

Tower Times

St. John's United Church of Christ

515 East Third Street

Dayton, OH 45402

March 2017



You might have noticed that I've been trying, as of late, to string the messages on Sunday morning together. We've talked about engagement, action, commitment, and call, all things that, in a number of ways are connected to each other; we've talked a lot about discipleship.

Discipleship is one of those words, within the world of the church that holds within it some strong connotations or assumptions. Often, when we hear "discipleship" we think of having to be present for meetings, of having to learn, to go stand on street corners, to have painful and awkward conversations with those who we don't know. I don't want to dash any long-held perceptions, but that's not necessarily what I think of when it comes to the topic of discipleship.

Instead of being an intimidating or torturous exercise in "do this/don't do this, say this/don't say this," I see discipleship as something far simpler. Discipleship, at its roots, is simply learning to journey with God. Journeying with God is an experience that doesn't always require us to do or to be anything that we might expect. Instead, journeying with God -no matter how old or how young you might be- is something that often starts with quiet, with contemplation, with prayer, and with silence.

I don't know about you, but I imagine that those things that I just mentioned are in short supply in your life? Yeah, we live in a world that doesn't always value things that are quiet, calm, and slow. Perhaps, that might say something to the current state of affairs? Regardless, at St. John's, we will be spending this Lenten season working on journeying closer to God. Bible study will be returning on Thursday mornings for those who are interested in learning more about the coming Sunday's message. On Thursday evenings, we will be providing a time and a space to practice contemplative Christian practices that have been part of the church for centuries. We'll learn to sit quietly, pray in new and different ways, and discuss what it means to wait or listen for God. (Amongst other things!)



Our journeying with God will also stretch to our Sunday morning worship. The Worship Committee has been plotting and scheming some interesting ways to connect each of us to our worship in new and exciting manners. What are those? Well, you'll have to pop out and see!

In closing, I hope this Lenten season provides for each of us the opportunities to journey deeper into discipleship and journey deeper with Almighty God.

President's Report

Ash Wednesday, March 1, 2017, ushers in many possibilities for Lenten reflection and ultimately renewal. As St. John's UCC moves forward in our search for a new Music Director, we are blessed to enjoy the talents of our own Rev. Jeff Campbell, who deftly volunteered to step in and accompany the choir on organ during worship, as well as Percy Jones, who has agreed to serve once again as interim organist while the St. John's personnel committee searches for a permanent Music Director to join our staff.

I have to confess to learning something new from Jeff during choir rehearsal last Sunday. In preparing an anthem for the Sunday before Lent begins, he taught us that the term "Alleluia" is not used during Lenten services and song, but rather deliberately disappears from the church services until Easter, when we sing it out joyously (and frequently) once again. It has been a blessing to have Jeff among us to ease our way (and to point out tradition that I probably was aware of, but had forgotten). :)

Let us prayerfully support Jeff Campbell, Percy Jones once again, and the personnel committee in their search for our new Music Director during this special time in the Christina year.

Judy Humphrys



Vice President's Report:

THANK YOU for all the cards & phone calls.

It means a great deal that my Church Family thought of me.



We are very fortunate to have such great help with our music program.

Jeff Campbell subbed for us for two weeks.

Percy Jones is going to be our Interim Organist/Choir Director.

Many of us remember Percy, who has helped us in the past.

Thank you, Gentlemen!!

YOUNG TALENT SEARCH!

WDPR is seeking musicians 18 years of age or younger to participate in the annual YOUNG TALENT SEARCH. The requirements are an application (WDPR – on-line) and an audition recording. Winners will have the opportunity to perform at a public concert on May 13 at the University of Dayton.

DEADLINE: Fri., March 31

Winners will be notified by April 12

Public TV/Radio Sponsorships by St. John's Members (not the Church)

Please contact me, if you wish to donate.

Mar. 7-12 – WYSO Radio- \$600.

Mar. 20-25 – WDPR Radio - \$200.

Apr. 3-8 – Think TV - \$600.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris van Breukelen

Budget & Finance Committee

The Budget and Finance Committee met on Sunday, February 5th at 9:15 a.m. with Ron Duckson being confirmed as the Vice Chair of the Committee.

The January 2017 Treasurer's Report was presented with General Offerings up by \$6,672 over the prior year (partially due to some prior year offerings not being deposited and accounted for until February last year). Expenses were a bit on the high side due to the first quarter Insurance that was due and a large Vectren bill which will be reviewed to determine why there was such a high increase when the weather did not warrant it. The Treasurer did raise a concern that if expenses continued at the current rate, at the end of the 12-month period we would exceed the Endowment funds advanced by about \$2,500. A separate RAM account has been set up to account for costs expended for the organ that will be paid out of the organ donation account. Income from the Merrill Lynch sale was received in January 2017 but was for the 2016 sale of the funds and does not count toward the \$65,000 from the Memorial Endowment funds for this year. \$245 was received for sponsor of the Stivers Students. A \$3,500 payment received for the ESOL program with another expected later in the year. Payroll fees were up due to preparation and mailing of W2's. RAMM payment made of \$900 for the Security System/Monitoring. There was a decline in fund values noted and question raised as the market has been in an upward movement. While an answer was not readily available, it will be looked into.



The organ status was discussed and other items that are being considered or covered in other areas including: Safe Church (background checking of Nursery staff), Website moving to a UCC sponsored provider, Stivers Fundraising, Daycare – My Father's House Childcare (ESOL) – Lease being drafted.

It was noted that Reverend Wirrig had a positive meeting with a representative of the Black Box Theater at which he was given a \$200 check in donation for the use of parking and that they hoped to have future donations as well.

The next meeting of the Committee is Sunday, March 5th at 9:15 a.m. Guests are welcome.

If you have something to add to address to the committee please contact me so that I may have your item placed on the agenda to do so.

Respectfully,

Patty Staley

Patty Staley

Chair of Budget and Finance

Several folks from St. John's attended a six month training program from Hospice of Dayton in 2016. This group has now been formed into "The Care Team" for St. John's. You'll be hearing more from us as we move along -including opportunities for folks to join us- but we wanted to start by offering some monthly tips about caring for ourselves. So many of us care for others, but it's impossible to be all we'd like to be for someone else if we don't first care for our own self. So, each month you'll find a small blip from us in the Tower Times that will, hopefully, help you!

For March:

Slurp Some Honey

Replace stress with sweetness and try a spoonful of honey. Besides being a [natural skin moisturizer](#) and [antibiotic](#), honey also provides compounds that [reduce inflammation](#) in the brain, meaning it fights depression and anxiety. Enjoy some sweetness and watch your stress melt away! :)



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WORSHIP

The season of Lent begins with our Ash Wednesday service March 1 at 12 noon. Pastor Wirrig's theme for the six Sundays is 'Drawing Closer'. In addition, he has planned opportunities for spiritual growth during the Lenten season with weekly study sessions. Bible Study will resume Thursday, Mar. 2 at 11 A.M. and a session 'Contemplative Exercises' at 7 P.M. the same evening. Both sessions are an hour each.

With the recent, unexpected resignation of Music Director John Webb, we are grateful to the Rev. Jeff Campbell of our congregation for filling it at the morning services Feb. 19 and 26. Beginning March 5, Mr. Percy Jones will be with us as our interim organist and choir director. Many of you will remember Mr. Jones who filled this role in late 2014 and early 2015. Thank you Jeff and welcome Mr. Jones.



Again, Sharon Dunkle has displayed her talent at making our fellowship hall 'pop' with her Valentine decorations during most of February. Janet & Norm Neubauer and Amy Lynn 'took' us to the Super Bowl game day morning. Thanks to all who help with our fellowship gatherings every Sunday providing refreshments and/or decorating. This is not actually Worship's responsibility but the 11:30 time is an important part of our Sunday morning gathering at St. John's. So again, thanks.

One more thank you to Annita Torgeson, Kim Kindred, Anita Hedeker, Chris and Wilfred Van Breukelen, and Ed and Judy Humphreys for their support of our Stivers Students fund during January. Should you want to support, envelopes are available on the table in the narthex.

Our next meeting is Wednesday, March 15, 6:30 P.M.

Pat Kern

Christian Nurture

I was deeply humbled by the greetings that I received upon my return to OUR St. John's. The seven months that I spent in Illinois assisting my son while my daughter-in-law was deployed was well worth it all. I thank each and every member of St. John's for your prayers and words of encouragement for my family and myself.

My special thanks go out to Ann and Tony Morrissey for supplying the beautiful cake that further welcomed me back to St. John's. Your thoughtfulness and kindness was very heartfelt.

I cannot say thank you enough to Pat Goudy for taking over as Chairperson of Christian Nurture during my absence. I further thank the members of the Christian Nurture committee for working with Pat during my absence.

I am looking forward to working and volunteering on projects in and around our church this year, and beyond.

Thank you all again for your hugs and welcome back greetings.

Ethel Burns



Memorial Contributions were made this month:

In Memory of Betty Wendeln:

By Anne Pepiot

In Memory of Mark Neubauer:

By Anne Pepiot

By Ron & Nancy Duckson

Building and Property News

The master alarm code for St. John's alarm system has been changed. This means the old master code, 1913, no longer works. You cannot arm or disarm the alarm with that code. For most members of St. John's, this change will not affect you. If, however, you need to be in the building after hours and don't already have your own code for the alarm system, just let me know. Talk to me on a Sunday, telephone, or email, and I'll see that you get what you need.

Regards,

Ed Humphrys, Building and Property Committee Chair

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 you!

March Celebrations

Anniversaries:

20th Jim and Phyllis Francis
22nd Steve and Nadia Carroll

Birthdays:

6th DeAnn Smith
8th Gretchen Ott
11th Sydney Schmaltz
12th Janice Zahn
12th Tom Norton

13th Rose Papenbrock
13th Ursula Parabok
13th Keandra Singleton
19th Barbara Singleton
23rd Thelma White
24th Cindy Strady
25th Judy White
25th Jeff Gerrior
25th Lynne Yates
26th Dee Goudy

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.

3/5 - Still Available

3/12 - In memory of our Mothers by the Norton and Van Breukelen families

3/19 - Still Available

3/26 - Still Available

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 March at time of publication.

March 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26 10:30 Worship Service	27	28	Mar 1 8:30 Breakfast Club 12p Ash Wednesday Service	2 11 Bible Study 7p Bible Study	3	4
5 9:15 Budget & Finance Mee 10:30 Worship Service	6	7	8 8:30 Breakfast Club 6p Council Meeting	9 11 Bible Study 7p Bible Study	10	11
12 10:30 Worship Service 11:30 Carry In	13	14	15 8:30 Breakfast Club 6:30p Worship Committee M	16 11 Bible Study 7p Bible Study	17	18
19 10:30 Worship Service	20	21	22 8:30 Breakfast Club	23 11 Bible Study 7p Bible Study	24	25
26 10:30 Worship Service	27	28	29 8:30 Breakfast Club	30 11 Bible Study 7p Bible Study	31	Apr 1