

Tower Times

St. John's United Church of Christ

515 East Third Street

Dayton, OH 45402

December 2016



Dear Friends,

It's the most wonderful time of the year! Or, is it? I don't know about you, but for me, December generally requires me to brace myself, grit my teeth, and try to survive until the end of the month. This isn't a month that's entirely friendly to pastors. Every worship service in the Advent season requires a bit more -bigger and better, you might say- and we always want to make sure that Christmas Eve is a service that welcomes our once or twice a year visitors, entices them to join us more, and yet also appeals to our long time faithful as well. In addition, all of the family gatherings, darker weather, and potential financial strains tend to create something of a pastoral care maelstrom. Add to this the strains of our own family and friend obligations and, well, you can probably understand why ministers tend to grimace at the thought of Advent.

All of this is not to say that we don't find joy in the season. The Advent season, for all its insanity, is when we often get to witness so many folks truly "loving their neighbour as themselves." We get to witness reconciliations and we get to see love and care spread in ways that we generally can only wish for in the rest of the year. In a lot of ways, Advent is the time of the year that we really feel like things are "clicking." It's a season where, for all of its struggles, it is almost impossible to not see God's Spirit moving.

Perhaps, you feel a bit of the same way as we approach this holiday season? Maybe you find yourself excited to see the ways in which love and care will be spread around in new and exciting ways? Perhaps you also find yourself dreading all the baking, the juggling of the finances, and the visiting of folks you'd rather not see? This season, I encourage you, as we engage both the wonder and the craziness, to perhaps remind yourself to take a moment and step back. Take a second to look, to see where God's Spirit is moving in your own world, what God is doing and how God is working in the things -both good and bad- that you are encountering in this season.



May Your Days Be Merry and Bright!

~ALW

December President's Report

I want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas. I always love Christmas time at St. John's. Fighting with the tall Christmas tree and trying to figure out which strand we forgot to plug in is always fun.

This is my last Tower Times article as the council president. I want to thank you for supporting me with this the last three years. Many changes have taken place in the three years. I want to thank council, our committees and our dedicated staff for all their work to make St. John's the church it is.

Change will likely remain a theme for quite some time. We've tried things recently and some were successful others weren't. Eternal Joy did not work out as well as we had intended. The Bar Church appears to be off to a good start. I am excited that we are considering adding a scouting unit to our church. I was approached by a fellow scout leader who has a venturing crew made up of about 20 adult scouts with disabilities. They are looking for a new home and it is very possible, we will be that home. If so, they will meet Monday nights for about a hour a week. This group also has an interest in being involved in some aspects of our church. Look for the January Tower Times to go into further details of we accept this scouting unit and what that will involve.

One of the goals I had set out to do was to revise the constitution, or as Rev. Wirrig has heard me say, throw it out and start from scratch. This was not something I was able to build steam to do during my tenure. I hope the upcoming council will form a committee to do this and have one that is written for the size of our congregation. I believe our constitution is something that is holding us down when we are trying to move forward. Committees like Christian Nurture have way too many responsibilities and really needs to be divided. There are times I wonder if chairing Nominating Committee and being on the Audit committee is a good idea for the VP. These are things I feel we need to look at moving forward.

I have been talking with Judy Humphrys to create a smooth transition for our new

leadership. While I have decided not to take a role on council or a standing committee, I am willing to help out on a sub committee and I have left the door open where she can ask me if there is anything she needs assistance with.

As I close this article, I leave council and other leaders with this leadership test:

“Am I doing the right thing,
At the right time,
In the right way,
And for the right reason?”

Thank you again, have a great holiday season and I will see you next year!
Steve



Dec., 2016 – Tower Times – Vice President

We extend our condolences to Dottie Boedeker & her Family on the passing of Harold on Nov. 12. Harold served as President of Council & was a great help to St. John's. We were fortunate enough to share so many very happy memories of him.



Steve Boggs is pictured with our Thanksgiving donations.

As you can see, there was a large amount of food donated. Reverend Adam called it the "Grocery Store." Thank you to Janet & Norm Neubauer & their team who always work so hard to make the Food Drive

happen. Their team delivered it to Jeremiah's Letter at St. Paul's. Thank you also to Black Boxx, MJ's, & 7NT Engineering. They were also extremely generous.





Rocket was working hard at decorating the Christmas tree. He may have been the youngest, but he was definitely doing his part. St. John's members were all over the church. They were putting up the large tree in the sanctuary, other trees throughout the church, & beautiful decorations for all of us to enjoy.

Thank you for all your work!

COUNCIL & COMMITTEES – 2017

We are pleased to announce that we have a full slate! Anita Hedeker is willing to serve on the Board of Worship.

SUN., JAN. 15, 2017 – INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS & COMMITTEE MEMBERS

It is an important Sunday. Please plan on being with us.

FRI., MAR. 10, 2017 - "Scholarship CONNECT" Deadline

SCHOLARSHIP RESOURCE –DAYTON FOUNDATION

Requires the completion of a detailed questionnaire, so that students can be matched with more than 130 SCHOLARSHIPS available through the Dayton Foundation.

Dayton Foundation – Home Page; click "Scholarship CONNECT"

<http://www.daytonfoundation.org/scholars.html>

Chris van Breukelen

WORSHIP REPORT

Plan to be worshipping with us at St. John's for the Advent and Christmas season. The calendar for the rest of the year begins with November 27, the first Sunday of Advent. Again, families from the congregation will do the Advent wreath candle lighting.

Dec. 4 Holy Communion

Dec. 11 Women St. John's bake sale following service.

Dec. 18 Service of Lessons and Carols

Dec. 24 Christmas Eve service 7 p.m. with the prelude beginning at 6:30.

This year Holy Communion will be offered, traditional carols will be sung and a congregational candle lighting will bring the service to a close. Following, everyone is invited to the Afterglow reception in fellowship hall. Please note that because December 24 is a Saturday night, there will be **no Sunday morning worship service**. There will be a service on Jan. 1 New Year's Day.

Christmas poinsettias in red or white are available for \$9 each. Order blanks will be in the Sunday bulletin for the next 3 weeks. Plants may be designated 'in memory of' or 'in honor of'. Order deadline is Monday, December 12. Flowers will be displayed in the sanctuary December 18. Individuals may take plants home after the Christmas Eve service.

Worship Committee is inviting anyone who likes to bake Christmas cookies to sign on for our cookie bake during the week beginning December 11 through the 18. We want to share the Christmas spirit with our neighborhood retail community and the new residential folk in the immediate area. There is a sign up sheet in the fellowship hall. Cookie distribution date to be announced.

Pat Kern



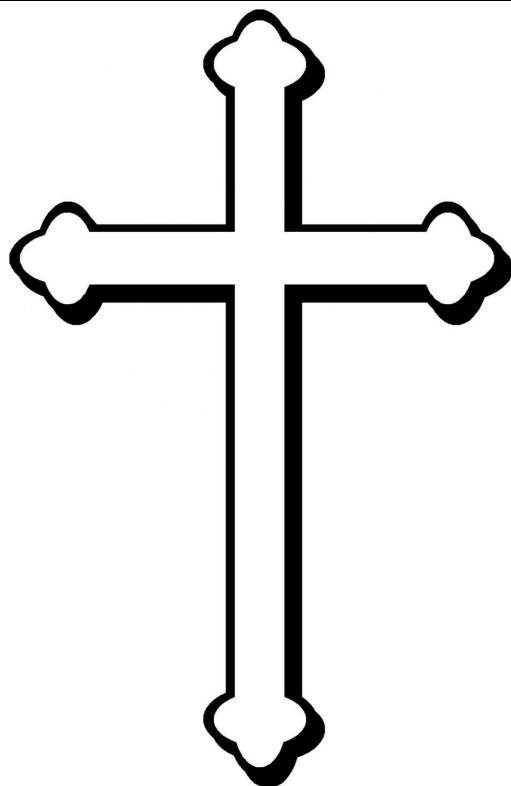
An Explanation

A few weeks ago at the close of the worship service, Pastor Adam explained why he includes the sign of the cross with his pastoral blessing each Sunday. He had received some comments to the effect 'our service is becoming 'catholic'. We are including his explanation for those who may not have been present.

Pat Kern, Worship Committee

“Some have asked why I always do my specific pastoral blessing, including the sign of the cross, at the end of worship. This sign is often thought of as being part of one denomination or another, but it's really much more than that. Rather than being the calling card of one part of the faith or another, this is, instead, the oldest of blessings in all of Christianity. I use this, specifically, at the end of our worship to tie us together with the faith historic. Thus when you are sent forth in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, you go with the power of God Almighty, but you also go united with all the saints of days before, continuing their work and spreading God's kingdom.”

Adam



Jeremiah's Letter, Inc.

This was another very successful year for this project. The final total was 35 cases and 49 full grocery bags filled with food. We also received \$280 in cash donations

Once again Jeremiah's Letter food program will continue throughout the year. You can bring in food items any Sunday and when there are sufficient amounts donated we will deliver them to Jeremiah's.



Norm and Janet Neubauer
Coordinators of Jeremiah's
Letter, Inc.



ANNOUNCING

“ANNUAL HOLIDAY BAKE SALE”

Sunday, December 11th

During
Fellowship Hour

**SPONSORED BY THE
WOMEN OF ST. JOHN'S**

Donations of baked goods will be appreciated.



Parking Ministry Report

Remember..... next April 6th Parking Ministry starts our 18th season.

Your Parking Ministry Committee has spent considerable time getting to a point where many of the Missions we support have become pretty routine.

We are always willing to consider new Missions and welcome any requests from any committee at St. John's. Yes, we are supporting requests from Committees for assisting our leaders with requests necessary to keep St. John's strong in our east Dayton community.

Parking Ministry will probably end this year with a balance near \$11,000.00

The Parking Ministry Committee will continue to review and vote on requests sent to us from committees at St John's. In addition to supporting Missions, Parking Ministry will also support anything necessary to "keep the doors open".

Remember Parking Ministry **NEEDS YOUR HELP** and yes.....

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 Jeff Neef by Tony and Ann Morrissey

In Memory of Leota Buchholz by Philomene King and Anita Torgeson

In Memory of Harold Boedeker by:

Norm & Janet Neubauer

Brian and Sharon Dunkle

Fred & Else Schiller

Butch & Betty Lou Martin

Shirley Taylor

Ann & Tony Morrissey

Aivaro & Verjean Smitchens

Charles & Georgianna Ferguson

Steve Boggs

Herron Financial Group

New Address:

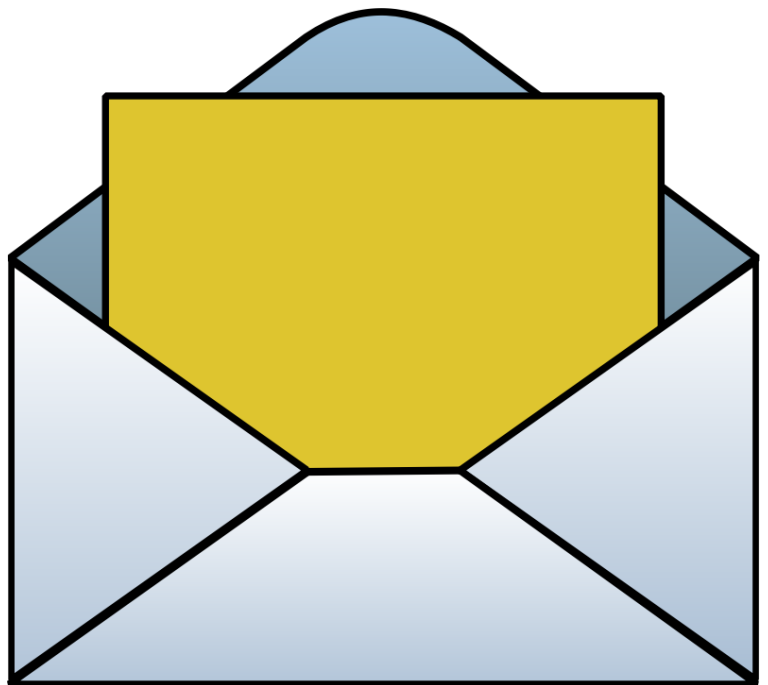
Jim and Phyllis Francis have moved!
Here is their new address and phone
number.

5790 Delinger Road

Apt. 2431

Dayton, OH 45426

Please update your records. Thank
you.



December Birthdays

Norm Neubauer	01
Suzanne Gorischek	02
Helen Staab	04
Carolyn Wood	04
Kyah Singleton	06
Raeanna Biddle	06
Nadia Carroll	06
Philomene King	07
Stephen Bickford	07
Rose Gerwick	08
Patsy Goin	11

William Wittman, Jr.	14
Anne Morrissey	15
Pat Kern	17
Judy Thompson	17
Margaret Austin	22
Mae Neubauer	24
Douglas Boedeker	24
Mary Sakal	30
Christopher Poppaw	30

December Anniversaries

Jack & Rose Papenbrock	16
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Flowers & Fellowship

Flowers

12/4—The Boedeker Family in honor of Harold & Dottie's 68th anniversary

Lenny LaPoma

12/11—In honor of Helga Jehn's birthday and in memory of Jenny by Philomene King

12/18—In Memory of Mark Miller by the Miller Family

12/25—No Service

Fellowship Hours

12/4—Still Available

12/11—WOSJ Bake Sale

12/18—Fellowship Committee

12/24—Afterglow by Christian Nurture and Worship Committees

12/25—No Service

December 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27 Advent Begins 10:30 Worship Service +2 more	28	29	30 8:30 Breakfast Club	Dec 1	2	3
4 10:30 Worship Service 1p ■ Eternal Joy Service	5	6	7 8:30 Breakfast Club	8	9	10
11	12	13	14 8:30 Breakfast Club 6p Council Meeting	15	16	17
WOSJ's Bake Sale 10:30 Worship Service 1p ■ Eternal Joy Service						
18 Lessons & Carols 10:30 Worship Service 1p ■ Eternal Joy Service	19	20	21 8:30 Breakfast Club	22	23	24 Christmas Eve Service 6:30p Prelude 7p Service
25 No SJ's Service 1p ■ Eternal Joy Service	26	27	28 8:30 Breakfast Club	29	30	31