

The Visitor

prayer concerns

A monthly Newsletter for St. John's Christian Church
Family and Friends

January 1, 2016 Volume 62, Number 1

Please Pray For:

- Marvin Fish, who had a heart cath done on December 15th at Bryan Hospital and had 2 stents inserted. Marvin's brother, Larry Fish, who lived in The Villages in Florida, passed away on December 16th.
- Rosemarie Schmidt, who is in rehab at Fairlawn, recovering from a broken hip and pelvis.
- Dorothy Miller, who is home recovering from hip replacement surgery.
- Deb Schnitkey, who had surgery December 14th in Columbus, and will be on leave through January 3rd. Please pray for Deb as she recovers.
- Judi & Bill Barnhart, on the death of Judi's mother, Kay Lovett, on November 30th at the age of 97.
- Jordyn Pursel, who will be leaving January 12th for Lausanne, Switzerland, where she will be in a Discipleship Training School for five months.
- Hannah Kern, who will be leaving in January for Thailand where she will be in a Discipleship Training School for two months.
- Tyson Schnitkey, who continues to recover from shoulder surgery.
- Norma Fish, who is recovering from a broken ankle.
- Bea Briggs, who returns to Cleveland every 3 weeks for low dose chemo treatments.
- Jeremy Neuenschwander's cancer continues to shrink as they await further tests.
- Bob and Connie Bostelman, as Bob continues his cancer treatments.
- Please continue to remember all our brothers and sisters in the armed forces, praying for their safety. Serving from our church are:

Kyle Ducey (Navy)

10175 Park Meadows Dr., #5-326
Lone Tree, CO 80124

Cpt. Jared R. Kuntz (Army)

Wife, Maria & children, Silvette & Elias:
Jared Kuntz, HHB 2-1, ADA BN,
Unit 15754 Box 409, APO AP 96260

Martinez, Braden (Army Reserves)

Wife, Brittany & daughters Madison & Claire
404 Murbach St., Archbold, OH 43502

Steven Schink (Coast Guard)

Wife, Ashley & son Brennan
150 Dewey Avenue, Groton, CT 06340

Koltin Zimmerman (Army)

Fort Campbell, Oak Grove, Kentucky

Please consider sending these people cards letting them know that we continue to lift them up to God in prayer, that He will guide, comfort and sustain them through these times.

Home Bound/Care Facility Residents:

Cards, phone calls and visits to our home bound would be a wonderful blessing:

Fairlawn Haven, 407 E. Lutz Rd., Archbold, 43502

Florence Augustine, Room #113

Mary Jo Britt, Fairlawn Haven, Room #206

Valeria Hornish, Room #166A

David Lightner, Room #117

Esther Rice, Room #116

Cathy Spiess, #153

Sadonna Spiess, Special Care Unit Room #405B

Fairlawn Asst. Living, 500 Haven Dr., Archbold, 43502

Lois Heer, Room #238

Jane Short, Room #208

Pauline Short, Room #205

Fulton Manor, 723 S. Shoop Ave., Wauseon, 43567

Robert Kuntz, Room #225-2

Myrl & Pauline Zimmerman, Room #505

Northcrest, 240 Northcrest Dr., Napoleon, 43545

Irene Short, Room #100

congregational news

CONGRATULATIONS to Tyler and Traci Rupp on the birth of their son, Emmitt Jay on December 1st. Emmitt weighed 9 lbs., 1 oz., was 22" long, and has a 1-1/2 year old brother, Silas. His grandparents include Jon and Deb Rupp.



congregational thank you's

A sincere thank you for all who took the time to express your concern and care by sending us cards of sympathy following my mother's passing. We know that she is with the Lord now and that gives us great comfort. The cards you sent were really a blessing to both of us.

Judy and Bill Barnhart

Be sure to pick up the current Discovery Bible Guide in the literature rack and join our congregation in reading and studying God's Word daily.



pastor's letter

Thoughts from Pastor Erich . . .

As the Advent season approaches each year, I often refer to a book that George Gibson wrote in 1945, "The Story of the Christian Year." It provides an historical perspective of the Christian calendar, which begins with the First Sunday of Advent. In the Christian church calendar, January 6th is known as the Day of Epiphany. Gibson writes, "Originally, the Epiphany commemorated the baptism of the Lord Jesus. Later it became associated with the Nativity, with special reference to the visit of the Magi. Epiphany marks the manifestation of the universal Christ to the wise men of the East, who have come to symbolize the whole world; and the day marks the beginning of the missionary season of the Church."

The Bible doesn't give a date as to when the Magi visited Jesus, the only reference we have is found in Matthew 2:16: "When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi." So the Magi's visit occurred sometime within a two year span after the birth of Jesus. The Day of Epiphany reminds us of the Magi's visit with Jesus, calling us to recognize that Jesus came to love the world, as John 3:16 so clearly states.

As the New Year unfolds, I pray that each of us may have an epiphany, a spiritual realization, a breakthrough in our relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ. I pray that such a breakthrough would include an awareness of Christ's call to love our neighbors (Matthew 19:19 & 22:39).

In a world seemingly filled with so much hate and violence, may the light of Christ shine through us wherever we each journey, being a testimony to God's grace, love and forgiveness. When Jesus was arrested, Peter raised a sword and attacked one of the high priest's servants, yet Jesus stopped any further move towards violence.

Again, as I shared in December, know the truth of Romans 12:18: "If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone."

ERICH

preschool corner

Happy New Year! We hope everyone enjoyed time with family and friends over the holidays. The first week of December was all about nursery rhymes and fairy tales in the preschool room! The children really enjoyed this theme, and had fun memorizing the rhymes and revisiting favorite fairy tales such as "The Three Little Pigs", "The Three Billy Goats Gruff" and "Goldilocks and the Three Bears". We bandaged Humpty Dumpty with band-aids, printed 'wool' on Mary's little lamb with corks and white paint, and learned a cool rap, "One, Two, Buckle My Shoe". We spent the rest of the month of December preparing for the celebration of Jesus's birth. The children acted out the story in various ways with the many nativity sets in our room, and our Bible verse was, "God sent His son," Galatians 4:4. They played "Happy Birthday Jesus" bingo, counted ornaments on Christmas trees at the math center, decorated our tree in dramatic play, and made surprises for their parents to open on Christmas morning (or before ☺).

It's hard to believe we are thinking about next fall already, but our currently enrolled families will be registering January 4-15. We will have an Open House for church members following the 10:30AM service on January 10th, and an Open House for the community will be held the following day, on Monday, January 11th at 7PM. We will begin accepting registrations from the community on January 16th. The registration fee is \$35, tuition for the 2-day program is \$60, and for the 3-day program the tuition is \$80.

Labels for Education:

By clipping and saving the UPC's and beverage caps/sauce caps from participating products and placing them in the designated container on the coat rack in the chapel narthex, our preschool staff can redeem them and earn FREE educational merchandise.

To find a list of participating products, go to www.labelsforeducation.com. Thank you for your help!

mission corner

Thank You Notes From Mission Partners & Friends:

- Back Bay Mission, for our gift of \$825.
- Cherry Street Mission, for our gift of \$1,911 and for our gift of 24 lbs. of knitted items.
- Crossroad, for our gift of \$190 and 24 wash cloths.
- Hands of Grace, for our gift of \$500.
- GCM (Kyle Chase), for our gift of \$160; (Matt & MaryLynn Pardi) for our gift of \$30.
- Toledo Gospel Rescue Mission, for our gift of \$100.
- World Team (Franks), for our gift of \$1,000.



I know it's been awhile since I last updated you. I hope all is well, especially as we are in this Advent/Christmas season. Everything at school is going great. Some of the major events in the past couple months were the Thanksgiving and culture day and the Christmas production. The Thanksgiving and culture day is what my school celebrates the Friday after Thanksgiving. In the morning we had a chapel service and in the afternoon there was a fun food fair where everybody brought food from their culture. It was a great reminder for both students and myself to have a better attitude about thankfulness. We also recently put on our Christmas play production. I know the students enjoyed it and are even still singing some of the songs. The Christmas play is a great way for students and their families to learn more about Jesus and the true meaning of Christmas. I know God was definitely glorified that night through all of the singing and story telling.

Would you continue to pray with me for my students? Pray that as they continue on in the Christmas season, that they would be reminded about who Jesus is and why He came to Earth. There has been some good questions and discussion in devotions recently. My students enjoy asking questions and are very curious about many of the bible stories. Please pray that this curiosity continues and that fruitful discussion would come from it.

God has truly blessed me with support and because of that, I no longer will be needing monthly/quarterly monetary donations to finish out the school year. If you support me monthly or quarterly, you can stop sending it in. If you have set it up with your bank that it automatically takes it out every month, please e-mail me (mmnofziger@gmail.com) so I can let the TEAM people know to stop the support.

Thank-you again for all of your support and prayers.

Merry Christmas!
Mackenzie Nofziger

Dear St. Johns Family,

We are instructed to be thankful people “giving thanks in all circumstances” and yet

expressing our thanks properly is something that we don't do enough. We want to take this

opportunity to express how thankful we are for all of you and to apologize for not saying it more often!

This Thanksgiving we've been thinking about you all and how wonderfully blessed we are to have churches filled with people who love the Lord, seek the Kingdom of God, pray for us regularly, and support us in so many ways. You are our home team, and we couldn't do it without you—really. As exciting as life and work can be here on Clove Island (and we are excited by the things God has been doing) it can also be painful and hard.

If not for all your love and prayers, we would not last out here. We need you and you have been so faithful to us. Thank you for all the ways you sustain us. Thank you for serving the Lord in your families, in your communities and with us, the ends of the earth.

We pray for you, that your fellowship would grow and your love for Christ would abound. May He bless the work of your hands and may your church and your homes be places of welcoming love and grace. Thank you so much and God bless you.

Our team's training program ends in April, but we will stay on for a few months here. We plan to be home in the States for several months starting sometime in the summer 2016! We look forward to stopping in Archbold and reconnecting with you all then!

Until then keep us posted on how we can be praying for you.

Love,

Tom, Megan, Grace (7), Peter (5) & David (3)

January Mission-A-Month - Church World Service Emergency Clean Up Kits:

Emergency Cleanup Kits, or Cleanup Buckets, provided by Church World Service are our January Mission-A-Month. The supplies provided in these cleanup kits enable people to begin the overwhelming job of cleaning up after a flood, hurricane, tornado, or other disaster here in the United States.

Monetary donations given not only cover the cost of the supplies to assemble these emergency kits, but also cover sorting, packing, insurance and shipping costs to get the kits to their final destination. Please use your weekly offering envelopes for your donations and mark them M-A-M or CWS Kits.

mission corner cont.

Back Bay Mission Trip – February 13-20, 2016:

- Four congregations are teaming up for this week of service and adventure
 - Baseline St. John's United Church of Christ, Bloomville, Ohio (2 participants)
 - Bucyrus Church of the Nazarene, Bucyrus, Ohio (1 participant)
 - First Christian Church, Ashland, Kentucky (4 participants)
 - St. John's Christian Church, Archbold, Ohio (9 participants)
- Our group will spend the week lodging and working alongside a group from Salem United Church of Christ, Plymouth, Wisconsin
- Participants will gather at 8AM Saturday morning, February 13th to load up and head out, using the church bus and a pickup pulling our black mission trailer
- We'll travel about 610 miles to a Best Western hotel near Cullman, Alabama, driving time to be about 9 ½ hours, with rest, stretch and meal breaks along the way. We'll be up bright and early on Sunday morning to finish the 365 mile, 5 ½ hour trip.
- Once in Biloxi, group members will settle in to the mission house, enjoy a time of worship, stock up on groceries for the week, enjoy a meal at a local restaurant and end the day with a group orientation session with Back Bay Mission staff.
- Monday through Friday the group will be working to frame both the walls and roof of a single story home – a project being planned with our group in mind.
- Friday is a half-day, as we will leave around noon, travel to an Econo Lodge in Franklin, Kentucky, spend the night, then arrive home Saturday afternoon.
- The \$200 cost of the experience covers transportation, lodging, a Back Bay Mission materials fee, and most meals (meals/snacks while on the road, and one meal at the restaurant in Biloxi are at each person's expense).
- As of December 28th, there are 17 people committed to the trip, and there is room for 3 more.

St. John's Members in Missionary Service:

Mackenzie Nofziger continues serving at the International Christian School in Bangkok, Thailand. She will be there through early June, when her two years of service come to an end. Mackenzie's father, Mark, and sister, Delaney, traveled to visit with her from December 18th through the 26th.

Jessica Lindsay continues to serve with the Mennonite Mission Network, located in Albany, Oregon. Jessica was home here in Archbold over the holidays.

Jordyn Pursel will leave January 12th to spend five months serving with Youth With A Mission (YWAM), participating in a Discipleship Training School. Jordyn will attend a YWAM school in Lausanne, Switzerland! There are two parts to the schooling she will receive: a 12 week lecture phase and an 8 week outreach phase.

Hannah Kern has completed the first phase of her YWAM Discipleship Training School in Wisconsin, and will be leaving in January for her outreach phase – traveling to Thailand. She will be helping at orphanages and helping refugees from Myanmar.

Mike Meyer has left to spend three months in service with Back Bay Mission, in Biloxi, Mississippi. Enjoying his experience so much last year, he will assist in the home repair program, supervising work sites where volunteers will be working.

2015 Mission Trips/Opportunities – Annual Dates:

- February 13–20 – Back Bay Mission Spring Trip
- February 14 – Out of Box Experience
- March 20 – TGRM Chapel & Meal
- May 15 – TGRM Chapel & Meal
- June 5–11 – SYF Mission Trip to New York City
- June 12–17 – Summer Mission Trip with Habitat for Humanity
- September 11 – TGRM Chapel & Meal
- September 22 – Cherry Street Mission Ministry Fall Banquet
- October 8–15 – Back Bay Mission Fall Trip
- November 20 – TGRM Chapel & Meal
- December 13 – Christmas Cheer Hospitality

Missionary News and Contact Information:

Shobha & Ravi Arole, CRHP

web site - www.jamkhed.org

Matt & Paige Waanders, CRU

web site - www.give.cru.org

e-mail - matthew.waanders@cru.org

e-mail - paige.stamm@cru.org

Kyle Chase, Great Commission Ministries

web site - www.gcmweb.org

e-mail - Kyle.Chase@gcmweb.org

Matt Pardi, Great Commission Ministries

web site - www.h2ochurch.com

e-mail - matt.pardi@gcmweb.org

Whitney Varnau, Great Commission Ministries

web site - www.h2ochurch.com

e-mail - whitney.varnau@h2osu.org

Tony & Leila Frank, Sapiranga, Brazil
web site - www.worldteam.org
e-mail - tony.frank@worldteam.org

Tom & Megan, The Islands, Africa
web site - tmislands.blogspot.com
e-mail - tmislands@fastmail.net

Judd & Becky McClarren, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
www.soddo.org
e-mail - juddmc@abwe.cc
e-mail - becmc@abwe.cc

Larry & Linda Rupp, Kajiado Children's Home
web site - www.hope4kajiado.com
e-mail - kajiadochildrenshome@gmail.com

Brian & Jamie Rauschenberger, Haiti
web site - www.WaterForTheWorld.com
e-mail - Brian@WaterForTheWorld.com
e-mail - Jamie@WaterForTheWorld.com

Keith & Cheryl Wyse - The Agape Family Life House
web site - www.agapeflh.org
e-mail - k.wyse@agapeflh.org

Jon & Rachel Doriot - Pioneers, Papua
web site - www.pioneers.org
e-mail - kelapa@linkmail.org

Jessica Lindsay - Mennonite Mission Network
10-1/2 Month Leadership Service Program
e-mail - jess_4246@hotmail.com

Mackenzie Nofziger - Bangkok, Thailand
Teaching @ Bangkok International Christian School
e-mail - mmnofziger@gmail.com

ministry happenings

Christian Education

LOGOS – Our Wednesday Evening Ministry for Children & Youth:

The Winter/Spring Semester of our midweek ministry for children who are four years old through the twelfth grade will begin on January 13th. Of the sixty children who are in the fifth grade or younger, 2/3 of the children are from our congregation and 1/3 are from either other churches or no church at all. Our LOGOS ministry is both a discipleship and evangelistic ministry, and each 2 hour weekly session is power packed with energy and ministry.

January nights, themes and worship skill:

January 13 – “Winter Wonderland” - Junior Choir

January 20 – “Jungle Night” – Junior Choir

January 27 – “Crazy Hat & Hair Night” - Jr. Choir

All adults helping with LOGOS are asked to attend a 45 minute re-orientation session scheduled for 6:30PM on Wednesday, January 6th, in the Fireside Room.

Children's Ministry:

Children in kindergarten thru 5th grade are invited to join us for another great Sunday of kids worship in Junior Church on January 17th.

Junior Youth Fellowship (JYF):

JYF starts back up on Wednesday, January 13th at 6:45PM in the Fireside Room, and will continue with their study of scripture and growing their faith through fellowship and service activities.

Senior Youth Fellowship (SYF) Thank You:

The Senior Youth Fellowship would like to give the congregation a huge “THANK YOU!” for all the generous support of their Bake Sale in December.

Senior Youth Fellowship (SYF):

Welcome to 2016! SYF begins again on January 6th as we explore “New Life in the New Year.” Then for the rest of January we’ll be talking about “Cliffhangers” – people who walked along the edge of cliffs with Jesus. The senior high youth will be cooking up some spaghetti for a congregational meal after the annual meeting on January 17th. Also, save the date for our SYF Winter Retreat coming up on Saturday, February 20th.

Come and join us for LOGOS dinner at 6PM (beginning January 13th) and then SYF at 7PM. Please contact a youth advisor or Pastor Adam if you have any questions about SYF.

Senior Youth Fellowship (SYF) Mission Trip:

The SYF Mission Trip is scheduled for the week of June 5th-11th. The 2016 mission trip will be to New York City, NY with the Center of Student Missions (CSM). We partnered with CSM back in 2012 with our trip to Washington DC. Mission trip applications will be available beginning mid-January after Pastor Adam makes a pre-trip visit to NYC to meet with CSM NY.

Senior Youth Fellowship (SYF) Explore:

Beginning January 12th at 3:15PM all youth are invited to join a small group exploring some of the more challenging questions of our culture in deeper and more thorough ways. Opening topics include: Does God Exist? Is the Bible Reliable? Who is Jesus? This group will meet after school on Tuesdays in the youth room.

ministry happenings

cont.

Life Planning:

The next Life Planning time will be on January 13th at 7PM. We'll be talking about our ups and downs in life – how do we work through tough times.

January's Adult Faith & Fellowship – 9:15AM Sunday Mornings in the Parish Hall:

“The Sermon on the Mount” will be the scriptural study explored in January. As Jesus taught those who came to him, you are invited to come to him through the lessons of this biblical sermon.

January 3rd – Matthew 5:38-42 – “Setting & Context”

January 10th – Matthew 5:43-48 – “What does Jesus mean by such Love?”

January 24th – Matthew 6:25-34 – “Sleeping Well”

January 31st – Matthew 7:1-6 – “Leaving it with the Lord”

Bring your bibles, and if you don't have one, or forget yours, bibles will be supplied. We'll delve into God's Word in this discipleship study, responding to questions raised both in the text and by those who gather. Focal question which will be considered: What does it mean to love as Jesus loved?

The New Eve Women's Sunday School Class:

This Women's Sunday School Class will begin on January 3rd to study the Pilgrimage by Lynn Austin, who, with gripping honesty, discusses her struggles as her plan for her life and the lives of her children do not match God's plan. Austin writes of her travels through Israel, weaving events and insights from the Word to find renewed passion, encouragement, and ultimately the abundant Christian life (books are available in the upstairs women's Sunday School classroom).

Events / Activities

Child/Youth Protection Training – Wednesday, January 6th, 7:15PM in the Fireside Room:

St. John's Christian Church seeks to provide a safe and secure environment for the children and youth who participate in our programs and activities, including all of our church sponsored ministries and St. John's Christian Preschool. Our goal is to protect the children and youth of our church from incidents of misconduct or inappropriate behavior while also protecting our staff and volunteers from false accusations.

This 30 minute training session prepares volunteers to serve in our children's and youth ministries, for which we are always looking for more willing helpers, leaders and teachers.

Men's Fraternity – The 33 Series:

Hey Men! We are going to begin a new 6-week series called “A Man and His Story.” This is a continual from the fall session, but can be attended by any man that desires to grow. This second series covers some of the topics as presented in Men's Fraternity but with new material and format. The series will begin on Wednesday, January 13th from 6-7:30AM and will have a \$15 cost for the training guide. You can discover more about this at www.authenticmanhood.com or talk with Pastor Adam.

Church Pictorial Directory:

We are continuing to put together an updated church pictorial directory using the online company Instant Church Directory.

Here are some other important details:

1. The church directory is using the name, address and phone number information that is printed in our year book.
2. Each family or individual is asked to submit a photograph (submit to office@stjohnsarchbold.org). All photos need to be approved by the church office.
3. If you would like to receive a printed booklet, please sign up on the bulletin board.
4. To download the mobile app visit: <http://www.instantchurchdirectory.com/app/>.
5. Let the office know if you prefer not to participate or have your information available in the pictorial directory.

Stjohnsarchbold.org:

Our church website has a lot of information and resources available. The website holds information on upcoming events, current and past Visitors and bulletins, and many parts of our worship services including sermons, music selections and testimonies. Sharing the website with neighbors and friends can be a great way of introducing people to St. John's.

Man Camp:

Men, be on the lookout for this great weekend coming in late March or early April. Our first choice in weekends is April 8th-10th – so please save that date. The cost for this weekend at Miracle Camp is \$119 for lodging and meals (or \$134 if you need a more pampered room). Check with Bruce Wooley if you have questions or visit www.miraclecamp.com/mancamp.

Men's Basketball:

Any men that would like to play some pickup basketball games on Wednesday evenings, Saturday mornings or Sunday afternoons during the winter, please contact Pastor Adam.

January 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>8:00AM Worship 9:15AM Sunday School 9:15AM Faith Village 9:15AM Confirmation 10:30AM Worship</p>	<p>Elder of the Month— Paige Miller Mission-A-Month— Emergency Clean Up Kits</p>				<p>1 NEW YEAR Office Closed</p>	<p>2</p>
<p>3 Holy Communion 9:15AM Adult F & F SS Class 1:00PM Dismantle & Store Advent Decorations 6:00PM Seekers Small Grp.</p>	<p>4 11:15AM Staff Meeting 6:30PM Couples Small Group</p>	<p>5 9:15AM Bible Study 5:00PM Community Meal 7:00PM Cap. Camp. Comm.</p>	<p>6 8:30AM Moms in Prayer 6:30PM LOGOS Re-orientation 7:15PM Child Protection Trng. 7:00PM SYF 7:30PM Chancel Choir</p>	<p>7 7:00PM Mission Comm.</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9 11:00AM Girl Scout Troup #11635</p>
<p>10 9:15AM Adult F & F SS Class 9:15AM Women's SS Class 11:45AM Preschool Open House (Church Family & Current Enrollees) 1:00PM Private Event (Parish Hall / Kitchen)</p>	<p>11 11:15AM Staff Meeting 6:30PM Couples Small Group 7:00PM Preschool Open House (Public) 7:00PM Sister Chicks INC</p>	<p>12 9:15AM Bible Study 3:15PM SYF Explore 5:00PM Community Meal 6:30PM Cub Scouts Den Mtgs. 7:00PM Evangelism Comm. 7:00PM Property Comm.</p>	<p>13 6:00AM Men's Fraternity 8:30AM Moms in Prayer 9:00AM W. Haven Bible Study 5:50PM LOGOS 6:45PM JYF 6:45PM Junior Choir 7:00PM SYF 7:30PM Chancel Choir</p>	<p>14 6:00PM Scouts District Meeting</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16 9AM—2PM Private Event Preschool Open Enrollment Begins</p>
<p>17 Annual Meeting 9:30AM Worship 10:00AM Children's Ministry 11:15AM Congregational Meeting 12:15PM Congregational Meal 6:00PM Seekers Small Grp.</p>	<p>18 11:15AM Staff Meeting 7:00M Consistory Orientation 7:00PM Sister Chicks INC</p>	<p>19 9:15AM Bible Study 3:15PM SYF Explore 5:00PM Community Meal</p>	<p>20 6:00AM Men's Fraternity 8:30AM Moms in Prayer 5:50PM LOGOS 6:45PM JYF 6:45PM Junior Choir 7:00PM SYF 7:30PM Chancel Choir</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23 11:00AM Girl Scout Troup #11635 12:30PM Private Event</p>
<p>24 9:15AM Adult F & F SS Class 9:15AM Women's SS Class 10:30PM Ordination & Installation of Officers</p>	<p>25 11:15AM Staff Meeting 6:00PM Consistory Potluck & Meeting 6:00PM Preschool Moms Night (T-TH AM Class) 7:00PM Sister Chicks, INC</p>	<p>26 9:15AM Bible Study 3:15PM SYF Explore 5:00PM Community Meal 7:00PM Cub Scouts Pack Mtg.</p>	<p>27 8:30AM Moms in Prayer 9:00AM W. Haven Bible Study 5:50PM LOGOS 6:45PM JYF 6:45PM Junior Choir 7:00PM SYF 7:30PM Chancel Choir</p>	<p>28 6:00PM Preschool Mom's Night (T-Th PM Class)</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>
<p>31 Junior Choir Sings at 10:30AM Worship 9:15AM Adult F & F SS Class 9:15AM Women's SS Class</p>						

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Duane Hayes
- 2 Josee Grime
- 3 Ruth Schmucker, Maurice & Ruth Schmucker
- 4 Ryan Christman
- 5 Mary Lou Nemire, Karen Schnitkey
- 6 Carolyn Walker
- 7 Wade Enderle, Jon Lindsay, Myrl & Pauline Zimmerman
- 8 Ralph Grieser
- 9 Amy Baden, Bodi Kauffman, Leah Hall, Jack & Joanne Spotts
- 10 Pauline Short
- 12 Tootie Beck, Tyson Bostelman
- 13 Cathy Nofziger, Stacy Rutledge, Len & Jean Stamm
- 14 Jace Bernath
- 16 Aaron Kauffman, Anna Yoder
- 17 Trevor Neuenschwander
- 18 Ava Genter, John & Kathy Graber
- 21 Ann Fether
- 22 Ed Overmier, Kay Stamm
- 23 Alicia Buckenmeyer, Jim Grieser
- 24 Deb Rupp
- 26 Tim & Sue Grieser, Travis Gruenhagen, Pat Leupp, Verlene Lovejoy
- 29 Joan Lovejoy
- 30 Nate Meyer, Wayne Spiess

✿ Please let us know if we do not have your special day correct. Thank you.

worship

January Worship Information:

- 3rd New Year's Service of Communion
Scriptures – Ephesians 2:8-10, Romans 5:1-8
Sermon – “By Grace...Through Faith”
Pastor Erich
- 10th Scriptures – Psalm 8:3-9, Matthew 25:31-46
Sermon – “The Resulting Consequence”
Pastor Adam
Chancel Choir – “Light of the World”
- 17th Annual Meeting Sunday
One Service Only at 9:30AM (no Sunday School)
Scriptures – Jude 1:20-21, Romans 12:1
Sermon – “We Are One Body” – Pastor Erich
- 24th Ordination/Installation of Congregational and Consistory Officers
Scriptures – Psalm 29:1-2, 1 Peter 3:8-22
Sermon – “Doing Good Together” – Pastor Erich
Chancel Choir – “Sing a Joyful Song”
- 31st Scriptures – John 1:1-5, John 6:35-40
Sermon – “Jesus: A Paradox” – Pastor Erich
Junior Choir

small group

Sister Chicks INC:

Have you ever had someone ask you: “Who do you think you are, the Queen of Sheba?” Well prepare to discover exactly who the Queen of Sheba was as the Sister Chicks explore the book “It’s Good to be Queen: Becoming as Bold, Gracious, and Wise as the Queen of Sheba” by Liz Curtis Higgs. The queen’s quest for wisdom will surprise you, challenge you, inspire you, and change you. This wealthy royal will show you how to live boldly, seek after truth, ask the right questions, encourage others, receive graciously, and honor the Lord. Join us on Monday, January 11th at 7:00PM as we begin our study at the home of Nancy Rupp. New friends as well as old friends are welcome to join in the fun, fellowship, and sharing of our faith.

Couples Small Group:

The couple’s small group continues to meet on the 2nd and 4th Monday evenings of the month from 6:30-8:30pm in the youth room. We will look at some of God’s faithful people from the Old Testament. Any couple interested in joining should contact Pastor Adam.

consistory/committees

2016 Congregational Annual Meeting – Sunday, January 17th:

9:30AM Worship Service
10:00AM Children's Ministry (K – 5th Grade)
11:15AM Annual Meeting
12:15PM Congregational Meal—Served by the SYF

The Annual Meeting Agenda will include:

- Review of the congregation's mission/vision statement
- Review of church membership expectations
- Election for Congregational Offices and Consistory Members
- Action on 2015 Financial Reports
- Action on 2016 Proposed Budgets
- Updates from the Capital Campaign Committee

The election ballot to be acted upon at the Annual Meeting of the Congregation is as follows:

President – Brent Winzeler (1st Term)
Congregational Secretary – Betsy Redd (3rd Term)
Elders (Elect 2 for a 3 year term) –
Betsy Ducey, Joyce Kinsman
Deacon/Deaconess (Elect 3 for a 3 year term) –
Josh Grime, Eric Nafziger, Lynne Roth, Deb Rupp

Annual Meeting Packets will be available by
Sunday, January 10th.

A Day of Fasting and Self-Denial – Saturday, January 16th to Sunday, January 17th:

The Day of Fasting is in preparation for our Annual Congregational Meeting. Everyone is invited to enter into a time of fasting to focus our thoughts on the agenda and events of our annual meeting.

Fasting:

- ... is a spiritual faith practice with spiritual communication in mind.
- ... is about denying "self" and seeking God.
- ... is about a person seeking God with all their heart.
- ... is a physical way of saying, "food and the things of this world are not as important as God is."
- ... is usually a time when a person does not eat in order to focus on communicating with God.
- ... is a time when a person denies themselves food or some other pleasure.

For this year's Day of Fasting, people may choose to fast or deny themselves from various items or activities:

Food	Television	Naps	Exercising
Work	Shopping	Reading	Playing Games

Instead of engaging in these or other activities, people can use their time to read scripture, pray, listen to Christian music, visit a friend or someone who is lonely or in need, enjoy nature, memorize The Apostle's Creed or Scripture. The point of the fast is to invest more time and energy in a person's relationship with God.

Prayer Topics:

- Discernment regarding the election of officers
- Vision for the coming year of ministry
- That many will come to worship, attend the meeting, and stay for the meal
- God's blessing our congregation with ways and means of evangelizing and discipling people directory.

community news

2016 Community Meals:

Begun in 2011 and coordinated by the Archbold Area Ministerial Association, these weekly meals happen each Tuesday evening, from 5:00 to 6:00PM. Knowing that several people go through the serving line for seconds, there are still well over 200 people who enjoy the food and fellowship and another 20 or so who take home leftovers for further meals.

Some word pictures from the weekly meals:

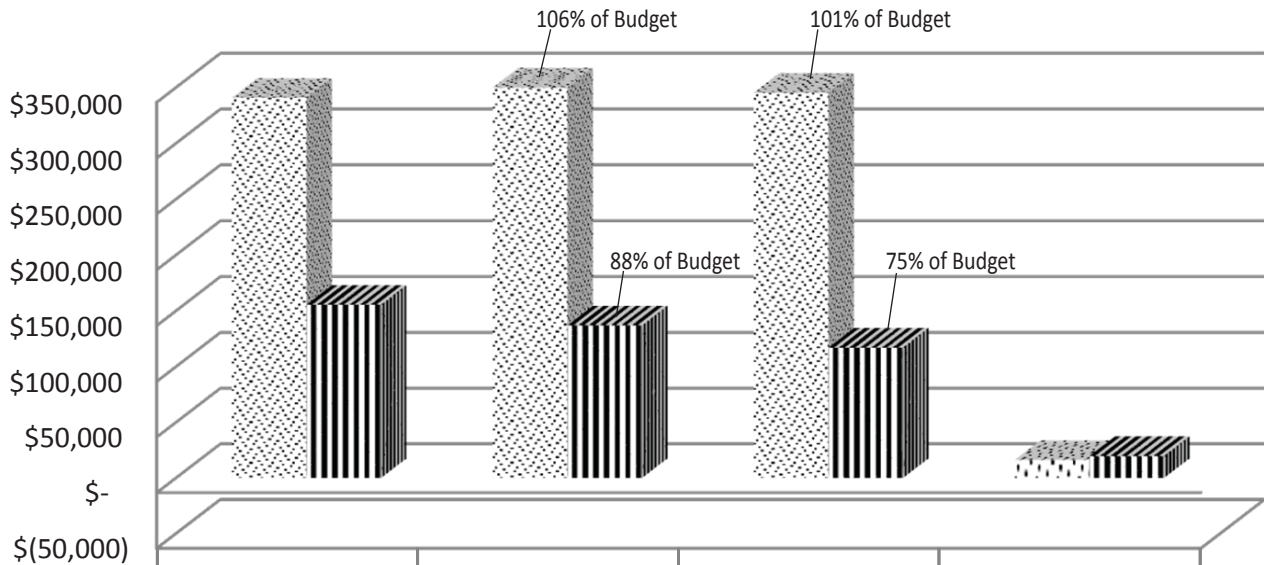
- An elderly husband who brings his wife, who suffered a stroke and cannot communicate, but they are able to enjoy eating with friends.
- Grandparents, children and grandchildren meeting up for a meal together.
- Widows and widowers enjoying food in a setting of group fellowship.
- Young children helping out with serving the meal and the tasks of clean up.
- Many people who struggle to find enough food for three meals a day, enjoying the filling meals that are served each week.

These weekly meals provide so much more than a plate of food, offering conversation and opening up doors for further ministry.

Once again, these meals will be served here at St. John's, at least for the first three months of the year, as we are waiting to see if another church is willing to share in hosting the meals for two quarters of the year, alternating hosting every other quarter with us in 2016!

stewardship

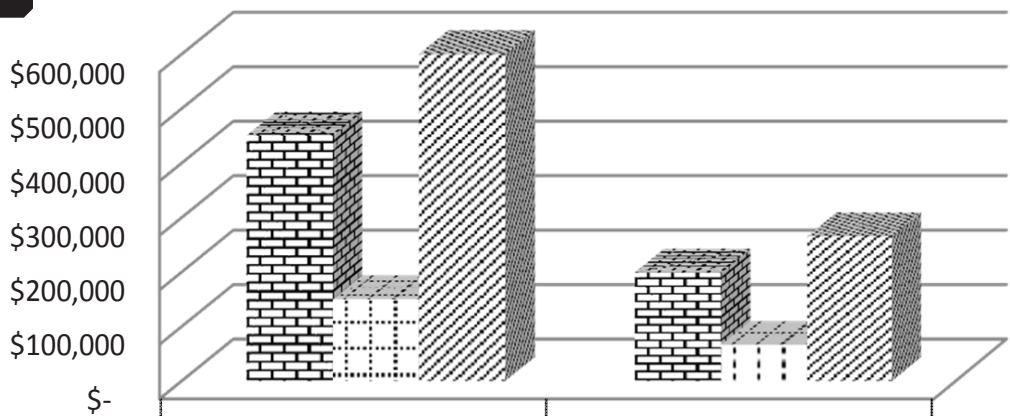
2015 Operating & Missions Funds as of December 28, 2015



	Budget	YTD Receipts	YTD Expenses	Surplus (Deficit)
Operating	\$340,722	\$361,627	\$345,388	\$16,238
Missions	\$155,500	\$136,959	\$117,139	\$19,820

**Figures as of
December 28th**

Imagine Your Faith Building Campaign 2015 Matching Gift



	Goal	YTD
Congregational Receipts	\$450,000	\$198,655
Match from Donors	\$150,000	\$66,218
2015 Total w/Matching Funds	\$600,000	\$264,873

St. John's Christian Church - 2015 Missions Budget Report

As of November 30, 2015		2015 Goals	2015 YTD Inc.	2015 YTD Exp.
1	Beg. Bal. Missions / 2nd Mile Funds		\$ 1,060.32	
2	Missions Funds Undesignated		\$ 58,420.30	\$ 2,600.00
3	Farm / Interest / 2nd Mile Income		\$ 8,765.68	
4	ABWE (Judd & Becky M - Ethiopia)	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 400.54	\$ 1,539.14
5	Agape Family Life House (Keith W - China)	\$ 1,000.00		\$ 500.00
6	Altlink (Tom & Megan L - The Islands)	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 825.00	\$ 2,325.00
7	Aroles - CRHP - Jamkhed, India	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 3,361.30	\$ 5,826.30
8	Aroles - CRHP - Lenten Coin	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 581.50	\$ 581.50
9	Back Bay Mission - Biloxi	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 2,287.00	\$ 5,137.00
10	Back Bay Mission - Lenten	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 581.50	\$ 581.50
11	Back Bay Mission - Trips	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 4,373.55	\$ 5,334.66
12	Cherry Street Mission - Toledo	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 3,455.87	\$ 4,356.62
13	Christmas Cheer - Fulton Cty	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 505.00	\$ 1,505.00
14	Church Camp Registrations	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 382.00	\$ 879.50
15	Church World Service - Blanket	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 657.00	\$ 1,507.00
16	Church World Service - Clean Up Kits	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 490.00	\$ 1,490.00
17	College Scholarship	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 994.06	\$ 5,999.96
18	Community Meals	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 884.00	\$ 4,078.93
19	Crossroad - Fort Wayne	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 1,035.93	\$ 2,335.93
20	Crossroad - Advent	\$ 2,000.00		
21	Evangelical Association	\$ 1,500.00		\$ 1,500.00
22	FISH Panty - Archbold	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 5,813.16	\$ 9,398.00
23	Foods Resource Bank - Local	\$ 2,300.00	\$ 730.00	\$ 1,830.00
24	Foods Resource Bank - Thank Offerings	\$ 500.00	\$ 331.00	\$ 331.00
25	Friendship House - Archbold	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 2,790.00	\$ 4,290.00
26	Great Comm - Kyle/Matt (BGSU/UT/UM)	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 1,310.00	\$ 3,310.00
27	Habitat for Humanity - Fulton Cty	\$ 1,000.00		\$ 1,000.00
28	Habitat for Humanity - Michigan City	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 650.00	\$ 850.00
29	Hands of Grace - Fulton Cty	\$ 2,000.00		\$ 1,500.00
30	Kajiado Children's Home (Larry & Linda R)	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 8,627.43	\$ 8,071.43
31	Kajiado Child Sponsorships	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 2,483.00	\$ 2,087.00
32	Love Fund (Members)	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,740.00	\$ 1,940.00
33	Mighty in the Land (Robert Rogers)	\$ 1,000.00		\$ 1,000.00
34	New Life Inter. (Brian & Jamie R - Haiti)	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 25.00	\$ 525.00
35	Operation Christmas Child - Fulton Cty	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 461.00	\$ 729.00
36	Outback Youth Center - Archbold (YFC)	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 590.00	\$ 1,090.00
37	PET Project (Dallas Andrews)	\$ 2,000.00		\$ 250.00
38	Pioneers (Jon & Rachel D - Papua)	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 530.00	\$ 1,030.00
39	Shepherd's Circle - Archbold	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 620.00	\$ 1,620.00
40	Sparrow's Nest - Toledo	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 1,152.00	\$ 3,152.00
41	Sparrow's Nest - Thank Offerings	\$ 500.00	\$ 331.00	\$ 331.00
42	St. John's Christian Preschool	\$ 3,000.00		
43	St. John's Evangelism Outreach	\$ 2,200.00	\$ 195.00	\$ 1,009.23
44	SYF - Mission Trip Support	\$ 2,250.00	\$ 393.50	\$ 2,250.00
45	SYF - Next Year Trip Deposit	\$ 750.00		
46	TEAM (Mackenzie N - Thailand)	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 550.00
47	Toledo Gospel Rescue Mission	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 1,140.00	\$ 2,140.00
48	Urgent Mission Outreach	\$ 3,500.00		\$ 1,250.00
49	Walk In Assistance Program (Non-members)	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 427.42	\$ 877.77
50	WMTR Radio Pause for Praise	\$ 5,000.00		\$ 4,465.00
51	World Team (Tony & Leila L - Brazil)	\$ 13,500.00	\$ 2,791.50	\$ 7,611.50
52	Youth Leadership Training	\$ 2,000.00		\$ 1,653.40
53	Totals	\$ 155,500.00	\$ 122,391.56	\$ 114,219.37

January Daily Scriptures

(From "Discovery" Daily Devotional)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 Giver Behind the Gifts ----- Ecclesiastes 1:1-2:26 | 17 Totally Trustworthy ----- Psalm 146:1-10 |
| 2 Seasons With God ----- Ecclesiastes 3:1-15 | 18 More Than Words ----- Luke 4:31-37 |
| 3 Why Does God Care? ----- Psalm 144:1-15 | 19 Living by Listening ----- Luke 4:38-44 |
| 4 Disappointed With Life ----- Ecclesiastes 3:16-4:12 | 20 Obey Anyway ----- Luke 5:1-11 |
| 5 Holy Fear ----- Ecclesiastes 4:13-5:7 | 21 A Personal Touch ----- Luke 5:12-16 |
| 6 The Grace of Enjoyment ----- Ecclesiastes 5:8-6:12 | 22 A Friend in Need... ----- Luke 5:17-26 |
| 7 Living and Loving Life ----- Ecclesiastes 9:1-12 | 23 Party Time ----- Luke 5:27-32 |
| 8 Serious About Sin ----- Ecclesiastes 9:13-10:9 | 24 Leaning on His Love ----- Psalm 147:1-20 |
| 9 Living With Risk ----- Ecclesiastes 11:1-10 | 25 Explosive ----- Luke 5:33-39 |
| 10 Headline News ----- Psalm 145:1-21 | 26 Keeping the Sabbath ----- Luke 6:1-11 |
| 11 Everything Matters...Eternally -- Ecclesiastes 12:1-14 | 27 A Prayerful Decision ----- Luke 6:12-16 |
| 12 Inside Out ----- Luke 3:1-20 | 28 Tough Words ----- Luke 6:17-26 |
| 13 Son of God... ----- Luke 3:21-37 | 29 Another Challenge ----- Luke 6:27-36 |
| 14 ...And Son of Man ----- Luke 4:1-13 | 30 Walking the New Way ----- Luke 6:37-42 |
| 15 When Jesus Comes to Town ----- Luke 4:14-21 | 31 All Creation Sings ----- Psalm 148:1-14 |
| 16 Getting Personal ----- Luke 4:22-30 | |

Sunday School 9:15AM
 Sunday Worship 8AM & 10:30AM

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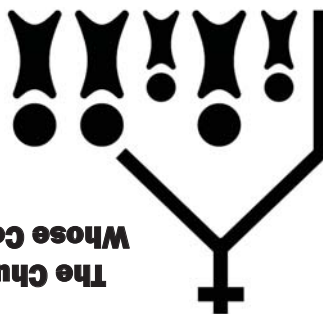
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Assoc.
 Rev. Erich Christman

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Holy Communion:
 New Year (1/3), Ash Wednesday (2/10), Maundy Thursday (3/24),
 Pentecost (5/15), Mid-Summer (7/17), 1st Sunday in October (10/2),
 1st Sunday of Advent (11/27)

Come Hear the Reason we're Inspired to Serve Together



The Church on the Corner
Whose Cornerstone is Christ

Return Service Requested

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