

A Time for Celebration

By Rev. Rhonda Johnson, BSN, RN

Throughout the ages, celebration has been a very important piece of the story of historical events. I am reminded of the picture of the sailor kissing the nurse in Times Square on the cover of Life Magazine which truly captures the joy and relief people felt with the



(Joe & Gladys Stolz, Tom & Dianne Robinson from St. James of the Valley Church at the 2014 PHM Volunteer Appreciation Event)

announcement of the end of WWII. Many lives had been lost and the entire country did without some of the comforts of life to give to the effort. The celebration was and is a part of the WWII story. Ecclesiastes 3:1 & 4 says there is a time for everything, “a season for every activity under Heaven” & “a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance.”

Celebration is a necessity of life.

The Parish Health Ministry Program has been serving congregations, companies and the greater community for 16 years. Many lives have been touched and some even saved as a result of the efforts of those working and volunteering in the ministry. The vision for PHM is “the lives we touch will experience wholeness of body, mind and spirit” and yes, we and you, have been doing just that. Many have shared how they are now making better lifestyle choices because of programs developed and implemented by the churches. Others have told us how having someone listen to their stories has brought peace of mind and assurance that they are not alone in their difficult times. In 2013 alone, you reported that over 31,000 contacts were made by over 721 volunteers. You are God’s hands and feet bringing the good news of hope and peace to a hurting world.

We need to make celebration a part of our story and the legacy we leave. Please, take moments to not only plan your next steps of work in the ministry, but to dance in your own way before the Lord, using King David as our example (II Samuel 6:14). Also, let those who are working alongside you in your ministry know just how much you appreciate all they do. Laugh, sing and enjoy the journey along the way. No matter how small you think your efforts are, God sees and knows the sacrifice. May He continue to bless your work!