

Tower Times

St. John's United Church of Christ
515 East Third Street
Dayton, OH 45402



February 2017

Last month, I wrote about taking the time to stop and “give thanks” for those who make things happen around St. John’s. I would like to start the ball rolling by taking this moment to thank St. John’s on my behalf. In my annual contract, there is a section that says I have up to two weeks per year for continuing education. This is not exactly the norm for most UCC ministerial contracts. In fact, a great number of churches have done away with continuing education as a whole. (And a great number of pastors have quit engaging it as well!) Personally, I am so very grateful that St. John’s is not one of those churches.

As a number of you reading this will know, I spend my continuing education weeks taking part in the Next Generation Leadership Initiative that is sponsored by the UCC’s Pension Board. This program provides four years of in-depth classroom (graduate level) training, participation in two general synods, 360 degree feedback evaluation, and a host of other leadership development opportunities. Moreover, after classroom experience, the program provides a funded period of six years to engage further education as each minister sees fit. Some folks complete another degree, others take advanced seminars, but all walk away far more knowledgeable than when they started.

In January, I completed my first classroom session with NGLI. The course was over “Family Systems Theory” and the psycho-analytical principles of Murray Bowen and others. To make a long story short, it was a very intense, though very life-giving, week. While I definitely enjoyed a wee bit of warmer weather –as the class was in Phoenix

AZ—it certainly was anything but a vacation. More than simply a mind mash, this course provided great insight into leading diverse people and providing “non-anxious” leadership in trying times. (All things that I was happy to share with council upon my return.) This summer, I’ll journey to Baltimore to take part in the church’s general synod and I’m sure I’ll return with even more to share.



So thank you St. John’s, I hope that your care for me will in-turn reap benefits for us all!

President's report:

I am decidedly encouraged by the lengthening days. Yippee! I am also encouraged by the enthusiasm that members of St. John's are showing for our impromptu sweater drive. Please donate turtlenecks and sweaters (women's or men's) to our commemorative drive (preferably) during the first 2 weeks of February. There will be a decorated box in Fellowship Hall to accept your sweaters. All donations will go to charity.

Thank you for your support!

Judy Humphrys

President



WORSHIP

Accessories, a dolly, humidifier and cover, for the grand piano have been ordered and should be here February 1. Almost all costs were covered by donations. Stivers sponsorships are welcome. Funds will cover the program through the end of the school year (May). Thank you to all who have and are contributing. A 'thank you' too for those persons who provide the altar flowers during the year. We have made an effort to take unclaimed flowers, those arrangements placed by the church, to shut-ins or other individuals who might be observing a special occasion in their lives. If you know of anyone, please talk to a member of the Worship committee that morning.

March 1 is Ash Wednesday. Plans are being made for the season of Lent. Look for announcements of special services, activities. Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday April 9, Maundy Thursday April 13, Good Friday April 14 and Easter April 16.

Pat Kern

Vice President's Report:

Sat., Feb. 25 – Pedals, Pipes & Pizza!!
Shiloh Church – 5300 Philadelphia Dr.
(Main & Philadelphia) – 45415 - 10-12:00

Introduction to the organ & its history.
Elementary/Middle/High School students with piano/organ skills
Lots of fun for young & young at heart!

\$5.00 per school participant.
RSVP by Wed., Feb. 22 – Priscilla Acuff
Pjacuff711@sbcglobal.net or 937.296.1430

FRI., MAR. 10, 2017 - "Scholarship CONNECT" Deadline
SCHOLARSHIP RESOURCE –DAYTON FOUNDATION
Requires the completion of a detailed questionnaire, so that students can be matched
with more than 130 SCHOLARSHIPS available through the Dayton Foundation.
Dayton Foundation – Home Page; click "Scholarship CONNECT"
<http://www.daytonfoundation.org/scholars.html>

THINK TV (April 3-8, 2017)
Has asked, if we would like to sponsor a Leader Board for their Auction.
Others that we have sponsored are: WYSO (TBD) & WDPR (March 20-25).
These sponsorships provide publicity for St. John's.
Please contact me, if you would like to participate.
Members of the congregation make this happen.
We do not request funds from the church.

Chris van Breukelen



STIVERS PROGRAM

If you have been in church for the last year, you are aware of the regular Sunday participation in our choir by two Stivers High School students Logan Van Bibber and Camryn Snapp. The program began in January 2016 when funding was provided by donations from several of our church families through May. Parking Ministry provided funding for October through early February 2017. Those of our members who have a particular interest in music, our choir or further funding of our student participants are encouraged to become supporters of the program. Envelopes marked 'Stivers Sponsor' are available on the table in the narthex for you to pick up. Gifts may be 'in honor of', 'memory of', 'sponsor', etc. Each student is here Sunday 9:30 through 1:00. That's two rehearsals and one worship service and each receives \$40 per Sunday. \$80 per Sunday or \$320



per month for both students on a 4 Sunday month with perfect attendance. We are not suggesting amounts; the figures are to let you know what the program requires. Any amount will certainly be appreciated. Some contributions have already been received.

Our Worship staff and committee believe this to be a valuable program for both St. John's and the young people. The choir has the support of trained voices while our students receive experience working with a choir in a religious setting, exposure to sacred music. learning to direct and lead a choir all with direction from a professional musician. Not to forget, we see this as another effort of St. John's to establish contact within our local community.

Pat Kern

Budget & Finance

Being the new Chair of the Budget and Finance Committee it is my goal to work with the committee to serve the best interests of the congregation.

Chair: Patty Staley
Vice Chair: To be confirmed at February Meeting
Secretary: Dee Goudy
Members: Patsy Goin
Debbie Watts
Ron Duckson



Due to computer issues the Treasurer's Report was not available to the committee but will be addressed at the February committee meeting along with the January report. The Treasurer, Jeff Gerior did report that it was anticipated the numbers would be more favorable than anticipated but primarily due to the organ repair donations for the year. I hope to be able to provide you with actual figures with next month's report and all future reports.

The committee will be working to set goals both as individual committee members and for the committee as a whole. As Chair, one of my individual goals is to attend each of the standing committees meetings at least twice during the year so that I can better understand their goals and requests.

We will begin work on preparing the stewardship program for this year.

I invite you, the members of the congregation, to feel free to let me know of anything you feel the committee should address or any concerns that you might have as well as your ideas on stewardship. Our next meeting will be February 5th at 9:15 am.

Respectfully,

Patty Staley

Patty Staley

Chair of Budget and Finance

SPIRIT(S) BAR CHURCH

A great number of you have asked questions about the progress of our outreach ministry at MJ's on Jefferson. I am very pleased to write that we are having a great impact and are drawing a very regular crowd of approximately 30 persons to each gathering we have. As I've mentioned before, we've patterned this ministry to be "church for those who don't want to go to church." We sing the same songs, say prayers, have a sermon, and even share in holy communion with one another. The only difference is that we do it in a bar in the afternoon and not in a sanctuary on a Sunday morning. While the outreach is meant for those outside of St. John's, folks from the "mother church" are always welcome to join in at 2pm on the first Sunday of the month. If you have any questions, please see myself, John Webb, or Pastor Jeff Campbell.

~Rev. Dr. Adam

Ps: We had our first new members at St. John's (Tim and Lenny!!!) who found us from Spirit(s)!!! Wahoo!!! :)

JEREMIAH'S LETTER'S FOOD PANTRY

As we begin the new year we do want to inform you that donations of non-perishable food, health aid supplies and household supplies will be accepted on a continual basis. When there are enough items in the grocery cart we will deliver them to the pantry. Cash donations can still be made by placing them in an envelope marked Food Pantry.

Since our large Thanksgiving donations in November the donations have really fallen off. During the month of December and January there were only 3 grocery bags full of items delivered to the pantry. We know you can do better than this. So we ask that you start making your donations as you have in the past. The need is still great and we know you will have a good feeling after donating to know that you have helped a family in need.

Thanks again for your continued support and we challenge you to get the ball rolling again and fill the grocery cart every week.

Norm and Janet Neubauer

Coordinators for Jeremiah's Letters

Food Pantry

January 13, 2017

To the Congregation of St. John's:

Grace and peace to you! Your recent donation from December 11, 2016 has been received and is greatly appreciated. The staff and volunteers at Jeremiah's Letter are grateful for the continued caring support of St. John's Church. You are making a difference in the lives of the men, women and children we serve.

Through your faithful contributions, we are blessed to provide over 1,500 hot meals and 900 hygiene packages to our neighbors in need each month. Additionally, we assist over 300 families each year to obtain birth certificates and identification for housing, school enrollment, employment and health care.

Your love for Jesus is evidenced through this willingness to contribute in our shared mission of serving those in need. We thank the Lord for each and every one of you!

Again, we thank you on behalf of the 2,500+ individuals we help each year. May the grace and peace of God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

Your brother in Christ,

Pastor Terry O. Bruns
President
Jeremiah's Letter, Inc.

Memorial Contributions were made this month:

In Memory of Harold Boedeker:

By Tom & Dottie Norton

By Patsy Goin

In Memory of Betty Wendeln:

By Ron & Nancy Duckson

By Steve Boggs

In Memory of Mark Neubauer:

By Norm & Janet Neubauer & Amy Lynn

By Steve Boggs

By Ron & Nancy Duckson

By Wilfred & Chris van Breukelen

THANK YOU.

We want to thank all of you who sent cards, offered prayers and extended concerns at the unexpected death of Norm's sister, Betty Wendeln, and then 39 days later the death of his brother Mark, after a long battle with cancer. A thank you also to Rev. Dr. Wirrig for officiating at Betty's funeral and for the many calls he made, even from Phoenix, inquiring about Mark's condition, as well as his concern for us..

It was very comforting to know that so many of you cared during those very difficult times.

God's Blessings

Norm and Janet Neubauer

Tower Times Submissions

Have something you'd like included in the Tower Times? The deadline to have something in March's publication will be Monday, February 20th. Please email your article to office@stjohnsuccdayton.org or drop off a hard copy to Chere in the office. Thank

February Birthdays

| | | | |
|------------------|-----------------|------------------|----------------|
| 5 th | Edith Jenkins | 23 rd | Edith Zakel |
| 5 th | Katie Johnson | 24 th | Kian Shafie |
| 8 th | Kenneth Zakel | 26 th | Marlene Miller |
| 8 th | Nancy Duckson | | |
| 8 th | Ben Botteri | | |
| 10 th | Vivian Geisert | | |
| 11 th | Gretchen Menke | | |
| 12 th | Dottie Norton | | |
| 12 th | John Webb | | |
| 16 th | Sylvia Tritch | | |
| 19 th | Connor Strady | | |
| 21 st | Ruth Stuhlemmer | | |
| 22 nd | Audrey Haschke | | |
| 22 nd | Simon Haschke | | |



Flowers & Fellowship

Flowers for the altar in the sanctuary can be purchased each week to help beautify the worship service and then take and enjoy in your home. Sign ups for the flowers are on the corner by the coat rack beside Reverend Adam's office, and priced as follows: one bouquet is \$13.75 and two bouquets are \$27.50. Flowers can be dedicated in memory or in honor of a loved one or event. Checks can be made to the church with indication that they are for flowers. Thank you for participating in this tradition.

2/5 - Still Available

2/12 - Still Available

2/19 - In Honor of Don Humphrys' birthday by Ed & Judy Humphrys

2/26 - In Honor of Hans Hedeker's birthday by Inge & Anita Hedeker

Fellowship hours are open for sign up as well. Please contact the church office if you can help supply snacks and refreshments for our weekly fellowship hour here at St. John's. A new sign up sheet will be in the basement fellowship hall soon for your convenience.

All weeks are still available for sign up in February at time of publication.

2017 Carry In Schedule

Jan 8 - Council

Feb 12 - Worship

March 12- Building & Property

April 16 – Christian Nurture - Easter Breakfast

May - Mother's Day (No carry-in.)

June, July, August - No carry-in

Sept.10 – Budget & Finance

October 8 – German American Day

Sun., Nov. 12 – Congregational Meeting

November – Wirrig Family – probably November 5th

December 24 - Worship/Christian Nurture – Afterglow



From Rev. Adam...

As most of you who were at the January 22nd and 29th worship services will know, we were blessed to welcome 4 new members in the month of January. As you also will know, I intentionally left these new members' names out of our bulletins for those Sundays. This was not meant as a slight to anyone in particular, but was a "wee nudge" to move a few of us out of our comfort zones so we would have to go up and ask folks for their names. (Yes, I am mean like that...it shouldn't be a shock by this point!)

All the same, I do want to take a moment and recognize each of our new members by name and say just how excited I am for them and for the energy, ideas, hope, and love that they bring to St. John's! We're so glad to have you call this place home with the rest of us!

January 22nd:

Messer's Tim Rhode and Lenny LaPoma

January 29th:

Rev. Jeffery Campbell

Ms. Shirley Hall-Keller



February 2017

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|--------------------------------|-----|--|-----|-----|-----|
| 29 10:30 Worship Service | 30 | 31 | Feb 1 8:30 Breakfast Club | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 5 9:15 Budget & Finance Mee 10:30 Worship Service 12p Building & Property Met | 6 | 7 | 8 8:30 Breakfast Club 6:30p Council Meeting | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 12 Carry In - Worship Commit 10:30 Worship Service | 13 | 14 | 15 8:30 Breakfast Club 6:30p Worship Committee | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 10:30 Worship Service | 20 Tower Times articles due | 21 | 22 8:30 Breakfast Club | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26 10:30 Worship Service | 27 | 28 | Mar 1 8:30 Breakfast Club | 2 | 3 | 4 |