

Tower Times

St. John's United Church of Christ

515 East Third Street

Dayton, OH 45402

May 2017



A happiest of Easters to each of you reading this! Contrary to popular opinion, Easter stretches far longer than just a single Sunday. Instead, Easter is an entire season in the annual church calendar. This is, I think, my favorite season of the entire church year.

In the season of Easter, we are presented with the themes that we traditionally celebrate on Easter morning; new life, resurrection, restoration, salvation, wonder, and the miraculous. I think you might be able to understand why I and a number of other clergy love this season (as opposed to Lent) as much as we do. In this season we are reminded of a God who was, who is, and who is to come; of a God who often makes little sense right before that same God does something absolutely incredible. This is a season of energy, excitement, love, and surprise. While all of this makes for some very enjoyable worship and some pleasant fellowship with one another, it is perhaps the question that these reminders draw us to that makes Easter the most fun.

The season of Easter, in its fullest sense, invites us the opportunity to walk in the shoes of the ancient disciples of Christ. We, much like those folks of old, are called to the two-part question of "Do you believe in this risen Christ? If so, what will you do because of it?"



Easter asks us not just if we will celebrate salvation, resurrection, and all the things we associate with the season, but also if we will go further and allow them to infiltrate and influence our life in a way that truly reflects new life. Will we allow salvation and resurrection to influence how we live our lives? How we spend our money? How we love both one another and ourselves? If we can't say yes, then why are we here?

This theme of "What are you gonna' do with it?" is the one which will be guiding our journey through the Easter season. I invite you to join us on Sunday mornings as we enjoy worship, fellowship, and also draw closer to the one whose resurrection we recently celebrated.

Lofty Thoughts

from Rev. Jeffrey Campbell, Music Director

Thank you, St. John's Church, for this wonderful opportunity. I am honored and extremely excited to be able to serve our Lord through the music ministry of this Church. Being a weird kid, the hero of my childhood was the organist/choir director of my home church in Delaware, Ohio. I eventually became the organist of that same church. I have served as chapel organist as a student at Trinity Lutheran Seminary in Columbus. I have directed choirs in schools and churches. The blessing of being the music director at St. John's at this point in my life is a prayer answered and a dream come true.



I pledge my full attention and love to serve the congregation and community as part of the ministry team at St. John's. As I daily pray for all of you, I ask your prayers for me and for the worship life at St. John's.

The first order of business for me has been choosing and practicing choir and organ music for each Sunday of the Church year. The biggest challenge for me is developing a repertoire of postludes. In my past, a postlude was music to be played as people exited the service. No one really listened to this "traveling music" so it was often just a couple times through a lively hymn. At St. John's, you take the postlude very seriously, being seated and actually listening.

I have selected choir music for the Sundays remaining in the current season. The choir will sing through Pentecost Sunday, June 4. I have found the choir to be a fun group of dedicated servants of God. I am discovering that they have lovely, strong, powerful voices to lead and inspire during our worship services. Be sure and tell them (and me) when a choir selection has moved you and helped you worship.

Here are some upcoming Church year highlights for us all to look forward to:

Sunday, May 4 – Easter 4 – is observed as Good Shepherd Sunday. As you especially enjoy the beautiful Good Shepherd stained glass window at St. John's, the music that day will reflect that theme.

Sunday, May 14 – Easter 5 – is also Mother's Day. Our worship of our Risen Lord that day will include prayers of thanksgiving for our mothers and those who have been like a mother to us.

Thursday, May 25 is Ascension Day. We will not have a special service, but it is a good day to meditate and pray about Jesus' ascension into heaven, when he calls us to share good news and the love of Jesus as "witnesses...to the ends of the earth." (Acts 2:8)

Sunday, May 28 – Easter 6 – is also Memorial Day weekend. As I was growing up, we called it "Decoration Day" and would take coffee cans covered in foil and filled with peonies to the graves of our relatives. Yet another reason for prayers of thanksgiving and good memories.

Sunday, June 4 – is the Day of Pentecost. It is the birthday of the Church as we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit! It is part of the big three holy days – Christmas, Easter, and Pentecost. Don't miss worship that day! WEAR RED as part of the celebration. Maybe even order some red geraniums!

Vice President's Report:

We welcome Jeff Campbell as our new Music Director!

We had our first choir rehearsal on Sunday afternoon, April 23 and look forward to Jeff's leadership.

We thank Percy Jones for all his help with the choir & at the organ, these past few months.

We are proud to have a new name for the Stivers Scholars Fund.

The new name is "The Percy Jones Scholarship Program for Sacred Choral Music."

PUBLIC TV/RADIO SPONSORSHIPS – By St. John's Members (not the Church)

\$2,355. Was raised because of our donations!

WYSO & WDPR donations were doubled, & we were featured on the Think TV Leader Board.

Thank you to the St. John's Members who made this possible!

EARTH DAY at ST. JOHN'S:

Eight of us spent part of the day cleaning up around our neighborhood. We accomplished a lot. We wanted Rev. Adam in the picture, but he was the camera person.



The theme of my Tower Times seems to be "Working Together."

It's amazing what we are able to accomplish!!

Chris van Breukelen – Vice President

President's Report May 2017

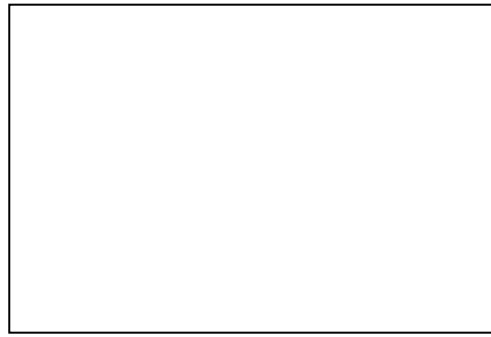
The 2017 Easter Season has brought some new beginnings to St. John's UCC. In honor of Earth Day 2017, on Saturday, April 22, a crew of volunteers from St. John's, including Reverend Adam, spruced up the St. John's UCC property outside the church and most of the block around the church. On Sunday, April 23rd, the church honored Mr. Percy Jones for sharing his musical talents with us once again for several weeks while the council worked on the necessary details to hire our new Music Director, Reverend Jeff Campbell. Our first rehearsal together proved to be an encouraging, auspicious beginning to the remaining few weeks of the choir season.

Judy Humphrys





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

The meeting was called to order and the Minutes from the March 5, 2017 were reviewed and approved.

Jeff Gerrior presented the Treasurer's Report for March 2017. Giving is down from 2016 by \$520 but still up year to date by \$5,752. Expenditures were made for cleaning supplies, light bulbs and various supplies in the amount of \$385. Stivers account is currently at \$616 but we still need at approximately \$250 to cover the remainder of the year. Missions this month received funds for 5 for 5 in the amount of \$430, RAM Expenses \$440 for boiler repairs. The questions concerning the large Vectren bill in January and no bill in February remain unanswered but we are keeping a close watch, this month's bill was \$1,714.71 – still a concern to Reverend Wirrig. There were \$15,000 in assets sold to cover the expenses/fees from the transfer of assets back in December. The 4th quarter audit was completed and was positive with some minor adjustments being made to the accounts including posting of a 2016 Expense in the amount of \$600 that had been paid but not posted, a \$10 difference in the bank statement balancing in our favor and a missed posting of the 4th quarter 2016 Building Insurance payment in the amount of \$2,989. The Lautenschlager Estate check has been received in the amount of \$4,737.32.

In Old Business, the committee was updated on the Organ status: Muller agreed to a 10 year guarantee and with that the contract was awarded to Muller who will begin with the organ was tuned on Friday, April 7th for Easter and repairs pursuant to the contract to start after Easter.

With respect to the issue of the Day Care lease we are still looking to fill the need for a nursery/day care service for the ESOL program and Reverend Wirrig is actively seeking to fill that

need. He will be meeting with Miami Valley Child Care Centers to see if they might be in a position to work with St. John's to provide that service.

Other updates: Safe Church update – still in process, waiting to get paperwork from Steve Carroll. Website is going live soon. Pictures that can be used for the Website will be taken at Easter. Patty Staley has viewed what is current out on the Website that is currently public and the Committee discussed some concerns that will be addressed with Reverend Wirrig and Chere. Stivers Fundraising payments made this month totaled \$240 leaving a current balance of \$616 – we still need approximately \$250 to complete the year. Music Director/Minister of Music status - discussions are continuing. Parking Ministry – Dragons, Scouts – Season kicked off on April 1st with the Futures game and looks to be off to a good start – the Scouts accepted our offer of \$3,000. However, the Futures game was an added event and a compensation \$75 (10%) was agreed to by Parking Ministry. Scouts use of social room – this was a project that Steve Carroll had worked on but the group decided to remain in their existing location but will keep us in mind should they need a location for future. Historic Registry – Council will continue discussions on this at the April 12th meeting.

In New Business: The funds available to the Church from Lautenschlager Estate were brought to the Church's attention by Mark Hard. Mr. Hard provides such services as he regularly peruses the probate court records assisting groups to claim funds they may not be aware of. It was recommended that Mr. Hard be paid a 10% finder's fee (\$473.73) for his services. Patty Staley will make the request to Council that we be authorized to pay Mr. Hard for his services.

Building and Property Insurance Coverage – Patty Staley provided Committee Members with a copy of the current coverage information for review and comments at the May Meeting. Our representative Ben Rupp has agreed to make himself available to meet with the Committee and/or Council to review coverage and any changes that might need to be made. (copy attached to this Report to Council). A question was raised as to whether or not there have been regular inspections by the Fire Department to insure that everything is up to code. Patty Staley will bring this to the attention of the Building and Property Committee Chair.

Stewardship – Patty Staley asked that the Members of the Committee be prepared to address this topic at the next meeting to put together a program that will be welcoming and hopefully helpful to gathering the information necessary for budgeting purposes and for furthering the direction of the Church.

The Committee was made aware that the Leiderkranz will be using the Church parking lot for parking during their German Picnic to be held at Riverscape. They will be using the same

Scouts that we use but they will make payments arrangements directly with the Scouts for their services for that event and they will be making a donation to the Church for the use of the lot. No Church members or our parking signage will be used for this event.

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

The next meeting of the Committee is Sunday, May 7th at 9:00 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



I WILL PLACE YOU ON YOUR OWN SOIL....
Ezekiel 37:14 Sunday April 2.

Did your beans sprout?

WORSHIP

At our recent Worship meeting, the committee reviewed our Lent and Holy Week activities and services. Those in attendance at Holy Week services experienced new ways – 'different' as Pastor Adam would say – of doing worship. One of these included the Palm Sunday 'Procession of Palms' with the waving of palm branches and a Psalm reading in between the singing of the verses of a hymn as the congregation processed through the sanctuary. At the

Praise and Worship



closing of the Maundy Thursday service, the altar was stripped bare of paraments, candles and Bible in preparation for Good Friday. A very old form of confession, 'The Confitor' was included in our Good Friday service. The Easter message 'we are called into new life with the resurrection of Christ' was celebrated with traditional hymns, scripture, communion, the UCC Statement of Faith and special music by guest artists on trumpets and a vocal soloist. A special thank you to Lynn and Doug Norton for joining our choir for Easter and April 23.

Percy Jones, organist and choir director for the last eight weeks, was honored during the morning worship service April 23 with a certificate of appreciation and gift certificates from the Council and the Choir. In Percy's honor the Stivers' fund was renamed the "Percy Jones Scholars for Sacred Choral Music." Percy came to us when we unexpectedly found ourselves without a director. He would take no recompense for his services. We welcomed our new Music Director, Rev. Jeff Campbell of our congregation at our 12:15 rehearsal April 23. The choir looks forward to working with Jeff.

A thank you to Annita Torgeson and Chris and Wilfred Van Breukelen for their contributions to

the Stivers' fund in April. We should thank Sonka as well. Notice was received this past week that Sonka awarded us \$500 for the Stivers' fund upon Pastor Adam's request for grant money earlier this year.

Preview of up-coming dates/events: The last day for choir will be June 4th, Pentecost Sunday. Guest musicians for the summer were mentioned and will be followed up with. Thursday Bible study morning and evening sessions will resume probably late August or early September. October is the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation. Each Sunday service will feature a 'reformation moment'. Plans are being made for October 8th German Heritage Day and October 15th A Blessing of the Animals. More details to come.

Next meeting Wednesday May 17th at 6:30.

Pat Kern

Betty Lou Puterbaugh passed away on Saturday, December 24th, 2016. She was confirmed and married at St. John's and a long time member until she moved to Florida. She was 86 years old.



PENTECOST SUNDAY—JUNE 4th

Red is the order of the day - wear something red, look for red paraments, red banners, red balloons and our usual display of red geraniums.

Geraniums are available at \$5 per 4-1/2" red foil wrapped pot. Order blanks will be in the Sunday bulletin beginning May 14th. Order deadline Monday, May 29th.

Parking Ministry Report

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

Request# 17-03 from Building & Property for:
RAMM Fund = \$2500.00

Revenue Increase for Parking Ministry for:

Mission Moments allocated but
not spent = \$325.00

Current Parking Ministry balance = \$1864.89

Your Parking Ministry Committee continues to park cars for the Dayton Dragons baseball games. Remember there are thousands of baseball fans who only park at St. Johns !

We will not be parking for the Liederkrantz German Picnic in the middle of August. We will donate our lots to the Liederkrantz and they will make a donation to Parking Ministry for St John's.

We will be needing volunteers to help with parking for the Celtic Dancers at the end of July. This is a very special event and has proven to be a very significant donation generator !

This event will occur when the Dayton Dragons are not in town. So there will be no conflict with our normal Dragons baseball parking.

This event starts in the morning and parking continues throughout the day.

Thus the need for volunteers!



Please check out the Sign Up Sheet (next to the coffee pot) for all parking needs.

Remember:

Parking Ministry's continued success depends solely on our volunteers.

Dave Abbott, Chairman
Parking Ministry Committee

Memorial Contributions were made this month in memory of Phyllis Francis by:

Steve Boggs

Chris & Wilfred van Breukelen

Patricia Goin

Ann & Tony Morrissey

Diane Peters

Norm & Janet Neubauer

Butch & Betty Lou Martin

Ron & Nancy Duckson

The Dayton Gay Men's Chorus will be selling flowers in May. Flowers may be slightly different than the picture. Order forms are downstairs in the Fellowship Hall. You can contact Tom Austin if you have any questions.



Tower Times Submissions

Have something you'd like included in the Tower Times? The deadline to have something in June's publication will be Monday, May 22nd. Please email your article to office@stjohnsuccdayton.org or drop off a hard copy to Chere in the office. Thank you!

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.

5/7 - In memory of Doris Wirrig by Adam Wirrig

5/14 - In honor of family birthdays by Ed & Judy Humphrys

5/21 - In memory of Chris Staley by Patti Staley

5/28 - In memory of Bill Clark by Karen Clark

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 is in the Fellowship Hall for your convenience.

5/7 - Still available

5/14 - No Fellowship Hour—Mother's Day

5/21 - Still available

5/28 - Still available

Change in Kroger Community Rewards Program

Kroger made a welcome change in the rules for the Rewards Program: You no longer have to re-enroll every April for the Women of St. John's to receive quarterly checks based on your purchases.



We presently have 23 households enrolled and the checks range from \$125 to \$200 per quarter. If you are not presently enrolled, please let me tell you how easy it is to earn rewards for St. John's.

You may not spend much on food, but prescriptions count, too, and many of us use the Kroger Pharmacy.

Dottie Norton



happy birthday

2—John Murray

19—Judy Humphrys

7—Rose Poppaw

21—Elizabeth Weller

11—Amy Lynn

22—Linda Cavanaugh

13—David Pepiot

24—Ed Humphrys

14—Sharon Dunkle

28—Rev. Bob McCann

18—Terry Ogletree

30—Butch Martin

Happy Mother's Day

Mother's Day is Sunday, May 14th. The Christian Nurture Committee will honor our Mother's, as well as Grandmother's, Aunt's, as well as anyone else who has raised and cared for a child.

The Committee will be presenting a Carnation to our Mother's, Grandmother's, etc as a thank you for all that you do in the lives of your children, grandchildren, and the rest of your families as well.

Ethel Burns



May 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30 10:30 Worship Service 2p Dragon's Game	May 1	2	3 8:30 Breakfast Club	4	5	6
7 9 Budget & Finance Meeting 10:30 Worship Service 12p Building & Property Met	8 6p Dragon's Parking	9 6p Dragon's Parking	10 8:30 Breakfast Club 6p Dragon's Parking 6:30p Council Meeting	11 6p Dragon's Parking	12 5p Flower Drop off DGMC 6p Dragon's Parking	13 9 Flower Pickup DGMC 6p Dragon's Parking
14 10:30 Worship Service	15	16 6:30p Christian Nurture Met	17 8:30 Breakfast Club 6:30p Worship Committee M	18 6p Dragon's Parking	19 6p Dragon's Parking	20 6p Dragon's Parking
21 10:30 Worship Service 1p Dragon's Parking	22	23	24 8:30 Breakfast Club	25	26 6p Dragon's Parking	27 6p Dragon's Parking
28 10:30 Worship Service 2p Dragon's Parking	29 6	30	31	Jun 1	2	3