

First Presbyterian Church  
116 N. Third St.  
Toronto, OH 43964-1416  
Change Service Requested

US PSTG  
PAID  
Permit # 39  
TORONTO, OH  
43964



## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Gail Komar 02/01

George Wise 02/03

Goldie Smurda 02/05

Fred Matyas 02/08

Jenna Shimmel 02/08

Becky Beswick 02/14

Sara Franke 02/14

Alex Cooper 02/15

Tim Allen 02/17

Harry Thomas 02/20

Andrea Vein 02/21

Jennifer Matyas 02/22

Carolyn Hannan 02/24

Kim Kelly 02/25

Lisa Tolliver 02/25

Betty Zorne 02/26

Dohrman Stratton 2/27



### Church Staff & Officers:

**Rev. Tyler J. Bayless, Pastor**  
rev.tyler.bayless@gmail.com

**Deborah Close, Admin. Assistant**  
Deborah@torontopresby.org

**Virginia Popson, Financial Sec.**  
VPopson@sbcglobal.net

**Ben Beswick, Clerk of Session**

**Thomas L. Wilson, Treasurer**

**Dolores Boggs, Director of Music**

**Jay Obertance, Organist**

**Karen Shell, Rehearsal Organist**

**Lisa Grable, Custodian**

## FEBRUARY HAPPENINGS

### Feb. 2nd

- ◇ Yarn Ministry  
10am

### Feb. 5th

- ◇ American Legion  
Chaplains Sun-  
day

### Feb. 12th

- ◇ Sunday School  
Bake Sale

### Feb. 16th

- ◇ Yarn Ministry  
10am

### Feb. 20th

- ◇ Session Meeting

### Feb. 25th

- ◇ Deacon & Elders  
Retreat 9am

### Sundays:

\*Sunday School

10:00 am

\*Worship

11:00 am

### Wednesdays:

\*Choir 7 pm

### Office Hours:

Tuesday -Friday

9 am- 1 pm

# FIRST NEWS FEBRUARY 2017

116 N. 3rd. Street, Toronto, OH 43964  
740-537-3721 - [Torontopresby@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Torontopresby@sbcglobal.net)  
Rev. Tyler J. Bayless, Pastor

## “Spiritual Growth”

In my annual report to the congregation I suggested that the best opportunity that the church and each one of us has in the coming year is the opportunity for spiritual growth. This statement was largely influenced after reading a short article written by a professor from my alma mater, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. The Rev. Dr. Roger L. Owens suggested in *Will You Grow Spiritually This Year?* that when we challenge ourselves to grow spiritually sometimes we will be taken into places that are unfamiliar and, perhaps, uncomfortable. Yet, when we return from these excursions of new spiritual practices we will have grown and view our spiritual life differently thus, even if we return to what we were doing before.

In this piece Dr. Owens likened our current spiritual life to things that we are comfortable with, like a well-worn sweater, but also suggests that “[spiritual] growth happens when you are willing to wear a new sweater, button holes still tight, elbow patches still stiff. It’s neither familiar nor comfortable, but it might be just what you need.” These new spiritual practices that we need could vary greatly from one

This article can be found at <http://www.pts.edu/blog/grow-spiritually/> or by going to the Church’s Facebook page.

person to another. Maybe the new spiritual practice that you need is committing to attend worship more regularly, maybe it’s more faithful daily readings of Scripture, maybe it’s regular time of prayer or, perhaps, it’s a different form of prayer. Such as lectio divina, the Examen prayer or Celtic Daily prayer. Each person grows differently when responding to the need for spiritual growth, and that is a wonderful thing that makes each of our journey’s unique.

Dr. Owens recommends though that when we undertake a new spiritual practice it should never be a “mindless exploration of new prayer practices for novelty’s sake.” Rather, it should be in response to being “drawn to one or repelled by one” and thereby deepening your spiritual life and understanding of your faith.

While we are already a month into this new year, I encourage you to take this year and finds ways to grow in your spiritual life, even though sometimes it may be as uncomfortable as that new sweater.

Grace and peace,  
Pastor Tyler

Please join us on February 5th for the Four Chaplain's Service offered by the American Legion during Worship.



Ash Wednesday will be celebrated March 1st.

OUR THANKS, for their faithful service, to the following Elders & Deacons:

DEACONS

**Class of 2017**

Paige Wilson 537-4296  
Cindy Fisher 537-4756  
Mary Ann Stovarsky 424-4122

**Class of 2018**

Joann Barnes 537-2682  
Roger Lewis 317-5133  
Ed Weidger 537-4665

**Class of 2019**

William Beswick 346-6666  
Terry Cattrell 534-4302  
Bonnie Wilson 537-2818

ELDERS

**Class of 2017**

George Komar 544-6439  
Julie Rock 792-1075  
Penny Wolter 537-9235

**Class of 2018**

Paul Barnes 537-2682  
Shirley Clegg 537-9343  
Robert Owen 537-4646

**Class of 2019**

Dolores Boggs 537-3960  
Connie Crawford 544-5666  
David Savastone 537-2675

A Special "THANK YOU" to the Elders and Deacons who are leaving the church boards: Tom Wilson, Mary Stratton, Royanne Wallace, Ben, Beswick, Nancy Lewis.

Chi Rho

The spring session of Chi Rho will begin Wednesday, March 1st and run every Wednesday, until April 5th!!

Flower Chart

All Sundays in February are open. If you would like to remember or honor someone with fresh flowers in the sanctuary, please call the office, 740-537-3721.



Sunday, February 12th, the Sunday School will be having a Bake Sale after Worship! What a sweet treat!!

Notes from Session Meeting:

- ♦ Mary Stratton asked to resign from session due to health reasons from ruling elder status, motion regrettably approved.
- ♦ A fellowship will be held by the Men's group to recognize the Four Chaplain service, with a super bowl theme on February 5, 2017 following worship.
- ♦ Chi-Rho will start the spring session with a tentative date of March 1, 2017 and continue for 6 weeks. They will participate in the Kids Relay for Life.
- ♦ Easter Cantata will be Sunday, April 9, 2017.
- ♦ Rev. Ashley Steele will lead worship and preach on April 23, 2017
- ♦ Connie Crawford donated a new shop vacuum to the church, THANK YOU, Connie!
- ♦ We are waiting on architectural and building permit approval to move forward with the elevator.

Relay for Life Fundraiser

Our Relay for Life team will be selling Daffodils until February 14th. A bundle of 10 daffodils costs \$10.00 each. Daffodils will be delivered the week of March 13th.

Please see Connie Crawford to order!



Giving Report for the Month of December:

**Budgeted Giving:** \$12,295.00  
**Actual Giving:** \$11,936.00  
**Difference:** (\$359.00)

\$5.00 challenge Report:

Thank you to those who have accepted the challenge of the session and have given \$5.00 extra each week. We have raised \$265.00

*Thank you for your continued support of Helping Hands of Toronto. With your generous donations we are able to feed the hungry in our great community.*



*Thank you,  
Janet Holmes,  
Treasurer*

Medical Equipment Lending

If you are in need of medical equipment such as a cane, walker, crutches, shower chair, portable toilet or bed please contact the office (537-3721) We have these items available to lend to you.

