

# Tower Times

St. John's United Church of Christ  
515 East Third Street  
Dayton, OH 45402



## January 2019

Dear Friends,

Whew! Another Advent has come and gone and we're still standing! Actually, we're more than standing; I think it's fair to say that we had a **thriving** advent at St. John's! From a highly successful Bake Sale (Well done, WOSJ!) , to a lovely St. Nicholas Dinner provided by Rev. Jeff, amazing music on all of our Sunday morning services, and special worship with our Blue Christmas and Christmas Eve services, we had a stellar Advent season at St. John's! Kudos to all who helped make this possible!

January is usually, for rather obvious reasons, a month of rest and recovery for a great number of us. That, however, does not mean that it is not a month without movement. The pastoral team has, believe it or not, already started talking about what we see as our goals for the upcoming year, what we plan to do, when we plan to do it, and how we plan to get it done. We've even started doing some planning well into the summer months! (Yes, we know we're insane!) Moreover, it is my goal to meet with each of the committee leaders and council officers during this month so that we can align on some individual and corporate goals for 2019, hopefully making 2019 our strongest year yet!

One thing I will be working on for the near future is work around "team functions." As you may remember, at our November Annual Meeting, we voted through a new constitution that, starting in 2020, will see us move from standing committees to flexible and malleable small teams in the work and worship of St. John's. The transition for this move is going to take more than a little work, so the sooner we start, the better! Thankfully, I am about to head out to Phoenix, AZ for my annual continuing education seminar through the UCC's "Next Generation Leadership Program." Oddly enough, my coursework for this year's gathering is all centred



around...you guessed it—creating, developing, and guiding team structures within a church! Personally, I am SUPER-excited to dig into this learning and hope to come back with more than a few ideas that will be helpful to us as we seek to move forward into new life as a church family.

My Best to You All,

Rev. Dr. Adam L. Wirrig

## LOFTY THOUGHTS

from Rev. Jeffrey Campbell. Minister of Worship

**THANK YOU** to all who helped make our Advent and Christmas worship so good and meaningful. Thank you to St. John's Choir for your great effort and joy. Thank you to soloists, Logan van Bibber, Jaelynn Mack, and Nathan Compton. Thank you Chris van Breukelen for the piano pieces and accompaniments. Thank you to the four wonderful young people in our Children's Choir, who amazed me! Thank you to the Children's Choir chauffeurs. Thank you to Leeann Harker, who we love to hear play the viola. Thank you to Steve Boggs and Marlene Miller for décor! Thank you to Jeff, Ed, and Dane for working the sound system. Thank you to the ushers and the worship committee, especially Pat Kern, for your important work. Thank you to the youth who led our Advent Wreath lighting each week. Thank you to Dottie Norton for scheduling helpers for each service. Thank you to the Women of St. John's and the Christian Nurture Committee, plus all others who provided wonderful and delicious Fellowship Hours. Thank you worship committee and Nathan Compton for making the St. Nicholas event so wonderful. Thank you to Rev. Hector for the scriptures and prayers and caring presence. Thank you Rev. Adam for coordinating everything! Thank you for thoughtful, inspiring sermons and services. Thank you for the meaningful graphics on the screens. Thank you Rev. Adam for your support and encouragement. Thank you to anyone I forgot on this list!

**My goals for the new year** include continuing to find and prepare appropriate and inspiring music for the choir. I want to work toward making each and every (pardon the Adam-ism) worship service a special event. I want to work with children and music more. I want us to explore even more traditional worship elements, while we forge ahead with contemporary things. I have special things in mind for St. Patrick's Day (which is on a Sunday) and Cinco de Mayo (which is on a Sunday).

**Now that I am an official minister** in the United Church of Christ, I want to thank all of you at St. John's for welcoming me, giving me wonderful opportunities, and making me a part of this amazing Church family! God is good...

I love you all!

*Jeff*

# December Worship Music!!!!



My Dearest Family at St. John's:

We heard narratives from the Scriptures during the advent-Christmas season that present the love of God revealed to the world and which imply that God always wanted to be in loving relationship with us.

The miraculous story of Christmas was again retold to us but with the great challenge that needs our response even if it will disrupt our present situation. Like Mary and Joseph, they were not expecting God will use them in a very anomalous situation, nevertheless they chose to say yes to God and put their total trust in him. Maybe in our part, we always find ourselves without courage to respond to God, let's continue reflecting the life of Joseph and Mary how they were able to respond to God and may we find new inspiration that enables us to finally say yes to God.

As we now about leave the year 2018 and welcome the new year 2019, it is my hope and prayer that I could continue to visit homes and families and extend our ministry to those family members who are not part of St. John's. It also my plan to bring the bible study to various homes of members to encourage wider participation to give greater emphasis that God's Word is sanctifying, guiding us into God's will and righteousness. Lastly, we envisioned to develop a prayer group that will spend quality time in prayer to discern how the Lord will use each one of us in the different ministries of St. John's to make a difference in our surrounding community.

It is my prayer that we may have a Blessed New Year!

Blessings,

Hector F. Guzman



Friends at St. John's,

For two short years I have had the opportunity to serve as council president here at St. John's. We council members have seen many changes in the past two years. Some changes have involved a lot of hours of work with gratifying results such as St John's placement on the National Historic Register. The writing and adoption of the new Constitution and By-laws was accomplished with a lot of input from Rev. Adam, Patty Staley, and members of the council, plus input and suggestions from members of the congregation. I thank you all for your diligence and attention to detail.

Council made the shift from Parking Ministry & the Boy Scouts managing our lots for Dragons' parking to contracting with ABM to manage our lots for that endeavor. May the future hold additional benefits that St. John's may reap with the expansion of growth in our neighborhood.

Personnel-wise, we were lucky to have hired the talented Rev. Jeffrey Campbell as our Minister of Music. A few months ago, we hired the affable Rev. Hector Guzman as our Director of Family Life Minister. We have been blessed.

Aside from the "business" side of things, St. John's members know how to have a good time. Some new items added to our "traditions" now include: playgrounds, blessing of the animals, and celebrating special decade-marking birthdays with a photo booth!

It has been a pleasure being a part of the process.

I wish Doug Goudy and the St. John's council of 2019 smooth sailing!

Yours in Christ,

Judy Humphrys





Jan., 2019 – Tower Times – VP Report

**Sun., Jan. 20 - Installation of Officers & Committee Members.**

Thank You for your service to St. John's!! We also want to thank our out-going Council & Committee members, their Spouses/Partners & our Staff.

**Care 4 Caregivers:**

Sat., Jan. 26 – More info to follow.

**Think TV / WDPR – Public Radio / WYSO – Public Radio**

April 9-13, 2019 - Think TV Auction – Leader Board “B”

Thurs., Jan. 31 – Deadline, if we wish to participate.

We'll pool our personal donations. NOT donations to St. John's.

\$600 will buy us the Monday Night Leader Board, as in the past.

Bad Weather Warning Notification – please make sure you check channels 7 and/or 2 before coming to church when there is inclement weather around!

Dayton Foundation – Scholarship Connect for 2019-2020 School Year

\$15 million in scholarships - nearly 12,500 Dayton-area students in last 10 years

Applications can now be submitted to the Dayton Foundation.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris van Breukelen, VP



## **ST JOHN'S - OFFICERS/COMMITTEE MEMBERS – 2019**

**OFFICERS: President - Doug Goudy**

**Vice President: - Chris van Breukelen**

**Secretary: - Ballard Yates**

**Treasurer: - Isaiah Ashba**

### **Budget & Finance:**

**Chair – Patty Staley**

**Norm Neubauer 2020**

**Ron Duckson 2019**

**Deborah Watts 2020**

**Nick Schumacher 2019**

**Support: Susan Kolze**

### **Building & Property:**

**Chair – Bill Smith; Ed Humphrys-Vice Chair**

**Tim White 2020**

**Brian Dunkle 2020**

**Marlene Miller 2019**

**Wilfred van Breukelen 2019**

**Support: Brian Thompson**

**\*Steve Boggs – Ex-Officio**

### **Worship:**

**Chair - Pat Kern**

**Dottie Norton 2020**

**Anita Hedeker 2020**

**Diane Peters 2019**

**Gary Barlow 2019**

**Support: MariaGuzman/KimKindred**

**\*Rev. Jeff Campbell – Ex-Officio**

### **Christian Nurture:**

**Chair – Karen Clark**

**Pat Goudy 2020**

**Shirley Keller 2020**

**Jill Johnson 2019**

**Ann Morrissey 2019**

**Support: Judy Humphrys**

**\*Rev. Guzman – Ex-Officio**

**\*The Lead Pastor & Council President are Ex-Officio Members of Every Committee**

**\*\*Dates show term is completed at end of year.**

**Thank You for Your Service to St. John's! Install. of Off/Comm Members: Sun., Jan. 20, 2019**

**Also honor Out-Going Council/Committee Members, Spouses/Partners & Staff!**

In November it was my honor to be re-elected to the least visible position in our church's formal structure of church officers, committee chairs and committee members, that of council secretary. As such I don't conduct church services or deliver sermons, interpret scripture, direct choir or play the organ, budget for fundraising of the church expenses, help with church maintenance, plan worship services, or organize Christian Nurture opportunities. So what is it I do? I endeavor to keep and retain brief summaries of others' efforts. As council secretary I record summaries of the business conducted at our church council meetings, congregational meetings, when called, and consolidate the reports of various committees which become a portion of our church minutes.

At we transition from our current committee structure to that of more specialized teams, my goal is to facilitate any required changes in this record keeping in order that we meet our constitutional and legal requirements.

As we journey together into 2019 I wish all of you a most blessed and Happy New Year!

Ballard Yates  
Council Secretary





## **Budget & Finance Committee – Report to Council**

The Budget & Finance Committee met Sunday December 9, 2018, these are not formal minutes of the Meeting but submitted solely as our report to Council. Present at the meeting were: Doug Goudy-Vice Chair, Nicholas Schumacher, Secretary, Jeff Gerrior-Treasurer, Ron Duckson, Reverend Wirrig and Guests Norm Neubauer and Susan Kolze. Absent: Debbie Watts. Isaiah Ashba was invited but also not able to attend.

The meeting was called to order by Patty Staley at 9:19 a.m.

Minutes were distributed by Nicholas Schumacher from the October meeting and after review the Minutes from the October meeting were approved. Minutes from the November meeting will be presented with the December Meeting Minutes at the January meeting.

Jeff Gerrior reviewed the Treasurer's Report for the month of November 2018. Giving was up for the month of November versus last year \$1,429 and up year-to-date over last year by \$7,916. The checking balance is at \$22,059.22 (Endowment was made available to cover the remaining year end expenses but the entire amount is not expected to be needed). We will continue operating on a very tight budget and watching it closely but we are looking a finishing the year under the budgeted deficit amount if things continue as they are. The Year-to-Date is (\$44,090) well under the Budget of (\$65,096) – we are hoping it stays that way. A couple of minor adjustments were noted as addition errors under the Envelope Contributions and corrected figures were given to the committee. Expenses were all administrative and very little committee expense was reported. We did receive payments for the ESOL space which aided in the income for the month in addition to the regular giving. Office Supplies was up as a result of the need to purchase a new computer system due to the crash of the older system. This expense was under \$500.00. Parking Ministry Missions Paid totaled \$565.00 to Lorenz and will be last payment out of that account as parking was moved into the general fund. An account will be set up for future expenditures related to parking as the need arises.

Patty presented a review of the items that Committee has worked on, the status of each and what the focuses will be for 2019. Parking was presented by Reverend Wirrig who stated that we will be continuing to work with ABM for Dragons and Special Events parking but we will possibly supplement some events parking with congregation members in an effort to cover times that ABM does not anticipate being able to provide coverage (Celtic Festival, etc.). We are also looking at leases with some of the local businesses and hope to have that finalized very soon as well as other parking ideas.

The Budget and Constitution proposals were approved by the Congregation, Stewardship was a success as giving is up, the Choir has grown and talents as being used and the various community projects the Church is involved in. Hopefully Stewardship will continue to grow and evolve to be a working tool for Budget and Finance. The Director of Family Life Ministries position was filled and it was decided that the Administrative Assistant Position would remain unfilled until such time as the need it present to fill the position. Financial Controls – after Isaiah is comfortable with taking over the Treasurer position, Patty will meet with everyone involved in the finances to review roles, practices and policies to make sure we are meeting requirements and controls are being maintained. Patty, Isaiah, Susan and Reverend Wirrig will review the computer system as it is and determine what back-up systems need to be in place, if any other updates of hardware and/or software needs exists, if the current accounting system is the most efficient or if there is something better that will meet the needs of the Church. Patty is meeting with bank representatives on Monday to move forward with the online Credit Card option as well as getting the Kiosk in place for taking credit card donations in the Church for those that prefer not to carry cash or to just be able to use a credit card for making contributions and for missions giving without having to take an envelope and remember to bring it back. Reverend Wirrig obtained a number of grants this year and the committee was off to a great start on researching grants and fundraising.

For 2019, the focus of the committee will be more on the grants and fundraising. Patty will try to meet with anyone interested and/or with fundraising ideas sometime in January – hopefully was can find people who would be interested in being on an ad hoc committee that could roll into the new Fundraising Team Structure as the new Constitution phases into place. The fundraising team will work with the Budget & Finance Team but will be responsible for Stewardship and Fundraising. We will need to form a single purpose entity solely for fundraising to keep funds tax free under our 501(c)(3). Patty will have the IRS Form 1023 to Reverend Wirrig hopefully next week for review so it can be filed allowing. This is filed with the IRS and gets us the actual determination letter and electronic listing as an official 501(c)(3). We are grandfathered in under the Church categorization but most foundations, etc. want the official determination letter and/or for you to be on the electronic “approved” listing to apply for grants and funds.

Grants and other fundraising efforts will be focused on obtaining and/or providing funds for: the painting of the outside of the Church which was approved by the Congregation to come from the endowment with the understanding that funds will be raised to replace the funds used for this project. Further efforts will also focus on chair lift, elevator and/or partial or full ADA compliance as funds are available.

On the whole, the Committee accomplished a lot over the last year but we still have a lot of more ground to cover.

We say goodbye to Doug Goudy who will be leaving the Committee to assume the role of Council Chair. Jeff Gerrior is retiring as Treasurer. We welcome Norm Neubauer who is replacing Doug and Isaiah Ashba who replaces Jeff as Treasurer. Susan Kolze joins the committee in a support role with her background focus in IT (information technology/computers).

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:58 a.m.

The next meeting of the Budget & Finance Committee meeting is set for January 6, 2019 at 9:15 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Patty Staley, Chair

Budget & Finance Committee



## JANUARY TOWER TIMES

### WORSHIP

Welcome to the New Year 2019! Sunday Jan. 6 marks the beginning of the season of **Epiphany** for the church and continues to Ash Wednesday. Epiphany commemorates the visit of the Three Kings (wise men, Magi) and their recognition (the first) of the divine nature of the child in the manger. Rev. Jeff is leading our worship that morning. The next Sunday, Rev. Hector will be preaching for the Baptism of our Lord as Rev. Adam will be attending the UCC's NGLI leadership workshop in Phoenix, AZ from the 3rd –9th of January. Plan to worship with us!

Many have expressed appreciation to our choir for their music. We're grateful for new members who recently joined. We continue to receive strong support from our **Stivers** students, Logan and Jaelynn. Both are doing more and more solo work lately. We're going into our fourth year supported by Stivers students. Thank you! Most of you know this program is not a budgeted item and depends on individual contributions, Sonka has also supported us. Each student receives a small remuneration for sharing their time and talent with us. Those of you who have a special interest in our music program and would like to help fund the program, can pick up an envelope on the desk in the narthex. Your support is greatly appreciated. Thank you to Doug & Pat Goudy, Marilyn Schwinn, Pat Kern for recent contributions.

Pat Kern

**GOOD GRIEF** meets the third Saturday, Jan. 19 at 4:30 location to be determined.

Pat Kern

*Worship Team*

Friends,

For the past six years I have been pleased, honored, dismayed, aggravated, and happy to chair the Building and Property Committee here at St. John's. Managing the care of such a large old structure with a relatively small budget and a small committee is not always an easy feat. In my tenure we've endured several roof leaks, window leaks, plumbing disasters, electrical problems, major repairs to the tower roofs, the organ, the heating system, dealt with mice, false building alarms, one real alarm, and babied our occasionally cranky 19th century clock. In other words, just routine stuff. We've also in that time updated the Education Building with more efficient lighting, installed the full color digital sign on Third St., improved the copy and print capability in the office, updated the sanctuary sound system, and installed the new video monitors along with many other smaller projects. In other words, just keeping us up to date and moving forward.

None of this was my doing. It was the great folks on my committee over those years: Dick Goudy, Butch Martin, Marlene Miller, Tim White, Brian Dunkle, Brian Thompson, Wilfred van Breukelen, and Steve Boggs. It was the many others— too many to name— who pitched in to help with special projects. On more than one occasion it was Jill Johnson and her truck. In every occasion it was all of St. John's lending a hand working to keep the church clean, tidy, warm, secure, ready and welcoming to all comers and in all situations.

I would be remiss if I failed to mention the special financial support that St. John's has always stepped up to when the need arose. When I went before you to ask for money to repair the tower roofs in danger of a major leak, we raised the funds. Again when we needed critical repairs to the organ and its support structure, the money was donated without the need to borrow. St. John's building is a challenge to maintain as any old building can be. St. John's Church is a joy to support because of all of you and your caring.

I am stepping down as of January 2019 as committee chair, though I remain to work with the committee. I only ask one thing: that everyone support and help the new chair, Bill Smith, as you have me. If you haven't yet worked with Bill, I trust you'll find him as I have: easy-going, thoughtful, smart, and able. The committee, and more importantly, our church is in good hands.

Yours in Christ,

—Ed Humphrys, Building and Property, but no longer, Chair



## Christian Nurture

I wish my St. John's Family, and friends a Happy and Blessed 2019. As I exit as Chairperson of the Christian Nurture Committee, I personally thank the following members for their support, and guidance during my tenure as Chairperson. Karen Clark, Pat Goudy, Jill Johnson, Ann Morrissey, as well as Anita Hedeker who was a member during my 8-month absence.

Karen Clark will be the new chairperson of Christian Nurture. Thank you Karen for agreeing to chair this committee. The Christian Nurture Committee members also welcome Shirley Keller who will be a new member on the committee.

The Christian Nurture Committee is more than Missions. The following are projects, and events that the Christian Nurture Committee has been involved with, or has conducted. The Committee has been involved with, assisting with breakfast during Pride Weekend, Easter Breakfast, Mother's and Father's Day Gifts, Sock Drive, Under Wear Drive, The Agape Tree. The Christian Nurture Committee has also conducted a very successful Toilet Paper Drive this past summer with the donations going to The Good Neighbor that is located on First Street in Dayton, Ohio. In 2015, St. John's hosted an overnight stay for 2 UCC Youth Groups when they were traveling to Appalachia to rehab homes for low-income people. The Christian Nurture Committee along with members of the congregation donated food for dinner, as well as for breakfast for the young people and their sponsors during their stay at St. John's. The Christian Nurture Committee sponsored an outing at King's Island this past September for the teenagers at St. John's UCC. The Christian Nurture Committee sponsored afterglow that followed this year's Christmas Eve Service. (Special thanks go out to Ann and Tony Morrissey, as well as Diane Francis Peters, Anita Hedeker, and Pat Kern for their assistance with Afterglow.)

As I reflect back on the projects that have taken place over these past years, I am humbled by the support of not only the members of the Christian Nurture Committee, but the support of the members of St. John's, as well as our community partners, M.J's on Jefferson, and Square One Salon. I thank every member, and friend of St. John's UCC for your support, and I pray that you will continue to support not only The Christian Nurture Committee, but please continue to support every project in our St. John's Family.

Thank You,

Ethel Burns,  
Former Chairperson,  
Christian Nurture Committee







**Did you get to visit with  
St. Nicholas this year???**



# COOKIE PALOOZA

Thanks to all who brought in cookies! With your help we were able to send out over 300 (three hundred!) dozen cookies! WOW!!!! Thanks for helping spread a little love and cheer to our neighbors at this time of the year.



## Inspired Bulletin Boards

I want to applaud Shirley Keller for her ingenious bulletin boards that grace our entryway. They are stunning.

Thank you, Shirley for your creativity! ;)

Judy Humphrys



# *In loving Memory*

**Memorial Contributions Were Made in Memory of:**

**Joanie Strouse** by Susan Staab

**Harold Boedeker** by Doug and Pam Boedeker

## December Birthdays

Rev. Hector Guzman—08

Nolan Carroll—12

Linda Triplett—16

Ruth Stephens—18

Steve Boggs—28

Ron Duckson—28

Mary Fessler—30



## Flowers & Fellowship

### Flowers

01/06: Open

01/13: Open

01/20: Open

01/27: Congregation in honor of Steve Boggs' birthday!

### Fellowship Hours

01/06: Open

01/13: Fellowship Committee


01/20: Carry-In (Council)

01/27: Open

\*\*\* A NEW flower chart is available on the wall outside Rev. Adam's office. Please sign-up as you wish. A new fellowship chart will be coming soon and we thank Anne Pepiot for, yet again, making a new one for us! \*\*\*



# January 2019

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<div>  </div> <div> 30  10:30am Worship Service </div>	31	Jan 1	<div> 8:30am Breakfast Club  5:30pm Martial Arts </div>	<div>Rev Adam @ NGLI</div> 3	<div>11am Staff Meeting</div> 4	5
<div>Rev Adam @ NGLI</div> <div> 9:15am Budget and Finance  10:30am Worship Service  4pm Spirit(s) Bar Church </div>	7	8	9	10	<div>11am Staff Meeting</div> <div>5:30pm Wedding Rehearsal</div> 11	<div>3pm Wedding</div> 12
13	14	15	<div> 8:30am Breakfast Club  5:30pm Martial Arts  6:30pm Church Council </div> 16	17	18	19
<div>10:30am Worship Service</div>					<div>11am Staff Meeting</div>	<div>4:30pm Good Grief</div>
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
<div> 10:30am Installation Sunday  10:30am Worship Service  11:30am Carry-In Dinner </div>			<div> 8:30am Breakfast Club  5:30pm Martial Arts </div>		<div>11am Staff Meeting</div>	<div>11am HTWHTG</div>
27	28	29	30	31	Feb 1	2
<div>10:30am Worship Service</div>			<div> 8:30am Breakfast Club  5:30pm Martial Arts </div>		<div>11am Staff Meeting</div>	