

## THOUGHTS FROM REV. MARY

I will instruct you and teach you concerning the path you should walk;  
I will direct you with my eye. Psalm 32:8

She bounced into the room crowded with about 42 travelers with an energy and a brilliant smile. [Travelers, unlike annoying tourists, have a serious, respectful interest in the country they explore, so I was told.] “Buongiorno,” she said, tossing her long hair, “I’m Tonya and I’ll be your tour guide in the next few weeks. For starters: our trip includes stops in Rome, then Pisa, Florence, Venice, Assisi, Sorrento, and Pompeii. We’ll be back on Saturday, Oct. 27. I’ll be posting instructions each day in the lobby of the hotel with the times your luggage needs to be outside the door, breakfast starts, and when we’ll be leaving. Dinner will be at 6 and we’ll meet in the lobby. Get a good night’s rest as we’ll begin early starting with the Vatican Museum and Colosseum. Welcome to Italy!!”

And so we began our mutual journey as we left behind our independence, opinions and preferences. Tonya regulated our lives for 13 days. She was boss, leader and manager, our watchdog, instructor and companion. Our shepherd.

As I reflected on her leadership, I drew some parallels to the church’s search for leadership and how God guides us individually.

As we look to the arrival of a new pastor, obviously, he or she will be the tour guide to lead the church programs, preach and advise, give life to the mission of the church. And also, he’ll be on top of managing the affairs of the church. Most certainly he’ll be an expert on the lay of the land: the Scriptures, the mysterious Book of Order, and ways of the Presbytery. Wow.

Just as we expected Tonya to lead us in the ins and outs of tickets, local guides, bypassing lines, calling hotels, reporting to the tour company, so the new pastor faces a multitude of tasks to do well with competence and consistently. Not to mention, having a hearty upbeat attitude! Sometimes those simply taking the trip, see only what takes place right now, and what we can presently understand.

1. **She was clear.** A fair expectation. And if the new pastor isn’t clear, we must ask him/her “What did you mean by that?” When we asked those types of questions, Tonya always took them seriously and at face value. Our group wanted to obey her. After all, our goal was to see Italy with as few glitches as possible. Our goal as a church, is to follow Christ without confusing information from the pastor and assumptions about “what he really meant to say” by the church. They only get in the way of our goal.
2. **She gave the necessary information in segments.** Our trip to Assisi was days from now, and my interest was surviving the crowded streets of Rome. In the same way, a pastor needs to give instructions clearly and step- by -step. Our tour group didn’t ask “Why?” after each of Tonya’s instructions. . After all, why take a tour anyway, if you don’t intend to listen to the guide? Why pay for it if you intended to see the country yourself at a lower price? She had her methods that worked and we didn’t expect her to explain them. As a church, we simply need to trust a pastor’s step –by- step directions as he’ll explain the whole picture in due time. A church hires and pays a pastor for a reason: it believes he has a sound plan and ability to communicate it.

3. **She expertly managed tedious and necessary unseen tasks.** Those of us who've led groups, knew the time, patience and skills needed to check on flights, co-ordinate time schedules with the hotels and local guides and make sure no unseen potentially disastrous situations ambushed us. There's more behind the scene work done in pastoring than 'seen' work of Sunday preaching or moderating a meeting. Something we've both appreciated as pastors is the awareness some express of the unseen tasks we tackle, the offer of help, and gracious patience as we develop our juggling skills.
4. **She wasn't perfect.** Tonya's English had grammatical flaws, and a strange almost- English sound at times but we understood well enough. Once, she made serious mistakes in the information she gave. At those times, we spoke to her in private, and with respect. Understanding the new pastor's speaking limitations, and talking to him respectfully in private, will pave the way to mutual respect and church harmony.
5. **She was unaware at times.** Not knowing our group and having so many to manage, Tonya didn't know, at the beginning, the slower ones with physical challenges. So, our group had a responsibility to let her know. I often think that congregations believe pastors have a hidden microchip that MUST mysteriously receive information about who is sick, discouraged, or needs comfort. The new pastor will be so grateful that you shared your concerns and needed information with him.

I'd never considered my spiritual life like a taking a tour, but since our final home is with Christ, in our earthly life, we're mere fellow travelers who need a guide. The Holy Spirit our promised guide, leads us into all truth as the Scripture says. Some questions to ask ourselves: Am I truly listening to my Guide, the Holy Spirit?

Or am I conducting my own life as if I were wise enough to know the sheer vastness of the spiritual landscape? Over and over the scriptures warn us not to be like the obstinate Israelites in their journey to the Promised Land, who complained, advised and questioned God, and wandered after false, unknowing gods. Moses brought them the very laws written by God Himself. Today, the Bible gives us faithful and true principles by which to live and practice our faith. We've no excuse for a self-guided tour through the maze of spirituality. We have a faithful and true Guide.

A closing thought: Tonya often punctuated her talks and instructions with the Italian word "Allora." [ Not knowing its meaning, I turned to the expert: Google. ] "Allora" is a filler word like: "well" or "so then" The word gives the speaker time to think of what she'll say next. Saying "Allora" gave Tonya a moment to translate the Italian into meaningful English.

As we wait for a pastor, Is God, in a way, saying "Allora" to us? What is His will for the church? Or, what has he almost said about the individual direction of our lives? Perhaps, He's thinking about how He'll translate into words we can understand.

So then, let's wait for our faithful guide, with love and trust.

## CHURCH HAPPENINGS

### DEACONS

We prepared 3 anniversary, 10 birthday and 23 thinking of you cards at our October meeting. Next Deacon meeting is Nov. 4th (today) right after church.

Beginning in November, the church secretary will now be notifying people that they have the altar flowers instead of the Deacons.

### GROUPS

We have started a new group here at Middle Octorara for widows. We may do a variety of activities together. On November 28th we will meet at Hometown Kitchen in Georgetown at 8:30 for breakfast. All widows are welcome. We will each be paying for our own meals. Watch the bulletin and newsletter for future activities.

### MIDDLE OCTORARA PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

#### Holiday Bazaar

PW Holiday Bazaar, 2018 has come and gone. We extend many thanks to all who helped prepare, to those who helped during the event and to those who cleaned up. Members of the community look forward to our annual Bazaar and enjoy being a part of it. We enjoy planning and holding this event every year too. We are always thankful for our profit which is used for church kitchen needs, community needs and worldwide missions.

#### Harvest Table

Beginning November 4, a *Harvest Table* will be displayed in the front of the church. All are welcomed to participate in this donation of food that will be delivered to the Solanco Food Bank. You are asked to bring non-perishable food items on November 4 and 11. In addition, on Nov 18, you may bring veggies and fruit, since they will be taken to the Food Bank that week. The *Harvest Table* will provide a beautiful display for the Sanctuary and will remind us all of how God provides.

#### Estate Sale

On Saturday, November 17, MOPW will be serving food at the Sale of Ethel Caskey, beginning at 9 AM. If you would like to help and/or can provide a baked good item for the sale, please contact Shirley Miller (717-786-3690).

#### You are Invited

On Sunday, November 18, immediately following the Worship Service, MOPW will be serving a Thanksgiving Meal and you are invited! No need to RSVP, just

come, enjoy the food and fellowship. Please bring your favorite dessert to share. This is one way in which MOPW says 'Thank You' to you all for your support and we express our love to each of you as we share our love for Jesus together every Sunday morning at Worship.

The women of the church, lead by Rev. Mary Brondyke, will be leading the Worship Service that morning.

## **SESSION**

### **Extend a Blessing Sunday**

Again this year Session has designated Sunday November 18th to be *EXTEND A BLESSING SUNDAY*. At the morning worship service every person will have the opportunity, if they so choose, to receive an envelope with \$10.00 in it.

You are then asked to give that \$10.00 (adding to it if you feel so led) to a needy person or a worthy charity of your choice. Then we ask that you inform the church secretary, Deb Hoover as to how the money was used. This may be done anonymously to her but regardless, it will be printed anonymously in the January newsletter. The deadline to disperse your money and inform her will be December 23rd.

### **Congregation Meeting**

The annual Fall congregation meeting will be held Sunday November 25th at approximately 12:30 pm. There will be a covered dish luncheon following the worship service. Please bring a generous covered dish and join your church family for food and fellowship before the meeting. Then we will hold the meeting for the following.

1. The election of 2019 - 2021 church officers
2. Approval of the church operating budget for 2019.
3. Approval of the Benevolence/ Mission budget for 2019.

## **TRUSTEES**

Work day is scheduled for Saturday November 17th beginning at 8 AM. Snack and lunch will be provided. Bring rakes, tarps, carts, chain saws, bush loppers, leaf blowers etc. We can always find things to do and the more help we have, the faster it goes.. Rain date is November 24.

Don't forget to write your suggestions on how you would like to see the sanctuary refreshed to make it more attractive to visitors and/or potential members. Put suggestions in the box in the narthex.

## MISSION MUSINGS

As I think back over the past month I have many thoughts and memories. One evening in particular stands out to me. The Senior Citizen Dinner was a wonderful evening again this year. As I help to serve the meal I also get to chat with our senior Saints. Many of them I have known my whole life and many have been friends and mentors to me for many years. I also could not help but think of the people who were not there because they entered into the church triumphant this past year. Of course that makes me sad but also joyful because they were faithful servants being the hands and feet of Jesus and they now are in the presence of our Almighty God for eternity. It is also a reminder that each of us must be committed to serving Jesus by serving others every day for we do not know how long we have on this earth.

As I look at the November church calendar it is easy to see it will be another busy month. This gives everyone many opportunities to help with mission projects.

One of the opportunities is Operation Christmas Child shoebox collection. You may donate items to pack a box, donate money to ship the boxes, pack boxes yourself or come Sunday morning November 11 during the Sunday School hour and help pack boxes. We will be a Drop off Location again this year as well from November 12th till the 19th. Check the sign up sheet in the Welcome Center for the times help is needed. These are great opportunities to spread joy and the gospel of Jesus Christ to children as well as adults all over the world.

Another opportunity to help is the annual Fall church work day. We will be cleaning up the church yard and doing other work both outside and inside. Come and help work as well as fellowship with your church family.

We know there are many right here in our community in need financially and spiritually. As followers of Jesus we have the privilege and responsibility to share the love of Jesus with others in words and actions. In Luke 12:48 it is written "to whom much is given much is required". May each of us ask God what He wants us to do with the time, talent and treasure He has blessed us with.

1st John 3:17  
Dan Henry

## REFLECTIONS

by Barry Girvin

### *An Old Church Bulletin and a Photo*

I spend a great deal of time rummaging through old musty documents as I organize artifacts at the Shrine Church and at Middle Octorara. A bulletin from December 23, 1945, took me back in time. The Sabbath School had an Honorary Superintendent, a Superintendent, and three Assistant Superintendents. There were evening services at the Church every day of the following week including a Christmas Cantata on Sunday. The Bible readings for the week emphasized "Christian Building Interracial Good Will." I wonder what that meant in 1945.

Military personnel who had been discharged were welcomed: Richard M. Boyd, Bernard D. Jackson, Ruby E. Bishop, Benjamin F. Crouse, and W. Leon Groff. A restoration fund was announced by the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions to rebuild churches in Japan. Of the 1500 Protestant churches in Japan, 440 had been totally destroyed.

Middle Octorara had 671 members, seven Elders, 12 Trustees, and no Deacons. Two of the Elders also served on the Board of Trustees. Trustee Samuel F. Shimp, my great grandfather, was Farm Superintendent.

Next, my attention turned to the photo of the veterans that we honored in 2002 as part of our 275<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. I was saddened by the fact that so many of them have passed away. The image of Jacob Summers on the left of the first row reminded me of a Reflection article that I wrote after interviewing him. An excerpt follows.

Jake Summers got up late on Sunday, December 7, 1941, and from his barracks window witnessed the first of the Japanese planes dropping their bombs on Pearl Harbor. Jake was ordered to a convoy assigned to beach defense at a place called Barber's Point. After being involved in shooting down an enemy plane and then traveling ninety miles an hour while exchanging fire with Japanese planes, Jake arrived at the assigned location. Then, the wait part of "hurry up and wait" began as a constant vigil was kept at Barber's Point. It was here that Jake, who could hardly read at all when he joined the Army, taught himself to read using a copy of the New Testament.

Next came Guadalcanal in 1942. Jake was part of the first wave of troops landing on Guadalcanal as he would be in four later landings. In 60 days of jungle warfare Jake learned to be a "quiet walker" and to depend on his nose. Everyone smelled bad, but Americans learned to detect the presence of Japanese troops by their smell.

There was no chance to change clothes and the tropical climate took its toll. Jake had raw sores from feet to knees, a condition that scarred him for life. He had to drink contaminated water which he mixed with iodine in hopes of being able to drink without vomiting. On one occasion he went without food for a week being forced to chew leaves and bark from trees.

During an artillery barrage in which Jake's best buddy was killed, Jake was miraculously unharmed. He had sought cover in a hole that he had dug, but the concussion from a shell pulled him right up on his feet and ripped the lining out of his helmet. Jake walked away, but 35 killed and wounded were carried from the site of the attack. Jake later carried maps to headquarters traveling some forty miles through jungle terrain and often narrowly escaping the Japanese. Many of Jake's Company were killed, wounded, or hospitalized with malaria. Only 26 of the original 241 men were left to fight on toward Japan.

In the second row of the photo I zeroed in on my father, James Girvin, and my uncle, Harry Hoffman. A close look revealed that Harry had my Dad by the arm. My Dad was suffering from Alzheimer's Disease, and I told Harry "don't let him wander off during the picture taking." Roy Henry, Rev. Tanguy, and Paul Girvin were the speakers that day, and Frank Trout finally received his medals honoring him for service during the Korean War. Of all the events we had during the 275<sup>th</sup> Anniversary that was our finest hour! God Bless America!

## THIS- N-THAT

### ADVENT BOOKLET

It is time to start thinking of your stories for this year's Advent Booklet. Can you believe this is the 11th year? This year's theme is, ***"Quiet Moments with God"***.

Do you have quiet moments with God when you read your Bible? Or maybe before you go to sleep at night or perhaps when you first awake in the morning. We all have many opportunities for quiet moments, if we take them, throughout the day and our lives. Please email or give submissions to the church secretary by November 25th for the publication to be ready for the first Sunday in Advent, December 2nd.

### ADVENT SERVICE

The Octorara Covenanter Presbyterian Foundation will hold its annual Advent Service at Middle Octorara on Sunday, December 9 at 3:00 PM. The program will feature great highland bag piping by Thompson McConnell, Dan Emery on the fiddle, the Christmas Story from Matthew and Luke read in Braid Scots by Donald Henderson, vocal selections, and congregational singing. Please stay for treats and then board the bus for caroling to shut-ins. Session scheduled the bus and it will board at 5:00 PM. More treats when we return to Middle Octorara.

**Richard and Mary on their recent trip to Italy.  
Borano - one of the islands of Venice**



*(The following was Stephanie Frackman's  
Youth Message at the October 28th worship service.)*

## The Five-Finger Prayer



Do you ever have trouble thinking of something to say when you are talking to a friend?

Sometimes that same thing happens when I am praying. I start to pray and then I just can't think of anything to say. Does that ever happen to you? Well, today, I want to show you something that will help you when that happens. It is called the "Five Finger Prayer."

First, I want you to put your hands together in front of you as if you are praying. Keep your eyes open so that you can see your hands. You will notice that the closest finger to you is the thumb. Since it is the closest to you, the thumb reminds you to pray for those that are closest to you. Pray for your parents and your brothers or sisters.

The next finger is called your index finger. It is used for pointing. Let this finger remind you to pray for those that point you in the right direction. Pray for your teachers at school, your Sunday School teacher, and your pastor.

The next finger is the tallest finger. This finger reminds us to pray for our leaders. Pray for the president and other leaders in our government and those who are leaders in our town.

The fourth finger is the called the ring finger. Did you know that this is the weakest of all the fingers? Just ask anyone who plays the piano and they will tell you that is true. Let this finger remind you to pray for those who are sick.

The next finger is the smallest finger. The Bible says, "Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought." Let the little finger remind you to pray for yourself.

So the next time you are talking to God, and you can't think of anything to say, let the "Five Finger Prayer" help you.

## WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA



*We have an opportunity to honor our veterans past, present and deceased. Wreaths are \$15.00 each and will be laid at Quarryville Cemetery on Saturday, December 15th, 12:00 p.m. . All wreaths will be sent there. The public is welcome to attend. Nancy Harnish will be in the welcome center after church until Sunday, November 18th if you are interested in purchasing them.*

In 2007, the Worcester family, along with veterans, and others who had helped with their annual Christmas wreath ceremony in Arlington, formed *Wreaths Across America*™ to continue and expand this effort, and support other groups around the country who wanted to do the same. This nonprofit organization continues the Arlington tradition as part of its mission to remember, honor and teach.

In 2017, Wreaths across America and our national network of volunteers laid over 1,565,000 memorial wreaths at nearly 1440 locations in the United States and beyond. We accomplished this with help from over 3270 fundraising groups, many corporate contributions, and donations of trucking, shipping, and thousands of helping hands. Our annual pilgrimage from Harrington, Maine to Arlington National Cemetery is known as the world's largest veteran's parade, stopping at schools, monuments, veteran's homes and communities along the way to remind people how important it is to remember, honor and teach.

Proceeds place a wreath at one of the participating cemeteries; help support our fundraising partners, educational and veteran's services outreach. Please note that all sponsorships are sent directly to the location and no wreaths are sent to the individuals purchasing sponsorships.

Schedule of events:

**Sunday, December 9** – Start of world's longest veteran's parade from Maine to Arlington National Cemetery and participating locations.

**Monday, December 10** – State House wreath-laying ceremonies in all 50 states and Puerto Rico.

**Saturday, December 15** – Simultaneous wreath-laying ceremonies at over 1100 locations all across the country and beyond. Quarryville Cemetery 12:00 p.m.

## BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

### November birthdays starting with the 4th

- 4 – Jim Bueche, Jane Trout
- 11 – Travis Hoover, Troyana Miller
- 14 – Mitch Phipps, Dan Henry, Kathy Harvey
- 16 – Stephanie Frackman
- 18 – Jodie Mylin
- 19 – Ken Garver
- 20 – Gertie Rineer
- 21 – Dixie Clark
- 23 – Melissa Cannon
- 29 – Jeff Roland

### November anniversaries

- 4 – Kevin & Marie Frackman
- 6 – John & Casie Garver
- 8 – Dan & Boni Henry
- 14 – Wayne & Beth Messick



# TREASURER'S REPORT

## GENERAL FUND & BENEVOLENCE FINANCES *October 2018*

The following is the individual weekly breakdown of offerings:

Oct. 7 -	General Fund	1,742.50	Benevolence	154.00
Oct. 14 -	General Fund	1,613.00	Benevolence	132.00
Oct. 21 -	General Fund	1,517.00	Benevolence	47.00
Oct. 28 -	General Fund	1,899.50	Benevolence	177.00

An additional \$2,616.76 General Fund money, including manse rental and \$20.00 Benevolence money was also received by mail etc.

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October ended with a very comfortable balance. This past winter snow removal bill has finally been received and will be paid in November, \$4,250.00. The budget for 2019 will be approved at the congregation meeting the end of the month as we start to look towards the New Year.

### YTD GENERAL FUND & BENEVOLENCE FINANCES

	Monthly Budget	YTD Budget	Monthly Received	YTD Received	YTD <b>Expenses</b>
General Fund	11,050.28	118,790.50	9,388.76	105,819.42	100,380.85
Benevolence	492.32	5,292.44	530.00	5,997.00	

Debbie Hoover, Secretary-Treasurer





## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

(Subject to change)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Nov. 4 Deacon Mtg after church	Nov. 5	Nov. 6 ROMEIO Club 9:00 a.m.	Nov. 7	Nov. 8 Session Mtg. 7:00 p.m.	Nov. 9	Nov. 10
Nov. 11 	Nov. 12	Nov. 13 ROMEIO Club 9:00 a.m. Trustee Mtg. 7:00 p.m.	Nov. 14	Nov. 15	Nov. 16	Nov. 17 Church cleanup 8:00 Caskey sale food stand
Nov. 18 Extend a Blessing - Thanksgiving Luncheon after church	Nov. 19	Nov. 20 ROMEIO Club 9:00 a.m.	Nov. 21	Nov. 22 	Nov. 23	Nov. 24
Nov. 25 Pot Luck Luncheon after church Congregation Mtg. 12:30	Nov. 26	Nov. 27 ROMEIO Club 9:00 a.m.	Nov. 28 Widows group breakfast Hometown kitchen 8:30	Nov. 29	Nov. 30	Dec. 1