of us 3 boys to put in the collection plate at Sunday School. Faithfulness in action.

I am sure many of you have stories about people you know and their faithfulness. Share them with each other.

May each of us seek to be faithful followers of Jesus that someday we will hear Him say to us well done good and faithful servant.

God's faithfulness to us is constant and everlasting.

Matt 25:21

Dan Henry

REFLECTIONS

by Barry Girvin

History and Baseball

Shirley thinks I am crazy for bringing work to Florida – some documents that need to be put in file folders. Thus, I came upon a great story in the December 13, 1926, Lancaster New Era – “Green Tree Can Boast of Numerous Schools.”

The writer had praise for the new high school (recently demolished), but criticized the facility at the Octorara Covenanter Church one room school.

“Education first and always,” is the spirit which dominates at Green Tree, one of the smallest villages in the county, and is responsible for the new \$20,000 high school being erected by Bart Township. The twenty-two high school pupils will vacate their present old building which has long been condemned by the school board to enter one of the most modern school buildings in this section of the state.”

Moving on to the history of schools in Green Tree, some interesting facts are revealed. Private schools preceded public education in the area.

Although sources differ on when the schoolroom academy was added to the Covenanter Church, it is likely that the Academy, parsonage, and a stable were built during the pastorate of Rev. David Anderson who served from 1880 to 1890. The schoolroom may have been added earlier under Rev. William Easton – perhaps as early as 1873. In any case, Rev. Anderson made good use of the Academy for his large family and for as many as 30 students. Anderson’s children all went on to fine careers. David’s son William became a minister, married Miss Blanche Heidelbaugh, and the couple served as missionaries in India for 20 years. After the Academy closed, the schoolroom became Bart High School (1903-1927).

There were two earlier private schools at Green Tree. One was called Mrs. Hollis-Goode’s Select School – a boarding school (1865-1881). Located at the corner of today’s Rt 896 and the road leading into the Pour Girls, it was owned by Mr. and Mrs. William Pickel who had a combined residence and store on the site when the 1926 article appeared. Later Ruth Pickel Rice and her husband Forest Rice lived on the property.

The oldest private school at Green Tree was the Maple Grove Academy located where Mr. and Mrs. George Hartman lived for many years. Mrs. Hartman’s mother was a former pupil at the school, and Mr. Hartman was born in the home after his father bought it and converted it to a family residence. I remember the Hartmans well since we lived across the street from them when I was a kid. Amish now own the property – across from the residence of Herb and Carol Girvin.

Keep in mind that only the cream of the crop went on to higher education in the times referred to in this Reflection. Most, attended a one room public elementary school (starting in the 1840s) and went on to farming, the trades, or day labor. The role of women – wives and mothers.

Enough about history. What about baseball? This week Shirley and I will start attending Phillies spring training games. A good subject for the next Reflections article.

THIS- N-THAT

Once all villagers decided to pray for rain.
On the day of prayer all the people gathered,
but only one boy came with an umbrella.

That's FAITH

{2}

When you throw babies in the air,
they laugh because they know you will catch them.

That's TRUST.

{3}

Every night we go to bed
without any assurance of being alive the next morning,
but still we set the alarms to wake up.

That's HOPE.

{4}

We plan big things for tomorrow
in spite of zero knowledge of the future.

That's CONFIDENCE.

{5}

We see the world suffering,
but still we get married and have children.

That's LOVE.

{6}

On an old man's shirt was written a sentence
'I am not 90 years old;
I am sweet 16 with 74 years of experience.'

That's ATTITUDE.

Have a happy day and live your life like the six stories.
When I was a child, I thought nap time was punishment. Now it's like a mini-vacation.

"GOOD FRIENDS ARE THE RARE JEWELS OF LIFE...

DIFFICULT TO FIND AND IMPOSSIBLE TO REPLACE

FUNNY THINGS CHILDREN SAY TO THEIR TEACHERS

Teacher: How old is your father?

Kid: He is 6 years.

Teacher: What? How is this possible?

Kid: He became father only when I was born.

(Logic!! Children are quick and always speak their minds.)

TEACHER: Maria, go to the map and find North America.

MARIA: Here it is.

TEACHER: Correct. Now, Class, who discovered America?

CLASS: Maria.

TEACHER: Glenn, how do you spell 'crocodile?'

GLENN: K-R-O-K-O-D-I-A-L'

TEACHER: No, that's wrong

GLENN: Maybe it is wrong, but you asked me how I spell it.

(I love this child.)

TEACHER: Donald, what is the chemical formula for water?

DONALD: H I J K L M N O.

TEACHER: What are you talking about?

DONALD: Yesterday you said it's H to O.

TEACHER: Clyde, your composition on 'My Dog' is exactly the same as your brother's. Did you copy his?

CLYDE: No, sir; It's the same dog.

(I want to adopt this kid!!!)

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

March birthday's

10 – Heaven Miller
13 – Mary Dalmas
16 – Payton Garver
21 – Rev. Douglas Hileman
22 – Judy Bleecher
25 – Shyanne Moore
27 – Cody Ressel
30 – Betty Trout
31 – Jeff Frackman

March anniversaries

20 – Barry & Shirley Girvin



TREASURER'S REPORT

GENERAL FUND & BENEVOLENCE FINANCES *February 2018*

The following is the individual weekly breakdown of offerings:

Feb. 4-	General Fund	1,853.78	Benevolence	131.00
Feb. 11-	General Fund	2,254.15	Benevolence	161.00
Feb. 18 -	General Fund	1,129.00	Benevolence	106.00
Feb. 25 -	General Fund	1,544.00	Benevolence	150.00

An additional \$2,646.11 General Fund money, including manse rental and \$45.00 Benevolence money was received.

In February we continued to meet our operating expenses and March is starting off with a comfortable balance. For that we are thankful!

YTD GENERAL FUND & BENEVOLENCE FINANCES

	Monthly Budget	YTD Budget	Monthly Received	YTD Received	YTD Expenses
General Fund	11,050.28	22,100.56	9,427.04	21,042.75	21,474.42
Benevolence	615.40	1,230.80	593.00	1,222.00	



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

(Subject to change)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
March 4 Deacon Mtg. After church	March 5	March 6 ROMEO club 9:00 a.m.	March 7	March 8 Session Mtg. 7:00 p.m.	March 9	March 10 Lenten Tea 2:00 p.m.
March 11	March 12	March 13 ROMEO club 9:00 a.m. Trustee Mtg. 7:00 p.m.	March 14	March 15	March 16	March 17 Bart Mud Sale parking
March 18	March 19	March 20 ROMEO club 9:00 a.m.	March 21	March 22	March 23	March 24 Church cleanup 8:00 a.m.
March 25 Palm Sunday Communion 10:30 a.m. Festival of Choirs 7:00 p.m.	March 26	March 27 ROMEO club 9:00 a.m.	March 28	March 29	March 30	March 31 Raindate church cleanup 8:00 a.m.