

Tower Times

A Newsletter of St. John's United Church of Christ

515 E. 3rd St. Dayton, OH 45402

February, 2021



Dear Friends,

My oh my, does it feel a bit strange working on this issue of Tower Times! Last year, when the pandemic began to hit, we at St. John's, like so many other places, went to something of an "emergency operations" status. In-person worship ended. Team meetings became virtual. Our monthly newsletters changed to monthly pastoral updates as we did our best to figure out what was happening each month, week, day! In the interim, we have all learned about PPP, facemasks, social distancing, digital ministry, Zoom, and a host of other things we all never saw coming! Truthfully, I think it's safe to say that this last year at St. John's has been one constant and consistent blur. Some of that blur has brought some great and wonderful new realities to us. Some other parts of that blur have been incredibly challenging for us. All the same, here we are, at the start of 2021, so similar to who we've been and yet so new and different as well.

So, what comes next?

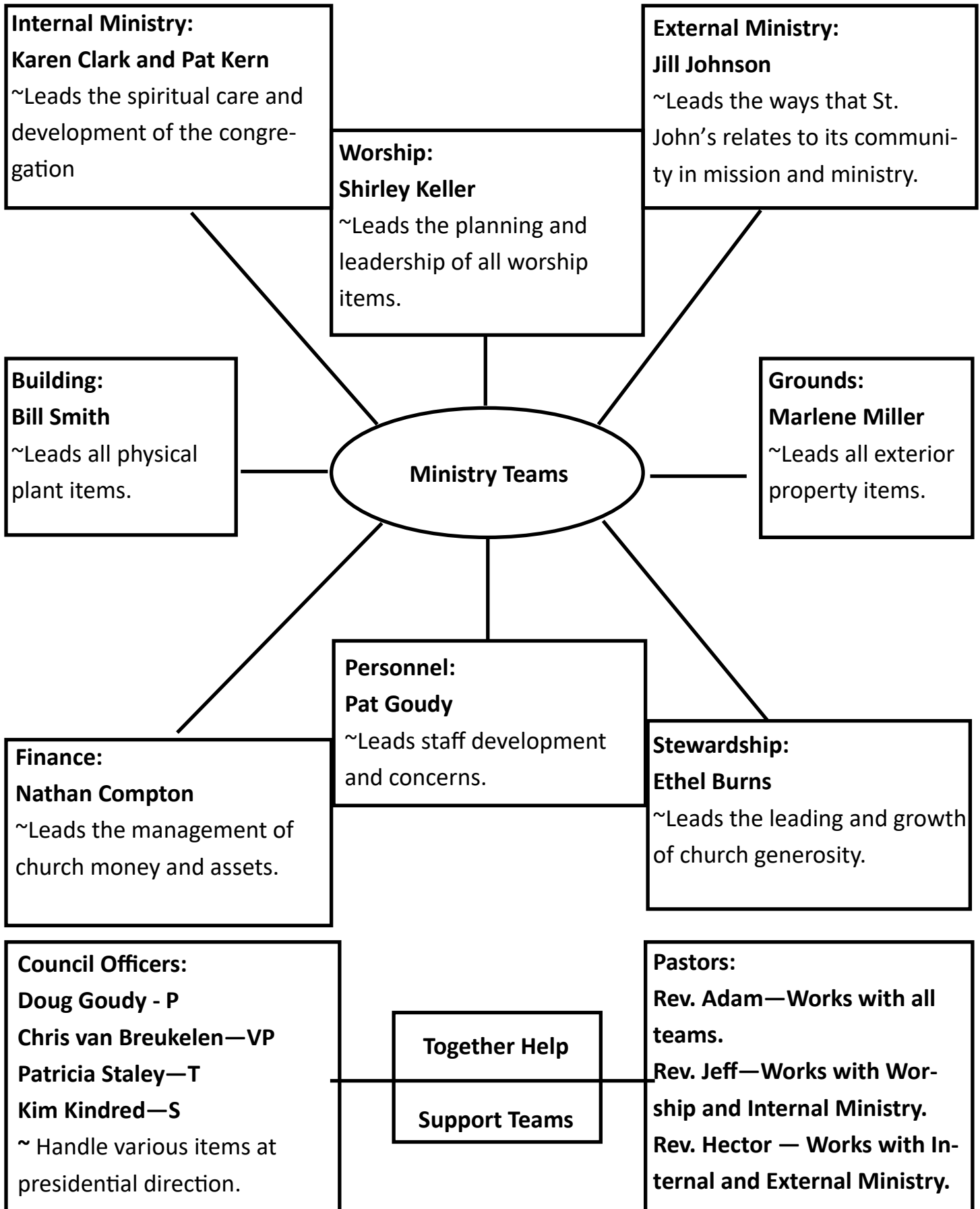
Anymore, your guess is as good as mine! I think most of us have given up trying to understand what will or won't be coming 'round the bend. Lord knows every time I think we've seen it all, something new and crazy comes shooting down the pipe! All the same, we at St. John's are doing what we can to return to some level of a new normal and the re-starting of our monthly newsletter is a part of that. Some parts of this newsletter will seem a little new to you who are veteran readers, but, nothing is like it used to be and that definitely includes our work, worship, and people at St. John's. Still, I hope that, by reading through this update, you can be reassured that we are building on the stable foundation of Christ, resting in the power of God Almighty, and leaning into the leading of God's Holy Spirit!

I hope you enjoy catching up and can't wait for the day when this struggle is complete!

My Best,

Rev. Adam

As A Reminder: Who Does What Around Here ?!?!



Lofty Words

By Rev. Jeffrey Campbell, Minister of Worship

I am so hopeful and eager for the day we can all worship together again. No masks, no separation. Singing at the top of our lungs! Praying together aloud and silently.

Celebrating Holy Communion. Having some coffee and goodies and a few laughs!

But for now, we are responsible and respectful as we continue weekly worship in a most unusual way! Lent will be different (using an Adam-ism) and so will Holy Week and Easter.

How thankful we should be for the internet and the ability to stream our worship into homes all over the world! How thankful I am for Rev. Adam, Rev. Hector, and Patty Staley for ensuring that this **essential and vital part of our faith life** continues each week.

I am happy we have added a **prayer time** with names and intentions to our service. As always, email me (jeffcampbe@aol.com) if you have prayer requests. Indicate how long you would like your request to remain in the list (i.e. one week, one month?).

On **Ash Wednesday**, February 17, we will stream our service at noon and repeat it at 7:00 pm. Although Ashes are not an option, prayers and hearing the word, and sharing some music are definitely happening.

During Lent, watch for weekly devotions each Wednesday. As your mid-week Lenten pastor, I will be sharing and praying with you. COVID will not take away our observance of Lent and Easter!

As always, don't forget to send your **offerings** and special gifts. I pray for you all each day. Please remember your church staff and fellow members **in your own prayers**.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all!



Lent 2021

St. John's UCC

February 17 – Ash Wednesday Service Streamed Noon and 7pm

Led by Rev. Adam and vocalists

Series presented by Rev. Jeffrey

“LENT – A TIME FOR GROWING OUR FAITH”

Streamed Each Wednesday in Lent – Time TBA

February 24 – Prayer

March 3 – Worship

March 10 – Scripture

March 17 – Service

March 24 - Stewardship



TOWER TIMES – FEBRUARY, 2021

ADD CHEER TO YOUR DAY:

I've had the pleasure of sharing the Church Service with several families that do not have internet. We begin at 10:00. We call it a "sound check". Really, it's Fellowship Time BEFORE the service. It's an opportunity to share time together. At 10:25, we re-connect & get ready for the service to begin. It's very simple. We have also done 3-way calls. We make the initial call, then "gather around the speaker." Those without internet are included in the service. I get my morning smile. Rev. Adam said in his morning message, "Call someone, you've not spoken with for a while." You may make their day! We spoke on the phone, long before we had computers & text messages.

COVID – VACCINATION:

Info via: Dayton & Mont County Public Health

<https://www.phdmc.org/coronavirus-updates/439-covid-19-vaccination-information>

To schedule an appointment:

Have your calendar available – appointments slots go quickly.

Health Provider Info (ex: My Chart) log in info (user name & password) available.

On vaccination day:

Bring ID (ex: Driver's License) Insurance card (updated for 2021, if appropriate.)

Minimize activities for several days afterwards. Stay "low key." This is not professional medical advice. Strictly observations.

LIFT CHAIR – A Member of the Congregation is in need of one. If you have one available &/or wish to sell it, please contact Chris van Breukelen

SCHOLARSHIP CONNECT – DAYTON FOUNDATION

The Dayton Foundation awards THOUSANDS of DOLLARS to deserving scholars. Applications are now available. FRIDAY – MARCH 5 – 4:00 PM – Deadline to apply. Multiple requirements are included in the application. Good not to delay starting the process.

[The Dayton Foundation: ScholarshipCONNECT](https://www.DaytonFoundation.org/scholars/HTML)

<https://www.DaytonFoundation.org/scholars/HTML>

With best regards, Chris van Breukelen

External Ministries – Feb 2021



PARTNERSHIPS – THEY'RE THE KEY

Reflecting back over the past two years, the discussions the External Ministries Team had with folks within St John's concerning local ministry within our neighborhood, we said, "What can we do? We are small in number, high in "age"! We all agreed with that...present company included!!! We took the discussion further and talked about "partnerships".

We asked the question differently, "What can we do when connecting and working with others?" What would that look like? Who would we work with and why? What do we hope to accomplish? Then we started building our relationships with strong, local non-profits making a difference in downtown Dayton. We were pleasantly surprised that Executive Directors and leaders were excited to "partner" with other downtown organizations, like ours. They survive and thrive through these partnerships. So over the last two years or more, you have seen St John's grow in commitment through donations, drives and volunteer time with organizations like CityHeart, Good Neighbor House and the long-standing commitment with StVDP Gateway Women's Shelter's luncheon program. These "partnerships" are growing stronger and providing significant results that are benefiting our community right outside our doors! Take a look!



Last year during the COVID pandemic, CityHeart made a significant \$1500+ contribution in helping our Montgomery county neighbors who were/are struggling financially as a result of loss of income from COVID crisis and/or crisis that life can bring our way. CityHeart helps with EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE, keeping utilities from being turned off and individuals and families from being evicted.

CityHeart worked diligently and remained open throughout the events in 2020. They worked remotely at times and, when in the office, protected the clients and staff during open hours all while meeting the needs of many. They held their first ever virtual fundraiser in Nov 2020. It was a success!

They are a valuable non-profit organization to our community. They help fill a gap that still exists between our neighbors' needs and the government funded programs that are larger but have more funding restrictions. CityHeart remains flexible, accessible, providing timely support.

Through our partnership, our donations of volunteer time and funds, we share in these results. Thank you St John's for supporting CityHeart through their 2020 fundraisers and general financial support plus volunteering your time throughout the year. They are grateful for partners like St John's who, together, share in being the Heart in Downtown Dayton.



St John's has always prioritized the call to feed the hungry. It is one of the directives Jesus gave to his followers. One of the major ways we help in providing food to our neighbors in need is support of our local food pantry located at Good Neighbor House, only two blocks away from St John's. Last year we organized a soup drive, Thanksgiving Meal drive, Soap Drive and general food collection throughout the year.

Once again, in 2021, St John's plans to support Good Neighbor House Pantry with various food/need drives. The External Ministry Team will check in with the Good Neighbor House Staff on their food needs and will let the congregation know how best to support the pantry.

Thank you, St John's for your prayers and support. Like CityHeart, Good Neighbor House considers St John's a local partner to this ministry. A big thank you to St John's members who volunteer at Good Neighbor House. While providing a helping hand, God has given us opportunities to pray for the staff and for the ministry. What a spiritual blessing! Please continue to pray for all of our ministry programs, that God would lead us and open doors for us to be about his eternal mission.



The call for social distancing caused by the COVID pandemic made it impossible for St John's to physically be on site at the Women's Gateway Shelter to serve lunch every other month as we have traditionally done. Through your care and commitment to this ministry, we gave financial donations throughout 2020 in support of their lunch program. Until we are through this pandemic, St John's will continue to call for donations in 2021 to assist in providing hot, nutritious meals to the homeless. With generous hearts, others

do not need to go hungry.

Look for announcements on how best to support this vital ministry. Thank you for your caring hearts and generosity.



St John's received a grant to build a "Little Free Pantry"!!! It will be a small, weather proof, outdoor cabinet/pantry, located outside the church building. It will house canned goods and other non-perishable food items and will be accessible to the community. This is an exciting new local ministry, another way to help neighbors meet hunger needs.

The pantry construction is underway! Being stuck at home has its benefits...projects get started!!! We are at the halfway point on construction. Once the ground unthaws we can mount our little pantry and put it into action. So look for updates on this ministry! I encourage you to click on this link and check out the website on "Free Little Pantry". <https://www.littlefreepantry.org/>



In 2020, The External Ministry Team connected with EAST END COMMUNITY SERVICES to see how we can help children in East Dayton grow out of poverty. All of East End Community Services programs are focused to break the cycle of multi-generational poverty in East Dayton.

External Ministries and Grounds Committee at St John's are discussing how a garden at St John's might benefit the community. One way might be to provide some of the produce from a St John's Garden in support of their FOOD ACCESS RESILIENCY ENTERPRISE (FARE) program. Food Access Resiliency Enterprise (FARE) began in 2017 with support from Montgomery County and the United Way to improve food security in inner East Dayton. The goal is to increase affordability, quality, and nutritional value of food available to East Dayton families, and to enhance residents' knowledge of how to grow and prepare healthy foods. They currently have 20 established gardens with plans to increase that number in 2021. This partnership between St John's and East End Community Services is still in its infancy but looks like such a partnership through their FARE program would be beneficial to both organizations and our community. For more information on the FARE program go to <https://www.east-end.org/fare>.

This fledgling program is an exciting venture, two committees working together within St John's connecting to a neighborhood organization all to help end multi-generational poverty! Look for more on this exciting possibility.

St John's also partners with our Denomination's larger missions that are national and international. Our contributions help reach others in other states and other countries. The five mission areas are:



St John's will continue to support these valuable missions in 2021.



Helping others – Pointing others to God

There are times when St John's has an opportunity to help individuals in our neighborhood. Some of you might remember Vicky and Doug. They have attended St John's over the years. The External Ministry Team keeps in touch with them, checking on them from time to time. Doug was very sick in Jan 2020 and had to go to the emergency room. Who did they call for help? St John's!!! We got him to the hospital where he received the much needed attention, medicine, and care. One of the big benefits came from getting a social worker to assist him to start the process of getting disability pension through Social Security (SSD). The paperwork has been submitted. This may keep him off the streets for the rest of his life!!! What a blessing! Vicky just received notification that she, too, was approved for SSD pension. This greatly stabilizes their financial future. St John's has been a grounding presence in their lives. Know that St John's is making a difference in the lives of our neighbors! Remember the winter coat St John's gave to Doug one Christmas? He still has it! He loves it. By the way, Doug's birthday is Feb 5!

Thank you, St. John's, for your generous hearts and helping hands!!! Jesus tells us He is the vine and we are the branches. Relying on Him and working together, we make a difference and change the world.

“I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.” John 15:5

Prayers of Intercession and Thanksgiving

The St. John's Prayer Chain is here to lift to God your troubling concerns as well as rejoice in your blessings. Contact Dottie Norton (937 298-4876) with your requests, or Rev. Adam (937-532-9322) if Dottie is unavailable. The information you provide will remain confidential and can be as brief or in-depth as you choose. Dottie will then pass your requests or rejoicings onward to the prayer chain members. Members on our Prayer Chain are Ethel Burns, Karen Clark, Pat Goudy, Jill Johnson, Pat Kern, Ann Morrissey, Janet Neubauer, Dottie Norton, Anne Pepiot. If you'd like to join the chain, please let Dottie Norton know!



WORSHIP TEAM

Yes to Little Things

We tend to think that saying yes to God's call on our lives involves the big issues-the dramatic "Here I am Lord! Send me" events. But being available to be used by God can often be seen best in our willingness to do the small things-the little yesses that may seem unimportant at the moment but make a big difference. Helping others but, more importantly, changing us.

Saying yes to inconvenience so someone else might be blessed.

Saying yes to a backseat role though we're fully qualified to drive.

Saying yes to doing the unseen, the unnoticed and the underappreciated.

Saying yes to overlooking faults and inconsiderate slights.

Saying yes to patient listening though there's much to do and more to say.

Saying yes to chores others should rightfully do.

Saying yes when we'd rather say no.

What will YOU say yes to in 2021?

Finance Updates:

2020 was a tricky year, financially, but that doesn't mean it was completely bad! While our tithes and offerings were off almost \$22,000 from budget, we were only down \$10,000 from the previous year. We did take in DOUBLE what was expected in Cornerstone Repayment funds and that has allowed us to take a considerable chunk out of that debt. Finally, we had 4 new consistent givers last year and 30 giving units (singles, couples, or families) that increased their donations above what they gave in 2019! This is wonderful news for a people in the midst of economic uncertainty and recession! Moreover, in January of 2021, we have met our budget for tithes and offerings! (Which, is almost unheard of around here!)

All of these items could not have happened without YOUR faithfulness to return to God the blessings that God has provided for you!

Also, starting this coming Sunday, January 31st, you will be able to donate to St. John's directly through the Facebook platform! After a VERY long and thorough process, we were confirmed as by Facebook as a charitable entity. This means that you can now ask folks to donate to St. John's for your birthday, using Facebook; help promote us on big days like "Giving Tuesday" using Facebook; and continue to help us work on building a strong financial foundation that will allow our ministries to flourish!



St. John's Grounds Team

Mark your calendars for two items!

First March 14th is time change! Set your clocks forward one hour!

Second, March 20th, "Grounds Cleanup Day!" 10-Noon at St. John's! We'll work on cleaning up flower beds, garden beds, doing some liter pickup around the church and making sure everything is ready for us to begin doing a little "beautification" work as the weather continues to improve! Come get some fresh air and exercise along with helping St. John's and the Webster Station Neighborhood!

Marlene Miller,
Grounds Team Lead



GROUND
TEAM

St. John's United Church of Christ
Building Team Tower Times Report
January 20, 2021

Building Safety and Health

A major consideration this year has been safety and a healthy environment. Over the past nine months we have experienced in-person services and non-in-person services. The sanctuary was taped off separate people at six-foot intervals and every other row. Every pew was sanitized after a service. The altar areas were sanitized as needed. With non-in-person services the sanctuary was an easy area as conditions changed

Lower Level, Kitchen and Fellowship Hall

The area has been restricted that past year including the restrooms. Thus, we have not seriously cleaned any of those areas this past year. That is not a problem at this moment. It will need attention (and volunteers) once we have a date to open those areas.

ESOL School Level

There summer schedule was altered with fewer students and classes. The fall and winter scheduled moved as originally scheduled. There were several weeks of break within that 2020 schedule. The entire second level was cleaned daily, and all touch services were sanitized daily. Safety and Health practice were followed each day the school was open. The two restrooms were sanitized daily.

All persons entering the building to use the second floor are tested for temperature and masks and social distance required.

The Main Level

The main level was used differently during the year. Chapel was used for Board meetings; a few office staff came in and out on various days. Restrooms and touch surfaces were sanitized daily. Ein the fall, the three rooms involving SONKA were emptied and cleaned. The choir room was changed to 107. The SONKA office is 106. Nursery remained 105 and the conference room was established in 104. Furniture was moved in appropriate offices. Restrooms were sanitized once a week until November.

Starting in November on Main Floor

Starting with November the Main Floor was considered occupied and restrooms and touch surfaces were sanitized daily. The areas occupied were clean daily. More people used the floor as they came and went on business. That number was never large, but we followed poste notices of health and safety rules – masks and social distancing.

Clean and Useable

Throughout this time, we were stressing producing a cleaner and more useable area for members and visitors. Shirley continued to change bulletin boards in the entrance to reflect seasons. Adam continued to place directions and signage in the halls and stairways for improved communication. This is an on-going issue and needs to remain an important goal for all of us. The Main Level is going to be open to more visitors with the addition of SONKA being here and needs to present a positive and professional image.

Building Maintenance

Fortunately, we have not experience new major problems. The more visible problem has been this winter and a problem with the sanctuary boiler. Thank you to Brian Dunkle who worked over serval days to problem-solve and resolve the issue. The process also determined that the boiler is a workhorse and should be in good shape for several more years. Brian repaired and replaced a few items that had served their predetermine starts and time. A couple minor pipes were replace as needed. As with anything mechanical, it will continue regular maintenance but at this point it does not need anything major.

The wall on the stairway going down to Fellowship hall continues to be a mystery and problem. We opened a hole in the wall to determine moisture coming into the wall. That helps dry out the wall but has not located the exact location of the water problem. For the moment no additional damage has presented itself but the problem has not been resolved. It appears that the most reasonable solution is tucking pointing and re-mortaring the outside wall. That would need to wait until spring and warmer weather. That is going to be expensive and we are going to have discussions relating to solutions, timing and revenue.



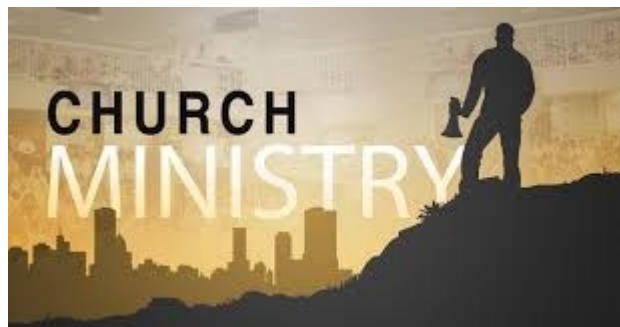
INTERNAL MINISTRIES REPORT

While much of the work within the building has been 'on hold' and we can't meet to share ideas, suggestions or carry out special ministries because of Covid19, Internal Ministries Team is planning another effort at contacting all of our people in the near future. Our Team members, along with others, continue to make individual contacts with our people in addition to our organized efforts. The old stand-by - the telephone has regained its importance during the last several months of quarantine. People are ready to talk to one another and we certainly have the time!. Thanks to all of you who help support our Team's efforts.

Lent begins Wednesday February 17 with services streamed at noon and 7 p.m. led by Rev. Adam and vocalists. Each Wednesday for the following five weeks, Rev. Jeffrey will lead a Lenten series "A Time For Growing Our Faith'. Series also via streaming time to be announced.

We call your attention to the article on the Prayer Chain submitted by leader Dottie Norton elsewhere in Tower Times. Contact Dottie for additional information.

Pat Kern, Karen Clark



Did You Know?

While 2020 may have not allowed us to meet as a church family, like we are accustomed to, that doesn't mean we didn't have a fruitful and growing year with our ministry. Through digital ministry (Sunday Worship, Meditations, Prayer Sessions, etc.) we were able to reach an ever-growing congregation...across the entire United States and in 37 countries around the world!

2020 saw us pick up 62 new "likes" on our Facebook page. If you're not familiar with the Facebook platform, think of these as people who like what we do and want to make sure they are notified and a part of our work as they are able! We also picked up 112 new followers for our page. You might think of followers as akin to the folks who attend church and share life with us on Sundays, but aren't quite sure they want to join in membership just yet. Those aren't perfect analogies, but just for reference! These new fans, again, came from all over; including: Mexico, Brazil, Puerto Rico, Cameroon, The United Kingdom, The Nation of Georgia, and The Philippines!

These viewers were:

9% 25-34

14% 35-44

11% 45-54

13% 55-64

13% 65+



No, you do not need new glasses, you did read those figures correctly: our largest viewing group for St. John's is the 35-44 category! (And our other age groups are really healthy as well!) To quote Harry Carey: Holy Cow Folks!!!!

What does this mean? Digital ministry isn't just something we need to do during the pandemic, it's the future of how we need to do church! Now, how can we all—distant and local—work together to fulfill Christ's Great Commission for this world?!?! Put your thinking caps on, St. John's, because here we grow again!!!

So Where Did Our Programming Reach in 2020????

The United Kingdom, Canada, Germany, Philippines, Nigeria, Costa Rica, France, Mongolia, Vietnam, Sweden, Ireland, Myanmar, Malaysia, Bangladesh, Rwanda, Japan, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Saudi Arabia, Uganda, Georgia, Macedonia, Ghana, Switzerland, The Ivory Coast, China, Mexico, The Cayman Islands, Ethiopia, Cuba, Lebanon, The Czech Republic, Pakistan, Somalia, Jamaica, and South Korea!

We would love to reach 50 different countries in 2021 and YOU can help! Every time you share a St. John's post, worship service, devotional, study, etc., you help spread our message across the internet! It's literally the easiest way of inviting others to come and see who we are and what we're all about! So "like," "share," and "comment" away in 2021 so we can grow more as...

*A Local
Church*



With a GLOBAL faith!

Council Minutes

St. John's United Church of Christ

January 14, 2021

Present: Rev. Dr. Adam Wirrig, Douglas Goudy, Chris van Breukelen, Ethel Burns, Nathan Compton, Shirley Keller, Pat Kern, Kim Kindred, Marlene Miller, Bill Smith

In November, Bill Smith made a motion to proceed with the annual budget and access the reserve funds (50K) as outlined in the annual report. President Doug Goudy seconded.

Due to technical difficulties the church council was unable to meet in December 2020.

January meeting called to order by President Doug Goudy at 6:08 p.m.

Prayer offered by Rev. Adam Wirrig.

November minutes approved with no changes.

Financial & Treasurer's Report

Rev. Adam Wirrig explained that we had a rough year in 2020, however the Statement of Financial Position is not bad. Technically we no longer have the Memorial Endowment. It is invested directly into the Vanguard Wesley or Morgan Stanley account or used in a checking account and helps keep us from drawing from assets. We took money out of RAMM holdings Dec. 31. Spent \$1470 on the boiler repair. We are very fortunate to have Brian Dunkle's help as he put in a lot of his own time to help St. Johns.

The church brought in a significant amount of offering. Some people are catching up on their giving which is very good. Others are giving less possibly due to Covid circumstances, ex: job

loss. However, quite a few of the congregation have increased their giving in 2020. Much appreciated. December was an expensive month due to construction. We paid as much as we could in December 2020, so as not to roll it forward into 2021. A large Cornerstone “catch up” payment was made in December. We had paid a minimal amount each month and then, if we were stable, at the end of the year we would pay the excess of what we brought in. Office Supplies expense was substantial due to the purchase of a new computer. We can charge some items to Sonka. Keep in mind we no longer have to pay the \$2000 per year since they are occupying our building.

All in all not a bad year. We spent \$15,000 on electronic upgrades to help us stream services in 2020. Other than that the budgeted expenses were down for 2020. Utilities were markedly reduced. If we had not had Covid related electronic expenses and the construction, we would have probably been close to breaking even. If we can keep this up for 2021 we could be in a good place. We were slated to take in \$6804 for the Cornerstone construction last year but took in \$12,506. By the end of 2021 we should owe below \$75,000.

Nathan Compton made a motion to approve the financial report. Ethel Burns seconded. Motion passed by vote of the church council.

Old Business

Sonka Move/Carpet Update: Per President Doug Goudy Sonka has moved into the facility and the color of the carpet blends into the color scheme of the church and brightens it up.

New Business

Boiler Repair: President Goudy also mentioned how thankful we are to have Brian Dunkle give generously of his time to keep the heat and air conditioning running for the church. Please thank him when you see him.

Dayton Memorial Cemetery: President Goudy states the Pastor or President of Council are adequately approved by Council vote to donate plots for any congregational member in need. St. Johns would be liable to pay the title transfer fee of \$150 for one or any number donated.

Ministry Teams: President Goudy does not see activity from some teams. Let the council know what kind of cost and assistance the teams need. If we have committed to doing things, he would like to know we are doing them. He added that where we might be currently using Rev. Wirrig as a go to person, please consider sending your concerns to Doug first to take a look. He feels we all would like to utilize Rev. Wirrig more on the spiritual side and not as much on the business side.

Items for the Good of the Order:

President Goudy thanked Vice President Chris Van Breukelen for heading the Goodwill Donation Receipt process.

Nathan Compton asked if we should begin turning in monthly committee reports. President Goudy discussed that we required them early on in 2020 but we backed off when Covid became an issue. He would like the teams to return to submitting monthly reports stating anything you have done. Acknowledge even minimal accomplishments. Kim Kindred asked for an update concerning the previously requested vote on the defibrillator replacement for the church. President Goudy suggested that this be revisited in a future committee meeting.

Committee Reports

Rev. Adam Wirrig and VP Chris Van Breukelen submitted written reports this month.

Calendar:

Next Council Meeting: February 11th, 2021

Adjournment: Shirley Keller made a motion that the meeting be adjourned, seconded by Pat Kern.

Closing: Council meeting was closed at 6:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly Kindred, Council Secretary

WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD???



That's the million dollar question, isn't it? "When are we going to get back to regular worship? When will we have a choir again? When will we have fellowship hour again???" I think it's fair to say that we're all wondering about these items. While I don't have all the answers, I can let you know some of the thoughts that are being floated right now:

When Montgomery County is no longer in a "Level 3" category, we will make plans to return to in-person worship.

When we do return to in-person worship, we will be conducting a grand "re-launch" of St. John's. We are not the same church we were in March 2020; you are not the same people you were in 2020, we need to recognize these things and take some time to "re-introduce" ourselves to one another.

When we re-launch, we may not have some of the same actions or traditions we previously had. As mentioned earlier in this letter, we've grown a considerable online following and we need to figure out ways to incorporate and grow with them as opposed to apart from them.

Some things will be different. Some things will be the same as they were. We will grow and discover new things together as God wills! ~Rev. Adam

February Birthdays

Benito Botteri—08

Nancy Duckson—08

Vivian Giesert—10

Dottie Norton—12

Marlene Miller—26



Want to have an item in an upcoming issue of Tower Times? (Birthday, article, announcement, etc?) Send us an email at office@stjohnsuccdayton.org or call us at 937-224-1747!