

# PERRY PRES

A Publication of Perry Hall Presbyterian Church  
January/February 2015

February 2015 Pastor message

Dear Friends:

As always, greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. I begin this greeting by first thanking every member and friend of Perry Hall Presbyterian for their very, very generous gift to me and my family. It means a great deal to us in having your friendship and support as together we minister in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is not just your generosity of finances which you displayed through this Christmas gift but the generosity of so many in the sharing of your time and talent as we work through this time of transition and change. So many people are so generous in taking time away from family and friends so that plans can be made, programs continued, and events take place. I know of your sacrifice but I also know of your commitment and your passion and love for this congregation. It is indeed wonderful to observe and be a part of. So I and my family see this gift as part of your rich generosity and for that, we are most thankful and grateful.

I also cannot believe I am talking now about Lent and Easter but I am. The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 18 with a simple supper at 6 P.M. in the gathering area near the sanctuary followed by worship at 7 P.M. in the sanctuary. Worship will include the imposition of ashes. Then each and every Wednesday through the month of March, we will gather at 6 P.M. for a meal followed by a brief worship and study time in the sanctuary beginning at 6:45 P.M. Scripture and liturgy will be directed each Wednesday at a specific part of our church community, like worship or stewardship or outreach, to be followed by discussion and commitment. It will be an opportunity to reflect and re-commit. Each evening should conclude at 7:30 P.M. I do hope you can come and be a part of this time of fellowship, meditation, and commitment.

Also to remind folks that Sunday, February 22 is BRING A FRIEND TO CHURCH SUNDAY. So I hope we will take this seriously to help our church grow. We are a friendly church and a very welcoming church but we also need to be an inviting

church as we invite folks we know and do not know well to come to worship. It can be somewhat anxiety producing but we know that called as disciples of Jesus Christ, we are challenged to share our faith.

I also encourage folks to think about the Dakota Mission trip this year. The dates are July 18-25 and involve the teaching of elementary school aged Native American children. This year's trip is being organized by The Rev. Jack Carlson of the Highland Presbyterian Church. The cost is about \$775.00 but scholarships are available and church can have fundraisers and individual donations. Perry Hall Presbyterian is the flagship of this ministry in the Presbytery of Baltimore so it is only fitting that this team is composed of our church's members. Let me know of your interest.

So as we move into the season of Lent on Ash Wednesday may we continue our journey together as faithful and committed and joyful disciples of Jesus Christ.

Peace,

Pastor Joe

**Simple Suppers – Wednesdays during Lent  
6:00 p.m. followed by a short service. Cost is  
\$5.00 for adults; \$3.00 for children; no family  
pays more than \$20.00. Please email, fill out form  
in the bulletin or call Kim to R.S.V.P.**

**Interim Pastor – Rev. Joseph Condro  
Music Director – Nancy Barnes**

**Secretary – Kim Kalinowski  
Church Office – 410-256-5780**

## PRAYER CONCERNS

John Ahlfeldt  
Martha Ahlfeldt  
Kenny Avaritt  
Roland Avaritt  
Cathy Barnes  
Sandy Coradi  
Dawn Crist  
William Crosby  
Lillian Elligson  
Dewey Gardner  
Lee Hickey  
Marje Lentz  
Freeda Lester  
Zachary McNeil  
Gail Smith  
Skip Snyder  
Karen Waldon



## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Lee Hickey  
Todd Milliron  
Marje Lentz  
John Havran  
Julie Mitchell  
Charlotte Parker  
Charles Markowski  
Gail Smith  
Colton Smith  
Mark Tagliaferro  
Paul Szilvassy  
Elisabeth Weiman  
Aimee Dunphy  
Beth Olson  
Christopher Olson

## JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Jane & Larry Olson  
Ronnie Miller

## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Christine Ward  
Kyla Michele Dunphy  
Caroline Dushel  
Gloria Garst  
Lauren Moore  
Christine Lutz  
Eleanor Fenwick  
Nancy Lee Ellis  
Michael Keppeler  
Ronnie Miller  
Connor Gwin  
Tina Dushel  
Larry DeBaugh

## FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Evelyn & Whitey Shimko

## Hymn Tunes: The Stories Behind the Melodies - January

By Bob Barnes

### “Lord of the Dance”

I Danced in the Morning is in both the old Presbyterian Hymnal and the new Praise the Lord hymnal. The tune is called 'Lord of the Dance.'

"**Lord of the Dance**" is a hymn with words written by and English songwriter named Sydney Carter, in 1963. He borrowed the tune from the American Shaker son 'Simple Gifts.' The hymn is widely performed in English-speaking congregations and assemblies.

It follows the idea of a traditional English [carol](#), "[Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day](#)" which tells the [gospel](#) story in the [first person](#) voice of Jesus of Nazareth with the device of portraying Jesus' life and mission as a dance.

In writing the lyrics to "Lord Of The Dance" in 1963, [Sydney Carter](#) was inspired partly by [Jesus](#), but also partly by a statue of the [Hindu God Shiva](#) as [Nataraja](#) (Shiva's dancing pose) which sat on his desk, and was partly intending simply to give tribute to [Shaker music](#). He later stated, "I did not think the churches would like it at all. I thought many people would find it pretty far flown, probably heretical and anyway dubiously Christian. But in fact people did sing it and, unknown to me, it touched a chord ... Anyway, it's the sort of [Christianity](#) I believe in."

(from Wikipedia).

## Hymn Tunes: The Stories Behind the Melodies

By Bob Barnes

*What Wondrous Love is This*: # 85 in the Presbyterian Hymnal, is an American folk hymn whose first words were first published in a camp meeting song book in 1811, it also appeared in a Baptist hymnal published in Frankfort, Kentucky.

The tune *Wondrous Love* first appeared in William Walker's *Southern Harmony*, in 1843. In 1873 Walker published the tune again, giving James Christopher credit for the arrangement.

The harmony is from *Cantante Domino* (1980), the hymnal of the World Council of Churches, The first edition of *Cantate Domino* was published by the World Student Christian Foundation in 1924

(Source: Lindajo H. McKim. *The Presbyterian Hymnal Companion*. © 1993 by LindaJo H. McKim.

*Hymnal Companion*.

## Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC),

The PNC has been busy studying all of the applications that have been received. To date we have received approximately 52 applications. It is a slow steady process as we strive to select the right candidate for PHPC. Please continue to keep this committee in your daily prayers.

If you do have any questions or concerns, please contact Nancy Ellis. If it is a question that can be answered, she will answer your question. If you do have any concerns, she will take them to the PNC.

## Valentine's Day History

*Pagan festivals, Christian saints, Chaucer's love birds, and the Greeting Card Association of America*

by Borgna Brunner

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### Roman Roots

The history of Valentine's Day is obscure, and further clouded by various fanciful legends. The holiday's roots are in the ancient Roman festival of [Lupercalia](#), a fertility celebration commemorated annually on February 15. [Pope Gelasius I](#) recast this pagan festival as a Christian feast day circa 496, declaring February 14 to be St. Valentine's Day.

### Valentines Galore

Which St. Valentine this early pope intended to honor remains a mystery: according to the *Catholic Encyclopedia*, there were at least three early Christian saints by that name. One was a priest in Rome, another a bishop in Terni, and of a third St. Valentine almost nothing is known except that he met his end in Africa. Rather astonishingly, all three Valentines were said to have been martyred on Feb. 14.

Most scholars believe that the St. Valentine of the holiday was a priest who attracted the disfavor of Roman emperor [Claudius II](#) around 270. At this stage, the factual ends and the mythic begins. According to one legend, Claudius II had prohibited marriage for young men, claiming that bachelors made better soldiers. Valentine continued to secretly perform marriage ceremonies but was eventually apprehended by the Romans and put to death. Another legend has it that Valentine, imprisoned by Claudius, fell in love with the daughter of his jailer. Before he was executed, he allegedly sent her a letter signed "from your Valentine." Probably the most plausible story surrounding St. Valentine is one not focused on [Eros](#) (passionate love) but on [agape](#) (Christian love): he was martyred for refusing to renounce his religion.

In 1969, the Catholic Church revised its liturgical calendar, removing the feast days of saints whose historical origins were questionable. St. Valentine was one of the casualties.



Ash Wednesday, originally called *dies cinerum* (day of ashes) is mentioned in the earliest copies of the Gregorian Sacramentary, and probably dates from at least the 8th Century. One of the earliest descriptions of Ash Wednesday is found in the writings of the Anglo-Saxon abbot Aelfric (955-1020). In his *Lives of the Saints*, he writes, "We read in the books both in the Old Law and in the New that the men who repented of their sins bestrewed themselves with ashes and clothed their bodies with sackcloth. Now let us do this little at the beginning of our Lent that we strew ashes upon our heads to signify that we ought to repent of our sins during the Lenten fast."

In the typical Ash Wednesday observance, Christians are invited to the altar to receive the imposition of ashes. The Pastor applies ashes in the shape of the cross on the forehead of each, while speaking the words, "For dust you are and to dust you shall return" (Genesis 3:19). This is of course what God spoke to Adam and Eve after they eaten of the forbidden fruit and fallen into sin. These words indicated to our first parents the bitterest fruit of their sin, namely death. In the context of the Ash Wednesday imposition of ashes, they remind each penitent of their sinfulness and mortality, and, thus, their need to repent and get right with God before it is too late. The cross reminds each penitent of the good news that through Jesus Christ crucified there is forgiveness for all sins, all guilt, and all punishment.



Lent has traditionally been marked by penitential prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Some churches today still observe a rigid schedule of fasting on certain days during Lent, especially the giving up of meat, alcohol, sweets, and other types of food. Most Christian churches that observe Lent at all focus on it as a time of prayer, especially penance, repenting for failures and sin as a way to focus on the need for God's grace. It is really a preparation to celebrate God's marvelous redemption at Easter, and the resurrected life that we live, and hope for, as Christians.

## Let It Snowflake!

God is in the details—consider the 1 septillion snowflakes that will fall from the sky this winter

By [Diana Aydin](#), January 16, 2015

Have you ever taken the time to examine a snowflake? I mean really, really study it?

I haven't, at least not since I was a kid. When it snows in New York City, I'm more focused on getting to work without falling face first into a mound of slightly off-color sidewalk snow!

But, the next time it snows, I think I'll take a closer look. According to [Smithsonian.com](#), there are 39 categories of solid precipitation that can be broken down further into 121 subcategories. Isn't that kind of amazing?

Caltech Physics professor [Kenneth G. Libbrecht](#) [explains](#) on his [snow crystals website](#), "Since snow crystals all follow slightly different paths through the clouds, individual crystals all tend to look different." So, as the saying goes, [no two snowflakes are alike](#).

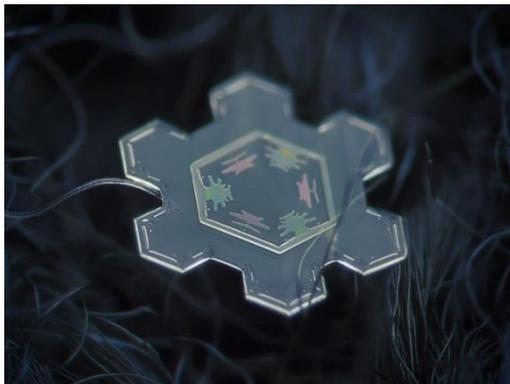
That's even more astounding when you consider that, [according to the Library of Congress](#), "Each winter there are about 1 septillion (1, 000, 000, 000, 000, 000, 000, 000, 000 or a trillion trillion) snow crystals that drop from the sky!" Man alive!

All of this got me wondering. If God put that much care into crafting snowflakes—each with a unique path—can you just imagine how much thought he put into us and our own individual paths? His designs are complex and [inexplicable](#) and completely marvelous when you think about it.

I'm almost looking forward to the next snowfall. Until then, take a look at [these photos of snowflakes up close](#)—prepare to be dazzled!



Permalink: /blogs/lunch-break-miracles/let-it-snowflake Look Under “Lunch Break Miracles”



## THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

**February 1, 2003** - Sixteen minutes before it was scheduled to land, the Space Shuttle Columbia broke apart in flight over west Texas, killing all seven crew members. In January 1986, Challenger exploded during liftoff.

**Birthday** - Hattie Caraway (1878-1950) the first woman elected to the U.S. Senate, was born in Bakersville, Tennessee.

**February 2, 1848** - The war between the U.S. and Mexico ended with the signing of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo.

**Birthday** - Irish novelist and poet James Joyce (1882-1941) was born in Dublin, Ireland.

**February 3, 1870** - The 15th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified, guaranteeing the right of citizens to vote, regardless of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.

**February 3, 1913** - The 16th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified, granting Congress the authority to collect income taxes.

**February 3, 1943** - An extraordinary act of heroism occurred in the icy waters off Greenland after the U.S. Army transport ship Dorchester was hit by a German torpedo and began to sink rapidly. When it became apparent there were not enough life jackets, four U.S. Army chaplains on board removed theirs, handed them to frightened

young soldiers, and chose to go down with the ship while praying.

**Birthday** - American artist and illustrator Norman Rockwell (1894-1978) was born in New York City.

**February 4, 1985** - Twenty countries in the United Nations signed a document entitled "Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment."

**Birthday** - Aviation pioneer Charles Lindbergh (1902-1974) was born in Detroit, Michigan.

**February 6, 1933** - The 20th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was adopted. It set the date for the Presidential Inauguration as January 20th.

**Birthdays** - Legendary baseball player George Herman "Babe" Ruth (1895-1948) was born in Baltimore, Maryland.

Ronald Reagan, (1911-2004) the 40th U.S. President, was born in Tampico, Illinois and became the most popular president since Franklin Roosevelt.

**February 7, 1795** - The 11th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified, limiting the powers of the Federal Judiciary over the states by prohibiting Federal lawsuits against individual states.

**Birthdays** - Thomas More (1478-1535) was born in London, England.

British novelist Charles Dickens (1812-1870) was born in Portsmouth, England.

American social critic and novelist Sinclair Lewis (1885-1951) was born in Sauk Center, Minnesota.

**February 8, 1910** - The Boy Scouts of America was founded by William Boyce in Washington, D.C., modeled after the British Boy Scouts.

**Birthday** - Union Civil War General William Tecumseh Sherman (1820-1891) was born in Lancaster, Ohio.

**February 9, 1943** - During World War II in the Pacific, U.S. troops captured Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands after six months of battle.

**Birthday** - William Henry Harrison (1773-1841) the 9th U.S. President was born in Berkeley, Virginia.

**February 10, 1967** - The 25th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified, clarifying the procedures for presidential succession in the event of the disability of a sitting president.

February 11th - Celebrated in Japan as the founding date of the Japanese nation.

**February 11, 1990** - In South Africa, Nelson Mandela, at age 71, was released from prison after serving 27 years of a life sentence.

**Birthday** - American inventor Thomas Edison (1847-1931) was born in Milan, Ohio.

**February 12, 1999** - The impeachment trial of President Bill Clinton in the U.S. Senate ended. With the necessary two-thirds majority not having been achieved, President Clinton was thus acquitted on both charges and served out the remainder of his term of office lasting through January 20, 2001.

**Birthday** - Author and naturalist Charles Darwin (1809-1882) was born in Shrewsbury, England.

**February 13, 1635** - Boston Latin School, the first tax-payer supported (public) school in America was established in Boston, Massachusetts.

**Birthday** - American artist Grant Wood (1892-1942) was born near Anamosa, Iowa. Best known for his painting American Gothic featuring a farm couple.

**February 14, 1849** - Photographer Mathew Brady took the first photograph of a U.S. President in office, James Polk.

**February 14, 1929** - The St. Valentine's Day massacre occurred in Chicago as seven members of the Bugs Moran gang were gunned down by five of Al Capone's mobsters posing as police.

**February 15, 1933** - An assassination attempt on newly elected U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt occurred in Miami, Florida.

**Birthdays** - Astronomer and physicist Galileo Galilei (1564-1642) was born in Pisa, Italy.

Inventor Cyrus McCormick (1809-1884) was born in Rockbridge County, Virginia.

Susan B. Anthony (1820-1906) was born in Adams, Massachusetts.

**February 17, 1909** - Apache Chief Geronimo (1829-1909) died while in captivity at Fort Sill, Oklahoma.

**February 19, 1473** –

**Birthdays** - Astronomer Nicolaus Copernicus (1473-1543) was born in Torun, Poland.

**February 20, 1962** - Astronaut John Glenn became the first American launched into orbit.

**February 21, 1965** - Former Black Muslim leader Malcolm X (1925-1965) was shot and killed while delivering a speech in a ballroom in New York City.

**February 22, 1956** - In Montgomery, Alabama, 80 participants in the three-month-old bus boycott voluntarily gave themselves up for arrest after an ultimatum from white city leaders. Martin Luther King and Rosa Parks were among those arrested. Later in 1956, the U.S. Supreme Court mandated desegregation of the buses.

**February 23, 1942** - During World War II, the first attack on the U.S. mainland occurred as a Japanese submarine shelled an oil refinery near Santa Barbara, California, causing minor damage.

**February 23, 1991** - In Desert Storm, the Allied ground offensive began after a devastating month-long air campaign targeting Iraqi troops in both Iraq and Kuwait.

**Birthdays** - African American educator and leader W.E.B. Du Bois (1868-1963) was born in Great Barrington, Massachusetts.

Historian William L. Shirer (1904-1993) was born in Chicago, Illinois.

**February 24, 1582** - Pope Gregory XIII corrected mistakes on the Julian calendar by dropping 10 days and directing that the day after October 4, 1582 would be October 15th. The Gregorian, or New Style calendar, was then adopted by Catholic countries, followed gradually by Protestant and other nations.

**Birthdays** - Admiral Chester Nimitz (1885-1966) was born in Fredericksburg, Texas.

**February 25, 1910**

**Birthdays** - Millicent Fenwick (1910-1992) was born in New York City. She championed liberal causes, serving as a member of the U.N. General Assembly and as a U.S. Congresswoman.

**February 26, 1848** - The Communist Manifesto pamphlet was published by two young socialists, Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels.

**February 26, 1994** - Political foes of Russian President Boris Yeltsin were freed by a general amnesty granted by the new Russian Parliament.

**Birthdays** - American frontiersman "Buffalo Bill" Cody (1846-1917) was born in Scott County, Indiana.

**February 27, 1950** - The 22nd Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified, limiting the president to two terms or a maximum of ten years in office.

**Birthdays** - American poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (1807-1882) was born in Portland, Maine.

**February 28, 1994** - NATO conducted its first combat action in its 45 year history as four Bosnian Serb jets were shot down by American fighters in a no-fly zone.

**March articles for the Pres are due by March 10<sup>th</sup>**

