

# The TOWER TIMES

ST. JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

February 2011 - Volume 11 Issue 2



**BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

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*Celebrating God's purpose in all lives  
through Christian worship, education,  
service, and fellowship!*

# Sundays in February at St. John's...

## February 6th

9:45 a.m.

10:30 a.m.

10:30 a.m.

11:30 a.m.

## Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Faith Discussion - Litel in the Multipurpose Room

Morning Worship with Holy Communion

Child Care Center & Church School Classes

Fellowship Hour

## February 13th

9:45 a.m.

10:30 a.m.

10:30 a.m.

11:30 a.m.

## Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

### Black History Sunday

Faith Discussion - Litel in the Multipurpose Room

Morning Worship

Mission Moment:

Child Care Center & Church School Classes

Fellowship Hour

## February 20th

9:45 a.m.

10:30 a.m.

10:30 a.m.

11:30 a.m.

## Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

Faith Discussion - Litel in the Multipurpose Room

Morning Worship

*Project Lifeline*

Child Care Center & Church School Classes

Fellowship Hour

## February 27th

9:45 a.m.

10:30 a.m.

10:30 a.m.

11:30 a.m.

11:40 a.m.

## Eighth Sunday after Epiphany

Faith Discussion - Litel in the Multipurpose Room

Morning Worship

Child Care Center & Church School Classes

Fellowship Hour

Service of Healing & Wholeness

# FROM YOUR PASTOR'S DESK...



St. Valentine's Day is a day associated with candy, flowers, touching messages on overly expensive greeting cards, and, hopefully, love (in its purest form).

Who would not agree that love is an essential quality of our existence, if it is to have meaning, vitality, and warmth?

Can you imagine marriage, parenthood, childhood, or work without love? The Apostle Paul proclaims to us in I Corinthians 13 that all Christian virtues are less powerful without love. Yes, if we

could find it in our hearts to be more loving the problems of crime, war, abusive relationships, and injustice could be minimized, if not eliminated. When Jesus brought together Leviticus 19:18 and Deuteronomy 6:5 in answer to the greatest commandment, he was saying little that could be considered new or innovative. The problem is not so much our awareness of the essential quality and power of love, but our ability or willingness to be loving.

Paul's words in I Corinthians 13 are not so much a formula for the art of Christian love as they are a call to priority. Our greatest need is to love and to be loved. The sooner we come to that conclusion, the better! To symbolize our acceptance of this truth let us wear something that is red and/or pink as

we worship on Sunday, February 13th.

Of all the ages of humankind, we know ourselves to be among the best equipped, the best educated, and the most blessed with resources of every description. Why do we find it so easy and more convenient to be noisy gongs and clanging symbols?

Many blessings and peace,

*Pastor Brakemeyer*

-2011-

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## VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Members of the congregation have asked about hiring a consultant.

Why?

“Might provide an unbiased & realistic look/review of the current situation “ (Pastoral Relations Committee)

Goal:

“Provide beneficial assistance on possible changes, improvements or direction in our efforts moving forward to bring about resolution in a positive way.” (Pastoral Relations Committee)

How will we proceed?

Council voted to hire Rev. Jim Colding to provide an unbiased & realistic evaluation & review of our current situation. Rev. Colding is a minister in full standing with the UCC, received his Doctor of Ministry in 1978, ordained in 1966 and is a current member of St. John's UCC in Newport, Kentucky. He has consulted with churches and corporations.

Information from the insert in the January 16 bulletin : on January 17, the Pastoral Relations Committee will have an executive meeting with Rev. Brakemeyer and Rev. Colding. Rev. Colding will be present on Sunday,

January 23 for the worship service and will start scheduling meetings for members of the congregation. This will be an opportunity for members to express their positive input and concerns. This will be done individually or in small groups. A schedule will be available soon for sign up. If you have any questions, please ask a member of your Council, and we will do our best to provide you more information.

Council meeting: February 8 at 6:30 p.m. We had many guests at the January Council meeting. We invite and encourage members of the congregation to attend.

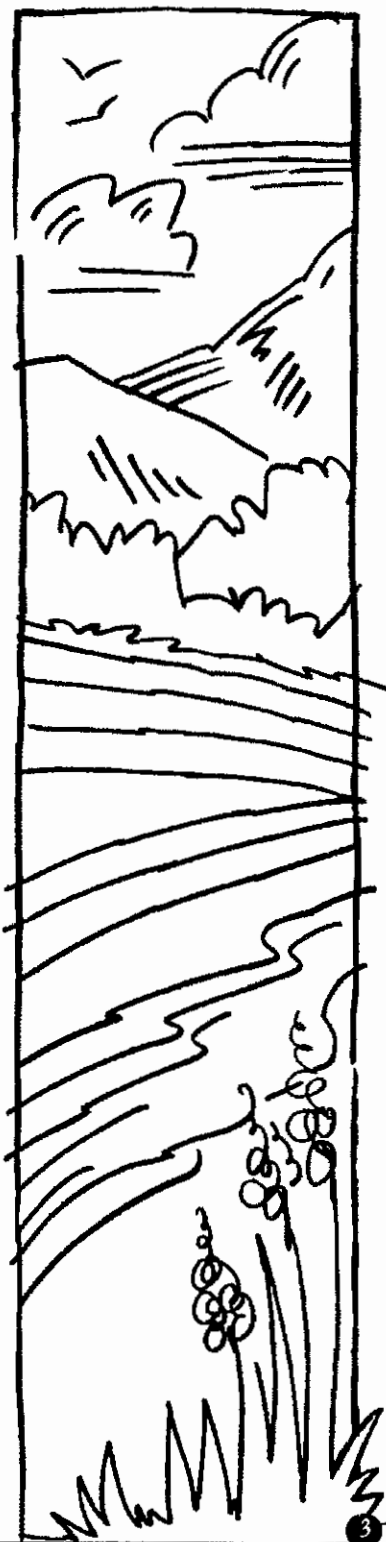
Our Black History celebration includes Sunday, February 13 and Monday, February 14 for the school children. Terry Ogletree will have more information for us.

Again, thank you to the current and new members who serve on Council and our many committees.

In Christian faith,  
*Chris van Breukelen*  
Council Vice President

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*We know that all things work together for good for those who love God..*      *Romans 8:28*



# PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE



deemed necessary.

We hope the congregation members have been prayerfully considering the passages from Scripture provided in our Sunday Worship bulletins. These are for our use during this period of discernment.

In Council's report found in this issue of our newsletter, Vice President Chris van Breukelen reports that Council has accepted a recommendation from Pastoral Relations to hire a consultant to work with our Church in determining the direction we need to be moving to bring about a positive resolution to our current situation. A consultant has since been retained and it is our hope that you will participate openly with this individual as he seeks to assist us.

In Christ's service,  
*Pat Titcombe*, Chairperson

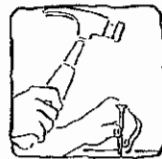
# HANDS to WORK; HEARTS to GOD



Hands to Work; Hearts to God is a mission group that serves Christ by ministering outside the walls of St. John's. It is open to all and one does not need to be a member of St. John's to be involved. If you get joy out of serving others and want more information, check out our description on St. John's website, or speak to Rose Gerwick, Janet Neubauer, Fred Schiller, or me. There are plenty of ways of "fitting in."

Since we collected fewer than the 100 hats and gloves that we had hoped for, we asked Judy Scheidt, the International School Director, to distribute them as she saw need. Dee Goudy used her crocheting skill to make several hats. All hats and gloves had a label with them indicating that St. John's provided them. We also used HtW; HtG funds, provide by the Parking Ministry, to purchase some of the items.

Fred Schiller reports that work at the House of Bread continues as usual on the third Wednesday of each month. Last year the key workers were Randall & Catherine Brakemeyer, Karen Clark, Patsy Goin, Terry Ogletree, and Fred & Else Schiller. Jim & Annette Martz are regulars when in town. Dates in 2011 are January 19, February 16, March 16, April 20, May 18, June 15, July 20, August 17, September 21, October 19, November 16, and December 21.



Always  
give  
yourselves  
fully to  
the work  
of the  
Lord ...

1 Corinthians 15:58

Our St. Vincent de Paul group has had a break since October, but we will be preparing lunch at the Apple St. shelter on February 26. We will meet after church in February to determine the menu. Our group now prepares and serves only at the Apple St. location. We serve on the fourth Saturday of alternating months - - February 26, April 23, June 25, August 27, October 22, and maybe on December 24. There may be other times that we may be asked to assist by preparing, or serving a meal. I will put out a special appeal as those occasions arise.

Please mark your calendars for this year's schedule with the various dates above, so you don't miss a single one of them! Watch for info about International School ministry work through the bulletin as these dates are not pre-set.

In Christ's name,

*Raeanna Biddle*



"We were on the way out the door before I remembered I needed something for the Valentine party at Sunday school."

# MAIN SERMON POINTS

January 2: *Beyond Description*

Matthew 2:1-12

- Some experiences of life are beyond that which words can describe or capture.
- Transforming experiences like love and birth, which emerge from absolute mystery, usually can only be sung or danced.
- Experiences of pain which make us stronger, more accepting and gentle, arise from the depths of life which likewise often surpass our ability to describe them.
- There is truth in sadness as in happiness, and both truths are best sung, cried, and lived.
- When we choose to live in love and compassion through the many experiences of life, we become more gracious and authentic human beings... we reveal in our nature God's eternal nature!

January 9: *Immersing Oneself in the Gift!*

Isaiah 42:1-9

& Matthew 3:13-17

- There are moments in all of our lives when we feel discouraged and recognize the need to be revived.
- We may ask, "Is this gift that the Holy Spirit has to offer meant for me? How do I open myself... and thereby make myself more receptive?"
- In the upper room where Jesus was at table with his closest friends, Jesus made a promise... through Him God would send to them the gift of the Holy Spirit... a Comforter, an Advocate, a Counselor.
- The Holy Spirit can enable us to move forward... in our daily quest to become the uniquely beautiful individuals God intends for us to be and to make a difference in the lives of those who need us.
- Why not simply allow our entire being to be immersed in the Holy Spirit of love?

# EVENTS OF JANUARY

January 16: *Margin for Safety!*

John 1:29-42  
& I Corinthians 1:1-9

- Any architect will testify to the truth of the need for structuring for stress. The result of his/her calculations is known as the "margin of safety."
- Throughout his letters the Apostle Paul puts his finger precisely on the secret for such strength and accompanying flexibility.
- All of us eventually face the kind of crisis that can knock us off our feet.
- Our Christian faith proclaims that there are means for preparing ourselves.
- Unless we structure faith into our lives on a day to day basis, we may not find ourselves equal to the demands of life in times of emergency and stress.
- Jesus Christ never promised that we can escape the possibility of being knocked down by life now and then.
- Our faith can and will grow so that during times of stress and strain... when things seem to be falling apart... our faith will allow us to be equal to the moment.

January 23: *When No One is Cheering!*

Matthew 4:12-23  
& Isaiah 9:1-4

- Often in mysterious ways God is forever establishing His rule in this "world of misery and selfishness" as Cyprian once described it.
- Our Christian mission is to be with the Christ spirit in the midst of all the defects, as well as the turmoil... to witness to the Christ-content in that which is occurring.
- Whenever there are people in this world who care for others, God is being served.
- We need a friend most when no one is cheering!
- Jesus Christ, the Light of the World, is power from God stimulating all the nerve-endings of our souls, making it possible for us to penetrate the sometimes overwhelming darkness of our times.
- Every human encounter we have is potentially someone's encounter with Christ, through us... even when no one is cheering!



RACE RELATIONS SUNDAY & A  
CELEBRATION OF BLACK AMERICAN  
CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE FAMILY OF  
GOD

will take place at: St. John's United Church of Christ on

Sunday, February 13, 2011 beginning at 10:30 a.m.

Guest Speaker: Idotha Neal

Guest Soloist: La Sonya Taylor-Brown

Concert Pianist: Steffin Johnson

Special Music: Chancel Choir

Fellowship Hour with refreshments

Elaborate Exhibit of Afrocentric Artifacts

Monday, February 14, 2011 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Symphony of Schools Program

World of Wonder School

Charity Early Girls Academy

Dayton Boys Preparatory School

Emerson School

Richard Allen School

The congregation is asked to bring in snack items for the fellowship time (i.e., small sandwiches, deviled eggs, cheese and crackers, dips and crackers, nuts, trail mix, cookies, brownies, chips, relish trays, etc.).



# AED (DEFIBRILLATOR) TRAINING AVAILABLE

Training in the use of our AED (defibrillator) unit and in basic CPR will be offered again at the Church. Council has approved the training of up to ten (10) persons for this purpose. If you received this training last year it is due to expire this February 2011. The American Red Cross Society has modified their certification program for this training and it will now be valid for two years instead of only one year.

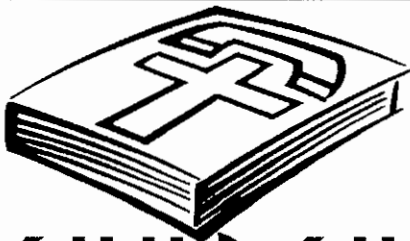
If you are interested in either continuing to be one of St. John's trained CPR/AED persons or want to receive this training for the first time please contact Pat Titcombe no later than February 21, 2011, either by phone 937-228-3053 or e-mail [pat\\_titcombe@att.net](mailto:pat_titcombe@att.net).

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## CHRISTIAN NURTURE

February 13th will be Blanket Sunday. A blanket is such a simple item to us, but to many in this world a blanket is a valuable item. It is used for so many things: shelter, shade, transporter, and, of course, warmth. Please support this mission and remember that for \$5.00 you can provide a blanket that is needed by so many.

*Carolyn Wood, Chairperson*



**CHURCH**  
D I R E C T O R Y

The 2011 church telephone/address directory will be available for you to pick-up in the Social Hall following worship service over the next few weeks. For those unable to attend weekly service or who live out of town, please contact the church office at 937-224-1747 and we will be happy to mail a directory to you.

# THANKS & GRATITUDE

Dear St. John's,

Every month, 81 families of about 275 individuals visit FISH Food Pantry to pick up a couple of bags of groceries to help them through the month -- groceries that they cannot afford to purchase.

These families comprise an average of 110 children, 133 adults, and 16 adults over 60 years of age.

FISH visits The Dayton Area Food Bank twice a month to supply our shelves, but, a lot of our help comes from Hands to Work; Hearts to God members and your generous donations. Our work is only made easier with their assistance. With your help hungry families of Huber Heights benefit because FISH is better able to help them face their challenges.

So, thank you for the donations in 2010 to Wayne FISH. We appreciate Hands to Work; Hearts to God's interest and desire to be involved in assisting us in feeding hungry families in Huber Heights. Please extend my thanks to your members. We appreciate the support.

Sincerely,

Raeanna Biddle

Pantry Manager, FISH Wayne Township



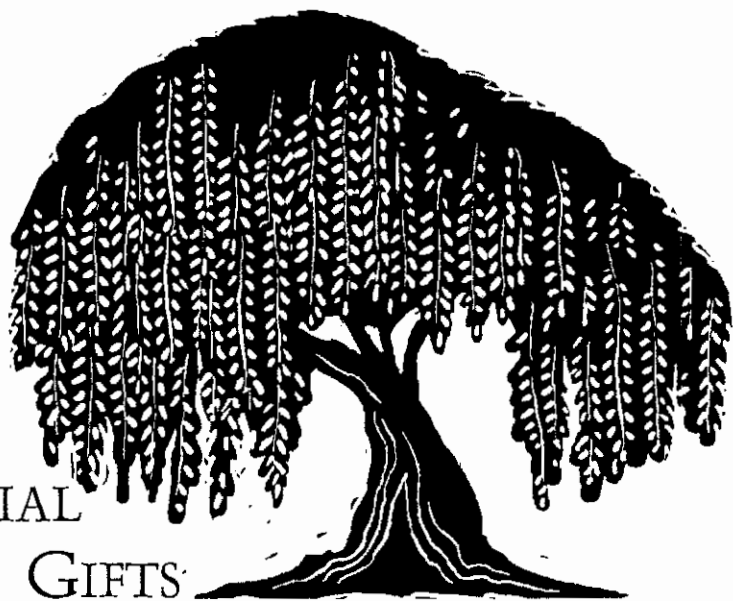
Dear St. John's,

Thank you for your gift of \$291.10 to Homefull. We are still passionate about our mission to work to end homelessness by providing housing, services,

ecacy, and education all year round. We are hopeful that with your  
inued support we can eliminate homelessness in Dayton and  
tgomery County.

ank you again for joining us in this work.

Sincerely,  
Tina M. Patterson  
Executive Director



MEMORIAL

GIFTS

*Memorial gifts gratefully received for Shirley Carroll, Steve Carroll's mother  
from Janet & Norm Neubauer*

*Memorial gifts gratefully received for Fred Rex from*

*Steve Boggs*

*Patricia Goin*

*Marlene Hancock*

*Bernard & Elizabeth Martin*

*Janet & Norm Neubauer*

*Fred & Else Schiller*

# FEBRUARY BIBLE READINGS

<u>Day</u>	<u>Book</u>	<u>Chapter</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Book</u>	<u>Chapter</u>
01	Ecclesiastes	3:1-13	15	Psalms	18:1-6, 16-19
02	Psalms	8	16	I Corinthians	10:1-5
03	Isaiah	58:1-9a	17	Leviticus	19:1-2, 9-18
04	Psalms	112:1-9	18	Psalms	119:33-40
05	I Corinthians	2:1-12	19	I Corinthians	3:10-11, 16-23
06	Matthew	5:13-20	20	Matthew	5:38-48
07	Revelations	21:1-6	21	Jeremiah	31:7-14
08	Isaiah	60:1-6	22	John	1:29-42
09	Ephesians	3:1-12	23	Micah	6:1-8
10	Deuteronomy	30:15-20	24	Isaiah	49:8-16a
11	Psalms	119:1-8	25	Psalms	131
12	I Corinthians	3:1-9	26	I Corinthians	4:1-5
13	Matthew	5:21-37	27	Matthew	6:24-34
14	Acts	4:8-13	28	II Timothy	1:1-14

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And now these three remain:

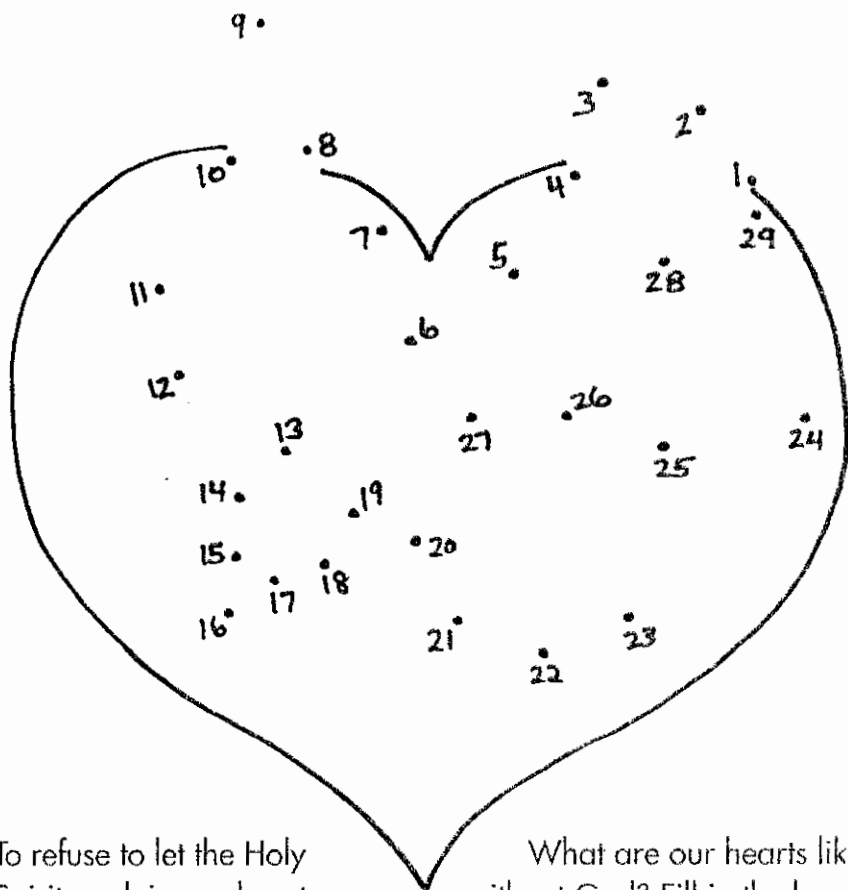
**FAITH,**.....  
**& HOPE**  
*Love.*

..... But the greatest  
of these is love.

I Corinthians 13:13

# FOR OUR YOUNGER FRIENDS

Connect the dots. Who must work in our hearts for us to be saved?



To refuse to let the Holy Spirit work in our hearts means we refuse God. What does Jesus call it? See Matthew 12:31.

What are our hearts like without God? Fill in the heart so that it is dark—but leave the dove white.

05	Edith Jenkins	20	Fred Geisert
08	Nancy Duckson	21	Ruth Stuhlemmer
08	Kenneth Zakel	23	Edith Zakel
10	Vivian Geisert	24	Kian Shafie
11	Gretchen Menke	26	Ann Ballinger
12	Dottie Norton	26	Marlene Miller
19	Connor Strady	30	Mary Fessler



## Celebrating

*An Anniversary This Month*

14	Bob & Norma Jackson
21	Mae & Mark Neubauer



## Altar Flowers

6th	<i>open</i>
13th	Rose Poppaw in honor of King Poppaw
20th	<i>open</i>
27th	<i>open</i>

# ST. JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

515 E. Third Street, Dayton, Ohio 45402

937-224-1747

[www.stjohnsuccdayton.org](http://www.stjohnsuccdayton.org)

*Celebrating God's purpose in all lives through Christian worship,  
education, service, and fellowship*

The Rev. Randall Brakemeyer, Pastor

[rbrakemeyer@ameritech.net](mailto:rbrakemeyer@ameritech.net)

**9:45-10:15 a.m. Faith Discussion Lite**

**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 – Office Closed – Rev. Brakemeyer available at

937-456-9994 (home) or 937-603-7346 (cell)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT: Ron Duckson

[ronduckson@msn.com](mailto:ronduckson@msn.com)

cell phone: 937-271-0482

LICENSED LAY MINISTER: Catherine Brakemeyer

937-456-9994

ORGANIST/CHOIR DIRECTOR: Ray Coyle

[rayc@centralpower.com](mailto:rayc@centralpower.com)

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: Amelia O'Dowd

[stjohnsuccasst@yahoo.com](mailto:stjohnsuccasst@yahoo.com)

CUSTODIAN: Steve Boggs