

THE PARK BENCH

Greetings in the name of The Lord,

Yes. It seems like Christmas was over like a week ago and we are already poised to enter the Lenten season. However, I'm not sure my next-door neighbor got the *memo* because his Christmas lights are still up and lit every single night.

Just like my neighbor who seems super-duper "Christmasy", many folks grew up super-duper "Catholicy". Perhaps like myself, you fall into that category.

There were dozens of girls in my small Catholic grade school named Mary and at least four girls in my class alone (out of 12) with the middle name Ann.

And the Catholic guilt....Aye aye aye...

But, in all honesty, Catholic guilt has both haunted me and motivated me. The same guilt that often haunts me to the Sunday morning church "obligation", is the exact motivation that got me back INTO the church when I moved away in my teenage years and was living a reckless lifestyle. And every year, when Lent comes, I am still tempted to give something up.

As a good Catholic boy, I would of course faithfully give something up so that the Priests and Nuns would be pleased and not punish me. And so, my sacrificial Lenten boycott of beets and brussel sprouts was an annual motion in spiritual renewal, albeit feigned. ☺

I am at least partially convinced that the discipline is still good, even if I still doesn't see exactly how to "offer up" my discomfort, which is what I was instructed early on to do with suffering. And it appears there is at least some *perceived* solidarity among others who are giving up things of their own...it seems to foster a camaraderie of staying strong in the face of temptation.

.....After all, beets are DELICIOUS....to somebody.

Historically, Lent is a period of fasting, moderation, and self-denial observed by Catholics and some Protestant denominations. It begins with Ash Wednesday and ends with Easter Sunday. The length of the Lenten fast was established in the 4th century as 46 days (40 days, not counting Sundays). During Lent, participants eat sparingly or give up a particular food or habit. It's not uncommon for people to give up smoking during Lent, or to swear off watching television or eating candy or telling lies. It's six weeks of self-discipline. Lent began as a way for Catholics to remind themselves of the value of repentance.

And repentance is not only valuable but commanded. The strictness of the Lenten season was seen as similar to how people in the Old Testament fasted and repented in sackcloth and ashes (Esther 4:1-3; Jeremiah 6:26; Daniel 9:3).

However, over the centuries Lenten observances have developed a much more "ceremonial" value. Many Catholics believe that giving something up for Lent is a way to attain God's blessing. **But, our reformed Baptist beliefs remind us that the Bible clearly teaches that grace cannot be earned;** grace is "the gift of righteousness" (Romans 5:17).

Also, Jesus taught that fasting should be done *discreetly*: “When you fast, do not look somber as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show men they are fasting. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that it will not be obvious to men that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen” (Matthew 6:16-18). As an aside, Jesus’ command to “wash your face” may seem to at least come in minor conflict with the practice of rubbing ashes on one’s face on Ash Wednesday for all the world to see...but we shall leave ALL judgment to Him.

In the end, self-denial can be a good thing, and God is pleased when we repent of sinful habits; so, there’s absolutely nothing wrong with setting aside some time to focus on Jesus’ death and resurrection. However, repenting of sin is something we should be doing every day of the year, not just for the 46 days of Lent.

If Christians choose to observe the Lenten season, he or she should feel perfectly free to do so. The key is to focus on repenting of sin and consecrating oneself to God. Lent should not be a time of boasting of one’s sacrifice or trying to earn God’s favor or increasing His love. God’s love for us could not be any greater than it already **is** as already evidenced by His sacrifice FOR US! He will not love us any more if we observe Lent and will not love us any less if we choose not to.

Whatever you choose, May The Lord bless you in all of your efforts this Lenten season.

With much love,
Pastor George



- 1 JANE and TOM MYERS
- 2 Mary Jean Eberhardt
- 2 Jackson Callender (his 3rd !)
- 2 David Anthony Mowod (his 15th !)
- 3 John Moeller
- 8 Marco and Giovonni Palombo (their 3rd !)
- 12 Ralph Whipple
- 17 Tom Myers
- 17 Cody Maxwell (his 15th !)
- 17 Cheyenne Maxwell (her 15th !)
- 23 Olivia O’Leary (her 12th !)
- 27 Marion Wolbert

Children’s Sunday School

Lessons and Leaders

February 4 – “God Created Everything”

Leader :

February 11 – “ God Is Love”

Leader : Cindy Merriman

February 18 -“The Holy Spirit Makes Us Fruity”

Leader:

February 25 – “Go Fish”

Leader: Paul Merriman

Special dates

- African-American History Month
- Transfiguration of Our Lord, *February 11, 2018*
- Ash Wednesday, *February 14, 2018*
- Valentine’s Day, *February 14, 2018*
- First Sunday in Lent, *February 18, 2018*
- Presidents Day, *February 19, 2018*
- Second Sunday in Lent, *February 25, 2018*

IF THERE IS THE NEED TO CANCEL *our church services / activities please know that it will be announced on the WPXI closings information channel.*

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1943 photo

*The 75<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary of Robert and Ruth Cunningham who were married January 28, 1943 will be celebrated with their family on Saturday, February 3, 2018. CONGRATULATIONS on this amazing milestone to a most deserving couple.*

Worship Service Greeters for February

- 5 – Earl Neely
- 11 – Marcy, Scott and Abby Hofstetter
- 18 – Whipple’s
- 25 – Emilie Gildernew



Youth Events

February 9 - 11  
 Winter Blast – Camp Judson  
 in Erie, PA.

February 16  
 Winter Jam - PPG Arena  
 Pittsburgh, PA.  
 \$15.00 tickets at the door  
 [If you are interested in attending  
 please let Ralph or Laurie Dauer  
 know so transportation can be  
 arranged.]

<http://www.franklinparkchurch.org/>

Address: 2470 Nicholson RD. Sewickley, PA 15143 [View On Google Maps](#)

Phone: 724-935-3950

Follow 



- ^ **Bill Mooney** is at home and will be having no further treatment. He is resting comfortably and is in good spirits.
- ^ **Lauren Slick**, 23, niece of Karen Ott, has nodules on her liver which have enlarged, and also lymph nodes that are enlarged. She is undergoing further testing.
- ^ **John Nichols**, Clay Nichol's dad, fell and tore his quadriceps tendon (thigh) and will have out-patient surgery to repair it on February 2. Please keep John, his wife Debbie and family in your prayers for successful surgery and recovery.
- ^ **Ann Dobson** was hospitalized and treated with fluids and IV following a bout with cellulitis.
- ^ **Jean Willoughby** underwent hip surgery and is recovering at her daughter's home. The address there is: 818 Jane Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA. 15209.
- ^ **Prayer for all** the policeman and first responders who are in danger as they are out there doing their job. Especially Shawn McNaughton who is a member of this church family and works in Cecil Township.
- ❖ **Answered prayer and praise for : Keith English** delivered the happy news that his niece and her family have a new home following a devastating fire that took their previous home in Ellwood City. The Frances family will be starting a new chapter in their life on a positive note. The cancer drugs that Katelyn has been receiving have been reducing the tumors about 30%. Katelyn is the great-granddaughter of Millie and John Flinchum and great-great-granddaughter of Dorothy McKinney.
- ❖ **Continued Concern For:** Jeremy Styron, Jean Willoughby, Bill Mooney, Bill Craig, John Cress, Lauren Slick, Jen Ott, Cindy Foight's father Bill, Mary Glassburn, Katie Jones, Tim McCrory, Edith Yockel, Christians around the world who are being persecuted.
- ❖ **Those With Cancer:** Bill Smith, Kaitlyn Frances, Ron Reibie, Matt O'Leary, Robert Stinebiser, Mary Ann Yoder.
- ❖ **Missionaries :** **Becky and Larry Stanton** ( Hungary); **Peter and Sarah McCurdy** (Dominican Republic / Cuba); **Carol Sydnor** (Nepal); **Nora and Pieter Kalkman** (Prague, Czech Republic); **Brian and Lynette Smith & their boys** (Haiti). **Valerie and Aaron Osterbrock** (East Malaysia), **Ted Parks** (Kazakhstan).
- ❖ **In Service of Our Country :** **Major Doug Bauer**, his wife Hope and children, Walker & Mackenzie in North Dakota serving our country.

|                    |                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                               |                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                            |
|--------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                    | <b>Dorothy McKinney</b><br>Creek Meadows Personal Care<br>1630 Ellwood City Road<br>Zelienople, PA. 16063                 | <b>Albert (Buck ) Bucklew</b><br>Chicora Medical Center<br>160 Medical Center Road<br>Chicora, PA. 16025-2612 | <b>Peggy Bucklew</b><br>Chicora Medical Center<br>160 Medical Center Road<br>Chicora, PA. 16025-2612 |                                                                                                                                            |
|                    | <b>Janet Tehois</b><br>Broadmore Senior Living<br>3275 Washington Pike Apt. 221<br>Bridgeville, PA. 15017<br>412-559-2813 | <b>George Green</b><br>Cranberry Place<br>5 St. Francis Way Room 122<br>Cranberry Township, PA. 16066         |                                                                                                      | <b>Mrs. Shirley Wright</b><br>Passavant Retirement Community<br>Trillium House Room 215<br>Zelienople, PA. 16063<br>Telephone 724-452-5400 |
| <b>Homebound -</b> | <b>Jane Nagel &amp; Dale, Jr.</b><br>4015 Wick Place<br>Wexford, PA. 15090                                                | <b>Gloria Meinert</b><br>2915 Salisbury Court<br>Wexford, PA. 15090                                           | <b>Jean Downing</b>                                                                                  | <b>Bill and Eleanor Mooney</b><br>221 Chickasaw Avenue<br>Pittsburgh, PA. 15237                                                            |



## Franklin Park Baptist Church - 2018 Church Officers, Ministry and Committee Members

### Church Council (2 yr term – 4 yr max)

Scott Cunningham 4 yr  
Laurie Dauer 4 yr  
Paul Merriman 4 yr  
Jane Myers 3 yr  
Christy Nichols 1 yr  
Nancy McNaughton 1 yr  
Rick Raraigh 1 yr

### Church Clerk (2yr term – 4 yr max)

Cindy Merriman 2 yr

### Treasurer (3 yr term – no max)

Sally Cunningham 1 yr

### Christian Education (1 yr term – 4 yr max)

Leslie Worst 4 yr  
Margaret Kelly 3 yr  
Jamie Lopez 2 yr  
Amanda Palombo 1 yr  
Erin Meteny 1 yr

### Finance (1 yr term – 4 yr max)

Cindy Merriman 4 yr  
Rick Hughey 2 yr

### Membership (1 yr term – 4 yr max)

John Moeller 4 yr  
Linda Raraigh 3 yr  
Marcy Hofstetter 1 yr  
Cindy Foight 1 yr  
Rich Worst 1 yr

### Financial Secretary (3 yr term – no max)

Lois Exton 7 yr

### Auditing Committee (2 yr term)

Melissa Maxwell 2 yr  
Michele O'Leary 1 yr

### Building & Grounds (1yr term – 4 yr max)

Dorothy Cress 4 yr  
Ron Merriman 2 yr  
Dan Douglas 2 yr  
John Moeller 2 yr  
Dave Kelly 1 yr

### Missions (1 yr term – 4 yr max)

Ralph Whipple 4 yr  
Emilie Gildernew 2 yr  
Karen Ott 1 yr  
Scott Hofstetter 1 yr  
Gordon Bonham 1 yr

### Nomination Committee (1 yr term – no max)

Rick Hughey 5 yr  
Doug Frazier 5 yr  
Ellen McKenna 5 yr  
Rich Worst 5 yr  
Jane Myers 5 yr

### Task Personnel (Indefinite Term)

Prayer Chain Lois Gobrecht  
Greeters Nancy McNaughton  
Children's Message Carol Jean Keefer  
Communion Kristen Doria &  
Gordon Bonham  
Floral Arrangements Sandy Hughey  
Head Usher Tom Beatty

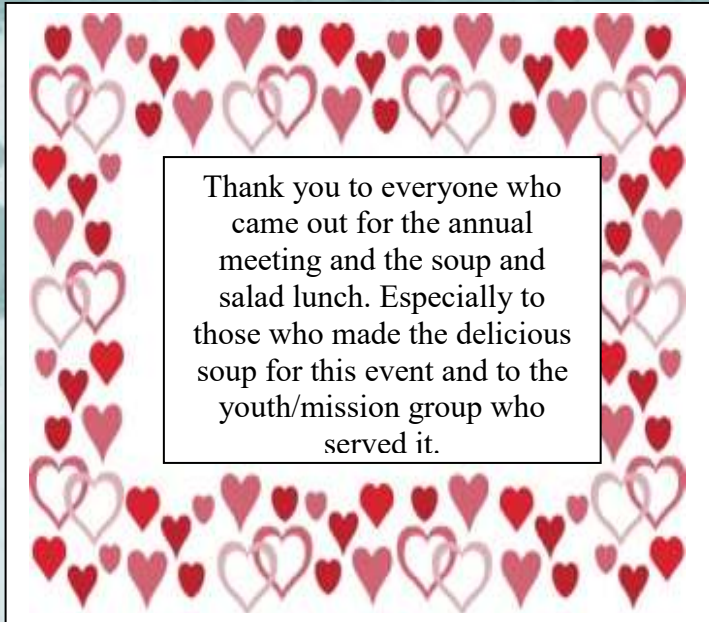
# Puzzle!

Search in all directions to find these words from the first seven chapters of Proverbs.

**WORD LIST:** covenant, delight, discipline, evil, father, fool, forsake, fountain, fruit, heart, honest, humble, insight, listen, Lord, love, neighbor, path, pleasant, poverty, protect, rebuke, sleep, son, teaching, tongue, walk, wisdom, youth

M I C W L O O F Y C C M N C T  
D S K A C X J X H M K I P P N  
E N I L P I C S I D A Y R E A  
E J H K T O T R N T W O Y K S  
D E L I G H T E N O T U R A A  
E U G N O T G U A E S T C S E  
H T A P N Y O N C C D H O R L  
A U J L X F Z T E C H Y V O P  
E Q N E I G H B O R T I E F W  
T H G I S N I F L R T L N J I  
H O N E S T A O E I B S A G S  
E V I L I T R V I M S R N T D  
V M X U H D O A U M I T T A O  
O E R E Y P Y H E K U B E R M  
L F R K S L E E P H C N P N R





**Desserts items for Meals on Wheels at Crossroads Church can be brought to the upstairs kitchen freezer anytime during the month. Disposable containers please ! Monetary donations are also acceptable and someone will purchase dessert items for the program. See Nancy Hurley if this is an option for you.**

**The participants really appreciate your donations !**

*America For Christ Offering – during the month of February we will be receiving this offering. Envelopes are in the pew racks and are also in your newsletter. Children will receive offering boxes that are to be returned the last Sunday of the month.*

*Our church benefits through your support of these ongoing projects –*

*Scrip gift cards ~ (ordered the first week of each month)*

*Aluminum can recycling ~ Mission / Youth Group*

*AmazonSmile.com ~*

*Sir Pizza Fund Raiser Day the second Wednesday of each month ~ mission trip expenses*

*Used Greeting cards ~ supports Abused children*