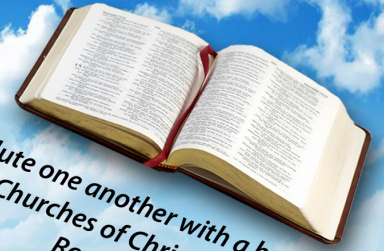




The Relator

March 2019



"Salute one another with a holy kiss.
The Churches of Christ salute you!"
Romans 16:16

Volume LXXI – EDITION 7



Cosma's Corner

Undignified.

***I will dance I will sing to be mad for my king
Nothing lord is hindering the passion in my soul
I will dance I will sing to be mad for my king
Nothing lord is hindering the passion in my soul
And I'll become even more undignified than this
Some would say it's foolishness but
I'll become even more undignified than this***

MARCH MADNESS is almost here! Yes some would say this refers to the great NCAA basketball tournament. Others would say it refers to the crazy, unpredictable weather in March. Kim and I were in Gatlinburg, TN once in the beginning of March and we went to bed about midnight and the temperature was 70 degrees Fahrenheit outside and I woke up about 6am the next morning and had to do a double take as I peered out the window and saw white flakes falling

from the sky...it was 30 degrees outside... the temp had dropped a crazy 40 degrees in 6 hours. Now that is mad weather.

When we speak of madness in sports scheduling to the weather, I believe we go in between the extremes of something we enjoy and something we are intrigued by but do not necessarily enjoy. We are on the precipice of the wildness of extremes, and no matter how we look at it it is exciting.

The words of the song written by Matt Redman *Undignified* are taken from a story right out of Scripture that relays for us a story of madness, passion, and excitement. The story is found in 2 Samuel 6 when King David at the end of the chapter is attempting to bring the ark of the covenant for the second time back to its rightful resting place within God's sanctuary in the tabernacle in Jerusalem. The ark of the covenant was a symbol of the abiding presence and power of God among the people of Israel which lost its significance when the Israelites treated it like a gimmick and good luck charm and sinned against God, and, for a time, lost their most valuable possession, the ark, to their antagonistic enemies the Philistines.

The entrance of the ark of the covenant back into Jerusalem was a monumental event. The Israelite leader, King David, led the celebration of the event as He, above anyone else, realized that this was a momentous occasion that had to honor God thoroughly in ever aspect.

King David, caught up in the madness of the moment and with great humility before God, stripped off his kingly robes and danced madly before the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. His own wife did not understand what he was doing for she had lost the vision...the vision with which the people would escape death...the vision of God Almighty and His Word and His purposes.

Even though, no one seemed to understand like David, when rebuked for his humility, he simply said that he would do it again as he states: *I will become even more undignified than this.*

People may not always understand your madness before the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, but really it is not about them, it is about Him. David was confident that he had acted properly, he was confident of His relationship with God, he was confident he was doing the right thing, and he couldn't help but be mad for His King. People may not always understand, but when you are right with the King there is excitement!!!

From One Confident in the King to Another

reflections..

The Lorica of St. Patrick

Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland, was a unique servant of God who led thousands into Christianity. He was born in 387 and died in 493. Here is a small portion of St. Patrick's statement of devotion to God:

I bind to myself today
 God's Power to guide me,
 God's Might to uphold me,
 God's Wisdom to teach me,
 God's Eye to watch over me,
 God's Ear to hear me,
 God's Word to give me speech,
 God's Hand to guide me,
 God's Way to lie before me,
 God's Shield to shelter me,
 God's Host to secure me,
 Against the snares of demons,
 Against the seductions of vices,
 Against the lusts of nature,
 Against everyone who meditates injury to me,
 Whether far or near,
 Whether few or with many.



In many places, March is notoriously windy: "In like a lion ...!" Though I don't like the damp chill that's often part of the transition to spring, I love windy days. Something about the air's movement — a gentle breeze or ferocious gale blowing through trees, against the house, in my hair — breeds excitement in me, anticipation that something new is astir.

How fitting that in conversation with Nicodemus, Jesus said, "The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit" (John 3:8, NRSV). Like Nicodemus, we fail to comprehend the Spirit of God. But Jesus reminds us that though we can't see the Spirit, we feel his love, see his actions of justice and hear his sounds. These include kind words, bold preaching, weeping for another, shared laughter and songs of praise. -- Heidi Mann

Fellowship Luncheons



On Sunday, February 17, 2019, we had an Italian fellowship luncheon. There was a lot of pasta, salads and desserts. There were over 40 in attendance. Thank you for supporting this fellowship ministry. We will be having a luncheon on the 3rd Sunday of March. The theme is St. Patrick's Day so bring your Irish stews, etc. and desserts. We will be having a fellowship luncheon each month on the 3rd Sunday. -Dorothy Faloba

March Calendar



- March 3rd** ... 8:00 am Trustees Meeting
- March 9th** ... Daylight Savings Begins, "Spring Forward"
- March 10th** ... 8:00 am Meet for prayer in minister's office
- March 17th** ... 8:00 am Board Meeting
 ... Irish themed Fellowship luncheon following worship service
- March 31st** ... 5th Sunday Rally



On Saturday, February 16, 2019, the Wednesday night youth group made vegetable soup for shut ins, widows and widowers. We made and delivered 11 pints and 11 quarts of vegetable soup. The girls learned that it tells us in the bible that we are to take care of the widows and widowers so that made it a special ministry that they are apart of. They made Valentine hearts to attach to the jars of soup with bible verses about love on them. While the soup was cooking, they made a video "trailer" of their day. The girls have been doing this ministry for over 4 years. Thank you Rebba Guthrie for your help. -Dorothy Faloba

Perfect Attendance (February 2019)

Cody Opsitnik
 Gail Lea Phillis
 Mollie Phillis
 Rorie Reiter
 Diana Reiter
 Brenda Schmidt
 Bob Shinn
 Marty Shinn
 Marcia Snyder

Sheldon Cosma
 Kim Cosma
 Lucy Cosma
 Bev Evans
 Emma Jenkins
 Robin Janofa
 Carol Kelly
 Gavin Kelly
 Judy Merriman



7th Sheldon & Kim Cosma
 10th Mike & Lynn Phillis
 29th Jack & Star Vincent

1st John S. Faloba
 3rd Steve Singer
 9th Caige Vincent
 10th Eric Snyder
 Nathaniel Davis
 Gary Eichler, Sr.



11th Dom DiBaggio
 13th John Benson
 16th Bill Kelly
 18th Matthew Huston
 19th Wanda Huston
 28th Anthony DiBaggio
 31st Nathan Huston

Thoughts on prayer

“You don’t know how to pray? Put yourself in the presence of God, and as soon as you have said, ‘Lord, I don’t know how to pray!’ you can be sure you have already begun.” —St. Josemaría Escrivá

“Seek a relationship when you pray, not answers. You won’t always find answers, but you will always find Jesus.” — Father Mike Schmitz

“If the lungs of prayer and the Word of God do not nourish the breath of spiritual life, we risk suffocating in the midst of a thousand daily cares. Prayer is the breath of the soul and of life.” —Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI

Our Missions
 Canton Christian Home
 Elkhorn Valley Camp
 Hasten
 Lifeline
 Noah

PRAYER LIST

OUR SHUT-INS

Pat Kalbfell, (Essex); Wanda Huston, (Allay);
 Ada Bailey; Nita Floor, (Courtyard);
 Nick Cosma, (Crandall)

Our Nation
 Our Leaders
 Our Congregation
 Lost Souls
 Our Unspoken Needs

SERVING IN THE MILITARY

Joe Phillis & Family, Fort Benning, GA; Joel Newburn & Family, back in the USA; Kyle Stephenson & Family, Germany; John Lathrop

Northeast Ohio Bible College

George Faull (strength)
 Steve Singer (blood condition)
 Mandy Fitch (dialysis; needs kidney transplant)
 Jean Fluharty (health issues)
 Tom McKenna (recovering from 2nd brain surgery)
 Bob Stein (continues to heal)
 David Stein (health problems)
 June Toalston (cancer)
 Mary Lou Eberhart (health problems)
 Jim Eberhart (health problems)

Charles Hippley (doing very well, PTL !)

Jim Webber (heart problems)
 Shirley Bartholow (health problems)
 Michael Barnhart (cancer)
 Zac Carter (2nd leg amputated from cancer)
 Nathaniel Davis (immune system problems)
 Bill Wiley (health issues)
 Elizabeth Thatcher (health problems)
 Jack Vincent (appendectomy recovery)
 Gladys Laughlin (health problems)

PHILLIPS CHRISTIAN CHURCH

35459 SALEM GRANGE RD

SALEM, OH 44460

Sheldon Cosma, Minister

Contact us: Phone: 234-567-7273

Church: 330-332-4467

Email: phillipschristianchurch@hotmail.com

SERVICES:

SUNDAY

9:00 am ... Sunday School

10:00 am ... Worship

WEDNESDAY

7:00 pm ...Adult Bible Study & Youth Group

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

www.phillipschristian.org

Puzzle!

Find and circle these words associated with the Lenten journey to the cross.

colt	denial	kiss	repent
confess	donkey	lots	silver
cross	forsaken	palms	sins
crown	Gethsemane	penance	suffer
crucifixion	Golgotha	Pilate	thorns
death	hosanna	prayer	vigil

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

The Comfort of our Our Middle-C GOD

During college, while living in a boarding house, author Lloyd Douglas befriended a retiree. The man, a homebound former music teacher, shared a morning ritual with Douglas, who would walk down to the man's floor, open his door and ask, "What's the good news?"

Every day the man responded by tapping a tuning fork against his wheelchair and saying, "That's middle C. It was middle C yesterday. It will be middle C tomorrow. It will be middle C a thousand years from now. The tenor upstairs sings flat, the piano across the hall is out of tune, but, my friend, that is middle C!" If middle C's pitch value isn't exactly 261.63 Hz, then your piano needs to be tuned. How comforting that dependability is for musicians — and their listeners. Like middle C, God is steadfast and reliable. In this fast-paced world, praise God for the good news he declares to us: "I the LORD do not change" (Malachi 3:6).

On the "Three Sides" podcast (ELCA, Sept. 6, 2018), Wendy Davidson, a leader at the Kellogg Company, shares how her Christianity informs her work. Because her adult faith emerged from several denominational influences, she considers variety to be a strength, not only spiritually but throughout life.



Davidson encourages her co-workers to bring their unique personalities and ideas to the table to create a metaphorical salad. "It doesn't mean that the salad now becomes one homogenous blob; it is still distinctly the flavors of the salad ingredients," she says. "But they've all found a way to come together to make something that much more flavorful than they could have been all on their own."

Viewing church and our communities this way could be transformative. What if we welcome different people, invite ideas and resist melding everything into one giant blob? Then we can savor each "ingredient" and the resulting gourmet dish. Delicious!