



ST. JOHN'S

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Seeking inner joy in the power of God.

10:30 a.m. Sunday Morning Worship

10:30 a.m. Church School Classes

11:30 a.m. Fellowship Hour

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

Monday thru Thursday: 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Friday: Offices Closed

INTERIM MINISTER: Michael H. Carman

carman.mh@sbcglobal.net

937-222-0031 (home)

937-603-7346 (cell)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT: Ron Duckson

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ORGANIST/CHOIR DIRECTOR: Ray Coyle

rayc@centralpower.com

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: Amelia O'Dowd

stjohnsuccasst@yahoo.com

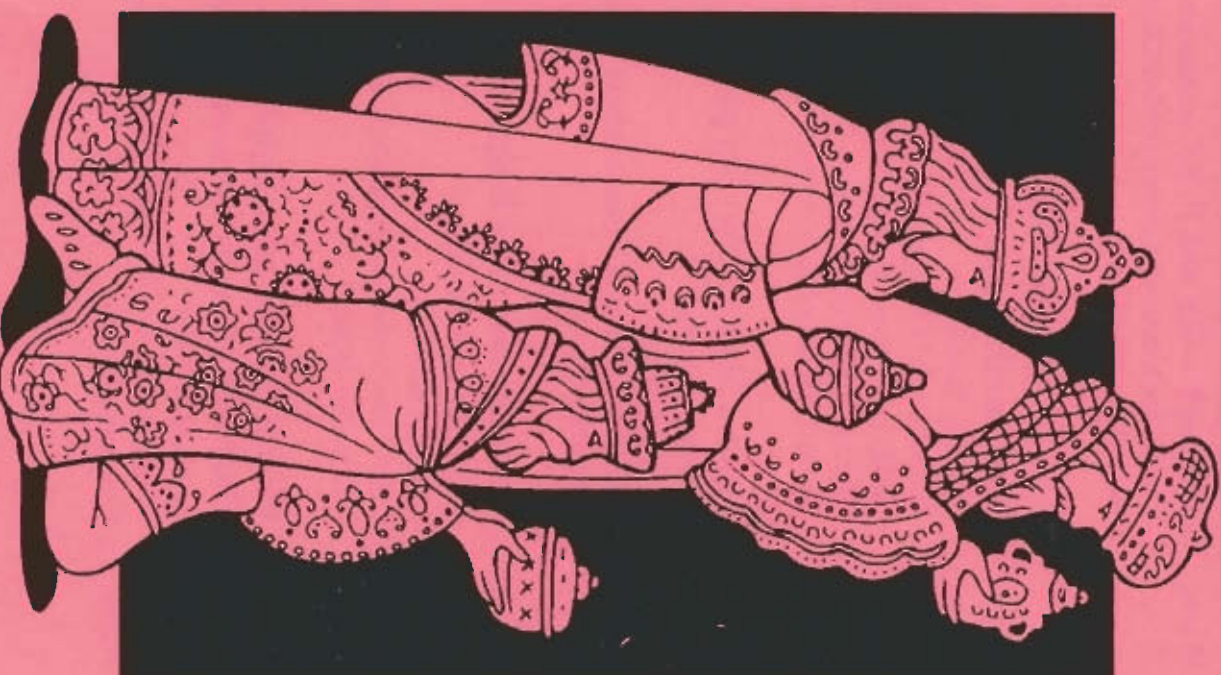
CUSTODIAN: Steve Boggs

THE TOWER TIMES

ST. JOHN'S

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Volume 12
Issue 1



515 E. Third Street, Dayton, Ohio 45402 • 937-224-1747
www.stjohnsuccdayton.org

JANUARY 2012

SUNDAY IN JANUARY

AT *St. John's* ...

- January 1
10:30 a.m.
First Sunday after Christmas
New Year's Day
Morning Worship with Holy Communion
Child Care Center & Church School Classes
No Fellowship Hour
- January 8
10:30 a.m.
The Baptism of Christ
First Sunday after Epiphany
Morning Worship
Installation of Officers
Child Care Center & Church School Classes
Carry-in Luncheon hosted by
Council and Standing Committees
- January 15
10:30 a.m.
Second Sunday after Epiphany
Morning Worship
Project Lifeline
Child Care Center & Church School Classes
Fellowship Hour
- January 22
10:30 a.m.
Third Sunday after Epiphany
Ecumenical Sunday
Morning Worship
Child Care Center & Church School Classes
Fellowship Hour
- January 29
10:30 a.m.
Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
Health & Human Services Sunday
Morning Worship
Child Care Center & Church School Classes
Fellowship Hour
- 11:30 a.m.

FROM THE DESK OF REV. MIKE

I was looking up the words for "Ring Out, Wild Bells" by Alfred Lloyd Tennyson and came across another poem by him that started me thinking of the New Year that is ahead of us – that poem is "Crossing the Bar"

Sunset and evening star,

And one clear call for me,

And may there be no mourning of the bar,

When I put out to sea, [...]

Twilight and evening bell,

And after that the dark!

And may there be no sadness of farewell!

When I embark:

For tho' from out our burrows of time and place

The flood may bear me far;

I hope to see my Pilot face to face

When I have crossed the bar.

The old year is dying, a new one is born. As we cross the bar into the New Year, are we ready to spiritually "see [our] Pilot face to face"? Do we face each year with a renewed resolve to be a little better and do a little more good? Are we resolved to serve others more and focus more on the poor and needy? In other words are we ready to keep our eye on the IEGG?

Today as in years past, wise men still look heavenward and again see a bright, particular star. It will guide you and me to new opportunities. The burden of the downtrodden will be lifted, the cry of the hungry will be stilled, the lonely heart will be comforted. If we truly listen, we may hear that voice from far away say to us, as it spoke to another, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant."

There will be many opportunities this coming year to lift the burdened and comfort the lonely. If one faithfully watches the news we are almost confronted nightly by one tragic death after another. The ranks of those in special need grow larger day by day. Note the obituary page of the Dayton Daily News: here the drama of life unfolds to all. Death comes to all humanity. It comes to the aged as they walk on faltering feet. Its summons is heard by those who have scarcely reached midway in life's journey, and it often hushes the laughter of little children.

After the funeral flowers fade, the well-wishes of friends become memories,

and the prayers offered and the words spoken dim in the corridors of the mind, those who grieve frequently join that vast throng I shall call “the Long Line of the Lonely.” Missed are the laughter of children, the commotion of teenagers, and the tender, loving concern of a departed companion. The clock ticks more loudly, time passes more slowly, and four walls do indeed a prison make.

Hopefully, all of us may again hear the echo of words spoken by the Master: “Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my children, you did it to me.”

As we resolve to minister more diligently in the year ahead to those in need, let us remember to include the children of the world in those learning lessons of life.

There are many who need our love and comfort, even if we might be members of that lonely line ourselves.

And now to the poem that started me thinking about all this -- “Ring Out, Wild Bells:”



Ring out, wild bells, to the wild sky;

The flying cloud, the frosty light;

The year is dying in the night;

Ring out, wild bells, and let him die.

Ring out the old, ring in the new;

Ring, happy bells, across the snow;

The year is going, let him go;

Ring out the false, ring in the true.

Ring out the grief that saps the mind,

For those that here we see no more;

Ring out the feud of rich and poor;

Ring in redress to all mankind.

Ring out a stony dying care,

And ancient forms of party strife;

Ring in the nobler modes of life,

With sweeter manners, purer laws.

Ring out the want, the care, the sin,

The faithless coldness of the times;

Ring out, ring out thy mournful rhymes,

But ring the fuller minstrel in.



As we approach the New Year, let us the people of St. John's United Church of Christ ring in the Christ that is and that is to be.



Ring out false pride in place and blood,

The civic slander and the spite;

Ring in the love of truth and right,

Ring in the common love of good.

Ring out old shapes of foul disease,

Ring out the narrowing lust of gold;

Ring out the thousand wars of old,

Ring in the thousand years of peace.

Ring in the valiant man and free,

The larger hearts, the kinder hands;

Ring out the darkness of the land,

Ring in the Christ that is to be.

NOVEMBER MINSTER'S REPORT

I begin this report by saying “I thank You” to the members of the Church Council and the members of St. John's for extending to me the call to become your Interim Interim Minister. After a lengthy conversation with Steve, Ron and Chris I accepted your call with a sense of “Fear and Trembling.”

St. John's U.C.C. has been a part of my life every since I moved to the Dayton area some eighteen years ago. Although I have not been active here over the past few years, I have been keenly aware of what was going on in the life of the church.

Even though my first Sunday in the Pulpit was November 6, I started office hours on November 1 -- spending most of that first week in getting to know the staff, and acquainting myself with church life.

My Call Agreement was worked out so that I would be onsite during the Season of Advent, (November 1 through January 1) performing necessary pastoral duties as they arose. Our agreement calls for me to “work” 12 hours a week.

With that, let's look at November. I have kept a calendar of church related activities. The following information is a copulation of those daily calendars.

Events	Total Hours
Association/Cluster Meetings	11
Church Meetings	5
Conversation with Members	11.25
Conversation with Outside Groups	4
Conversations with Staff	7
General Office Work	21.25
Hospital/Nursing Home Visits	5.5
Monday Letter/Tower Times	5.75
Sermon Prep	15.75
Worship Planning	16.75
Worship Service	12
TOTAL	115.25

The total hours worked in November were 115.25 versus the contracted monthly hours of 48. Let me make a few observations of the break down of events. As you can see a great deal of time was spent in "Worship Planning and Sermon Preparation." Having entered one of two "High Seasons" in the life of the church, I like to coordinate worship themes, sermons and special readings. Hours spent in "General Office Work" include reviewing materials that I have left with Amelia to prepare, reading reports and time spent in general planning of activities.

A word about the "Monday Letter": each Monday I write a letter to our shut-ins informing them of the activities going on in the life of the church. The list has started out small, but is being reviewed and new names are being added to it each week.

Concerning "Conversation with Members": I have taken time to sit down with various individuals and families and talked with them about life at St. John's. Those that I have talked with have included members who have stayed active in the life of the church, as well as some who have left St. John's after Pastor Brakemeyer's departure. As a condition of entering into those conversations, I asked permission to speak generally about comments made, but to do so in a way that would not identify the individual or individuals making them.

In general the conversations have been positive and very open. The reasons expressed by those who have chosen to leave are clearly stated, as are those who have chosen to remain. As would be expected, much of our

conversations centered on Pastor Brakemeyer. The issues presented were like looking at a coin and observing the differences between the front the back. There are some who made it very clear that they have left St. John's and probably will not return. Some individuals indicated that they are taking a "wait and see" attitude - in essence waiting to see how things will shake out in the future.

As to issues discussed - they ranged from Sermons, Worship Style, Involvement with Members, Leadership Style. We also spent some time in discussing the future of St. John's as they saw it. Most were hopefully that St. John's will continue to be a U.C.C. presence in the heart of Dayton.

As noted at our Annual Meeting, those who have left St. John's impacted our financial picture resulting in necessary budget revisions.

As I write my report of this month's activities, I would remind you to go back to the first two sermons that I preached. "With Lively Ending There Is a New Beginning" - in that sermon I asked you to start thinking about your past - and what things would you like to carry with you from the past into the future. The central theme of that sermon was "THE FUTURE OF ST. JOHN'S UCC BEGINS TODAY. WHAT YOU DO FROM THIS MOMENT ON WILL DETERMINE WHO YOU ARE DOWN THE LINE."

In the second sermon, "You Want Us to Keep Our Eyes on WHAT?" in essence I asked you to look at how far you have come as a people of God in the city of Dayton. And then HOW FAR ARE YOU GOING? The first question is easy to answer; the second is going to take time and great deal of effort to answer. As a part of that second sermon I gave you an Ostrich Egg. It is time that the church start placing its emphasis not on "we/them," but that we open ourselves up to Jesus. What are his teachings and his style of ministry calling us to do in this place at this time? I can't say it often enough: the FUTURE IS IN YOUR HANDS!

After my first month here, I would say that we have our work cut out for us. Before you can even form a Search Committee for a Called Pastor, you have a lot of thinking and planning to do. St. John's U.C.C. is at a very critical stage in its life. The future of ministry in this place looks grim to be honest. The Financial Report presented at the Annual Meeting indicates that we have about five years of ministry before we might be forced to close the doors. BUT I firmly believe that the future is not written in those figures. Over the next few months the Strategic Planning Committee will begin to formulate a picture of what St. John's might become in the future.

As a people of God in this place, we need to be open to new possibilities of doing ministry. We have to accept the fact that change is inevitable. As the Committee does its work, hopefully it will keep in mind our present ministry and needs, as well as look out and beyond to new and exciting ministry.

As I close, once again allow me to say thank you for allowing me to be a part of this journey with you.

Rev. Mike



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

As we begin a new year, our church has many challenges in front of it. We will be selecting an interim to serve our church until we call our new full time pastor. Rev Mike, our current part-time interim, has agreed to stay on until May 1, if needed. Hopefully, we will be able to find a full time interim within the next 30 to 60 days. Also, we are working on a strategic plan with the help of Ann Morrissey. This will require some time as this is a complicated process and requires sharing many different ideas. Two questions that were discussed were: "Who are we?" and "Where do we want to go?" While all this is happening, we need to concentrate on building our membership and giving.

Again, during January, February and March, the Council will be chaired by Chris van Brucklen. I am sure she, as well as the other Council members and various committee chairpersons, will continue to do a good job. I ask for your support during this time.

The Annual Meeting was held November 20 and went well. The new slate of officers was elected and other business was conducted. A deficit budget was approved, which means that we have to work hard to increase our giving where possible or continue to spend our reserves. If we continue to spend our reserves we will run out of money at some time in the future. The exact date is not known but estimates are 3-5 years at the most. I do not want this to happen and I am sure you do not want this to happen either. So, we are back to the question asked in the first paragraph: "WHO ARE WE?" and "WHERE DO WE WANT TO GO?" Let's all pull together and we CAN make a difference. Let's do it!!

Ron Dickson

BUDGET & FINANCE

As 2011 is coming to a close, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the members of the congregation for being supportive of St. John's United Church of Christ. We are all aware that 2011 has been a challenging year. Please remember and reflect on two key words in the name of our church:

1. "Christ" - our faith in Christ will lead us moving forward into the future
2. "United" - we must stand united if we expect to move St. John's into the future

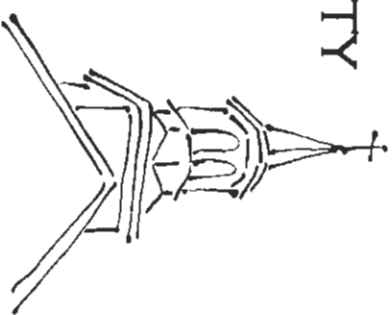
I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year. As God is generous to us through St. John's United Church of Christ, please remember to be generous to St. John's United Church of Christ in 2012.

Dorcas Gandy, Chair



BUILDING & PROPERTY

I want to thank the committee members, Richard Goudy, Burch Martin and Tim White, and Steve Boggis for all of your time and hard work. I cannot forget the never ending job that Brian Dunkle has done all year. I look forward to working with all of you in the coming year. Everyone please mark your calendars to help take down the Christmas decorations on January 11 at 6:30 p.m.



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Martene Miller, Chair

PROJECT LIFELINE

Thanks to all of you who contributed food items and cash donations to the East Dayton Food Pantry in

November. In total there were approximately 700 food items donated, as well as \$250 contributed through the

Thanksgiving envelopes. A total of \$500 was given by a grant from Parking

Ministry through a request from the Christian Nurture Committee. The

items were all delivered the Monday before Thanksgiving and were greatly

appreciated. Thanks to Jack Papenbrock for the use of his SUV to deliver the food. It was filled to capacity.

Barbara Dawes, the Director of the food pantry, informed me that in the month of November they served 765 people which is a new

record. December is going at the same pace and possibly even higher due to the Christmas needs.

Thanks again for your support to this worthwhile Mission Project.

Janet & Norma Newbauer

Board Members of East Dayton Food Pantry
Representing St. John's U.C.C.



HANDS TO WORK,

HEARTS TO

GOD



Although the number of active St. John's members serving at House of Bread

has decreased, on the surface it appears as though we have the same number. Karen Clark and Patsy Goin are the remaining active members.

Many who are no longer

active members are still serving there as interested individuals. The third Thursday is quite adequately staffed right now. If other members are interested in serving, we can

negotiate for another day to serve.

Our team that works with the International School is beginning to collect

hats and gloves for the adult students in the program. A barrel will be provided for this collection. Although this is the last opportunity planned to work with them until the summer of 2012, we are glad to be able to continue to minister to them.

Our next occasion to serve at St. Vincent is the fourth Saturday of February. Be sure to mark that date. This year, we will serve in February, April, June, August and October -- always on the fourth Saturday, so mark your calendars.

In God's service,

Ravanna Biddle

CHRISTIAN NURTURE



The Christian Nurture Committee met in November at Karen Clark's home. We discussed the Afterglow

reception and talked about Hands to Work; Hearts to God's participation at House of Bread. We will meet with the Worship Committee to finalize plans for Afterglow. We will get commitments from members to make cookies for the occasion.

The number of active members of St. John's involved at House of Bread has decreased. Karen Clark and Patsy Goin are the only active members currently involved. Other inactive members are still participating, though.

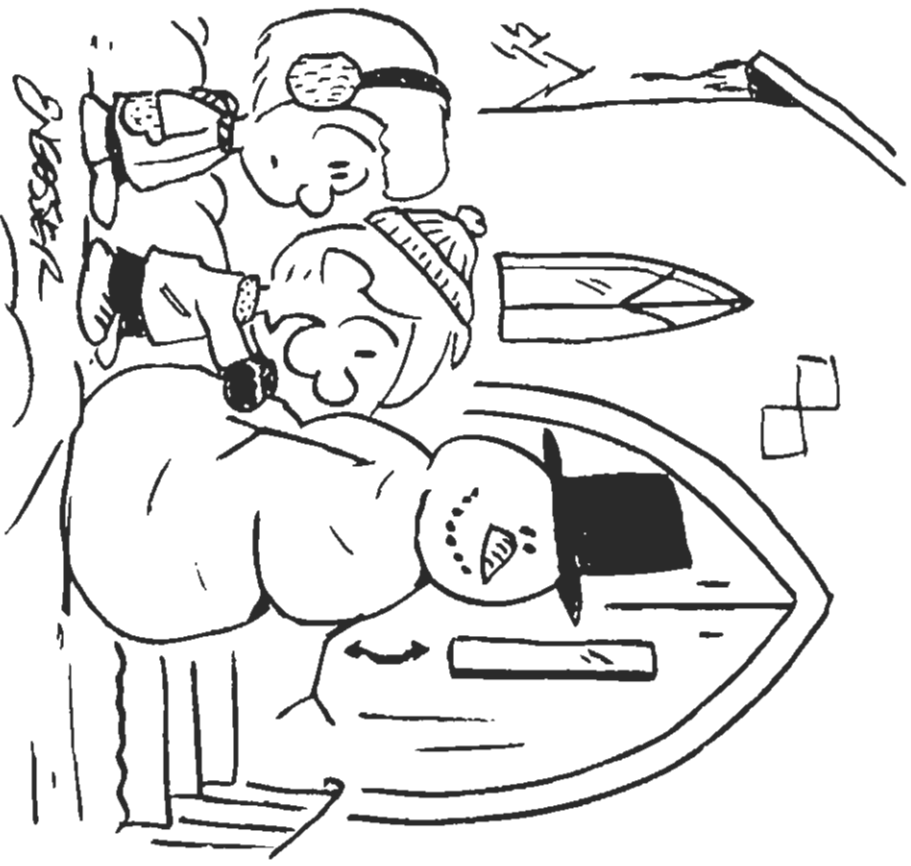
I am looking into upgrading our guest bags for people who attend worship at St. John's for the first time. At present we have only one bag left. The bags appear to contain only a Tower Times and a small prayer/devotional book. I want to pursue the possibility of getting mugs and pens to include.

At present I am representing the committee on the strategic planning committee. We have had one meeting as of this writing.

Steve Carroll was elected chair of Christian Nurture for 2012. Karen and I plan to complete the final year of our two-year terms.

Respectfully submitted,

Ravanna Biddle, Acting Chair

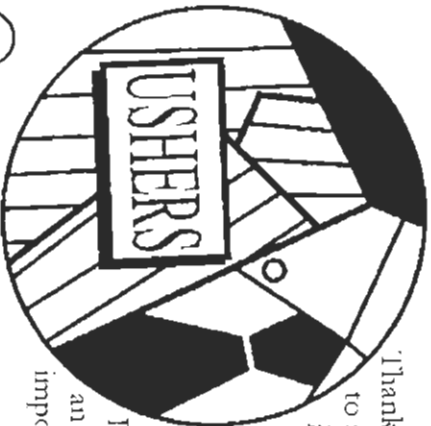


"He's today's greeter."

USHERS & GREETERS NEEDED

Thank you so much to all those who volunteered to serve as ushers or greeters in 2011. It is so important that we can count on all of you. A special thanks to Fred Schiller for the incredible job he did as head usher for St Johns. Fred, you left big shoes to fill and we all miss you.

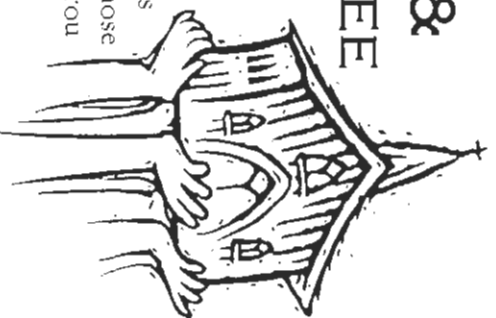
Please contact Pat Goudy if you wish to be an usher in the coming year. You are more important now than ever!



INSTALLATION OF CHURCH OFFICERS & STANDING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The Installation of Church Officers and Standing Committee Members will be during worship on Sunday, January 8. Please plan to be at St. John's as we thank those who have served in the past and those who will be leading us in the coming year. Thank you to everyone who is willing to serve St. John's.

Chris van Breukelen



SENIORS' LUNCHEON

Thanks go out to everyone who has helped the Seniors Luncheon group this past year. We have had great speakers who have entertained us. We have had wonderful luncheons served to us by the "Kitchen Crew." Karen Clark, Patsy Goin and Janey Townsley really have gone out of their way in preparing the luncheons and setting up the tables. Our special thanks go out to Elise Schiller who is no longer our "Chief Chef." She always tried to get the best buys to produce those great luncheons. How we will miss her.

Further thanks go out to Janet Michael for handling the greeting cards for the Seniors. Thanks always go out to Steve Boggs for his help in setting up the Fellowship Hall or doing whatever other task needed to be done. Thanks go to Glenna Holdeman who played the piano for our hymn sings. Nancy Duckson also played the piano for the hymn sings.

We, again, are looking forward to the coming year. If anyone has suggestions for speakers for the coming months, please let us know.

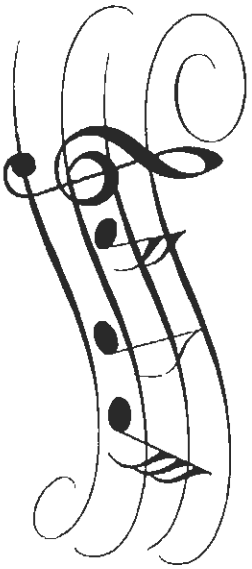
The next Seniors meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 13, 2012. Program information will be available in the *February Tower Times*.

Helen Staub & Edie Jenkins



For Everything There is a Season

ST. JOHN'S & FRIENDS CHRISTMAS CONCERT



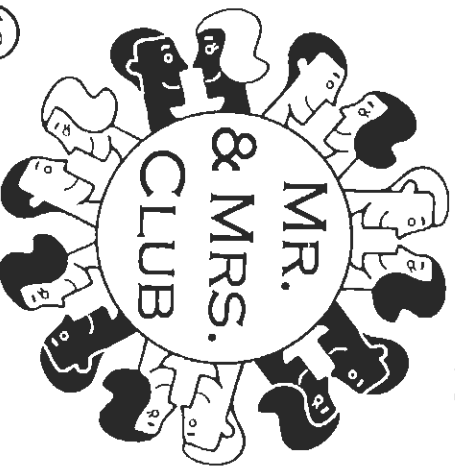
Thank you to everyone who made the Christmas Concert such a success! Saturday, December 10 was an evening of Christmas celebration and friendship. The choir loft was filled, and more than fifty members and friends came to share in the Christmas spirit.

Chris van Brunkelen

SCHNITZEL DINNER AT THE LIEDEKRANZ CLUB

1400 East Fifth St.

Saturday, January 21 at 6:00 p.m.



Menu: Schnitzel, parsley potatoes, red cabbage, green beans or California vegetable medley, apple sauce, bread and butter, dessert, coffee and tea

Cost: \$15 for members; \$17 for non-members (checks payable to Dayton Liedekranz Turner)

Reservation Deadline: January 15

Hosts: Dottie & Tom Norton
298-4876



MEMORIAL GIFTS

Memorial gifts gratefully received in honor of Rev. Barry Kern from

- Bob & Jean Arthdeaton*
- Steve Boggs*
- Charlyn & Benito Bottari*
- Mr. & Mrs. Frank Carrois*
- Judith W. Damico*
- Nancy & Ron Drejeson*
- Anna Dinkels*
- Jackie & Jay Garon*
- Emlyn Kolbe*
- Bernard & Elizabeth Martin*
- Carrine M. Meyer*
- Dottie & Tom Norton*
- Anne Pepiot*
- Philippus U.C.C.*
- Ruth M. Rees*
- Elsie & Fred Schiller*
- Carl & Janice Zahn*

Memorial gifts gratefully received in honor of Michael Nimy from
Steve Boggs

AND YOU SHALL KNOW THE

ROOTS

AND THE
SHALL MAKE YOU FREE!

JOHN 8:32

THANKS & GRATITUDE



Wayne Township FISH Food pantry in Huber Heights appreciates receiving the recent gift of \$500.00 to our food pantry. In November, we provided food to 315 individuals. So far this year we have served 2,944 residents of Huber Heights. St. John's generous gift was a big asset. Thank you and God bless you for your service.

Racanna Biddle
Pantry Manager

Dear St. John's Friends,

We want to express our appreciation for the love and concern shown our family following Barry's unexpected death. All your prayers, calls, visits, cards and emails provided support during those early difficult days and continue to do so. We feel the love.

Thanks also to Rev. Mike and all those who helped make the Memorial Service such a meaningful experience. The altar flowers were a loving gesture in his memory.

Blessings,
Pat Kern
Rich, Leslie, Eric and Neil Kern

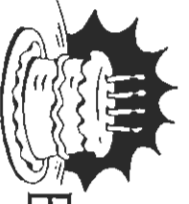


JANUARY BIBLE READINGS

Day	Book	Chapter	Day	Book	Chapter
01	Isaiah	61:10-62:3	17	John	43-51
02	Psaln	148	18	Psaln	40:1-11
03	Galatians	4:4-7	19	I Corinthians	1:1-9
04	Luke	2:22-40	20	John	1:29-42
05	Isaiah	60:1-6	21	Jonah	3:1-5, 10
06	Psaln	72:1-7, 10-14	22	Psaln	62:5-12
07	Ephesians	3:1-12	23	I Corinthians	7:29-31
08	Marthew	2:1-12	24	Mark	1:14-20
09	Genesis	1:1-5	25	Isaiah	9:1-4
10	Psaln	29	26	Psaln	27:1,4-9
11	Acts	19:1-7	27	I Corinthians	1:10-18
12	Mark	1:4-11	28	Deuteronomy	18:15-20
13	Isaiah	49:1-7	29	Psaln	111
14	I Samuel	3:1-10 (11-20)	30	I Corinthians	8:1-13
15	Psaln	139:1-6, 13-18	31	Mark	1:21-28
16	I Corinthians	6:12-20			



- 01 Klara Holdeman
- 03 Eva Hochreiter
- 07 Reiko Ford
- 11 Neil Couture
- 16 Linda Triplett
- 22 Gregory Merker
- 26 Elizabeth Koroschetz
- 28 Ronald Duckson
- 30 Mary Fessler



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

CELEBRATING
an Anniversary This Month

06 Ingrid Brown & Troy Lyner



ALTAR
FLOWERS

- 1st *open*
- 8th in honor of our Church Council and Standing Committees by the congregation (2)
- 15th in honor of our staff from the congregation (2)
- 22nd by Cathleen Daily & Jill Johnson (2)
- 29th in honor of Steve Boggs' 47th birthday by his family and friends (2)



ST. JOHN'S
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Seeking inner joy in the inner city.

- 10:30 a.m. Sunday Morning Worship
- 10:30 a.m. Church School Classes
- 11:30 a.m. Fellowship Hour

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:
Monday thru Thursday: 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Friday: Offices Closed

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