

The STAR Volume 175, Issue 2

# THE STAR



Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors

**February 2016 STAR**  
Stony Creek United Methodist Church

## Reed's Reasonings

### *Light and Darkness*

I was born and raised in Michigan and I remember reading a cartoon called "Gideon" in the Detroit News. A wife was talking to her husband at the breakfast table, "When we moved to Michigan we were looking for paradise. And you know, if it weren't for February, we would have found it." Sometimes I feel that way too. If we could replace February with another September or October it would be perfect. I lived in North Carolina for ten years and never got used to the oppressive summer heat and not having the beautiful changes in seasons we have here. The problem is simple it stays dark too long. As an optimist I know that light shines brighter in the darkness but sometimes it is a struggle.

I do wonder if it is God's way of getting us to think forward to the light of Easter. Lent is that time to prepare our hearts for that gift. This year Lent will begin for us at the Ash Wednesday Service on March 1st, at 7 pm. We will start the season together as we remember the path that Jesus walked and take the mark of ashes. There are also many other ways to prepare for Lent. We also have the honor of hosting the Evangelical Friends and Lincoln Community Churches for Good Friday this year on April 14<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm. Since Lent falls late this year we have the opportunity the week before to go on February 25<sup>th</sup> to serve lunch at the Cass mission center in Detroit once again.

On Wednesdays during Lent I would like to have a six week study and discussion group. I am leaning toward a book by Max Lucado called "Six Hours One Friday." If you would be more interested in participating if we focused on a book of the Bible, or on a different author or book please let me know, nothing is set in stone (I know except for the Ten Commandments).

As dark as the days of February can be with the scarcity of sunlight, imagine how dark life is without the light of Christ in your life. Imagine having to light up your corner of the world all by yourself, every day.

Take the opportunity this month to invite someone who doesn't go to church to join us in one of these events, and bring them closer to the true light of Christ.

May God's Will, Grace, and Joy be with you,  
Pastor Reed



**Saturday February 11th 2017**  
**Stony Creek United Methodist Church**

**Presents:**

**The event of the year...**

**The Legendary FLYING PANCAKES!**

**Starting at 5:00 pm**

**\$7.00 adult and \$5.00 Children 12 & Under**

## **Take care**

In Jimmy Fallon's first monologue as host of NBC's The Tonight Show, he expressed thanks to all past hosts. On an occasion when he might have said, "And now this stage is mine!" or "I'm delighted to be counted among such greats," instead he stated with deep humility, "I just want to do the best I can and take care of this show for a while."

Take care of. That's language not of ownership but of stewardship. That's the language of Genesis 2:15 (NIV) — "The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it."

What have we been called to "take care of for a little while"? The earth, surely. Perhaps a congregation, a business, a neighbor in need, a volunteer or an employee. A child, who may need less care — or different forms of it — as time goes on. We don't own these people and things. God invites us to be stewards of them, to care for them, to use wisely and value these precious gifts ... and someday, to pass them on to others.

As the great preacher the Reverend Doctor Sam Proctor once preached, "No matter how tall you stand, remember that as a Christian it is because you stand on the shoulders of giants. If you get the chance, prepare your shoulders well."

## **FEBRUARY 2017 STAR BIRTHDAYS**

- 1 Linda Hudspeth**
- 6 Jean Helzerman**
- 6 Lyn Helzerman**
- 9 Leon Errer**
- 9 Catherine Furman, #11**
- 11 Karen Shoner**
- 12 Ashley Heiss**
- 13 Andy Berry**
- 19 Steve Farsakian**
- 21 Dan Shoner**
- 22 Homer Turner #80!**
- 23 Ken Husse**
- 24 Dustin Dapprich #16**
- 25 Kristin Adamski Lovett**
- 25 Pat Benyo**
- 26 Laurel Wilson**

## **MARCH 2017 STAR BIRTHDAYS**

- 10 Carol Luscomb**
- 11 Jim Potter**
- 12 Emma Mickel #6**

**February 2017 Stony Creek Christian Sympathies are extended to:**

**Chris Zavicar upon the passing of his grandmother Mary Faybik Zavicar on January 11.**

**Fred Ellicott upon the passing of his sister Mary Ellen Totsky on January 12.**

**Church & family upon the passing of Jack Saren on January 13. (Ed: Didn't know quite to state this.)**

## **FEBRUARY 2017 STAR ANNIVERSARIES**

**11 Kyle & Teresa Patton**

### **The gift that gives**



Love ever gives,  
forgives, outlives  
and ever stands  
with open hands.  
And while it lives, it gives.  
For this is love's prerogative —  
to give, and give, and give.

—John Oxenham

## **FEBRUARY 2017 STAR MEMBERSHIPS**

- 3 Leon & Laurel Errer, 1974**
- 19 Tammy Thayer, 1989**
- 28 Bob & Jan Hall, 1971**
- 28 Joan Sayre, 1993**
- 28 Tom & Penny Sibert, 1993**

## **MARCH, 2017 STAR MEMBERSHIPS**

- 3 Kip & Kate McCullough, 2002**
- 5 Dan & Karen Shoner, 1989**

### **+ May We Pray For You?**

Prayer requests can be made during the week by calling the church office (482-0240), by calling Dorothy Neumann at 483-2762 or by sending an email to [stonycreekprayer@yahoo.com](mailto:stonycreekprayer@yahoo.com).

### **+ Vital Church Initiative**

Stony Creek is taking part in the Vital Church Initiative (VCI). The process looks at what growing churches are doing, and what we are doing, and determines what we need to do to grow. A team of people is needed to attend a few workshops to help us understand the program. We at Stony Creek have been asked to host. The workshops are normally on the second Saturday of the month (February 11) and last for about four hours. Our team currently consists of Pastor Reed, Jason Neal, David Mongson, Harry Parks, Teresa Brtva, Fonda Heikka, Dorothy Newman, Sandy Scalise, Chuck Luscomb, and Virginia Davis Brown, let any of them know if you want to be part of the changes in Stony Creek's future.

### **+ Helping Haiti**

Thanks for your support. Our contributions will be heading to the loading point on Tuesday for a trip to Haiti later this month.

### **+ New Members**

We are planning to welcome new members again on February 26th. We've had a few people express interest, if you'd like to join them let Pastor Reed know. The process is very simple (and

not scary at all.) There are a just few things that Pastor Reed needs to go over with you. But more importantly it's also an opportunity for you to ask questions. Please talk to Pastor Reed if you are interested. He can be reached at 482-0240.

### **+ Adult Sunday School**

Where did we come from? In this case I'm talking about United Methodists. Would you like to know what we believe? Do you want to hear our story? Come on in give it a try. Is there something else you'd like to try for a study during Lent? Is there anything that YOU would like to try? Let Pastor Reed know.

### **+ Cass Mission Center**

We need you. We are going back to Detroit to serve lunch at the Cass Mission Center on Saturday, February 25th. Steve Guck has agreed to make the chili. Could you make some brownies? Cornbread muffins? Can you help prepare and pack at Stony Creek? Can you go down and help serve? The sign-up sheet is across from Pastor Reed's office.

### **+ Coming Up**

February	11	Chris Cakes Flying Flapjacks
February	11	Vital Church Initiative
February	25	Serving Lunch Cass Mission
February	25	District Leadership Day
March	1	Ash Wednesday Service 7pm
March	5	First Sunday in Lent
March	11	Vital Church Initiative
March	22	SPRC Meeting 7pm
March	30	Church Council 7 pm
April	1	Vital Church Initiative
April	8	Chicken Dinner
April	9	Palm Sunday
April	13	Maundy Thursday 7pm
April	14	Good Friday 7pm @ Stony Creek
April	16	Easter Sunday
May	6	Chicken Dinner
May	13	Vital Church Initiative
May	14	Mother's Day
June	4	Graduation Sunday
June	11	Church Picnic
June	18	Father's Day Strawberry Shortcake Festival
October	14	Chicken Dinner
November	4	Chicken Dinner

## **Giving credit where due?**

Running late for a meeting, a man circled the block, looking for a place to park. Desperately, he raised his eyes toward heaven and prayed, "Lord, if you'll find me a parking spot, I promise I'll start going to church again." Just then, a car pulled out of a space right in front of the man. "Never mind," he said to God. "I found one!"

### **Attention Snowbirds**

**Please let the church office know when you return from points south.**

**You can call the church office at 482-0240.**

## **Special dates**

- African-American History Month
- Boy Scout Sunday, February 5, 2017
- Valentine's Day, February 14, 2017
- Presidents Day, February 20, 2017
- Transfiguration of Our Lord, February 26, 2017

## **Preparation for worship**

Lord God, more than anything else may I seek to know Jesus Christ, and him crucified (1 Corinthians 2:2).

God of love, as we share valentines this week, remind us also to share practical expressions of your love for all: food, shelter, clean water, acceptance of differences, a helping hand.

God, thank you for calling me holy and calling me into holy living. Help me make loving choices this week so I reflect your holiness in all I do.

"Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer than all the angels in the sky." Open my imagination and heart, Lord, to your glory all around me.

## **Timely Quotes**

• "Love is taking a few steps backward, maybe even more ... to give way to the happiness of the person you love."

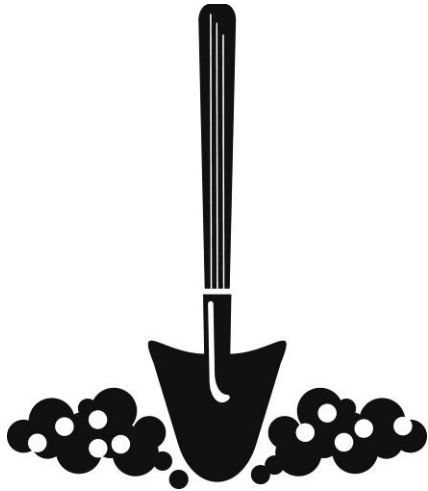
—A.A. Milne

• "We cannot pray in love and live in hate and still think we are worshiping God."

—A.W. Tozer

- “There is no exercise better for the heart than reaching down and lifting people up.”  
—John Holmes
- “Patience with others is love, patience with self is hope, patience with God is faith.”  
—Adel Bestavros

## **Start digging!**



Scripture promises that God has a plan for our lives but also reveals that he wants us to play an active role in that plan. In 2 Kings 3, three kings band together to defeat Moab but end up in an 80-mile desert. Amid this dire situation, God commands the people, “Make this valley full of ditches” (verse 16, KJV) and promises to fill them with water — even though it won’t rain.

Before the people’s need was supplied, they had to trust God and act. The next morning, water filled every ditch they had dug. Plus, they were victorious in battle.

The takeaway? God will bring the blessing, but we may have to dig first!

## **The need for charity**

The ancient English word for selfless, agape-type love is charity, points out John Ortberg in *Love Beyond Reason*. It means expressing love in the form of pure gift, though it now has condescending connotations. “No one wants to be a ‘charity case,’” Ortberg writes. “But in the final run, the ultimate love comes to us as a gift.”

Agape love is necessary in human relationships too, writes C.S. Lewis, because “only the lovable can be naturally loved.” He notes, “All who have good parents, wives, husbands or children may be sure that at some times they are receiving charity, are not loved because they are lovable but because Love Himself is in those who love them.”



## Extravagant love

The love St. Paul describes in 1 Corinthians 13 is “no mild, tepid thing,” writes Mark Buchanan in *Your Church Is Too Safe*. “It is no flight of fancy, no frisson of giddiness, no mere ruffle of sensation. This love is neither nice nor prissy nor fragile nor coy. This love is fierce and wild and dangerous and unbreakable. It is sublime and subversive. It is indefatigable and undefeatable. It is nothing less than the love God has for you, to bind you and to loose you, to take you captive and then set you free. This love is extravagant.”

## Bible Quiz



What unique characteristic of the judge Ehud that enabled him to outsmart King Eglon of Moab, who had been oppressing ancient Israel?

- A. He was left-handed.
- B. He was blind.
- C. He was very fat.
- D. He was exceedingly strong.

Answer: A (See Judges 3:12-26.)

## The cost of hiding our light

A Los Angeles restaurant owner recently discovered that a neon light had been covered — without being disconnected first — during a construction project 77 years prior. The calculated electricity cost to run the hidden light all that time was \$17,000!

People don't intentionally hide light; that would be counterproductive, not to mention wasteful. Yet when we shrink back from sharing Jesus' good news, we do indeed hide “the light of the world” (Matthew 5:14) that is in us. When we're too modest to use God-given talents such as singing, playing piano or reading to bring others joy, we hide our light. When we put our own wants ahead of meeting someone else's needs through giving and serving, we hide the light of God's love. And at what cost?

“Let your light shine before others,” Jesus says, “that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven” (verse 16).



# ANN ARBOR DISTRICT Leadership Training Day



## *BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS THAT BUILD CHURCHES*

Featuring  
Keynote Speaker

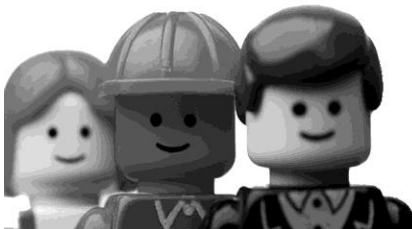


**Bishop David Bard**

**Saturday,  
Feb. 25th, 2017  
First UMC Northville**

**Plus 6 great workshops:**

- "Essential Skills for Building Relationships"
- "Making the Welcome Real"
- "Connecting with the Unchurched and Dechurched"
- "Bridges Out of Poverty"
- "Built For Groups"
- "Building Relationships Across Cultural Boundaries"



Brochures with more  
details are available from  
your pastor or church office.