

Canaan United Methodist Church

Canaan Times

Love and Lent Rev. Mack C. McClam, Pastor

Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world.
—1 John 4:17

February, the month of love, is a great month to begin the Lent Season. *Love*, a word much over-used and under defined today, is often employed casually of everything from cars to food to family to friends and is largely equated with feelings. This month bring thoughts of Valentine Day. Have you read The Legend Of Valentine?

The Legend Of Valentine

According to legend, the valentine takes its name from a young Christian who once lived in ancient Rome. Like so many of the early Christians, Valentine had been imprisoned because of his faith. Often and longingly he thought of his loved ones, and wanted to assure them of his well-being and his love.

Beyond his cell window, and beyond reach, grew a cluster of violets. He picked some heart-shaped leaves and pierced them to spell the words, "Remember your Valentine," then sent them off by a friendly dove.

But on the next day and the next, he sent more

messages that simply said, "I love you." Thus did the valentine have its beginning. - Encyclopedia of 15,000 Illustrations: Signs of the Times.

This year the Lent Season begins on February 18, 2015. On the Canaan Sand Hill Charge we will start our observance of Lent with Ash Wednesday Service at Canaan on Wednesday February 18th at 7:00 PM.

Hear the words of J.R. Brokhoff as he offers insight on this season.

What Is "Lent"

Lent is the most serious time of the church's liturgical year. It is the period of 40 days set aside as a period of repentance for spiritual preparation for Easter.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, the traditional day of repentance, and continues until Easter. Sundays are not counted as a part of Lent. The word "Lent" comes from "lencnthen," for the days are lengthening as Spring approaches.

As early as 200 years after Jesus' death and resurrection, Christians began to

set aside 40 hours before Easter to fast as preparation for the feast of Easter. Later, the time was extended to seven days, known as Holy Week. By AD 325, the church officially set aside 40 days before Easter as a season of repentance and special spiritual devotion.

The color of Lent is violet or purple, the color of repentance and meditation.

—John R. Brokhoff

LOVE

Love Is Not Passion

Love is not passion
Love is not pride;
Love is a journeying
Side by side.
Not of the breezes,
Nor of the gale;
Love is the steady
Set of the sail.
Deeper than ecstasy,
Sweeter than light,
Born in the sunshine,
Born for the night!
Flaming in victory,
Strongest in loss,
Love is a sacrament
Made for a cross!

"Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another." (1 John 4:11)

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February Birthdays and Anniversaries



Birthdays:

- Josephine E. Ash—1
- Kristina R. Simmons—3
- Ta-Myrah Glover—3
- Jennifer Salley—3
- Annette Ancrum—4
- Kevin Benson—5
- Wilhelmina Frazier—7
- Tashia Ravenell—8
- Glen Ancrum—8
- Richie Richardson—10
- Lloyd Jenkins—11
- Donte Reid—13
- Shawn Salley, Jr.—13
- Lamont Geddis—13
- Irlean Thompson—14
- Travis Ancrum—14
- Erin Blake—19
- Matthew King—19
- Gail Canteen—19
- Destiny McQuiller—20
- Zena Malloy—23
- Cardre Ravenell—24
- Shawn Salley, Sr.—25
- Avis Williams—28
- Michael Smith—28

“Introducing to our Church’s Annual Tea will be the addition of Circle #4!”



Announcement: Change Brings Forth Growth Tawanna Barnes, VP of UMW

It’s a New Year and with the New Year brings on some new blessed and favored things. **Introducing** to our Church’s Annual Tea will be the addition of Circle #4! This circle will consist of our youth and children of CUMC. This circle will represent the month of December.

I am asking all parents to help with this new endeavor, as we continue to walk faith and not by sight. The motivators of this new circle will include myself Tawanna Barnes, Julia Rice, Avis Williams, Ebony Summers, Jackie Alston, and with the love and support of the parents.

Requirements:

- Children/Youth will now have their own table to design, décor, and represent at the Annual Tea.
- Children/Youth will now be responsible for providing treats/light hor’dourves and drinks for their table (with the help of the advisors/ parents)
- Children/Youth will be responsible for raising money for their circle, again with the help of the advisors/parents. These funds will be contributed towards the UMW of CUMC.
- Children/Youth will be responsible for rep-

resenting the month of December as a whole body through praise/worship or designate one individual to represent the group for that particular month.

I’m excited about this change and I already know it’s favored by God. As the bible tells us, “Train up a child in the way in which they should go, so as they grow older they won’t depart.” Our children are our future and the future of our church.

To God Be the Glory,
Tawanna Barnes,
Vice President, UMW

Blake's Financial Corner

Evelyn Blake

Prov. 13:18

“He who ignores discipline comes to poverty and shame, but whoever heeds correction is honored.”

What The Heck Is A W-2?
A Beginners' Guide To
Filing Taxes In 2015

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/samanthasharf/2015/01/26/what-the-heck-is-a-w-2-a-beginners-guide-to-filing-taxes-in-2015/>

Tax season has officially begun. That means once you have the appropriate paperwork you can go online to e-file your tax return. You technically have until April 15 to file and pay tax on your 2014 income. If you're an employee who has taxes withheld from your paycheck – as most first time filers are — you're likely to be getting a refund anyway. So really, there's no reason not to tackle your 1040 ASAP.

The Internal Revenue Service, coping with deep budget cuts, has already said 2015 is going to be a

crummy year for certain taxpayer services, but that does not mean it has to be for you. Paying taxes is not fun, but if you're prepared filing can be painless and even free.

A Note to Procrastinators

It may be tempting to wait to pay your taxes. Many people who will own the IRS money do this to hold onto the dollars for longer. (Ask your parents to tell you about the long lines at the US Postal Service before the advent of online filing.) But the IRS takes deadlines very seriously—or at least those it imposes on taxpayers, if not itself. If it is April 14 and you still haven't gotten your tax act together you can get an automatic six-month extension by [filing form 4868](#). But you'd still have to fill out that form and pay all you owe by April 15.

(Please use the link above to read the entire article. It is very informative!)

The South Carolina Department of Revenue offers **FREE** electronic filing for both federal and

South Carolina returns to qualified taxpayers. You must access the software via the SC Department of Revenue website at <http://www.sctax.org/services/free-file> & click the link to a provider.

The following is a list of providers, along with specific qualifications. Use of other sites that promote a free federal return will not guarantee your ability to also file your South Carolina return for free. If you DO NOT qualify for any of the Free File offers, please visit the [South Carolina Free File Filing](#) page to see if you can file for FREE using that option.

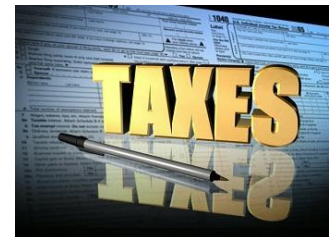
TaxAct - TaxACT offers FREE Federal and South Carolina return if you meet the following qualifications:

- Your adjusted gross income (federal AGI) is \$52,000 or less
- You are between 18 and 58 years old

TaxSlayer - Taxpayers are eligible for free filing if you meet one of the following requirements:



“Tax season has officially begun. That means once you have the appropriate paperwork you can go online to file your tax return.”



Blake's Financial Corner Continued from Page 3



File your taxes by April 15, 2015!



- If your federal Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) is \$33,000 or less
- And/Or if you are active duty military

H&R Block - offers FREE Federal and FREE State tax preparation and e-file, if you meet the following qualifications:

- If your adjusted gross income is \$53,500 or less AND you are 53 years old or younger.

TurboTax - is proud to sponsor the **TurboTax Freedom Edition**, donating free online tax preparation and e-file if in tax year 2014 you meet one of the following requirements:

- Earned \$31,000 or less Adjusted Gross Income (AGI), or
- Earned \$60,000 or less Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) and served Active Duty Military (including Reservists and National Guard) or
- Qualify for the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)

OnLine Taxes at OLT

- offers FREE Federal and FREE South Carolina online tax preparation and e-filing for taxpayers who meet the following qualification:

- If your Federal Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) is between \$13,000 and \$60,000 regardless of age

1040Now - offers FREE Federal and FREE South Carolina income tax preparation and EFile of tax returns for taxpayers who meet the following qualifications:

- If your federal AGI (adjusted gross income) is \$32,000 or less and you live in South Carolina

IMPORTANT: YOU MUST ACCESS THESE PROVIDERS FROM THE LINK PROVIDED AT <http://www.sctax.org/services/free-file> TO ENSURE THAT YOUR RETURN CAN BE FILED FOR FREE. THE SITE WILL ALSO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL INFOR-

MATION FOR EACH PROVIDER

****Brain Teaser** (Your brain needs exercise too. Use it or Lose it!)**

A man wanted to get into his work building, but he had forgotten his code. However, he did remember five clues. These are what those clues were:

- The fifth number plus the third number equals fourteen.
- The fourth number is one more than the second number.
- The first number is one less than twice the second number.
- The second number plus the third number equals ten.
- The sum of all five numbers is 30.

What were the five numbers and in what order? (Answer in next month's newsletter)

Answer to January's brain teaser: 65, 72, 79, 86, 93

Black History Facts

- Black History Month began as “Negro History Week,” which was created in 1926 by Carter G. Woodson, a noted African American historian, scholar, educator, and publisher. It became a month-long celebration in 1976. The month of February was chosen to coincide with the birthdays of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln.
- Jack Johnson became the first African-American man to hold the World Heavyweight Champion boxing title in 1908. He held on to the belt until 1915.
- John Mercer Langston was the first black man to become a lawyer in Ohio when he passed the Bar in 1854. When he was elected to the post of Town Clerk for Brownhelm, Ohio in 1855 Langston became one of the first African Americans ever elected to public office in America. John Mercer Langston was also the great-uncle of Langston Hughes, famed poet of the Harlem Renaissance.
- Thurgood Marshall was the first African American ever appointed to the United States Supreme Court. He was appointed by President Lyndon B. Johnson, and served on the Supreme Court from 1967 to 1991.
- George Washington Carver developed 300 derivative products from peanuts among them cheese, milk, coffee, flour, ink, dyes, plastics, wood stains, soap, linoleum, medicinal oils and cosmetics.
- Hiram Rhodes Revels was the first African American ever elected to the United States Senate. He represented the state of Mississippi from February 1870 to March 1871.
- Shirley Chisholm was the first African American woman elected to the House of Representatives. She was elected in 1968 and represented the state of New York. She broke ground again four years later in 1972 when she was the first major party African-American candidate and the first female candidate for president of the United States.
- The black population of the United States in 1870 was 4.8 million; in 2007, the number of black residents of the United States, including those of more than one race, was 40.7 million.



“To catch the reader's attention, place an interesting sentence or quote from the story here.”



February is Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month Research about Teen Dating Violence

LOVE IS PATIENT
love is kind
love is not jealous or boastful
IT IS NOT love does not *it is not*
ARROGANT insist on *irritable or*
OR RUDE its own way *resentful*
LOVE BEARS ALL THINGS
believes all things
HOPES endures
all things all things
LOVE NEVER ENDS

*File your
taxes by
April 15,
2015!*



Dating abuse is a big problem, affecting youth in every community across the nation. Learn the facts below.

Too Common

- Nearly 1.5 million high school students nationwide experience physical abuse from a dating partner in a single year.
- One in three girls in the US is a victim of physical, emotional or verbal abuse from a dating partner, a figure that far exceeds rates of other types of youth violence.
- One in ten high school students has been purposefully hit, slapped or physically hurt by a boyfriend or girlfriend.
- One quarter of high school girls have been victims of physical or sexual abuse or date rape.

Why Focus on Teens?

- Girls and young women between the ages of 16 and 24 experience the highest rate of intimate partner violence, almost triple the national average.
- Among female victims of intimate partner violence, 94% of those age 16-19 and 70% of those age 20-24 were victimized by a current or former boyfriend or girlfriend.

- Violent behavior often begins between the ages of 12 and 18.
- The severity of intimate partner violence is often greater in cases where the pattern of abuse was established in adolescence.
- About 72% of eighth and ninth graders are 'dating.'

Don't Forget About College Students

- Nearly half (43%) of dating college women report experiencing violent and abusive dating behaviors.
- College students are not equipped to deal with dating abuse – 57% say it is difficult to identify and 58% say they don't know how to help someone who's experiencing it.
- One in three (36%) dating college students has given a dating partner their computer, email or social network passwords and these students are more likely to experience digital dating abuse.
- One in six (16%) college women has been sexually abused in a dating relationship.

Long-lasting Effects

- Violent relationships in adolescence can have serious ramifications by putting the victims at higher risk for substance

abuse, eating disorders, risky sexual behavior and further domestic violence.

- Being physically or sexually abused makes teen girls six times more likely to become pregnant and twice as likely to get a STD.
- Half of youth who have been victims of both dating violence and rape attempt suicide, compared to 12.5% of non-abused girls and 5.4% of non-abused boys.

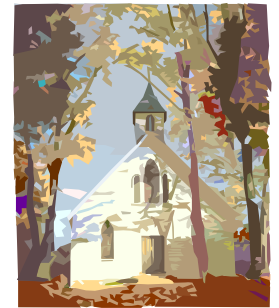
Lack of Awareness

- Only 33% of teens who were in an abusive relationship ever told anyone about the abuse.
- Eighty one percent of parents believe teen dating violence is not an issue or admit they don't know if it's an issue.
- Though 82% of parents feel confident that they could recognize the signs if their child was experiencing dating abuse, a majority of parents (58%) could not correctly identify all the warning signs of abuse.

For more information, go to <http://www.teendvmonth.org>

Canaan's Officers for 2015

- Lay Leader, Irlean Thompson
- Lay Member to Annual Conference, Irlean Thompson
- 1st Alternate Lay Member to Annual Conference,
- 2nd Alternate Lay Member to Annual Conference, San Roman King
- 3rd Alternate Lay Member to Annual Conference, Victoria Singleton
- Recording Secretary, Chaundra Bryant
- Assistant Recording Secretary, Tawanna Barnes
- Church Historian, Benjamin Nkanata
- Chairperson of the Administrative Council, Charles Duberry
- Superintendent of Sunday School, Alice Summers
- 1st Assistant Superintendent of Sunday School, Harold Ancrum
- Membership Secretary, ShaRhonda Lumar
- Assistant Membership Secretary, Evelyn Blake
- Chairperson of Finance, Heidi Fields
- Assistant Chairperson of Finance, Mary Chisolm
- Church Treasurer, Barbara Blake
- Financial Secretary, Yvonne Bowens
- Chairperson of Career Planning and Counseling, NeKedra Lumar
- Asst. Chairperson of Career Planning and Counseling, Alice West
- Chairperson for Outreach Ministries, Queen Trappier
- Chair of Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns Ministries,
- Chairperson of Church and Society, Queen Trappier
- Chairperson of Mission, Sudie B. King
- Assistant Chairperson of Mission, Julie Robinson
- Committee for Mission, Eleanor Simmons
- Chairperson of Religion and Race,
- Chairperson of Health and Welfare, Pearl Edwards
- Chairperson for Status and Role of Women, Taundra Campbell
- Chairperson for Nurture, Tawanna Barnes
- Chairperson of Higher Education and Campus Ministries, Chandra Bryant
- Chairperson of Evangelism, Harold Ancrum
- Chairperson of Stewardship, Clement Singleton
- Chairperson of Worship, Julia Rice
- Committee for Worship, Isreal Singleton
- Committee for Worship, Sandra Gelzer
- Chairperson for Age Level and Family Ministries,
- Chairperson of Children's Ministries, Ebony Summers-Fogel
- Chairperson of Youth Ministry, Avis Williams
- Chairperson of Young Adult Ministries, Zena Malloy
- Communications Coordinator (Public Relations), Ebony Summers-Fogel
- Communications Coordinator (Public Relations), Victoria Singleton
- Committee on Lay Leadership, Betty Gregg, David Campbell, Queen Trappier, Terrance Smith, Gloria Ancrum, Ann Edwards, Barbara Lumar
- Charge Committee on Pastor Parish Relations, Phillip Rice, Clement Singleton, May Frazier-Robinson, Dorothy Benson
- Chairman of Trustee Board, Jonathan West, Sr.
- Trustee, Travis Fleming, Vernon Trappier, Johnny Rice, Sandra Gelzer, Flora Mae Salley, Alex Singleton, Derwin Daly, Ida Smith
- Charge Financial Secretary, Virgie Sanders
- Charge Treasurer, Yvonne Bowens
- Charge Trustee Chairperson, Leroy Shecut
- Hospitality/Kitchen Coordinator, Irlean Thompson, Mary Chisolm



*May God continue
to bless the officers
of Canaan's
United Methodist
Church as you do
God's work!*

GOD'S LOVE IS STEADFAST, UNSELFISH & ENDURING

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Open hearts. Open minds.
Open doors.

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2 Chronicles 1:8 *And Solomon said to God, "You have shown great and steadfast love to David my father, and have made me king in his place.*

Psalms 52:8 *But I am like a green olive tree in the house of God. I trust in the steadfast love of God forever and ever.*

Daniel 9:4 *I prayed to the LORD my God and made confession, saying, "O Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments...*

Micah 7:18 *Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity and passing over transgression for the remnant of his inheritance? He does not retain his anger forever, because he delights in steadfast love.*

John 3:16-17 *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.*

1 John 4:16 *So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.*

1 John 4:19 *We love because he first loved us.*

Romans 5:7-8 *For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die—but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

Lay Leader's Report Irlean G. Thompson

I can do all things through Christ that strengthens me
Philippians 4:13

I pray all is well as you read this. As your new Lay Leader/SPPRC chairperson I must work while it is day because when night comes no man can see. I will do the best job I can do as God leads me. I will be the voice for Canaan U.M church. Please feel free to call and talk to me with your suggestions, any sickness or concerns of the church. I leave you with this poem.

Gardening God's Way
Plant three rows of peas:
Peace of mind

Peace of heart
Peace of soul

Plant four rows of squash:
Squash gossip
Squash indifference
Squash grumbling
Squash selfishness

Plant four rows of lettuce:
Lettuce be faithful
Lettuce be kind
Lettuce be obedient
Lettuce really love one another

No garden should be without turnips:
Turnip for meetings
Turnip for service

Turnip to help one another

Water freely with patience and cultivate love

There is much fruit for your garden
Because you reap what you sow.

To conclude our garden
We must have thyme:
Thyme for God
Thyme for study
Thyme for prayer
Thyme for each other
Thyme for friends

Submitted By Irlean G. Thompson
Layleader/SPPRC Chairperson