

# Tower Times

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



## January 2017

I write this in the fourth week of Advent. Christmas Eve is three days away and -as you might imagine- things are a bit crazy around St. John's. I can't even begin to explain all the things that go into making sure that we, as a building and as a people, are prepared for the Christmas season. From those who meet weeks in advance to plan music and worship themes for the Advent season, to those who decorate, coordinate, cook, bake, invite, and everything in between, it takes a village to get St. John's through the holiday seasons. I doubt this is any news for many of you. I think we all know that there are a great number of folks committing their all-too-precious hours to making sure we have things dialed-in, prepared, and presentable on Sunday and throughout the week.

Next question: how often do we take the time to stop and thank those who do so much on behalf of our congregation?

I'll admit, I'm not exactly the greatest at this and I'll guess that most of you are not either. It's not that any of us are un-grateful; in fact I think we all are quite grateful. At the same time, life sure does move quickly around here doesn't it? Those words of thanks that you intended to give are hard to deliver when there are 500 other things that seem to need attention now. So, we forget, we assume folks will just know, and that maybe we'll get those words of gratitude out at some point?

I don't think you need me to tell you how well this works. We are constantly fighting battles of burnout in the church and burnout generally starts by feeling a lack of gratitude or recognition for all the work done. Thus, good people leave or disengage, folks get pressured into actions they might not otherwise want to do, and well, basically, it's a mess all around. But, again, I don't think you need me to tell you that, do you?

Now, what if we all, in the start of 2017, focused ourselves on creating a year of gratitude? What if we said, "thank you" and "I am so glad you're here" to all those who are doing so much? What if we said, "how can I pray for you" instead of assuming that folks would tell us if they needed our support? What kind of church would we be if we fixated ourselves on gratitude -both to God and to others- in this our coming year?

I say: let's go find out!



## President's report:

2016 has come and gone, full of blessings and change of many stripes.

I would like to begin 2017 by thanking all those who have contributed to our many committees and missions in the life of St John's. Everyone's efforts are appreciated no matter how large or small, how visible or behind the scenes.

If you missed Sunday, December 18th, you missed an inspired service of Lessons and Carols cleverly woven together and presented by our organist John Webb, Reverend Doctor Adam Wirrig and Reverend Jeffrey Campbell. We are blessed with their many talents.

Congratulations to Reverend Doctor Adam Wirrig!

If you have not heard either directly or through the grapevine, please let me share with you that our own Reverend Adam Wirrig has recently become Reverend *Doctor* Adam Wirrig. This milestone marks a tremendous achievement for Adam and congratulations are definitely in order. His dissertation is entitled: "Trial of Translation: An Examination of 1 Corinthians 6:9 in the Early Modern Period." His thesis was sustained on November 8th, 2016. Please join me in wishing Adam sincere congratulations!

I look forward to the challenge that my new position as Council President may bring. I can most easily and reliably be reached by email at: [humphrys.judy@gmail.com](mailto:humphrys.judy@gmail.com). Please understand that I am not allowed to access my email while at work, but typically review my email at least once per day in the evenings. Of course you may call me at home at 937-429-5699. Cell phones are a no-no at work, so for the time being, my home phone is the best option.

Blessings,

Judy Humphrys

President

## **Vice President's Preport**

SUN., JAN. 15, 2017 – INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS & COMMITTEE MEMBERS.

OUR STAFF is also invited to be there.

As a congregation, it is an important Sunday. Please plan to be with us.

Pat Titcombe was a past Council President & tenor in the choir.

She served St. John's in many ways. She passed away this past November.

We extend our condolences to her husband, Ray, & their family.

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 & WDPR.

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

# WORSHIP

Advent is past and Christmas has come. A new year is almost here. We will worship together at our usual 10:30 hour January 1 New Year's Day.

We are inviting our members, especially those with an interest in our music ministry, to become sponsors of our Stivers student program. We will be looking to fund the second half of the school year February through May. If you are interested, use one of the pew envelopes. Be sure to mark it 'Stivers Fund'.

Pat Kern

Friends,

Because of the departure of our tenant church, Eternal Joy MCC, by the time you read this, the key code for the entry cypher lock into St. John's from the main parking lot will have been changed. If you need access to the building after hours and do not have the new key code, please contact me either at church or by phone at my home at (937) 429-5699.

Regards,

Ed Humphrys, Chair, Building and Property Committee



## Thank You

To Reverend Wirrig and my St. John's family: I want to send my heartfelt thanks for all the prayers, calls, and beautiful cards for Harold during the past few years and with his passing in November.

Love,

Dottie & Family

Memorial Contributions were made this month:

In Memory of Pat Titcombe by:

Ann & Tony Morrissey

Philomene King

In Memory of Rita & Bud Weller by Hal & Elizabeth Weller

In Memory of Harold Boedeker by:

R. Todd Monroe

Helen Zappe

Chris & Wilfred van Breukelen

Pat & Frank Caroots

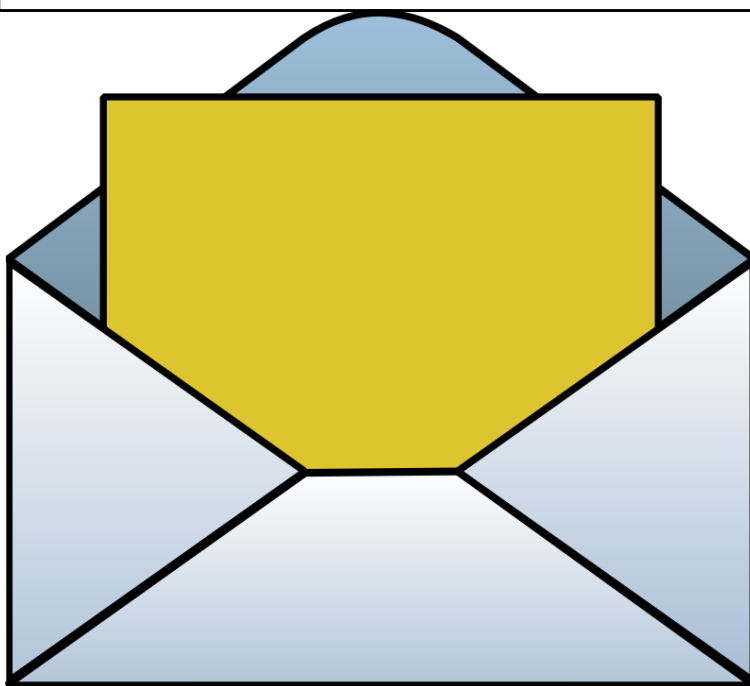
Mark Jones & Family

Ron & Nancy Duckson

In Memory of Betty Wendeln by:

Norm & Janet Neubaugher & Amy Lynn

Chris & Wilfred van Breukelen



**Updated Info & Birthday**

Mary Sakal will celebrate her 101st birthday Friday, December 30th!  
Could you celebrate with her by sending a card?

Mary Sakal

c/o Miller Farm Place

8130 Miller Farm Lane

Centerville, OH 45458

## January Birthdays

- 03 Eva Hochreiter
- 11 Neil Couture
- 12 Nolan Caroll
- 16 Linda Triplett
- 22 Gregory Merker
- 28 Steve Boggs
- 28 Ron Duckson
- 30 Mary Fessler

### 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.

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.

## WOMEN OF ST. JOHN'S

We want to thank everyone who donated towards the Annual Holiday Bake Sale. Because of your generosity of donations and support we made a profit of \$360.40. It was the most successful Holiday Bake Sale we have ever held. Thanks again.

Janet Neubauer

President, Women of/St. John's

# January 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Jan 1 10:30 Worship Service	2	3	4 8:30 Breakfast Club	5	6	7
8 9:15 Budget & Finance Meeting 10:30 Worship Service 12p Building & Property Meeting	9	10	11 8:30 Breakfast Club 6:30p Council Meeting	12	13	14
15 Installation of New Officers 10:30 Worship Service	16	17	18 8:30 Breakfast Club	19	20	21
22 10:30 Worship Service	23	24	25 8:30 Breakfast Club	26	27	28
29 10:30 Worship Service	30	31	Feb 1 8:30 Breakfast Club	2	3	4