



# PERRY PRES

A Publication of Perry Hall Presbyterian Church

## Friends:

I have to say that this year I prayed we would have more snow than last. Well; that prayer has been answered and then some. And we still have about five more weeks when it can snow a great deal. Right now I am about ready to give up and welcome some warmer weather so I can do yard work and get out for an occasional game of golf. Yet, as I came out of the church office this week, I noticed for the first time that daffodils were beginning to come up so no matter how long and cold and snowy this winter has been, it will end. Daylight will lengthen and temperatures will rise and the snow and ice will melt and spring will arrive.

I myself do feel that "spring" is here at Perry Hall Presbyterian because of what I am experiencing here at the church. I am loving the blended worship service at 10:30 A.M. with the use of visual aids. I enjoy listening to the church choir and children's choir practice. I am overjoyed that the hand bell choir is back. I am appreciative of the women's Bible study each month and the joy of being with Presbyterian Men on Monday nights. I have been greatly impressed with how the church and the community have responded to the vandalism in the fellowship hall. I look forward to the beginning of the renovations.

And I feel wonderful about the pictorial directory committee as it begins this new work. The directory committee members are: Kathy Mitchell, Tricia Condro, Mona-Lee Bretall and Alvina Hickey. Feel free to ask them questions.

And now, having learned just the other day, that the current renter in the 8846 Belair Road property next to the manse will be buying the house from the church which should enable the church to move forward with a preschool program with the YMCA, I know this will be an exciting year. We will know soon from the Y as to how their part of this school project is progressing. I am also getting excited about a new year at the golf course. Thus you see, I feel excited and full of enthusiasm about "springtime" here at PHPC.

The Lord is good and the Lord does provide. I feel his presence as I begin working with five young people in this year's communicant's class. They are Jack Krug, Alexis Ross, Aubrey Gerhardt, Peter Condro and Evan Michel. Please keep them in prayer.

I know the Lord is present as Vicar David Petr begins his Sunday school class study of Job. So let us rejoice and give thanks for what the Lord is doing and trying to do here at PHPC.

But again, one final thought. If you have not signed up to have your picture taken on March 25

and 26 from 2-9 P.M., please call the church office today and get signed up. I hope every person and family will make this a priority. Remember there is no fee for this unless you want additional pictures beyond the free 8x10 you receive. Also remember, if you bring a canned food item for the local food bank on the day of your appointment, you will receive 5% off the purchase of additional pictures. I would remind you that you will receive two reminder calls from me in the course of the next month or so.

Rejoice, give thanks and sing for the Lord is good.

Peace,  
Rev. Joe Condro



## IRISH TRIVIA

**Interim Pastor – Rev. Joseph Condro**  
**Church Office – 410-256-5780**  
**Music Director - Tyler**

**Vicar – David Petr – 443-643-8240**  
**Secretary – Kim Kalinowski**

## **Wrong-Turning Windmills**

Ireland is the only country in the world where windmills turn clockwise; in every other country, they turn counter-clockwise.

## **St. Patrick Isn't Irish**

Known near and far as the patron saint of Ireland, St. Patrick isn't Irish. His real name is Maewyn Succat and he was born in Roman Britain.

## **Something to Harp On**

The harp is Ireland's official emblem. Ireland is the only country in the world to have a musical instrument as its national emblem.

## **Pigs as Renters**

In the olden days of Ireland's agricultural past, it was not unusual to find pigs living in family farmhouses; often they were referred to as "the gentleman that pays the rent."

## **Sweaters as I.D.**

Aran sweaters, known for their beauty and sturdy construction, are distinguished by "family weaves." Each distinctive weave helps families identify the bodies of drowned fisherman who are found on the shore.

## **Powered By Peat**

Coal and iron are virtually nonexistent in Ireland. Much of the country's power comes from abundant supplies of peat or turf, which is harvested by a state power company.

## **Famous Things in Ireland**

By Sara Harvey,

### **Blarney Stone**

The Blarney Stone is a small slab of granite, attached to Blarney Castle, and rumored to grant eloquence to whoever kisses it. Visitors, 400,000 of them annually, lean backwards over a battlement, upside down, to kiss the stone. Some believe it was Jacob's pillow, brought to Ireland by Jeremiah. It's also believed to be St. Columba's deathbed pillow from the isle of Iona. It was used as a throne for Irish kings, and was believed to be an oracle. It traveled to Scotland, where it was believed to be a prophesier of Scottish kings. It made a trip back to Ireland, in gratitude for Irish troops that fought in support of Robert the Bruce against England, in 1314. Pilgrims have visited the stone, for 200 years.

Visitors can also roam through the grounds and admire the castle, lake, and several other mystical rock formations in Rock Close. Blarney Castle is located northwest of Cork City in the South of Ireland, and is three hours south of Dublin.

### **Guinness**

Guinness is Ireland's famous black stout beer, enjoyed around the world. On St. Patrick's Day, it's the more authentic pub alternative to pilsners dyed green.

Arthur Guinness began his brewing operation in 1759 in a ramshackle, four-acre brewery. Business boomed, and was passed down through six generations of Guinnesses, until the end of the 19th century, when Guinness Stout was sold worldwide. Today, 10 million glasses of Guinness are enjoyed every day, around the world. Tours of the company's "Guinness Storehouse," near the Dublin City Centre, is Dublin's most popular tourist attraction.

The Storehouse building was built in 1904 to store the beer during the fermentation process. It became a museum in 2000.

### **The Cliffs of Moher**

The Cliffs of Moher are dramatic cliffs that rise 64 stories from the Atlantic, in County Clare, Ireland. The cliffs are famous postcard images of Ireland, with the sun on the stone, and the heaving waves, below. The height and the sheer drop are stunning.

The cliffs are south of the Village of Doolin, and rise 700 feet before dropping sharply into the Atlantic at Hags Head. The cliffs are a haven for nesting sea birds such as, the Atlantic puffin, common gull, and chough. The view from the top encompasses the Aran Islands, Galway Bay, the

Twelve Pins, the Maum Turk Mountains to the north, and Loop Head to the south

## Fairy Encounters

According to Irish tradition, fairies inhabit a mystical realm known as Faerie that exists parallel to the world of man. Faerie is a magical world that is both wonderful and dangerous. Humans who stumble into Faerie must be wary of fairy tricks. Fairies have been said to lure human visitors with enchanted food or drink. Time in Faerie is different from time in the world of man. Though it may have appeared to be only a short while, those who return home from Faerie often discover that they have been gone for a very long time.

## Solitary Fairies

Solitary fairies live by themselves. One such fairy is the Pooka, a mischievous fairy that will often play deceptive and sometimes dangerous tricks on humans that it encounters. The Pooka can also turn itself into different forms in order to carry out a trick. Another solitary fairy is the banshee, which is among the more menacing and feared fairies to visit the human world. The banshee is said to emit a chilling moan that announces an individual's impending death.

## Trooping Fairies

Fairies that dwell together in large societies are known as trooping fairies. The Tuatha de Danann is an ancient race of fairies descended from the

Celtic goddess Danu. They are said to be a very wise and learned race. Legend says a battle ensued between humans and the Tuatha de Danann for dominion of Ireland. Humans ultimately won the battle, and the Tuatha de Danann retreated into a hidden location known as the Otherworld.

## Elves

Elves also dwell in the land of Faerie. Like trooping fairies, elves live together in groups. Although elves have magical powers like the fairies, they are much more similar to humans in manner and physical appearance. Leprechauns are the most well-known elves in the Irish tradition. They resemble small, hairy men dressed in green and wearing narrow-brimmed hats. Leprechauns are famous for guarding their pot of gold. Many tales tell of humans who encounter a leprechaun and try to acquire its treasure. Somehow, the leprechaun always manages to outsmart the human.

Fenodyree are more benevolent elves. Known for their strength and large stature, these elves will offer their assistance to Irish farmers or maidens in return for a reward.

## Modern Day

Through the centuries, the fairies and elves of Irish lore have maintained their universal appeal. Authors in Ireland and around the globe continue to reiterate these stories. Some of the most



well-known literary works to feature Irish fairies or elves include William Butler Yates' "The Celtic Twilight" and "Fairy and Folk Tales of the Irish Peasantry," and William Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream." Fairies and elves also have appeared in modern films such as Disney's "Darby O'Gill and the Little People" and "Peter Pan."

## St. Patrick's Day Facts and Trivia

Test your knowledge of St. Patrick's Day (facts) with this challenging St. Patrick's Day trivia quiz. There are a total of 12 trivia questions.

Answers to the St. Patrick's Day fact trivia can be found at the end of the quiz.

1. St. Patrick's Day originated from which European country.  
a) Great Britain b) Scotland c) Ireland d) France e) Italy
2. St. Patrick's Day is observed in the month of  
a) February b) March c) April d) May e) None of the above
3. What symbol is inherently associated with St. Patrick's Day?  
a) The Leprechaun b) A harp c) Triskele d) The Claddagh e) Shamrock
4. The longest-running St. Patrick's Day parade in the United States takes place in which city.  
a) New York City b) Chicago c) Boston d) Philadelphia e) Buffalo (NY)

5. Who was St. Patrick (the person the holiday was named after)?

- a) An Irish revolutionary b) A popular Irish president c) The patron saint of Ireland d) A Christian martyr e) A mythical figure

6. What year did St. Patrick's Day officially become a national holiday in Ireland?

- a) 1903 b) 1913 c) 1923 d) 1893 e) 1793

7. The color that is most identified with St. Patrick's Day is

- a) Green b) Red c) Blue d) Purple e) White

8. St. Patrick's Day is endearingly known as

- a) Green Day b) Irish Day c) Ireland's Independence Day d) St. Paddy's Day e) No other name

9. Saint Patrick was known for performing which of these acts.

- a) Drive away demons b) Banish dangerous animals c) Revive the dead

10. The traditional food of St. Patrick's Day is

- a) Cabbage b) Corned beef c) Irish stew d) Potato pancake e) a and b

11. The largest St. Patrick's Day parade is held in which American city.

- a) Chicago b) New York c) Philadelphia d) Boston e) Cleveland

12. True or False. Saint Patrick was not an Irish by birth.

Answer Key:

- 1)c 2)b 3)e 4)c 5)c 6)a 7)a 8)d 9)b 10)e 11)b 12)True

## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Alice Winslow  
Ruth Wynegar  
Julia Ireland  
Tyler Ahfeldt  
Matthew Olson  
Glenn Johnson  
Jennifer Yeager  
Jenna Waldon  
Jennifer Dawson  
Bob Barnes  
Rachel Peterson  
Tanya Stemple  
James Lutz  
Nancy Bolton  
Rob Duschel

## MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

Sonja and Larry DeBaugh

## Hymn Tunes: The Stories Behind the Melodies By Bob Barnes

“Bunessan” (in the Scots Gaelic: Bun Easain) is a small village on the Ross of Mull in the south of the island of Mull, on the west coast of Scotland. Originally a small community of farmers in the Scottish farming tradition called crofting, the village had a mill, weavers and a small fishing fleet until the 1900s. It has only one hotel, The Argyll Arms, which also is the only pub in the area, a village hall which is often used for numerous dances throughout the year, two grocery shops, a craft shop, and a further small cafe/restaurant, Reef. The

village has a thriving lobster fishery. Some of the largest lobsters in the west coast of Scotland can be found at the top of Loch Scridain, in an area known as “The Pool”.

“Bunessan” lent its name to a hymn tune, originally associated with the Christmas carol, “Child in the Manger.” Mary M. Macdonald, born 1789, died 1872, who lived in the nearby crofting community of Ardtun and who spoke only Gaelic, wrote her hymn “Leanabh an Aigh” to a traditional melody. When the words were later translated into English, the melody was named after the village by the translator, Lachlan Macbean.

Sometime before 1927 Alexander Fraser heard the melody from a minstrel in the Scottish Highlands and wrote it down so that it came to the attention of Percy Dearmer, Ralph Vaughan Williams, and Martin Shaw. In turn, these editors of the hymnbook *Songs of Praise* requested Eleanor Farjeon to write a further hymn text to the tune. This was “Morning Has Broken” and since 1931 the tune has become most familiarly identified with this hymn.

Happy  
St. Patrick's  
Day!



## **ARLINGTON CEMETERY**

On Jeopardy the other night, the final question was "How many steps does the guard take during his walk across the tomb of the Unknown Soldier?"

All three contestants missed it!

This is really an awesome sight to watch if you've never had the chance.

1. How many steps does the guard take during his walk across the tomb of the Unknowns and why?

21 steps: It alludes to the twenty-one gun salute which is the highest honor given any military or foreign dignitary.

2. How long does he hesitate after his about face to begin his return walk and why?

21 seconds for the same reason as answer number 1

3. Why are his gloves wet?

His gloves are moistened to prevent his losing his grip on the rifle.

4. Does he carry his rifle on the same shoulder all the time and, if not, why not?

He carries the rifle on the shoulder away from the tomb. After his march across the path he executes an about face and moves the rifle to the outside shoulder.

5. How often are the guards changed?

Guards are changed every thirty minutes, twenty-four hours a day, 365 days a year.

6. What are the physical traits of the guard limited to?

For a person to apply for guard duty at the tomb, he must be between 5' 10" and 6' 2" tall and his waist size cannot exceed 30.

They must commit 2 years of life to guard the tomb, live in a barracks under the tomb, and cannot drink any alcohol on or off duty for the rest of their lives. They cannot swear in public for the rest of their lives and cannot disgrace the uniform or the tomb in any way.

After two years, the guard is given a wreath pin that is worn on their lapel signifying they served as guard of the tomb. There are only 400 presently worn. The guard must obey these rules for the rest of their lives or give up the wreath pin.

The shoes are specially made with very thick soles to keep the heat and cold from their feet. There are metal heel plates that extend to the top of the shoe in order to make the loud click as they come to a halt.

There are no wrinkles, folds or lint on the uniform. Guards dress for duty in front of a full-length mirror.

Every guard spends five hours a day getting his uniforms ready for guard duty.

The first six months of duty a guard cannot talk to anyone nor watch TV. All off duty time is spent studying the 175 notable people laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery. A guard must memorize who they are and where they are interred. Among the notables are: President Taft, Joe Lewis {the boxer} Medal of Honor winner Audie L. Murphy, the most decorated soldier of WWII and of Hollywood fame.

ETERNAL REST GRANT  
THEM O LORD AND LET  
PERPETUAL LIGHT SHINE  
UPON THEM.

In 2003 as Hurricane Isabelle was approaching Washington, DC our U.S. Senate/House took 2 days off with anticipation of the storm. On the ABC evening news, it was reported that because of the dangers from the hurricane, the military members assigned the duty of guarding the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier were given permission to suspend the assignment. They respectfully declined the offer, "No way, Sir!" Soaked to the skin, marching in the pelting rain of a tropical storm, they said that guarding the Tomb was not just an assignment it was the highest honor that can be afforded to a service person. The tomb has been patrolled continuously, 24/7, since 1930.

God Bless and keep them. We can be very proud of our young men and women in the service no matter where they serve.



## PICTORIAL DIRECTORY

Your pictorial directory committee of Perry Hall Presbyterian is working hard now to create a new pictorial directory. The dates for pictures being taken are Tuesday and Wednesday, March 25 and 26 from 2-9 P.M. in the undercroft of the church. Sign-ups have begun and you may call the church office for more information as. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated so we can include everyone.

### A Message from Vicar Dave

Wow, what a winter we have been having! Some days when I leave the house in the morning I think I am living in Minnesota and not Maryland. I guess this is to be expected since it is February. This weather comes as a shock to most of us because we have enjoyed mild winters these past several years and these mild winters have spoiled us. Shortly however we will be suffering in extreme heat and humidity during the upcoming “dog days” of July and August. I am sure we would appreciate a touch of this cold weather then. So often I wonder if we didn’t have bad weather what would we talk about. I only speak of the weather and seasons to point out that shortly we are entering a new season in the church year, the season of Lent.

What does Lent mean to you? Have you denied yourself some food item in years past to remind yourself of sacrifice, specifically the sacrifice that our

Lord and Savior Jesus Christ took upon himself as he edged closer to his crucifixion and death on the cross at Calvary? This act of denial was a Lenten discipline I learned years ago when it was nurtured while I was a student at St. Paul Lutheran School in Kingsville, MD. Our pastor, the Rev. Ferdinand Noske, passed out Smarties candies to us during our Ash Wednesday Chapel Service and challenged us not to eat any of them until Easter Sunday. This act of denying ourselves the pleasure of eating this candy immediately was to demonstrate to us an act of sacrifice. Our act of sacrificing immediate pleasure until Easter was to help us contemplate the sacrifice that Jesus made for us when he died for our sins on Good Friday. I must say it made an impression on me and I always had my uneaten Smarties ready to eat on Easter Sunday when I was allowed to do so.

Over the years I have moved away from this practice of denying myself some food item and I don’t really know why this happened. However, since I have been in seminary, I learned a new Lenten discipline. This new discipline is *adding* something to my daily routine to help me focus on Christ’s sacrifice. This addition has been something different each year. Two years ago, I read a different Psalm each day over the forty-day period of Lent. I picked them at random. Each day after reading a Psalm I would write which Psalm I read and then I picked a new one the next day. Last year, I made it a point to have coffee, tea, or a meal, which included conversation, with a different seminary classmate, each weekday during Lent. In this way I could get to know what they were

experiencing in the classroom and with their home life and I got to know them so much better. This truly was an out-of-the-box ministry experience that helped me get to know my seminary colleagues on a much deeper level. This year I am going to focus on the four gospel accounts of Jesus’ Passion and read each one beginning with Jesus’ Palm Sunday entry into Jerusalem up through Easter Sunday. I will break down each gospel into readings for the day and divide this total number by forty. This addition to my daily devotional time I feel will help me understand, through each gospel author’s lens, the agony and suffering our Lord experienced for us. I hope by making this addition rather than subtraction to my Lenten discipline I will more fully experience the somber and solemn season of Lent.

Until next time remember; “And the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:7

Peace

Vicar David J. Petr

