

## **IN THIS ISSUE**

- ✧ Pastor's Message
- ✧ March Services
- ✧ Shut-Ins
- ✧ March Schedule of Duties
- ✧ Birthdays and Anniversaries
- ✧ Financial Report
- ✧ Men's Group
- ✧ Faith Kidz
- ✧ JEEUS
- ✧ Butter Braids
- ✧ Crafty Chicks
- ✧ Toiletries Collection
- ✧ Sisters of Service
- ✧ Women's Book Club
- ✧ Easter Party
- ✧ Women's Retreat
- ✧ Healing Hearts
- ✧ Emmanuel's Closet News
- ✧ Just For Kids
- ✧ "Bly's" Report
- ✧ March Calendar

## *From the Pastor's Desk*



I want to thank the Coordinating Ministry Team and Blymire's Church for giving me the opportunity to be the "Flavor of the Month" while Pastor Lou Ann was "temporarily resigned" for the month of February. I enjoyed leading worship and working with Wanda for a few weeks, doing some wedding counseling, working with Linda Eichelberger and the confirmation class, and doing some hospital, nursing home, and home visitations. It gave me the opportunity to reconnect with some old friends after two and a half years.

I must admit it was a little strange coming back to preach at Blymire's. First, I had to adjust to the height of the pulpit so I could read my sermon notes. Second, I had to adjust to the lighting so I could see. And third, I had to figure out what all the signals, hand waving and note passing meant from those in the Sound/Video booth!

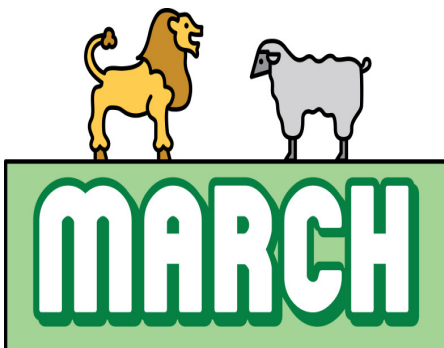
First, I tried to remind us in my sermons that our task at St. John's Blymire's UCC is to provide LIGHT for a world that often lives in darkness. The light we are to shine is reflected light. It is shone first in Jesus, his disciples, then through us. That is why Jesus said to us, "You are the LIGHT of the world." What an awesome responsibility and privilege. So we have to make sure our lights don't go out, but SHINE!

Second, I tried to remind us through my friend, President Abraham Lincoln, that it is important to deal with our ANGER in a positive way. He wrote a "Hot Letter" by putting all of his anger into a letter, placed it aside until his emotions cooled down, and later wrote on it: "Never sent. Never signed" and filed it away in his desk drawer. So our challenge is to be like Lincoln and show some restraint, because unresolved anger is a spiritual problem. Jesus reminded us that ". . . anyone who is angry will be subject to judgment."

Finally, I tried to remind us the message of the cross seems FOOLISH to some, but to others who are being saved it is the power of God. God started from the bottom up and that is still how God is working today through ordinary folks like you and me. We are God's plan for saving the world and God is counting on us! So are you using your gifts to the glory of God or was God just being FOOLISH in centering His plans in us?

Well, that's it, that's enough from one "Flavor of the Month!" I am looking forward to having Pastor Lou Ann come back in March on a more "Permanent" basis to be our pastor and teacher. Don't forget to give her your love and support just like you have given me over the years.

Your friend and Pastor Emeritus, Curt



## **SPECIAL SERVICES in MARCH**

### **March 1 - Ash Wednesday**

Gospel: Matthew 6:16-21

Sermon: "Do It For God"

### **March 5 - Lent 1 - Women's Sunday**

Bible Lessons: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18;

James 1:2-4; Romans 5:3-5

Sermon: "Blessings"

### **March 12 - Lent 2**

Gospel: John 3:1-17

Sermon: "Born of the Spirit"

### **March 19 - Lent 3**

Gospel: John 4:5-42

Sermon: "Hear For Yourself"

### **March 26 - Lent 4**

Gospel: John 9:1-41

Sermon: "Spiritual Blindness"

## **REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS**

### **Freda Berry**

1240 South Pleasant Avenue

Dallastown, PA 17313

244-2282

### **Peggy Luckenbaugh**

Room 704B

Colonial Manor Nursing Home

970 Colonial Avenue

York, PA 17403



### **Anita Spahr**

36 West Main Street

Dallastown, PA 17313

244-7392

### **Dale Wise**

Room 106A

Manorcare Kingston Court

2400 Kingston Court

York, PA 17402

\*\*\*\*\*



**Remember  
and pray for  
Our Members  
in the  
Military**

### **A1C Ness, Brandon**

98950 East Harmony Lane

Tucson, AZ 85748

\*\*\*\*\*

## **SCHEDULE OF DUTIES for MARCH**

### **GREETERS:**

March 5 - Nancy Taylor  
March 12 - Emma Boyd  
March 19 - Sandy Koicuba  
March 26 - Beverly Troop

### **GIFT COLLECTORS:**

March 5 - Women of the Church  
March 12 - David & Susan McDowell  
March 19 - Gwen Wise  
March 26 - Sally Bosley

### **LAY READERS:**

March 5 - Sonja Ness  
March 12 - Jeri Jones  
March 19 - Janie Montgomery  
March 26 - Heather Matthews

### **ACOLYTES:**

March 5 - Janie Montgomery  
March 12 - Renne Myers  
March 19 - Terry Doll  
March 26 - Heather & Eli Matthews

### **COFFEE SOCIAL HOSTS:**

March 5 - To be announced  
March 12 - To be announced  
March 19 - To be announced  
March 26 - To be announced

### **SOUND SYSTEM OPERATORS:**

March - Terry Doll  
March 12 - Ed Adams  
March 19 - Chase Matthews  
March 26 - Wyatt Myers

### **LIGHTING OPERATORS:**

March 5 - Joel Frey  
March 12 - Greg Ness  
March 19 - Greg Ness  
March 26 - Sterling Boyd

### **CAMERA OPERATORS:**

March 5 - Greg Ness  
March 12 - John Sterling  
March 19 - Todd Miller  
March 26 - Terry Doll

### **VIDEO OPERATORS:**

March 5 - Sydney Brown  
March 12 - Jeri Jones  
March 19 - Judy Bishop  
March 26 - Nelson Leader

**ALTAR GUILD:** Jean McDowell & Barb Adams

**DEADLINE FOR APRIL NEWSLETTER:** March 15

**MARCH**  
**BIRTHDAYS**



2. Sarah Smith  
Lexus Luckenbaugh
3. Helen Myers
9. Madison Leader
10. Patrick Michaels
12. Joel Frey
13. Gary Matthews
16. Lillie Eberly
19. Nicki Barley
20. Erin Michaels
22. Joyce Raver
24. David Morton  
Jamison Rost
28. Maya Ness  
Peter Busch
29. Wayne Althoff
31. Marshall Geesey

*May God Bless You*  
*On Your*  
*Birthday*

**CELEBRATING MARCH ANNIVERSARIES**

March 29 - Terry and Frances Doll - 53 years



# FINANCIAL REPORT

Undesignated General Fund

Red Brick Chapel

Cemetery

Month-2017	Income	Expense	Income	Expense	Income	Expense
January	\$13,069.96	\$14,011.17	\$503.43	\$181.75	\$354.55	\$850.00
February						
March						
April						
May						
June						
July						
August						
September						
October						
November						
December						
<b>Total</b>	\$13,069.96	\$14,011.17	\$503.43	\$181.75	\$354.55	\$850.00

Balance of Undesignated General Fund @ February 1, 2017

\$5,745.27

Balance of Red Brick Chapel Fund @ February 1, 2017

(Includes \$42,033.18 Endowment)

\$68,956.72

Balance of Cemetery Fund @ February 1, 2017

(Includes \$710,819.22 CD's, Trusts, UCC Foundation))

\$718,463.73

## Financial Assistance Given through Hand of Hope Fund - 2017

	#	Total	Monthly	Available
	Families	\$\$\$	Donations	Balance
Beginning				\$ 397.38
January	1	\$ 50.00	\$ 84.27	\$ 431.65
February				
March				
April				
May				
June				
July				
August				
September				
October				
November				
December				
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>\$ 50.00</b>	<b>\$ 87.27</b>	



## **MEN'S GROUP**



Join the men of Blymire's on Tuesday, March 14, at 7:00 PM at the Church. Bring a friend to the meeting. As always we have an open discussion on joys and concerns. We will be discussing potential guest speakers for future meetings. Come join us for a time of sharing. REMEMBER ALL MEN ARE WELCOME.



Faith Kidz will be meeting on March 8, 15, 22, and 29 at 6:30 PM at the church. We will continue with our lessons and be making gifts for the shut-ins.

TEENS will be meeting on March 5 and March 19 at 6:30 PM at the church.



The HUGS Team will be selling Butter Braids to raise funds for our church. The sale will begin Sunday, March 12. Order forms will be placed on the bulletin board in the hallway. Orders and money will be due on Sunday, March 26, and pick up will be at the church on Wednesday, April 5.

## **CRAFTY CHICKS**

On Sunday, March 26, Barb Marshall will be teaching a class on decorating cupcakes. She will supply the cupcakes, icing and all the other materials that are needed. The class will begin at 1:00 PM and the cost is \$15.00. If you have seen Barb's work or tasted her cakes, you know you will be learning from one of the best. If you plan to attend, please sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board by March 19.



## **Toiletries Collection**

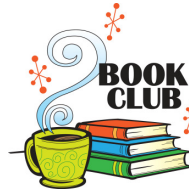
There are boxes under the coat racks to collect toiletries for Helping Hands. Please make sure items are gender neutral, for bags are just going to be handed to them. We will also be making up bags for children



## **SISTERS OF SERVICE**



Sisters of Service (SOS) will be holding their next meeting on Monday, March 20, at 6:30 PM at the church. Heather Matthews will lead the devotions and Linda Eichelberger will provide refreshments.



Our Women's Book Club will hold their next meetings on Tuesday, March 14, and Tuesday, March 28, at 10:00 AM in the Gathering Room. We are now discussing The Other Wives Club by Shari Low. New members are always welcome to join.

## **EASTER PARTY**

Our annual church Easter Party and Egg Hunt will be held on Sunday, April 9, at 11:30 AM. This event is for both children and ADULTS. There is a box in the Gathering Room to collect candy. Please make sure the candy is individually wrapped to put inside the eggs.



## **COZY MOUNTAIN LODGE RETREAT**

You are invited to join us on Friday, April 7, and Saturday, April 8, when our church becomes Cozy Mountain Lodge—a retreat for women of all ages. We will be using the story of Ruth as we bring home the meaning of making God our foundation. Cozy Mountain Lodge uses the security and comfort we find when we think of a mountain lodge to show truths about Jesus. It will lead us to a closer relationship with Jesus and stronger Christian friendships. Our time together will include worship, Bible study sessions, crafts, and more. All women are invited—bring your moms, sisters, daughters, friends, or neighbors!

The cost for the retreat is only \$20 per person and includes snacks Friday and Saturday, lunch on Saturday, and all materials. Times are 6:30-8:30PM on Friday and 8:00AM-4:00PM Saturday. If you plan to attend, please sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board. Deadline to register is Sunday, April 2.



## Healing Hearts Inspirations

March 2017



### IMAGINE A PERFECT WORLD

Try this. Imagine a perfect world.

Whatever that means to you...  
imagine it. Does that mean peace?  
Then envision absolute tranquility.  
Does a perfect world imply joy?

Then create your highest  
happiness. Will a perfect world  
have love? Ponder a place where  
love has no bounds. Whatever  
heaven means to you, imagine it.

Get it firmly fixed in your mind.  
Delight in it. Dream about it. Long  
for it. And then smile as the  
Father reminds you from the  
apostle Paul's words in 1 Corin-  
thians 2:9, "No one has ever imag-  
ined what God has prepared for  
those who love him." No one has  
come close. No one. Think of all  
the songs about heaven. All the  
artists' portrayals. All the lessons  
preached, poems written and  
chapters drafted. When it comes  
to describing heaven, we are all  
happy failures!

Max Lucado

### IF JESUS CAME TO YOUR HOUSE?

If Jesus came to your house to spend a day or two  
If He came unexpectedly, I wonder what you'd do.  
Oh, I know you'd give your nicest room to such an honored Guest,  
And all the food you'd serve to Him would be the very best,  
And you would keep assuring Him you're glad to have him there  
That serving Him in your own home is joy beyond compare.

But when you saw Him coming, would you meet Him at the door  
With arms outstretched in welcome to your heavenly Visitor?  
Or would you have to change your clothes before you let Him in?  
Or hide some magazines and put the Bible where they'd been?  
Would you turn off the radio and hope He hadn't heard?  
And wish you hadn't uttered that last, loud, hasty word?

Would you hide your worldly music and put some hymn books out?  
Could you let Jesus walk right in, or would you rush about?  
And I wonder - if the Savior spent a day or two with you,  
Would you go right on doing the things you always do?  
Would you go right on saying the things you always say?  
Would life for you continue as it does from day to day?

Would your family conversation keep up it's usual pace?  
And would you find it hard each meal to say a table grace?  
Would you sing the songs you always sing & read the books you read  
And let Him know the things on which your mind and spirit feed?  
Would you take Jesus with you everywhere you'd planned to go?  
Or would you, maybe, change your plans for just a day or so?

Would you be glad to have Him meet your very closest friends?  
Or would you hope they'd stay away until His visit ends?  
Would you be glad to have Him stay forever on and on?  
Or would you sigh with great relief when He at last was gone?  
It might be interesting to know the things that you would do  
If Jesus Christ in person came to spend some time with you.



"Sometimes the littlest  
things in life are the  
hardest to take. You can  
sit on a mountain more  
comfortably than on  
a tack."

~ Unknown ~



## HEADED HOME

Aging is God's idea. It's one of the ways he keeps us headed homeward. We can't change the process, but we can change our attitude. Here is a thought. What if we looked at the aging body as we look at the growth of a tulip?

Do you ever see anyone mourning over the passing of the tulip bulb? Do gardeners weep as the bulb begins to weaken? Of course not. We don't purchase tulip or petal wrinkle cream or consult plastic-leaf surgeons. We don't mourn the passing of the bulb; we celebrate it. Tulip lovers rejoice the minute the bulb weakens. "Watch that," they say. "It's about to blossom."

Could it be heaven does the same? The angels point to our bodies. The more frail we become, the more excited they become. "Watch that lady in the hospital," they say. "She's about to blossom." "Keep an eye on the fellow with the bad heart. He'll be coming home soon."

Max Lucado

## FINDING CONNECTION

"Nowadays people seem to need to connect to the internet just to survive. If they don't have a phone or computer with internet, they feel really out of order — out of everything. What they do not realize is that they are missing the most important connection: the connection with God.

"This connection can give them more information than any Internet search engine. This connection can give them more peace and joy than Facebook. But it's necessary that people seek to stay connected. The wonder is that wherever you are, you can 'find a signal'. It's enough to want to do it, to find a few moments of silence, and God will always be there to answer you."

"If today you are uncertain about any situation, if you feel sad, if the load is too much, seek where all the answers are, seek where you will find peace and comfort, seek where you will find love and understanding, seek where there is infinite wisdom: seek God.

"He is available to you at all times, because He lives in you. Just close your eyes, quiet your mind, be aware. He is there."

11:11 Progress Group

## SPRING CLEANING

March bustles in on windy feet  
And sweeps my doorstep and my street.  
She washes and cleans with pounding rains,  
Scrubbing the earth of winter stains.  
She shakes the grime from carpet green  
Till naught but fresh new blades are seen.  
Then, house in order, all neat as a pin,  
She ushers gentle springtime in."

Susan Reiner



## KIDS VIEWS ON ANGELS

I only know the names of two angels,  
Hark and Harold. -Gregory, age 5

Everybody's got it all wrong. Angels don't wear halos anymore. I forget why, but scientists are working on it -Olive, age 9

My guardian angel helps me with math, but he's not much good for science. -Henry, age 8

When an angel gets mad, he takes a deep breath and counts to ten. And when he lets out his breath again, somewhere there's a tornado. -Reagan, age 10

Angels live in cloud houses made by God and his Son, who's a very good carpenter. -Jared, age 8

All angels are girls because they gotta wear dresses and boys didn't go for it. -Antonio, age 9

What I don't get about angels is why, when someone is in love, they shoot arrows at them.

Sarah , age 7



# **EMMANUEL'S CLOSET**

***March 2017***

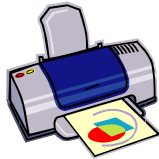


## **Easter Project**

This year's Easter food distribution will be held on April 1 and April 8. Since gift cards were such a help last year, we would like to continue to give each family a gift card in varying amounts, depending upon family size, to purchase meat for their Easter dinner. We will also include regular grocery items along with the gift card. Donations of food items to make a dinner would be appreciated. Please bring your donations in no later than March 22 to allow ample time to sort and purchase necessary additional supplies if needed. Thank you.

## **Cartridge Recycling**

Don't forget to bring in your empty printer cartridges and place them in the box in the Emmanuel's Closet bin in the Gathering Room. Thank you for your support of this project which will not only raise money for those in need, but also help to keep our planet "green."



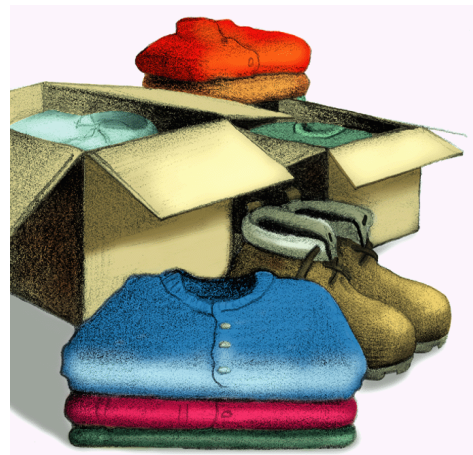
***THANKS FOR CARING!***

## **E.C. Continuing Needs**

Juice  
Cereal  
Peanut Butter/Jelly  
Spaghetti Sauce  
Boxed Dry Pastas  
Helper Meals  
Dessert Items  
Condiment Items  
Canned Tuna/Meats  
Canned Broth  
Canned Fruit/Vegetables  
Coffee/Tea  
Deodorant, Soap, Shampoo  
Toothpaste, Toothbrushes  
Toilet Paper, Tissues, Paper Towels  
Dish Washing Liquid  
Laundry Detergent  
All-Purpose Cleaners  
Baby food, formula, diapers, etc.  
Children's books/toys  
Small household items

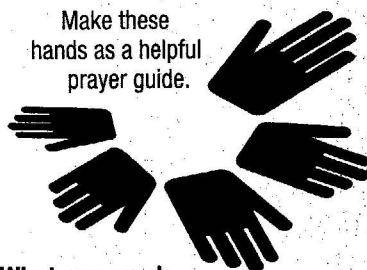
## **Please, NO Expired Food Items**

We are now collecting spring and summer clothing. They should be clean, in good repair and unstained.



# PRAYER HANDS

Make these hands as a helpful prayer guide.



## What you need:

- 7 pieces of construction paper (different colors)
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Stapler
- Colored pens
- Stickers

## What you do:

1. Trace your hand (the same one) on each piece of paper.
2. Cut out and stack the hands. Staple together atop the pinky.
3. On the top hand (the front cover), write "Prayer Hands." Decorate with stickers.
4. On the second hand, write "Praise God." On the third, write "Ask for forgiveness." On the fourth, write "Thank God." On the fifth, write "Pray for others." On the sixth, write "Pray for me."
5. Use your book to remember what to pray for every day.



# The psalmist's prayer

The Psalms are full of wonderful verses about God's care and protection.

**Directions:** Find each missing letter in the alphabets below.

Use the resulting words to complete Psalm 86:7, NIV.

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z  
 A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z  
 A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R T U V W X Y Z  
 A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S U V W X Y Z  
 A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q S T U V W X Y Z  
 A B C D F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z  
 A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R T U V W X Y Z  
 A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R T U V W X Y Z

A B D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z  
 B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z  
 A B C D E F G H I J K M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z  
 A B C D E F G H I J K M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z  
 A B C D E F G H I J K L M O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z  
 A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R T U V W X Y Z  
 A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V X Y Z  
 A B C D F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z  
 A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q S T U V W X Y Z

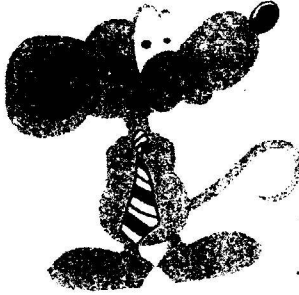
When I am in \_\_\_\_\_, I \_\_\_\_\_ to you,  
 because you \_\_\_\_\_ me. Psalm 86:7, NIV

Answer: When I am in distress, I call to you, because you answer me.  
 Psalm 86:7, NIV

Hi everyone,

My cousin Bly and his family decided to go on a little vacation to visit some of our other relatives in Florida. On his way there, he stopped in to see me and he asked if I would write his column this month. With all the visiting and sightseeing they had planned, he wasn't sure if he would have enough time. I told him I would be happy to help out. Hope you enjoy!!

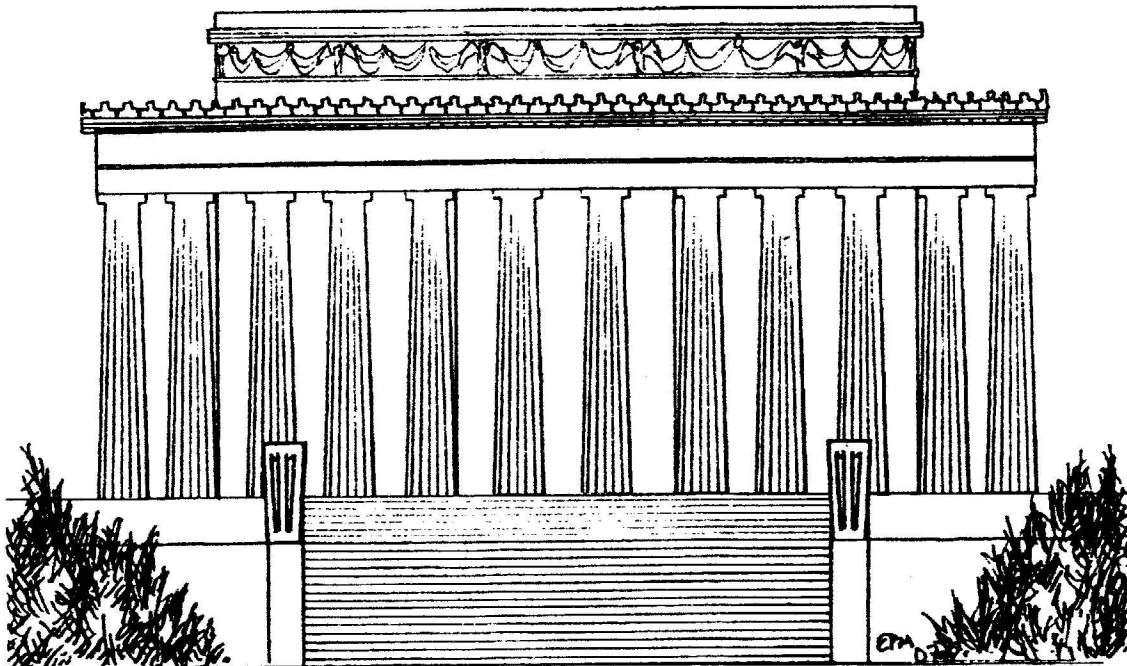
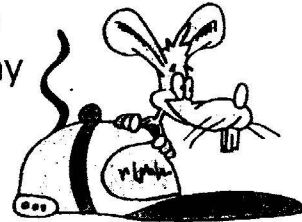
# THE MEMORIAL MOUSE



Psst! Let me tell you about my friend. He lives with me here at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C.

I am Timmy, the Memorial mouse. Nice to meet you! Some people run and scream when they see a mouse. I'm glad you are not afraid of me.

I was afraid the night I moved into the Memorial. I walked between the tall white columns. They looked like they reached the sky! Inside, I saw beautiful murals and words on the walls. What really caught my eye was a giant man made of marble! Wouldn't that scare you?





The statue sat in a chair. He looked like he was thinking about something very important. His face was kind, but sad. I told him I would be his friend. Then, I climbed into his huge stone chair for a long nap.

The next morning, many people came to visit the giant. I hid behind him and listened. Most of them seemed to know all about him. Soon, I learned all about him, too.

Have you guessed who my friend is? He is a statue of Abraham Lincoln. The real Abraham Lincoln was the 16th president of the United States of America from 1861 to 1865. The Lincoln Memorial was completed in 1922 to honor him. Wow! I have an important friend!

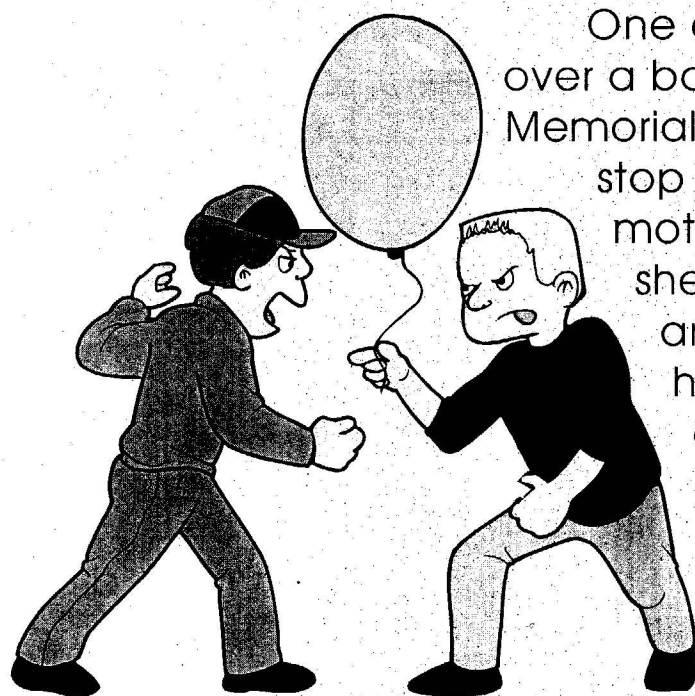


It's fun to watch people visit Abe every day. Many children are excited when they see his face. "Hey! It's the man on the penny!" I hear them say.



Not everyone is excited when they first see Abe. Once, I felt sorry for a boy and girl who came to the Memorial with their father. Their clothes were ragged and they looked sad.

"I know we don't have much money," the father told his children, "but here sits a man who started out with nothing. He was born in a log cabin with a dirt floor and didn't even get to go to school like you do." I watched the man kneel beside his son and daughter and point to Abe. "Our lives are not easy now, but you can work hard and do something great just like him." When the children left, they were smiling!



One day, I saw two boys arguing over a balloon as they walked into the Memorial with their mother. "You two stop arguing this minute!" their mother said. When she saw Abe, she stopped walking and her angry look grew softer. She told her sons how Abe led the country through the Civil War when the North and South were fighting like brothers. "Abraham Lincoln didn't want the country to split apart. He fought to keep it

together and I'm glad he did." The mother hugged her boys. "I always want you two to be friends," she said.

I'll never forget one man who visited the Memorial with his grandson. He had white hair and a walking stick. His voice choked with emotion as he told his grandson about Abe. "My great-great-grandfather was a slave," he said, "but Mr. Lincoln set him free!"

He showed his grandson a mural where chains are falling off the hands and feet of slaves. I saw tears in the man's eyes when his grandson asked, "Grandpa, would we be slaves if Mr. Lincoln hadn't come along?"



Now you know what an important job my stone friend has here at the Lincoln Memorial. Each day, he reminds people of all the good things the real Abraham Lincoln did!

