

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Well, we are now coming into the month of February and we are likely stretching it to say “Happy New Year”!!!

However, coming into the month of February it can't be too much of a stretch to say “Happy Birthday”!!! Reflecting on days gone by, I do believe that George and Abe each had February birthdays which inspired someone to come up with “Presidents Day” in honor of both George Washington and Abraham Lincoln.

Wow, coming into the month of February it can't be too much of a stretch to say “Happy Leap Year”!!! Indeed, all we have to do is look at the end of the month and we will notice that February 2016 has a 29th day rather than the standard 28 days.

Wow, coming into the month of February it can't be too much of a stretch to say “Happy Valentine's Day”!!! Yes indeed, each February on the fourteenth day the calendar often hints at the idea of “Valentine's Day” and a special little celebration promoting the possibility that “love is in the air” or at least on the tip of “Cupid's Arrow”.

*“**LOVE is in the air**”; and the “**LOVE**” we are talking about goes far beyond anything imagined by those who came up with “Valentine's Day”.*

***JESUS** in speaking about “**LOVE**” proclaimed “No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends”. (John 15:13)*

***JESUS** in speaking about **HIMSELF** while laying down some clues as to what would happen in the near future during his earthly life proclaimed “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep”. (John 10: 11)*

*“**LOVE is in the air**”; the “**LOVE**” we are talking about today is the love **GOD** has for us as revealed by **GOD'S** Christmas Gift of **JESUS** climaxed by **JESUS'** Death and Resurrection which we will be celebrating yet again on Easter Sunday!!!*

*Wow, coming into the month of February we have the opportunity to begin to “**STRETCH**” our hearts, our minds, and our spirits!!! Indeed, as we enter February we enter the Season of Lent as a time of preparation for the celebration of **GOD'S** awesome “**LOVE**” for us climaxed by **JESUS'** Death and Resurrection which we celebrate on Easter Sunday!!!*

*Crucifixion, **R**esurrection, **O**bedience, a **S**alvation **S**tory written by **GOD** and lived by **JESUS!!!** When we think about it the “**C.R.O.S.S.**” it truly does warrant our taking the time during Lent to focus anew in heart, in mind, and in spirit on the “amazing grace” of **GOD'S** very precious “**LOVE**” for us!!!*

*Crucifixion, **R**esurrection, **O**bedience, a **S**alvation **S**tory written by **GOD** and lived by **JESUS!!!** When we think about the “**C.R.O.S.S.**” may we as God's Children be warmed in heart, mind, and spirit, in such a way that our “**LOVE is in the air**” with joy filled praise and thanksgiving unto **GOD, JESUS,** and the **HOLY SPIRIT!!!***

Love in Christ,

Pastor Dana