

# Valley Views

FEBRUARY 2015

VOLUME 22, NUMBER 2



## Making the Grand Gesture

(From Editor's Clip Sheets)

Just before Valentine's Day, I joined another man standing at the rack of cards. We flipped cards open, commenting caustically about the soppy verses inside.

Suddenly he found one. "It's right, you know," he said, looking at the words. "We men are not good at the little things. We think the occasional grand gesture is enough to prove our love."

I bought the same card.

And then, as I was signing it for Joan, a penny dropped.

All through my childhood, I read books about men making these grand gestures. Horatio and his buddies stood at the bridge, fending off the enemies of ancient Rome. Sidney Carton took his friend's place at the guillotine during the French Revolution, saying, "It is a far, far better thing I do than I have ever done."

And, of course, there's Jesus.

For a grand gesture, it's hard to beat the crucifixion. Jesus himself emphasized the supreme sacrifice: "Greater love has no one than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends."

I wonder if the emphasis given to this one act derives from the predominantly male leadership of the Christian church for the last 20 centuries. Because the grand gesture is a very masculine way of showing

love. It's no coincidence, I'm sure, that the message of the crucifixion - and all the guilt that goes along with it - continues to be most strongly promoted in churches that cling to male leadership.

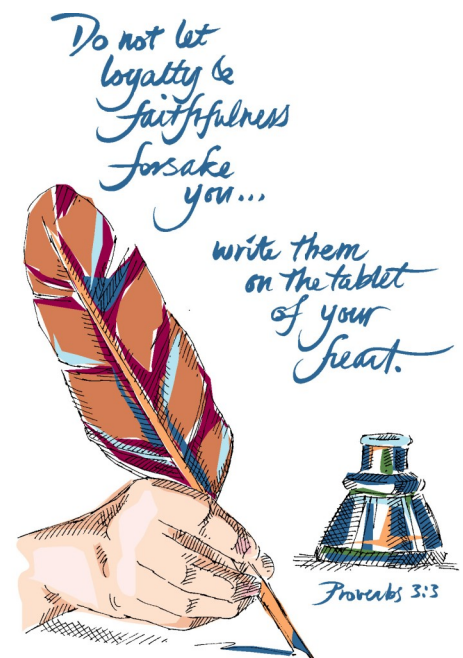
I asked a female minister how often she had preached about the crucifixion as the atonement for our sins.

"Never!" she exploded.

I've heard quite a few sermons by women over the years. None of them ever glorified the crucifixion either. If anything, they chose to focus on the little things in Jesus' life. A touch in a crowd. A hand that helped a little girl rise. A kind word for a widow. An act of compassion for a troubled father.

To these women, the grand gesture was meaningless - unless it was backed up by the smaller acts that give it credibility.

- Jim Taylor





Thank you for the generous care package. It was nice to know you were still thinking of me while I studied in England. Coming home to a care package was a good ending to a wonderful journey!

Katie Scarborough

To Thank You,

Just a note to say thank you so much.

*Dear St. John's UMC,*

*Thank you very much for the finals care package. I appreciate it very much.*

*Thank you,*

*Jacob Miller*

So Kind, So Thoughtful, Thanks you so much.

Thanks you so much for the care package! I'm glad to say that none of it went to waste!

Megan Bryson

A very special thank you for being so very thoughtful.

*Dear St. John's UMC:*

*Thank you for the finals care package it was very thoughtful of you and very helpful.*

*Thanks,*

*Luke Miller*

Dear Elimsport United Methodist Church,

Thank you so very much for your gift of \$300.00 to the Montgomery Food Bank. Your gift was very much appreciated. Thank you for caring for the needy people of the Montgomery Area.

Thanks again,

Footprints of Montgomery



The Apple Dumpling gang was approached about making donuts on Shrove Tuesday. They need to know how many people would be willing to buy donuts. They have a recipe for copy-cat Krispy Kream donuts. Gloria tried them- they were delicious. The gang, also would like to know if they should make apple dumplings in the same month as the donuts. Donut prices would be \$0.75 each or \$5.50 per dozen. Please give a member of the gang your feedback.

St. John's United Methodist Church

*God bless Your Generosity! Your Gift Provides Light To Those In Crisis*

*Thank you for the blankets.*

Your recent donation to the Shepherd of the Streets Ministry is deeply appreciated.

Your gift of love is the spark needed for the candle to burn brighter in the hearts of those walking a difficult road.

May the Lord shine brightly in all you say and do.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

J. Morris, Smith, Th.D.

Shepherd of the Streets



### Upcoming Dates To Remember:

Sunday, February 15th  
Parish Soup Picnic, @ St. John's, noon

Tuesday, February 17th  
Wendy's Fundraiser, 5:00 - 8:00pm

Wednesday, February 18th  
Ash Wednesday Service @ St. John's 7:00pm

Sunday, March 15th  
Game Night, @ Elimsport Social Hall, 4:00pm

Thursday, April 2nd  
Seder Meal @ Elimsport Social Hall, 6:00pm

Friday, April 3rd  
Good Friday Service @ Elimsport, 7:00 pm

Sunday, April 5th  
Easter Sunrise Service @ 6:00am

Sunday, April 12th  
Alvira Movie Showing, @ Elimsport Social Hall, 6:30pm

Sunday, May 31st  
Graduation Recognition Sunday (both churches)

Sunday, May 31st  
Strawberry Social @ Elimsport pavilion, 4:00pm

Monday, July 13th - Friday, July 17th  
Bible School @ Elimsport

Friday, July 17th  
Bible School Closing @ Elimsport, 6:00pm

Sunday, September 6th  
Joint Service/Labor Day Brunch, Outside 9:00am

## Elimsport Volunteers

### Greeters for February

Feb.	1	Joann Stainbrook
Feb.	8	Chris & Jill Ulrich and family
Feb.	15	Katy Moser
Feb.	22	Sandy Chamberlin and family



- Items for February's newsletter are due January 20th.
  - Items for the weekly bulletin's need to be to the church office by Thursday **morning** each week.
- (Items received after these dates are not guaranteed to be printed.)*

### Parish Winter Soup Picnic



The annual soup picnic is next Sunday, February 15, 2015 at St. John's. Eating at noon. Bring a crock pot of soup and or desert along to church with your family. Tasting bowls, spoons, bread, drink etc. will be provided. Haven't been to our soup picnic? Try us out. You will pick up a tasting bowl and try any of the soups. Then get a clean bowl and try another soup until you have tried several. Please bring a list of ingredients or a copy of the recipe of your soup for those with food allergies/restrictions.

# **ELIMSPORT VALLEY UNITED METHODIST PARISH**

## **Worship Schedule:**

### **Elimsport UMC**

Worship 9:00 am  
Sunday School 10:30 am

### **St. John's UMC**

Sunday School 9:15 am  
Worship 10:30 am

### **Parish Youth Group**

Check weekly Bulletin for current schedule and events  
(at Elimsport)

### **Parish Bible Study**

Varies according to the season.

[www.evpumc.org](http://www.evpumc.org)



### **Our Mission Statement at Elimsport UMC**



We gather together as a community of Christian believers to worship, fellowship, and to learn more about God. By the unity of the Spirit and the support of each other, we are able to reach out to the community and the world.

### **Our Mission Statement St. John's UMC**



The purpose of St. John's is to both evangelize and nurture. We are called to show God's love in our world by giving aid and by spreading the Good News of Christ. We in turn provide an atmosphere for nurturing where Biblical truths are shared enabling people to become spiritually enriched. By providing this, people will learn and through learning, become more effective witnesses.