

The Visitor

prayer concerns

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

September 1, 2017 Volume 63, Number 9

Please Pray For:

- Shiela Whitlock, Jen Grime's mother, who is undergoing treatment for throat cancer.
- Mary Lou Nemire, recovering from knee surgery.
- Bob Bostelman, home from a recent hospital stay.
- Jeremy Neuenschwander, doing very well in his cancer treatments.
- John Lovejoy, Paul and Joan Lovejoy's son, undergoing chemo treatments.
- Gary Frazier, who has completed chemo treatments.
- Please continue to remember all our brothers and sisters in the armed forces, praying for their safety. Serving from our church are:

Brenden Bostelman (Army)

701 Quartermaster Rd. #1185
JBER, AK 99505

AB Collins Taylor D (Air Force)

268 Luke Ave., Box 700
Joint Base Anacostia
Bolling, DC 20032

Kyle Ducey (Navy) (Stationed at Fort Gordon, GA)

4050 Brownstone Dr., Apt. 919
Evans, GA 30809

Cpt. Jared R. Kuntz (Army)

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

Donnie Richardson (Marines)

Stationed in Okinawa, Japan

Steven Schink (Coast Guard)

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

AJ Short (Marines)

Stationed in CA for advanced training

Kyle Stuckey (Army)

Stationed at Fort Benning, GA
Boot Camp and Basic Training

Kollin Woolace (Marines)

Stationed in Fort Leonard Wood, MO

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 these people would be a wonderful blessing:

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

Florence Augustine, Room #177

David Lightner, Room #138

Esther Rice, Room #116

Cathy Spiess, #153

Carolyn Walker, Room #399 (Memory Care Unit)

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

Lois Heer, Room #238

Jane Short, Room #208

Pauline Short, Room #205

Wyse Commons, 550 Haven Dr., Archbold, 43502

Wayne & Susanne Spiess, Apt. #309

Independent Living, 600 Haven Dr., Archbold, 43502

Rosemarie Schmidt, Apt. #112

Josephine Short, Apt. #116

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

Robert Kuntz, Room #225-2

Bernice Rice, Room #224-2

Pauline Zimmerman, Room #223

Northcrest, 240 Northcrest Dr., Napoleon, 43545

Irene Short, Room #100

Swanton Valley Center, 401 Airport Hwy., Swanton, 43558

Marlene Nofziger, Memory Support Unit

congregational thank you's

Thank you for praying for Benjamin Chapman, my nephew. Ben has been discharged from the Army National Guard. He is now training at the police academy in Richmond, VA.

Crissi Stuckey & Family



Dear St. John's,

Thank you so much Mission Committee for supporting my two week mission trip to Thailand in May! It was an incredible experience to serve and engage with the Thai people and to see how God is present and moving even half way around the world! This trip has helped me understand how God is everywhere in all places, lives and situations. God is not stagnant but active and changing lives across the world, as I got to see in Thailand! Thank you!

Sincerely

Jeremy Mann



I would like to thank my church family for sending me to Bair Lake Bible Camp. I had a lot of fun and learned more about God. The counselors were awesome and the people I met were grrreat!!

Bryce Beltz

pastor's letter

Thoughts from Pastor Erich . . .

While on a recent vacation on Long Island, New York, Lynne and I visited the lighthouse on Fire Island, on the south side of Long Island. Originally completed in 1826, the Fire Island lighthouse was 74 feet high. It became apparent that the light was not effective due to its lack of height. A new lighthouse was constructed in 1857, at a height of 168 feet, and served as an aid to ocean ship traffic through its decommissioning in the 1970's.

"It became apparent that the light was not effective" – the purpose of the light was to guide ships safely in their passage to or from the New York harbor – and if it was not effective, ships were being lost or misguided.

Why did this bit of knowledge strike me? Why am I bringing it up in this meditation? Have you figured it out? Matthew 5:14-16: "You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven."

There is much controversy and anguish in our world – much darkness exists – and we as the "light of the world" must be letting our light shine. We cannot add to the darkness but we must dispel the darkness with our light – the light of Christ in our hearts. Such light comes from our belief in Christ as Lord and Savior, from our knowledge of the Bible, and from applying that knowledge to our lives.

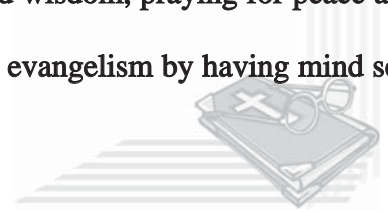
Kneeling or sitting during the singing of the national anthem at a game as a form of protest – such action has raised vehement supporters and detractors on both sides. Removing a statue due to its historical meaning or relevance – many supporters and detractors on both sides. Racially motivated demonstrations – again, many supporters and detractors on both sides.

This is the time to ask the question that was so in vogue a while ago – WWJD – What would Jesus do? Jesus would let his light shine. From the cross, he let his light shine: Luke 23:34: "Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." And note Mark 6:34: "When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So he began teaching them many things." Finally, remember Matthew 5:44: "But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you..."

Forgiveness, compassion and prayer. Three responses Jesus offered. Let us teach by living according to God's Word. Let us remember that each of us are sinners, so pointing out the wrongs of others must be mitigated by dealing with our own sin. Responding with high emotion, especially in anger or fear, must be tempered by relying upon the compassion of Christ. Prayer – praying for God's strength and wisdom, praying for peace and conversation, praying for his righteousness.

May we each be lights of Christ, being effective in our discipleship and evangelism by having mind sets of forgiveness, compassion and prayer.

ERICH



congregational thank you's cont.

Dear St. John's Christian Church Family,

Thank you so much for helping to send me to camp. It was very fun seeing as I have now aged out of being a camper there. I was on a team named Hawks and we won the competition between the Hawks, Fox, Pikes and Turtles. I would like to say thank you again for supporting me over the years.

Sincerely,
Lynne M. Stuckey



St. John's,

I want to say thank you for allowing me to attend Bair Lake Bible Camp. I had a blast! It was definitely one of the best weeks of my life. I for sure grew closer to God during the week, also. I met so many new friends that I will always remember. The music was awesome and to see everyone singing was so cool! Again, I just wanted to say thank you for giving me that experience!

Emma Nafziger

Dear St. John's Church Family,

By the time you read this, I will be getting settled in my new place in Pickerington. This will be quite a change after spending 61 years in small towns in NW Ohio. But God has led me this far and I have no doubt he'll see me through.

I would like to thank all of you for your love and support over the past 14 years. It has been my honor and pleasure to serve St. John's in music ministry. You have helped me grow in my faith journey, as well as kept my family and I in your prayers. Thank you for the gifts, cards and moving help. It means so very much! Words can't express my appreciation for the way many of you embraced Braylon and Amara. Because of you, they have witnessed God's love. I am eternally grateful! I'd love visits if you're ever in the Columbus area. I will miss you all. May God continue to bless your ministry!

Love in Christ,
Deb Schnitkey
103 Great Trail St.
Pickerington, OH 43147
419-583-6356
Debschnitkey@yahoo.com



Dear St. John's Family,

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to attend Confirmation Camp at Bair Lake. I had a great time there, learning and growing in my faith. Thank you also for your prayers during our week away.

Sincerely,
Tyler Hurst



Thank you for awarding me with the scholarship. I appreciate the financial support that the church is willing to give me as I start my college career.

Toby Walker



Dear St. John's Members,

Thank you so very much for the beautiful flowers for Marc Grubaugh, and for your support of Lisa and Solomon. They love all of you. God Bless!

Love,
Jan & Leroy Grubaugh
Lisa & Solomon Welch



Church Family,

Thank you for blessing me with the church scholarship for this school year and thank you for all your support.

Cayla Walker

mission corner

Thank You Notes From Mission Partners & Friends:

- Altlink (Tom & Megan), for our gift of \$93.
- Back Bay Mission, for our gift of \$285.
- Cherry Street Mission, for our gift of \$370.
- Crossroad, for our gift of \$40.
- Mighty in the Land Ministry, for our gift of \$300.
- Pioneers (Doriots), for our gift of \$690.
- Reliant (Chase/Pardi/Varnau), for our gift of \$590.
- Toledo Gospel Rescue Mission, for our gift of \$550.
- World Team (Franks), for our gift of \$500.



Thank You Notes From Mission Partners & Friends:

Dear St. John's Family,

I want to sincerely thank you for your faithful prayers and support of the Kajiado Children's Home, individual children as well as the entire ministry. As



you may know, the home is staffed by nationals, Kenyans caring for their own; who better to identify and prioritize needs, problems and potential solutions?

I recently returned from a month stay and was delighted to find among the faces of those children you now serve, many familiar faces of those who have passed through our doors. They are not here just to greet me, but as volunteers, providing counsel and example, the impact of which cannot be measured, changing lives as theirs were changed. The young orphaned children are totally amazed when one of these smartly dressed young adults comes onto the campus and shows them which bed was theirs for 12 or more years. Neither I nor any of the staff could have a greater influence on their thinking and aspirations for the future. These "graduates" not only have formed an alumni association, but two are even serving on the Kenyan Board of Management.

From an orphan, beginning with grief and hopeless poverty, to a life in Christ and a whole new world. They return that blessing bestowed with the help of people like you. You may never meet them here, but be assured you will meet.

Thanks St. John's, for extending your love far and wide.

In His service,
Larry Rupp,
Kajiado Children's Home

mission corner cont.

Whitney Varnau (Reliant - Ohio State) - July 31, 2017:



“For you will be a witness for Him to everyone of what you have seen and heard.” Acts 22:15

At She Has A Name (SHAN), July ended up being a month of prep work for us. One of my coworkers was out of the office for a few weeks, so I took on new responsibilities very quickly, juggling a little bit of everything for the month. I spoke at various events across Columbus, and helped coordinate interpreters for our upcoming anti-human trafficking training.

Our SHAN staff took a development day to visit the Freedom Center in Cincinnati, which includes a new modern slavery exhibit. We were reminded why we do this work, and I am thankful for my coworkers at SHAN and the ways they challenge me to see all people as important and worth fighting for. So I ask you to continue to pray for SHAN, for our August training, for all impacted by human trafficking, and for me as I continue to learn the balance of working for two non-profits!

August will bring over 50,000 students back to Columbus and with it, a need to share Jesus. Please pray for all these students arriving back to campus this fall, specifically for freshman.

I hope you are doing well, sweet friends. May you know how loved you are and how important you are. Please let me know if there is anything I can be praying for you. I love staying connected to you!



September Mission-A-Month – Toledo Gospel Rescue Mission (TGRM):

September’s Mission of the Month is the Toledo Gospel Rescue Mission (TGRM). TGRM men’s shelter and Rebekah’s Haven women’s shelter provide for the spiritual, physical and material needs for homeless persons in the Toledo area. We support them prayerfully, financially and with material donations, as well as by preparing and sharing meals and chapel services with their guests.

They ask for continued prayer for the residents in the men’s and women’s shelters, that they would seek

and find relationship with God and begin to put their lives here on earth back together and be productive citizens again.

Usually by the end of the summer the shelves at TGRM are looking rather bare. Please place donated non-perishable food items in the white mission box outside the chapel area. You may also give monetary donations by marking TGRM on your offering envelopes. Thank you for your support in caring for God’s people!

Mission Experiences:

Upcoming opportunities to engage in aspects of our congregation’s mission ministry include:

- TGRM Chapel & Meal – September 10
- Cherry Street Mission Ministry Fall Banquet – September 28
- Back Bay Mission Trip – October 7-14
- Operation Christmas Child Collection – October
- TGRM Chapel & Meal – November 19
- Christmas Cheer Hospitality – December

TGRM Chapel & Meal - Sunday, September 10:

Please contact Ann Grime (419-445-2703) if you would like to be part of this wonderful ministry. Volunteers will help lead the Chapel service at TGRM, as well as prepare and serve the evening meal. They will depart at 3PM from St. John’s and return by 8PM.

Cherry Street Mission Ministries (CSMM) Fall Banquet:

The CSMM Fall Banquet will be held once again in our parish hall on Thursday, October 19. The Banquet features both a delicious meal (prepared by local vendors and the CSMM kitchen staff, and served by volunteers from St. John’s) and presentations by Rev. Dan Rogers and guest speakers. The banquet is open to anyone to attend. Doors will open at 6PM, with the meal being served at 6:30PM. We are in need of about 12 volunteers to help with final meal prep, serving and clean up. If you can help, please contact Crissi Stuckey (419-551-1146) or the church office.

Cherry Street Mission Ministries (CSMM):

They’ve opened up their new Mac Street Café and they are in need of help serving food at the buffet line. Meals are being served 24/7, serving breakfast, lunch and dinner. No training is needed – but there is a brief orientation before one starts serving on how to greet people, giving them the option of what they’d like to eat and making sure some basic policies and procedures are understood.

Time slots available include: 6:45AM to 8:00AM, 8:00AM to 9:30AM, 10:45AM to noon, noon to

1:30PM, 4:15PM to 5:30PM, 5:30PM to 7:00PM.

Volunteers can sign up at www.cherrystreetmission.org/volunteer or call the church office.

Outback Work Day:

The morning of Saturday, September 23rd has been scheduled as a time when volunteers from SJCC can help with the ministry of the Outback. When Eliot Nofziger spoke at SJCC in June about Youth for Christ and the Outback, it prompted the mission committee to see about helping with some cleaning, repairs and projects at the youth center. A sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board, and info will be sent out the week before regarding what tools and supplies would be needed.

April 21 – May 1, 2018 – Mission Trip To Brazil:

The mission committee has been working to set up a trip to Brazil, to spend time with Tony and Leila Frank, missionaries we support who live in the city of Ivoti. The fourfold purpose of this trip is: 1) Support and encouragement of Tony and Leila; 2) Learning of the culture and situation in which they live and teach; 3) Developing further insight in to missionary ministry; and 4) Increasing our sense of awareness of the church in the world.

We are hoping to have up to six people make this trip, with some of the group staying in the home of Tony and Leila, and some of the group staying in the homes of some of their friends – a neat cultural opportunity. Cost of the trip, not including passport or any immunizations, will be about \$1,500 to \$1,600.

Be thinking and praying! An orientation meeting, in which we'll look to share all about the trip, will be offered near the end of September or early October.

Kajiado Children's Home (KCH):

Supporting churches are being invited to have people participate in a trip to Kenya scheduled for June 21 – July 1, 2018, with an application deadline of February 15, 2018. For further information, please contact David Stuckey (419-446-4686), Doug Rupp (419-682-1102) or Pastor Erich.

Thank Offering Containers

Thank Offering containers are available for pick up on a table in the sanctuary or chapel narthex. The suggestion is to save your loose change for the next several months in this coin container. This special offering is collected at the end of November and will be divided equally between The Sparrow's Nest and The Foods Resource Bank.



Missionary Contact/Prayer Request Information:

Shobha & Ravi Arole, CRHP

web site - www.jamkhed.org



Robert & Jenni McMahan, CRU (BGSU)

web site - www.give.cru.org

e-mail - robert.mcmahan@cru.org

e-mail - jennifer.mcmahan@cru.org

Matt & Paige Waanders, CRU (Brazil)

web site - www.give.cru.org

e-mail - matthew.waanders@cru.org

e-mail - paige.stamm@cru.org

Kyle Chase, Reliant (Univ. of Michigan)

web site - www.reliant.org

e-mail - kyle.chase@nlcweb.org



Matt Pardi, Reliant (Univ. of Toledo)

web site - www.reliant.org

e-mail - matt.pardi@reliant.org

Whitney Varnau, Reliant

web site - www.reliant.org

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



Robert Rogers - Mighty in the Land Ministry

web site - www.mightyintheland.com

e-mail - hello@mightyintheland.com

Larry & Linda Rupp, Kajiado Children's Home

website - www.hope4kajiado.com

e-mail - kajiadochildrenshome@gmail.com

Cheryl Wyse - The Agape Family Life House

website - www.agapeflh.org

Jason & Becky Suon, Freedom International Ministries

website - www.itisforfreedom.com

e-mail - JasonSuon@itisforfreedom.com

e-mail - BeckySuon@itisforfreedom.com

ministry happenings

Christian Education

Summer Mid-Week Youth Ministries:

LOGOS – The first night of LOGOS will be Wednesday, September 13th! We will follow the same schedule as in the past, with our meal beginning at 6PM in the parish hall - doors open at 5:50PM, followed by our various other Wednesday evening youth programs (see related articles below). Volunteers are still needed in various leadership roles (contact Kim M. Walker if you can help). You will find youth registration information on the bulletin board in the chapel narthex, or you can contact the church office.

ministry happenings

Summer Mid-Week Youth Ministries (cont.):

JYF (Junior Youth Fellowship) – The first night of JYF will be September 13th! Pastor Erich is leading a team of parents (Sarah Nafziger, Steve & Kim Walker, Carrie Yoder) in planning for and hosting this year's activities. JYF youth (6th, 7th & 8th Graders) will be receiving invitations to enjoy the LOGOS dinner at 6PM on the 13th, which will be followed by JYF activities until 8PM. Youth will share in games, brainstorming, devotions and snacks on this first night.

SYF (Senior Youth Fellowship) – We kicked off the new school year with a pool and pond party at the Stuckey's home, and enjoyed fishing, swimming, food and playing games. If you're a high school student and you didn't receive a text about this event, please let Pastor Alex know so that your information can be added to our records and we can invite you to our next gathering.

Upcoming Events: On Sunday, September 3, we're going to the fair together and will be staying for the free concert that evening. On Wednesday, September 6, we're going to be helping out at the FISH pantry. They're replacing and moving heavy shelving, so we can use some strong helpers, and they'll also be stuffing purses with hygiene products to distribute to those in need, so we need lots of helpers!

Note to Parents & Teens: On September 20, we'll begin using Francis Chan's Courage video curriculum, which features testimonials of students involved in sexting, underage drinking, and other pressures relevant to high schoolers. In these testimonials, we'll see how these teens eventually found courage to resist peer pressure and live their lives for Jesus.

Life Planning – Life Planning offers our high school students a chance to be paired with an adult in our congregation in a mentoring relationship. If you're interested in getting involved in this program or in learning more about it, contact Pastor Alex (330-206-8762). This program will resume on September 13, and will continue to meet every second Wednesday of the month.

Senior High Sunday School – September marks the beginning of a new year for Senior High Sunday School! The teachers have been hard at work planning for this new year, and are excited about implementing some new ideas, including inviting guest speakers to talk with teens about how faith influences their work and lives, incorporating more service opportunities including helping teach the children in Faith Village, and adding new curriculum which is more interactive

and oriented toward group discussion. If you're a teen, and you haven't been to Sunday School for a while, come visit us this month and see what's new! Also, feel free to bring your comments and suggestions to your teachers or Pastor Alex, as we continue to plan this year to help you grow in your faith!

Cell Phone Usage – Parents, Adults, Youth & Children:

The Pastors, Faith Village Director and LOGOS Director are asking for everyone's cooperation and sensitivity in the use of their cell phones during worship and program times. Our phones provide quick communication and help us stay connected with families and friends, and be aware of potential emergencies.

We know that many people are using a bible app on their phone to read scriptures during worship and times of ministry – which provides great access to God's Word. People are also using their phones to share devotional thoughts and prayer concerns. These are appropriate uses!

We also are aware that children and youth are paying attention to their cell phones when they should be giving their attention to the lesson or to the group they are with at the time. As Faith Village, Confirmation, LOGOS and our Youth Programs start up this month, leaders will be asking children and youth to make sure they're focused on the lesson and program activities, interacting with the people they are with and not being distracted by playing games, responding to texts or calls.

In checking policy handbooks of area school districts, we know they have concise policies in regards to student's use of cell phone and electronic devices – that students may not use cell phones or other electronic devices, or even have them in their possession in some school districts, during school hours.

Asking children and youth to silence their phone, to leave it in their pocket, to leave it in the car, or to place them on a shelf when they enter a room for one of our ministries are ways we may approach helping them be attentive to the lessons and activities.

Events / Activities

Men's Breakfast – Second Saturday of Each Month (September 9th), 7:40AM:

A monthly time to gather, enjoy breakfast, fellowship, hear a testimony, share joys and concerns, and pray together. Please let Bruce Wooley, Pastor Erich or Pastor Alex know if you have any questions about what the Men's Prayer Breakfast is all about!

September 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
8:00 & 10:30AM Worship 9:15AM SS/Faith Village 9:15AM Confirmation		Mission-A-Month— Toledo Gospel Rescue Mission (TGRM)	Elder of the Month— Gloria Lauber		1 2	
Fulton County Fair						
3	4 Labor Day	5	6	7	8	9 7:40AM Men's Breakfast
Fulton County Fair						
	OFFICE CLOSED	9:15AM Bible Study 7:00PM Capital Campaign	8:30AM Moms in Prayer 6:30PM Child/Youth Safety Trg. 7:00PM SYF (FISH Pantry Service Project) 7:00PM Song Leader Meeting	7:15PM Mission Comm.		
10 9:15AM Confirmation Orientation 3:00PM Depart for TGRM Chapel & Meal	11 11:00AM Staff Meeting	12 9:15AM Bible Study 1:30PM Worship Planning 2:30PM Pastors Meeting 5:00PM Community Meal 7:00PM Evangelism Comm. 7:00PM Property Comm.	13 8:30AM Moms in Prayer 9:00AM W. Haven Bible Study 5:50PM LOGOS 6:00PM Alpha Course 6:45PM JYF 7:00PM Life Planning 7:00PM SYF Remix	14 6:00PM Scouts District Meeting 7:00PM Praise Band Rehearsal	15	16
17 Blanket Sunday	18 11:00AM Staff Meeting 6:30PM Spiritual Council 7:30PM Consistory	19 9:15AM Bible Study 1:30PM Worship Planning 2:30PM Pastors Meeting 5:00PM Community Meal	20 8:30AM Moms in Prayer 5:50PM LOGOS 6:00PM Alpha Course 6:45PM JYF 7:00PM SYF 7:30PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal	21	22	23 8:00AM Outback Work Day
24 10:30AM Outdoor Worship 11:45AM Chicken BBQ	25 11:00AM Staff Meeting	26 9:15AM Bible Study 1:30PM Worship Planning 2:30PM Pastors Meeting 5:00PM Community Meal	27 8:30AM Moms in Prayer 9:00AM W. Haven Bible Study 5:50PM LOGOS 6:00PM Alpha Course 6:45PM Junior Choir 6:45PM JYF 7:00PM SYF 7:30PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal	28 6:00PM Cherry Street Mission Fall Banquet	29	30

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

- | | |
|---|---|
| 2 Krayton Kern | 17 David Lightner, Ashley Short |
| 3 Brent & Elaine Winzeler | 18 Larry & Kathy Bechstein, Kade Kern, Sue Ruffer |
| 5 Karsen Pursel, Kelsey Wyse | 20 Kelly Ducey, Rayne Kinsman,
Dencel & Phyllis Miller, Ethan Warncke |
| 6 Bob DeVries, Brianna Jenkins | 21 Kim Kern, Melva Woolace |
| 7 Scott Short | 22 Kathy Bostelman, Rachel Grieser |
| 8 Gloria Lauber, Darlene Sauder, Toby Walker | 23 Sara Greek |
| 9 Judy Barnhart, Barb Stover | 24 Jacob Layton |
| 10 Avery Roth, Evynn Roth | 25 Kennedy Hurst, Kelli Kuntz, Tara Meyer,
Keith Wyse |
| 11 Kenny & Shirley Nafziger, Wayne & Susie Spiess | 26 Roger Merillat, Esther Rupp |
| 12 Bill Barnhart, Jay & Karla Pursel, Bernice Rice | 27 Jordyn Pursel, Brad & Aimee Roth, Steve & Ashley
Schink |
| 13 Gretchen Heer, Shirley Nafziger, Audrey Smith | 30 Rodney & Joyce Kinsman, Rebecca Smith, Richard
& Cathy Spiess, Curt & Kay Stamm |
| 14 Bill Bostelman, Josie Grieser, Maddox Gruenhagen,
Linda Hayes, Roger Miller | |
| 15 Eric & Sarah Nafziger, Alice Tedrow, Ed & Dianne
Wyrick | |
| 16 Willie Buehrer, Angie Neuenschwander | |

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

ministry happenings

Chicken BBQ – Sunday, September 24th: cont.

Our annual Chicken BBQ will be held in conjunction with our 10:30AM Outdoor Worship on Sunday, September 24th. Serving will begin after the worship service, and all are welcome to come and enjoy wonderful food and fellowship. A free will offering will be collected.

The Alpha Course:

Alpha is a practical introduction to the Christian faith, a place where people have an opportunity to explore the meaning of life in a relaxed, friendly setting. Alpha meets once a week for 10 to 13 weeks, depending upon a retreat day in the middle of the course. In each session people enjoy a meal together while laughing and learning about the teachings of Jesus in a friendly atmosphere where no question about life or God is seen as too simple or too hostile.

Alpha is an evangelistic tool, often defined as “evangelism for ordinary people.” Alpha is worthwhile for anyone: those who are not Christians, those who are not churchgoers, those who are new Christians, those who want to brush up on the basics, those new to church.

To truly be evangelistic, the expectation and hope is that people of the congregation would invite someone outside the church and both would attend the course. To truly be effective in bringing blessing and change to people’s lives, it’s necessary for us to share Christ and share our faith as we invite people to Alpha.

Alpha Course Details:

- Starting Wednesday, September 13th
- Evening sessions from 6PM to 7:30/8:00PM
- Held in the Fireside Room
- Coordinated by John Graber and Pastor Erich

SJCC Care Group Ministry:

A fellowship ministry offering a small group dynamic within our larger congregational family is what Care Groups are all about. They provide a way for people to be regularly involved in church fellowship while stimulating the congregation in their love for God and each other. Care Group gatherings will include devotions, prayer and fellowship in pursuing mutual care on a personal and practical level. Care Groups may vary according to age, special needs/interests, location, ministry, family orientation, etc., and each Care Group will be unique, due to the blend of gifts, interests and personalities of group members and leaders. Each Care Group will be led by one or two leaders as worked out through the Evangelism Committee.

The message of Hebrews 10:23-25 undergirds our

Care Group Ministry: “Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. 24 And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. 25 Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another -- and all the more as you see the Day approaching.”

This will be the second resurrection of this blessed care group ministry here at St. John’s, having originated back in the 1980’s, and then resurrected in the early 2000’s and now once again in 2017! People involved in the past will remember the blessed times of fellowship, sharing, food and togetherness this ministry fostered.

It’s time to sign-up to be a part of this ministry – either write your name on the posted sign-up sheet on the hallway bulletin board or contact the church office!

Help Wanted:

We are in search of qualified individuals to fill the positions listed below here at St. John’s:

Director of Music Ministry

“St. John’s Christian Church in Archbold, OH is seeking a part-time (12 - 14 hours) Director of Music Ministry. The ideal candidate is responsible for planning and leading the church’s music ministry in the worship of God with traditional and contemporary resources. Strong organizational and communication skills are required, technology skills preferred. Must be able to be on site Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings. If this is your calling, send your resume to St. John’s Christian Church 700 S. Defiance St., Archbold, OH 43502 or office@stjohnsarchbold.org, Attn: Personnel.”

Accompanist

“St. John’s Christian Church in Archbold, OH is seeking a talented musician with the ability to play piano and/or organ as well as a desire to serve in a musical capacity within a worship setting. Candidate needs to be comfortable with blended and contemporary styles of worship as well as traditional. If this is your calling, send your resume to St. John’s Christian Church 700 S. Defiance St., Archbold, OH 43502 or office@stjohnsarchbold.org, Attn: Personnel.”

Chancel Choir:

“COME, LET US SING FOR JOY TO THE LORD;.....”

The chancel choir is on the lookout for people who enjoy doing what Psalm 95 states. What is needed are people who enjoy music, singing, worshiping and fellowshiping together with a desire and commitment to have a church choir.

Our first rehearsal of the fall will be Wednesday,

September 20th at 7:30PM in the sanctuary, with our first Sunday to sing as October 1st.

Take time to prayerfully consider your part in this ministry of your church and Come Join Us. Any questions or communication can be directed to Lynne Christman (419-267-5610).

St. John's Has Talent Show & Auction:

The Fellowship Committee will be hosting the new St. John's Has Talent Show & Auction on Sunday, October 22nd, where you can use your gifts and talents to be part of a fun-filled evening and help raise support for a yet to be determined mission project.

Perhaps you will choose to use your talent to be part of a skit or performance in our talent show. Maybe you will use your gifts and talents to create an item to sell in the auction (baking, crafting, woodworking, creating a gift basket, etc.)

Mark October 22nd on your calendar now and watch for more details coming soon. Hope to see you there!

Advent ? ? ? ?:

You must be kidding! Autumn hasn't even arrived and you want me to think Christmas??? Halloween ideas are on display and before you can shake your finger, holiday items will swarm the shelves. Each year I look forward to the Advent Devotional...short readings by members of the St. John family. In fact, rather than reading each account daily, I forge ahead and read them all in one sitting, then go back and reread them on a daily basis. I hope you anticipate these accounts as much as I do.

I am asking YOU to consider contributing one of the readings...simply provide a one page message (250 to 350 words) that comes from your heart. The words may be your own, or there may be some quotes from the Bible or some other publication. You could include a personal experience or a short poem or prayer. In other words, ALMOST ANYTHING is acceptable – just let the Holy Spirit lead your thoughts.

Now, I know everyone does not feel comfortable sharing thoughts in a written manner...and I certainly understand. If you feel led I say, "Hallelujah!" If your first thought is, "Oh, my! I simply couldn't do this"... then I ask you to pray about it for a day, then think about it one more time...is the Spirit touching your heart? Then...write away! We need 30 authors!!!! More information regarding specifics will be forthcoming!!

Please contact Nancy Rupp (cell 419-572-9885, home 419-682-1102, or e-mail Nrupp47@yahoo.com) if you can help with this project. THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION OR CONSIDERATION!

worship

September Worship Information:

- Sep 3rd Labor Day Weekend
Scriptures – 1 Thess. 1:2-3, Luke 5:12-16
Sermon – “Taking a Break” – Pastor Erich
Special Music – Mike Meyer
Receive Pocket Change Challenge Offering
- Sep 10th Sermon Series – Congregational Leadership
Scriptures – Rom. 16:25-27, 1 Tim. 3:1-13
Sermon – “Qualifications: Who Has Them?”
– Pastor Erich
Special Music – Ava Genter
Receive Pocket Change Challenge Offering
- Sep 17th Sermon Series – Congregational Leadership
Scriptures – Psalm 89:1-2, Romans 12:3-8
Sermon – “Gifts: Which One(s) Do I Have?”
– Pastor Erich
Special Music – Praise Band
Blanket Sunday Special Offering
- Sep 24th 10:30am Outdoor Service of Worship
(on the East Lawn)
Sermon Series – Congregational Leadership
Scriptures – Exodus 33:12-14,
Matt. 20:25-28, 1 Cor. 2:6-10
Sermon – “Leadership: What’s Involved?”
– Pastor Erich
Special Music – Klaire Kern
Annual Chicken BBQ

St. John's Christian Church Leadership:

- Congregation President.....Brent Winzeler
- Congregation Vice-PresidentBetsy Ducey
- Congregation Secretary..... Sarah Nafziger
- Elders Betsy Ducey, Ann Fether, Ann Grime,
Joyce Kinsman, Gloria Lauber, Paige Miller
- Deacons/Deaconesses Amy Baden, John Graber,
Josh Grime, Nate Meyer,
Eric Nafziger, Lynne Roth, Dean Sauder,
David Stuckey, Carrie Wooley
- Church Treasurer..... Roger Miller
- Custodians.....Dean Buckenmeyer, Nick Rice
- Security Person Richard Spiess
- Christian Preschool Staff Sue MacDonald,
Joan Wyse
- Administrative Assistant Sue Grieser
- LOGOS Director Kim M. Walker
- Associate Pastor Rev. Alex Young
- Pastor.....Rev. Erich Christman

consistory/committees

Nomination Process in Preparation for the Annual Election of Congregational Leadership:

Here's the second installment from the Spiritual Council in their discerned efforts towards improving the nomination and election process of our congregation. As the Nominating Committee, the Spiritual Council will be entering into their annual time of prayer and discernment at their September meeting. This focus on leadership development is coming as we prepare for a healthy and vital future of ministry and mission here at St. John's.

In 1 Timothy the Apostle Paul writes instructions to Timothy as Timothy goes about the work of leading the church in Ephesus, and in 1 Timothy 3:1-15 Paul writes: "Here is a trustworthy saying: If anyone sets his heart on being an overseer, he desires a noble task. 2 Now the overseer must be above reproach, the husband of but one wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, 3 not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. 4 He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect. 5 (If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church?) 6 He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil. 7 He must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil's trap. 8 Deacons, likewise, are to be men worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine, and not pursuing dishonest gain. 9 They must keep hold of the deep truths of the faith with a clear conscience. 10 They must first be tested; and then if there is nothing against them, let them serve as deacons. 11 In the same way, their wives are to be women worthy of respect, not malicious talkers but temperate and trustworthy in everything. 12 A deacon must be the husband of but one wife and must manage his children and his household well. 13 Those who have served well gain an excellent standing and great assurance in their faith in Christ Jesus. 14 Although I hope to come to you soon, I am writing you these instructions so that, 15 if I am delayed, you will know how people ought to conduct themselves in God's household, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth."

These words have been and continue to be used in guiding local churches to discern appropriate leaders of the congregation, as well as providing guidance on how to prepare people to serve as leaders.

Overseers can be interpreted as either a bishop (a leader over more than one church) or an elder. If one only relies on this passage for knowledge about church leadership, it can be interpreted that women should not be overseers or deacons, nor should single men, nor men who don't have children, as this passage speaks of being a husband and of having children. In Romans 16 Paul shares the names of several of his coworkers, including many women, with Phoebe often considered to be a deaconess. There is no evidence in the scriptures that either Paul or Timothy were married, though some believe that Paul might have been married prior to his conversion, so neither one of them would have been qualified in a strict interpretation of this passage – neither were husbands – but they were accepted leaders in the church. This is a brief summary of interpretation for certainly there is much that has been written about male and female leadership in the church, and other passages to consider for a full scale discussion. This brief summary is not meant to exclude further dialogue or study, as some classes on biblically defined leadership will be offered in the near future.

While there remains much theological debate about male or female leadership in the church, one way to study this passage is not necessarily on being male or female, married or single, a parent or not, but rather the lesson learned can be what traits are consistent with good Christian leadership:

Overseer:

1. Above reproach
2. Temperate
3. Self-controlled
4. Respectable
5. Hospitable
6. Able to teach
7. Not given to drunkenness
8. Not violent but gentle
9. Not quarrelsome
10. Not a lover of money
11. Not a recent convert
12. Have a good reputation with outsiders

Deacon:

1. Worthy of respect
2. Sincere
3. Not indulging in much wine
4. Not pursuing dishonest gain
5. Keep hold of the deep truths of the faith with a clear conscience
6. First must be tested

Everyone is asked to be in prayer – asking God to help us discern people who have these qualities that might be lifted up in our annual search for new members of the Consistory. And if you yourself have these qualities, or you want to nominate someone who has these qualities, please speak with one of the Spiritual Council members (see listing of our elders on page 9).

Consistory’s Work of Congregational Visioning:

After identifying twenty-seven aspects of our ministry that the Consistory put forth through their efforts of visioning, the members of Consistory ranked the following items as the top five they wanted to address in the near future:

1. Post High – Address This Gap in Our Ministry
2. Engagement of Members – Engaged in Faith, Deeply Committed to Christ
3. To Know All by Name – Increase the Awareness of Who Everyone is in Our Congregation
4. Volunteerism – Servant Hood – Addressing the Need for Leaders, Teachers and Servants
5. Bigger Bathrooms – Accessibility and Location

Consistory is now engaged in the process of creating both goals and objectives for these five items. Goals are the stated purposes of our endeavors in these areas, and the objectives will be out we reach those goals.

Capital Campaign Committee:

Pocket Change Challenge – Adult and youth coin banks will be collected on September 3rd and 10th – providing further funds towards our Imagine Your Faith Building campaign.

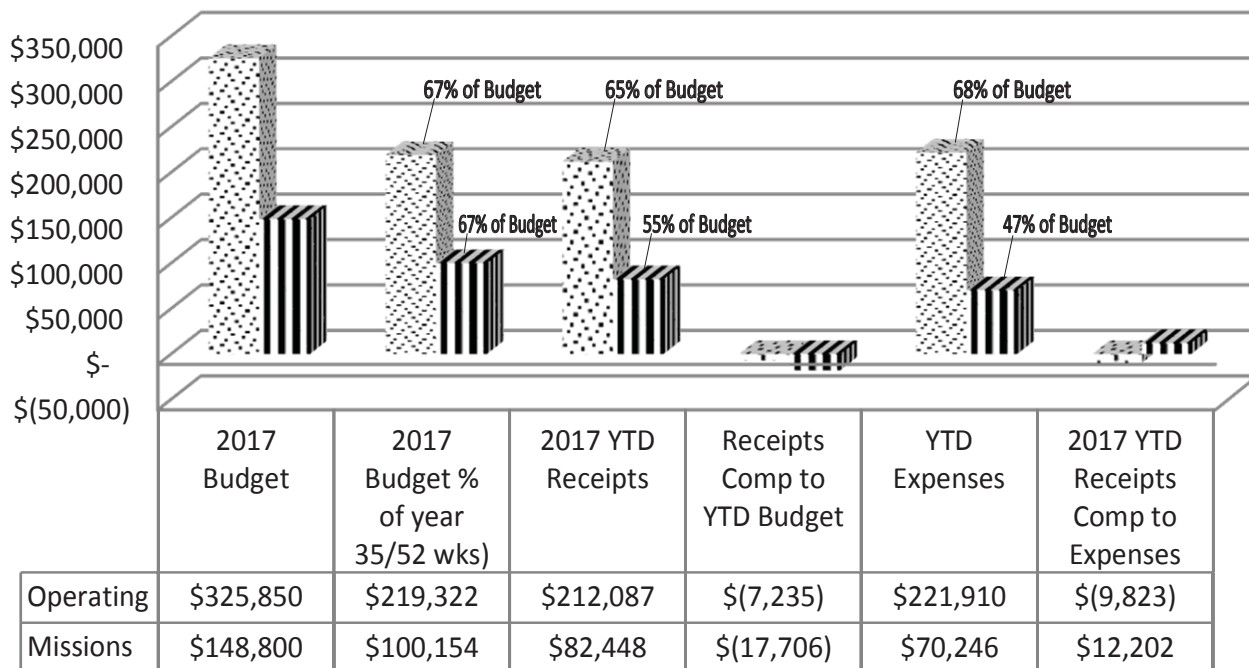
IYF Building Campaign – 2nd Offering:

Beginning with the 4th Sunday of August, and on the 4th Sunday of each month thereafter, a special second offering will be received and directed towards our Imagine Your Faith Building Campaign. Once the ushers have passed the plates down the pews for the support of our operating, ministry and mission budgets, the ushers will come back through, passing the plates a second time for our once a month second offering. People may use the colored building fund envelopes that are in the pew racks for this second offering.



stewardship

2017 Operating & Missions Funds as of August 28, 2017



IYF Building Campaign Total Receipts as of August 27, 2017 - \$506,502.67

September Daily Scriptures

(From "Discovery" Daily Devotional)

Discovery® is a daily Bible reading guide that provides clear Bible explanation, prayers and relevant application questions. You can access this guide online at <http://www.scriptureunion.org/Bible%20Reading/Discovery>.

1 The Right Call ----- Mark 8:27-9:1	16 Pride and Prejudice ----- Obadiah 1-14
2 The Higher Life ----- Mark 9:2-13	17 Lip Service ----- Psalm 78:1-39
3 Holy Fear ----- Psalm 76	18 Judgement and Deliverance ----- Obadiah 15-21
4 Can You Believe It? ----- Mark 9:14-29	19 Such Sweet Sorrow ----- Ruth 1:1-18
5 Bearing Christ's Name ----- Mark 9:30-41	20 "As it Turned Out . . ." ----- Ruth 1:19-2:13
6 How to be Heroic ----- Mark 9:42-50	21 Working and Waiting ----- Ruth 2:14-23
7 All I Want is You ----- Mark 10:1-16	22 Time to Act ----- Ruth 3:1-18
8 Trust ----- Mark 10:17-31	23 Unexpected Grace ----- Ruth 4:1-12
9 Greatness ----- Mark 10:32-45	24 Don't Forget ----- Psalm 78:40-72
10 Strength in Weakness ----- Psalm 77	25 Reader, She Married Him . . . ----- Ruth 4:13-22
11 Seeing . . . and Believing ----- Mark 10:46-52	26 Half-Light or Holy Light? ----- 1 John 1:1-10
12 The God of Surprises ----- Habakkuk 1:1-11	27 A Love Choice ----- 1 John 2:1-14
13 The God of Justice ----- Habakkuk 1:12-2:1	28 Lie Detectors ----- 1 John 2:15-27
14 The God of Glory ----- Habakkuk 2:2-20	29 Reset to Righteousness ----- 1 John 2:28-3:10
15 The God of Salvation ----- Habakkuk 3:1-19	30 The Look of Love ----- 1 John 3:11-24

Phone 419-446-2545
 Website www.stjohnsarchbold.org
 Sunday Worship 8AM & 10:30AM
 Sunday School 9:15AM

Pastor Rev. Erich Christman
pastoreich@stjohnsarchbold.org
 Cell Ph. 419-551-0401

Assoc. Rev. Alex Young
pastoralex@stjohnsarchbold.org
 Cell Ph. 330-206-8762

Admin. Sue Grieser
office@stjohnsarchbold.org

LOGOS Kim M. Walker
gwalker@tceexpress.net

Director Roger Miller

Treasurer Dean Buckenmeyer

Custodians Nick Rice
 Richard Spiess

Security

Holy Communion:
 New Year (1/8), Ash Wednesday (3/1), Maundy Thursday (4/13),
 Pentecost (6/4), Mid-Summer (7/16), 1st Sunday in October (10/1),
 1st Sunday of Advent (12/3)

Come Hear the Reason we're Inspired to Serve Together



**The Church on the Corner
 Whose Cornerstone is Christ**

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