

Tower Times

St. John's United Church of Christ

515 East Third Street

Dayton, OH 45402

January 2018



Phew! What an Advent that was! I don't know about you all, but I'm well and truly - though very happily- tucked out from all the wonderful things we had going at St. John's during the Advent season! From special music galore -thank you, Rev. Jeffrey and friends- to gifts for Agape for Youth, Skivvies for Santa, The Women of St. John's Bake Sale, Neighbourhood Cookies, Blue Christmas, Lessons and Carols, and our wonderful Christmas Eve candlelight service, we certainly were an active and vibrant lot for the month of December! I want to stop and thank all those who made it possible for St. John's to be such an active and faithful family -both in visible and perhaps not-so-visible ways! As we enter the season of Christmastide and approach Epiphany, I think we are well and truly due for a bit of rest!

Resting is good. Resting is helpful. Resting is a habit that even God gets in on! Resting, however, does not always mean inaction or withdrawal from the community. While resting might mean less activity, it does not preclude contemplation and consideration! With that in mind, as you rest in the pre-Lenten season, I would invite you to consider and contemplate what you want to see at St. John's in 2018? How might we better relate to our local neighbourhood? How might we better support the community inside and outside of St. John's? How might we move forward into God's new leadings as we keep reverence to the blessings God has provided in our past?



I believe I have some ideas on these items, I believe our church council has some ideas on these items, but what do YOU think about these and a great number of other items? This time of rest is a perfect time for us to think and chat about what we value for our church and where we hear God calling us to go in the future. I look forward to hearing from you!

Now, go take a nap, you've earned it, St. John's!

Budget & Finance Committee

Special Meeting

There was a special meeting of the Budget & Finance Committee held on Sunday, November 19, 2017. Present were Patty Staley, Chair, Ron Duckson, Vice Chair, Deed Goudy, Secretary, Patsy Goin and Reverend Wirrig. Debbie Watts was unable to attend.

The meeting was called to order by Patty Staley Chair. First order of business was just to advise the Committee that the \$20,000 approved to be made available from Endowment had been moved to be available for year-end and first of the year expenses but will only be used if needed.

The Committee then reviewed a Temporary License Agreement for a Food Truck that wishes to use some space in the front of the front lot on Saturday evenings to cater to evening persons attending local establishments. It was agreed this would be something worth trying on a trial basis and if agreeable could be something more down the road. The Food Truck will make a donation for its use of the lot and will ensure that there is no extra work for Steve Boggs due to their use as they will be monitoring and maintaining the area during their use.

The Committee further discussed other possible uses of our lots. One being a potential contract to rent the back lot. The contract was reviewed in detail. All questions and concerns were addressed. The Committee voted and unanimously approved entering into the contract. The contract still has several contingencies, once met, funds would possibly begin coming in starting in May or June of 2018.

Other possibilities for lot uses and other areas for increasing revenues for the Church were discussed and the Committee will continue to review and seek revenue sources through possible contracts, grants, etc. Reverend Wirrig will be meeting with Lorenz, 7NT and the other area businesses that utilize our lots to advise them of some of the possibilities we are looking at so that they can have some input and are not left out of the decision process. It is important to include the Community in our decision process as this creates goodwill and they can and do provide referrals and other sup-

port to the Church.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned

Regular Meeting

The Budget & Finance Committee met Sunday December 11, 2017. Present at the meeting were: Patty Staley, Chair, Ron Duckson, Vice Chair, Dee Goudy, Secretary, Patsy Goin, Debbie Watts, Jeff Gerrior, Rev. Adam Wirrig and guests, Doug Goudy, Norm Neubauer and Nick Schumacher.

The meeting was called to order by Patty Staley, Chair. The minutes from the November 5, 2017 meeting and the Special Meeting of November 19, 2017 were reviewed and approved with one minor correction to the minutes of the Special Meeting correcting the \$20,000 reference (a zero had been inadvertently omitted).

Jeff Gerrior presented the Treasurer's Report for the month of November 2017. Giving was up over last year by \$1,275 for the month and Year to Date by \$7,553. Income was greater than expenses by \$255 for the month. The only committee expenses were Worship and Christian Nurture. Jeff did note there are a few invoices that were not paid in November but that would be paid in December, one being the final invoice for the Organ repair of approximately \$7,000 and a couple of missions that we are still receiving funds including the Disaster Relief through SONKA, City Hearts and the Veterans of the Cross mission which is a December mission. Funds were received from MJs for our campaign for Jeremiah's Letter as well as congregational giving – Reverend Wirrig will meet with Christian Nurture to decide where the funds will go with Jeremiah's Letter closing by Christmas Eve. It was noted, after some later discussion, that the Percy Jones Scholars for Sacred Choral Music fund which funds our Stivers Students Program will have enough funds to carry through the end of the year and that Worship would be requesting \$500 from Parking Ministry to start the fund off for the beginning of 2018. We did receive a second installment on the ESOL contract for space use in the amount of \$3,500. A question was raised regarding the Special Events, Musicians account being over budget but it was noted that there are other accounts under Worship that are budgeted for but not used that offset a good deal of the overage but also noted that the guests have been well worth the expense. Overall, the Worship budget total should

come in at or under budget overall for the year. An unexpected expense will hit, the amount of which will depend on parts availability due to the lower chair lift malfunction which occurred after fellowship last Sunday. Building and Property is working to secure parts and try to keep the expense to a minimum. Patsy Goin mentioned that a friend had indicated that they had received a grant for their chair lift – she will try to find out from where the grant was received so that we may seek funding if available. While we are still operating in the deficit for the year, that amount is trending less than the overall deficit for last year. This means that we are working our way ever so slowly out of deficit spending. We have a long way to go but together, we can rebuild. The Treasurer's Report was accepted and approved by the committee.

In old business, Reverend Wirrig announced to the Committee that the long awaited Historical Landmark Designation by the City of Dayton passed its final approval by the City Commission this week and we are now the first downtown Church to have such a designation. This now opens the door for us to look into funds through grants and special pools for historic preservation and repairs needed for the building.

Patty then asked the Committee for input on things the Committee did well or didn't do so well on for the past year. It was noted that Stewardship was not as was hoped or intended. We as a Committee need to, starting in January, review the Stewardship program and make changes to try to make it the viable budgeting tool it is intended to be. Only 20 slips were returned in 2016 and only 20 again in 2017. Given that the month of September has been Stewardship month and slips are still now being turned in, a thought to moving Stewardship start back a month or two is being considered in order to have information back for the September/October budgeting process. Also splitting the financial from the time and talent information and other measures that would make it more comfortable for the congregation to participate.

The Committee also felt there are a few reports that we can look at (without confidential information) that would provide numbers/accounting information that could be of some benefit to not only the Committee but maybe if presented appropriately, would assist the congregation in making giving decisions – these will be looked at carefully and decided upon as part of the 2018 Committee's work.

Thank you to Dee Goudy and Patsy Goin for their years of service on the Budget & Finance Committee. Welcome Nick Schumaker and Doug Goudy to the Committee be-

ginning January 2018.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting of the Budget & Finance Committee meeting will be on Sunday, January 7, 2018 at 9:15 a.m.

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,

Patty Staley

Patty Staley, Chair

Budget & Finance Committee



A thank you to Annita Torgeson and Anita Hedeker for their recent contributions to our Stivers fund.



Dear loving church of St. John's,

My thanks go out to all who supported me these past weeks with fundraising, it has been greatly appreciated to have such great supporters to help get me to DC and raise money for colleges that I have started looking at this year, and they aren't cheap but every small act of kindness helps and you all showed that so thank you so much !

My thanks to you,

Logan Van Bibber



A HUGE thank you to all who dropped off cookies for the local Webster Station neighborhood. We were able to visit 22 homes and 12 business with lots and lots of yummy treats, along with a little information about St. John's!



Your pastor wishes to thank each and every one of you who sent a Christmas card, dropped by a gift, or left some baking for his Christmas enjoyment! It's wonderful to be supported and loved by a church family during the craziness of Advent. (Ps: The cat liked all of her gifts too! haha!)



WOMEN OF ST. JOHN'S



Bake Sale

The Women of St. John's want to thank all who participated in our "Holiday Bake Sale". The donations of all kinds of sweets was overwhelming. A special thanks to those who contributed gift baskets to be raffled off. All of those attending made donations for a total of \$477.00 and is very much ap-

preciated.

Yarn:

Donations of skeins of yarn for knitting of lap blankets for the nursing home is still needed. There is a basket marked "Yarn Donations" placed in front of the chapel entrance to place any donations.

Other donations:

We are still collecting can tabs for Ronald McDonald House, used eyeglasses for the Lion's Club to distribute to those in need, postage stamps for the Philatelic Clubs, and Campbell's soup coupons for playground equipment for schools. You can bring these donations to the office or give them to any member of the Women of St. John's.



Once again thanks for all of your support for these projects and especially for the very successful "Holiday Bake Sale".

Janet Neubauer, President
Women of St. John's

Christian Nurture

Thank you, Ann Morrissey, for another year of placing gift tags on the Agape Tree.

This year, 35 gift suggestions were placed on the Agape Tree. All of the tags were taken and returned with the gifts.

Thank you, members and friends of St. John's UCC.

The Director of the Agape Organization sent a Thank You note to St. John's for our generosity.

Ethel Burns

Chairperson, Christian Nurture Committee

On behalf of the families, children,
staff member and Board of Directors
at Agape for Youth, Inc. I want
to thank you for being a part
of helping those we serve have
a memorable Christmas.

Your generosity & thoughtfulness
will bring a smile to a
child on Christmas morning.

You are greatly
appreciated!

We wish you a
Blessed Christmas!

Sandie

Our Christmas services and season of Advent were a busy but wonderful time here at St. John's. Thank you for celebrating the season with us!







Thank you St John's Family for answering the call for underwear for the residents of St Vincent's.

On behalf of the Christian Nurture Committee, we pray that your New Year will be wonderful, and we are looking forward to serving our St John's Family in the coming year.



Happy New Year

January Birthdays

12 Nolan Caroll

16 Linda Triplett

28 Steve Boggs

28 Ron Duckson

Flowers & Fellowship

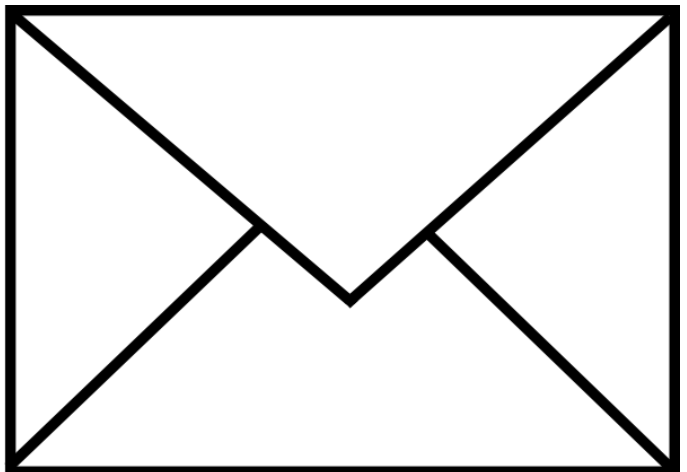
Flowers for the altar in the sanctuary can be purchased each week to help beautify the worship service and then take and enjoy in your home. Sign ups for the flowers are on the corner by the coat rack beside Reverend Adam's office, and priced as follows: one bouquet is \$13.75 and two bouquets are \$27.50. 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.

Memorial Contributions were made this month in memory of Tom Norton by Pat & Frank Caroots and Mr. and Mrs. Del Herbeck.

Mrs. Edith Zakel has a new address for your records:

Mrs. Edith Zakel
Masonic Home
Scottish Rite – Apt. 103
2655 W. National Rd.
Springfield, Oh. 45504
937.521.5548



January 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31 10:30 Worship Service	Jan 1	2	3 8:30 Breakfast Club	4	5	6
7 Council Reports Due 9:15 Budget & Finance Meeting 10:30 Worship Service 4p Bar Church	8	9	10 8:30 Breakfast Club 6:30p Council Meeting	11	12	13
14 10:30 Worship Service	15	16	17 8:30 Breakfast Club 6:30p Christian Nurture Col 6:30p Worship Committee Meeting	18	19	20
21 Installation Service 10:30 Worship Service	22 Tower Times Articles Due	23	24 8:30 Breakfast Club	25	26	27
28 10:30 Worship Service	29	30	31 8:30 Breakfast Club	Feb 1	2	3