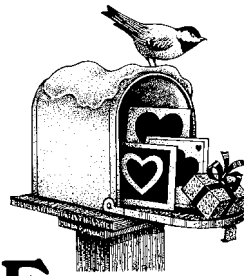


## *Maturing*

In my daily devotional I came across this quote from James Finely who authored a book entitled *Merton's Palace of Nowhere*, a reflection on the writings of Thomas Merton. Finely writes "*Merton once told me to quit trying so hard in prayer. He said: "How does an apple ripen? It just sits in the sun" A small green apple cannot ripen in one night by tightening all its muscles, squinting its eyes and tightening its jaw in order to find itself the next morning miraculously large, red, and juicy beside its green counterparts. Like the birth of a baby or the opening of a rose, the birth of the true self takes place in God's time. We must wait for God, we must be awake, we must trust in his hidden action within us.*

I love the image constructed by Finely in my mind's eye of the tiny green apple squinting and straining to become big and juicy and ripe. But to no avail, maturity takes time. And so it is with spiritual maturity. To be the kind of person God wants us to be spiritually, it takes time. We cannot, by squinting our eyes, tensing our muscles, become the spiritual giant of a Thomas Merton. It takes time, plenty of time of praying and reflecting; of listening and obeying; of allowing the word of God to have an impact on who we are and the way we act.

We are blessed here at St. Paul's to have the opportunity to impact the lives of children, both in our Sunday School and in our St. Paul's School. When I see our children in church or during the week at school, what I see are little green apples, with wide eyed enthusiasm, learning how to become the person God created each one of them to be. When I hear their voices, the everyday clamor of children in school I am thankful that this is my church and their church and God's church.



## **FEBRUARY 2018**

***For Members and Friends of  
St. Paul's UCC Fleetwood***

As we progress through this season of Lent I hope you are opening yourself up to the Spirit of God at work in your life. May we all keep hanging and maturing, patiently waiting for God to work in our lives, steadily growing into the person God created us to be.

Blessings,  
Pastor Pat

### **Lenten Study**

As we have in the past, our Lenten Studies begin with the Ash Wednesday service on February 14. The service begins at 7:00PM. There will be Communion with the Imposition of Ashes. On the following Wednesday evenings our services continue inspired by the theme *Women Called By God*. The sermons will focus on the following Old and New Testament women whom God used in specific ways to further the kingdom of God: Rahab (Joshua 2), Ruth, Esther, the Samaritan Woman (John 4:4-26), and Mary Magdalene. Beginning Wednesday, February 21, our evening begins at 5:45 PM with a fellowship meal of soup, provided by the church, a sandwich that you bring for yourself and a dessert to share. The Lenten Worship services begin at 6:45 PM. All are welcome to be part of this special time in the life of St. Paul's.

Sharon Koller 02/01  
Ella Mack 02/01  
Irene Moyer 02/02  
Christina Scheffler 02/02  
Jason Seidel 02/02  
Tom Davies 02/03  
Michael McDowell 02/03  
Codi Nichols 02/03  
Ann Angstadt 02/04  
Jeanette Burkert 02/04  
Dave DeAngelo 02/04/  
David Stern 02/04  
Jessica Santo 02/05  
Sara Wink 02/05  
Kelli Jo Collins 02/06  
Lauren DuPont 02/06  
Haley Krueger 02/06  
Dawn Pavlick 02/06  
Diane Aulenbach 02/07  
Beth McKinney 02/07  
David Balmer 02/08  
Carolyn Daniels 02/08  
Lee Gauker 02/08  
Samuel Shuman 02/08  
Layla Weaver 02/08  
Ricky Zettlemoyer 02/08  
Kevin Fritz 02/09  
Sharon Weiss 02/09  
Meg Young 02/09  
Faye Buckalew 02/10  
Jessie Koch 02/10  
Robert Kurzweg 02/10  
Debra Dengler 02/11  
Betsy Markley 02/11  
Pamela Seidel 02/11  
Colleen Werner 02/12  
Joan Bailey 02/13  
Kaila Brinker 02/13  
James Herbein 02/13  
Jennifer Juntunen 02/13  
Richard Leppert 02/13  
Gary Mckently 02/13  
Jane Wolfgang 02/13  
Harold Aulenbach 02/14  
Sarah Beers 02/14  
Brian Levan 02/14  
Madison Mark 02/14  
Kristin Wulterkens 02/14  
Nancy Noll 02/15  
Nicholas Hill 02/16  
Thomas Markley 02/16  
Sherry Radka 02/16  
Kyle Reinkemeyer 02/16  
Andrew Kutz 02/17  
Ryan Levan 02/17  
Bill Shollenberger 02/17  
Robert Wolf 02/17  
Millie Dietrich 02/18



Chad Hartberger 02/18  
Larry Hartman 02/18  
Alison Hauser 02/18  
Zachary Sell 02/18  
Bradley Williams 02/18  
Linda Burkert 02/19  
Sandra Eberly 02/19  
George Mayer 02/19  
Stephanie Power 02/19  
Alana Rader 02/19  
R. Joel Schaeffer 02/20  
Cori Shollenberger 02/20  
Delmar Diehl 02/21  
Luke Homovich 02/22  
Janet Sanocki 02/22  
Clay Weidemoyer 02/22  
May Raudenbush 02/23  
Florence Streich 02/23  
Jill Caffrey 02/24  
Michael Heydt 02/24  
Kamille Orth 02/24  
Morgan Weidemoyer 02/24  
Diane Adams 02/25  
Diane Barth 02/25  
Joanne Broome 02/25  
Kyle Follweiler 02/25  
Susan Marchalonis 02/25  
Marie Shomgard 02/25  
Shannon Emerich 02/26  
Lindsey Mack 02/26  
Jim Scott 02/26  
Patsy Stackhouse 02/26  
Oliver Campbell 02/27  
Theodore Campbell 02/27  
Beth Gauker 02/27  
Amy Miller 02/27  
Paul Moll 02/27  
Sharon Morris 02/27  
Paul Nahrgang 02/27  
Donna Rader 02/27  
Sara Major 02/28  
Phyllis Miller 02/28

**If your birthday is not listed or is incorrect,  
please call the church office at 610-944-0406 so it  
can be recorded for future birthday list.**



**USHERS**

**February 4**

8:55 a.m. –

10:25 a.m. –

**February 11**

8:55 a.m. –

10:25 a.m. –

**February 18**

8:55 a.m. –

10:25 a.m. –

**February 25**

8:55 a.m. –

10:25 a.m. –



**February 4**

8:55 a.m. – Bob Wolf

10:25 a.m. – Jason Crockett

**February 11**

8:55 a.m. – Ro Wolf

10:25 a.m. – Marcia Moll

**February 18**

8:45 a.m. – Family Service (Scouts)

10:25 a.m. – Sue Kline

**February 25**

8:55 a.m. – Melissa Ruemmler

10:25 a.m. – Dave Balmer



**February 4 – Ruemmler Family**

**February 11 – Women’s Guild**

**February 18 – Cindy Rothenberger**

**February 25 – Bell Choir**

**ACOLYTES**



**February 4**

8:55 am – Ethan Raudenbush and Zack Fry

10:25 a.m. – Jade Vojtasek and Katelin Pytleski

**February 11**

8:55 a.m. – Wyatt Hetrick and Michaela Ernst

10:25 a.m. – Maegan Milesosky and Chase Reifsnyder

**February 18**

8:55 a.m. – Parker Milyo and Ian Miller

10:25 a.m. – Tristin Farr and Jaiden Valik

**February 25**

8:55 a.m. – Nicholas Hill and Chase Reifsnyder

10:25a.m. – Megan Eberly and Maegan Milesosky



**The deadline for news and information to be included in the March Tower Tymes is February 15<sup>th</sup>. Thank you for your cooperation.**



### Happy Valentine's Day!

Wow!!! Do you see all the hearts around our school? The children's hearts are filled with love, and it just bursts out everywhere around the school. The children will be decorating boxes for the Valentine Celebrations and there are bound to be Valentine Treats.

Our 13th annual Valentine Social will take place on Thursday February 8, 2018, for our current students and a significant person. Everyone comes out in their finest clothing and we dance, eat and just have fun. This was a huge success in past years and look forward to a great time.

We have visitors come into our school to tell us more about our community. If you have an interesting job or hobby and would like to share it, let us know.

**We are accepting applications for 2018-2019 school year. We have a lot of new adventures to explore at school. Please see Ms. Brown or call the school office for more information. Remember our classes fill quickly, so please register early. Starting February 1, 2018, we will be accepting applications from the outside, so please do not delay.**

**Remember- FULL DAY and HALF DAY KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM AND BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL CARE and of course SUMMER CAMP will be back. PLEASE CHECK OUR WEBSITE AT [www.stpaulsfleetwood.org](http://www.stpaulsfleetwood.org) and click on school or see Ms. Brown for more information.**

We also have our annual **Spring Open House on Tuesday March 6, 2018 from 6:00-8:00 pm.** Please join us for our book fair, registration and art show. It is a real crowd pleaser. Please share this information with neighbors and friends. **The book fair is open to all church members during school hours**

We are having a wonderful exciting adventure this year, with all the children in the journey of the children's futures.

Respectfully,  
Ms. Peggy Brown, School Director

### Attention Parents,

If you have children ages 3, 4, and 5 and have not started kindergarten, they are welcome to join the Nursery Sunday School class that occurs every Sunday morning at 8:55. It is recommended that your child be potty trained, however if they are not you are still welcome to bring them to the class. **If you have any questions or concerns please contact Erin Goldman any time after 5 pm. You can reach her at 610-507-4559.**



**GET ON BOARD!**

I would like to invite everyone at St Paul's their friends neighbors and relatives to come along with us to see a brand new show called Jesus at Sight and Sound we are going to go for a family style meal at Hershey Farms restaurant you have motor coach transportation all the taxes meal gratuities and motor coach tips are included in the price of \$135 a person. There is a \$50 reservation fee and final payment is due February 1st. We're leaving Wednesday March 14th for a beautiful day of fellowship and friendship and see one of the most fantastic shows the Sight & Sound has ever done Jesus is a show about love both Whimsical adventurous and the technology before has never been used in this theater and animals Galore! Please contact the traveling queen bees Jane Folk 610-926-2673 and Linda Bullock 610-914-9933 we hope everyone joins us for a day of good food and fun!



Yes the queen bees are sailing, we invite you to go along with us to Canada and New England cruise. We leave from New Jersey with Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines 8 Days 7 Nights from June 1st to the 8th of 2018 a \$250 deposit is due at the time of signing up and to call for more information you can contact Jane Folk 610-926-2673 and Linda Bullock 610 914-9933. Inside rooms are \$999 everything included except insurance and transportation to New Jersey port Ocean View is \$1,149 and balcony count category is call for availability we are going to Cape Liberty New Jersey cruising to Portland Maine cruising to Bar Harbor Maine cruising the Saint John New Brunswick and Halifax Nova Scotia. We hope you will all consider joining us on this wonderful Cruise and beautiful scenery!



## Thank you,

Leona New Beginnings Family Moves on to the Next Chapter of Their Lives On December 7, our third family to live in the New Beginnings Mission House moved to an apartment in Fleetwood. For the past 2 years, our team, Sarah Herrold, Barbara Werner, Rob Stilwell, Pastor Pat, and Leona Wright, met with Mrs. Werner to give direction to varied services, share advice, keep abreast of any house issues, and provide other support as needed. Our goal is to create confidence for a smooth transition from team support to being self-sufficient as the family continues an independent life. We wish the Werner family all the best in this next chapter of their lives. Thank You! Many thanks for the time and effort given by the Mission House Team during the past 2 years. Thanks to Sarah Herrold, Barbara Werner, Rob Stilwell, and Pastor Pat for being so faithful in attending many monthly meetings over those 2 years.

## Book Group for February 2018

Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 27, 2018, at 7 p.m. in the lounge off the narthex. The book for February is *A Man Called Ove* by Fredrik Backman. A synopsis of the book can be found on amazon.com. Our discussion leader will be Barbara Mears.

In the event of inclement weather, please check with either Sharon or Mary Ann to confirm that the group is meeting.

**If you have any questions regarding this meeting, contact Sharon Dreibelbis at 610-916-4848 or Mary Ann Hayes at 610-796-7044.**

Everyone is welcome!

## Helping Hands

Here are the transports, calls and emails to get up to date.

5 emails

15 calls

10 transports/

Thanks to all our volunteers. Helping hands coordinator is Lynda Shenk.

Email [shenklynda@gmail.com](mailto:shenklynda@gmail.com) or phone 610-451-6732

## Fleetwood Food Pantry

On Thursday, January 11th 58 families were served at the Pantry in the Fleetwood Community Center. Each family received a frozen Jandl turkey donated by East Penn Manufacturing. They also received raisins, Quaker Oats cereal, various canned goods and fresh vegetables. It was Fleetwood Bible Church's turn to serve.

The next date for the pantry will be Thursday, February 1st; volunteers are needed from 3:30-6. It is Christ Lutheran of Dryville and St. Peter's of Molltown turn to serve. Thank you to all who continue to volunteer each month and help provide food donations to the pantry.

## Shopping Cart in Narthex

It's that time of year, when we need to think about comfort foods and keeping warm. We are looking for donations of soup, stews, and chilli. Thank you for your continued donations for our families each month.

## Opportunity House

In January, Leona and Jim Wright, Seth and Laura Walizer, Sharon and Malcom Dreibelbis and Carin and Meagan Mileschoky helped to prepare and serve the meal. The Crockett's and Weis Bakery donated the breads and desserts.

In February, Pastor John and the Youth group prepared and served the meal.

For all future questions and group scheduling concerns for Opportunity House, please contact Laura Walizer at [walizerl@gmail.com](mailto:walizerl@gmail.com) or her cell at 484-256-6487

## Keystone Military Families Food Pantry, Shoemakersville, PA

The pantry for our PA military families desperately needs diapers in sizes 3, 4, and 5, baby food stage 2 and toddler meals, shampoo and body wash and laundry supplies. We are also accepting valentine cards for our veterans to be handed out at the pantry for Valentine's day. Anything positive and uplifting is great. Candy or lollipops to go with the cards is a wonderful extra. Please have all Valentines in the box in the narthex by Sunday, February 11th.

Email Laura at [walizerl@gmail.com](mailto:walizerl@gmail.com) with any questions.

Thank you very much for thinking of us.

**Save the Date: February 3, 2018**

All committee and group leaders, organizers and involved people are invited to a Committee Leadership Retreat on Saturday, February 3 beginning at 9AM. It will be a time to discuss and understand how the activities and goals of our various committees work together to reflect the vision and mission of our church. Join us as we continue the conversation and build on the momentum of the last few months with an empowering exchange of ideas.

Each committee is asked to send their chair or primary leader as well as a few involved members to make this retreat effective. Any member who is interested in directing the mission of our church through new or existing committees is also invited to attend. **Please RSVP to Jenn Hoffman at [twjenn15@gmail.com](mailto:twjenn15@gmail.com) or the church office at 610 944 0406 with your name and contact information.**

**BP Screening**

February is Heart Month! Come and get your Blood Pressure checked:

Sunday, February 11

-Before the first service: 8:30-8:55

-Between services: 10-10:25

-Church Nursery

**E-Waste Recycling Fundraiser**

Was your house blessed with new electronics this holiday season? Do you now have a stash of old electronics you need to get rid of? Don't send them to the landfill; recycle them to benefit our mission work!

We have partnered with Planet Green Recycle to raise funds and help the planet through recycling. You can learn more about our program by following the link on our church website or going directly to our fundraising site at:

[www.planetgreenrecycle.com/stpaulsuccmissions](http://www.planetgreenrecycle.com/stpaulsuccmissions)

It's very simple to help us out. When you recycle, we receive funds from Planet Green for collecting and sending in those recyclables! You can drop off the following in the box near the church office:

Inkjet Cartridges, Cell phones & pagers, GPS & radar detectors, iPods/MP3 players, Digital/video cameras, PDAs, iPads/Tablets/e-Readers, Mobile Hot Spots, Video Game consoles & accessories, handheld video games, calculators.

**Financial News**

Although we did get a significant end of year surge in donations and offering, the total general fund donations were about \$43,000 short of expenses. And those expenses were about \$ 14,000 below budget. Additionally, we had a total of \$ 41,800 in donations toward the sewer project. One can conclude that in the absence of the sewer project, our total donations would have had us at nearly break even. All bills (including the sewer project) have been paid in full.

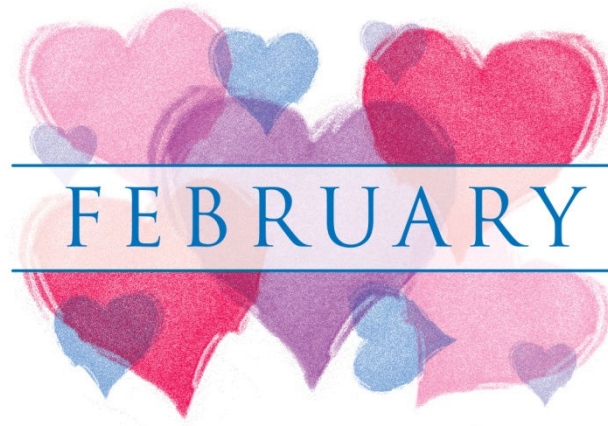
Our overall bank balances have been depleting over the past two years and we must reign in expenses while finding new sources of income. Anything our membership can do to maintain a healthy, constant giving profile during the entire year would help our situation enormously.

Regarding expense control: The finance team and some members of consistory are actively working on getting competitive bids for our office equipment (copiers) as well as our insurances (liability and workman's comp). These activities are extremely tedious and time consuming. As soon as we have closure on these items we will provide a report to the congregation.

Over the next weeks, the finance team will be working diligently to reconcile all accounts and transactions in order to publish a 2017 financial report.

2017 Statements: If you made a contribution in 2017 and you have not received a statement by the time you get this newsletter, please inform the church office. If you believe there is an error in your statement, please contact Sue or Bob and we will investigate as quickly as possible.





# 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Fleetwood Food Pantry 3-6pm	2	3
4 Communion Superbowl Party 6pm	5 Prayer Shawl 7pm	6 Kitchen Crew 7pm	7	8 School Valentines 5- 9	9	10
11 Youth Sundry Planning 6:30pm	12 Consistory 7pm	13	14 Ash Wednesday service 7pm	15 School Valentines 5- 9 (Snow Day)	16	17 Reading Royals "Pink in the Rink" Hockey Game 6pm
18 Scout Recognition Sunday	19	20 Second Year Confirmation Serving Opportunity House 6-8pm	21 Lenten Worship 5:45 Soup, 6:45 service	22	23 Youth Rock-A- Thon 6pm	24 Youth Rock-A- Thon 12pm
25	26	27 Book Group 7pm	28 Lenten Worship 5:45 Soup, 6:45 service			



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**2018**

**Our Staff**

Rev. Patrick W. Morris	Pastor
Rev. John Folk	Associate Pastor
	Administrative Assistant
Mrs. Sue Creswell	Bookkeeper
Mrs. Stacy Laucks	Coordinator of Education
	Ministries
Mrs. Greta Ertel	Organist/Accompanist
Mrs. Jill Haley	Coordinator of Music Ministries
Ms. Peggy Brown	School Director
Mr. Thomas Agnew	Sexton