



# The Witness

## Circleville First Church

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February 2020

Issue 244

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### Who is your special valentine and what makes them so special?

**Keitha Wilbur** stated, "My oldest daughter, **Nevaeh**, is my special valentine because of her personality." **Joy Atwood** enjoys her special valentines, **Eric Atwood**, **Carly Atwood** and **Cathy Marck** stating, "We all have dinner at my house and have crab legs or steak." **Harry Brown** named his wife, **Clara Brown**, as his special valentine "because I love her and I love all my friends."



Nephews **Jason Johnson**, **Andy Johnson** and **Danny Johnson** are **Carolyn Steele's** special valentines because "we had fun when they were young; they are always popping in and helping me out and doing things for me and we go places together." **Tonya Neff** chose son, **Bradley Neff**, as her special valentine and shared, "He has always been my valentine." **Bradley Neff** said his special valentine is his mom, **Tonya Neff** "because she is always there for me and supports me in my choices...she understands me."

submitted by **Sue Stonerock**



### Leadership Summit

March 13 & 14

Speaker: Lonnie Potts

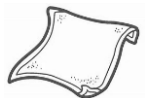
Bible Reading begins February 2

### Operation Christmas Child

#### Items of the month



Ivory soap and Washcloths



### Second Chance Ministry

February 7 & February 21

7 pm



### Thank you for serving:

**Sean Baldwin, James Benner, Brandon Burroughs, Bob Byerly, Travis Cotton, Elijah Garrison, Trent Holbrook, Brittany Mazingo, Marcus Paul, Andrew Williams and Tanner Wilson.** Please pray for these serving our country and their families.



**Congratulations!!! Jalyn Thomas**, daughter of **Lisa Thomas**, graduated from Wilmington College in December.

## CFC Kids

### *CFC Kids--children's ministry supply needs*

Items may be new or used

Large storage totes with lids  
Board games  
Children's Bibles

### How to Delight in God's Loving Laws ~ Excerpt from Parenting Christian Kids



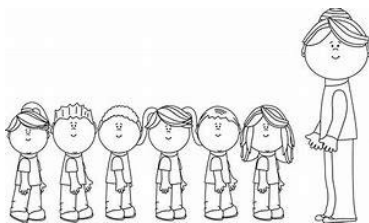
The words “love” and “law” are rarely used in the same sentence these days. Yet the Old Testament psalmists express great delight in God’s commands: “Oh, how I love your law! I meditate on it all day long” (Psalm 119:97) and “See how I love your commandments, Lord. Give back my life because of your unfailing love” (verse 159). In the New Testament, Jesus also connects the concepts of love and obedience to the law. In John 14:15, he tells his followers, “If you love me, obey my commands.” Love is at the “heart” of all God’s laws, from the Ten Commandments in Exodus 20 to the two great commandments Jesus gives: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind” and “Love your neighbor as yourself” (Luke 10:27). The golden rule—“Do to others as you would like them to do to you.” (Luke 6:31)—also is based on love. As with any rule or law, we humans repeatedly fall short when it comes to obedience. That’s why it’s important to emphasize the forgiveness that Jesus freely offers to us—and that we are to freely offer to other people. Throughout the Bible, it’s clear that disobedience is serious and has big consequences. Yet our loving God longs to forgive us, restore us, and reconcile us to himself.

#### ASK JESUS:

1. To give you hearts willing to obey God and his commands.
2. To show your family that obedience brings blessings, not burdens.
3. To help you lovingly obey other authority figures.

*Love means doing what God has commanded us, and he has commanded us to love one another, just as you heard from the beginning. 2 John 1:6*

submitted by **Kiera Yaniga**



## Comfy corner creations

*As with many recipes, there are so many varieties it is hard to select just one. But, hopefully, I've picked a recipe most people will like as we continue the soup category for these colder days and evenings. Enjoy!*

### Minestrone with Pasta and Beans

3 Tablespoons olive oil  
4 ounces cubed pancetta (or bacon)  
2 or 3 celery stalks, finely chopped  
3 medium carrots, finely chopped  
1 medium onion, finely chopped  
1 or 2 garlic cloves, crushed  
1 can (14 oz.) chopped tomatoes  
4 cups chicken stock  
1 can (14 oz.) cannellini beans, drained and rinsed  
½ cup short-cut macaroni  
2 to 4 tablespoons chopped fresh flat-leaf parsley  
Salt and ground pepper  
Shaved Parmesan cheese, to serve



Gently heat the oil on low in a large saucepan; add the pancetta and fry for a moment to release some of the fat, then add the celery, carrots and onions. Cook for about 5 minutes, stirring constantly with a wooden spoon. Stir until vegetables are tender but not too soft.

Add the garlic and tomatoes, breaking them up well with a wooden spoon. Pour in the stock. Add salt and pepper to taste and bring to a boil. Half cover the pan, reduce the heat and simmer gently for about 20 minutes, until all the vegetables are soft.

Add the drained beans to the pan with the macaroni. Bring to a boil again. Cover, lower the heat and continue to simmer for about 20 more minutes. Check the consistency and add more stock if necessary. Stir in the parsley and taste for seasoning.

Serve hot, sprinkled with plenty of shaved Parmesan cheese.

source: *Mediterranean Food of the Sun*  
submitted by **Vicki Beavers**

### Men's Prayer Breakfast

February 15  
8 am  
Ferguson/Clark Hall



## Baptism



**1 Corinthians 12:13** "For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body-whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free-and we were all made to drink of one Spirit."

**Madison Blackford, Tyler Leeth, Daniel Rice, Keitha Wilbur and William Williams** were baptized on January 19. Congratulations!!

submitted by **Sue Stonerock**

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## Jokes of the month

Sign in an office window:

**Help Wanted:** *Must type 70 wpm, be computer literate and bilingual.  
An equal opportunity employer*



A dog grabbed the sign and walked into the manager's office. Laughing, the man said, "I can't hire a dog."

The dog pointed to the line: an equal opportunity employer.

So the manager said, "Ok, type this letter."

The dog sat down at the computer and a minute later completed a perfectly formatted letter.

"Ok, now write a computer program for it and run it."

The dog completed the task in 15 minutes. The manager says, "That's great but you are not bilingual."

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### DOG FOR SALE:

A guy is driving around the back woods of Montana and he sees a sign in front of a broken-down shanty-style house: "Talking Dog For Sale". He rings the bell and the owner appears and tells him the dog is in the backyard.

The guy goes into the backyard and sees a nice-looking Labrador retriever sitting there.

"You talk?" he asks.

"Yep," the Lab replies.



After the guy recovers from the shock of hearing a dog talk, he says, "So what's your story."  
The Lab looks up and says, "Well, I discovered that I could talk when I was pretty young. I wanted to help the government, so I told the CIA. In no time at all they had me jetting from country to country, sitting in rooms with spies and world leaders, because no one figured a dog would be eavesdropping. I was one of their most valuable spies for eight years running. But the jetting around really tired me out and I knew I wasn't getting any younger so I decided to settle down. I signed up for a job at the airport to do some undercover security, wandering near suspicious characters and listening in. I uncovered some incredible dealings and was awarded a batch of medals. I got married, had a mess of puppies and now I'm just retired."  
The guy is amazed. He goes back in and asks the owner what he wants for the dog.

"Ten dollars," the guy says.

"Ten dollars? This dog is amazing! Why on earth are you selling him so cheap?"

"Because he's a liar. He's never been out of the yard."

submitted by **Bobby Dollison**

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## Prayer Meeting

Saturday mornings

8 am

Men's – Sanctuary

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## Ten ways to love

Listen without interrupting, (Proverbs 18)  
Speak without accusing, (James 1:19)  
Give without sparing, (Proverbs 21:26)  
Pray without ceasing, (Colossians 1:9)  
Answer without arguing (Proverbs 17:1)  
Share without pretending (Ephesians 4:15)  
Enjoy without complaint (Philippians 2:14)  
Trust without wavering (1 Corinthians 13:7)  
Forgive without punishing (Colossians 3:13)  
Promise without forgetting (Proverbs 13:12)

submitted by **Sue Stonerock**

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**2 – 2 Fundraiser Lunch** for Papua New Guinea Mission Trip  
following morning service FC Hall  
**Bible Reading** begins  
**Ground Hog Day**



**2 – 7 Second Chance** 7 pm

**2 – 14 Valentine's Day**



**2 – 15 Men's Prayer Breakfast** 8 am  
**JOY Valentine's Party** 5:30 pm

**2 – 17 Presidents' Day**

**2 – 21 Second Chance** 7 pm  
**JOY Trip to Princeton, WV**

**2 -26 Ash Wednesday**



## Swap shop



Place your ad in the Swap shop for items or services--to give away, for sale or wanted. Leave your name and phone number.

Place your ad in the box on the Welcome Center table or contact Kay Agin by calling or texting her at 740/500-9836 or email her at [aginkay@yahoo.com](mailto:aginkay@yahoo.com)

## JOY (just older youth)

Recently, the JOY committee met and planned the calendar for this year. The events are subject to change. Please watch the church bulletin and newsletter for details.

**February 15-Valentine's Carry-in Dinner** at 5:30 pm in the Ferguson/Clark Hall. Set up will be same day at 10 am. Fried chicken, drinks and table service will be provided. Singles bring one covered dish; couples bring two dishes. Sign up by February 5 at the Welcome Center table if you will be attending. King & Queen ballots are to be returned to the big box on the Welcome Center table by February 12 (one vote per person).



**February 21 & 22-Trip to Princeton, WV** for the **Kingdom Heirs Concert**. Leave the church at 7:30 am. Concert is at 7 pm; tickets cost \$13; motel cost \$85. Everyone will be

taking own vehicles. See Venita for details.

**March 21- Ham & Bean Dinner** at 5:30 pm in the Ferguson/Clark Hall. Set up--same day at 10 am.



**April 18-Old Dutch** in Logan, Ohio

**May 15 & 16-Amish Trip**

**June & July**-No events scheduled

**August 8-Bible Walk** in Mansfield, Ohio

**September 19-Dayton Air Force Museum & Young's** in Yellow Springs

**October-Enjoy the Circleville Pumpkin Show**

**November 7-Thanksgiving/Christmas Carry-in Dinner** at 5:30 pm. Set up same day at 10 am.

**December**-No events scheduled



submitted by **Venita Daft**

## Verse of the month

It's a new year. Are you ready to share the hope that lies within you?

1 Peter 3:15: But sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always *being* ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence

submitted by **Mike Paul**



## Recipe for life

1 cup good thoughts	3 cups forgiveness
1 ½ cups kind deeds	2 cups understanding
2 cups consideration for others	4 cups prayer & faith

Mix thoroughly; add tears of joy, sorrow and sympathy for others. Fold in 4 cups of prayer and faith to lighten other ingredients and let rise to great heights of Christian living. After pouring all this into your family life, bake well with the warmth of human kindness. Serve with a smile!

submitted by **Diana Moore**



## Sunday school section

**February**-Teachers will hold **Valentine's parties**

**March 13 & 14**-**Leadership Summit** in Ferguson/Clark Hall with speaker: Lonnie Potts



**April 11**-**Easter Egg Hunt**

**April 12**-**Easter**

**April 26**-**Teachers' Appreciation Lunch** following the morning service in the Ferguson/Clark Hall

**May 10**-**Mother's Day**-Teacher will plan a special activity

**June 21**-**Father's Day**-Teacher will plan a special activity

**July**-**"Christmas in July"**-more details at a later date

**August 16**-**Promotion Sunday**

**September 13**-**Grandparent's Day**-will make plans & let teachers know

**September 23**-**Meeting** with Pastor Jay Neff for all teachers and substitutes

**October 21-24**-**Pumpkin Show**



**November 8**-**Shoeboxes** for Operation Christmas Child

**November**- **Christmas trees** or wreaths for Silent Auction and small trees for shut-ins



**November 29**-**All Christmas trees** to be finished

**December 6 to 13**-**Christmas trees** for Silent Auction displayed

**December 6**-**Deliver trees** to shut-ins

submitted by **Venita Daft**



**14<sup>th</sup> Annual Auto Show**  
**Sunday, May 3**

Stop by the missionary table and sign the cards for our missionaries. Even if you don't know them, sign them to uplift and encourage them.

## Movie night features "The Witness"

**"The Witness"** will be showing at **Movie Night** on **March 29** at 6 pm in the Ferguson/Clark Hall.



"The Witness"? No, not the church newsletter. This is a drama performed by the Circleville First Church choir several years ago. The drama was performed at our church for over 13 years span. The performance showing on March 29 will be from 1995. Come on out and enjoy this performance!

submitted by **Don Brown**

## Chili cook-off updated...



The annual **Chili Cook-Off/Cake Auction** was held on **Saturday, January 25** at 6 pm in the Ferguson/Clark Hall. There were approximately 140 in attendance.

The chili competition winners were **Rick Withers** for his mild chili; **Jim Senig** took first for his spicy chili and for her Buffalo Chili in the specialty category was **Tonya Neff**.

**Terryl A. Queen** served as auctioneer for the cake auction which brought in \$1,800. A total of \$2,770 was raised for the 2020 Papua, New Guinea Mission.



## Prayer changes things

A new year is a perfect opportunity for a renewed devotion to study and prayer! Les answered how to study in the "What in the World" segment. How are we to pray according to scripture?

Always/without ceasing—1 Thessalonians 5:17, Philemon 1:4

With thankfulness—Philippians 4:6, 1 Thessalonians 5:18

To God through the Lord Jesus—Romans 1:8, Ephesians 1:1, Philippians 2:9

For brothers and sisters in Christ—Ephesians 1:15-17

Asking for prayers on our behalf—Romans 15:30, 2 Corinthians 1:11, Ephesians 3:14-17

For leaders—1 Timothy 2:2

For spiritual strength—Ephesian 1:3 & 3:16

submitted by **Diana Moore**

## 40th wedding anniversary

A married couple, in their early 60s, was celebrating their 40th wedding anniversary at a quiet, romantic little restaurant.



Suddenly, a tiny beautiful fairy appeared on their table. She said, "For being such an exemplary married couple and especially for being so thoughtful and loving to each other for all this time, I will grant you each a wish."

"Oh," said the wife, "I want to travel around the world with my darling husband."

The fairy waved her magic wand and -- poof! -- two tickets for the Queen Mary II luxury liner and ten thousand dollars appeared in her hands. Then it was the husband's turn.

He thought for a minute and said, "Well, this is all very romantic, but an opportunity like this will never come again. So, I'm going with my mind and not my heart."

"I'm sorry my love, but my wish is to have a wife 30 years younger than me." The wife and the fairy were shocked and disappointed. But a wish is a wish.

So, the fairy waved her magic wand and - Poof! -- the husband became 92 years old.

The moral of the story:

Men who are ungrateful husbands should remember: fairies are female.



## Huge sofa



Someone in our neighborhood put a huge sofa out by the curb for trash collection. Since it was in good shape, many motorists slowed down for a look. But when they saw how enormous it was, they'd leave.

Eventually a compact car pulled up and two men got out. "This I've got to see," I thought. They removed the cushions, turned the sofa upside down and shook it hard. Then they picked up all the coins that tumbled out and drove off.

## Southern Cops-----need a smile?

These are actual comments made by South Carolina Troopers that were taken off their car videos:

1. "You know, stop lights don't come any redder than the one you just went through."
2. "Relax, the handcuffs are tight because they're new. They'll stretch after you wear them a while."
3. "If you take your hands off the car, I'll make your birth certificate a worthless document."
4. "If you run, you'll only go to jail tired."
5. "Can you run faster than 1,200 feet per second? Because that's the speed of the bullet that will be chasing you."
6. "You don't know how fast you were going? I guess that means I can write anything I want to on the ticket, huh?"
7. "Yes, sir, you can talk to the shift supervisor, but I don't think it will help. Oh, did I mention that I'm the shift supervisor?"
8. "Warning! You want a warning? OK, I'm warning you not to do that again or I'll give you another ticket."
9. "Fair? You want me to be fair? Listen, fair is a place where you go to ride on rides, eat cotton candy and corn dogs."
10. "Yeah, we have a quota. Two more tickets and my wife gets a toaster oven."
11. "In God we trust; all others we run through NCIC." (National Crime Information Center).
12. "No sir, we don't have quotas anymore. We used to, but now we're allowed to write as many tickets as we can."
13. "I'm glad to hear that the Chief (of Police) is a personal friend of yours. So you know someone who can post your bail."



AND THE WINNER IS....

14. "You didn't think we give pretty women tickets? You're right, we don't. Sign here."

submitted by **Jerry Parish**



The bulletin board has been decorated by **Angie Holbrook's kindergarten class. Take a peek!!**

## CFC...Our brief history

The denomination of the Churches of Christ in Christian Union continued to grow. By 1915 we had forty churches; the establishment of the Mount of Praise Holiness Camp in 1917 and by 1925, 60 churches were part of our denomination.

With the start of Mount of Praise Camp, people came from all over...West Virginia, Tennessee, Kentucky, Indiana and Michigan. One camp meeting the evangelists were Dr. John L. Brasher and Dr. John Church.

Dr. John Church wrote, "For the past 35 years I have travelled up and down and back and forth across the nation and preached in many camps, but I have never seen any greater manifestation of praise and joy that I have found at this camp.

On one occasion the Spirit of God came upon the people and they shouted the praise of God for more than an hour. I would make an altar call and the altar would fill up with people. Then they would pray with these seekers through and another wave would sweep the crowd...then another break would come and the altar would fill up with seekers again. Dr. Brasher, one of my co-workers at this camp, turned to me and commented as we watched the people shout and rejoice, 'Church, I imagine that this is something like it was on the day of Pentecost, when the fire fell.'"

That is the Mount of Praise, the general camp meeting of the Churches of Christ in Christian Union. Glorious in its legacy, wonderful in its power, bright in its future. It has made a major contribution to the history of the church and our denomination.

In 1928, the denomination built a new and bigger tabernacle just down the hill from the old tabernacle. (This is now the front parking lot of PICCA). The old tabernacle was transformed into the kitchen and dining room for the campers. The first wood dorm was built and Rev. O.L. Ferguson and work crew was contacted to build three cottages. The dorm and cottages were built in back of the new tabernacle.

With the growth of the camp, our church continued to host the general council meetings and was able to host several revivals with key note speakers such as Dr. John L. Brasher, Dr. John Church, the Fleming Brothers (John and Bona) and Percy Trueblood. Also, the denomination gained several evangelists for the Churches of Christ in Christian, Rev. Donovan Humble, Rev. Charles Williams, Rev. Grayson Ferguson, Rev. G.C. Johnson, Rev. Melvin Truex Sr, just to name a few.

Also, through the years they began to make plans to bring the publishing and print shop to Circleville and to start a school for the training of young ministers.

submitted by **Carolyn Steele**

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