

The Visitor

prayer concerns

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

February 1, 2013 Volume 59, Number 2

Please Pray For:

- The family of Opal Lauber, who went to her heavenly home on January 28th.
- Jr. Grime and family, upon the death of his brother, Ardie Grime on January 26th.
- Maggie Leupp, who is in Fulton Manor recovering from surgery on January 12th.
- Myrl Zimmerman and family, upon the death of his brother, Orland Zimmerman on January 11th.
- Buzz Ziegler, who is recovering from shoulder surgery on January 3rd.
- Ed Overmier, who is recovering from surgery for a broken knee cap.
- Beth Wanemacher, as she progresses through treatment for pancreatic cancer.
- Please continue to remember all our brothers and sisters in the armed forces, praying for their safety. Serving from our church are:

Tyson Bostelman (U.S. Army)

Colorado

Kyle Ducey (U.S. Navy)

440 Roberts Ave., PMB #1458
Pensacola, FL 32511-5151

1 Lt. Jared R. Kuntz - wife Maria (U.S. Army)

Jared is stationed in Kuwait
Maria & their daughter, Silvette:
627 UN Lauman, Fort Sill, OK 73503

Dennis LaPorte - wife Wren (Air Force)

242 Coronado Ct, Vacaville, CA 95687

RCT Lesniak, Jacob D - (Marines)

Twentynine Palms, California

Steven Schink - wife Ashley (U.S. Coast Guard)

170 Nautical Dr, Apt 5, Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235

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:

Cara Lou Frey, Glenn Park Care Facility, Defiance
(mailing add: 201 N. Defiance St., Archbold)
LeNore Heer, 01950 Co. Rd. 23, Stryker, 43557
Betty Henry, Rt. 2 02704 Christy Rd., Defiance, 43512
Fairlawn Haven, 407 E. Lutz Rd., Archbold, 43502
Mary Jo Britt, Fairlawn Heights Room #206
Valeria Hornish, Room #174A
Eileen Meller, Memory Care Unit Room #404B

Marilyn Nofziger, Room #144
Edna Rice, Room #159

Fairlawn Asst. Living, 500 Haven Dr., Archbold, 43502
Florence Augustine, Room #230
Lois Heer, Room #238
Donna Mason, Room #237
Esther Rice, Room #235
Jane Short, Room #208
Pauline Short, Room #205
Fulton Manor, 723 S. Shoop Ave., Wauseon, 43567
Betty Miller, Room #419

congregational thank you's

Dear St. John's Family,

Thank you so much for the cards, prayers, calls and visits during my knee surgery and recovery. It is very comforting to have such a caring church family.

Pauline Zimmerman



St. John's Church Family,

We would like to personally thank each of you for your thoughts, prayers, cards, visits and meals during this special time for our family. It was very nice to come home after trips and stays at the NICU to read your uplifting messages. We truly appreciate you keeping Alec and Ames in your prayers. It is wonderful to have everyone home and doing wonderful. For everyone who prepared and delivered meals to our family, we cannot express how much it means to us. It allowed us to focus on the care of the boys and big sisters during the important first month at home. Words cannot express our gratitude for everything everyone from our church family has done for us. Thanks again!

AJ & Kisha Genter



Thank you to all who blessed me with prayers, cards, calls and encouraging words during and after my hip surgery. You are truly gifts from God!

Shiela Short



Thank you for all you have done for me during this difficult time. I am grateful for your prayers, cards, visits, kind words, hugs, encouragement and support. I can feel God's love through the people of this church family and I am overwhelmingly blessed to be a part of St. John's.

Love, Joan Burkholder

pastor's letter

A Thought from Pastor Adam . . .

I would like to share with you some thoughts on prayer and a few meaningful scriptures that have impacted my life over this past month. First, Mark 2 begins with the story of Jesus in a home surrounded by crowds of people. They are all there hearing him preach the words of God, when four friends crash the party by ripping a hole in the roof and lowering their paralytic friend down in front of Jesus. It is assumed that they have heard and possibly seen Jesus heal the sick and the lame before, and they desired the same for their friend. Jesus ends up granting their desires and healing the paralytic, but not at first. The first thing Jesus says is, "Son, your sins are forgiven." (Mark 2:5)

This is interesting because Jesus clearly addresses a spiritual need before the physical need. We are always going to have physical ailments, ills, aches, pains, sickness and disease while we spend time on this earth. However, Jesus addresses the eternal sickness first. We all have sin. We all need forgiven. Sometimes it is difficult for us to actually admit that we've wronged God or others. Fact is: we have and will again. It seems as though our sports world has created a revolving door of athletes who continue to provide examples of cheating, lying and blaming all in the hope to save their own skins. In our world full of sin we need the words of Jesus, "Sons and daughters, your sins are forgiven."

With this emphasis on the spiritual, let's move to the realm of prayer. I would like for us to open up our hearts and souls when it comes to praying for others. Last month, I focused on written prayers and really spent a great deal of time with Paul's prayer to the Colossians. I share with you a portion of it here:

"9 For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding. 10 And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, 11 being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and joyfully 12 giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light. 13 For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, 14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins."

In praying written prayers we move from understanding that Paul prayed this for believers in Colosse to praying this prayer for each other. This is an incredibly powerful prayer! In this prayer we pray that our fellow brothers and sisters would grow deeper with Jesus. We pray that they would know His will. We pray that they would be strengthened with great endurance and patience. And among other things we also pray that we'd remember about the forgiveness of our sins since we've been rescued from the dominion of darkness that relies upon sin and lies. Yes, we pray for the physical healing and health of people in our congregation, and we also pray for our spiritual growth and depth.

So take the next 5 minutes and pray the prayer from Colossians for those people that you sit next to in the pew. Pray for those you usually stop and talk to in the hallways. Pray this for the kids and the youth. Pray this for anyone that the Lord brings to your mind. Pray this for those that might be locked in darkness. May you joyfully give thanks for we inherit the kingdom of light!

Blessings,

ADAM

congregational thank you's

cont.

To The Spiritual Council and our St. John's Christian Church Family,

Please accept our deepest gratitude upon the passing of Eric's Mom, Joyce. The outpouring of support, prayers, phone calls, food, cards and flowers is greatly appreciated. We are incredibly humbled by your thoughtfulness. Mom/Grandma will be greatly missed, but we have Hope in knowing that one day we will be reunited again.

Blessings to you all,
Eric, Sarah, Emma & Leah Nafziger
(and the family of Joyce Nafziger)



Thank you so much for all the love and support you have shown me through this most difficult time. Thank you also for the beautiful potted plant. God bless you!

Cherie Shepard



A special thank you to our college musicians, Amy Christman, Chris Jennings, and Brandon Lehman. Your contribution of music to our Advent and Christmas services has been greatly appreciated! May God continue to bless you as you continue to share your gifts with others!

preschool corner

Since winter is officially here (weather-wise!), we spent part of January exploring things around us that remind us of the beauty of the season. We painted snow in the sensory table, painted with colored ice cubes at the easel, learned about Arctic animals – who live where it is winter all the time, discovered whether snow melts faster in hot or cold water and what happens when salt is added to snow. The Monday-Wednesday-Friday class read the book, *Snowballs* by Lois Ehlert, and expressed their creativity by constructing snowmen out of various collage materials. The Tuesday-Thursday classes honed their counting skills by making snowmen with various materials and counting out what was needed (3 buttons, 2 arms, etc.).

THEN we decided it was time for a break, so we headed to the beach for a week! Boy did we have fun surfing, swimming, laying on the beach, building sand castles and learning about sea creatures. We learned all about how some ocean animals turn their child rearing/egg watching over to the dads when we read *Mister Seahorse* by Eric Carle. We learned about being a good friend when we read *Rainbow Fish* by Marcus Pfister. We also made a menagerie of animals in the art area including octopus, crabs, lobster, fish and jellyfish.

We wound down the month spending 2 weeks focusing on transportation. We investigated train travel, buses, airplanes, cars, trucks, and bicycles. We did license plate rubbings, strung keys (like bead stringing), learned about city buses and who rides them, investigated different types of wheels, and built our own mini airplanes. We built roads with cloud dough in the sensory table, and painted with matchbox cars.

During the last week of the month, the Tuesday-Thursday classes hosted their moms for an evening at the first annual Mom's Night. Our moms spent an hour learning all about what goes on at preschool!

Substitutes Needed:

We are in need of a few more people who would be willing to become 'processed' as volunteer substitutes in the event of teacher illness, teachers attending training or any other instance where a teacher would need to be absent for the day. Qualifications required by our state licensing agency include proof of high school graduation/GED completion, a fingerprint check (paid for by the Preschool), and a medical physical stating that you are able to work with young children and that you are up-to-date on your immunizations. Contact Sue MacDonald at 419-388-3606 if you are interested. Revisit your childhood and come play with us!!

Labels for Education:

Our St. John's Christian Preschool would like your help to earn free items for their classroom. The Labels for Education is a school fund raising program that is designed with busy families in mind. By clipping and saving the UPC's and beverage caps/sauce caps from participating products and placing them in the designated box on the coat rack in the chapel narthex, our preschool staff can redeem them and earn FREE educational merchandise. Previously we have redeemed points for books, art supplies, sports equipment, and numerous other classroom items. To find a list of participating products, go to www.labelsforeducation.com. Thank you for your help!

Open House/Registration for 2013-2014 Preschool School Year:

We are now accepting registrations for the 2013-2014 school year. A registration form can be obtained on our church website (www.stjohnsarchbold.org) or by stopping by the church office. A \$35 Activities/Registration Fee is due when submitting the completed registration form.

We will be holding our annual Open House for preschool on Sunday, February 17th from 11:45AM - 12:45PM, and on Tuesday, February 19th from 7-8PM in the preschool room. Detailed information concerning our preschool program will be available at the Open House and our Director, Sue MacDonald, will be on hand to answer any questions.



mission corner

Thank You Notes From Mission Partners & Friends:

- AIM (Tom & Megan L.), for our gift of \$402.
- Back Bay Mission, for our gift of \$307.
- Cherry Street Mission, for our gift of \$1,149.
- CRHP (The Aroles), for our gift of \$790.
- Church World Service, for our gift of \$25.
- Crossroad, for our gift of \$3,461.
- GCM (Kyle Chase), for our gift of \$603.
- GCM (Matt Pardi), for our gift of \$413.
- LCMS (Ryan Volkman), for our gift of \$40.
- Toledo Gospel Rescue Mission, for our gift of \$85.
- World Team (The Franks), for our gift of \$3,144.

Letter From Our Mission Partner:

Dear St. John's,

We want to express our great thanks for all that you do for us. Your prayers, support, friendship, love, encouragement, updates and thoughtful notes to us over the years have blessed us many times.

Thank you for standing with us as our family has grown and for strengthening us though your prayers as God has taken us to different parts of the Islands to share his love.

In this new year we are praying that the Lord will bless St. John's and that we all might grow in unity, love and obedience to Jesus.

With much love and blessings,
Tom, Megan, Grace, Peter & David L.

February Mission-A-Month – FISH Food Pantry:

February is the month we contribute items and monetary donations to the Archbold FISH Pantry. The number of families visiting to the pantry for food has been continually increasing and the shelves continue to empty quickly after the pantry has been open. Below is a list of currently needed items at the pantry, although all items are willingly accepted:

5# sugar, noodles, paper towels, canned fruit, coffee, canned beef, canned pineapple, cake mixes, cake frosting, canned kidney beans, refried beans, macaroni and cheese, crackers, hamburger helper, vegetable oil, Bisquick, pancake mix, pancake syrup, jelly/jam, canned fruit juices, 1# pkg. pinto beans, 1# bags of rice, hand dishwashing detergent, paper towels, large diapers, toothpaste, shampoo.

Donated items can be placed in the white mission box in the chapel narthex or dropped off at the Pantry during their hours (every 2nd and 4th Tuesday from 11AM - 2PM and every 3rd Tuesday from 5-7PM). You can also give monetary donations through your weekly offering envelopes or in the church office weekdays from 8AM - 5PM. Feel free to visit the Pantry web page for more information: www.archboldfish.org.

Our of The Box Experience!

With February the month we support the FISH Pantry as our Mission-A-Month, the Evangelism and Mission committees have planned a special experience! On Sunday afternoon, February 10th, people are invited to gather in the chapel at 3PM to begin this new adventure. Individuals, couples, families, children, youth and adults – all are welcome! We'll divide up into small groups, joining with people we don't yet know well so we can get better acquainted with people of our congregation, and then groups will pool funds and go shopping for items for the pantry. Then everyone will meet at the pantry to learn about how the pantry operates and we'll stock the shelves with the items just purchased! A mission/fellowship experience for the delight of all!

CRHP – Comprehensive Rural Health Project



The group of six travelers returned safe and blessed from their time with Dr. Shobha Arole and Ravi Arole in Jamkhed, India. A presentation about their trip will be shared during the fellowship hour on Sunday, February 10th at 9:15AM.

The campus of CRHP comprises approximately 14 acres, 10 acres of the original parcel and an additional 4 acres for the new hospital (which was built in 2009). The former hospital is now used for dormitory housing and administrative offices. Included on the campus are several buildings for staff housing, a preschool, a social service building, a ration store, training centers, library, dining halls, and a prosthetic leg shop. Programs engaged in include the continual training of village health workers, the hospital, training institute (training students from around the world in primary health care), women's self-help groups, women's banks (women only banking), adolescent girls and boys programs, farmers clubs, artificial limb program, a working farm, and preschool. CRHP has village health workers serving in over forty local villages.

Each day at CRHP begins with prayers at 8:30AM. Staff, patients, interns, students and guests gather for singing, scripture and prayer. CRHP is home to the Jamkhed Church, in which Dr. Shobha serves as the ordained pastor. The Christian faith is exuded in the many ministries of CRHP, and Drs. Raj and Mabelle planted seeds of faith in many generations of people.

Dr. Shobha hosted our group while in Jamkhed, and she is a vibrant servant of the Lord with a great sense of wisdom and knowledge about God, ministry, health care and social welfare and reform. St. John's is known as the Archbold church, the one remaining church that supports CRHP so faithfully.

Back Bay Trip – February 16-23, 2013:

We're less than two weeks away from another experience of traveling to and serving in Biloxi, Mississippi. We will leave mid to late afternoon on Saturday, February 16th. Info to know:

- There are service projects for anyone, skilled or unskilled, novice or experienced. Home repair, home construction, serving in a soup kitchen, serving in a homeless day-shelter, and working in a food pantry are potential areas of service.
- Cost of the trip will be \$150, covering transportation, lodging, food, materials costs
- See Pastor Erich for further information!
- A sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board.

Fairlawn Haven Annual Heart Carnival:

The Fairlawn Haven Auxiliary invites you to visit the annual Heart Carnival at Fairlawn Haven on Thursday, February 14th beginning at 6:30PM. Join the residents and their families for games, bake sale, Bingo and much more. The Heart Carnival is open to families for an evening of fun as we support the residents at Fairlawn Haven. For more information contact Elaine Winzeler at 419-446-2200.

48th Annual Fairlawn Haven Auxiliary Auction:

The annual Fairlawn Haven Auxiliary Auction is April 4th and 5th. Donations of crafts and handmade items, baked goods, candy, event tickets and more are greatly appreciated. Please contact Elaine Winzeler at 419-446-2200 to donate. Non-food items may be dropped off at Fairlawn Haven by March 25th. Proceeds benefit projects for Fairlawn Haven residents. Fairlawn truly needs and appreciates the support of our area congregations.

2013 Benevolent Budget Awareness:

With the approval of the proposed budget at the annual meeting, the Mission Committee wants to highlight a few changes:

1. Christian Service International (Soap for Haiti) and the PATH Center (Defiance) have been removed from the budget in a move towards supporting more Christian outreach ministries.
2. The Outback, Archbold's Youth Center, has been added to the budget, setting a goal of \$1,000 towards this area ministry.
3. The Rauschenberger's, with New Life International (Haiti) have been added, setting a goal of \$1,000.

Missionary News and Contact Information:

Raj, Shobha & Ravi Arole, CRHP

web site - www.jamkhed.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.gcmweb.org

e-mail - pardipardi@juno.com



Tony & Leila Frank, World Team

web site - www.worldteam.org

e-mail - tony.frank@worldteam.org



Matt & Bev Hale, The Navigators

web site - www.navigators.org

e-mail - matthewehale@gmail.com

Tom & Megan L., Africa Inland Mission

web sites - tmlangsdorf.blogspot.com

www.facebook.com/africaninlandmission

e-mail - tmlangsdorf@msn.com



Judd & Becky McClarren

15633 Co Rd J, Wauseon, OH 43567

Brian & Jamie Rauschenberger, Haiti

New Life International

web site - www.WaterForTheWorld.com

e-mail - Brian@WaterForTheWorld.com



Larry & Linda Rupp, Kajiado Children's Home

web site - www.kajiadochildrenshome.com

Ryan Volkman, LCMS World Mission

web site - www.lcms.org/volkman

e-mail - ryvolkman@gmail.com



Keith & Cheryl Wyse - The Agape Family Life House

web site - www.agapeflh.org

e-mail - k.wyse@agapeflh.org



ministry happenings

Christian Education

LOGOS:

Our weekly evening youth program is held on Wednesday nights. Please check the bulletin board across from the church office periodically and sign up to donate food items toward the meal prepared each week. February themes: Feb. 6th - Jesus Loves Me Night (wear red or pink), Feb. 13th - Ash Wednesday Prayer Celebration, Feb. 20th - Crazy Hat and Hair Night, Feb. 27th - Flashlight Night (wear black or dark blue).

Thank You:

The Senior Youth Fellowship would like to give the congregation a huge "THANK YOU!" for all the generous support of their Spaghetti Lunch on Annual Meeting Sunday.

Senior Youth Fellowship (SYF):

February is a fun month in SYF. We begin by preparing delicious subs for the Sub Sale on Feb. 3rd. Each youth is asked to bring a dozen cookies for our sub boxes. On Feb. 6th we're talking about the Love of God; Feb. 13th we'll all be attending the Ash Wednesday service; Feb. 20th is "Complexity of our Bodies" and Feb. 27th is "Prayer." And then on Saturday, February 23rd is the 6th Annual Winter Retreat. We'll be heading up to a family cottage in Williams County for the day and enjoying broomball, devotions by the fire, games and yummy food.

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

SYF Mission Trip:

The SYF Mission Trip is scheduled for the week of June 16th-21st. The 2013 mission trip will be to Cincinnati with Group Week of Hope. We have partnered with Group Week of Hope for two other trips (2010 - Indianapolis; 2011 - Bay City). Mission trip applications will be available beginning in February.

Life Planning:

The next Life Planning time will be on February 13th at 7PM. Mentors and youth will be attending the Ash Wednesday service together.

Events / Activities

February Prayer Focus:

In 2013 we are trying to focus on strengthening and deepening our prayer lives. Each month in 2013 will highlight a different type of prayer or a different way to pray that you might find useful or encouraging. God has made us each different and therefore, each of

us may connect with Him in prayer in various ways. One way of prayer might connect with you more than another. The hope is for you to practice with a form of prayer for a month and to see how your soul responds. If you have questions or would like to talk about prayer more, please connect with Pastor Erich or Adam.

Prayer of Examen – The February focus of prayer will be examen prayer. Examen prayer usually takes place at the end of the day and examines the movements of God over the course of the day. Examen prayer helps to see the things that bring joy and pain, life and death, or other ways the Holy Spirit speaks to us. Examen slows us down and helps us pay attention to things that we normally would miss during a busy and hectic day. Examen prayer usually involves sitting quietly and asking a few simple questions:

- For what moment today am I most thankful? For what moment today am I least thankful?
- What was the most life-giving part of my day? What was the most life-draining part of my day?
- When today did I have the deepest sense of connection with God? When did I sense the least?
- Where was I aware of living out of the fruit of the Spirit? Where was there an absence of the fruit of the Spirit?

Many people find great benefit in asking these examen questions at the end of conversations, events or activities. God can do a lot of transformation in our lives by simply asking and answering these questions. The examen definition and these questions were adapted from *Spiritual Disciplines Handbook* by Adele Calhoun, 2005, InterVarsity Press.

Man Camp:

Man Camp at Miracle Camp is scheduled for March 22-24th. The cost is \$115, which includes lodging, food and activities, and you'll be able to spend a great weekend with other men strengthening and growing your faith. Weekend highlights include great worship and a speaker, zip line, steak night, paintball, archery, climbing wall, work projects, hiking and much more! Bruce Wooley is heading up a group from St. John's, so you can contact him for more information (419-572-6678) or visit the website www.miraclecamp.com.

Fellowship Committee Events:

- Sunday, February 10th - Be My Valentine Potluck in the Parish Hall - meatballs, drinks and table service provided - bring side dish to share
- Sunday, March 17th - Walleye Hockey Game in Toledo at 5:00PM; tickets \$13, watch bulletin board for sign up sheet
- Maundy Thursday, March 28th - Soup Supper; watch future bulletins for more details

February 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
8:00AM Worship 9:15AM Sunday School 9:15AM Faith Village 9:15AM Confirmation 10:30AM Worship	Mission-A-Month— FISH Food Pantry Elder of the Month— Brent Winzeler				1 6:45AM HS Girls Small Grp.	2 9AM—5PM Ladies Retreat @ St. John's
3 Souper Bowl of Caring	4 8:30AM Moms In Prayer 10:30AM Staff Meeting 6:30PM Couples Small Group 7:00PM Sister Chicks INC	5 6:45AM HS Guys Small Grp. 9:15AM Bible Study	6 10:00AM AAMA 5:50PM LOGOS Meal 6:15PM St. John's FYI 6:30PM JYF 6:50PM Bells / Chimes 7:00PM SYF 7:30PM Chancel Choir Reh.	7 7:15PM Mission Comm.	8 6:45AM HS Girls Small Grp.	9
10 Lenten Coin Folders Distr. 9:15AM Fellowship Hour Program 11:30AM Be My Valentine Potluck 3:00PM Out of Box Exp. 6:00PM Seekers Small Group	11 8:30AM Moms In Prayer 10:30AM Staff Meeting 7:00PM Sister Chicks INC 7:00PM Property Committee	12 6:45AM HS Guys Small Grp. 9:15AM Bible Study 1:30PM Bingo at Fairlawn 4:00PM CE Team Meeting 6:30PM Cub Scouts 6:30PM Preschool Board	13 Ash Wednesday 7:00AM Imposition of Ashes 10:00AM W. Haven Bible Study 12:00PM Imposition of Ashes 5:50PM LOGOS Meal 6:00PM St. John's FYI 6:50PM Bells / Chimes 7:00PM Ash Wednesday Serv. 8:00PM Chancel Choir Reh.	14	15 6:45AM HS Girls Small Grp.	16 Depart For Back Bay MT 1-9PM Cub Scouts
17	18 President's Day	19	20	21	22	23
Back Bay Mission Trip - Biloxi, MS						
10:50AM Mission Band 11:45AM Preschool Open House 1-9PM Prep for Painting In Parish Hall	8AM-9PM Painting in Parish Hall 8:30AM Moms In Prayer 10:30AM Staff Meeting 6:30PM Couples Small Group 7:00PM Sister Chicks INC	6:45AM HS Guys Small Grp. 9:15AM Bible Study 7:00PM Preschool Open House 8:45PM Praise Band Reh.	9AM-12PM Preschool Fund- raiser in Parish Hall 6:15PM Rule of Life Men's Grp. 5:50PM LOGOS Meal 6:30PM JYF 6:50PM Bells / Chimes 7:00PM Mid-Week Lenten Serv. 7:00PM SYF 8:00PM Chancel Choir Reh.	9AM-12PM Pre- school Fundraiser in Parish Hall	6:45AM HS Girls Small Grp.	9AM-5PM SYF Winter Retr.
24 10:50AM Junior Church 6:00PM Seekers Small Group	25 8:30AM Moms In Prayer 10:30AM Staff Meeting 6:00PM Preschool Dads Night 6:30PM Spiritual Council 7:30PM Consistory 7:00PM Sister Chicks INC	26 6:45AM HS Guys Small Grp. 9:15AM Bible Study	27 10:00AM W. Haven Bible Study 5:50PM LOGOS Meal 6:30PM JYF 6:50PM Junior Choir Reh. 7:00PM Mid-Week Lent Serv. 7:00PM SYF 8:00PM Chancel Choir Reh.	28		

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 John & Mary Beck
- 2 Bruce Wooley
- 4 Riley Kleck, Nancy Lightner, Karen Rice, Shirley Wyse
- 5 Kaenan Layton, Dave Miller, Brittany Yaichner
- 6 Rollin Nafziger, Deb Volkman
- 8 Brandon Lehman
- 9 Tyler Jennings, Karen Walker
- 10 Alexis Blankenship, Jason Pursel, Irene Short
- 11 Jen Lindsay, Mindy Wanemacher
- 12 Vern & Mary Lou Nemire, Marilyn Nofziger

- 14 Sue Buehrer, Mindy Smith, Tucker Johnston, Keith & Kelli Kuntz
- 15 Don & Audrey Smith
- 16 Hannah Grieser
- 17 Donna Buehrer, Rod Wyse
- 18 Bea Briggs, Jilian Kuntz, Jared Kuntz, Andrew Wyse
- 19 Erin Grieser, John Kauffman, Sue Kinsman, Judy Overmier, Ella Yoder
- 23 Kylie Smith
- 24 Joe Short
- 28 Alyssa Abebe, Amy Christman



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

ministry happenings

cont.

Community Meals:

The AAMA (Archbold Area Ministerial Association) sponsored community meals are starting their third year! These weekly Tuesday evening meals provide food and fellowship for 275 to over 300 people per week, and continue to be hosted at Zion Mennonite Church. St. John's has two meal teams that will serve eight meals in 2013. People are encouraged to attend the meals for Christian fellowship as you'll meet people from around our local area. People wanting to volunteer to help may contact Karen Walker, Betsy Ducey or Ann Grime. Donations supporting these free weekly meals may be given through Sunday morning offerings or turned into the office.

EA Regional Meeting – April 6 – Cross Church, Berne, Indiana:

“Rejoicing in the Truth” is the theme of this annual day of fellowship, encouragement, worship and development. Mr. Bob Gillespie will be the keynote speaker of the day. Bob and his wife Lois taught in Christian schools in Ohio for 14 years and then served two terms at MK schools in West Africa. Bob's goal is to teach the teachers (i.e., parents, Sunday school teachers, youth directors, and pastors) the same things he has taught his students in schools for many years: to uphold the authority of God's Word from verse one, to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ and to confront the forces of secular humanism that are taking over our culture. Bob's presentations will focus on four topics:

1. The Key to Reclaiming the Culture (what compromise on God's Word has done to America and why Genesis is vital to the gospel message.)
2. Creation Evangelism: Why Won't They Listen? (why people aren't listening to the gospel as much as they once did and how we can witness more effectively in our post-modern culture.)
3. Building a Biblical Worldview (compares and contrasts the humanist and Biblical worldviews, ie. Evolution and Special Creation, and what we believe about that makes a difference in all other meaningful discussions.)
4. Modern History through Biblical Eyes (as a sequel to Building a Biblical Worldview-overview of history from the cross to the present, illustrating the devastating effects of a non-Biblical worldview.)

Save the date on your calendar and be watching for further information!

Highlights of the Annual Congregational Meeting held January 13, 2013:

Elected to office were the following leaders: Jeff Rutledge, Congregational President; Missy Warncke, Congregational Secretary; Jan Lindsay and Ed Ruffer, Elders; Tom Hines, Greg Walker, Justin Yoder, Deacons.

One of the agenda items discussed and acted upon at the meeting was a proposed revision to the church constitution. While the revision was approved by the congregation, it was later pointed out that in order for

such action on the constitution, a quorum of 40% of the congregational members must be present. So that means that the revision is null and void since there was not the necessary quorum present. The Consistory will bring the proposed constitutional revision back to the congregation at a future date.

Besides approving the various financial reports and proposed 2013 budgets, the congregation approved the purchase of a bus, not to exceed a purchase price of \$50,000. There was also approval through the 2013 Current Fund budget to support the sabbatical of Pastor Erich, with \$20,000 being allocated for his time away and for covering expenses incurred by the congregation through leadership and ministry programs during the sabbatical time.

small groups

Small Groups Currently Meeting at St. John's:

Twice a Month Sunday Evening - Seekers

6:00 - 7:00PM - Wyrick's, 504 N. Defiance St.

Monday Mornings - Moms in Prayer

8:30 - 9:30AM - Upstairs Sunday School Room

Monday Evening - Sister Chicks INC

7:00 - 8:30PM - Nancy Rupp's, St. Rt. 2, Stryker

2nd & 4th Monday of Month - Couples Small Group

6:30 - 8:30PM - Youth Room

Tuesday Mornings - High School Guys

6:45 - 7:45AM - Youth Room

Tuesday Morning Bible Study

9:15 - 10:15AM - Fireside Room

Third Wednesday of Month - Men's Rule of Life Group

6:15 - 7:15AM - Home Restaurant, N. Defiance St.

2nd & 4th Wednesday of Month - Bible Study

10:00 - 11:00AM - West Haven, Fairlawn

Friday Mornings - High School Girls

6:45 - 7:45AM - Youth Room

worship

Lenten Season – Begins with Ash Wednesday on February 13th:

During this season of preparation and spiritual growth our worship will focus on exploring the "Seven R's – Recognize, Repent, Rethrone, Replace, Rejoice, Remember and Repeat." These seven words will guide us as repentant Christians seeking God's love. It is through repentance that God can change and work in your heart in mighty ways.

February Worship Service Information:

February 10th Transfiguration Sunday

- ✠ Worship Theme – A Heart for the Hurting
- ✠ Scriptures – Psalm 25:20-22, Luke 11:24
- ✠ Sermon – "The Rope" - Pastor Erich
- ✠ Chancel Choir – "Honor Him"

February 13th Ash Wednesday

- ✠ 7PM Worship - Sacrament of Holy Communion
- ✠ Scriptures – Psalm 27:1-4, Matthew 3:13 - 4:11
- ✠ Sermon – "A Journey" – Pastor Erich
- ✠ Chancel Choir – "When I Survey"

February 17th First Sunday of Lent

- ✠ Worship Theme – Recognition and Repentance
- ✠ Scriptures – 1 Cor. 1:4-9, 1 Kings 8, Romans 3:9-26
- ✠ Sermon – "First Steps" – Pastor Adam
- ✠ Chancel Choir – "O Lord Most Holy"

February 24th Second Sunday of Lent

- ✠ Worship Theme – Rethrone (Putting Christ back in the center of life)
- ✠ Psalm 118:8-9, Colossians 2:6-12
- ✠ Sermon – "Pushing or Pulling?" – Pastor Erich
- ✠ Hand Chimes and Hand Bells

March 3rd Third Sunday of Lent

- ✠ Worship Theme – Replacing sin with righteousness
- ✠ Scriptures – Ps. 29, Romans 12:1-9, Ephesians 2:10
- ✠ Sermon – "More Than Busy Work" – Pastor Erich
- ✠ Chancel Choir

consistory

Pastors Sabbatical:

Sabbatical leave is "...a time to receive, to be nurtured, to dig deeper into yourself and into your relationship with God, so that you can be renewed, refreshed and revitalized by the Spirit of God." In general terms, a sabbatical strengthens and further develops a pastor's ability to serve the church. This happens when the pastor experiences the results of a well planned Sabbath. Sabbatical research has provided the following points of information about a pastors sabbatical:

- **New Perspective.** The pastor will gain a new understanding of the world in which your church ministers. This will deepen his own insight and positively affect his preaching and his service.
- **Spiritual Renewal.** Sabbatical is a time to renew spiritual disciplines that often get lost in the busyness of life and ministry.
- **Rest.** Pastor sabbaticals are not vacations. However, intense stress needs more than a week or

consistory cont.

two to break away from. It will take the pastor a month just to unwind from the stresses of every day ministry.

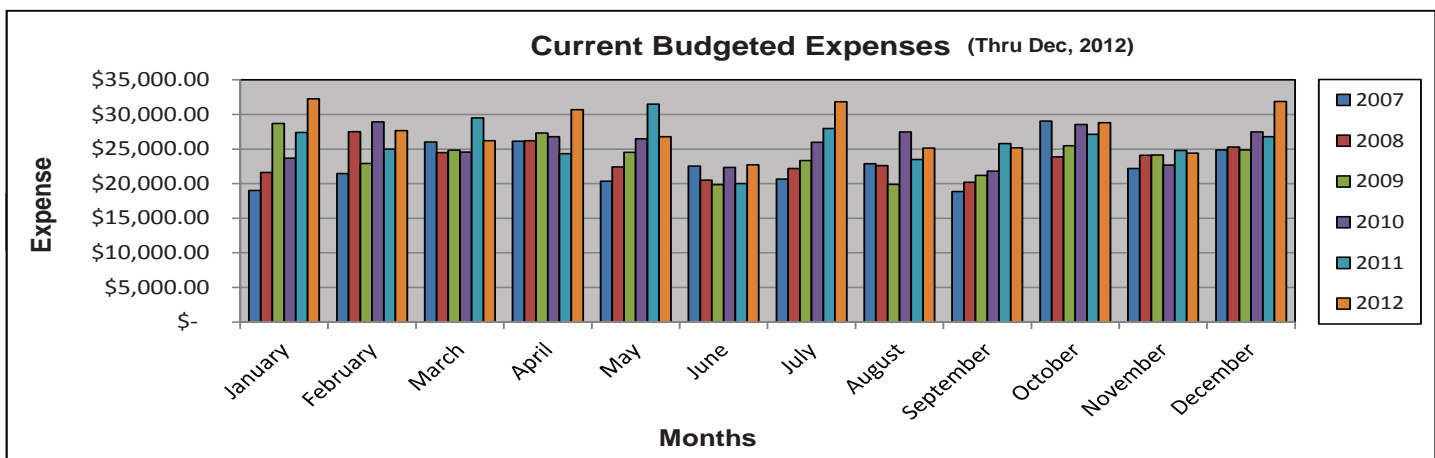
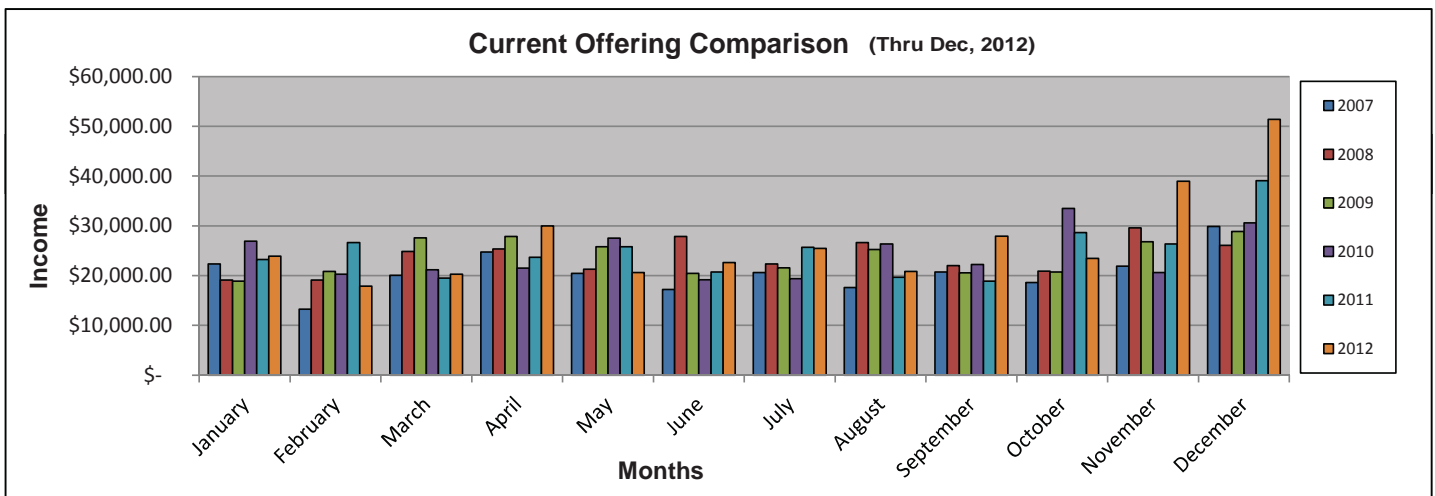
- **Education.** A pastor sabbatical is educational. He will learn from his travels, from his research, from new relationships, and from quiet times alone with God.
- **Renewed Passion and Vision.** All of the above results lead to this. The pastor will return from his sabbatical with a clearer sense of mission and the renewed energy to work toward accomplishing it.

Funding for a sabbatical time for Pastor Erich was approved at the congregational annual meeting (for which Erich is very grateful, and humbled!). Final plans for Erich's sabbatical are now being put in to place. Erich will start his sabbatical following worship on Sunday, May 19th, and his sabbatical time will end on Sunday, July 28th. He will be back in his office on Monday, July 29th and will preach on August 4th. Between now and May 19th, Erich will be working with Pastor Adam and the congregation's leadership to address pastoral and ministry leadership during the sabbatical time.

stewardship

Capital Improvement Fund:

The boxes of our offering envelopes include one pink envelope per month. These special envelopes are one way that people may give to the Capital Improvement Fund, which is the fund overseen by the Property Committee and Consistory for the maintenance and improvements of our facilities. Monies from this fund are used to maintain our parking lot, general plumbing and electric repairs, landscape improvements, masonry repairs, annual cleaning of carpet, pews and tile floors, and similar such projects. Your support of this fund by using your pink envelopes each month is of great benefit to our ministries.



Offering Information

Sunday	Worship Attend.	Current Fund Actual Offering	Current Fund Weekly Budget	Current Fund Actual/Budget Difference
1/6/13	281	\$ 5,254.00	\$ 6,590.06	\$ (1,336.06)
1/13/13	228	\$ 5,826.08	\$ 6,590.06	\$ (763.98)
1/20/13	235	\$ 4,367.00	\$ 6,590.06	\$ (2,223.06)
1/27/13	276	\$ 4,329.00	\$ 6,590.06	\$ (2,261.06)
Total	255	\$ 19,776.08	\$ 26,360.24	\$ (6,584.16)
As of January 31, 2013		Total Income	Total Expenses	Difference
YTD Totals		\$ 20,297.48	\$ 29,267.32	\$ (8,969.84)

Sunday	Benevolent Fund Offering	Benevolent Fund Weekly Budget	Benevolent Fund Actual/Budget
1/6/13	\$ 2,223.00	\$ 3,103.85	\$ (880.85)
1/13/13	\$ 2,231.00	\$ 3,103.85	\$ (872.85)
1/20/13	\$ 1,984.00	\$ 3,103.85	\$ (1,119.85)
1/27/13	\$ 1,954.00	\$ 3,103.85	\$ (1,149.85)
Total	\$ 8,392.00	\$ 12,415.40	\$ (4,023.40)

St. John's Christian Church Leadership:

Congregation President.....Jeff Rutledge
 Congregation Vice-President Ed Ruffer
 Congregation Secretary..... Missy Warncke
 Elders Norma Fish, Jan Lindsay, Todd Nafziger,
 Ed Ruffer, Jon Rupp, Brent Winzeler
 Deacons/Deaconesses Bill Bostelman,
 Ann Fether, Tom Hines, Gloria Lauber,
 Mike Meyer, Scott Short, Dave Walker,
 Greg Walker, Justin Yoder
 Church Treasurer..... Roger Miller
 CustodianDean Buckenmeyer
 Security Person Richard Spiess
 Christian Preschool Staff Sue MacDonald,
 Joan Burkholder
 Administrative Assistant..... Sue Grieser
 Director of Music MinistryDeb Schnitkey
 Director of Christian Education..... Jenna Storrer
 Associate Pastor..... Rev. Adam Just
 Pastor.....Rev. Erich Christman

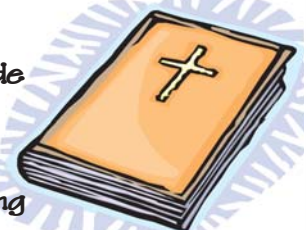
community news

World Day of Prayer (Locally):

"I was a stranger and you welcomed me" Matthew 25:35b

You are invited to an individual "walk thru" time of prayer, scripture and reflection at West Clinton Mennonite Church on any of the following days: Thursday, February 28 from 6-9PM, Friday, March 1 from 6AM to 9PM, or Saturday, March 2 from 8AM – noon. This self-guided time is in place of a formal World Day of Prayer service. All are welcome to this quiet time of prayer and reflection. Signs and directions will be in place as you enter the front doors. We pray this will be a time of spiritual enlightenment and renewal.

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



February Daily Scriptures

(From "Discovery" Daily Devotional)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 Eager To Please ----- Mark 2:23-28 | 15 Totally Devoted To You ----- Joshua 6:12-19 |
| 2 Kingdom Causing Offense ----- Mark 3:1-6 | 16 Cleansing Of Sin? ----- Joshua 6:20-27 |
| 3 A Framework Of Faith ----- Psalm 5:1-12 | 17 The Highest Court ----- Psalm 7:1-17 |
| 4 Passing the Mantle ----- Joshua 1:1-9 | 18 The Grand Scheme Of Things ----- Hebrews 1:1-4 |
| 5 Corporate Responsibility ----- Joshua 1:10-18 | 19 New Covenant From Old ----- Hebrews 1:5-14 |
| 6 A Very Shady Lady ----- Joshua 2:1-16 | 20 Tied On Tight ----- Hebrews 2:1-9 |
| 7 A Sign Of Protection ----- Joshua 2:17-24 | 21 Not A Piece Of Cake ----- Hebrews 2:10-18 |
| 8 Passing Through Clean ----- Joshua 3:1-17 | 22 Honor Where Honor's Due ----- Hebrews 3:1-6 |
| 9 Forget-Me-Not ----- Joshua 4:1-9 | 23 A Degree In Hindsight ----- Hebrews 3:7-19 |
| 10 The Vale Of Tears ----- Psalm 6:1-10 | 24 A Sense Of Place ----- Psalm 8:1-9 |
| 11 Closing The Door ----- Joshua 4:10-24 | 25 Keep On Keeping On ----- Hebrews 4:1-11 |
| 12 A Fresh Start ----- Joshua 5:1-12 | 26 In Plain View ----- Hebrews 4:12-16 |
| 13 Holy Ground ----- Joshua 5:13-15 | 27 The Only Way ----- Hebrews 5:1-10 |
| 14 Folly Or Fulfillment? ----- Joshua 6:1-11 | 28 Eat And Grow ----- Hebrews 5:11 - 6:3 |

St. John's Christian Church
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 Cell Ph. 419-551-6499

Admin. Sue Grieser
 office@stjohnsarcbold.org

Dir. of Jenna Storrer

Christian Education Cell Ph. 419-205-0537
 jennastorrer1@gmail.com

Dir. of Deb Schmitkey

Music daschmitkey@yahoo.com

Ministry Cell Ph. 419-583-6356

Custodian Dean Buckenmeyer
 Cell Ph. 419-551-1105

Church Ph. 419-446-2545

Fax 419-446-2546

Web Site www.stjohnsarcbold.org

Sunday Worship 8AM & 10:30AM

Sunday School 9:15AM



The Church on the Corner
Whose Cornerstone is Christ

Come Hear the Reason we're Inspired to Serve Together

Holy Communion:

New Year (1/6), Ash Wednesday (2/13), Maundy Thursday (3/28),

Pentecost (5/19), Mid-Summer (7/21), 1st Sunday in October (10/6),

1st Sunday of Advent (12/1)

Return Service Requested

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