

It's February. The month or Punxsutawney Phil. The month of Presidential birthdays. The month that celebrates Love. How did a holiday to love and romance find its way into our calendar in February?



According to tradition, on this day, February 14, 269, a young man named Valentine was executed in Rome for his faith. But what does our exchange of sentimental cards have to do with a third century martyr?

Actually, the connection is not at all clear. Valentine was martyred the day before the pagan festival to the goddess Februata Juno at which boys drew girls' names for acts of sexual promiscuity. Were legends about the martyr's death modified to replace the heathen custom? No one knows for sure. In fact, there may have been two or even three martyrs named Valentine who died in different parts of the empire at about the same time. We know little or nothing about any of them.

Take the Roman Valentine as an example. A city gate on the Flaminian Way and a chapel near it were named for him. Several ancient Christian writers mention his name. There is no doubt he lived and was tortured before being beaten with clubs and beheaded. And yet we have no sure account of why.



Some say this Valentine was a young man with a tender heart who aided Christians who were undergoing martyrdom. He was not even a Christian at the time. Arrested for his activities, he converted to faith while in prison and would not renounce it. Knowing he was going to die, he wrote letters to his friends saying "Remember your Valentine."

Another legend says that the Roman Valentine was a priest who defied the Emperor Claudius's temporary order and secretly married couples so the husbands wouldn't have to go to war. Claudius desperately needed more soldiers and did not appreciate this interference.

A third legend says the Roman Valentine was a priest who refused to sacrifice to pagan gods. Imprisoned for this, he gave testimony in prison and through his prayers the jailer's daughter was healed. On the day of his execution he left her a note signed "Your Valentine."

During the Middle ages it was popularly believed birds paired in mid-February. This also reaffirmed the association of romantic love with Valentine's name. Whatever the truth behind the legends, St. Valentine's day has become a day we connect with romance and friendship. (<http://www.christianity.com/church/church-history/timeline/1-300/martyrdom-of-st-valentine-11629626.html>)

As we continue to read through "The Story" together, and ponder its meaning in worship on Sundays, we keep discovering the truth of God's deep love for people. While God certainly punishes wrongdoing, God also does not give up on people, and continues to pursue us. The Bible, as God's story, is the greatest love story ever told.

May we know God's love more fully this month. SDG

Pastor Jim



Some upcoming events:

February 2- Communion Sunday

February 9- Congregational Meeting, New members join Harvest

February 16- Pastor Jim gone, Rev. Steve Hanna preaches

February 23- Harvest Conversations
(evening, with dessert, formerly called Town Hall meeting)

March 2- Communion Sunday

March 5- Ash Wednesday, Lent begins

March 9- Pastor Jim gone to Spring Training in Arizona, Rev. Julia Leeth preaching

FEBRUARY 2014



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1 9:00 a.m.— Presbytery at First Pres. In Turlock
2  Collection for Inter-Faith 9:15—Bible Study 10:30—Worship / Communion	3 6:00 p.m.— Church Prayer Meeting	4	5	6 9:30 a.m.— Alpha Circle 6:00 p.m.— Praise Practice 7:00 p.m.— Choir Practice	7 10:00 a.m.— Women's Bible Study at Margaret Kuglin's	8
9 9:15—Bible Study 10:30—Worship 12:00— Congregational Meeting	10 6:00 p.m.— Church Prayer Meeting	11	12	13 6:00 p.m.— Praise Practice 7:00 p.m.— Choir Practice	14  10:00 a.m.— Women's Bible Study at Margaret Kuglin's 1:00 p.m.— Deacons Meeting	15
16 HARVESTER DEADLINE 9:15—Bible Study 10:30—Worship	17 OFFICE CLOSED  6:00 p.m.— Church Prayer Meeting	18	19 6:00 p.m.— Session	20 6:00 p.m.— Praise Practice 7:00 p.m.— Choir Practice	21 10:00 a.m.— Women's Bible Study at Margaret Kuglin's 6:00 p.m.— Mariner's meeting & potluck	22
23 9:15—Bible Study 10:30—Worship 6:00 p.m.— Harvest Conversations	24 6:00 p.m.— Church Prayer Meeting	25	26	27 6:00 p.m.— Praise Practice 7:00 p.m.— Choir Practice	28 10:00 a.m.— Women's Bible Study at Margaret Kuglin's	

It's OFFICIAL...



Marlin is going to Rwanda, Africa! He received a confirming telephone call Tuesday morning, January 21, 2014, telling him the good news. Praise God and thank you for all the prayers. He will leave April 26, and return May 3. Accompanying him from the West Coast will be Becky Gross, Manager of the West Coast Region and Susan Elliott, Las Vegas, NV.

Preliminary information indicated that they will join other Operation Christmas Child Volunteers to distribute Shoeboxes to five different locations in Rwanda and possibly witness a graduation ceremony of children who have completed the Twelve Steps in The Greatest Journey schooling.



The "once in a lifetime" trip is a dream come true for Marlin, who has promoted the Operation Shoebox program at Harvest and in the community since 1999. He and Marilyn have helped sort and pack boxes at Collection Centers for 10 years and attended two of the Connect Conferences for year-round volunteers. They have visited the main headquarters for Samaritan's Purse, the project's organization sponsor, in Boone, North Carolina and are members of the Manteca GO Team in the Stanislaus and San Joaquin County areas.



The first ever Connect Volunteer simulcast live on the Internet the day before Marlin's confirmation gave the official 2013 totals of shoeboxes collected. Totals included: 527,301 from the West Coast Region (California, Nevada and Hawaii); 7,541,468 from the United States; and 9,950,000 worldwide.



Social media statistics indicated a growing interest in the Operation Project, over 6.1 million hits on their website, as well as an increase in the number of bookstores (1,156) nationwide promoting the program. Some 2.1 million youth are registered participants, as are 8,302 year round volunteers. Extending God's Word and the Love of Jesus to children ages 2 to 14 around

the world through the distribution of shoeboxes has been a phenomenal success in its twenty years of operation through God's answer to prayers and dedicated volunteers.



MISSIONS—Lynn Laranjo

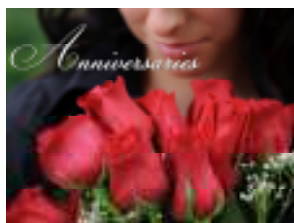
It is a New Year and time to ponder how we can help others in need. As Pastor Jim reinforced at the end of the year in his sermons, there are so many that could be helped with clean water. As we start this year hurting for water ourselves it will remind us how much we appreciate turning on a faucet and having clean water. Please start collecting your pocket change to be used toward helping give people clean water to drink. Containers can be found in the narthex. Turn in date is March 23.





9—Brenda Collins
 12—Randi Rogers
 12—Rosemarie Bulkley
 17—Mildred Vine
 19—Staci Edwards
 19—Cheryl Lew
 28—Darien Arias

14—
 William & Mae Dell
 Dingwall
 15—
 Terry & Anette Arias



If your birthday or anniversary has not been listed, please call the office and let us know.

Regular Prayer List

Assisted Living:

Mildred Vine—
Paramount Court
 Donna McRae—
Paramount Court (memory care)
 Mabel Cronan—
The Stratford Place
 June Limplecht—
Paramount Court (memory care)

Health Issues:

Lucy Gilliam
 Virginia Irons
 Roger Morrow
 Dorothy Nelson
 Bill Sperry
 Alice Visser



Stockton Presbytery Prayer List for February

Feb. 2—Geneva Pres. Church; Modesto
 Pastor: Joshua Trautmann
 Sam Casiano HR
 Feb. 9—Lincoln Pres. Church; Stockton
 Pastor: Bob Mitchell
 David McCulloch HR
 Feb. 16—Trinity United PC; Modesto
 Pastor: David Kerr
 Les Malakian HR
 Al Opdyke HR
 Steve Hanna HR
 Feb. 23 —Orestimba Pres. Church; Newman
 Pastor: Jeff Ogden
 William Nishimura HR

Ceres School's Prayer List for February

Feb. 2—Carroll Fowler Elementary
 Principal: Bruce Clifton
 Feb. 9—Caswell Elementary
 Principal: Kirsten Chaplin
 Feb. 16—Central Valley High
 Principal: Amy Peterman
 Feb. 23 —Ceres High
 Principal: Linda Stubbs



CORPORATE PRAYER

Prayer and Bible reading are the most vital part of the Christian life. God has given us these tools to know Him and seek His guidance. Prayer is the awesome privilege that allows us to enter the presence of the Almighty God and receive His help. The Bible is the fuel of faith in the Christian life. Christians need to spend time in prayer in order to know what God is saying to them. God has also given us the power of the Holy Spirit who lives in us to help us to pray. The Bible says we do not know what to ask for in prayer (Romans 8:26). Reading the Bible and praying go hand in hand. You can't have one without the other.

The disciples had just left the Mount of Olives after witnessing Jesus go up into heaven and were walking back seven miles to Jerusalem to the room where they were staying according to Acts 1:12-14 "Then they returned to Jerusalem from the hill called the Mount of Olives, a Sabbath day's walk from the city. When they arrived, they went up stairs to the room where they were staying. Those present were Peter, John, James, Andrew, Philip, Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew; James son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers."



We are either Seeking the Lord in prayer or we are doing God's work on our own resources. You cannot have it both ways. Leaders of the Church and or any organization of the Church need to be in corporate prayer together. Lifting our hands to holy God. To wing it alone is disastrous.

People of the Church have many excuses, one is: prayer is private. True you are to spend time alone with the Lord in private prayer asking God's help in certain trivial or difficult situations. But Corporate prayer is a group seeking the Lord's help in leading a class for Adults or Children, praying for leaders, praying for the pastor or praying for your church.

Prayer is powerful if we have one mind and that is to lift Jesus Christ, our Lord in the Church and truly seek His leading.

Another excuse is: Can I pray at home? Do you realize with God, numbers count. In Acts 12:5, Peter, when he was in jail expecting to die at Herod's hand, and who was praying for him? The Church. The Church got together and prayed for his release and he escaped miraculously by the hand of God. To me that tells me a lot that the people cared for the church and for Peter. Jonah when he went into that wicked city of Nineveh preaching their destruction. What happened? The people humbled themselves and prayed, the city was saved.

Another excuse that I'm told: I just don't have time. What! No time to come and pray for the church that is in need and the people in need. That is Almighty God, you don't have time for? God has given us the privilege to meet with Him and talk to Him about the needs of the Church. Don't you think it is wise to meet with people who are concerned about the church and cry out to God for it's very existence? The Bible says, "We are not fighting flesh and blood, we are fighting Satan and his host" (2 Corinthians 10:4-6). Satan goes to church too. The Church that prays together stays together.

I challenge you to come and pray for the needs of this church with no excuses. Prayer meeting is Monday nights at 6:00 p.m. If that is not convenient call Margaret Kuglin 537-7224 and we would be willing to set up another time.

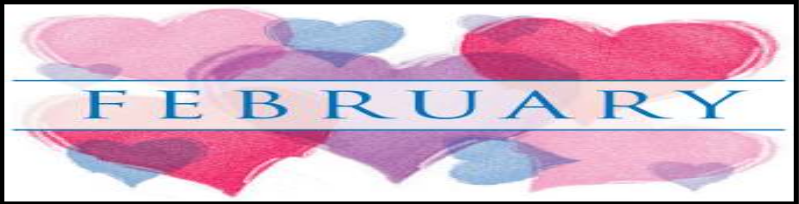
Mission Statement ~ With God in control, the mission of the Harvest Presbyterian Church is to proclaim and bear witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ and nurture the faith of our church family.

Church Information

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Prayer Requests—prayer@harvestpres.org
Brenda Collins—secretary@harvestpres.org



HARVEST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
1813 Moffet Road
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POSTAGE

**Harvester Deadline for March 2014 is
February 16, 2014**

Start of Mariners 2014 Cruise

We have installed our new officers:

Skippers	John & Betty Baughman
First Mate	Linda Sherman
Second Mate	'Members at Large'
Chaplin	Margaret Kuglin
Log Keeper	LaVeta Rhoy
Purser	Myrna Wilhite
Steward	Nawatha Reed
Decorations	Martha McNamara
Medic	Bettye Welsh



*This will be a fun year:
you can join and enjoy it
with us.*

*We meet the third Friday
of each month at 6:00pm
in the social hall. Bring a
potluck dish and your
plate setting. We will
have a program that
everyone will enjoy.*

Come Join Us on Friday, February 21st at 6:00 p.m.