

FEBRUARY

Here and Now

February 2022

Volume 69, Issue 2

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PASTOR LEANNE'S MESSAGE: "WHAT GOD WILL DO"



I spoke before about the painful impact of losing my father in the winter of my 12th year. The following summer after his loss, I was at a summer Bible Camp, when a preacher I barely knew came up to me. He asked, "aren't you the little girl whose Daddy died a few months back?" When I replied that I was, he scrunched his face up into the most concerned expression and let out a low, long, tragic sigh. "Poor thing," he said. "You'll probably grow up starved for male attention now. You'll get attached to the first boy who pays any attention to you and get married right out of high school and spend your whole life looking for love. You poor thing." He walked away from me sadly shaking his head at the tragedy he saw in me, while my 13 year-old mouth dropped open. "Geeze," I thought. "He really doesn't know me." And I can say now with assurance, he really did not.

And I hated high school. Hated it. I cut so many days, and made up so many stomach aches that it is a wonder they let me pass. Once, a teacher walked up to me and said, "you know, you are a smart enough girl and you always complete your assignments, but I hope you are not planning to go to college, because you never show up to class. You are never going to make it." Two colleges, three Master's degrees and a PhD later, I think it is fairly safe to say that he was wrong. I share those stories to illustrate something the scripture teaches: no future is ever entirely bound by the past—and what will be is absolutely never pre-determined by what has been. Too many people are armed with just enough tv psychobabble to venture into unfounded predictions about the devastating effects one will bear from life's events and blows. Too many folks think that one decision is the only decision that will ever matter and it simply isn't true.



In scripture, long after Abraham gave up on being a father, he had a son. A long time after Joseph was sold into slavery in Egypt, he rescued a floundering tribe that became a nation. And the Apostle Paul continued as a great evangelist and writer well after he wrongly pursued Christians for the purpose of imprisonment. Scars can heal, mistakes can be teaching tools instead of life sentences, and God's plans always emerge out of confusion. These days, we have many voices predicting the disastrous long-term effects of this pandemic.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



PASTOR'S MESSAGE CONTINUED

And not to argue with Psychologists, Economists, Educators and political leaders – I take their cautions into consideration and use their predictions as guides to the problems that may need solving in the years to come. But, it is always too soon to count a believer out, or to predict that a whole generation will underachieve because their education has been accompanied by pandemic disruptions and health protocols. It is far too soon to assume that some goals are totally lost, or that some organizations will never recover. The plans of God always win, pulling the ones God loves through times of difficulty and offering us tools and resources, and yes, some genuinely surprise turns on the way to joy. God will do what God has promised to do for believers, ever since the Hebrew children were guided through the wilderness with fire by night and a cloud by day – God will lead and provide. The Apostle Paul, who knew something about the faithfulness of God said this to the church, I am “confident of this, that God who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 1:6) And I believe it too. The future is not written yet; it is not pre-determined by the predictions of the wise nor the foolish. The future belongs to God, and we who belong to God as well are in very good hands. Leanne



148th Annual Meeting
Thank you to all who attended!

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE Attention High School Seniors, College Students, and Graduate Students

The First Presbyterian Church Scholarship Committee want to make you aware of the availability of a limited number of scholarships for our church community. To be eligible for consideration to receive a scholarship, a student must be an active member of First Presbyterian Church of Bismarck or must have been an active participant in the life of the church for at least three years. Students at any level of study beyond high school are eligible to receive a scholarship award. Students are eligible to receive a scholarship for a maximum of four years: the years do not need to be consecutive. Graduate students may apply for scholarships, providing they are within the four-year maximum. Applications will be available in the Narthex or for download from the church website www.fcpbismarck.com. The application period will be from March 14 to May 13, 2022.

CHILD CARE CENTER NEWS

As the father of a 4-year-old I have become very aware over the past several years just how much parents rely on their family, friends and community to help support the growth of their children. The axiom *it takes a village* is well-known for a reason.

My daughter, Signe, has attended the First Presbyterian Child Care Center for most of her life. It is not lost on me just how much your congregation has been a part of the village it has taken to care for her.

Your mission to provide a caring, safe, and thoughtful place for young children to develop and grow is such a blessing to not only my family, but the community of Bismarck. I know it isn't easy and without sacrifice that FPC provides this warm service.

As we have all tried to survive and maintain during the last few years, things are uncertain and fraught, your Church and the FPCCC staff have provided a place of stability and development for many families and children. It is truly a worthwhile and holy mission and I want to thank the FPC congregation and all the parishioners that provide support. Please know that the parents and children that are lucky enough to be a part of the FPCCC are aware of your support and we appreciate all that you do for our children.

God Bless, Geoff Greenwood, parent rep.

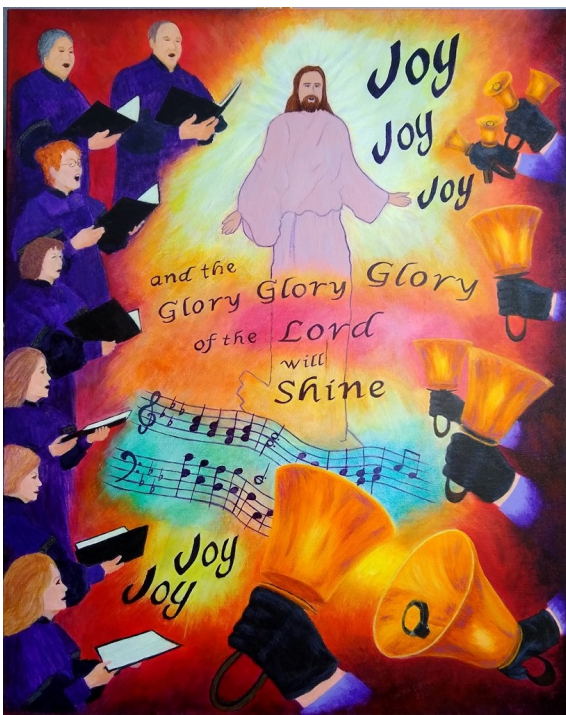


THANK YOU FROM CCC
for the January donations of wipes and hand soap!

REQUEST FROM CCC - FEBRUARY
Donations of Kleenex boxes!!

DEDICATION OF PAINTING

(Jan. 23rd during Worship)



A few years ago someone asked if I could paint something to hang in the parlor. After some time of reflection, I felt the most passionate about the joy of singing in the choir and hearing the ringing of the handbells in worship. I wanted to paint something uplifting! In the painting, Christ is at the center and posed the same as the etching on the pillar in the sanctuary, with the colors that appear on the pillar when the sun shines through the stained glass later in the day. The words and music are taken from the anthem, "Joy In The Morning," which bells and voices have performed together. The seven singers and seven hands are just a representation of each choir. I tried to make most of the faces neutral enough that they could be one person or another, depending on who is viewing ... so you can decide.

Sandra Cofell

QUILT RAFFLE

Quilters of First Presbyterian, would any of you be interested in working on a quilt to raffle off as part of our 150th anniversary celebration? This is a project for beginners as well as master quilters. The design squares/shapes would be hand sewn. The bags with the square/shape materials would be picked up at the church, completed at home or if we decide at a quilting social gathering (aka quilting bee), and returned to the church. The final assembly would be the only in person activity which probably wouldn't occur until 2023. An informational meeting will be held for anyone interested in participating in this project, and will be held on February 13th right after the service.



WANONA'S "MEDICINE"

Here is some much-needed humor:

A man is stumbling through the woods, totally drunk, when he comes upon a preacher baptizing people in the river. He proceeds into the water, subsequently bumping into the preacher. The preacher turns around and is almost overcome by the smell of 2alcohol, where upon, he asks the drunk, "Are you ready to find Jesus?" The drunk shouts, "Yes, I am!"

So, the preacher grabs him and dunks him in the water. He pulls him back and asks, "Brother, have you found Jesus?" The drunk replies, "No, I haven't found Jesus." The preacher, shocked at the answer, dunks him again but for a little longer. He again pulls him out of the water and asks, "Have you found Jesus, brother?" The drunk answers, "No, I haven't found Jesus!"

By this time, the preacher is at his wit's end and dunks the drunk again – but this time holds him down for about 30 seconds, and when he begins kicking his arms and legs about, he pulls him up. The preacher again asks the drunk, "For the love of God, have you found Jesus?!" The drunk staggers upright, wipes his eyes, coughs up a bit of water, catches his breath, and says to the preacher, "Are you sure this is where he fell in?"

AND ANOTHER HA HA .

A grandmother overheard 5-year-old Christy "playing wedding." The wedding vows went like this:

"You have the right to remain silent, anything you say may be held against you, you have the right to have an attorney present. You may kiss the bride."



FROM OUR PARISH NURSE - WANONA

Well, we made it to February. I have always liked this month.

First, it's the shortest month of the year.

Second, it's time for the Super Bowl!

I guess I really don't have a valid reason why I like February, Haha. I could say it is a great month for couples. At least the candy and flower shops really enjoy this month, right? I have been able to continue my home visits with some of you amazing people. I continue to have the strengthening exercise class and invite all of you to come join us. Thank you to all who have been coming! I still have access to some I-Pads and Life Alert Pendants if anyone is interested, please give me a call.

I will be having a Blood Pressure Clinic on Sunday February 13th from 9am-10am and 11am-noon. All are welcome!



A WORD WITH WANONA

I would like to introduce our new Administrative Assistant: Maureen Chrest. She said it sounds like and is spelled like the toothpaste, with an “h”.

Maureen was born in Kenmare, North Dakota and raised in Lignite, North Dakota. Her family is from our neighboring country of Canada. She has three siblings, is the baby of the family, and is the only one in her family to be born in the USA! Maureen attended school at Burke Central School in Lignite and graduated in 1986. Her very first job was working on the Canadian border, at Exports Inc. She worked in their warehouse where people picked up their duty-free items before they crossed into Canada. She moved to Douglas, AZ with her husband and worked at the movie theater, and radio station until the birth of their first son Brandon in 1992. They lived there for 9 years and decided to move back to Cavalier, North Dakota in 1994. When her second son Ryan came into this world in 1996, she stayed home to raise their boys. When Ryan started kindergarten, she then went back to work as a paraprofessional and cook for the Pembina County Head Start Program for 12 years. She also worked at the variety/print shop The Treasure Trove, until moving to Bismarck in 2019. She now lives with her furry friend Twinkie (he is orange with a white tummy).



Maureen had three goals in life:

1. She wanted to obtain a fulfilling career that would sustain a comfortable living, and satisfying workplace.
2. She wanted to raise her children to be happy, successful, humble, and kind.
3. She wanted to have grandchildren to spoil. She reached that goal with the arrival of her granddaughter Cambree who happens to live not too far away and yes, she gets the “Nana” love, hugs and all the spoiling she requires.



Maureen says her most memorable event in her life is the birth of her boys and of course the gift of her beautiful granddaughter. Cambree and Maureen just happen to share the same birth month, only 3 days apart! Maureen is very thankful for her family. Her parents were wonderful mentors

and have prepared her for her life adventures. Their life lessons and guidance have given her many tools as a parent, employee and grandmother. Maureen’s hero was her mother. She saw her mother’s amazing ability as a parent, mentor and caregiver for father while he walked through his end-of-life journey with cancer. Her mother later suffered from cancer herself, and dealt with her journey with dignity, grace, and took comfort in knowing she would be reunited with her husband soon. It gave comfort to the whole family.

Maureen’s maiden name was Schmidt. Her family had a crazy way of turning words around, for ex: her sister & brother-in-law’s names are Sherry & Skip, but their mother called them “Ship & Scary” this is what became known as a “Schmidt-ism.” This provided many laughs over the years, she could write a book!

Please welcome Maureen as our new Administrative Assistant. She started January 4th at First Presbyterian Church. She just happened to know Carol Thompson who is our finance assistant. Both worked at Edgewood Assisted Living prior to here. Pastor Leanne & everyone in the office have made her feel a part of the Team and she has enjoyed meeting the FPC members that have dropped by the office. Please stop by and say, “Hello”. Thank you, Maureen for sharing your life journey!



PER CAPITA SPECIAL OFFERING

Per Capita is the assessment of each church within our denomination for an equal share of the mission budget of our denomination/PCUSA. **This year the assessment is \$ 48.00 per member.**

Per Capita is a way of sharing the costs that equitably belong to the whole Presbyterian community. It has been said that per capita apportionment is like a utility bill. Just as we pay for heat, light, water and telephone in order to remain connected to the utility systems and benefit from the services provided, we also pay per capita so that the Presbyterian system can function on behalf of all of us. It is the necessary linkage in our connectional system.

To assure that our church remained current with its obligation to pay per capita, the estimated total share of our church's per capita based on the total membership of the preceding year has always been a budget item in the annual budget regardless of how many of its members actually contributed financially to the church. A number of years ago it was decided to initiate a per capita special offering to provide those members who did not contribute financially to, as a minimum, pay the cost of their membership in the church (ie: per capita).

It was realized in this process that some members did not contribute because of a lack of resources and there were other members that wished to make a special per capita payment in addition to their annual stewardship pledge to cover the per capita for a member who could not afford that cost. **It is that spirit that has become the focus of the Per Capita Special Assessment of our church in recent years, and the response over the years since the Per Capita Special Offering was established has been wonderful.** With the added income provided by the per capita special offering, our church has been able to extend the general fund resources available for other needy programs and activities.

A special thank you to those who have generously given to the Per Capita Special Offering in the past. We hope that you will consider continuing this unheralded form of ministry support of our church. **A per capita offering can be given at any time of the year.**

Resources Management Committee
Jim Skaret, Chairperson



ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP DRIVE UPDATE



The 2022 Annual Stewardship Drive has reached a total of \$ 318,238 as of this printing. The goal, and the amount included in the 2022 Budget is \$320,000. While not continuing to promote the drive after February 1, 2022, it should be understood that **if you have not yet submitted an Estimate of Giving Card for 2022, it is not too late, and you can do it anytime during the 2022 calendar year.** A special thank you from the Resources Management Committee goes to all that have responded thus far by submitting their Estimate of Giving Card. Well done!! There are hopes that during the next several weeks and months, additional Estimate of Giving Cards will be submitted that will catapult us over the goal. Again, our thanks. Resource Management Committee

THE PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY



Knitting Group will resume gathering, meeting the 1st and 3rd Mondays of each month. Our first meeting will be **February 7, 1:30-3:30pm** in the Church Parlor. Anyone interested please join us!

CHOIR PERFORMING

The University of Jamestown Concert Choir will be performing at the service on Sun. **February 27th**. We are looking forward to the concert!



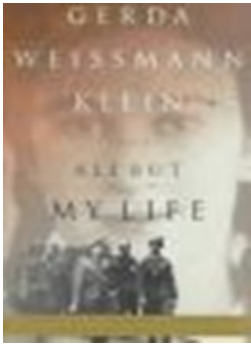
HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE - HELP NEEDED

We are looking for volunteers to assist with “The Banquet” lunch on Sat. February 26th at Trinity Lutheran Church (6 volunteers needed to prepare, serve and clean-up.) A sign up sheet is in the Narthex. Donations to help defray costs may be dropped off at the church office anytime and note “Banquet” in the memo line of your check.

OUTREACH COMMITTEE

During February, the Outreach Committee will again be collecting donations for Ministry on the Margins. Ministry on the Margins (MOTM) was founded to help support men and women who fall through the cracks during transitional times—especially during re-entry into the community from prison. First Presbyterian has supported MOTM for several years through Thanksgiving Dinners, Tree of Love donations of sleeping bags, and soap collections. This year MOTM is asking for donations of **hand warmers and warm winter gloves** for men and women. The sub-zero temperatures and howling winds of the last couple of weeks remind us all of the need for appropriate outerwear. Our donations of gloves and handwarmers will certainly be welcomed by the clients of the Ministry, many of whom are homeless on the coldest days and nights of the year. Donations will be gladly accepted at the Church anytime during February.

BOOK CLUB will be meeting again on Thursday, February 24th at 1:30 in the parlor. Jae Reile has chosen the book *All But My Life* by Gerda Weissman Klein and copies will be available in the office after February 1st. *All But My Life* is an unforgettable story of the author’s six-year ordeal as a victim of Nazi cruelty. From her comfortable home in Poland to her miraculous survival and her liberation by American troops in 1945, Gerda takes the reader on a terrifying journey. In the darkness of the camps, Gerda and her young friends manage to create a community of friendship and love. Gerda's beautifully written story gives an invaluable message to everyone by introducing a terrible history of devastation and prejudice and yet offering hope that the effects of hatred can be overcome.



CLOTHING DRIVE

for Myhre Elementary School is underway. Donations of sweatpants in neutral colors sizes 5-16 and underwear for boys or girls are needed. These items provide emergency clothing in case of accidents on wet and snowy playgrounds. These greatly appreciated items can be dropped off in the church’s donation box in the Narthex.



“SOUPER BOWL” SUNDAY

On Sunday February 13, 2022 the youth of our church will be collecting cash and non-perishable food items that can be used to make soup. The donations will go to Heaven Helpers Soup Cafe. Thank you in advance for your generosity.
CE Committee



SESSION HIGHLIGHTS JANUARY 25, 2022

CLERK'S REPORT

Session approved minutes from the December 28, 2021 meeting and the Annual Congregational Meeting January 23, 2022. Session approved the Statistical Report which will be sent to Presbytery.

The death of Clinton Dykema, November 27, 2021 was reported; membership is 346.

MODERATOR'S REPORT

Pastor Leanne will take vacation February 11-19. Goals for this year include more visibility in the community, developing with Marete Farver, a young family ministry and planning for the 2023 anniversary celebration.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Total Income YTD Actual	\$530,289	Budget	\$523,787
Total Expense YTD Actual	\$485,312	Budget	\$561,057
NET Income	\$44,977	Budget	-\$37,270

The higher than predicted NET income is due to months without full staff (lower expense) and to more pledged income. The numbers in the Annual Report, page 24, General Fund 2021 for Total Expense Actual and NET should be the numbers listed above. (Rather than \$484,291 expense and NET \$45,998).

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Administrative and Personnel—Any gift cards given to FPC employees by FPC Committees are considered by law to be taxable income and must be reported. Giving of gift cards to employees must be approved by Administrative and Personnel.

Hospitality—The work plan will focus on visibility. Diann Johnson will be Co-Chair with Kim Wassim. Elder Bill Jensen will be on Christian Education Committee. February's donations of hand warmers and gloves will go to Ministry on the Margins.

Proclamation—Christian Education Committee will be meeting with Worship and Music to plan spring events.

Worship and Music—The University of Jamestown Choir will be performing at FPC Sunday February 27. Session approved dates for communion: first Sundays of each month, along with Easter and Christmas Eve.

Property and Equipment—Matt Engel is the new Chair of the committee. Building security has improved with new outside lighting and with the key card system. Judy Lentz will be working in the office for 2 hours Wednesday evening.

Resource Management—Christmas Joy offering was \$1,465 and Christmas Eve offering to support youth activities was \$497. Final pledged amount for 2022 was \$318,238.

Board of Deacons—Dennis Rosenkranz will join Kent Ellis as Co-Moderator. Donna Richter will serve as Secretary.

Child Care Center Board—Since the CCC was closed December 28-29 due to health issues, the wages for staff will be paid for those days from the monthly stabilization grant. May 15 has been set for CCC recognition.

Anniversary Planning Committee—Shari Orser will chair this committee. Members wishing to participate should contact Shari.

Alice Nix, Clerk of Session



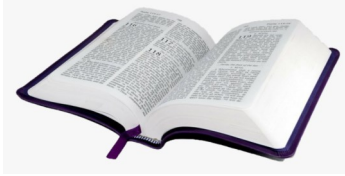
BIRTHDAYS

FEBRUARY

Abby Bjornson	1st
Annabelle Wohl	1st
Lorraine Dopson	5th
Judith Libby	6th
Jouvet Forbang	8th
Paul Jensen	9th
Pat Liedtke	9th
Lyle Johnsen	12th
Josh Stokka	17th
Eleanor Herdebu	18th
Jackie Lannoye	20th
Samantha Ronningen	22nd
Cathy Kinnischtzke	23rd
Tamara Gallup Lemm	26th
Priscilla Wilson	27th

ANNIVERSARIES

Vern & Vi Spitzer	11th
Bryan & Wendy Skager	23rd
Corey Hedland & Jennifer Boeckel	23rd
Alex & Maddy Volk	23rd



ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL OPPORTUNITY

Have you ever read the entire Bible, clear through? The Adult Sunday School class is aiming to do that, and you are invited to join us. A reading schedule is available at the front desk. Then, every Sunday afternoon at 1:30, all who desire will be meeting by zoom to discuss what we read, ask questions and reflect on the reading. If you would like to be on that zoom list, please email Pastor Leanne at lsm609@aol.com, and she will add you to the list!

Please let us know if we've made a mistake or omission or if you would prefer not to have your special day published.

~ Thank you ~



150TH ANNIVERSARY

The first meeting of the 150th Anniversary Committee will be in February- date TBD. If you are interested in being part of the planning committee but were unable to attend the organizational meeting please notify the church office. The first meeting will be a Zoom meeting.



FAMILY NEWS

OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO JAN GILCHRIST AND HER FAMILY FOR THE LOSS OF HER FATHER.

First Presbyterian Church

214 East Thayer Ave.

Bismarck, ND 58501

Phone: 701-223-6091

firstpresbyterian@fpcbismarck.com

www.fpcbismarck.com

Sunday Worship: 10:00 am

Office Hours: 8:00 am - 4:30 pm



Pastor

Rev. Dr. Leanne Simmons

Finance Assistant

Carol Thompson

Administrative Assistant

Maureen Chrest

Parish Nurse

Wanona Goetz

Youth Ministry Assistant

Marete Snortland Farver

Organists

Arvy Smith & Gail Snustad

Choir Director

Debi Rogers

Handbell Ensemble Director

Lael Hoerauf

Maintenance Manager

Tony Bartole

Membership Services

Judy Lentz

Child Care Center Director

Shawn Stettner

Child Care Center Asst Director

Vanessa Hein

Nursery

Mary Jones

Christian Ed Interns

Sophie Svihovec & Mark Jensen

FEBRUARY

2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 5:45 pm Property/Equip. 6:30 pm Lay Pastors	2 5:45 pm PAC/Teens 6:30 pm W.C. 7:30 pm Choir	3 11:00 am Exercise Class	4	5 10:30 am Gladys Cairns Service - refreshments to follow
6 COMMUNION 10:00 am Worship 1:30 pm ZOOM Adult SS	7 10:00 am Exercise 5:30 pm Suzuki 5:30 pm ZOOM Joint -Worship/ Music/Christian Ed	8 5:30 pm CCC Board	9 5:45 pm PAC/Teens 6:30 pm W.C. 7:30 pm Choir	10 11:00 am Exercise Class 6:00 pm Hospitality ZOOM	11 Pastor on	12 Vacation >
13 > > > "SOUPER" BOWL SUNDAY 10:00 am Worship Am BP Clinic - Conf Rm 1:30 pm ZOOM Adult SS	14 > > > 10:00 am Exercise 5:30 pm Suzuki 6:30 pm Scouts	15 > > >	16 > > > 5:45 pm PAC/Teens 6:30 pm W.C. 7:30 pm Choir	17 > > > 11:00 am Exercise Class 7:00 pm Deacons	18 > >	19 > >
20 10:00 am Worship 1:30 pm ZOOM Adult SS	21 NO SCHOOL 10:00 am Exercise Noon Resource Mgmt 5:00 pm Admin/Personnel 5:30 pm Suzuki 6:30 pm Scouts	22 NO SCHOOL 6:00 pm Session	23 5:45 pm PAC/Teens 6:30 pm W.C. 7:30 pm Choir	24 11:00 am Exercise Class	25	26
27 10:00 am Worship JAMESTOWN CHOIR 1:30 pm ZOOM Adult SS	28 10:00 am Exercise 5:30 pm Suzuki 6:30 pm Scouts					



The Groundhog

The funny little groundhog,
Digs a home in the fall.
And hides there all winter,
Rolled up in a ball.
On February 2nd
He comes out of there,
To look at the sky,
And to sniff the air.



FEBRUARY'S MOODS

Old February can't decide
Just what he wants to do.
Most of the time he's raining, but
There's snow and blizzards, too.

Sometimes he's cold and very nasty,
Then he gets so mild!
And gentle tears come trickling down,
Quite pleasing to a child.

Guess old February can't
Be helped in any way.
We'll just put up with his wild moods -
And cheer when he goes away!

by Lenore Hetrick



