

# The Visitor

## prayer concerns

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

December 1, 2017 Volume 63, Number 12

### Please Pray For:

- Bill Bostelman and family, upon the death of his brother, Chuck, on November 24th.
- Kris Short and family, upon the death of her grandfather, Charles Courtney, on November 20th.
- Jon Lindsay, recovering from shoulder surgery on November 16th.
- Ruth Schmucker, in rehab at Fairlawn.
- Dorothy Miller, going through treatments for cancer in her throat, with radiation treatments occurring on December 11, 12 and 13.
- Lynda Schnitkey, recovering from a broken leg and foot.
- Norma Fish, pray for healing, strength and peace as she endures through cancer treatments.
- Susie Enderle, who is undergoing cancer treatments at the Cleveland Clinic (address: Hope Lodge, 11432 Mayfield Rd., Cleveland, OH 44106-2364).
- Please continue to remember all our brothers and sisters in the armed forces, praying for their safety. Serving from our church are:

#### **Bostelman, Brenden (Army)** (Afghanistan)

PRG 6-9  
APO AE 09354

#### **AB Collins Taylor D (Air Force)**

268 Luke Ave., Box 505  
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)** (Guam)

Wife, Maria & children, Silvette & Elias  
P.O. Box 291221, Yigo, GU 96929

#### **Eric Magg (Coast Guard)** (Sheryl Short's son)

Wife, Amy & son, Logan  
1114 Jackson Street  
Ketchikan, AK 99901-5771

#### **Donny Richardson (Marines)**

Stationed at Camp Lejeune, NC

#### **Steven Schink (Coast Guard)**

Wife, Ashley & children, Brennan & Amilia  
150 Dewey Avenue, Groton, CT 06340

#### **AJ Short (Marines)** (Japan)

#### **PFC Stuckey, Kyle (Army)** (Korea)

Wife, Nicole  
BCO, 1-8CAV, 2ABCT  
UNIT 15824  
APO, AP 86271

#### **Kollin Woolace (Marines)** (Camp Lejeune, NC)

1120 Hardin St., Jacksonville, NC 28540

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 #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 news

**Baptism** - On Sunday, November 19th, we celebrated the baptism of Clairra Jo Layton, daughter of Jacob and Stephanie. Clairra Jo was born on August 27, 2017. Clairra Jo's grandparents include Randy and Kathy Layton, and Bob and Tammy Sperling, and great-grandmother, Esther Layton.



**Baptism** - On Sunday, November 19th, we also celebrated the baptism of Mae Eloise Smith, daughter of Gabe Smith and Mindy Enderle, born on December 18, 2015 in Austin, Texas. Mae's grandparents include Bruce and Lisa Smith, Brad and Susie Enderle, and great-grandparents Betty Yount, and Maurice and Ruth Schmucker.



# pastor's letter

## Thoughts from Pastor Alex . . . Terrestrial and Cosmic Aspects of Advent

In Victorious, his devotional guide on the book of Revelation, Matt Proctor tells the story of how his family prepared for Advent a little differently one year. It started in the usual way, with the setting out of their nativity set, complete with serene figurines of baby Jesus and his earthly family. When we prepare for the Advent season, we normally think of this terrestrial scene, described in Matthew 2 or Luke 2. But this particular year, Proctor decided to explore with his family the cosmic aspect of the nativity, as described in Revelation 12.

In this passage, the Apostle John borrows the language of the myth of Apollo (which his readers were quite familiar with) to tell them the story of Jesus. According to mythology, Apollo was born into the world with a dragon poised to snatch him from his mother's womb, but was saved at the last moment, so that he could later return to defeat the dragon. In the same way, John writes, Jesus was born into the world with Satan desiring to destroy him, but Jesus was taken up into heaven . . . and as the story of Revelation unfolds, we read of heavenly warfare and of the decisive defeat of Satan. And so, in order to illustrate the cosmic aspect of Advent to his family, Proctor added a gleaming, red dragon to his nativity set.

Christmas is not just about a child being born who would one day be a good teacher and be an inspiration for other people to be polite and courteous. It's about the birth of a King who would be the Hero of the World, who would face all the forces of evil, visible and invisible, and conquer evil once and for all for the sake of his people. And being a Christian isn't just about dressing up in nice clothes and sitting in pews to listen to sermons at church. It's about being dressed up in the armor of God and resisting the attacks of the Evil One (Eph. 6) and doing the work of God's kingdom. Notice that in Revelation 12, when the dragon who symbolizes Satan fails to have baby Jesus for a snack, he turns his effort to Jesus' brothers and sisters . . . the church! Satan desires to destroy you. But alongside Almighty Jesus, not even death can separate you from God. Rather, as you follow Jesus in life and in death, you will also follow him into resurrection life and into glory. The message of Proctor's devotion (and the message of Revelation) is that we who stay faithful to Jesus, in the end will be victorious. Death will be defeated, and we will live with God forever: our King, our Hero, and our Friend.

Let the words of Revelation 12 be a reminder to us of the cosmic significance of Advent. There is a battle raging on between good and evil. Our Hero has come. And all who rally to Him will be saved. First, therefore, let us come to Him and be saved. Second, let us put on the protection He offers us for life on the battlefield (Eph. 6). Third, let us set our hands to the work of the battlefield: saving others. As Jesus' half-brother exhorts us in Jude 23: "Snatch others from the fire and save them." Revelation 12 reminds us: there's more to life than we can see right now. Live (by faith) according to these invisible realities, not just according to what we can see. Giving allegiance to God, resisting the pleasures of evil, working to save others . . . it will all be worth it! And one day we'll see. Right now, we have only God's promises that it will be worth it, like packages wrapped up under a tree. But one day the packages will be opened, and we'll have not just the promise, but the reward.

Jesus is coming . . .



*"For unto us a child is born, to  
us a son is given,"*

Isaiah 9:6

## Wishing You A Merry Christmas & A Happy New Year!

*from:*

*Erich, Alex, Sue, Roger, Dean, Nick,  
Kim, Sue M., Joan, & Richard*

## preschool corner

We'd like to start by extending a special "Thank You!" to Nancy Rupp, Deb Kauffman, Missy Warncke, Bri Krukowski and Brooke Hines. Your willingness to help in the preschool classroom during Sue's recovery was greatly appreciated! We could rest so much easier knowing that some awesome subs were here.

At the beginning of the month, we completed our "Fall" theme, and moved on to "Dinosaurs." This theme is definitely a favorite among the children, and the teachers always learn one or two things about dinosaurs that we didn't know! We talked about meat eaters and plant eaters, and how to tell which dinosaurs fit into each category. The older children constructed and decorated dinosaurs from paper plates, while the younger ones used fabric to glue spikes on their stegosaurus. We then named each dinosaur (for example, Kenleyosaurus, Laineyosaurus, etc.). The children then learned about "Thanksgiving," completing various turkey crafts. The older children did a turkey worksheet about number order, and they sang, "Turkey in the Straw." The children painted pictures at the easel and told what they were thankful for. They learned about the Indians and Pilgrims, and how the first Thanksgiving differed from ours today. The last week of the month we explored the "5 Senses" God gave us to experience the world He created. The older children played a fun game of "Sound Bingo" at the game table, where they had to guess the sound on a CD. The children played with colored cooked spaghetti and scissors in the sensory table, shaving cream in the art area, and had to guess what was in the "mystery box" by feeling with their hands.

Our Bible verse for the month was, "O give thanks to the Lord for He is good." Psalm 136:1



Sue MacDonald  
Director



Joan Wyse  
Aide

## congregational thank you's

Though I cannot attend services at St. John's, I feel well connected through Bible studies, the radio broadcasts of the previous Sunday services, the monthly newsletters and church bulletins. God's blessings for all!

Esther Rice

We would like to thank everyone for the thoughts, cards, prayers, and visits during the loss of my father, George Beatty. Words cannot express how uplifting the St. John's Church Family was to us during a difficult time. May God bless each of you.

Faith, Family, Farming...  
Rich and Jane Lesniak



Thank you for helping me celebrate my 100th birthday, remembering me with cards, beautiful flowers and visits from Pastor Erich and Lynne, Pastor Alex and our church family. You all made my day very special.

Thanks again,  
Jane Short



Dear Church Family,

Thank you for all the prayers, cards, visits and meals! I can't express how much it has meant to our family to feel the love and support from our church family. I'm more than half way done with my treatments and am so looking forward to being back home and seeing all of you for Christmas! God bless you all!

Susie Enderle and family

## mission corner

### Thank You Notes From Mission Partners & Friends:

- Altlink (Tom & Megan), for our gift of \$65.
- Back Bay Mission, for our gift of \$130.
- Cherry Street Mission, for our gift of \$330.
- Crossroad, for our gift of \$145.
- Cru (Matt & Paige Waanders), for our gift of 40.
- Gideons International, for our gift of \$871.
- Mighty in the Land (R. Rogers), for our gift of \$200.
- Reliant (David Hench), for our gift of \$250.
- Reliant (Whitney Varnau), for our gift of \$450.
- Reliant (Matt Pardi), for our gift of \$1,120.
- Reliant (Kyle Chase), for our gift of \$1,310.
- Toledo Gospel Rescue Mission, for our gift of \$75.
- World Team (Franks), for our gift of \$750.



Pastor Erich & St. John's Church,

I just wanted to say thank you for allowing me to speak about the Gideons and their work that is being done. We all are looking for the lost so we can share with them about Jesus Christ our Savior.

Your church is very welcoming and friendly. You can feel the love for each other and the love for Christ. May God continue to bless you and the church.

Tracy Zuver, Gideons Int. Representative

## mission corner cont.

St. John's,

Thank you so much for your \$250 contribution to my ministry. It means a lot, as it helps the impact of God growing his Kingdom on Akron University's campus. Thank you for your prayers; pray that I can continuously be conformed to the cause of Christ.

God Bless,  
David Hench, Reliant Ministries



Matt & Paige Waanders, Cru – November Update:

### Serving and Dreaming:

Last weekend, I (Matt) had an opportunity to serve at a local "Free Store" that provides meals and clothing to individuals in need within our Columbus community. It was so fun to serve. While there, I couldn't help but dream of us rallying Cru students and their friends from Ohio State to participate in the work that God is doing there. How could God use the Free Store and other ministries like it to make students more aware of needs in their community? Could students develop a sense of how God can use them to help? What if we even saw Christian college students and non-Christian students come together for the common cause of serving their community? We think that Jesus would be thrilled.



### Prayer Requests:

- Please pray for Holly and other Freshmen who are involved in Cru at Ohio State, to grow spiritually and relationally this fall.
- Please pray for students on campus who are still struggling with loneliness, homesickness, and academic challenges, to find communities of people who can support and encourage them.
- Please pray for us as we continue developing our team of ministry partners so that we can report to our ministry at OSU.



### **December Mission-A-Month – Crossroad Child & Family Services:**

For more than 134 years, Crossroad Child & Family Services in Fort Wayne, Indiana, has focused on the needs of children and families who have few alternatives. Founded as an orphanage in 1883 by the



German Reformed Church in the United States, their faith-based mission to children with the greatest need has remained.

Today, they work with emotionally troubled children other providers have chosen not to work with, or have failed

to help. These children may also be mentally retarded/developmentally disabled, autistic and/or experiencing the results of brain trauma, have parents with substance abuse problems and/or have experienced sexual abuse. In their residential and education services, these children are as young as age six. Much too often they are children who have been hurt the worst by those who should have protected them the most.

Their needs for therapy, education, and family support services are complicated and challenging. Yet, Crossroad's outcomes are extremely good! Crossroad provides services in their school "Crossroad Academy", and in residential, outpatient, and community based services. In October they opened an emergency shelter care program for girls with mental health issues. Crossroad will serve nearly 400 youth this year.

Today, the growing adult opioid epidemic (heroin/prescription drug addiction) and trafficking trends has led to a growing number of children needing therapeutic help; there are more children on Crossroad's waiting list for services than their total number of beds. The need is growing and Crossroad needs resources to help more children!

How can you get more information about Crossroad? Take a tour! Volunteer! Check out their website ([www.crossroad-fwch.org](http://www.crossroad-fwch.org)) and Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/crossroad.cares](http://www.facebook.com/crossroad.cares)). Check out the mission bulletin board right outside the church office for a Wish List of current needs from Crossroad. Any items you provide from this list can be placed in the white mission box outside the Chapel narthex.

Your prayers and generous financial and in-kind support truly does help change the futures of young people, and the Crossroad Board of Directors and staff send their thanks for our partnership in helping these vulnerable children that has spanned more than 134 years!

### **Mission Experiences:**

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

- Christmas Cheer Hospitality – December 6th

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

Five people have reserved their place for this extended mission experience! There are a few spots available – reserve your place by January 1st!

The mission committee has been working to set up a trip to Brazil, to spend time with Tony & 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 & 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, one in which some of the group will stay in the home of Tony & Leila and some of the group will stay 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!

**A Friendship Event in Support of the Kajiado Children's Home, Kajiado, Kenya:**

St. John's Christian Church is holding this special Friendship Event on December 3rd, 2017 with gathering and refreshments at 2:00PM and a presentation by Larry Rupp at 2:30PM. Area churches and Evangelical Association Churches in our region have been invited to attend. We also invite anyone reading this – inviting you to come to this for the purpose of learning about the ministry of the Kajiado Children's Home so that you might consider becoming an individual sponsor of the home.

**Missionary Contact/Prayer Request Information:****Shobha & Ravi Arole, CRHP**

web site - [www.jamkhed.org](http://www.jamkhed.org)

**Robert & Jenni McMahan, CRU (BGSU)**

web site - [www.give.cru.org](http://www.give.cru.org)

e-mail - [robert.mcmahan@cru.org](mailto:robert.mcmahan@cru.org)

e-mail - [jennifer.mcmahan@cru.org](mailto:jennifer.mcmahan@cru.org)

**Matt & Paige Waanders, CRU (Brazil)**

web site - [www.give.cru.org](http://www.give.cru.org)

e-mail - [matthew.waanders@cru.org](mailto:matthew.waanders@cru.org)

e-mail - [paige.stamm@cru.org](mailto:paige.stamm@cru.org)

**Kyle Chase, Reliant (Univ. of Michigan)**

web site - [www.reliant.org](http://www.reliant.org)

e-mail - [kyle.chase@nlcweb.org](mailto:kyle.chase@nlcweb.org)

**Matt Pardi, Reliant (Univ. of Toledo)**

web site - [www.reliant.org](http://www.reliant.org)

e-mail - [matt.pardi@reliant.org](mailto:matt.pardi@reliant.org)

**Whitney Varnau, Reliant**

web site - [www.reliant.org](http://www.reliant.org)

e-mail - [whitney.varnau@h2osu.org](mailto:whitney.varnau@h2osu.org)

**Tony & Leila Frank, Sapiranga, Brazil**

web site - [www.worldteam.org](http://www.worldteam.org)

e-mail - [tony.frank@worldteam.org](mailto:tony.frank@worldteam.org)

**Tom & Megan, The Islands, Africa**

web site - [tmislands.blogspot.com](http://tmislands.blogspot.com)

e-mail - [tmislands@fastmail.net](mailto:tmislands@fastmail.net)

**Robert Rogers - Mighty in the Land Ministry**

web site - [www.mightyintheland.com](http://www.mightyintheland.com)

e-mail - [hello@mightyintheland.com](mailto:hello@mightyintheland.com)

**Larry & Linda Rupp, Kajiado Children's Home**

website - [www.hope4kajiado.com](http://www.hope4kajiado.com)

e-mail - [kajiadochildrenshome@gmail.com](mailto:kajiadochildrenshome@gmail.com)

**Cheryl Wyse - The Agape Family Life House**

website - [www.agapeflh.org](http://www.agapeflh.org)

**Jason & Becky Suon, Freedom International Ministries**

website - [www.itisforfreedom.com](http://www.itisforfreedom.com)

e-mail - [JasonSuon@itisforfreedom.com](mailto:JasonSuon@itisforfreedom.com)

e-mail - [BeckySuon@itisforfreedom.com](mailto:BeckySuon@itisforfreedom.com)

## ministry happenings

**Christian Education****Mid-Week Youth Ministries:**

**LOGOS** – Our Wednesday evening meal and youth program for children ages 4 years old through 6th grade is completed for 2017. It will start back up on Wednesday, January 10, 2018 with the theme “Everybody’s Birthday” Night.

**JYF (Junior Youth Fellowship)**

- The JYF Youth thank those who purchased wreaths and poinsettias! The \$1,000 raised through this annual fundraiser will help the JYF enjoy some special activities this year (possibilities include: a lock-in, day trip, Christian concert and a service project).
- On December 6th the JYF youth will celebrate Christmas and Friendship through a White Elephant Gift Exchange. This will be the last JYF gathering of 2017!
- JYF in 2018 will kick off on January 10th!
- Pastor Erich thanks the JYF Team of Leaders – Eric & Sarah Nafziger, Steve & Kim Walker and Carrie Yoder – they have brought tremendous input, friendliness, wisdom and support to our JYF youth and ministries!

# ministry happenings

SYF (Senior Youth Fellowship) cont.

i. **Looking Back:** This month teens and Life Planning mentors rallied together to pack boxes for Operation Christmas Child. Take a moment to pray for the children receiving our packages, that this gift might be an encouragement to them, a testimony that they are loved, and perhaps even be used by the Lord to grow faith in these children for a lifetime of loving God and enjoying Him! Teens also gathered together at Justin and Carrie Yoder's home to celebrate "Friendsgiving." (Thank you, Yoder's!) Although the Thanksgiving holiday is behind us, remember to carry with you an ongoing spirit of thanksgiving, as God instructs us in 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, "Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

ii. **Looking Forward:** Here are some tentative dates for upcoming SYF Events. See Pastor Alex with any questions you might have!

1. SYF Winter Retreat-Monday, January 15 (MLKJ day)
2. SYF Lock In-Sunday, February 18 through Monday morning, February 19 (Presidents' Day)
3. SYF Mission Trip-June 3-9 (First week of summer break)

## Confirmation:

In our journey through the story of the Bible, we've come to the Ten Commandments, where after saving His people from Egypt, the Lord gives His people instructions on how to live life to the fullest in His kingdom. We've also been looking at the Heidelberg Catechism (a document written in 1563 that helped serve as a theological foundation for our congregation) which serves as a guide to better understand the faith. For example, about the 8th Commandment ("Thou shall not steal"), the catechism elaborates (with Scriptural proofs) that through this command, God prohibits not just outright theft, but also all methods of dishonest gain, and the greed which drives these immoral and unjust practices. Furthermore, the catechism explains that the 8th Commandment teaches us that we are to treat our neighbors as we would like to be treated (dealing with them with honesty and even generosity), and that we should work hard to meet our needs and to enable us to be generous to our neighbors (as we would want them to be toward us).

## Senior High Sunday School Class:

We recently enjoyed having Shannon Richardson as a guest speaker for our Sunday School. (Thanks Shannon!) This month we're offering our time to help out with the preschoolers and some of the children's Christmas programs. (As Christians, one of the ways we celebrate Christmas is by giving generously, as we have been so richly blessed by God's amazing grace. How might you practice generosity this holiday season in how you spend your money, your time, and your talents?)

## Events / Activities

### Senior Citizens Annual Christmas Dinner:

Mark your calendars for Thursday, December 14th at 5:30PM for the annual Christmas Dinner! A delicious meal will be served by the Fellowship Committee, and then a fun night of bingo will follow the meal. Please sign up on the bulletin board across from the church office by December 10th. A free will offering will be collected.

### Men's Prayer Breakfast – December 9, 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!

### Stephen Ministries Update:

Last month's Visitor included a description of Stephen Ministry: equipping and empowering willing members of the congregation to provide high-quality, confidential, Christ-centered, one-on-one care to others in the congregation and community. As part of their exploration of this ministry, four members of the Spiritual Council attended an introductory workshop on November 11th. At this workshop, they made connections with people whose churches experienced faithful growth through this ministry, and they were introduced to the resources used by this ministry. Upon their recommendation, Spiritual Council approved progressing toward implementation of this ministry and is forming a team to share the goals and structure of this ministry with the congregation. For further questions about the ministry, about the process of implementing the ministry, or about possible ways you might help out, please contact Pastor Alex.

### 2017 Advent Devotional:

Copies are available on a table in the sanctuary narthex. Digital copy is available at [www.stjohnsarchbold.org](http://www.stjohnsarchbold.org), under Upcoming Events on our home page.

### Instant Church Directory:

A link for our online directory is available on our web site under Resources on our home page, or at this web site ([www.instantchurchdirectory.com](http://www.instantchurchdirectory.com)).

# small groups

## Couples Small Group:

The Couples Small Group will next meet on December 10th at 6PM at the church. The group welcomes couples who are interested in gathering with other couples for the purposes of fellowship, fun and faith.

## Young Adult Small Group:




Last month, the young adults of St. John's and Pettisville Missionary Church joined a small group hosted by Archbold Evangelical Church at Dan and Julie Stuckey's home. After a time of food and fellowship, we dug into the letter of James and spent some time talking about wisdom. (Who do you know that you would consider wise? What are some of their characteristics that contribute to this impression?) We're meeting again at the Stuckey's on December

17 at 6PM for a Christmas party. Feel free to bring a favorite Christmas snack to share, and a gift (under \$5) for a white elephant gift exchange. Come January, the group should resume meeting 2-3 times per month, and one of those meetings in January will probably be a trip to go bowling. Talk with Pastor Alex if you're interested in learning more about the group or if you're interested in joining them!

## Seekers:

During the month of December, the Seekers will meet in the Fireside Room on December 3rd and at the home of Keith & Kelli Kuntz on December 17th, both times at 6:00PM. The group welcomes any and all to join them in their study of "The Journey," a Billy Graham book about Christian living. This group of 45 to 80 year olds includes singles and couples with a variety of interests and life stories! Each gathering is an adventure of life and faith!

## December 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
8:00 & 10:30AM Worship 9:15AM SS/Faith Village 9:15AM Confirmation		Mission-A-Month— Crossroad	Elder of the Month— Gloria Lauber		1	2
3 Holy Communion 9:15AM Birthday Party for Jesus 11:45AM JYF Hand Bells Reh. 2-5:00PM Kajjado Friend- raiser Event 6:00PM Seekers (Fireside)	4 11:00AM Staff Meeting 5:00PM Basketball Practice	5 9:15AM Bible Study 1:30PM Pastors Meeting 5:00PM Community Meal (Zion) 6:30PM 5th Gr. B-ball Practice 7:00PM Capital Campaign	6 5:30AM Christmas Ch. Hosp. 8:30AM Moms in Prayer 6:30PM Children's Christmas Program Rehearsal 6:45PM JYF 7:00PM SYF 7:30PM Chancel Choir Reh. 7:45PM JYF Hand Bells Reh.	7 9:00AM Mending at Fairlawn 5:00PM Basketball Practice 7:00PM Mission Comm.	8	9 7:40AM Men's Breakfast
10 Sermon in Music 9:15AM Children's Christmas Program Rehearsal 6:00PM Couples Small Group	11 11:00AM Staff Meeting 5:00PM Basketball Practice	12 9:15AM Bible Study 1:30PM Pastors Meeting 5:00PM Community Meal (Zion) 6:30PM 5th Gr. B-ball Practice 7:00PM Property Committee	13 8:00AM Boiler Inspection 8:30AM Moms in Prayer 9:00AM W. Haven Bible Study 6:30PM Children's Christmas Program Rehearsal 7:00PM Life Planning 7:00PM SYF Remix	14 9:00AM Mending at Fairlawn 5:30PM Senior Citizens Christmas Dinner	15 5:00PM Basket- ball Practice	16
17 9:15AM Children's Christmas Program Rehearsal 10:30AM Children's Christmas Program 6:00PM Seeker's (Kuntz's) 6:00PM Young Adults Small Group	18 11:00AM Staff Meeting 5:00PM Basketball Practice 6:15PM Sp. Council 7:30PM Consistory	19 9:15AM Bible Study 10:00AM Preschool Christmas Party (Parish Hall) 1:30PM Pastors Meeting 2:00PM Preschool Christmas Party (Parish Hall) 5:00PM Community Meal (Zion)	20 8:30AM Moms in Prayer 10:00AM Preschool Christmas Party (Parish Hall) 2:00PM Preschool Christmas Party (Parish Hall) 7:00PM SYF 7:30PM Chancel Choir Reh.	21 9:00AM Mending at Fairlawn	22	23
24 7:00PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	25 Merry Christmas 10:30AM Christmas Day Worship 1:00PM Caroling at Fairlawn	26 9:15AM Bible Study 5:00PM Community Meal (Zion)	27 9:00AM W. Haven Bible Study	28 9:00AM Mending at Fairlawn	29	30
31 Memorial Sunday						

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1 Kenny Walker   | 15 Crissi Stuckey  |
| 2 Sandi Cowell, Jeff & Stacy Rutledge                                      | 18 Shiela Short  |
| 3 Mert Kinsman   | 21 Devin Bernath, Dean & Darlene Sauder,<br>Nici Wyse                          |
| 5 Deb Overmier, Betsy Redd, Joyce Kinsman,<br>Kyle Storrer                 | 22 Dudley Beaverson  |
| 6 Dudley & Deb Beaverson, Wendy Beck, Denny<br>Hornish, Kim M. Walker      | 23 Don & Charlene LaFontaine   |
| 7 Ed & Deb Overmier  | 25 Deb Schnitkey   |
| 8 Jim Liechty, JoAnn Short, Aiden Warncke                                  | 26 Rodney Kinsman  |
| 9 Scott & JoAnn Short  | 27 Klaire Kern, Paul Lovejoy, Joanne Spotts                                    |
| 10 Alexa Martinez, Greg Walker   | 28 Josh & Kasey Grime, Emma Krukowski,<br>Phyllis Miller                       |
| 11 Doug Rupp   | 29 Maggie Enderle, Nicole Buehrer  |
| 12 Paul & Joan Lovejoy   | 30 Dean Beck, Corey & Jocelyn Walker   |
| 13 Linda Heer, Tony MacDonald  | 31 Alice Leatherman  |
| 14 Kathy Bechstein, Travis & Mindy Gruenhagen,<br>Mike Kinsman, Jean Stamm | ✿ Please let us know if we do not have your special<br>day correct. Thank you. |

## worship

### 2017 Children's Christmas Program - The Greatest Gift of All!

This year's program will be held during the 10:30AM service on Sunday, December 17th. The practice schedule looks like this:

#### Preschool Sunday School Class

During Sunday school each Sunday – December 3rd, 10th and 17th

#### First thru Sixth Grade Classes

Wednesday, December 6th – 6:30PM to 7:15PM – in the sanctuary

Sunday, December 10th – 9:15AM to 10:00AM – in the chapel

Wednesday, December 13th – 6:30PM to 7:15PM – in the sanctuary

Sunday, December 17th – 9:15AM to 10:00AM – in the sanctuary



### 2017 Sermon in Music – the 46th Annual!

We'll celebrate the Advent and Christmas seasons through music and song at the 10:30AM service on Sunday, December 10th. This special time of seasonal worship and praise will include the following:

- ♪ Choirs – Junior Choir, JYF Hand Bell Choir and St. John's Chancel Choir
- ♪ Choir Directors – Lynne Christman, Sarah Nafziger, Andrew Rohrs
- ♪ Vocalists – Mike Meyer (solo), Annie Foote & Norm Fether (duet), Ava Genter, Klaire Kern & Raegan Rutledge (trio), Yohanna Richardson (solo)
- ♪ Men's Quartet (Lockport Mennonite Church) – Mark Beck, Pete King, Keith Short, Randy Stuckey
- ♪ Instrumentalists – Matt Hines, Emma Nafziger, Andrew Rohrs, Callie Rohrs, Ed Ruffer, Emily Walker



**December Worship Information:**

- December 3rd First Sunday of Advent – The Candle of Hope  
Scriptures – Jeremiah 33:14-16, Luke 21:25-38  
Sermon – “Be Always on the Watch” – Pastor Erich  
(10:30) Chancel Choir – “Every Valley”
- December 10th Second Sunday of Advent – The Candle of Peace  
(10:30) 46th Annual Sermon in Music  
Scriptures – Malachi 3:1-4, Luke 3:1-6  
Sermon – “Preparing the Way” – Pastor Erich
- December 17th Third Sunday of Advent – The Candle of Joy  
Scriptures – Zephaniah 3:14-20, Luke 3:7-18  
Sermon – “Preparing Your Finances to Meet the Messiah” – Pastor Alex  
(10:30) – Children’s Christmas Program  
Special Music – Ava Genter
- December 24th Fourth Sunday of Advent – The Candle of Love  
Scriptures – Micah 5:2-5a, Luke 1:39-45, 46-55  
Sermon – “The Light of the World” – Pastor Erich  
(10:30) Chancel Choir – “Christ is Born, Nowell!”  
  
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service – The Christ Candle  
College & Young Adults Sharing in Leading our Worship  
Scriptures – Isaiah 9:2-7, Luke 2:1-20  
Sermon – “Treasuring and Pondering” – Pastor Erich  
Chancel Choir – “Fall On Your Knees”
- December 25th Christmas Morning Worship in the Chapel  
An Informal and Simple Service of Readings and Songs  
Scriptures – Isaiah 52:7-10, John 1:1-14  
Message – “And on Earth, Peace” – Pastor Erich  
  
Christmas Caroling at Fairlawn – started by Pastor Dave & Janise Voll in December of 1994,  
we continue to share the joy and love of Christmas! With some new plans in place this year, it  
would be best if we knew ahead of time who hopes to be caroling through the halls of Fairlawn  
– please either sign-up on the bulletin board across from the office or let the church office know.  
Thanks!
- December 31st Memorial Sunday Service  
Scriptures – Psalm 148, Luke 2:41-52  
Sermon – “In the Temple Courts” – Pastor Erich  
(10:30) Special Music

**consistory/committees****Christian Preschool Board (seeking members):**

The three year terms for Bri Krukowski and Aimee Roth end at the end of this year, and both have shared that they would be happy to stay on the preschool board for 3 more years. Yet, if there are others in the congregation who feel called to serve on the Preschool Board, they welcome their involvement on the board!

**Staff Positions:**

The Personnel Committee continues their work in the search process for three staff positions:

1. Director of Music Ministry Position
2. Worship Accompanists – Pianists and Organists
3. Administrative Assistant – several applicants have submitted their resumes and the committee is working through the process of discerning who to interview

# consistory/committees

cont.

## Pastoral Care Committee:

The Pastoral Care Committee has undergone some recent reorganization, with adding some new members and reshuffling the households each person will be caring for over the course of the next two years. Approved by the Spiritual Council, members have gone through a training session and will be attending quarterly committee meetings. The mission of the committee members is to assist the pastors in providing pastoral care to congregational members and friends.

We are in the process of filling two vacancies on this committee and will update the congregation once those people are in place.

Committee members, and the household groups they have been assigned to, include:

- Ann Grime – Schnitkey (Brent & Lynda) through Tedrow
- Mary Ellen Johnson – Pursel through Schnitkey (Karen)
- Nancy Ries – Gruenhagen through Kleck
- Nancy Rupp – VonDeylen through Zimmerman
- Lisa Smith – Augustine through Enderle (Brad & Susie)
- Missy Warncke – Martinez (Bryson) through Overmier
- Nici Wyse – Enderle (Maggie) through Grime (Arlene)

## Consistory's Work of Congregational Visioning:

The three working groups of the Consistory will spend the time between the November and December meetings focused on creating action steps to address three of the five goals.

One of the other two goals, that of ministering to and with young adults following their graduation from high school, is being worked on by the pastors, with Pastor Alex taking the lead. His work has led to a cooperative effort of young adult ministry between Archbold Evangelical, Pettisville Missionary and St. John's Christian.

The second of the other goals, that of deepening the awareness and fellowship within the congregation as we strive to help everyone know who is a part of our congregation, will be discussed in the first meetings of 2018.

The working groups are discerning, brainstorming and praying about the following goals:

- Engagement of Members Goal: To equip members to grow in faith and ministry through works of service, through building meaningful relationships and encouragement to share one's gifts and talents.

- Volunteerism / Servant Hood Goal: To increase the number of people willing to serve in St. John's ministries.
- Bigger Bathrooms Goal: To make bathrooms more accommodating, addressing accessibility, location and size.

## 2017 Annual Congregational Meeting:

The Consistory set the date of our Annual Congregational Meeting for January 21st.

## Capital Campaign Committee:

As of November 30th, 2017, donations to the IYFB Capital Campaign have totaled \$88,975.35, bringing the campaign total to \$538,223.44 since we began in April of 2014.

The committee continues to organize interesting stewardship presentations as part of the monthly second offerings towards the campaign. Their work of planning for the future involves discerning additional ways to educate the congregation regarding stewardship, sacrificial giving and tithing.

## Pictorial Directory:

The Consistory has been tasked with the work of forming a Pictorial Directory Committee, who will be responsible for finding a professional directory company to work with in producing a printed pictorial directory. People interested in having a role on this committee may give their name to one of the Consistory members or to the church office.

### St. John's Christian Church Leadership:

Congregation President.....	Brent Winzeler
Congregation Vice-President .....	Betsy 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

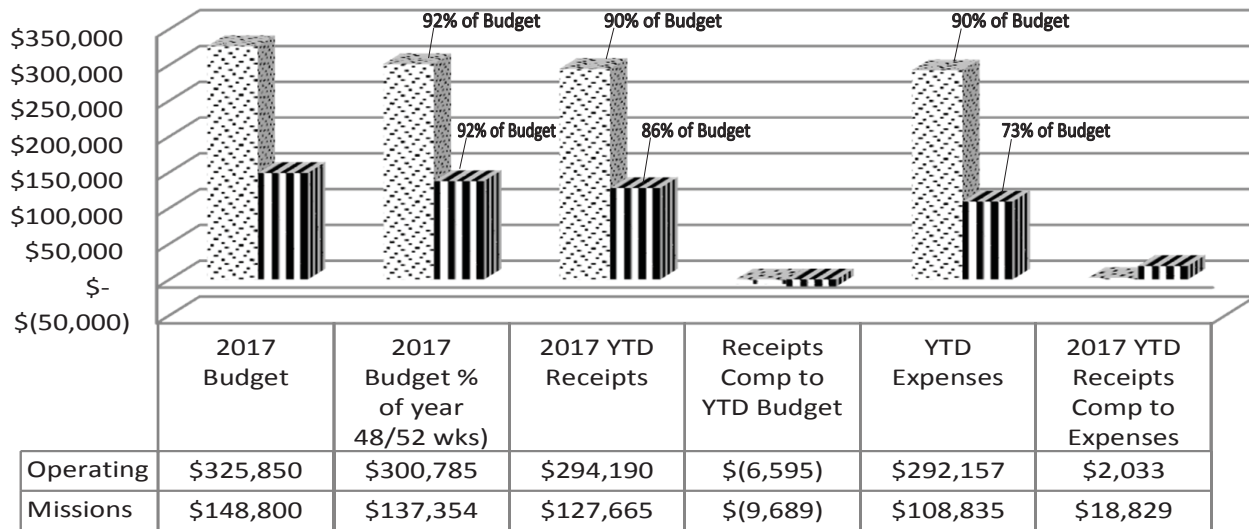
# stewardship

## Operating and Mission Funds:

As 2017 enters its final month, everyone is called to continue to trust in the Lord, knowing He provides for all our needs. As shared during our worship services on November 19th, the congregation of St. John’s remains a faithful body of believers, supporting the mission and ministries of the church in abundant ways. As our “Imagine Your Faith Building” Capital Campaign continues, we are tasked with the efforts of stewardship in regards to our Operating and Missions budgets and expenses.

- The Operating Fund Budget
  - o 2017 Goal \$325,850
  - o 11 Months of Operating Donations and Receipts \$294,190
  - o Funds needed to meet goal by the end of 2017 \$31,660
  
- The Missions Fund Budget
  - o 2017 Goal \$148,800
  - o 11 Months of Operating Donations and Receipts \$127,665
  - o Funds needed to meet goal by the end of 2017 \$21,135

**2017 Operating & Missions Funds as of November 27, 2017**



**IYF Building Campaign Total Receipts as of November 27, 2017 - \$538,223.44**

# housekeeping

## Archbold SuperValu (ASV) Receipts Collected:

Are you aware we collect ASV receipts and turn them in to ASV periodically for a 1% rebate on the total sales? The rebate helps fund our Walk In Assistance Program, set up to help Archbold area non-members with various living expenses. Each request for assistance is handled by our pastors. Turn in your receipts to the church office.

## Lost and Found Items:

We have two locations for lost and found items – one is located inside the handicap entrance closest to the sanctuary. A large blue tub sits just inside the door under the coat rack and contains numerous items left at the church (coats, hats, gloves, coffee mugs, etc.). The other is in the kitchen on the southwest counter, where we place any items left in the kitchen or at meal functions in the parish hall (glass bowls, pans, utensils, etc.). Please check both spots to see if anything belongs to you. About every other month, items not claimed are either discarded or donated to Care-N-Share.

# December 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 Power in Jesus' Name ----- Acts 9:32-43    | 17 Number Your Days ----- Psalm 90          |
| 2 A Journey to Caesarea ----- Acts 10:1-8    | 18 Deep Cleaning ----- Isaiah 4:2-6         |
| 3 Christ Revealed ----- Psalm 88             | 19 The Burning Question ----- Isaiah 5:1-7  |
| 4 The Old Has Gone! ----- Acts 10:9-23a      | 20 The Good Life ----- Isaiah 5:8-23        |
| 5 The Time is Right ----- Acts 10:23b-33     | 21 Dust to Dust ----- Isaiah 5:22-30        |
| 6 Preach It! ----- Acts 10:34-48             | 22 Game of Thrones ----- Isaiah 6:1-13      |
| 7 Old Habits Die Hard ----- Acts 11:1-18     | 23 Rock Solid ----- Isaiah 7:1-17           |
| 8 The Church Grows ----- Acts 11:19-30       | 24 Flood Tide ----- Isaiah 8:1-22           |
| 9 God Steps In ----- Acts 12:1-19a           | 25 Rise and Shine! ----- Isaiah 9:1-7       |
| 10 Good Times, Bad Times ----- Psalm 89      | 26 Return to Me ----- Isaiah 9:8-17         |
| 11 Flourishing Word ----- Acts 12:19b-25     | 27 Turn or Burn ----- Isaiah 9:18-10:4      |
| 12 Get Out of My Sight! ----- Isaiah 1:1-20  | 28 Chosen ----- Isaiah 10:20-27             |
| 13 It's Catching! ----- Isaiah 1:21-31       | 29 Sea of Faithfulness ----- Isaiah 11:1-16 |
| 14 Tanks into Tractors ----- Isaiah 2:1-5    | 30 Sing! ----- Isaiah 12:1-6                |
| 15 Hiding in the Cracks ----- Isaiah 2:6-22  | 31 The New World ----- Isaiah 24:21-25:12   |
| 16 Plundering the Poor ----- Isaiah 3:13-4:1 |   |

Phone 419-446-2545  
 Website [www.stjohnsarchbold.org](http://www.stjohnsarchbold.org)  
 Sunday Worship 8AM & 10:30AM  
 Sunday School 9:15AM

**Pastor** Rev. Erich Christman  
[pastoreich@stjohnsarchbold.org](mailto:pastoreich@stjohnsarchbold.org)  
 Cell Ph. 419-551-0401

**Assoc.** Rev. Alex Young  
[pastoralex@stjohnsarchbold.org](mailto:pastoralex@stjohnsarchbold.org)  
 Cell Ph. 330-206-8762

**Pastor** Sue Grieser  
[office@stjohnsarchbold.org](mailto:office@stjohnsarchbold.org)

**LOGOS** Kim M. Walker  
[kwalker@tceexpress.net](mailto:kwalker@tceexpress.net)

**Director** Roger Miller

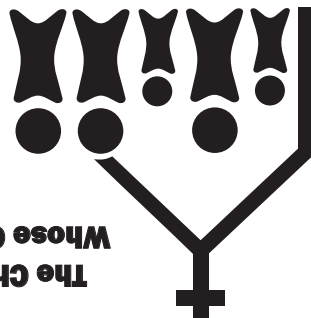
**Treasurer** Dean Buckenmeyer

**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**

**St. John's Christian Church**  
**700 S. Defiance Street**  
**Archbold, OH 43502**

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