

# The Visitor

## prayer concerns

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

January 1, 2014 Volume 60, Number 1

### Please Pray For:

- Veronice Rupp, who is Bryan Care & Rehab Center.
- Sonny Wyse, who is in Fairlawn for rehab.
- Dale VonDeylen, who is recovering from knee replacement surgery on December 19th.
- Doug Rupp, who is recovering from partial knee replacement surgery on December 12th.
- Jen Lindsay, who is recovering from knee surgery on December 11th.
- Doris Rupp, who is recovering from back surgery on December 11th.
- Don LaFontaine, who is recovering from hip replacement surgery in Arizona on December 2nd.
- LeNore Heer, who is in rehab at Fairlawn recovering from a stroke.
- Carol DeVries, who is recovering from foot surgery.
- 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

Florence Augustine, Room #120

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

## congregational news

**Congratulations** – Mindy Wanemacher and Travis Gruenhagen were married in our sanctuary on Saturday, December 14th. Mindy's parents are Joel and the late Beth Wanemacher; Travis' parents are Steven and Kathy Gruenhagen. Grandparents include Beverly Wanemacher, and Eldor and Rozella Gruenhagen. Our congratulations to Mindy and Travis as they begin this new chapter in their lives.



## congregational thank you's

I wanted to say a huge THANK YOU to my church family for helping me out financially this semester at college. I am very appreciative of the scholarship that I received from St. John's. It has helped further my education as I study both social work and religion. Thank you very much!

Jen Lindsay



We just wanted to thank everyone for the well wishes and Christmas wishes we received. It is so great to belong to such a caring church family. We do miss all of you but not your cold weather!! We send our Blessings for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

In Christ's Love, Tootie and Bud Beck

## **pastor's letter**

### **Thoughts from Pastor Erich . . .**

Scotts Bluff is a promontory consisting of siltstone, sandstone, limestone and volcanic ash. This towering bluff of rock rises 800 feet above the plains surrounding the bluff and the nearby city of Scottsbluff, Nebraska. The siltstone and sandstone layers are relatively soft and a little of the bluff erodes away each day. Extremes in temperature, wind, and rain eat at the soft layers day by day.

When Lynne and I walked and climbed the lengthy and steep trail to the top of the bluff, one of things we saw was a metal survey post set in the top of the bluff's rocky surface in 1933. When originally set the top of the marker was flush with the rock, but now the top of the marker sits about eighteen inches above the surrounding rock – sure evidence of the eroding effects of the elements upon the soft layers of rock.



I took the above picture of that marker, for as I thought about what it represented, it made me wonder about the eroding effects the natural world may have upon me, upon my faith. Are the layers of my faith which were laid by the Spirit of the Lord over the course of my life, are those layers of my faith soft or hard? Is my faith in God eroded away by the tempting allure of the world's delights? When I'm faced with storms that come my way, is my faith easily eroded like the sandstone or is my faith more enduring?

We visited Scotts Bluff early in our western journey during our sabbatical time, it was the first extended hike we took. In the ensuing weeks, as I renewed my faith, spending time in prayer and contemplation, as I read scripture and books by pastoral colleagues, my faith was enriched, made stronger, more able to endure storms and sinful forces that can so easily erode faith in God.

In the coming year, I believe God will sharpen our focus on discipleship and evangelism. As the year unfolds, I believe that the lighthouse of faith God established here at the corner will shine ever brighter of God's grace and mercy. God is faithful, as the psalmist promises, "His love endures forever." May we be so faithful, that our faith will endure forever, blessed through the birth of Christ, saved by Christ's dying on the cross of Calvary, and given hope through Christ's resurrection.

*ERICH*

## **congregational thank you's**

cont.

Thank you to everyone at St. John's for the love and support I have felt this past year. This church is very special to me! Thanks for showing me how big God's love is!

Joan Burkholder



Merry Christmas to all! I do appreciate being remembered by all of my friends at St. John's.

Thank you so much, Donna Mason



We would like to thank our church family for all your prayers, kind words of encouragement and cards. A special "thank you" to Pastors Erich and Adam for their many visits to Fulton Manor. God bless each and every one of you.

Myrl & Pauline Zimmerman



The family of Berneda Nofziger wishes to thank St. John's congregation for the cards, memorials, your presence at mother's visitation and other expressions of love and support.

Elaine Nofziger Schmitkey

## **mission corner**

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

- African Inland Mission (Tom & Megan L), for our gift of \$152.
- Back Bay Mission, for our gift of \$2,433.
- Cherry Street Mission, for our gift of \$2,451.
- Crossroad, for our gift of \$1,077.
- Hands of Grace, for our gift of \$500.
- GCM (Kyle Chase), for our gift of \$170.
- Pioneers (The Dorlots), for our gift of \$110.
- Toledo Gospel Rescue Mission, for our gift of \$100.
- World Team (The Franks), for our gift of \$2,000.

### **Letters From Our Mission Partners:**

Dear Volunteer Menders,

Another year has passed and we would like to graciously thank you for all of the mending you did for us at Fairlawn Haven Nursing Home.

Some of you made lap robes for us while others did mending of personal clothing, even mended some blankets and bath capes. All of the things that were done were appreciated by everyone at Fairlawn, not just the laundry department, but also the residents whose clothing you made able to be worn again.

Again, a big THANK YOU and may God bless each and every one of you.

Victoria Meyers, Fairlawn Haven

## Merry Christmas St. John's,

We just wanted to thank you for all your love and support this past year.

It has been a big year for us: moving to a new island, preparing the ground for a new team and finally welcoming that team! So far we are impressed by how much work it takes to be team leaders but also by the rich blessing we get by working with a team here. God has blessed us with a great team!



We continue to encounter islanders who have eyes to see and ears to hear. We feel very humbled and blessed to be able to be messengers of such good news on these islands this Christmas season.

THANK YOU for standing with us and for your generosity! We have felt loved and supported. May God bless your personal growth and outreach in Ohio this year!

Love, Tom, Megan, Grace, Peter & David L.

## January Mission-A-Month—Church World Service Emergency Cleanup Kits:

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

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

## Back Bay Mission Trip – February 8-15, 2014:

There are many reasons to participate in one of these types of experiences in Biloxi, Mississippi, and here are just five of those reasons:

5. A week away from daily routine that can change your routine
4. Wonderful fellowship within a faith engaging group
3. Be one of a dozen or more disciples sharing in God's Word each day
2. Acts 1:8 challenges us to serve all around the world
1. Matthew 25 calls us to care for God's people

A sign-up sheet is posted! People with any interest or questions can talk with Pastor Erich! We travel via the church bus, tools are provided by Back Bay, and people of all skill levels will find work to do! Cost of the trip is \$185 per person, and is very negotiable for anyone that might not be able to cover that cost. This is a week of sharing in service, encouraging one another, and glorifying God through faith and hands on sharing.

## 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](http://www.jamkhed.org)



### Kyle Chase, Great Commission Ministries

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

e-mail - [Kyle.Chase@gcmweb.org](mailto:Kyle.Chase@gcmweb.org)

### Matt Pardi, Great Commission Ministries

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

e-mail - [pardipardi@juno.com](mailto:pardipardi@juno.com)



### Tony & Leila Frank, World Team

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

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



### Matt & Bev Hale, The Navigators

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

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

### Tom & Megan L., Africa Inland Mission

web sites - [tmlangsdorf.blogspot.com](http://tmlangsdorf.blogspot.com)

[www.facebook.com/africaninlandmission](http://www.facebook.com/africaninlandmission)

e-mail - [tmlangsdorf@msn.com](mailto: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](http://www.WaterForTheWorld.com)

e-mail - [Brian@WaterForTheWorld.com](mailto:Brian@WaterForTheWorld.com)

e-mail - [Jamie@WaterForTheWorld.com](mailto:Jamie@WaterForTheWorld.com)

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

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

### Ryan Volkman, LCMS World Mission

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

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



### Keith & Cheryl Wyse - The Agape Family Life House

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

e-mail - [k.wyse@agapeflh.org](mailto:k.wyse@agapeflh.org)

### Jon & Rachel Doriot - Pioneers, Papua

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

e-mail - [kalepa@linkmail.org](mailto:kalepa@linkmail.org)



# ministry happenings

## Christian Education

### Junior Youth Fellowship (JYF):

JYF will start back up with weekly meetings on Wednesday, January 15th. All JYF participants are invited to attend our weekly LOGOS meals at 5:50PM in the parish hall prior to their weekly meetings.

### LOGOS Ministry:

LOGOS Wednesday evening youth program starts back up on Wednesday, January 15th; the theme for the evening will be Winter Wonderland. The LOGOS program begins with a meal at 5:50PM in the Parish Hall. LOGOS activities are concluded at 8PM.

### Senior Youth Fellowship (SYF) THANK YOU:

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

### SYF:

Welcome to 2014! SYF begins again on January 8th with SYF Remix and Life Planning, and the rest of January we will study a three-part series covering the book of Revelation. The senior high youth will be cooking up some spaghetti for a congregational meal after the annual meeting on January 12th (a free will offering will be taken) and save the date for our SYF Winter Retreat coming up on Saturday, February 22nd.

Come and join us for LOGOS dinner at 6PM (beginning January 15th) 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 15th-20th. The 2014 mission trip will be to St. Louis with Group's Week of Hope. Mission trip applications will be available beginning in February.

### Life Planning - Senior High Youth Mentoring Program:

Life Planning mentors and youth enjoyed a fun-filled evening on December 8th at the home of Norm and Ann Fether celebrating the Christmas holiday with food, fun, games and their annual white elephant gift exchange.

The next Life Planning time will be on January 8th at 7PM. We'll be talking about our last few weeks around Christmas and New Year's. We'll also spend some time talking about prayer.

### Bible: Beyond the Basics – January 5th, 19th and 26th – 9:15AM in the Parish Hall:

This three session adult course builds upon the Bible Basics course that was offered in the fall; though there is no requirement that you had to attend Bible Basics to go beyond in this course!

The focus of this course will be twofold: 1) helping people to feel more comfortable in responding to questions in a class or small group setting, and 2) to assist people in living their lives according to biblical principles. This is an opportunity to deepen your knowledge of the Bible and to use that knowledge to grow in wisdom as you live for Christ each day. Pastor Erich will lead these sessions.

## Events/Activities

### Prayer Times/Ministries:

A weekly prayer time, to which any and all are invited, continues to be held each Tuesday at noon in the chapel. Prayers are lifted up for the people, ministry and leadership of SJCC.

### Ray VanderLaan Conference:

Rev. Ray VanderLaan is a gifted teacher who is best known for the way in which he weaves archeological evidence with Biblical teachings to bring Scripture to life. On Friday, February 14 (7-9PM) and Saturday the 15th (8:30AM-4PM) he will be presenting a two-day seminar entitled "Your Kingdom Come: the Ministry of Jesus in its First Century Setting." This is taking place in Orland Park, IL for \$50 registration fee. If you are interested in going please contact Pastor Adam.

### Ministry/Service Opportunities at St. John's Christian Church:

This is a listing of ministries and tasks that exist in the life of our congregation, and for which we are looking for volunteer leadership. Please consider, and if you are interested in learning more, contact the church office staff.

#### Chancel

- A person to design or select, create or purchase, worship banners to add to or replace our already existing banners that hang towards the front of our sanctuary.
- A person to oversee the care and possible decorations of the sanctuary chancel and altar area, on a monthly and/or seasonally basis.
- A person to care for altar flower arrangements and altar items.

#### Decorations

- A person or team of people to provide inspiring seasonal decorating of entrance areas of the building for the enjoyment of all who enter.
- A person or team of people to oversee all aspects of the Advent and Christmas decorating of our church building.

#### Historical Display

- Research, find and arrange items from the history of our congregation for display in the new parlor history cabinet.

### Landscape

- A person to pull weeds on a weekly basis.
- A person to care for the rose bushes.
- A person to care for the planted flower areas.

### Library

- A person or two to care for, maintain, and improve the church library, including the organization of the existing resources as well as purchasing new items.

### Visitors

- Visit some specific senior citizens who don't receive many visitors.
- Help some of our senior citizens connect with family members through Skype – an internet based video calling system

### Worship

- Sound Tech for Praise Band
- Sound Tech for Worship Services
- Video Tech for Worship Services
- Easy Worship Techs for Worship Services

### **Coping 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.

### **Men's Basketball:**

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

## **small groups**

### **Couples Small Group:**

The couple's small group continues to meet on the 2nd and 4th Monday evenings of the month from 6:30-8:30PM in the youth room. We will continue to study through the gospel of Luke. Any couple interested in joining should contact Pastor Adam.

### **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 Time

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

## **community news**

### **2014 Community Meals:**

St. John's will once again be the host site for the weekly community meal ministry. Beginning on Tuesday, January 7th, up to 300 people from around the area will gather for these weekly meals, served cafeteria style from 5 - 6PM each Tuesday. The Archbold Area Ministerial Association continues to coordinate this ministry, which is only possible through the cooperative efforts of many churches and organizations.

We are seeking volunteers to serve in the following ways (sign-up sheets posted on bulletin board):

- Meal teams – we have two teams that will serve 4 meals each; team leaders include Karen Walker, Betsy Ducey and Ann Grime. Teams plan, prepare, serve and host the meal – we need volunteer cooks, servers, greeters, and people to help clean up.
- Set up team – a team of people to set up tables and chairs, as well as prepare Fireside Room and Chapel for tables and chairs, each week prior to 4PM.
- Kitchen team – a team of people willing to be here each week or on a rotating basis, who will help wash all the dishes, pots and pans, and clean up the kitchen; leaders include Nancy Ries and Jean Stamm.
- Clean up team – a team of people to come at 6PM and help put tables and chairs away, sweep the floors, vacuum and mop as needed.

# January 2014

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— Emergency Clean Up Kits Elder of the Month— Jon Rupp		1 Happy New Year! Office Closed	2 5:30PM Cub Scouts District Meeting	3	4
5 6:00PM Seeker's Small Group	6 11:00AM Staff Meeting 3:15PM Staff Meeting 5:30PM 2nd Grade B-ball Practice 7:00PM Sister Chicks INC 7:15PM Fellowship Comm.	7 9:15AM Bible Study 12:00PM Prayer Time (Chapel) 3:30PM HS Guys Sm. Grp. 5:00PM Comm. Meal (SJCC)	8 8:30AM Moms In Prayer 9:00AM W. Haven Bible Study 7:00PM Life Planning / SYF 7:30PM Chancel Choir Reh.	9 3:15PM YFC Jr. High B-ball Practice	10 6:45AM HS Girls small Grp.	11 Day of Fasting  Chapel Prayer at 9AM, 12PM, 3PM, 6PM & 9PM
12 Annual Meeting NO 8AM WORSHIP 9:30AM Worship Service 11:00AM Congregational Meeting 12:00PM Congregational Meal - SYF Host	13 11:00AM Staff Meeting 3:15PM Staff Meeting 5:30PM 2nd Grade B-ball Practice 6:30PM Couples Small Grp. 7:00PM Sister Chicks INC	14 9:15AM Bible Study 12:00PM Prayer Time (Chapel) 3:30PM HS Guys Sm. Grp. 5:00PM Comm. Meal (SJCC) 6:30PM Cub Scouts 7:00PM Evangelism Comm. 7:00PM Property Comm.	15 8:30AM Moms In Prayer 5:50PM LOGOS Meal 6:30PM JYF 6:30PM Junior Choir Reh. 7:00PM SYF 7:30PM Chancel Choir Reh.	16 3:15PM YFC Jr. High B-ball Practice	17 6:45AM HS Girls Small Grp.	18
19 10:50AM Junior Church 6:00PM Seeker's Small Group	20 Martin Luther King Day 11:00AM Staff Meeting 3:15PM Staff Meeting 5:30PM 2nd Grade B-ball Practice 7:00PM Sister Chicks INC	21 9:15AM Bible Study 12:00PM Prayer Time (Chapel) 3:30PM HS Guys Sm. Grp. 4:00PM CE Team 5:00PM Comm. Meal (SJCC)	22 8:30AM Moms In Prayer 10:00AM W. Haven Bible Study 5:50PM LOGOS Meal 6:30PM JYF 6:50PM Junior Choir Reh. 7:00PM SYF 7:30PM Chancel Choir Reh.	23	24 6:45AM HS Girls Small Grp.	25
26 9:15AM Fellowship Hour Program	27 11:00AM Staff Meeting 3:15PM Staff Meeting 6:00PM Consistory Potluck 6:30PM Couples Small Grp. 6:00PM Preschool T-Th AM Mom's Night 7:00PM Consistory 7:00PM Sister Chicks INC	28 9:15AM Bible Study 12:00PM Prayer Time (Chapel) 3:30PM HS Guys Sm. Grp. 5:00PM Comm. Meal (SJCC) 6:00PM Preschool T-Th PM Mom's Night 7:00PM Cub Scouts	29 8:30AM Moms In Prayer 5:50PM LOGOS Meal 6:30PM JYF 6:50PM Junior Choir Rehearsal 7:00PM SYF 7:30PM Chancel Choir Reh.	30	31 5PM Non-Member Wedding Rehearsal	

## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1 Duane Hayes  | 14 Richard Calvert  |
| 2 Josee Grime  | 16 Aaron Kauffman, Anna Yoder                                     |
| 3 Ruth Schmucker, Maurice & Ruth Schmucker                           | 17 Laura Bostelman, Trevor Neuenschwander, Jeff & Laura Bostelman |
| 4 Ryan Christman   | 18 Ava Genter, John & Kathy Graber                                |
| 5 Mary Lou Nemire, Karen Schnitkey                                   | 21 Ann Fether   |
| 6 Carolyn Walker   | 22 Ed Overmier, Kay Stamm   |
| 7 Wade Enderle, Beth Gobrogge, Jon Lindsay, Myrl & Pauline Zimmerman | 23 Alicia Buckenmeyer, Jim Grieser, Jacob Gobrogge                |
| 8 Ralph Grieser  | 24 Deb Rupp   |
| 9 Amy Baden, Bodi Kauffman, Leah Hall, Jack & Joanne Spotts          | 26 Tim & Sue Grieser, Pat Leupp, Verlene Lovejoy                  |
| 10 Pauline Short   | 28 Steve & Molly Knipp  |
| 12 Tootie Beck, Tyson Bostelman                                      | 29 Joan Lovejoy   |
| 13 Cathy Nofziger, Stacy Rutledge, Len & Jean Stamm                  | 30 Nate Meyer, Wayne Spiess                                       |

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

# 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

## A Day of Fasting – Saturday, January 11th, 8:30AM to Sunday, January 12th, 8:30AM:

### Fasting:

- † ... is a spiritual faith practice with spiritual communication in mind.
- † ... is about denying “self” and seeking God.
- † ... involves a time when a person does not eat in order to focus on communicating with God.
- † ... is about a person seeking God with all their heart.
- † ... is a physical way of saying, “food and the things of this world are not as important as God is.”
- † ... is taking the time and energy normally devoted to preparing and eating meals and devoting that time and energy to reading scripture, praying, and seeking God’s wisdom

The Spiritual Council encourages everyone to be aware of a Day of Fasting in preparation for our Annual Congregational Meeting on January 12th. Beginning at 8:30 am on Saturday, January 11th, everyone is invited to enter into a time of fasting to focus our thoughts on the agenda and events of our annual meeting. This time of fasting will focus on not

eating while understanding that drinking liquids will be continued and necessary. Each person will need to keep in mind their own diet and health needs, checking with their physician regarding any potential negative health affects of fasting.

While there will be a congregational aspect to this day of fasting, individuals may choose to fast totally on their own, in their own way.

### Possible activities during the Day of Fasting:

- In lieu of preparing a meal, spend the time normally taken up by such preparation and spend that same amount of time reading scripture and praying
- Whenever you experience the desire to eat something, praise God for this time to nourish your soul through meditating upon His Word
- As the day progresses, and you feel hungrier and hungrier, praise God that this is a self-imposed fast, and offer prayers for those who endure hunger every day
- Attend one or more of the prayer times in the chapel, or spend those times at home in prayer
- Instead of eating, take that time to do something kind for someone else – send a card, make a phone call, pray for particular people, go visit them, help them around their home, etc...
- Spend time reading through the annual meeting packet and pray for discernment, both for yourself and for the congregation, as you cover the various items requiring action at the meeting

### Prayer Topics:

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

### Prayer Times in the Chapel or at home:

*(One of the pastors will be in the Chapel at each of these times to lead a 15 to 30 minute time of prayer)*

- 9AM...focus on praising God for His providence and presence in the life of St. John’s
- 12PM...focus on seeking God’s wisdom and vision for our congregation’s ministries in 2014
- 3PM....focus will be that many, many people come to worship the Lord and attend to His church
- 6PM....focused prayer on thanking God for those nominated for leadership roles, asking God to direct people in the election process, and for God to lead current and future leaders
- 9PM....focus on the joy of worship and prayers for Robert Rogers (our guest speaker) as he shares

# January Daily Scriptures

(From "Discovery" Daily Devotional)

1 Local Global Gospel -----	John 1:1-18	17 The Prophet? -----	John 6:1-15
2 Who Are You? -----	John 1:19-34	18 "It's Only Me!" -----	John 6:16-24
3 What Do You Want? -----	John 1:35-42	19 The Place of Confidence -----	Psalm 52:1-9
4 Step By Step -----	John 1:43-51	20 What Counts With God -----	John 6:25-40
5 Awesome God -----	Psalm 50:1-23	21 Bread of Heaven -----	John 5:41-59
6 Wedding Day -----	John 2:1-11	22 Which Side Are You On? -----	John 6:60-71
7 Feeling Indignant -----	John 2:12-25	23 Struggles and Trust -----	John 7:1-24
8 Hot Or Cold? -----	John 3:1-21	24 Streams of Water -----	John 7:25-44
9 Job Done -----	John 3:22-36	25 Polite Interest? -----	John 7:45-8:1
10 Master Class -----	John 4:1-26	26 Fools Rush In -----	Psalm 53:1-6
11 Master Class Part 2 -----	John 4:27-42	27 An Unpromising Start -----	1 Samuel 1:1-28
12 Say Sorry -----	Psalm 51:1-19	28 A Prophetic Song -----	1 Samuel 2:1-11
13 Dare To Trust -----	John 4:43-54	29 Ungodly Contexts -----	1 Samuel 2:12-26
14 "What Do You Really Want?" -----	John 5:1-15	30 A Hard Message -----	1 Samuel 2:27-36
15 Judge Of All -----	John 5:16-30	31 Hearing God -----	1 Samuel 3:1-4:1a
16 "Prove It!" -----	John 5:31-47		

**St. John's Christian Church**  
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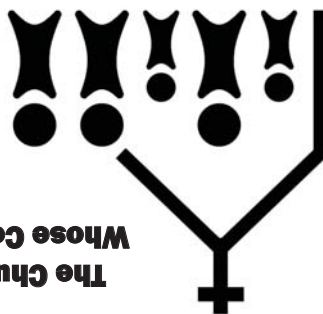
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 Sunday Worship 8AM & 10:30AM  
 Sunday School 9:15AM

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



**Come Hear the Reason we're Inspired to Serve Together**  
 Holy Communion:  
 New Year (1/5), Ash Wednesday (3/5), Maundy Thursday (4/17),  
 Pentecost (6/8), Mid-Summer (7/20), 1st Sunday in October (10/5),  
 1st Sunday of Advent (11/30)

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