

# Tower Times

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



## August 2017

Phew, does anyone know where July went? It feels as though I was just getting ready to jet-off to General Synod and here we are, almost ready to start a new month! As I promised in the last 'Tower Times', I've returned from Synod with both information and ideas for our work and worship at St. John's!

As some of you have heard me explain, in worship, one of the cruxes of this synod gathering was to introduce the "Three Great Loves" initiative in the UCC. These loves -for neighbor, children, and creation- are the lenses through which we as a church will try to focus our mission, ministry, and worship for the next two years. When I introduced these in worship, I mentioned that these lenses did not mean that we had to stop what we were doing, plan new things, and re-invent the wheel. Instead, these focuses -and the gospel message they represent- give us the opportunity to ask "Is what we're doing gospel-oriented? If not, what could we do differently or change so that our work might address one of these lenses?" For we at St. John's, I can say that virtually all of our works, at this time, seem to address these lenses. I wonder, however, if these lenses might provide an opportunity for us to follow-up and follow-through on some of potential things we've talked about in the past? Might we find new ways to become an eco-friendly congregation? Might we find new ways to welcome children into our worship -not just with a fine nursery, but with a dedicated and welcoming space in our sanctuary? What could we do? What will we do?

I don't know about you, but the thought of dreaming and living-into new things gets me excited! Certainly, there's only so much that a church our size can realistically do, but we also know a God who tends to work outside of realistic expectations, don't we? Hopefully these thoughts have you as energized as they have me!



In other news, things are starting to gear-up for our autumn season here at St. John's and it looks to be a wonderfully active time! Between special music, opportunities to learn, special worship services, and many other things, we have a really neat autumn to look forward to! Make sure to check out some of the details in this and the next 'Tower Times' so you don't miss out on any of the fun!

My Very Best,

ALW



## MUSIC MEMO

Rev. Jeffrey Campbell, Music Director

### Blessing of the Animals

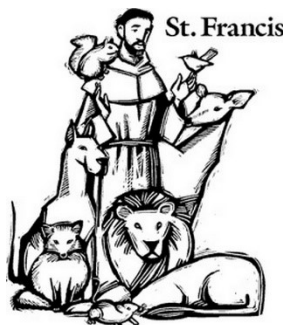
Bring your dog, cat, horse, pot belly pig, hamster, rabbit, goldfish, etc. to our church parking lot on **Sunday September 24, at 2:00 p.m.** for a special service to bless the animals. This is a tradition in many churches close to St. Francis Day, October 4.

Mark your calendars. Invite your family, neighbors and friends. If you don't have a pet, come and enjoy the event.

At a short service of prayers, readings, and songs, each animal will receive a blessing. There will be refreshments and treats for people and pets. We are hoping for displays, information, etc. from various pet agencies, as well as other surprises.

If you are willing to help, let Rev. Jeff know as soon as possible. We can use set up and tear down help, refreshments, greeters, photographers, as well as people to distribute publicity throughout town.

St. Francis was known as being able to "talk to the animals". He taught love and respect for all of God's creation.



### Special Music

Guest musicians will continue through Sunday, September 10, when we will welcome back the Rocky Creek Band. Our last hymn sing will be Sunday, August 27. Musicians in August include Jerry Kenney, Renee Franck-Reed, Leann Harker, Doug and Lynn Norton, and Mark Kennedy.

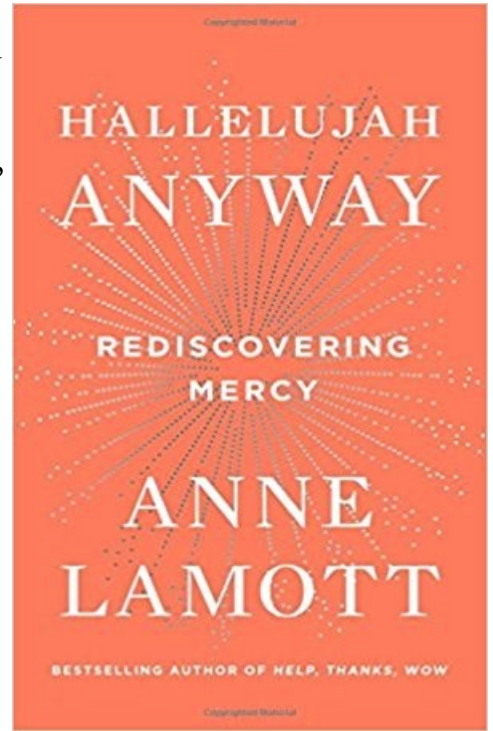
### St. John's Choir

How about joining our newly-improved choir this fall? We can use a few more voices. Rehearsals start Sunday September 10 from 9:15 – 10:00 a.m. The choir will no longer practice on Sunday after the fellowship hour. This is a great way to serve our Lord and his church.

## Coming Soon to St. John's

**St. John's Book Review** (Meeting at 7pm every Tuesday in September.)

Do you enjoy reading? Do you like to think, contemplate, or maybe just listen to the thoughts of others? Then this is a group for you! For this month-long journey, we will read and discuss Anne Lamott's new book "Hallelujah Anyway: Rediscovering Mercy." This small book, with its humor, wisdom, and observation provides an interesting challenge to many of the assumptions and actions of modern society. Participants of all ages, backgrounds, or affiliations are welcome to join! (Yes, you can bring your friends!) We only ask that participants purchase the book in their preferred format prior to the group's first meeting!



**Encountering the Reformation** (Meeting at 7pm every Tuesday in October.)

This year marks the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation! Many of us have heard of Martin Luther, Henry VIII, and others from the 16th and 17th centuries, but maybe we're not too sure of what else was going on at that time. If you find the differences between "Reformed" and "Lutheran" or even "Protestant" and "Catholic" to be confusing, consider joining us as we explore the social, economic, political, and religious histories that contributed to the Protestant Reformation of so long ago.

There's no required reading for this course and those of great or little education are equally invited to attend.

**From Reformation to Resistance** (Meeting at 7pm every Tuesday in November.)

As we celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation, we'll look to engage the question of "Well, what do we do now?" Join us as we look



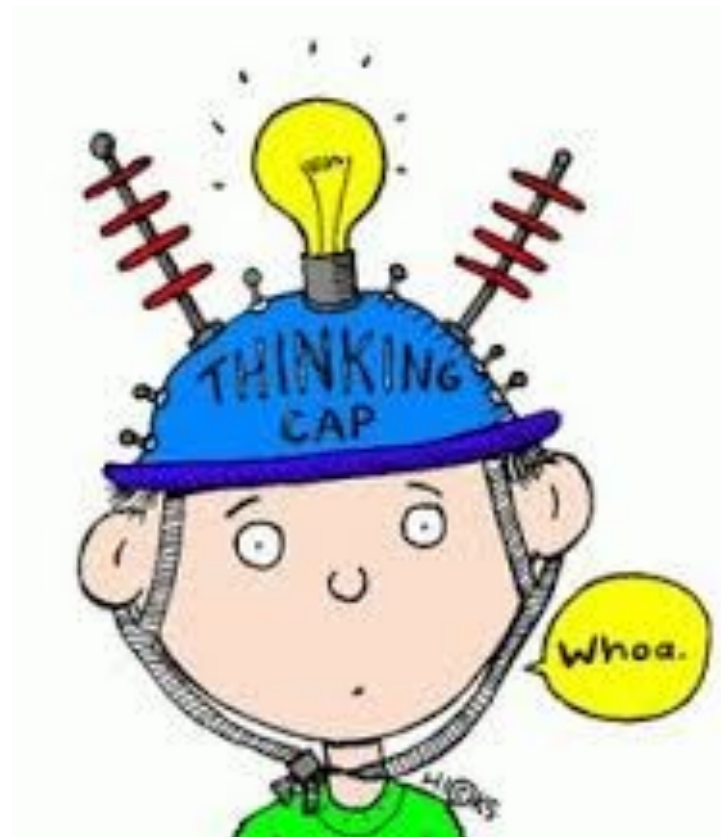
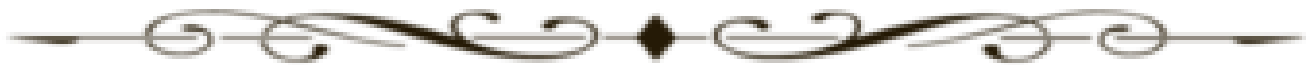
through the beliefs of the Protestant reformers and ask ourselves the question of how those beliefs reflect in today's church and in today's society! Using a study series from the United Church of Christ, we'll walk through these issues and perhaps gain a greater understanding of what it means to be "Reformed and Reforming."



**Bible Study** (Meeting Every Thursday at 11am from September 5th until Advent.)

Ever wonder about the background of the texts that we read on Sunday? Have you found yourself thinking "Well, how did we get to this conclusion?" This is a great opportunity to gather with other folks who are seeking answers and to delve into the history, philosophy, and other components of the Biblical texts. You don't have to be a genius and you don't have to even

know much about the Bible at all! All with questions are welcome to attend and to poke, prod, question, and investigate their way to a greater understanding!







The Budget & Finance Committee met Sunday July 9, 2017, present at the meeting were: Dee Goudy, Secretary, Ron Duckson, Vice Chair, Patsy Goin, Debbie Watts, Jeff Gerrior and Rev. Adam Wirrig. Patty Staley, Chair, arrived late.

The meeting was called to order by Reverend Wirrig as ex-officio Chair. The minutes from the June 4, 2017 meeting were reviewed and approved.

Jeff Gerrior presented the Treasurer's Report for the month of June 2017. It was noted that giving was down again for the month of June, but remains ahead of last year by \$5,170. Deficit spending continues to trend be lower than prior years. Expenses included payroll, utilities, office supplies, cleaning supplies, light bulbs, music and special guests totaling \$12,538. Patty raised a question regarding the Flower Account and the Suspense Fund which indicates a deficit for flowers of \$182.60 year-to-date. Jeff will see if the Suspense Fund can be renamed to something more appropriate and if the calculation can be fixed or eliminated altogether. Jeff noted that the Suspense Fund was supposed to zero out at the end of each year but has been accumulating rather than zeroing out so it is not a true reflection of this year only. The checking balance is at \$16,356.26 for the month.

#### In Old Business:

The Committee continues to work toward presentation of Stewardship in the month of September.

Organ update from Reverend Wirrig noted that Mueller has removed the parts and they are proceeding with work. He noted that a reasonable expected completion would be by Advent but could possibly/hopefully be sooner if all goes well.

Safe Church is progressing under the direction of Chris Van Breukelen utilizing the Insurance Board system.

The Website continues to be revised and it was noted that if you are on the Website and see something that needs attention you should notify Cheré. Again, Cheré is doing a great job on the conversion of the Website, thank you.

Historic Registry, Reverend Wirrig explained that Counsel voted to go with a Level Two option which is much less involved and is at no cost giving us a designation as a local landmark through the City of Dayton. We will be able to apply for city and state grants but they are highly competitive. Should we later decide to go with the more restrictive option with the National Historic Registry which opens us up to federal grant funds, the cost would be \$3,000 through a contact with the City of Dayton to assist in that process.

With respect to the Director of Family Life Ministries Reverend Wirrig noted that he has contacted the institutions through which we are interested in attempting fill the position. He also has become aware of possible funds through the UCC that he is looking into that would possibly fund this position for a longer term and make it more of a full-time position rather than a part time possibly short term role.

Reverend Wirrig noted that there has been no activity with respect to the Constitution & By-Laws but also noted that at Synod there was a presentation on the UCC's move to update the overall Constitution of the Synod and that congregations should also look to make similar changes beneficial to the Churches today. In further follow-up with respect to the Constitution and By-Laws, at Council Meeting on July 11<sup>th</sup>, the Wednesday following Budget & Finance Meeting, the Council agreed to begin the process of making needed revisions and is reviewing in detail the current Constitution and By-Laws.

In New Business Patty Staley reminded the Committee, yes she did make it near the end of the meeting, that it is time for the Budget process to start and that we should be expecting to receive Committee budgets by the August Council Meeting. She noted that the entire Committee will review and make recommendations prior to submission to Council. The question was raised if Patty would be working with Jeff on the budget and it was noted that yes they will be but the entire Committee will have input prior to submission to Council. This is a Committee process but as a member of the congregation, I welcome your input. So if you have a concern about the budget and finances of the Church and would like to share that with me, I will gladly address the matter

as we are going through the process.

Council Meeting Minutes from the June meeting were shared with the Committee. Items from which were addressed previously in this report.

While Patty Staley did miss a majority of the meeting, Revered Wirrig did advise her of the information covered until her arrival so that she could complete this report.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting of the Budget & Finance Committee will be August 6, 2017 at 9:00 a.m.

If anyone has any questions or concerns regarding the information discussed in the Budget & Finance Committee, I welcome you to speak with me at any time. I also invite anyone who would like to attend the meetings to join us as a guest. If you have something that needs to be addressed at the meeting, let me know so that I can place the information on the agenda.

Respectfully,

*Patty Staley*

Patty Staley

Chair of Budget and Finance



THANK YOU. . .

The following contributed to the Percy Jones Scholarship Program for Sacred Choral Music during the months of May, June and July: Annita Torgeson; Pat and Doug Goudy; Anonymous and Sonka. We have a nice balance to begin the fall season with our Stivers' students.

# Parking Ministry Report

Since the last Tower Times the Parking Ministry Committee has had the following activity:

Donations for the month of June = \$3060.00

Current Parking Ministry balance = \$12,627.57

The Dragons will be playing in the “Playoffs” this year as a result of their finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Midwest League standings for the 1<sup>st</sup> half of the 2017 regular season. This means we will have games starting on September 6<sup>th</sup>. We have no idea how many games they may play since it’s a matter of winning each round and moving on until eliminated.....

The Sign Up Sheet (next to the coffee pot) will show the 1<sup>st</sup> Playoff Game which will be on September 6<sup>th</sup>.

I will advise Chere concerning games we will need help for parking, since the schedule or changes thereto may/will occur after each game.

Calling Chere will be the best way to check on our continuing needs.

Remember:

Parking Ministry’s continued success **depends solely** on our volunteers.

*Dave Abbott*, Chairman  
Parking Ministry Committee





## **Worship Report**

Worship Committee met July 19 without Pastor Adam, who was on vacation. With two of the three summer months almost gone, our meeting centered on the up-coming fall events for Worship. Music Director Jeff's aim is to involve the community enlisting guest musicians and artists from local schools, colleges, and music organizations to make our Sunday morning service 'special'. Our Stivers students, Logan and Camryn will be back with our choir in early September. We invite any of you to join our choir when it resumes Sept. 10.

Fall activities are in the planning stage. Sept. 24, Sunday afternoon on our parking lot, A Blessing of the Animals. Plans are to make this a community event for St. John's and our surrounding neighborhood. Animal lovers, let Jeff know if you would like to be on the planning committee or help in any way. Jeff is experienced at hosting a Blessing service. Sunday Oct. 8 German Heritage Day. Anita Hedeker, of our committee, and Betty Lou Martin are our contacts with the German choirs. German foods will be featured at the carry-in following the service. Also, coming up – a possibility we will have the Olentangy High School Choir for a Sunday service. Look for detailed information on all these events in September's Tower Times.

The month of October is the 500 anniversary of the Protestant Reformation. Pastor Adam will make that a special emphasis during the October Sunday morning services. We hope to have additional materials for study of the Reformation to share.

Above, we've invited interested individuals to join the choir. Lest we forget, we are always ready to hear from those of you who would be willing to serve as liturgists, greeters (see Edie Jenkins) and ushers (Pat Goudy).

Pat Kern



## WOMEN OF ST. JOHN'S

### Trinity Birthday Party



The Women of St. John's appreciated the help of everyone who participated in the Trinity Community of Beavercreek Birthday Party on July 11<sup>th</sup>. We distributed 16 birthday bags which we filled with small gifts for the residents whose birthdays were in July.

Members of St. John's served ice-cream cups, donated by Sue Delaney, cookies and punch to approximately 70 residents. The tables were beautifully decorated with 50 floral arrangements arranged by Rose Papenbrock. We thank her once again for volunteering to do the decorating.



Rev. Jeffrey Campbell was our Master of Ceremonies. He also led the singing of familiar songs accompanied by Raymonde Rogier. We thank them both for their participation.



Thanks also to all of members who donated cookies and for the 19 people from St. John's who attended the event and helped out in many ways to make this a successful birthday party.

Janet Neubauer,  
President, Women of St. John's



The Mission for August will be East End Community Center. Jan Lepore-Jentleson, Executive Director, will be providing a Mission Moment on Sunday August 13. Jan will also be available during Coffee Fellowship to answer any questions you may have about the center.

East End Community Center is a 501 (c ) 3 established in 1998 whose mission is to build a prosperous, caring and healthy community in east Dayton that nurtures children toward success. We know that the only way to break the cycle of generational poverty is through education, strong family support and thriving neighborhoods.

East End Community Services:

- Provides enriched and innovated after-school and summer programming.
- Provides kindergarten-readiness and parent education programs for families whose children attend Ruskin School.
- Coordinates monthly Family Nights at Ruskin.
- Provides comprehensive social service support for families whose children attend Ruskin School.
- Partners with Dayton Philharmonic to bring O the Music to Ruskin students.
- Implemented and supports the Restorative Justice Program at Ruskin School.
- Provides 3<sup>rd</sup> grade reading tutors to Ruskin School.
- Manages the Neighborhood School Partnership, which brings additional resources into the community.
- Contracted with Dayton Public Schools for site-based management of Ruskin School.

Hope you will be able to attend on August 13 to hear more about East End Community and how St. John's can assist this great organization.

## **E.S.O.L. School Supplies**

We are collecting school supplies for students attending classes at the International School. Classes are held Monday through Friday from 9:30 AM until 11:45 AM right here at St. John's. Last year there were over 500 students registered at different times throughout the year. The normal daily attendance is approximately 90 students from countries all over the world.



We are in need of yellow #2 pencils, large erasures, pencil cap erasures, and spiral college ruled notebooks.

## **NO PENS PLEASE**

We have marked a container in front of the chapel for you to place your donations. Deadline for donations is August 27th.

In September a reception will be held for the students and these items will be distributed to the students at that time.

Thanks for any donations of the above mentioned items. Cash donations can be made to Nancy Duckson, Janet Neubauer, and Anne Pepiot to purchase these same items.

## Christian Nurture News

Members of the Christian Nurture Committee, along with Pat Kern from the Worship Committee, will be assisting various Law Enforcement Agencies from the surrounding areas when they conduct a Youth Summer Day Camp.

The Summer Day Camp will be held from July 24th through July 28th at the Fraternal Order of Police Building located in Huber Heights, Ohio.

The joint committee members will help prepare and serve breakfast, lunch, and a snack to the campers during the week.

We are looking forward to this opportunity to do community outreach.

Thanks to Steve Carroll for letting us know about this project.

Ethel Burns

Christian Nurture Committee Chairperson



Ethel and Baron, a police dog, and Pat Goudy, Officer Tracey Brown, and Ethel at camp.



## August Birthdays

06 - Ruth Muncy  
07 - Linda Murray  
09 - Frank Caroots  
10 - Betty Lou Martin  
14 - Ingeborg Hedeker  
14 - Anita Hedeker  
16 - Deborah Watts  
16 - Steven Watts  
22 - Robin Ferguson  
27 - Paul Tritch

27 - Charlyn Botteri

28 - Karen Clark

28 - Chris van Bruekelen

## August Anniversaries

08 - Brian and Sharon Dunkle

31 - Douglas & Lynn Norton

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# Flowers & Fellowship

## Flowers

8/6 - Still Available  
8/13 - Frank & Pat Caroots  
8/20 - Steve Boggs  
8/27 - Karen Clark

## Fellowship Hour

8/6 - Ed & Judy Humphrys  
8/13 - Ethel Burns, Pat Goudy, & Pat Kern  
8/20 - Fellowship Committee  
8/27 - Women of St. John's





# August 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30 Celtic Festival Parking 10:30 Worship Service	31  	Aug 1  	2 8:30 Breakfast Club 6p Dragon's Parking	3 6p Dragon's Parking	4 6p Dragon's Parking	5 6p Dragon's Parking
6 Council Reports Due 9 Budget & Finance Meetin 10:30 Worship Service 1p Dragon's Parking	7 6p Dragon's Parking	8 6p Dragon's Parking	9 8:30 Breakfast Club 6:30p Council Meeting	10  	11 Germanfest	12 Germanfest
13 Germanfest 10:30 Worship Service	14 6p Dragon's Parking	15 6p Christian Nurture Meetin 6p Dragon's Parking	16 8:30 Breakfast Club 6p Audit Meeting 6p Dragon's Parking 6:30p Worship Meeting	17 6p Dragon's Parking	18  	19  
20 10:30 Worship Service	21  	22 6p Dragon's Parking	23 8:30 Breakfast Club 6p Dragon's Parking	24 6p Dragon's Parking	25  	26  
27 10:30 Worship Service	28  	29  	30 8:30 Breakfast Club 6p Dragon's Parking	31 6p Dragon's Parking	Sep 1  	2  