

Tower Times

St. John's United Church of Christ

515 East Third Street

Dayton, OH 45402

November, 2018



Whether you receive this report by e-mail or in-person, you should be receiving it with our Annual Report for 2018! I knew 2018 had been a particularly busy year for we at St. John's, but it didn't really sink in until I saw the size of our Annual Report. Last year, using a larger font, we had about 33 pages of information to report. This year, using a smaller font, we have 50 pages of information in the Annual Report! We've been busy bees indeed! From high-impact and fun mission projects; to numerous opportunities to study and grow; to welcoming both new members and staff; having a confirmation class; to putting together a new constitution; figuring out the best ways to utilize our assets; and prepping for major maintenance, phew, we have been moving and grooving this last year! Well done, St. John's, you made a lot of things happen this last year and your efforts have not gone unnoticed!

Now, I don't know about all of you, but I'm a little tired after all this work! Thus, I'll be taking a little time –before Advent– to skip the country and recharge my batteries. As a part of my contract, I have an annual week of “spiritual development” that is offered to me. For this year, I am heading to Holy Island Lindisfarne, which is off the North East coast of England. Lindisfarne is the site where St.'s Aidan and Cuthbert made their ancient monastery and where much of English Christianity found its nascent development. At this time of the year, Lindisfarne is a place of both immense beauty and terror. The days are cold, grey, windy, and short. The nights are long and even more cold and windy. The sea is both furious and beautiful. All the same, this weather provides an opportunity to not be distracted as I re-charge my batteries. I plan to spend time praying The Hours with the local Episcopal community, walk the pilgrim's paths out to the ancient monk hovels as the tide allows, catch up on a fair amount of writing I've been putting off, and sit in contemplative silence and wait for the Holy Spirit to poke, prod, cajole, and comfort as she will! After my week at Lindisfarne and the surrounding area, I will be using most of my remaining vacation days to schlep around Scotland and catch-up with a few chums.



Even though I'll be away for most of November, that doesn't mean things won't be happening at St. John's! Rev's Jeffrey and Hector have things well in-hand and will be leading and guiding in my absence! Have fun and try to rest as well!



Lofty Words

Rev. Jeffrey Campbell

November has a lot going on! We begin the month on November 4th with our annual Totenfest Service and Dinner. You can expect to sing *“For All the Saints”* and hear the choir sing *“I Sing a Song of the Saints of God.”* In anticipation of our annual meeting on November 11, the choir will sing piece that lists all that we are doing and going to do God’s Church. The choir will remind us to *“Count Your Blessings”* at our Thanksgiving Sunday service, November 18. Other traditional Thanksgiving hymns will be a part of that service, as well. As we celebrate the last Sunday of the Church year on November 25, known as Reign of Christ or Christ the King Sunday, you will hear *“Soon and Very Soon, We Are Going to See the King!”* This will send us directly into Advent!



Jolly Old Saint Nicholas!

I want to invite you to a very special celebration. **Thursday, December 6, is St. Nicholas Day.** We will gather in the Fellowship Hall for dinner and a program. I will share about St. Nicholas, as well as lead some singing and praying. I have a collection of several hundred St. Nicholas items of all sizes and kinds. I will have them on display. AND if you have been very good this year, you MIGHT get a special treat. If not, well, you know, coal. Don’t miss the fun! Invite your family and friends. There will be a sign up soon, for planning purposes.



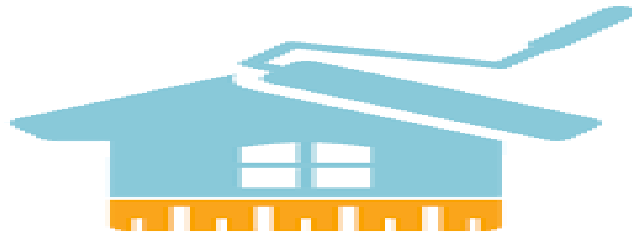
I have an ambitious goal that I need your help with, I would like to see if we could put together a **Children’s Choir for Christmas**. Do you have a child or grandchild or great-grandchild, or a niece or nephew or a neighbor kid that you could bring to some rehearsals and services? I am not sure when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

From Rev. Hector:

I want to take this opportunity to express my joy and thanksgiving to St. John's. I am deeply honored and humbled for accepting me with open arms, and open hearts to take part in the life and ministry of church. And I thank God for this great opportunity to serve together with the people of St. John's. I am also grateful to Pastor Adam, Pastor Jeff, and Steve Boggs for the trust and confidence they gave me to become part of the church staff, the Church Council and the whole congregation for embracing me and my family and being integrated in the faith community.

Perhaps some are wondering what particular ministry I am going to engage at St. John's. With my humble capacity as Director of Family Life Ministries (DFLM) I want to believe that my primary responsibility is to oversee the internal mission of the church and to work closely with the pastors and Christian Nurture Committee. To my understanding, my ministry deals with the equipping of God's people for the work of the ministry and to help them mature and to be fully grown. Thus I am reminded of Pastor Adam's sermon when he exclaimed that each and everyone of us is not called to be perfect in the Lord but rather God expects us to progress. Every follower of Christ deserves the opportunity of personal nurture and development in order to achieve his or her full potential for God. Therefore, I pray that God will continue to use my gifts to help people grow in their Christian faith to advance toward Christian discipleship -- growth in grace and in the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

For now, I am facilitating the bible study every Thursday evening at the church which I wish to hold it to the various homes of members in the coming days. At the same time I do home visitations to have a closer encounter with families. I also exposed myself with other ministries of the church which are facilitated by Lay members to learn and understand how to have a working relationship with them. I look forward then with God's directive to have more engagement to people's lives as they seek to grow more in their Christian faith to enable them participate in the ministry of Christ to the world.



RENOVATION

Heads Up -- Church Basement Cleanup

Because lots of stuff goes into the basement, but little or no stuff goes out, Building and Properties is embarking on a long-overdue basement cleanup project. Since this is a significant effort we are going to do this in stages and for most stuff B&P will decide what goes and what stays. However when it comes to things like decorations, etc. we are going to need some help. Please think about what needs to be saved and let us know when we announce the start of a particular phase such as "Christmas Decorations"

Yours in Christ,
—The Building and Property Committee



Budget & Finance Committee – Report to Council

Budget & Finance Committee – Report to Council

The Budget & Finance Committee met Sunday October 7, 2018. Present at the meeting were: Doug Goudy-Vice Chair, Nick Shumaker, Secretary, Jeff Gerrior-Treasurer, Ron Duckson, Debbie Watts, Reverend Wirrig and Guest Norm Neubauer.

The meeting was called to order by Patty Staley.

Jeff Gerrior reviewed the Treasurer's Report for the month of September 2018. Giving was up for the month of September versus last year \$2,768 and up year-to-date over last year by \$11,189. The checking balance is at \$6,311.91. We will continue 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 should be ok through the end of the year. The Year-to-Date is (\$34,869) well under the Budget of (\$65,096) – we are hoping it stays that way. The Wedding Deposits holding account includes still includes \$1,200 in funds that should be moved now that the weddings have been held. We received a \$500 Grant from SONKA for Children & Youth Programming, thank you Reverend Wirrig for your hard work getting these grants. This Month's mission for City Hearts has received contributions of \$300. We received funds for one prepaid Wedding \$1,300 and the final check for Dragons Parking in the amount of \$2,235.19, and \$678.46 for dividends/interest earned on the Vanguard Wellesley Fund. There were no major expenses this month. All in all it was a very good month.

In Old Business, the Constitution and ByLaws, comments received from the Congregation will be reviewed at Wednesday's Council Meeting, October 10th. The major portion of the Stewardship program is concluded and seems to have been well received. It would be great to get more of a response but better to have what we have than none at all. Financial Controls and the Credit Card Kiosk & Website Online Giving have taken a back seat to getting Stewardship and Budget taken care of but Patty will return her focus to both of those areas between now and the next meeting of the Committee. Budget was approved at Council and will be submitted to the Congregation for the Annual Meeting.

In New Business Parking & Parking Ministry was discussed. It was noted that the overall Parking income is down from what we had anticipated for the year but not all of the phases of parking have been completed but should be in place for the next year very soon. Patty has asked that the Committee Members now return their focus to researching Grants and Fundraising Ideas to support the Chairlift Replacement or Elevator projects and ADA Compliance/Accessibility issues. We also need to look at grants and fundraising for any and all areas that will support the building infrastructure as well as programming.

There was a brief discussion regarding some specific areas of the proposed Constitution, all of which will be discussed at Council.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting of the Budget & Finance Committee meeting is set for November 11, 2018 at 9:15 a.m.

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

This year for our Annual Food Drive for The Good Neighbor House, they have asked if we can focus on donating....

CANNED SOUP AND TOILET PAPER!

Yes, you read it right...**CANNED SOUP AND TOILET PAPER!**

Our summer donation project of over 800 rolls of toilet paper was such a huge success, and a much needed item at the Good Neighbor House. We have been asked for donations of not only toilet paper, but canned soup as well for the upcoming Holiday Season. Our St. John's partners at Square One Salon and Spa, along with MJ's on Jefferson will also be participating in this event. We are very happy to have both of these businesses participate in our Annual November Food Drive.

Please have these items at St. John's on, or before Sunday, November 18, 2018. These items will be placed on the steps of the alter during the Sunday, November 18th, Morning Worship Service.

If you have any questions, please contact any member of the Christian Nurture Committee.

Thank you,

Ethel Burns,

Chairperson, Christian Nurture Committee





On November 25, 2018 The Christian Nurture Committee will place 40 Gift Tags on the Agape Christmas Tree that will be located in front of the Chapel.

The Gift Tags will be for the children, and the parents who have been reunited with their children through the Agape Foster Care Organization of the Miami Valley.

At this time, the return date of the gifts has not been decided. Ann Morrissey of the Christian Nurture Committee will inform everyone when the return date has been decided by the Agape Organization.

In the past, our St. John's Family has made this an annual tradition, and we hope this year that our tradition will continue.

Thank you,

Ethel Burns, Chairperson
Christian Nurture Committee



WORSHIP

Please make note of our Totenfest service Sunday Nov. 4 when we remember those of our fellowship who entered eternal life during the past year. White roses on the altar will be presented to families of those individuals following the service. Totenfest is the German name for what is also known as All Souls Day or All Saints Day. The actual calendar day observance is Nov. 1.

Our Praygrounds was dedicated Oct. 7 and is ready for children to join and be a part of the congregation as we worship together on Sunday mornings. We enjoyed the participation of the Liederkrantz Choir Oct. 14 and the German meal following. Oct. 21 Jeff and Adam blessed several pets = 6 dogs and 2 cats. We held it in fellowship hall. The weather was a bit chilly for the parking lot. Pet owners and the rest of us enjoyed the fun and fellowship provided by our furry friends. Oct. 28 we celebrate the 501 anniversary of the Protestant Reformation.

. Worship's October meeting was canceled because of illness of both pastors. We have re-scheduled for Wednesday, Nov. 7 at 6:30. Discussion and planning for Advent services/activities and the Christmas season here at St. John's is at the top of our list. Information will be forth coming following the meeting.

Pat Kern



GOOD GRIEF

Join us Saturday Nov. 17 at Elsa's Mexican Restaurant, Far Hills Avenue (across from Bethany Lutheran Village). We meet at 4:30. All are welcome.

Pat Kern



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.



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Jim Francis



November Birthdays

16th—Pat Goudy

16th—Phyllis Thomas

27th—Dane Harker



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

11/4—Pat Kern

11/11—Betty Lou and Butch Martin

11/18— Bill Smith and Susan Kolze

11/25— Cheryl Zwick

Fellowship Hour

11/4—The Wirrig Family

11/11—No Fellowship

11/18—Bill Smith and Susan Kolze

11/25—WOSJ

with *Sympathy*

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. We also extend our sympathies on the passing of their nephew.

In Loving Memory

Memorial Contributions were made in memory of

Edie Jenkins by Brian and Sharon Dunkle

Rose Gerwick by James and Sylvia Sagraves, Stephen and Margie Fassnacht, and Ron and Nancy Duckson

Mary Sakal by Norman and Linda Beal, Marti Sakal, Douglas and Janet Boyd, Patsy Goin, Betty Murray, and Angelo and Nancy Pietrantonio.

November 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28	29	30	31	Nov 1	2	3
Reformation Sunday ● 10:30am Worship Service	● 6:30pm Relaxation Meditati		● 8:30am Breakfast Club ● 5:30pm Martial Arts	● 7pm Bible Study	● 6pm Martial Arts	DAYLIGHT SAVINGS ENDS ● 9am Martial Arts
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Totenfest ● 10:30am Worship Service ● 4pm Spirit(s) Bar Church	● 6:30pm Relaxation Meditati		● 8:30am Breakfast Club ● 5:30pm Martial Arts ● 6:30pm Worship Committee	● 7pm Bible Study		
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Annual Meeting ● 10:30am Worship Service	● 6:30pm Relaxation Meditati		● 8:30am Breakfast Club ● 5:30pm Martial Arts ● 6:30pm Church Council	● 7pm Bible Study		● 4:30pm Good Grief
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Food Drive In-Gathering ● 10:30am Worship Service	● 6:30pm Relaxation Meditati		● 8:30am Breakfast Club ● 5:30pm Martial Arts			
25	26	27	28	29	30	Dec 1
● 10:30am Worship Service			● 8:30am Breakfast Club ● 5:30pm Martial Arts			





Annual Congregational Business Meeting

November 11th, 2018

Directly following morning worship.

Please plan to be present!