

The Visitor

prayer concerns

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

December 1, 2013 Volume 59, Number 12

Please Pray For:

- Veronica Rupp, who is in rehab at Fairlawn for 3 broken ribs suffered in a fall at her home.
- Lori Rohrs, who had outpatient surgery on her hip November 22nd.
- LeNore Heer, who had a stroke mid-November and is in rehab at Fairlawn.
- Carol DeVries, who is recovering from foot surgery on November 13th.
- Tootie Beck, who is recovering from a broken arm.
- Ralph Heer, who is home recovering from a broken hip.
- Richard and Cathy Spiess, as Richard continues to care for Cathy who lives with Frontal Temporal Dementia.
- Ricky Cruz, son of Maria Cruz, who is in Parkview Nursing Home, 328 W. Vine St., Edgerton, OH 43517.
- Please continue to remember all our brothers and sisters in the armed forces, praying for their safety. Serving from our church are:

Kyle Ducey (Navy)

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

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

Jared, Maria & Silvette:
627 UN Lauman, Fort Sill, OK 73503

Dennis LaPorte (Air Force)

Dennis is stationed in Afghanistan
Wife, Wren & daughter, Lorelei
107 Nebraska St, Travis AFB, CA 94535-1235

Lesniak, Jacob LCpl (Marines)

LOC #1355 MCCES, Box 788253
Twentynine Palms, CA 92278-8253

Steven Schink (Coast Guard)

Wife, Ashley & son Brennan
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)

Fairlawn Haven, 407 E. Lutz Rd., Archbold, 43502
Mary Jo Britt, Fairlawn Heights Room #206
LeNore Heer, Special Care Unit
Valeria Hornish, Room #174A

Eileen Meller, Room #133
Marilyn Nofziger, Room #144
Esther Rice, Room #116
Sadonna Spiess, Special Care Unit Room #405B

Fairlawn Asst. Living, 500 Haven Dr., Archbold, 43502
Lois Heer, Room #238
Jane Short, Room #208
Pauline Short, Room #205

Fulton Manor, 723 S. Shoop Ave., Wauseon, 43567
Myrl & Pauline Zimmerman, Room #220

Country Living of Hillsdale, 1133 N. Lake Pleasant Rd.,
Hillsdale, MI 49242
Donna Mason, Room #3

The Lutheran Home, 1036 Perry St., Napoleon, 43545
Florence Augustine, Room #221

congregational news

Congratulations – On Sunday, November 24th we celebrated the dedication of Gabriel Guy Whiteman, son of Mike and Katie Whiteman. Gabriel was born on June 21, 2013 and has 4 older siblings, Silas, Lydia, Elizabeth and Gwen. Gabriel's grandparents include Bruce and Marcy Whiteman.



congregational thank you's

There are no words to properly convey how grateful we are for our church family as we grieve the tragic loss of Kyle. The prayers, messages, cards, as well as the outpouring of love and support have meant so much. What an awesome feeling to be lifted up in prayer and wrapped in love.

Kyle L. Beck Family



Dear St. John's Church Family,

Thank you so much for the church scholarship. It was very useful when it came to buying textbooks. Thank you for your thoughts, prayers and support.

Love, Delaney Nofziger



St. John's Church Family,

Thank you to all who sent cards celebrating the birth of our son Brennan. Thanks also for the many prayers for our family - we appreciate them very much! We also appreciated the gifts sent with my parents as well; even though we live far away, we are blessed to be able to call you family. Thank you again,

Steve, Ashley & Brennan Schink

pastor's letter

Thoughts from Pastor Adam . . .

Merry Christmas! One of my favorite Christmas memories over the years have been with bells. Whether it is the hand bell choir playing "Silent Night" on Christmas Eve or hearing "Carol of the Bells" on the radio, there is just something special about the resounding ringing of the bells. Bells ring out loud and clear and their sound is carried great distances. In 1957, three large bells were set and placed up in the bell tower of the church building. They have been ringing faithfully for the past 66 years.



One of the tower bells stopped working and was recently repaired (big thanks to Scott, Jim and Kelly!). While it was being fixed I took the opportunity to climb up there and look at these giant bells. I discovered that there are inscriptions on these bells and knowing more about the purpose of the bells is encouraging. On one side of the largest bell is a cross with the 1957 date. On the opposite side is found the text "TO THE GLORY OF GOD AND FOR THE CALLING OF THE FAITHFUL TO WORSHIP." The purpose of the bells is to ring out loud for all to hear and to call all those to worship Him.



Recently we've been reading and studying Paul's letters to the Thessalonians. One characteristic of the Thessalonians that he commends them for is their "ringing out." 1 Thessalonians 1:8 "The Lord's message rang out from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia- your faith in God has become known everywhere." The Thessalonians' faith and example was like a bell that was sounded and then continued to resound around the whole area. They handled persecutions and trials, hardships and sufferings with grace and faithfulness. They responded to conflict with love and forgiveness. They took the great message of Jesus Christ and shared it with those they knew and came into relationship with. Like the sound of the bells that can carry for miles, the faith of the Thessalonians carried throughout the whole region and even to us today.

This Christmas season gives us faithful believers opportunity to testify to the true meaning and message of the holiday. We have chances to "ring out" for Jesus by our examples, by our words and actions, by our faithfulness, by our priorities and by our choices. This begins in the internal quiet and relationship with Jesus. Walk with Mary and Joseph again this month. Take the journey to Bethlehem. Sit down with Jesus, the Emmanuel, God with us. Let Him ring in your soul. May His peace be upon you!

Merry Christmas, *ADAM*

preschool corner

2013-2014 School Year:

We began the month of November with a unit on "Food/Nutrition." The children have been bringing in empty food boxes for several weeks, and we were able to use them in our pretend grocery store in the Dramatic Play area! We had the following four roles to fill: shopper, cashier, stocker, and bagger. We discussed aspects of each, and the children rotated throughout playtime. We also talked a little bit about how a grocery store is arranged. It was a great learning experience for all! The Tues-Thurs classes made collages of healthy/unhealthy foods, as we talked about eating 'snack' type foods in moderation. We also played a fruit and vegetable sorting game in the math area and made 'fruit plates' in art with dot markers. In the MWF classes, the children made up their own versions of their favorite recipes, which we put into cookbook form. The rest of the month was spent learning about Fall/Harvest/Thanksgiving. We did wax-resist leaf rubbings, sorted pine cones by size, and made an autumn tree. The last week and a half, we learned about the relationships between the Pilgrims and the Native Americans, and how the Pilgrims came to America so they could worship and pray to God. We made Pilgrim hats and Native American headbands, and had our own feast as well!



Jaylen in a fire hat



Jesse with a Fire Engine Puzzle

mission corner

Thank You Notes From Mission Partners & Friends:

- African Inland Mission (Tom & Megan L), for our gift of \$1,067.
- Back Bay Mission, for our gift of \$678.
- Cherry Street Mission, for our gift of \$884.
- Crossroad, for our gift of \$872.
- Defiance Youth For Christ (The Outback), for our gift of \$50.
- Hands of Grace, for our gift of \$500.
- GCM (Matt Pardi), for our gift of \$25.
- LCMS (Ryan Volkman), for our gift of \$70.
- New Life International (The Rauschenbergers), for our gift of \$500.
- Pioneers (The Doriots), for our gift of \$40.
- Toledo Gospel Rescue Mission, for our gift of \$50.
- World Team (The Franks), for our gift of \$500.

Letters From Our Mission Partners:

Your generous donation to the Church World Service Blankets+ Program tells people in crisis, "You're not alone. Someone cares."

We are deeply grateful for your support. On behalf of all the people who feel more hopeful and less alone because of your generosity, we thank you.

Rev. John L. McCullough
CWS President & C.E.O.



St. John's,

Your generous support of the hundreds arriving at our doors of hope is greatly appreciated.

Dan Rogers, Pres. & C.E.O.
Cherry Street Mission

December Mission-A-Month - Crossroad:

We will be collecting school supplies and personal items for Crossroad of Fort Wayne, a non-profit treatment center for emotionally troubled youth. Crossroad was founded in 1883 as "The Reformed Orphans Home of Fort Wayne, Indiana" by the Reformed Church, was later named Fort Wayne Children's Home, and is now Crossroad. People are encouraged to bring any of the following items to the church and place them in the white collection box in the narthex area outside the Chapel:

School Supplies – 2-Pocket Folders, Art/Sketch Pads, Art Chalk, Dictionaries, Colored Markers, Scotch Tape, Batteries (AA, AAA, 9V), and blank non-wire Journals.

Personal Supplies – Bath Towels, Wash Cloths, Beach Towels, Lotions, Shower Gel, Perfume and Body Spray, Men's Cologne, Shampoo and Conditioner, Toothbrushes and Paste, Combs and Hairbrushes,

Deodorant, Socks. Tape, Batteries (AA, AAA, 9V), and blank non-wire Journals.

Operation Christmas Child (OCC) Report:

A huge thank you to everyone who helped with OCC this year. Whether you donated empty shoeboxes, shoebox items, packed shoeboxes or provided monetary donations, your efforts are greatly appreciated. A total of 170 boxes were delivered to North Clinton Mennonite Church on Friday, November 22nd.

Habitat for Humanity Holiday Home Tour:

St. John's Christian Church is supporting its mission partner Habitat for Humanity of Fulton County on December 8th by being one of the points of interest in the Holiday Home Tour. We will be welcoming the community to tour the church and enjoy refreshments from 1:30PM to 6:00PM. St. John's will be one of the starting points of the tour. Silent auction items will be set up in the fellowship hall. There will be 11 locations available to tour – two churches, ours and St. Martin's, two businesses, Sauder Village and The Candy Cane Christmas Shoppe, and seven homes.

Like any event, many hands make light work. If you are able to help please contact Laura Johnson or sign-up on the Holiday Home Tour list for Laura to contact you. We need baked goods, smiling faces to greet the community and servers to replenish trays.

Do you have any decorations or collections that you have in storage that you have not used lately? Would you enjoy setting these up in the church for the Holiday Home Tour? Closer to December 8th other decorations or collections will be set up in the parlor, stage, etc. for the Holiday Home Tour. Ideas to make this day special for our mission partner and visitors are encouraged. You never know – a seeker or unchurched visitor may just enjoy our warmth and atmosphere and think "I might want to come back for a Sunday Service."

Guatemala Mission Trip:

A church on the Ohio State campus, H2O, affiliated with Great Commission Ministries, is leading a mission trip to Guatemala City. Morgan Ducey will be helping to lead this short-term mission trip. The trip will take place from December 12th through the 20th. The team will be involved in leading a week long vacation school, with lessons in math, science, English and the Bible. They will be providing food for the children, too.

The program is an effort to provide alternatives to gang membership and drug use, while simultaneously getting the word out about the local church and its ministries. H2O's trips to Guatemala are also working to open a center in 2014 that will serve hundreds of children on a daily basis. Please keep Morgan and her trip teammates in your prayers.

mission corner cont.

2014 Mission Trips/Opportunities – Annual Dates:

February 8-15, 2014 – Back Bay Mission
June 8-13, 2014 – LaPorte Cty. Habitat for Humanity
October 11-18, 2014 – Back Bay Mission

Missionary News and Contact Information:

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

e-mail - Jamie@WaterForTheWorld.com

Larry & Linda Rupp, Kajiado Children's Home

web site - www.kajiadochildrenshome.cc



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



Jon & Rachel Doriot - Pioneers, Papua

web site - www.pioneers.org

e-mail - kalepa@linkmail.org

ministry happenings

Christian Education

Junior Youth Fellowship (JYF):

The JYF would like to thank the congregation for their support with the poinsettia sale. A total of 210 plants were purchased! The plants will be available for pick up on Saturday, November 30 from 10AM -

1PM. If you forgot to order a poinsettia, we purchased several extras that will be available for purchase.

Senior Youth Fellowship (SYF):

Senior Youth Fellowship had a great month of November. We talked about media and the influence it has on our lives, looked at the topic of persecution and then covered the reason for our faith. In December the topics are: Dec. 4th – Purity; Dec. 11th – Life Planning Christmas Party and SYF topic is Christmas; Dec. 18th – Christmas Fun; Dec. 25th – No SYF. Contact any of the SYF advisors if you have questions: Pastor Adam and Sara Just, Jenna and Kyle Storrer.

Youth are invited to participate in our small groups. Guys meet on Tuesdays after school at 3:30PM. The girls small group is Friday mornings at 6:45AM.

SYF Bake Sale:

Cookies, brownies, caramel apples, and all sorts of other goodies! On Sunday December 8th, Senior Youth Fellowship will be having a bake sale before and after the Sermon in Music service. All baked goods will be available for a free-will donation. Thank you for supporting the SYF!

Life Planning - Senior High Youth Mentoring Program:

The next Life Planning meeting will be Wednesday Dec. 12th at the home of Norm and Ann Fether located at V-671 Co. Rd. 20, Archbold. We'll begin at 6:00PM so please bring a dish to share, white elephant gift and wear a tacky sweater. All mentors and youth will enjoy this festive night that will include a focus on the Immanuel.

LOGOS Ministry:

LOGOS Wednesday evening youth program theme schedule is as follows:

- December 4th - Christmas Night (last night of LOGOS for 2013 - see you on Jan. 15, 2014!)

Events/Activities

Finding Light in the Darkness: Living With Depression

Feeling down from time to time is a normal part of life. But when emptiness and despair take hold and won't go away, it may be depression. More than just the temporary "blues," the lows of depression make it tough to function and enjoy life. Depression can make you feel helpless, hopeless, or empty and numb; but there's a lot you can do to change how you feel. With help and support, you can overcome depression and get your life back. The key to recovery is to start small and take things one day at a time. Feeling better takes time, but you can get there if you make positive choices for yourself each day and draw on the support of others.

To offer support for and awareness of depression, we are hosting three sessions on depression. Sarah Short, from the Central Mennonite congregation, will be leading these sessions on February 2nd, 9th and 16th. They will be held in the parish hall during the 9:15AM Sunday school hour.

Advent Prayer Path:

Beginning on Monday, December 16th, the chapel will be set up with an "Advent Prayer Path." The prayer path will be a simple labyrinth journey to help center us on Jesus during the Advent and Christmas season. Journey with Mary, Joseph, the shepherds and wise men to celebrate the birth of the Christ child. The Advent Prayer Path will be available in the Chapel from 7AM-9PM, December 16th - 23rd. You may visit the path whenever you'd like.

Labyrinth prayer is a way of prayer in which a person journeys along a path following the ancient practice of pilgrimage. As a person moves in prayer along the path, they are given opportunities to put aside distractions and noise. In the center of the labyrinth it is good to pause and rest with Jesus before leaving the labyrinth and returning home to live life. Along the path it is good to consider what things benefit or hinder your relationship with Jesus. The physical movements along the path may be reflecting the spiritual movements going on within our souls

December Prayer Focus:

For each month of 2013, we have tried to share and highlight a different way or method of prayer. The purpose of doing this was to encourage our communication with our Creator. We realize that each one of us connects with God in our own unique and personal way, so with that being said, we encourage you all to continue to grow and mature in prayer. For the month of December the prayer focus is one that could be new, strange, inspiring and unique to many of you. It is labyrinth prayer. Labyrinth prayer is a way of prayer in which a person journeys along a path following the ancient practice of pilgrimage. As a person moves in prayer along the path, they are given opportunities to put aside distractions and noise. In the center of the labyrinth it is good to pause and rest with Jesus before leaving the labyrinth and returning home to live life. Along the path it is good to consider what things benefit or hinder your relationship with Jesus. The physical movements along the path may be reflecting the spiritual movements going on within our souls. On Wednesday, December 16th-23rd, the chapel will be set up with an "Advent Prayer Path." The prayer path will be a simple labyrinth journey to help center us on Jesus during the Advent and Christmas season. For more information on Labyrinth Prayer, see Pastor Adam. Information on labyrinth prayer is adapted from *Spiritual Disciplines Handbook* by Adele Calhoun c. 2005, InterVarsity Press.

Child Protection / Safety Training:

To adhere with our insurance policies and to fulfill our mission to provide a safe, Christ-centered environment for our youth, all Christian Education teachers and volunteers need to complete the Child Protection and Safety Training. We've been blessed with new teachers and volunteers in recent months, and we want to ensure those individuals are up-to-date with our system. If you are currently serving in CE ministries and have not fulfilled the requirements for this training, please attend the session that will be offered on Wednesday, December 11th at 6PM in Pastor Erich's office. If you have any questions, please contact Jenna Storrer via e-mail at jennastorrer1@gmail.com.

Gong Show Follow Up:

Another fun-filled night of amateur comedy, fellowship, food and silent auction bidding was enjoyed by all who attended the Gong Show and Silent Auction on Sunday, November 3rd. A total of \$2,284.25 was raised from the evening's silent auction, which was divided equally between the Book Bag Bash and St. John's Christian Preschool.



December 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat		
1 Holy Communion 9:15AM Birthday Party for Jesus 5:00PM Seekers Small Group 7:00PM Evening Advent Service	2 11:00AM Staff Meeting 3:15PM Staff Meeting 7:00PM Sister Chicks	3 9:15AM Bible Study 12:00PM Prayer Time (Chapel) 3:15PM YFC Jr. High B-ball Practice 3:30PM HS Guys Sm. Grp. 5:00PM Comm. Meal (Zion) 5:30PM 2nd Grade B-ball Practice	4 8:30AM Moms In Prayer 10:00AM AAMA 5:50PM LOGOS Meal 6:30PM JYF 6:30PM Bells & Chimes Reh. 7:00PM SYF 7:30PM Chancel Choir Reh.	5 5:30PM Senior Citizens Christmas Dinner 7:30PM Mission Committee	6 6:45AM HS Girls Small Grp.	7 1PM Depart for Bethlehem Marketplace		
8 Sermon in Music 9:15AM Children's Prog. Practice 10:30AM Bells/Chimes Play 2-6PM HFH Holiday Home Tour 7:00PM Evening Advent Service	9 11:00AM Staff Meeting 3:15PM Staff Meeting 6:30PM Couples Small Group 7:00PM Sister Chicks	10 9:15AM Bible Study 12:00PM Prayer Time (Chapel) 3:15PM YFC Jr. High B-ball 3:30PM HS Guys Sm. Grp. 5:00PM Comm. Meal (Zion) 5:30PM 2nd Grade B-ball 6:30PM Cub Scouts 7:00PM Property Comm.	11 8:30AM Moms In Prayer 9:00AM W. Haven Bible St. 6:00PM Child Safety Training 6:00PM Children's Program Practice 6:00PM Life Planning 7:00PM SYF 7:30PM Chancel Choir Reh.	12	13 6:45AM HS Girls Small Grp. 5:00PM Wedding Rehearsal (Wanemacher / Gruenhagen)	14 4:30PM Wanemacher / Gruenhagen Wedding		
15 9:15AM Children's Prog. Practice 10:50AM Junior Church 5:00PM Seekers Small Group 7:00PM Children's Christmas Prog.	16 11:00AM Staff Meeting 3:15PM Staff Meeting 6:00PM Consistory 7:30PM Spiritual Council	17 9:15AM Bible Study 12:00PM Prayer Time (Chapel) 3:30PM HS Guys Sm. Grp. 4:00PM CE Team 5:00PM Comm. Meal (Zion) 5:30PM 2nd Grade B-ball	Advent Prayer Path		18 8:30AM Moms In Prayer 7:00PM SYF 7:30PM Chancel Choir Reh.	19	20 6:45AM HS Girls Small Grp.	21
22 7:00PM Evening Advent Service	23 11:00AM Staff Meeting 3:15PM Staff Meeting	24 7:00PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Serv.	25 Merry Christmas 10:30AM Christmas Day Worship 11:30AM Christmas Caroling At Fairlawn	26	27	28		
29	30 11:00AM Staff Meeting 3:15PM Staff Meeting	31	8:00AM Worship 9:15AM Sunday School 9:15AM Faith Village 9:15AM Confirmation 10:30AM Worship	Mission-A-Month— Crossroad Elder of the Month— Jan Lindsay				

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 Casey Nofziger, Katie Whiteman
2 Sandi Cowell, Jeff & Stacy Rutledge
3 Mert Kinsman
5 Bob Bostelman, Deb Overmier, Betsy Redd, Joyce Kinsman, Kyle Storrer
6 Dudley & Deb Beaverson, Wendy Beck, Denny Hornish, Kim M. Walker
7 Matt Jacoby, Keith Meller, Ed & Deb Overmier
8 Colt Knipp, Jim Liechty, JoAnn Short, Aiden Warncke
9 Scott & JoAnn Short
10 Alexa Martinez, Greg Walker, Elizabeth Whiteman
11 Carly Blankenship, Doug Rupp
12 Paul & Joan Lovejoy
13 Linda Heer
14 Kathy Bechstein, Mike Kinsman, Jean Stamm | 15 Alyssa Mann, Crissi Stuckey, Mike & Katie Whiteman
16 Cara Lou Frey
18 Andy & Meridith Redd, Shiela Short
20 Chad & Michelle Short
21 Dean & Darlene Sauder, Nici Wyse
22 Dudley Beaverson, Ian Redd
23 Don & Charlene LaFountaine
25 Guy Jennings, Deb Schnitkey
26 Rodney Kinsman
27 Klaire Kern, Paul Lovejoy, Joanne Spotts
28 Josh & Kasey Grime, Phyllis Miller
29 Maggie Enderle, Nicole Buehrer
30 Dean Beck
31 Alice Leu, Eric & Laura Rini |
|---|--|

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

College / Grad School / Military Prayer Calendar

Day of Month	Name	Address	City	St	Zip	School	Year
1	Bechstein, Tyler	Apt 348 10294 42nd Ave	Allendale	MI	49401	Grand Valley State Univ	Jr.
2	Buckenmeyer, Alicia	948 Huntwood Lane	Charlottesville	VA	22901	University of Virginia	Grad Sch
3	Buckenmeyer, Eric	47 E Green Dr Johnson 140	Athens	OH	45701	Ohio University	So.
4	Christman, Amy	Malone University Box #975 2600 Cleveland Ave NW	Canton	OH	44709	Malone University	Jr.
5	Christman, Ryan	418 Clara Ave. Apt. 4	St. Louis	MO	63112	Washington U.	Grad Sch
6	Ducey, Morgan	244 King Ave	Columbus	OH	43201	Ohio State Univ	Sr.
7	Garza, Grace	417 N. Pointe Dr	Archbold	OH	43502	NWSCC	Fr.
8	Gobrogge, Alyssa					Heidelberg University	Jr.
9	Jennings, Chris	Bluffton University 1 University Drive #0632	Bluffton	OH	45817	Bluffton University	Sr.
10	Jennings, Tyler	Bluffton University 1 University Drive #0736	Bluffton	OH	45817	Bluffton University	Jr.
11	Lehman, Jenny	Wittenberg Univ Box 3541 734 Woodlawn Ave	Springfield	OH	45501	Wittenberg University	Fr.
12	Lindsay, Jayson	2374 Victor St	Cincinnati	OH	45219	Univ of Cincinnati	Sr.
13	Lindsay, Jennifer	Ashland University Box 1567	Ashland	OH	44805	Ashland University	Jr.
14	Mann, Alyssa	Indiana Wesleyan Univ 1598 Student Center	Marion	In	46953	Indiana Wesleyan	Sr.
15	McCandless, Morgan	Lyden House Room #4013 251 Madison Ave.	Youngstown	OH	44502	Youngstown State Univ	Fr.
16	Neuenschwander, Trevor	Unit 2559 402 W. College Ave	Ada	OH	45810	Ohio Northern Univ	Jr.
17	Nofziger, Charlie	Student Mailbox 75 1247 E Siena Heights Dr	Adrian	MI	49221	Siena Heights University	Jr.
18	Nofziger, Delaney	541 Ann Ave.	Wauseon	OH	43567	NWSCC	Fr.
19	Nofziger, Mackenzie	319 S. Mercer Rd., Apt. 140	Bowling Green	OH	43402	Bowling Green State Univ	Sr.
20	Nofziger, Vicki	1592 Co Rd 16	Wauseon	OH	43567	NWSCC	Jr
21	Rice, Dinah	10020 Residence Dr #226	Allendale	MI	49401	Grand Valley State Univ	Fr.
22	Sears, Heather	58 E. Daniel St.	Champaign	IL	61820	University of Illinois	Sr.
23	Short, Olley	25515 Co Rd E	Archbold	OH	43502	Univ of NW Ohio	So.
24	Smith, Kinsey	98 West Green Drive Sargent Hall	Athens	OH	45701	Ohio University	Fr.
25	Sonnenberg, Ellie	CPO 1359 P O Box 10060	Chicago	IL	60610	Moody Bible Institute	Fr.
26	Walker, Collin	1101 N Byrne Rd	Toledo	OH	43607	Univ of Toledo	Sr.
27	Walker, Corey	1101 N Byrne Rd	Toledo	OH	43607	Univ of Toledo	Sr.
28	Walker, Michael	1700 S Main St	Goshen	IN	46526	Goshen College	Fr.
29	Winzeler, Bryce	4850 A Hollingbourne Dr	Columbus	OH	43214		Law School
29	Ducey, Kyle	10175 Park Meadows Dr. #5-326	Lone Tree	CO	80124		
30	Lesniak, Jacob LCpl	LOC #1355 MCCES Box 788253	Twentynine Palms	CA	92278-8253		
30	Mr & Mrs Dennis LaPorte	107 Nebraska St	Travis AFB	CA	94535		
31	1 Lt Jared Kuntz & Maria	627 UN Lauman	Fort Sill	OK	73503		
31	Mr & Mrs Steven R Schink	Apt 5 170 Nautical Dr	Sturgeon Bay	WI	54234		

worship

December Worship:

- Dec 1 First Sunday of Advent – Lighting the Advent Candle of Hope
Scriptures – Isaiah 2:1-5, Matthew 24:35-44
Sermon – “The Coming of the Son of Man”
Pastor Erich
Chancel Choir – “Waiting”
7:00 PM – Evening Advent Service
- Dec 8 42nd Sermon in Music – 10:30 AM Service
8:00 AM – Traditional Service
Second Sunday of Advent – Lighting the Advent Candle of Peace
Scriptures: Isaiah 11:1-10, Matthew 3:1-12
Sermon – “Preparations of the Heart”
Pastor Erich
Chancel Choir – “Sicilian Bagpiper’s Carol”
“Christ Is Born, Nowell!” “Fall On Your Knees”
7:00 PM – Evening Advent Service
- Dec 15 ... Third Sunday of Advent – Lighting the Advent Candle of Joy
Scriptures – Is. 35:1-10, Matthew 11:1-15
Sermon – “The One Who Was to Come”
Pastor Adam
7:00 PM – Children’s Christmas Program
- Dec 22 Fourth Sunday of Advent – Lighting the Advent Candle of Love
Scriptures – Is. 7:10-14, Matthew 1:18-25
Sermon – “The Birth” Pastor Erich
Chancel Choir – “Rejoice, Believers!”
7:00 PM – Evening Advent Service
- Dec 24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
Lighting the Advent Christ Candle
Scriptures – Isaiah 9:2-7, Luke 2:1-20
Sermon – “Prophecy Fulfilled!” Pastor Adam
Chancel Choir – “Fall on Your Knees”
- Dec 25 Christmas Day Worship – 10:30 AM
Scriptures – Luke 1:46-49, Luke 2:1-20
Christmas Day Caroling at Fairlawn
- Dec 29 ... Memorial Sunday – in our worship of God, we will remember those who died in the past 12 months, praying for the families and friends who are grieving, that their trust in the Lord will bring comfort and peace.
Scriptures – Eccl. 3:1-8, Mark 2:18-22
Sermon – “Old and New” – Pastor Erich

Evening Advent Services:

Join us for our series of evening Advent services each Sunday evening at 7PM beginning Sunday, December 1st thru Sunday, December 22nd. We’ll be focusing on the theme of “Emmanuel – God With Us” - exploring what it means that Jesus is with us, as well as enjoying singing Christmas hymns and songs.

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42nd Sermon in Music December 8, 2013 10:30AM

Our annual celebration of Christmas through the wonderful melodies of vocal and instrumental music! With congregational singing, lighting of the Advent candle of Peace, and expressions of Advent preparations, our worship of God on this special day will ring with joy and blessing.



Pre-Service Music by a Brass Quartet

Matt Hines, Brandon Lehman,
Andrew Rohrs, Ed Ruffer

Vocal Selections

Lynne Christman & Gary Mann
Norm Fether & Ed Ruffer
Elaine Winzeler
The Whiteman Family
Deb Schnitkey
Norm Fether
Joel & Annie Foote
Norm Fether, Mike Meyer, Ed Ruffer
Chancel Choir

Instrumental Selections

Lynne Christman
Children’s Hand Chime Choir
Children’s Hand Bell Choir
Ed Ruffer
Katie Wyse
Silas, Whiteman, Lydia Whiteman
Adam Walker, Emily Walker

The Christmas Scene

Special music selections will highlight a characterization of the nativity scene, through a narrated portrayal by people in costume

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small groups

Small Groups Currently Meeting at St. John's:

- Twice a Month Sunday Evenings - Seekers
6:00 - 8:00PM - Wyrick's, 504 N. Defiance St.
- Wednesday Mornings - Moms in Prayer
8:30 - 9:30AM - Upstairs Sunday School Room
- 2nd & 4th Monday of Month - Couples Small Group
6:30 - 8:30PM - Youth Room
- Monday Evenings - Sister Chicks INC
7:00 - 8:30PM - Nancy Rupp's, St. Rt. 2, Stryker
- Tuesday Morning Bible Study
9:15 - 10:15AM - Fireside Room
- Tuesday Afternoons - High School Guys
3:30 - 4:30PM - Youth Room
- Tuesday Afternoons Prayer Small Group
12:00 - 1:00PM - Chapel
- 2nd & 4th Wednesday of Month - Bible Study
9:00 - 10:00AM - West Haven, Fairlawn
- Friday Mornings - High School Girls
6:45 - 7:45AM - Youth Room

College Christmas Break Class:

Beginning on Sunday, Dec. 15th, college students home for Christmas break will have a chance to get together during the Sunday school hour from 9:15-10:15AM. Other dates are Dec. 22nd, Dec. 29th and Jan. 5th. Please e-mail pastoradam@stjohnsarchbold.org if you are interested.

stewardship

2013 Year To Date Finances:

	Jan-Oct, '08	Jan-Oct, '09	Jan-Oct, '10	Jan-Oct, '11	Jan-Oct, '12	Jan-Oct, '13
Income	256,630	253,893	262,706	251,678	251,655	263,920
Expenses	249,794	261,278	281,555	262,111	277,217	282,930
Difference	6,836	(7,385)	(18,849)	(10,433)	(25,562)	(19,010)

The above data reveals the trend of operating throughout most of the year with a current budget deficit - our expenses out pacing our giving. The Consistory continues to monitor this situation, trusting in the blessing of God and knowing of the historical giving of the congregation. In seeking to understand the deficit this year, a key factor is the \$17,667.48 sabbatical expense. This doesn't take away the deficit, and isn't an excuse for the deficit, as the congregation approved this line item in this year's budget, but what it does show is that if the congregation continues to give at the same level as this year, 2014 should be okay in terms of stewardship. The \$19,010 defect at the end of October, minus the sabbatical expense, leaves a deficit of \$1,342.52. That's so much less! Without the sabbatical expense in 2014, the hope is that our giving will keep pace with our expenses throughout the year. Yet, the blessings of the sabbatical time are believed to yet be fully realized - much is yet to be revealed in the coming months as our pastors vision and seek God's direction for our congregation's ministries.

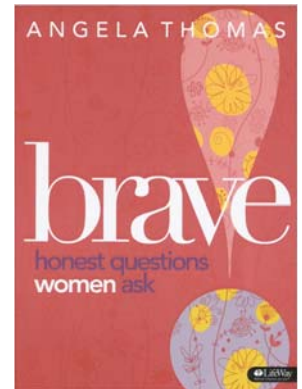
Additionally, November and December are the two months in which people's giving normally is at it's highest, so the hope and prayer is that the congregation glorifies God in their faithful stewardship to end the year with no deficit at all.

Couples Small Group:

The couple's small group continues to meet on the 2nd and 4th Monday evenings of the month from 6:30-8:30PM in the youth room. We are currently going through various chapters of Luke's gospel. Each evening includes fun, games, good conversation, time of prayer and delicious snacks. Please contact Adam or Sara Just if you are interested.

Sister Chicks INC:

The Sister Chicks small group will begin a new study, "Brave Honest Questions Women Ask" (by Angela Thomas) on Monday evening, January 6th. Let's face it, we've all got insecurities, flaws and struggles that we're afraid to address. But if we can be brave enough to raise the questions, God will answer us. A woman who follows passionately after God can become a brave woman who lives according to His powerful Spirit. Topics we will discuss include: I am worn out, I am suffering a thorn, I am undisciplined, I am trembling inside, I am invisible, and I am broken. New faces are ALWAYS welcomed! If you would like to uncover deeper truths about who you are and how your personal struggles have shaped you, contact Nancy Rupp (419-682-1102 or Nrupp47@yahoo.com) by Wednesday, Dec. 18th so books can be ordered.



stewardship cont.

2013 Benevolent Fund Report:

The following snapshot of the Benevolent (Mission) Fund of our congregation shows our giving through the month of October. The Mission Committee will be expending remaining funds in late December, striving to meet the goals of the Benevolent Budget. May each person prayerfully consider the Christian love and ministry we support around the world through the blessings of our benevolent funds.

	As of October 31, 2013	2013 Goals	2013 YTD Inc	2013 YTD Exp
1	Beg Bal Bene/2nd Mile Funds		\$ 9,197.96	
2	Benevolent Fund Undesignated		\$ 50,126.20	
3	Farm/Interest/2nd Mile Income		\$ 7,102.15	
4	Non-Budgeted Projects		\$ 4,002.33	\$ 9,213.53
5	African Inland Missions	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 1,768.03	\$ 2,268.03
6	Agape Family Life House	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 600.00
7	Aroles - CRHP	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 8,115.57	\$ 8,875.57
8	Aroles - CRHP - Lenten Coin	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,144.11	\$ 1,144.11
9	Back Bay Mission	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 2,514.34	\$ 5,514.34
10	Back Bay Mission - Lenten	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,144.11	\$ 1,144.11
11	Back Bay Mission Trip	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 4,721.00	\$ 5,300.89
12	Cherry Street Mission	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 4,296.75	\$ 5,280.75
13	Christmas Cheer - Fulton Cty	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 90.00	\$ 90.00
14	Church Camp	\$ 2,500.00		\$ 2,650.00
15	Church World Service - Blanket	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 523.00	\$ 1,123.00
16	Clean Up Kits	\$ -	\$ 1,700.00	\$ 1,700.00
17	College Scholarship	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 1,711.35	\$ 6,594.00
18	Community Meals	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 786.00	\$ 3,144.05
19	Crossroad	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 1,085.00	\$ 1,335.00
20	Crossroad - Advent	\$ 2,000.00		
21	Evangelical Association	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	\$ 914.00
22	FISH (Archbold Pantry)	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 7,961.56	\$ 11,033.44
23	Foods Resource Bank - Local	\$ 2,300.00	\$ 769.00	\$ 1,769.00
24	Frank, Tony & Leila	\$ 13,500.00	\$ 4,033.50	\$ 7,006.50
25	FRB - Thank Offering	\$ 500.00		
26	Friendship House - Archbold	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 1,658.00	\$ 2,158.00
27	Great Comm Min - Kyle/Matt	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 1,209.00	\$ 2,459.00
28	Habitat for Humanity - Fulton	\$ 1,000.00		
29	Habitat for Humanity - Mich.	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 675.00	\$ 1,391.00
30	Hands of Grace	\$ 2,000.00		829.35
31	Kajiado Children's Home	\$ 26,000.00	\$ 3,496.09	\$ 4,203.70
32	Kajiado Spon. Child	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,060.00	\$ 967.00
33	LEGS	\$ 500.00		
34	Love Fund	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,431.00	\$ 3,431.00
35	Navigators	\$ 500.00		
36	Operation Christmas Child	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,195.00	
37	PET Project	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 760.00	\$ 1,510.00
38	Rauschenbergers	\$ 1,000.00		\$ 500.00
39	Shepherd's Circle	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,067.00	\$ 1,567.00
40	Sparrow's Nest	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 1,491.00	\$ 2,741.00
41	Sparrow's Nest - Thank Offerings	\$ 500.00		
42	St. John's Christian Preschool	\$ 3,000.00		\$ 2,500.00
43	St. John's Evangelism Outreach	\$ 2,200.00	\$ 2,832.00	\$ 5,631.70
44	St. John's Women's Fellowship	\$ 500.00		
45	SYF - 2013 Mission Trip	\$ 2,250.00	\$ 250.00	\$ 2,250.00
46	SYF - 2014 Mission Trip Deposit	\$ 750.00		
47	The Outback	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,105.00	\$ 1,355.00
48	Toledo Gospel Rescue Mission	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,051.00	\$ 2,051.00
49	Urgent Mission Outreach	\$ 2,000.00		\$ 951.85
50	Walk In Assistance Program	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 796.65	\$ 777.78
51	WMTR Radio Pause for Praise	\$ 5,000.00		\$ 4,180.00
52	Youth Leadership Training	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 1,700.00
53	Grand Total	\$ 160,400.00	\$ 134,168.70	\$ 119,854.70

consistory

2014 Congregational Annual Meeting – Jan. 12th:

Some very special plans are being made for worship and fellowship on this special day in the annual life of our congregation. Evangelist Robert Rogers of “Mighty in the Land Ministry” will be our special guest speaker during worship. Robert offers a very heart-felt testimony of God’s strength and glory. In part, Robert shares a message about, “When God is our refuge, even when there is despair...there is hope! Even in the midst of sorrow...there is peace and joy.” It’s a message of faithfulness that will call and challenge us to be faithful to the Lord.

Plans are underway to provide plenty of volunteers for childcare during the service of worship, both in our Nursery Care ministry and in a children’s worship program being put together for our kindergarten through fifth grade children.

During the annual meeting itself, we will celebrate the blessings of God realized in the past year, and honor God with trust in the coming year.

8:30AM Breaking the Fast Breakfast

9:30AM Worship Service

10:00AM Children’s Ministry (Kindergarten thru 5th Grade)

11:15AM Annual Meeting

12:15PM Congregational Meal – Served by SYF

Facility Committee:

At its November meeting, the Consistory approved taking the Facility Committee’s Report and Proposal to the congregation. The process of sharing the proposal with the congregation will be introduced at the 2014 Congregational Annual Meeting. The proposal will not be acted upon at the annual meeting, as it will be introduced and a process time line given for the congregation to consider, study and eventually vote on the proposal. The Consistory is hopeful that a special meeting of the congregation will be called during the first quarter of 2014 to act upon the proposal.

community news

2014 Community Meals:

The Archbold Ministerial Association continues to discuss future plans for this community ministry. The plan is to continue serving these meals that provide both food and fellowship to around 275 people per week. The details of where the meals will be held, who will be coordinating the hosting details, and how many meals will be served by each area church and several area organizations, are yet to be determined.

Pastor Erich wants to thank everyone who has been a part of the two meal teams from St. John’s. The

able leadership and hospitality that Ann Grime, Betsy Ducey and Karen Walker offer through leading our two meal teams has been a testimony of faithfulness – thanks, ladies! The fellowship enjoyed, the service and love offered, and the sense of unity within our faith community are true blessings to observe and be a part of throughout the year.

What can St. John’s do for next year’s meals? We are in the midst of assessing meal teams for next year, considering if St. John’s can host the meals at our church once again (another church or two are considering as well), and how many meals our teams desire to provide in 2014.

Input and guidance is most welcome, and can be shared with Ann, Betsy, Karen, Sue Grieser, Pastor Adam or Pastor Erich!

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
Custodian	Dean Buckenmeyer
Security Person	Richard Spiess
Christian Preschool Staff	Sue MacDonald, Joan Burkholder
Administrative Assistant.....	Sue Grieser
Director of Music Ministry	Deb Schnitkey
Director of Christian Education.....	Jenna Storrer
Associate Pastor	Rev. Adam Just
Pastor.....	Rev. Erich Christman



Wishing You A Very Merry Christmas

“You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger”

Luke 2:12

& A Happy New Year!

*Erich, Adam, Sue, Roger,
Julie, Dean, Deb, Jenna, Sue M.,
Joan, & Richard*

December Daily Scriptures

(From "Discovery" Daily Devotional)

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|------------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1 A Special Marriage ----- | Psalm 45:1-17 | 17 Into The Wilderness ----- | Isaiah 5:1-7 |
| 2 Life And Hope ----- | Ruth 4:13-22 | 18 Woe To Sinners ----- | Isaiah 5:8-21 |
| 3 What Do You See? ----- | Acts 9:1-9 | 19 An Angry God ----- | Isaiah 5:22-30 |
| 4 Who Do You See? ----- | Acts 9:10-19a | 20 Out Of This World ----- | Isaiah 6:1-13 |
| 5 Too Hot To Handle! ----- | Acts 9:19b-31 | 21 God With Us ----- | Isaiah 7:1-17 |
| 6 Who Can You Turn To? ----- | Acts 9:32-43 | 22 He Has Shown Himself ----- | Psalm 48:1-14 |
| 7 Who Gets Noticed? ----- | Acts 10:1-8 | 23 Name Calling ----- | Isaiah 8:1-10 |
| 8 Be Still? In This? ----- | Psalm 46:1-11 | 24 Signs And Symbols ----- | Isaiah 8:11-22 |
| 9 Stop, Look, Listen ----- | Acts 10:9-23a | 25 Who Do You Think You Are? ----- | Isaiah 9:1-7 |
| 10 Anyone But Them! ----- | Acts 10:23b-33 | 26 The Anger Continues ----- | Isaiah 9:8-17 |
| 11 Chosen By God As Witnesses ----- | Acts 10:34-48 | 27 No End In Sight? ----- | Isaiah 9:18 - 10:4 |
| 12 Upsetting The Faithful ----- | Acts 11:1-18 | 28 A Remnant Will Return ----- | Isaiah 10:20-27 |
| 13 What Gets You Noticed? ----- | Acts 11:19-30 | 29 Words Of Wisdom ----- | Psalm 49:1-20 |
| 14 Feeling Safe? ----- | Acts 12:1-19a | 30 Future Glory ----- | Isaiah 11:1-16 |
| 15 Catch The Beat ----- | Psalm 47:1-9 | 31 Overflowing Joy ----- | Isaiah 12:1-6 |
| 16 Who Is Lord? ----- | Acts 12:19b-25 | | |

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

Pastor Rev. Erich Christman

pastoreich@stjohnsarchbold.org
 Residence Ph. 419-267-5610
 Cell Ph. 419-551-0401

Assoc. Rev. Adam Just

pastoradam@stjohnsarchbold.org
 Cell Ph. 419-551-6499

Admin. Sue Grieser

office@stjohnsarchbold.org

Dr. of Jenna Storrer

jenmastorrer1@gmail.com
 Cell Ph. 419-205-0537

Education Deb Schmitkey

daschmitkey@yahoo.com
 Cell Ph. 419-583-6356

Music Dean Buckenmeyer

Cell Ph. 419-551-1105

Custodians Julie Ruffert

Cell Ph. 419-572-9608

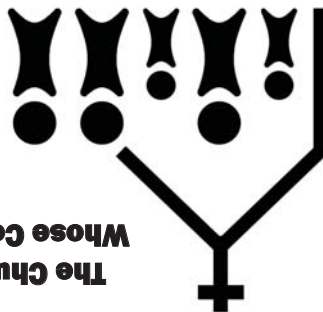
Church Ph. 419-446-2545

Web Site www.stjohnsarchbold.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

Non-Profit Org.
 U.S. Postage
 Archbold, OH
 Permit #15