

# Tower Times

St. John's United Church of Christ

515 East Third Street

Dayton, OH 45402

## April 2018



As I write this, the organ is being tuned for the Easter season, preparations are being made for the ordering of special flowers, worship services are being plotted and planned, and we are quite quickly stepping towards that day of new life that is encompassed in the miracle of Easter morning.

As you have probably heard, from myself and also from other pastors as well, Easter is a season of new beginnings, a season of new life, and a season where we begin again that which we'd like to see in a different light. In sum, Easter is a season where everything can and should be changing. With regards to St. John's, there certainly are a number of changes happening this Easter season. As you'll see in this issue, we have new ministries starting in the month of April, we'll be approaching parking for the Dayton Dragons games in a new way, we'll be making changes to how we worship with and welcome younger parts of our congregation and will be further integrating our new audio and video equipment into our worship services. Certainly, I think we can say that St. John's, as a whole, will be stepping into the newness of Easter this year. But what about you?

If you've been with us for the Lenten season, you perhaps know that it's not enough for the church itself to change; each and every person must experience new life. For some of you, you might be wondering what new things you could try and/or what you should perhaps be doing? If I could, I'd like to suggest something for this Easter season: invite someone to visit St. John's with you. Instead of perhaps worrying as to what newness you might be needing to find, why not let the new life of the Easter season be defined by sharing the life and love, work and mission of St. John's with family and friends? Perhaps you could even start by inviting folks for Easter morning!



Whatever new practice of life that you find yourself in this Easter season, I hope you know the joy of salvation, the power of resurrection, and the love of Christ that is wrapped up in the miracle we'll celebrate on April 1st!

As we step into this season of new life, there are two new ministries that will begin their lives within St. John's!

### "Good Grief"

Grief is something that comes in strange and unpredictable waves. Where once we thought that grief was simply a process to be muddled through, now we are starting to realize that grief is situational and ongoing, though, often in ways that are very different and very personal. We at St. John's want to support those in our family of faith and the wider community who are journeying with grief, be it for a season or long-term! This new group will have its first meeting on the afternoon of April 21st at a yet-to-be-decided location. Far from a counseling or therapy group, this group will instead exist to laugh, to love, to spend time together, and to remind one another that we are not alone in this walk of life, especially when we're grieving! For more information, see Rev. Adam or Pat Kern and watch for location updates in the bulletin!

### "C4C: Caring for Caregivers"



Are you helping to provide care for a family member, a loved one, a neighbor, friend, etc? If so, you've probably felt the frustration and loneliness that can come from trying to juggle the responsibility of caring for others. Whether it's offering care to the young or care to the elderly, being in charge of someone else's wellbeing is hard. St. John's

wants to help folks remember that there is joy in this and every journey and C4C is our way of starting this! This group will get together on April 28th at an (again) yet-to-be-determined locale for a time of food, friendship, fellowship, and freedom. We hope that, in this time of laughter and love, that bonds will be made, resources will be shared, and hope will be found. For more information, see Rev. Adam or Chris van Breukelen and watch for location updates in the bulletin!



Bill Smith and Susan Kolze were welcomed into membership on March 18th. We are excited to have them as a part of St. John's.



## Holy Week Schedule

March 25—Palm Sunday 10:30 am

March 29—Maundy Thursday 7:00 pm with communion

March 30—Good Friday 12:00 noon

April 1—Easter Festival Service 10:30 am with communion

Breakfast 8:30—10:00 am

Plan to be with us and share in our Holy Week services!



## Stivers' Students

Camryn Snapp and Logan Van Bibber are sharing their musical talents each Sunday adding much to the beauty of the morning 's service as well as supporting the voices of our choir. Contributions to the Stivers' fund, officially "The Percy Jones Scholars for Sacred Choral Music, are always welcome. Envelopes are available on the credenza outside the sanctuary. Thank you to Ed and Judy Humphreys, Kim Kindred and Ballard Yates for support in February and March.

Pat Kern,  
Worship Committee



## Budget & Finance Committee



I hope you all will forgive me as I am in catch up mode so this is a bit lengthy. I want to try to bring everyone current due to my absences in February and early March. I was out a good part of February the first 2 weeks of March due in part to illness and in part to my obligations as the Director for the Northmont Wee Bolts Winterguard (an elementary competition team). So I'll start with February Committee meeting and then follow it up with information from the March meeting.

### February, 2018

The Budget & Finance Committee met Sunday February 18, 2018. Present at the meeting were: Debbie Watts, Doug Goudy, Nick Schumacher, Jeff Gerrior, and Rev. Wirrig. Ron Duckson and Patty Staley were not present.

The meeting was called to order by Rev. Wirrig.

First order of Business was appointment of Secretary and Vice Chair. Nick Schumacher was confirmed to fill the position of Secretary, and Doug Goudy was confirmed to serve as Vice Chair.

The minutes from the January 7, 2018 meeting were reviewed and approved.

Jeff Gerrior provided two Treasurer's Reports: one for December and another for January. In December, expenses came in under budget. Giving was higher than budget. Work done on the organ over the past year has depleted the Ray Coyle Memorial Organ Fund, and repairs are completed. Over the past year, approximately \$20,000 was accessed from endowment funds to cover expenses. Envelope contributions were noted to be higher than budgeted. The flower expense was almost offset by income received.

In January, giving was down from 2017 but above budget. Income was higher than December. First quarter expenses led to a high operating expense due to utilities and staff expense. This included unposted utilities expenses from December. RAMM is low due to an emergency plumbing expense. The chairlift repair expense was paid by the Women of St. John's. Interest in the amount of \$599 was received from endowment funds.

In new business, Reverend Wirrig advised that a new administrative assistance will need to be hired. It was agreed the position could be filled using someone for only 16 hours a week at \$10.00 per hour. We will be revisiting the Family Life Ministries budget and grants pending whether a candidate is secured for the position and/or how the funds will be handled if no applicants are obtained.

Funds were approved by Parking Ministry to install monitors in the sanctuary to increase visibility for hymn text and readings. Installation is in progress. Additional expenses of \$100 per year for pastoral vision insurance was approved the Committee.

Financial controls and best practices were discussed, including requirements from the Insurance Board. Rev. Wirrig pointed out that verification of funds should be put into place, such as using a count sheet or having a second individual do a count to double check the amount originally counted before it is deposited. Assets should also be used in the most advantageous way. An example was to change debit cards to one that accumulated more points or benefits. Another goal is to move endowment funds into long-term investments to provide strong financial backing for the church in years to come.

The floor was open for discussion. Doug Goudy and Debbie Watts shared ideas for fundraising, including establishing a bingo program in the community room. This will be revisited in the future.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned

### **March, 2018**

The Budget & Finance Committee met Sunday March 11, 2018. Present at the meeting were: Debbie Watts, Doug Goudy, Nick Schumacher, Jeff Gerrior, and Rev. Wirrig. Ron Duckson and Patty Staley were not present.

The meeting was called to order Doug Goudy, Vice Chair.

The minutes from the February 18, 2018 meeting were reviewed. The complete minutes will be provided to committee members via e-mail. An e-vote will be made to approve the minutes, or they will be approved at the next meeting.

Jeff Gerrior reviewed the February 2018 Treasurer's Report. It was noted that a generous gift was received in the past month, and giving is above budget. As RAMM funds are low due to plumbing repairs, Parking Ministry will be moving funds to replenish RAMM. It was pointed out that the Percy Jones Scholarship is also funded by Parking Ministry. Doug Goudy will be working with Parking Ministry to ensure Percy Jones Scholarship has appropriate funding.

In old business, the administrative assistant position was discussed. Rev. Wirrig indicated that many applicants had sent resumes for the position. Financial controls and best practices will continue to be reviewed for implementation. Jeff Gerrior will proceed with locking in a rate with Vectren to save costs on utilities. Our license to access music used for worship will not be renewed. Rev. Wirrig pointed out that CCLI will be used instead to procure music. The Committee will continue to consider fundraising options, including

bingo in the community room.

In new business, Rev. Wirrig discussed parking options that are being considered. Details will be provided once decisions are finalized

It was recommended by Jeff Gerrior that the committee access \$25,000 from endowment funds to cover upcoming expenses. A motion was made by Debbie Watts and second by Doug Goudy. All were in favor. It was mentioned that annuities provide income at a rate of approximately 4% per year. A goal is to have more long-term investments.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned

The next meeting of the Budget & Finance Committee meeting will be on Sunday, April 8, 2018 at 9:00 a.m.

I am back in full swing and you will see my normal reports starting with the April Committee Meeting.

If anyone has any questions or concerns regarding the information discussed here or 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 Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Patty Staley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Patty Staley, Chair

Budget & Finance Committee

## A Parking Update: Dragons Parking

In the December 2017 Tower Times I outlined the problems and potential of our parking lots and several options Council was considering going forward. One has now been finalized for parking Dragons' patrons during the upcoming baseball season. We have contracted with ABM, a parking and transportation company, to manage and staff our lots for Dragons games. This contract has been under consideration for some time. It was complicated by the fact that we park not just in our own two lots, but for years have used The Lorenz Company's lot, the Vaughn lot, and we used to park in the lot next to 444 E. Second St. We had an agreement in principle several weeks ago, but were still in conversation with Lorenz and Vaughn concerning their receipt of tax credits or profit sharing. Once both parties settled on profit sharing, at the last minute, Vaughn pulled out of the agreement. We will not have the use of their lot this year as they want to pursue other "development" options. (We know no more than that.)

So, ABM will manage and staff our two lots and the Lorenz lot during Dragons games. We plan to have volunteers from St. John's in the lots for the Dragons' home-stand (April 7-12) to welcoming returning customers and to introduce them to our new arrangement: ABM will run the parking, but St. John's will still receive money from the parking to further the work and missions of the Church. While St. John's will obviously realize less profit than if we were staffing the lots with volunteers, we have had to pay for help—the Boy Scouts—for several years. And this arrangement will free hundreds of precious volunteer hours that can now be put to other, more fruitful use, rather than raising money.

We continue to work on other arrangements to realize gain from the lots throughout the day, year round. If successful, the projected annual income for these proposals will exceed what we previously realized from Dragons parking. Council believes these changes will definitely be in St. John's long term interest.

Ed Humphrys, Chair  
Building and Property Committee





## The Victory

It was all over, finished.  
THE END.

The disciples of Jesus were discourage and bewildered,  
They couldn't understand it at all.  
Their hopes were smashed,  
They had believed him;  
They had followed him.  
He had promised a kingdom,  
And now he was crucified, dead.

And then it happened.  
The women came rushing back from the tomb terrified,  
The tomb was empty! Incredible!

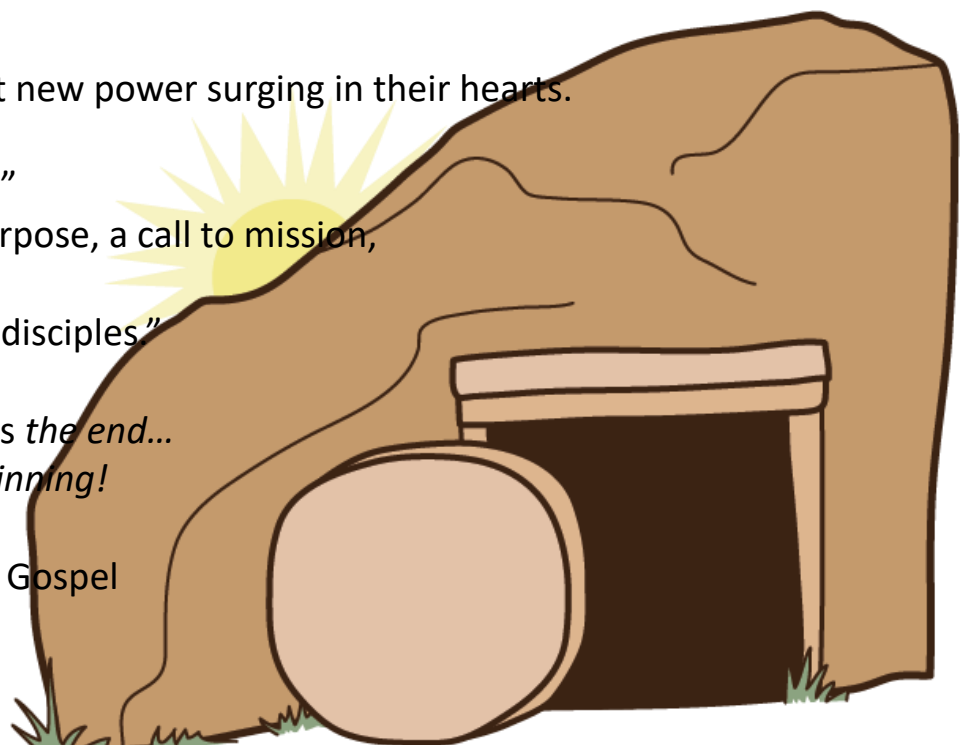
Slowly, surely, it dawned on them - -  
HE WAS ALIVE!

Jesus walked with them along a road.  
He came and stood in their midst.  
He talked with them by the lakeside,  
Astonishing!  
THE LORD HAD RISEN!

As he spoke to them, they felt new power surging in their hearts.  
"Peace be with you"  
"Receive the Holy Spirit"  
They sensed new life, new purpose, a call to mission,  
"Feed by sheep"  
"Go—make nations my disciples"

And so what they thought was *the end*...  
Was really only *the beginning*!

-Betty Stone, Here Begins the Gospel



## **April Celebrations**

### **Birthdays:**

- 1<sup>st</sup>     Helen Rex
- 6<sup>th</sup>     Heather Sturgill
- 8<sup>th</sup>     Chere Hile
- 23<sup>rd</sup>    Dave Abbott
- 23<sup>rd</sup>    Jillian Carroll
- 24<sup>th</sup>    Doug 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.

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.

### **Flowers**

- 4/1—Pat Kern
- 4/8—In Memory of Nancy Abbott by Dave Abbott
- 4/15—In Memory of John Schiller by Butch & Betty Lou Martin
- 4/22—Still Available
- 4/29—In Memory of Karen Yates by the Yates Family

### **Fellowship Hour**

- 4/1—Easter Breakfast
- 4/8—White & Thompson Families
- 4/15—Fellowship Committee
- 4/22—Still Available
- 4/29—Still Available

# *In Loving Memory*

Memorial Contributions were made in memory of Tom Norton by:

Dottie Boedeker

Memorial Contributions were made in memory of Tim Zwick by:

Steve Boggs

Wilfred & Christine van Breukelen

Philomene King

Annita Torgeson

Memorial Contributions were made in memory of Marjorie Wirth by:

Annita Torgeson

Philomene King

# April 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Apr 1 ● 10:30am Worship Service	2	3	4 ● 8:30am Breakfast Club	5	6	7
8 ● 9:15am Budget & Finance Cc ● 10:30am Worship Service ● 4pm Spirit(s) Bar Church	9	10	11 ● 8:30am Breakfast Club ● 6:30pm Council Meeting	12	13	14
15 ● 10:30am Worship Service	16 Tower Times Articles Due	17	18 ● 8:30am Breakfast Club	19	20	21
22 ● 10:30am Worship Service	23	24	25 ● 8:30am Breakfast Club	26	27	28 Klosterman/Snyder Wedding
29 ● 10:30am Worship Service	30	May 1	2 ● 8:30am Breakfast Club	3	4	5