

# FCCH Congregational Chronicle March 2024



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Happy March!

It's amazing that we are on the cusp of Spring, but here we are.



This Chronicle is packed with lots of goings-on, dates to save and, of course, all things Holy Week and Easter.

So please note~~our Ashley Series kicks off on Saturday, March 9th, with Dr. Catherine Meeks. Dr. Meeks' time with us is so important to our congregation, to our mission, and how we long to be as followers of the Way of Love and Justice. So, we need for all of you who can to join us on Saturday for both lectures (please email the office to sign up, lunch is \$10, [office@fcchendersonville.org](mailto:office@fcchendersonville.org)). I am almost finished with Dr. Meeks' memoir, "A Quilted Life: Reflections of a Sharecropper's Daughter", and it is powerful. I don't know how to emphasize how significant your participation in the Ashley weekend is to our community, but I think you get it!

We have some wonderful Forums coming up~~with the Progressive Alliance, Dr. Meeks, PIPS (Poetry in Public Spaces) and our very own Church Council. Then, this month, we will also gather for our first Friendship Potluck Dinner on Tuesday, March 19th. All the details are in the following pages.

Finally, the end of March will bring us to Palm/Passion Sunday on the 24th, which is the beginning of Holy Week. We will celebrate the procession of palms with Eco-Palms, sustainable fair trade palms that promote social justice and environmental stewardship. On Maundy Thursday, we have a beautiful service of Tenebrae; and then on Easter Sunday, we will have our community sunrise service at Jump Off Rock at 7 AM and our Festival Easter Service at 10:30 AM.

What bounty we are blessed with as spring begins all around us!

With love and peace,

Karla

rev. karla miller (she/her)



## Note from the Moderator - Bob McLendon



Serving as your Assistant Moderator for last two years, and now as Moderator, is something I never expected when I joined FCC six years ago. I imagined myself working with Milton and others in our garden, but not chairing our Council meetings. I am humbled and honored by this responsibility and opportunity. Since joining FCC as a member, I have witnessed the great and compassionate leadership of Roger Smith, Phil Taylor and Sheryl Mendenhall as Moderators. I know that walking in the path that these dedicated Moderators have forged and created will truly be a challenge for me.

As I begin my journey as your Moderator, I would like to share with you just a few things I sincerely believe --- I believe Jesus is the pure definition of Love; I believe God is doing more in our lives than we can ever imagine; I believe everyone born has the right to be free; I believe no child should have to experience constant hunger; I believe it is our responsibility, and we must protect our environment, our planet; I believe in forgiveness; I believe in the power of prayer; I believe that, through diversity, we find strength; I believe there is a lot of beauty in ordinary things; I believe our church has a vision of unity, justice and love by respecting all peoples viewpoints; and I believe, together, First Congregational Church can and will make a difference and, together, we can help each other live a life of compassion.



Congratulations to our Moderator who recently welcomed a new granddaughter, Maddie, into the world.

## Service & Giving Volunteer of the Month - Sheila Clendenning



Sheila's parents modeled volunteerism: her dad as a Scoutmaster, her mom as a very active church secretary. Throughout her 31-year career in public education and post-retirement employment with her hometown's Chamber of Commerce, Sheila had MANY fun part-time jobs (wine consultant, events staffer, "Information Lady" at the local mall, etc.). She was active in statewide professional educators' groups, and served on the Board for a non-profit Arboretum/Nature's Classroom near her home in Virginia. She moved to Flat Rock in 2012 and quickly became involved in local activities, serving on the Board of Directors for the Blue Ridge Center for Lifelong Learning at Blue Ridge Community College for several years, and, since 2018, has volunteered on the Leads Team of the Progressive Alliance of Henderson County. Other involvements include the League of Women Voters, (former) Bee City USA Hendersonville Leadership, Public School Strong NC, the Henderson County Democratic Party, and the Orchard of Flat Rock neighborhood's Hunger Walk 2023 campaign.

It was at one of the BRCLL classes at Blue Ridge that Sheila first learned about FCC's Ashley Lecture Series, which was her introduction to our congregation and its many opportunities for service and personal growth. Her involvement here has been deeply enriching, especially with the (former) Compassionate Action, Service and Giving, and the Peace Building and Justice groups. Just before and during the Covid era, she and several others, including Charley and Pam Rogers, Bob McLendon and Karla at FCC launched a group aimed at finding ways to heal the festering divisions in our nation, called "Live the Golden Rule WNC". You may have heard Sheila say: "I have no children. I don't cook, nor clean my house (much). I have no pets other than dust bunnies. What else would I do with my time other than pay attention, keep learning, and contribute as best I can to my community?"

**Pictures & articles courtesy of Bruce Mills for Service & Giving  
[bmills9@att.net](mailto:bmills9@att.net)**

# Racial Justice Team - Welcoming Ways

## How to Meet Up with and get to know our county's People of Color

1.) The Black History Collective of Henderson County plans many special and yearly events for interacting and making friends with people of color. Annual events include:

- January - Dr. Martin Luther King Day of Service
- February - Black History Month Events
- February 6- Free Author event at Library – 5:30- NC native Vanessa Miller, THE AMERICAN QUEEN, researched at library
- February 8-7:30- Poetry Night-Kava Lounge 706 7 th Ave. E
- February 12-23- Educational Art Exhibit- Boys & Girls Club, 1304 Ashe St.
- March or April Black and Hispanic Farmers Market and Food Truck in the parking lot of the Boys & Girls Club on some Saturdays
- June - An event for Juneteenth
- December - Kwanzaa Holiday Market

<https://www.facebook.com/BHofHC/> = Black History Collective of HC  
bbnofwnc@gmail.com

2.) Visit <https://blackhistories.org/>, website of the Black History Research Committee – “Shining Light On Black History” which contains comprehensive information and archives. [Info@blackhistories.org](mailto:Info@blackhistories.org)

3.) Join the Henderson County chapter of the NAACP and attend their meetings. Yearly Membership is \$25. <https://www.facebook.com/HendersoncountyNAACP/> NAACP local #5477- 318 North Main St. Suite 11, 28792 561-706-1339

4.) A Little Free library is in the beautiful Green Meadows Community at Sullivan Park, 713 Martin Circle, near the Boys & Girls Club, registered on the map at [littlefreelibrary.org](http://littlefreelibrary.org). Share and donate English and bilingual books and magazines about children and people of color.

5.) In the spring, visit the new Brooklyn Creek Bird Sanctuaries in Sullivan Park at 713 Martin Circle and Lennox Park at 422 South Whitted. See Birdwalks schedule on their Facebook pages. Kids go, too!

6.) Watch for this garden clean-up in the spring on the Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100093132731424&mibextid=LQQJ4d> 7th Ave. Brooklyn Community Garden on Ashe St below the Boys and Girls Club. Bring your trowel, garden gloves. starter plants and seeds to plant. Garden clean up will start mid- March 2024

\*\*\*\*For a full list, please check our hallway and up front at the church.\*\*\*\*

List courtesy of Patti Clay  
[pclay51@gmail.com](mailto:pclay51@gmail.com)

# Racial Justice Team - Welcoming Ways

Perhaps you've heard of the **Progressive Alliance of Henderson County**, but haven't been exactly sure about what/who/why it is? *Sheila Clendenning* will fill us in on the details and current actions at our March 3 Forum. \*(If you're an FCC'er already involved in PAHC events, please attend to help Sheila with the presentation!)



Progressive Alliance of Henderson County compassionately advocates for justice, dignity, inclusion, and sustainable healthy communities for all – by connecting local residents in grassroots civic engagement, education, outreach, and volunteerism.



**MARCH 3-31 2024 • PLEASE DONATE  
TO HELP HENDERSON COUNTY  
MIGRANT FARM WORKERS**

**March 3 – 31:**

## **7th Annual Collection of Supplies for Migrant Farm Workers**

Every year, thousands of migrant farm workers (and often their families) arrive here seasonally to prepare soil, plant seeds, and harvest the fruits and vegetables that appear on our nation's dinner tables. These workers and families reside in 25+ migrant farm camps throughout Henderson County. Their work is challenging, dangerous, and we are grateful for their labors. Let's help them.

Our Service & Giving team will distribute FCC tote bags + a flyer with

list of specific items needed — which you may take, fill, and return to collection boxes located in central areas of the Church during the month of March. Financial donations will also be ac-

**Flyer courtesy of Stephanie Lowder  
[slowder@rarebirdcreative.com](mailto:slowder@rarebirdcreative.com)**

# Small Group Luncheon February 13th

## Circle of Friends



We are so blessed to gather together, pray for each other and love on each other. We decided that, during the winter months, we would get together for lunch at a restaurant. It is working out well, and no one has to drive in the dark.

Our February meeting was on February 13th at Bay Breeze Seafood. Since Valentine's Day was the following day, we tested our knowledge of this loving holiday with a Valentine quiz. We learned that this day of romance has been formally celebrated since the 14th century.

Phyllis and Susan had to leave early to decorate for the pancake supper, and Sherry came late from a doctor's appointment, but we still had time to check in with each other and get prayer requests.



Pictures and article courtesy of Sherry Carmichael  
[ccarmitaly@gmail.com](mailto:ccarmitaly@gmail.com)

# Pancake Supper Valentine's Day, Wednesday, February 14th



pictures courtesy of Phyllis Rhinehart  
[p1rhineha@gmail.com](mailto:p1rhineha@gmail.com)



# Note from Ministry of Physical Resources (MPR)



## EFFORTS TO BE GOOD STEWARDS OF THE FCC ENVIRONMENT

The volunteers of MPR take pride in caring for our gardens & building. We try as much as possible to be environmentally conscious. Here are some things that we do:

- ◆ Thermostats are lowered when rooms are not in use.
- ◆ Recycle donated aluminum cans. Donation bin is located outside near back door of FCC.
- ◆ Scrap Metal Recycling such as metal fence posts, chicken wire, metal grates, metal rails, empty propane tanks & old water heaters. Contact Milton Stewart for questions.
- ◆ Compost bins are located in our vegetable garden. Another compost container is located in kitchen. We accept grass clippings, fruit & vegetable scraps, coffee grounds & egg shells.
- ◆ No longer buying polystyrene foam or plastic cups & plates for Kitchen.
- ◆ Using only sustainable cups or paper. Will start to use compostable utensils when current stock is depleted.
- ◆ Water our vegetable garden & Labyrinth with water from 2 natural springs on our property and use no chemical pesticides in vegetable garden.
- ◆ Have a rain barrel in vegetable garden & Atrium.

MPR thanks you for your donations! The funds received from recycling are used for garden supplies, seeds & plants.

Article courtesy of Mindy Myers  
[mindy7myers@gmail.com](mailto:mindy7myers@gmail.com)

# Sunday School Scenes



Matthew sewing his bag.



J and Asher enjoying Sunday School..



Roddy, Iris, Kaden, J, Kim, Aryella, and Josie show off their sleeping mat project

Pictures courtesy of Virginia Zemp  
zempvirginia@gmail.com

## March Forums

**March 3rd** Perhaps you've heard of the Progressive Alliance of Henderson County, but haven't been exactly sure about what/who/why it is? *Sheila Clendenning will fill us in on the details and current actions at our March 3rd Forum. \*(If you're an FCC'er already involved in PAHC events, please attend to help Sheila with the presentation!)* Progressive Alliance of Henderson County compassionately advocates for justice, dignity, inclusion, and sustainable healthy communities for all by connecting local residents in grassroots civic engagement, education, outreach, and volunteerism.

**March 10th** Catherine Meeks, our Ashley Lecturer, will be talking about her new memoir, "A Quilted Life: Reflections of a Sharecropper's Daughter"

**March 17th** Darcy, PIPS poets. "POETRY IN PLAIN SIGHT—PIPS!" This poetry reading is in celebration of the life of Rand Bishop who led the FCCH writing group for many years. Calling All Poets is open to everyone! Come and read your poem. Listeners, we need you! Please join us. Take home a poem on a poster. If you would like to sign up in advance or have questions, contact Darcy at [trailwoman@gmail.com](mailto:trailwoman@gmail.com)

**March 24th** This Forum will not be a lecture or business meeting but an active discussion /conversation with new Moderator Bob Mc Lendon and members of your Church Council. 2024 Moderator Goals will be presented for discussion which include elder care, increased fellowship opportunities, environmental issues, and how our church members can participate and better understand the needs in our community. For those attending, the hope will be that you can better understand "What is my role at FCC" and how your individual passions and gifts can be enhanced through your church. As Mark said in recent sermon, "We want our church to be a place where people experience what belongingness feels like."

**March 31st** EASTER, NO FORUM

## Upcoming events of note at a glance



### Ashley Lectures with Dr. Catherine Meeks

Saturday, March 9th, 10 am & 1 pm

&

Sunday, March 10th, 9 am

Dr. Meeks will also preach at our worship. See page 15 for details.

## POEMS

*Project Orphan Elders in Mutual Support*

### Asset Preservation for Older Adults

AdventHealth, in partnership with the Council on Aging for Henderson County, is offering a free information session about asset preservation relating to disability and care management for older adults. It is presented by attorney, Caroline Knox, a specialist in elder law.

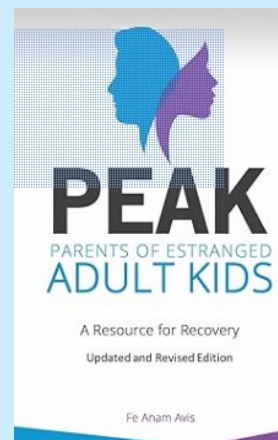
Tuesday, March 12<sup>th</sup>

6:00 to 7:00 pm

AdventHealth Multispecialty at Laurel Park

1881 Pisgah Drive, Hendersonville, NC

Questions? Contact Fe Anam Avis, [fe@asecondday.com](mailto:fe@asecondday.com), 614-208-4090.



Estrangement from your adult children and grandchildren is among the most painful of human experiences. The pain is magnified by the fact that it is difficult to talk about and, therefore, isolating. We are not alone! Join us in the church library for the **PEAK (Parents of Estranged Adult Kids) Recovery Group**, every Saturday morning, 8:30 to 9:45 AM, beginning April 20<sup>th</sup>. Please help us prepare for your coming by registering here:



### Friendship Dinners TEAM MEETING.

Mon, March 4th, 3:30 pm,

Fellowship Hall.

Before the pandemic, FCCH enjoyed regular Fellowship Suppers. Several of you have asked about regular potlucks---voila! "Friendship Dinners".

Be a part of the team to help make these dinners happen!

If you are interested, we will meet on Mon, March 4th, 3:30 pm in Fellowship Hall. Our first potluck is scheduled for Tues, March 19th, @ 5:30 pm. For questions, contact Diane Rose at: [dianerose617@gmail.com](mailto:dianerose617@gmail.com) or text 951-543-2771.

# Upcoming events of note at a glance

## Calling All Poets



Poems are for everyone! Thanks to Paul Simon and others, poetry is all around us. To celebrate World Poetry Day we created a Forum to showcase live poets. **Calling All Poets** is open to everyone! Come and read your poem. Listeners, we need you! Please join us. Take home a poem on a poster. Free.

Event **Calling All Poets**  
Day Sunday  
Date **March 17**  
Time 9:00 am - 10:15 am  
Host Darcy

Fellowship Hall Forum  
First Congregational Church  
1735 Fifth Avenue West  
Hendersonville, NC 28739

Poets are welcome to sign up in advance. [trailwoman@gmail.com](mailto:trailwoman@gmail.com)

**FREE ADMISSION**  
**March 23 • 6:30 - 8:00**  
First Congregational Church 1735 5th Ave W, Hendersonville

## SPRING Concert

**Featuring:**  
**Kapt Kirk & Crew**  
Melodic Hits From The Sixties Forward

## The Hendersonville Community Band

Winford Franklin, Conductor

Cole Hairston, Associate Conductor

## Spring Fever



featuring

**Woody Dotson, Trumpet**

**Joel Helfand, Alto Sax**

**Andrew Jameson,**

**Guest Conductor**



Sunday, March 3, 2024 at 3:00 pm

Blue Ridge Conference Hall

Blue Ridge Community College

Flat Rock, NC

Adults—\$10 Students—Free

(sales tax included)

For tickets, visit

The Hendersonville Visitors Information Center,  
or contact any band member.

For more information, call (828) 713-8590



## Upcoming events of note at a glance



### **NEW GROUP - StitchAway**

Looking for a social group to craft with? Join a gathering of people who do creative things with yarn or thread. Crochet, knitting and all needle arts welcome.

Enjoy a relaxing morning working on your projects. All skill levels welcome. We meet Fridays, 10:00 - 11:30 am, in the parlour.

Questions? Cary Battle at [caryb4948@gmail.com](mailto:caryb4948@gmail.com)



**ENNEAGRAM**  
CHARLESTON

Save the dates! April 27-28: Enneagram Workshop with Doug Farmer, IEA Certified Enneagram Professional and founder of Enneagram Charleston. Doug is a chaplain, Enneagram coach, and good friend of our own KayHarkins. We will spend our time together on all things Enneagram. More information forthcoming, but mark your calendars—you don't want to miss this! [https://](https://www.enneagramcharleston.com/)

[www.enneagramcharleston.com/](https://www.enneagramcharleston.com/)

# Ashley Series March 9th & 10th



**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH • HENDERSONVILLE**

## **ASHLEY SERIES** *March 9-10*



**DR. CATHERINE MEEKS**  
**AUTHOR.**  
**RACIAL HEALING LEADER.**  
**MIDWIFE TO THE SOUL.**

**DR. MEEKS IS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE ABSALOM JONES CENTER FOR RACIAL HEALING IN ATLANTA. SHE IS A PROFESSOR, WORKSHOP LEADER, JOURNALIST, COMMENTATOR FOR GEORGIA PUBLIC RADIO, AND RECIPIENT OF THE PRESIDENTIAL MEDAL FOR SERVICE AND LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT.**

### **Saturday March 9: 10am-2pm**

**SESSION 1: The House is on Fire! Where are the Fire Extinguishers?  
---LUNCH---**

**SESSION 2: Reimagining Fire Extinguishers: A Journey from Head to Heart**

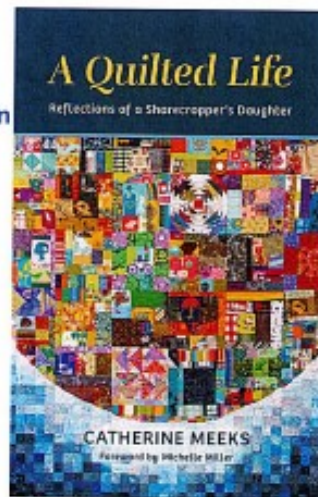
**COST: \$15 includes lunch**

### **Sunday March 10: 9:00-11:30 am**

**9:00: A Quilted Life: Reflections of a Sharecropper's Daughter**

**10:30: So You Think You Want to Be Well?**

**Call or email to register:  
828-692-8630 [office@fcchendersonville.org](mailto:office@fcchendersonville.org)**



Box Lunch by Honey Baked Ham on Saturday, March 9th. Contact the office at [office@fcchendersonville.org](mailto:office@fcchendersonville.org) to put in your choice of ham or turkey sandwich or vegan Cobb salad. \$ 10 (pay at door). No registration required for the lecture.

# Circle of Friends Groups

Our Circle of Friends small groups have been meeting now for nearly a year and currently there are over 70 persons participating in groups. We have had some requests for additional groups to be established, and so we will have another enrollment period starting on March 3rd. The time commitment for these groups will be for one year only. This small group program provides a meaningful way for you to participate in the church community and, hopefully, will be a place for you to grow into a deeper understanding of God.

## What's The Goal?

Participating in a group provides a space for promoting connectivity within the congregation and an opportunity to develop close, committed, and accepting relationships. Individual spiritual life may be enhanced through the sharing of faith stories and life experiences.

## How Will It Work?

- Individuals that sign up will be assigned to a group of 8-10 people; couples will be in the same group.
- There is an expectation that each group will meet monthly for 1 year.
- Each group will determine how to shape their group experience.
- Small group activities might include sharing our joys and concerns, informal fellowship, shared meals, book studies and possibly some sort of service project.
- Most importantly – this is a trusted space. What happens within the group, stays in the group.

## How To Participate

Registration forms will be available during coffee time in the fellowship hall beginning on March 3rd . If you are currently participating in a group, you do not need to register. You may also register by sending an email to [kristakaufman41@gmail.com](mailto:kristakaufman41@gmail.com). If registering by email, please include: name of participants, phone numbers and email addresses.

There is also a virtual group that is meeting on Zoom.

Message courtesy of Krista Kaufman  
[kristakaufman41@gmail.com](mailto:kristakaufman41@gmail.com)



# Resource Page

Facilitator	Group	Day	Contact
Barbara Rathbun	Bible Study: 1 Verse at a Time	Thursdays, 3:00 pm excepting 3rd Thursdays	<a href="mailto:bm Rathbun@bellsouth.net">bm Rathbun@bellsouth.net</a>
Karla Miller	Carolina Village	1st Mon, 1:30 pm	<a href="mailto:karla@fcch Hendersonville.org">karla@fcch Hendersonville.org</a>
Mark Acker	Choir Rehearsal	Every Wed 3:15 pm	<a href="mailto:Mark@fcch Hendersonville.org">Mark@fcch Hendersonville.org</a>
Bob McLendon	Church Council	2nd Wed 10:00 am	<a href="mailto:captainbob.bm@gmail.com">captainbob.bm@gmail.com</a>
Krista Kaufman	Circle of Friends - ongoing small groups	Each circle schedules	<a href="mailto:kristakaufman41@gmail.com">kristakaufman41@gmail.com</a>
Mark Fagerlin	Ministry of Finance	2nd Tues of each month b4 Council 11:00	<a href="mailto:mfagerlin@gmail.com">mfagerlin@gmail.com</a>
Karla Miller	Sunday Forum	Sunday, 9:00 am	<a href="mailto:karla@fcch Hendersonville.org">karla@fcch Hendersonville.org</a>
Larry Johnson & John Fuller	Meditation Group	Every Tuesday, 4:00 pm	<a href="mailto:naturallarry51@gmail.com">naturallarry51@gmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:fullerjohn@me.com">fullerjohn@me.com</a>
Mindy Myers	Ministry of Physical Resources	3rd Wed, 10:00 am	<a href="mailto:mindy7myers@gmail.com">mindy7myers@gmail.com</a>
Angie Yates	Personnel and Pastoral Relations Ministry	1st Thurs, 2:00 pm	<a href="mailto:angie.y8s@gmail.com">angie.y8s@gmail.com</a>
Barbara Rathbun	Prayer Shawls	1st Tues, 10:00 am	<a href="mailto:bm Rathbun@bellsouth.net">bm Rathbun@bellsouth.net</a>
Patti Clay	Racial Justice Task Force	3rd Tues, 11:00 am	<a href="mailto:pclay51@gmail.com">pclay51@gmail.com</a>
Diane Rose	Service & Giving Ministry	2nd Thurs, 10:00 am	<a href="mailto:dianerose617@gmail.com">dianerose617@gmail.com</a>
Cary Battle	Stitchaway	Friday 10-11:30	<a href="mailto:caryb4948@gmail.com">caryb4948@gmail.com</a>
Amy Dahan	Tai Chi Easy	Every Mon, 11 am	<a href="mailto:amydahancan@gmail.com">amydahancan@gmail.com</a>
Patti Clay	Virtual Circle of Friends	Last Tues of the Month, 2:00 pm	<a href="mailto:pclay51@gmail.com">pclay51@gmail.com</a>

Feb Attendance

March

Date #Attending

4	162
11	127
18	140
25	126

**First Congregational Church**  
1735 Fifth Avenue West  
Hendersonville, NC 28739  
Phone: (828)692-8630

Email: [office@fcch Hendersonville.org](mailto:office@fcch Hendersonville.org)

**Staff:**

**Pastor: Reverend Karla Miller**  
([karla@fcch Hendersonville.org](mailto:karla@fcch Hendersonville.org))

**Minister of Music / Pastoral Associate:**  
Mark Acker  
([mark@fcch Hendersonville.org](mailto:mark@fcch Hendersonville.org))

**Administrator: Jo Freeman**  
([office@fcch Hendersonville.org](mailto:office@fcch Hendersonville.org))

**Custodian: Dora Littleton**

Shirley Retzsch	03-01
David Vandre	03-03
Sharon McLendon	03-03
Cheryl Roberts	03-11
Tamara Gregg	03-12
James Carlin	03-12
Jim Hollingsworth	03-24
Craig Stogner	03-25
Linda Simpson	03-26
Ron Miller	03-27
Dee Shuttlesworth	03-27
Roger Haagenon	03-28
Kay Harkins	03-28
Dawn Kucera	03-29

Birthdays

## To make you smile



Talk is cheap.  
That is because supply  
exceeds demand.

In honor of St Patrick's Day on March 17th, some good old fashioned limericks

A flea and a fly in a flue  
Were imprisoned, so what could they do?  
Said the fly, "Let us flee!"  
"Let us fly!" said the flea,  
So they flew through a flaw in the flue.

*There once was  
a man from Nantucket  
Who kept all his cash in a bucket  
His daughter named Nan  
Ran away with a man  
But as for his bucket, Nantucket  
- Princeton Tiger*

*God's plan made a hopeful  
beginning  
But man spoiled his chances by  
sinning  
We trust that the story  
Will end with God's glory  
But at present the other side's  
winning.*

"The first step towards getting somewhere is to decide you're not going to stay where you are." – J.P. Morgan