

A Note  
from the  
Minister  
of Music



## Musical Musings

As most of the church family knows by now, I have tendered my resignation as the Music/Worship Pastor here at Morganton

First Church of God. This decision has come as the result of much thought and prayer, and has not been an easy decision for me to make. This great, loving church has once again proved its heritage by standing alongside me in difficult times, and laughing, loving, singing, and hugging with me during all the other times! It has been a true honor to lead you in worship every Sunday, an honor to minister with the choir every week, an honor to take part in the joys and sadness of each of your individual lives, an honor to help out with your weddings and funerals. I consider that to be a great perk of church ministry – to be able to share such intimate moments with your families – and I have been blessed beyond measure by doing so.

I will continue my work as Worship Pastor through Easter Sunday, April 12<sup>th</sup>, and after that, Randy and Sam and I would like to continue to worship here with all of you, so this will not be a final goodbye – and that does make it easier, I think!

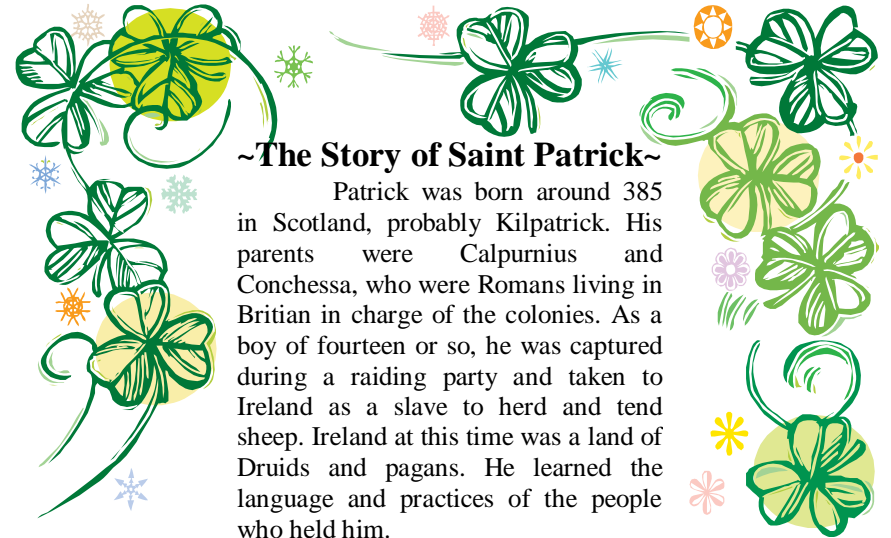
Thank you for allowing me this opportunity to serve, thank you for having faith in me to get the job done, and thank you for all the love and support you have afforded my family through the years – it has been a true privilege to travel this leg of the journey with all of you!

“Be not dismayed whate’er betide,  
God will take care of you;  
Beneath His wings of love abide,  
God will take care of you.

God will take care of you,  
Through every day,  
O’er all the way;  
He will take care of you,  
God will take care of you.

No matter what may be the test,  
God will take care of you;  
Lean, weary one, upon His breast,  
God will take care of you.”

*Still quoting these beautiful hymns! ... With love, Kris*



### ~The Story of Saint Patrick~

Patrick was born around 385 in Scotland, probably Kilpatrick. His parents were Calpurnius and Conchessa, who were Romans living in Britian in charge of the colonies. As a boy of fourteen or so, he was captured during a raiding party and taken to Ireland as a slave to herd and tend sheep. Ireland at this time was a land of Druids and pagans. He learned the language and practices of the people who held him.

During his captivity, he turned to God in prayer. He wrote "The love of God and his fear grew in me more and more, as did the faith, and my soul was rosed, so that, in a single day, I have said as many as a hundred prayers and in the night, nearly the same." "I prayed in the woods and on the mountain, even before dawn. I felt no hurt from the snow or ice or rain." Patrick's captivity lasted until he was twenty, when he escaped after having a dream from God in which he was told to leave Ireland by going to the coast. There he found some sailors who took him back to Britian, where he reunited with his family. He had another dream in which the people of Ireland were calling out to him "We beg you, holy youth, to come and walk among us once more."

He began his studies for the priesthood. He was ordained by St. Germanus, the Bishop of Auxerre, whom he had studied under for years. Later, Patrick was ordained a bishop, and was sent to take the Gospel to Ireland. He arrived in Ireland March 25, 433, at Slane. One legend says that he met a chieftain of one of the tribes, who tried to kill Patrick. Patrick converted Dichu (the chieftain) after he was unable to move his arm until he became friendly to Patrick.

Patrick began preaching the Gospel throughout Ireland, converting many. He and his disciples preached and converted thousands and began building churches all over the country. Kings, their families, and entire kingdoms converted to Christianity when hearing Patrick's message. Patrick preached and converted all of Ireland for 40 years. He worked many miracles and wrote of his love for God in Confessions. After years of living in poverty, traveling and enduring much suffering he died March 17, 461. He died at Saul, where he had built the first church. Why a shamrock? Patrick used the shamrock to explain the Trinity, and has been associated with him and the Irish since that time.

## ***Thank You From The Bottom of My Heart!***

*A huge "thank you" from the Heart to Heart Ministry!*

*I just wanted to take this opportunity to say thank you so very much for all who participated in bringing in the items for the Christmas bags for the shut-ins. They were all very pleased, and many have expressed their delight at receiving "so much" and that they were very grateful to be remembered in such a kind and thoughtful way. May God richly bless you and keep you in his loving care during this coming year!!*

*Sincerely,  
Barbara Baird, Chairperson  
Heart to Heart Ministry*

*Dear Church Family,*

*I t's been a hard few weeks but God is good and He is faithful! During my recuperation, God has taught me to count my many blessings and to take nothing for granted. I 've been reminded what a beautiful blessing all of you are in my life. Herb and I have been overwhelmed with your many gifts of love.*

*Thank you so much for the flowers, meals, cards, visits, calls and best of all – your prayers! We love you so much and pray God's richest blessings on you always!*

*L ove, Toni Dills*

## ***I Just Can't Thank You Enough!***

*Dear Church Family,*

*Thank you friends for your thoughts and prayers and for the beautiful flowers that expressed your sympathy in the recent loss of our father. Y our kindness will always be remembered. We also wish to thank Pastor Don for visits to dad and the prayers he had with us.*

*We L ove Y ou,  
Vonda Mosteller & Daphne Davis*

*Dear Morganton First Church of God,*

*Your kindness is special and so are you. I appreciate your much-needed assistance. I am sorry it took so long for me to get this note back to you, for I have been ill. When I 'm back on my feet, we will come and visit the church.*

*Thank Y ou & God B less,  
K athleen Hirt*

*Dear Church Family,*

*Thank you so much for the lovely flowers you sent me during the loss of my dear sister. I t was so nice to know that so many people care. I 'm so glad I go to such a loving church. I love all of you!*

*Sincerely,  
Helen Chapman*