

Tower Times

St. John's United Church of Christ

515 East Third Street

Dayton, OH 45402

October, 2018



As I sit down to write this, I am freshly returned from a week away at The United Methodist Church of the Resurrection's "Leadership Institute 2018." If you're not familiar with Church of the Resurrection, it's a 22,000 member church that started out as a small meeting in a funeral home chapel. As they have grown by leaps and bounds over the years, COR has sought to bring its learnings and such to other churches so that they too might grow and develop. For myself, one of the most striking things for the week was how many times I found myself saying "Hey! We already do that!" We might not do things as flashy, large, or as loud as COR, but we really have a number of good practices around St. John's and a great number of folk who embody them as well! If you're curious as to what types of things I saw, I noticed that COR also has a pastor in the parking lot greeting people; they make things fun and don't take themselves too seriously; they work hard to include various parts of peoples' faith backgrounds; they are focused on creating flexible and realistic governance for their church; and the list could go onwards and onwards. Certainly, there were things that I took away and thought "Boy, we sure could stand to do that at St. John's!" Some of those things you might just see popping up around the church in the near future, but all in all my week away was one that very much confirmed that all the hard work, struggle, and frustration that we have experienced in recent years is for a very good cause.

October is a month where some of our constant hard work is very apparent at St. John's. This is the month where the annual report is being compiled; where council is tweaking a final draft of a proposed new constitution; where we're hosting another year of German American Heritage Sunday; our second annual Blessing of the Animals and so much more. As we dive into this very full and very busy month, I encourage you to keep doing the special things you've been doing that make St. John's the church home that we know and love. You all are so valuable; you all are so good; and you all are making such an amazing difference in and around St. John's!



Lofty Words
Rev. Jeffrey Campbell



I am very excited that **our choir has grown** to include twenty singers! And there's still room for YOU! We have sung "Praise the Lord" and "Children of the Lord" and "Pass It Along." For World Communion Sunday we will do "Come Share the Lord." Before too long we will be starting to practice Advent and Christmas music. In the meantime, we have Reformation Sunday, Totenfest, Thanksgiving Sunday and Christ the King. The Liederkrantz Choir will be in the loft for German Heritage Sunday. It's always a treat to have them with us.



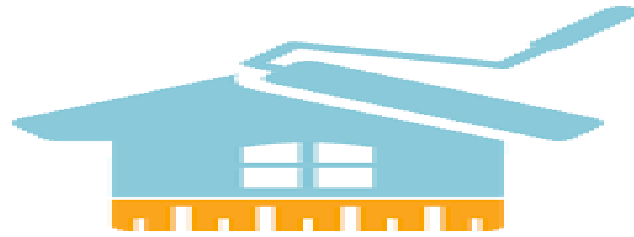
I hope you will be able to come to **The Blessing of the Animals** on Sunday, October 21 at 2:00 p.m. in the Church parking lot. (If it rains we will meet in the Fellowship Hall.) Bring your pets for prayers and a blessing. We will even sing or bark or meow. Come and enjoy this event, even if you don't have a pet.



I have an ambitious goal that I need your help with, I would like to see if we could put together a **Children's Choir for Christmas**. Do you have a child or grandchild or great-grandchild, or a niece or nephew or a neighbor kid that you could bring to some rehearsals and services? I am not sure when yet, but I want to hear from you!



Would you be interested in **ringing handbells**? The Church has a lovely set of bells not being used. Let me know if this is something you would enjoy doing.



RENOVATION

Friends,

Many of us— St. John's Building and Property Committee, the Worship Committee, the Christian Nurture Committee, Rev Wirrig, Rev Bierkan before him, the 2013 Visioning Team— have at one time or another looked at our Chapel and asked, "What can we do to actually USE the Chapel?" How we make it an inviting and functional space? In the more than seven years I have attended, I can only remember St. John's, using the Chapel twice, both times for brief Ash Wednesday services. It's a central space in the heart of the Education Building, right inside our main entrance, and it's just sitting there, a dark and unused void. Several ideas have been floated to make the space more pleasant: removing the doors again, perhaps removing part of the walls, brightening the lighting. However, in the end, the chapel's interior layout gets in the way of any new use. The pews get in the way.

So. We have a recent donation to buy chairs for the Chapel to replace the pews. This will make the space more flexible. It can still be used as a Chapel, but it can also be used for meetings, for Bible study, for other gatherings. It just leaves us with the question of what to do with the pews. The answer is to sell them. The Building and Property Committee will propose this to Council during their October meeting. Similar pews can be found online for up to \$350. We have eleven pews in the Chapel and four more like them in the basement. Whatever proceeds we realize will be used to further renovate the Chapel.

Yours in Christ,

—Ed Humphrys, Building and Property Chair



Budget & Finance Committee – Report to Council

The Budget & Finance Committee met Sunday September 9, 2018. Present at the meeting were: Doug Goudy-Vice Chair, Jeff Gerrior-Treasurer, Ron Duckson, Debbie Watts, Reverend Wirrig and Guest Norm Neubauer. Absent was Nick Shumaker, Secretary

The meeting was called to order by Patty Staley.

As Nick was not at the meeting, Patty had intended to bring her report to council to submit in place of the minutes for approval. Patty will e-mail draft minutes for August to each of the members and provide Debbie Watts with a hard copy by next Sunday for approval.

Jeff Gerrior reviewed the Treasurer's Report for the month of August 2018. Giving was up for the month of August versus last year \$1,294 and up year-to-date over last year by \$8,421. The checking balance is at \$4,212.59 as the quarterly payments for insurance and workers' comp, etc. were paid. We are operating on a very tight budget and watching it closely but should be ok as long as monthly giving continues at the pace it has been. We do anticipate needing to access the Endowment Funds that were approved by the Congregation but there will not be a need to request any additional funds over those approved for the 2018 Budget at the November 2017 Congregational Meeting. There will be end of year expenses and first of year anticipations that will require a draw but as noted above, that is still accounted for in the approved budget. Two committees had expenses this month, Building and Property and Worship each in the amount of \$311. Three holding accounts were eliminated and remaining funds moved to other holding accounts for use as needed. The Wedding Deposits holding account includes \$1,200 in funds that should be moved now that the weddings have been held. We have also received the deposit and payment of \$1,900 for a 2019 wedding booking. Parking Funds were received totaling approximately \$137.00 but due to an incorrect posting including Social Hour Income by Patty is not reflected under the Parking Account but was corrected on the back side by Jeff. There will be a summary prepared at year-end that will show the correct totals for Parking. Year to date deficit is at (\$35,961) well below the budgeted (\$65,096) YTD figure. A motion to approve the Treasurer's report was made by Doug Goudy and seconded by Ron Duckson and unanimously approved.

Patty then requested to move to New Business so that the Proposed Budget could be reviewed and voted on prior to reviewing Old Business.

The Budget had been sent to all members electronically prior to the meeting for review and to prepare for comments. A hard copy was given to Debbie Watts at the meeting for her review. The first question was with regard the vote on the proposed Constitution and ByLaws Document and how it affects the Proposed Budget which will also be up for vote. If approved by the Congregation, the proposed Constitution and ByLaws would be the ultimate governing document and will be phased in over the next 12 months – this needs to be clarified in the opening statement. However, it was noted that the proposed Budget is not set up to match the proposed Constitution and ByLaws with respect to the committees/teams. As the new team format is more of a breakdown of existing committees in to a more functional format, their budgetary needs would be met by the committee budget line items in the proposed budget. The overall budget needs do not change, just the structure would need to be adjusted. It is going to take time to move everything to match but that is the goal over the next 12 months to phase into the new structure.

The only line item question was with respect to the Administrative Assistant Line Item. Concerns over not filling the position for 2019 were addressed in that the current needs are being met by Reverends Wirrig and Campbell with respect to the phones, meetings, printed materials and Patty Staley has committed to continuing to do the weekly contributions/income input for 2019.

A motion to approve the Proposed Budget for 2019 was made by Debbie Watts and seconded by Doug Goudy and unanimously approved.

Moving back to cover Old Business, the Constitution and ByLaws are out for review and comments which need to be made in writing to Reverend Wirrig to be addressed at the October 10 Council Meeting to which the Congregation is invited to attend. Concerns are expected to be addressed at this meeting before vote on at Congregational Meeting in November. Parking & Parking Ministry – various contract issues are in discussion including proposing an addendum to the ABM contract for clarification of expectations, etc. Director of Family Life Ministries – Reverend Guzman is working with Reverend Wirrig and seems to be settling into the position well. Stewardship presentations have been great. We have received 17 cards as of September 3rd with pledged annual giving of \$56,900 which puts up on track with the proposed budget. A list of persons indicating interests in sharing time and talent will be provided to the committee chairs. Financial Controls – Patty will provide Jeff with a copy of the Insurance Board Requirements/Recommendations and together they will identify any areas that might need to be further addressed and will bring any issues to the committee.

Credit Card Kiosk & Option for Website –Online Giving – Patty had to put this on hold but is making this a priority to get put in place as soon as possible. The online will happen first as it is the easier of the two with the Kiosk to come shortly after depending on costs of program/equipment needed to make it happen. Grants and Fundraising are still a top priority – now that the budget process is moved to Council, we need to return our focus to this area. Patty is working with the attorney to get us on the IRS Electronic Listing of 501(c)(3) entities which requires the filing a Form 1023. Chairlift Repair/Replacement and ADA Compliance/Accessibility – dependent on funding, fundraising and grants availability at this time.

The next meeting of the Budget & Finance Committee meeting is October 7th, 2018 at 9:00 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Patty Staley, Chair

Budget & Finance Committee





The Ronald McDonald House in Dayton, OH needs individually wrapped items for their pantry. The Christian Nurture Committee is asking our St, John's Family for assistance with this Pantry Drive. The Ronald McDonald House provides a temporary home -away-from-home for families of critically ill and hospitalized children who are in Dayton Children's Hospital. The Ronald McDonald House is located at 555 Valley St. Dayton, OH. The pantry drive will take place until October 21st!

Pantry Items Needed:

Pudding cups, juice boxes, soup, fruit snacks, individual packs of cheese crackers, small bags of chips, tea, cereal, granola bars, pop tarts, apple sauce, mac and cheese cups, ramen noodles, dried fruit, and ravioli.

Thank you in advance for your help with this Drive.

Ethel Burns,

Chairperson, Christian Nurture Committee



Welcome Back!

On Sunday September 16th, The Thompson and White Families welcomed back Brandon Thompson from Marine Boot Camp. Brandon attended services that morning. The St. John's Family was happy to see Brandon, and we will continue to pray for his safety along with prayers for all of our men, and women in the military.





WORSHIP

Pat Kern

October is turning out to be a very busy month for St. John's.

Oct. 7 World Communion Sunday. Christians throughout the world come together in observance of Holy Communion. Also, that day at 4 p.m. **'Spirits' Bar Church.** **Oct. 14 is German Heritage Sunday** with **Liederkrantz singers.** A carry-in will follow the service. **Oct. 21 Blessing of the Animals 2 p.m.** Bring your pets to the church parking lot for a special blessing and treats. (Last year they all got along famously). **Oct. 28 Reformation Sunday 501** Anniversary of the Protestant Reformation. **Red** is the color for the day. The sanctuary will be decorated in red and we're asking folks to wear red.

On-going Activities

Mondays 6:30-7:00 **Heartfulness Meditation** class in the Chapel. We are the most recent location joining other sites (Dayton, Centerville, Yellow Springs). They also offer regular sessions at WSU, UD, Hospice of Dayton, local businesses and high schools.

Thursdays 7 to 8 p.m. **Bible Study** in the church office with Rev. Guzman. This is a good opportunity to learn more about the Sunday scripture and also get to know Maria and Hector. Come join us.

Other Items of Interest

Did you notice the easier to read projection of the words to the hymns, etc. on the sanctuary screens? A few of us were having trouble making out the words to hymns because of the light background. Worship got the word and the background is now a nice dark blue. Great help for many of us. Let your Worship committee know of any suggestions, requests, etc. you may have.

Thanks to Chris and Wilfred Van Breukelen and Annita Torgeston for recent contributions to the Stivers fund.

PRAYGROUNDS

Come October the space in front of the pews on the right side of the sanctuary will be dedicated as a space for our children. Worship has been working on this project for some-time and information has been highlighted in Tower Times the last several months. Quoting from a website "Praygrounds is a place in the front of the sanctuary where young children can experience worship through age appropriate worship materials and tools that will help keep them engaged in worship". For those of you interested in further information, both text and photos, Google - Praygrounds-Eight Stories Traci Smith.

For parents of very young children, newborn to age four, the nursery room is available as a Cry Room if parents feel their child needs a break.

GOOD GRIEF Saturday Oct. 20 at 4:30 The Pub at The Green. Restaurant is located very near to the Indian Ripple entrance and has a parking lot.





WOMEN OF ST. JOHN'S

German Heritage Sunday Carry-In with German Sauerbraten

The Women of St. John's will be hosting the Carry-In-Dinner on October 14 celebrating our German Heritage. Since the hosts for the carry-in-dinners supply the main meat dish we have asked Uli Gaertner, a member of Liederkrantz-Turner, to prepare his delicious German Sauerbraten which was so well received at last year's celebration.

Since the Liederkrantz choir will again be singing during the worship service, and will be our guests at the carry-in-dinner, we are asking everyone to bring 2 side dishes or one large dish or desserts to assure ourselves of enough food for everyone. We would welcome any special German side dishes that are one of your favorites for all to enjoy.

Thank you Inge Hedeker

In 2009 Inge Hedeker began knitting lap robes for nursing homes in the area using yarn donated by many members of St. John's. During this period of time our records show she has knitted **390** of these lap robes in beautiful assorted colors and designs. Quite an accomplishment!

Unfortunately, Inge has advised us she is unable to continue this project for several personal reasons. The Women of St. John's would like to continue this project and if anyone is interested in crocheting or knitting these types of lap robes, please contact Janet Neubauer at 836-8582. We would continue asking for donated yarn for your use. All that is needed from you is your time and talent.

We want to give a tremendous "THANK YOU, INGE" for all of your time and effort to make so many residents in the nursing homes happy and comfortable.

Janet Neubauer, President
Women of St. John's





Kroger Community Rewards Program

New Number for St. John's - **WD785**

Krogers assigned St. John's a new number for the Community Rewards Program.

This new number is **WD765**.

If you are currently enrolled, you can still access your account with the old number, the new number, or by searching the church name.

If you are enrolling as a new member search by **WD765** or St. John's United Church of Christ, Dayton.

Instructions for signing up as a new Community Rewards member are in the Church office.

You can also see Dottie Norton or Rev. Adam with any further questions.



Experience discord when trying to dialogue?

See schisms instead of connection?

Are you wondering why?

Come join in on the discussion

**Community Discussion Event
hosted by St John's UCC
"Connection: Neighbor to Neighbor"**

Three nights of discussions focusing on our human need for:

- ...connection & belonging
- ...dialogue with civility
- ...and speaking compassionately with candor

The goal is to increase our understanding of one another through:

- ...compassionate listening
- ...meaningful dialogue
- ...and caring hearts.

Come dialogue with your neighbors & make a difference in our world!

Join in on all or any of the scheduled nights!

All views welcome.

Where: Dayton Main Library Conference

Oct 2	7-8:30p	Conf Rm 3A	Oct 23	7-8:30p	Conf Rm 1B	Wrap up
Oct 9	7-8:30p	Conf Rm 1B				
Oct 16	7-8:30p	Conf Rm 1B				

FORMING THE New Constitution

Thank you to all of those who sent in questions, comments, or concerns about the draft copy of the new constitution! Your contributions are invaluable and so very helpful to this process! Our next steps include:

October 10th at 6:30pm—Council meets to discuss and/or implement proposed changes as feasible. All are welcome to join in this time of discussion and vision-casting as we prepare a final draft of the new constitution.

November 11th at 12:00pm—Congregation meets to vote (simple up or down vote) as to whether they will adopt this new constitution as a part of our annual congregational meeting.

If you've any questions, please see Judy Humphrys or Rev. Adam.



Are You Creative?

St. John's needs a creative "gardener" for its bulletin board. You don't need to buy any supplies - unless, of course, that is what floats your boat. :) All of the colorful background paper, coordinating borders, seasonal pictures, and cutout letters are safely tucked away in their own stash in the Fellowship room. For details, see me.

Judy Humphrys



Seen around St. John's in September!



(ESOL WELCOME PARTY!)

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Teens to Kings Island!!!

October Birthdays

02 - Dottie Boedeker
05 - Leeann Harker
18 - Ethel Burns
21 - Lori Gorischek
22 - Katie Kraft
27 - Janet Neubauer
27 - Phyllis Berlo
28 - Jethan Guzman
30 - Jill Johnson



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 is in the basement fellowship hall for your convenience.

Flowers

10/7—Open
10/14—Patsy Goin
10/21— Ethel Burns
10/28— Yates Family

Fellowship Hour

10/7—Harker Family
10/14—WOSJ German Heritage
10/21—Fellowship Committee
10/28—Open



The family of Rose Gerwick would like to thank all the people of St. Johns Church for their love, prayers and support this past year during her illness and recent death. We also thank you for all the donations in her memory to the church. Church meant everything to her as you well know.

~ The Gerwick and Murphy Families

I want to thank everyone who made it to Frank's funeral and also for the many beautiful cards and the contributions made in Frank's name; he loved his church and the people in it.

Thank you so much and God Bless!

~Pat Caroots

with *Sympathy*

We send our condolences to The Gerwick Family on the passing of Rose Gerwick.

We send our sympathies, also, to the family of Mary Sakal on her passing.

PLEASE NOTE:

Norm Neubauer's brother, Don, and sister, Karen, are in Hospice care. Please keep Norm, Janet, and their extended family in your prayers as well in this time.

In Loving Memory

Memorial Contributions were made in memory of

Frank Caroots by Mary Brunty.


Jim Kerivan by Mr. and Mrs. Wilfred van Breukelen

Rose Gerwick by Ann and Tony Morrissey, Steve Boggs, Anne Pepiot, Philomene King, Wilfred and Chris van Breukelen, Charlyn and Benito Botteri, Rob and Karen Abrams, Jim and Patty Brenneman, Dottie Norton, Butch and Betty Lou Martin, Pat Caroots, Norm and Janet Neubauer, Jerry and Doris Neubauer, Page Miller, Patricia Goin, Judy Hamilton, Mariana Moore

Mary Sakal by Anne Pepiot and Pat Caroots

George Cavanaugh by Charlyn and Ben Botteri

October 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30	Oct 1	2	3	4	5	6
<ul style="list-style-type: none">10:30am Worship Service1pm Teens to Kings Island	<ul style="list-style-type: none">6:30pm Relaxation Meditati	<ul style="list-style-type: none">7pm Neighbor to Neighbor	<ul style="list-style-type: none">8:30am Breakfast Club5:30pm Martial Arts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">7pm Bible Study		
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
<ul style="list-style-type: none">10:30am Worship Service4pm Spirit(s) Bar Church	<ul style="list-style-type: none">6:30pm Relaxation Meditati	<ul style="list-style-type: none">7pm Neighbor to Neighbor	<ul style="list-style-type: none">8:30am Breakfast Club5:30pm Martial Arts6:30pm Church Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none">7pm Bible Study		
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
German Heritage Day <ul style="list-style-type: none">10:30am Worship Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none">6:30pm Relaxation Meditati	<ul style="list-style-type: none">7pm Neighbor to Neighbor	<ul style="list-style-type: none">8:30am Breakfast Club5:30pm Martial Arts6pm Christian Nurture	<ul style="list-style-type: none">7pm Bible Study		<ul style="list-style-type: none">4:30pm Good Grief
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
<ul style="list-style-type: none">10:30am Worship Service2pm Blessing of the Animal	<ul style="list-style-type: none">6:30pm Relaxation Meditati	<ul style="list-style-type: none">7pm Neighbor to Neighbor	<ul style="list-style-type: none">8:30am Breakfast Club5:30pm Martial Arts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">7pm Bible Study		
28	29	30	31	Nov 1	2	3
Reformation Sunday <ul style="list-style-type: none">10:30am Worship Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none">6:30pm Relaxation Meditati	<ul style="list-style-type: none">7pm Neighbor to Neighbor	<ul style="list-style-type: none">8:30am Breakfast Club5:30pm Martial Arts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">7pm Bible Study		



Annual Congregational Business Meeting

November 11th, 2018

Directly following morning worship.

Please plan to be present!