

# The Visitor

## prayer concerns

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

March 1, 2014 Volume 60, Number 3

### Please Pray For:

- Jean Stamm, who is home following a procedure at UPMC on February 24th.
- Audrey Smith, who is home following a brief stay at a hospital in Florida.
- Angie Nofziger, who underwent a minor outpatient procedure at St. Luke's Hospital on February 21st.
- Kenny Nafziger, who continues to undergo tests.
- Keith Kern, who is recovering from back surgery.
- McKenna Knipp, infant daughter of Wade and Whitney Knipp, who is recovering from surgery and undergoing tests for breathing related issues.
- Maurice Schmucker and family, upon the death of his sister, Mary Beck, on February 12th.
- Richard and Cathy Spiess, as Richard continues to care for Cathy who lives with Frontal Temporal Dementia.
- 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 - wife Wren (Air Force)

Dennis is stationed in Afghanistan  
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 - wife Ashley (Coast Guard)

Steve, Ashley & Brennan:  
590 Rhonert Park Expy. W. #350  
Rhonert Park, CA 94928

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

We welcome new members Andrew & Lori Rohrs and their two children, Callie (7th grade) and Harrison (4 1/2 years old). They live at 20401 US 6, Ridgeville Corners. Andrew works at Rettig Music in Defiance and Lori works at Parkview Physicians Group in Archbold. They attend worship at the 8:00 service, and Andrew has played trumpet at some of our worship services.



## congregational thank you's

Dear St. John's,

I would like to thank those who sent me cards for my 91st birthday. Also, a big thanks to those who have driven me places so far this winter. I have given up driving, so really appreciate those who have helped me out in this way. I feel so fortunate to be part of such a caring church! I appreciate our pastors who preach the Word of God, and who are so thoughtful in many ways.

Irene Short

## **pastor's letter**

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

The month of March! The season of spring! The coming of new growth and new life, with freshness, beauty and wonder! Even with my enjoyment of winter, I look forward to the season of spring. It's a season of hope, a season that calls us out of the warmth and shelter of our homes we've both enjoyed and endured through the months of winter. Will this year's season of spring be more blessed, more uplifting, more energizing? Following record setting amounts of snow and frigid sub-zero temperatures, won't it be great to feel the sun's warmth and see the colors of blooming flowers and the sprouting of leaves throughout the woods and forests? Winter helps us prepare for spring – the contrasts from cold to warmth, from dreariness to beauty, from staying indoors to being outdoors – winter enables us to appreciate spring that much more!

In like fashion, the Season of Lent enables us to truly experience the joy and wonder of Easter that much more. Lent is not just a church season to endure and get through, for it is a time of preparation and reflection. As we each consider our own walk with Jesus, may we take some extra time to really read and seek understanding of the scriptures. Expend more energy and devotion in prayer. Often times we might just read through a devotion with its written prayer, and maybe in our Lenten journey this year we can really pray the prayers – say it out loud, pray it more than once, circle key words, ask God to bless your time of prayer.

With such faith enrichment, the joy of Easter can truly burst forth in our hearts, praising God for the magnificence of His plan of salvation through the power of the cross and the victory over the grave. To Jesus Christ be all praise and glory! Amen.

*ERICH*

## **preschool corner**

During the month of February, our themes were Transportation, Valentine's Day, Dental Health and Pets. During Transportation week, the children learned about many ways to get from one place to another. We built simple airplanes out of craft sticks at the Woodworking Center, painted with cars/trucks (cool tracks!), and did license plate rubbings. Valentine's week was a flurry of activity as we decorated boxes and had our parties. We also learned about our love for

Jesus and our love for our families and friends. During Dental Health week we learned about how to care for our teeth, including how to brush our teeth and about which foods are healthy/unhealthy for our teeth. Mrs. Kinsman from the Health Dept. visited at the end of the month and shared more information and activities with us about the topic. We had a dental clinic for pets in our Dramatic Play area, which was very popular. You'll have to ask one of the children which pet was scared to go to the dentist! That week closed with Crazy Hat Day, which was a lot of fun for all. The month ended with Pet week. We had visits from many of our furry (and some not so furry) friends. We talked about how to care for pets, and how we must ask permission from the dog and the owner if we want to pet a dog we don't know.

We have re-scheduled our Open House for Monday, March 10, from 6:30-7:30. Spread the word if you have friends or family looking for a preschool!

### **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 container 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](http://www.labelsforeducation.com). Thank you for your help!

## **congregational thank you's**

cont.

We want to thank everyone for the many cards and prayers on behalf of Bill during his recent heart procedure and continuing recovery. What a blessing, encouragement and example of the love we share in Christ. May God bless all of you richly.

Bill & Judy Barnhart



St. John's Family,

Thank you to my church family for your prayers, cards, calls, and your kindness shown me at the hospital and at home. Thanks to our Pastors for their prayers and concerns.

Doris Rupp

St. John's Family,

**THANK YOU!!** Thank you for your support and prayers for my trip to Guatemala. The trip was amazing and I could not have been part of it without your help! I would love to tell you a little about the work your support did in Guatemala City, Guatemala.

We ran a school program for 60 children from 9AM - 4PM. These children were from a government built apartment complex called Nima Juyu for low-income families. Within this apartment complex, 70% of the families are dysfunctional. Our goal was to provide a totally free, safe, caring learning environment where the kids could spend the day during their holiday break from school and receive a warm meal. We strove to show these kids God's love for them, our love for them, and Christ's Good News. Over the course of the week, the kids had fun, received mass amounts of love, and all heard the gospel! Praise God! You can continue to pray for these children's lives, their families, and their knowledge of God.

Every day, our group also went to a college campus nearby to get into spiritual conversations with college students. The college students were surprisingly very open to talking about their beliefs. Because of God's goodness, we estimate nearly 200 college students heard the gospel in four days! You can continue to pray these seeds grow in these student's hearts.

Lastly, I saw God move in immense ways within our group. It was an honor to see God meet our students in a third world country and soften their hearts toward him and his people. I saw students grasp God's heart for the poor and the nations! And one girl in our group even accepted Christ's salvation for herself!!

It was such an amazing trip. I felt so honored that the Lord allowed me to go and be part of his work in Guatemala with Him. Thank you again for your support!

With love and a grateful heart,  
Morgan Ducey



## mission corner

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

- The Islands Mission (Tom & Megan L.), for our gift of \$70
- Cherry Street Mission, for our gift of \$632.
- Church World Service (Disaster Clean Up Kits), for our gift of \$155.
- Crossroad, for our gift of \$85.
- Great Commission Ministries (Kyle Chase), for our gift of \$720.
- Great Commission Ministries (Matt Pardi), for our gift of \$575.
- LCMS (Ryan Volkman), for our gift of \$35.
- Toledo Gospel Rescue Mission, for our gift of \$50.
- WT (Tony & Leila F.), for our gift of \$500.

### March Mission-A-Month – Friendship House:

The Friendship House is an Archbold area ministry supported by area churches and coordinated by Cecily Rohrs. This two story home, located near downtown Archbold, is set up to house one or two family units at a time. The home provides shelter for individuals and families until they are able to become self-sufficient. The home is almost always occupied and has been a tremendous help to numerous residents. The Friendship House is endorsed by the Archbold Area Ministerial Association and is coordinated by a volunteer board - of which Erich Christman is a member.

The main need of the Friendship House at this point is further financial support for operating expenses. This month we ask that you prayerfully consider supporting this community ministry that strives to care for those in need of a place to stay and have a fresh start in life.

### Lenten Coin Folders:

With the Lenten season approaching (Ash Wednesday is March 5th), Lenten Coin Folders will soon be available on a table in the sanctuary narthex, and youth Lenten Coin Folders will be distributed in Sunday school classes beginning Sunday, March 9th. These special offerings will be collected on Easter Sunday and will be divided equally between the Aroles' Comprehensive Rural Health Project in Jamkhed, India and Back Bay Mission in Biloxi, Mississippi. Be sure to stop and pick one up.

### 2014 Mission Trips/Opportunities – Annual Dates:

- March 16 – Chapel & Meal at TGRM
- May 18 – Chapel & Meal at TGRM
- June 8-13, 2014 – LaPorte Cty. Habitat for Humanity
- June 15-20, 2014 – SYF Trip to St. Louis
- September 14 – Chapel & Meal at TGRM
- October 11-18, 2014 – Back Bay Mission
- November 16 – Chapel & Meal at TGRM

## mission corner cont.

### TGRM Chapel & Meal March 16th:

Please contact Ann Grime at 419-445-2703 if you would be interested in participating in this local mission trip opportunity. The group will depart at 3PM from the church that day and return around 8PM.

### Back Bay Mission Trip:

While on the most recent trip to Biloxi, Craig Steenkamp, Back Bay Mission's Associate for Housing, shared with the group a piece that Bruno Schroeder, former executive director of Back Bay Mission, wrote on the occasion of Back Bay Missions 90th anniversary. In summary, the piece shared that investing several thousands of dollars into a mission trip to come down and just work on people's homes is a poor investment. The experience is meant to be so much more. If it's just about home repair, it would be much better stewardship to send \$3,500 to Back Bay Mission and let them hire people to do the work (the average total cost of a trip from St. John's to Back Bay is about \$3,500). But investing such funds into an experience in which people grow closer to God and to each person in the group, as well as experiencing the culture of the gulf coast while doing home repair and offering hope and assistance to people in need – that is a tremendous investment of faith, stewardship and love.

February's mission trip participants experienced such an investment. Spending about 12 hours in a termite and rat infested, condemned home isn't just about tearing down and removing every single piece of drywall or chipping up and carrying out every square of floor tile, or cutting out every piece of electrical wire or water pipe. Doing such work in a damp rain, wearing dust masks all day long, smelling the smells and seeing a live rat scurry out from under the kitchen stove – you can't pay anyone enough to do such work! But call a group of servants together, layout the plan and set them to work – and you'll witness the bond of teamwork, people helping people, the fun of conversation, joking and teasing, and the amazing reminder of how blessed it is to live in a house that is dry, clean, maintained, warm, and a home.

Besides demolishing all the interior finishing's and utilities in the above mentioned home, the group replaced the roof, installed siding and aluminum trim, and reworked the support framing of a back room on Ann's home. Ann and her brother live together, each dealing with their own health issues, and Back Bay Mission has brought relief, hope and security to their lives.

Our investment of partnering with Back Bay Mission in the ministry of God's Kingdom is an investment that produces countless gifts of faith, trust, hope and love.

### 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 F., Mozambique

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

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

#### Tom & Megan L., The Islands, Africa

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

The JYF announces a save the date event on Saturday, May 3rd for an all church movie night. Pizza, chips and drinks will be provided by the JYF at 6PM and the family movie all ages can enjoy (TBD) will be shown shortly following. Desserts will be solicited from the congregation for this event and a free will donation will be collected.

### **LOGOS Ministry:**

LOGOS Wednesday evening youth program themes include: March 5th - Ash Wednesday Night - altered schedule below:

- 5:45-6:00 Arrival
- 6:00-6:25 Dinner
- 6:25-6:45 Preschool, Worship Skills, Jr. Choir
- 6:50 - Closing/Parent Pick-Up

March 12th - Go Green for Spring Night, March 19th - Blast from the Past Night, March 26th - NO LOGOS / SPRING BREAK.

*Pictures from  
LOGOS Crazy Hat  
& Hair Night on  
February 19th*



### **SYF:**

March is a transitional month in SYF. We are transitioning from the winter (talking about faith foundations) into the spring (faith growth). On Mar. 5th we're talking about our Need for Jesus; Mar. 12th is Life Planning and SYF Remix night; Mar. 19th Family Relationships and Mar. 26th is spring break - so no SYF. And then on Saturday, March 15th is the Youth SERVE2014 Day. The SERVE Day is from 8AM-1PM and we are partnering with other area youth groups to serve our community. Cost is \$10 which includes lunch and a t-shirt. Youth will meet at St. John's for the SERVE Day.

### **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. We have partnered with Group Week of Hope for three other trips (2010 - Indianapolis; 2011 - Bay City; 2013 - Cincinnati). Mission trip applications are available in the youth room.

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

The next Life Planning time will be on March 12th at 7PM. Mentors and youth will have opportunity to discuss what Lent means to them, and they will also get into some scripture about our need for Jesus.



*2013-14 Life Planning Mentors & Youth*

### **Adult Sunday School Class:**

Jesus' Bible was the Old Testament. So during his ministry there were many connections between the Old and New Testaments. Many of his teachings, parables and miracles were rooted in the Old Testament. This adult Sunday school class, held in the parish hall during the month of March, will look at various scriptures and connections between Jesus and his Bible. All are welcome! See Pastor Adam if you have questions.

### **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.

#### **Alpha Course:**

Beginning on Wednesday, March 12th we are going to be starting a small Alpha Course. Alpha is an opportunity to explore the teachings of Jesus in a relaxed setting. Weekly topics include: Who Is Jesus? How Does God Guide Us? How Can I Make the Most of the Rest of My Life? And many more. An Alpha evening will go from 6-8PM on Wednesday evenings and include a soup supper. There is no cost for Alpha, and please sign up on the bulletin board - there are 18 spots available. Contact Pastor Adam, John Graber, Bill Barnhart or Kenny Nafziger with questions.

#### **Man Camp:**

Miracle Camp is once again hosting several "Man Camp" weekends featuring the theme "Great Expectations." We would like to have a group of men from St. John's attend this year. Man Camp includes games, events, worship, teachings, food, lodging, work projects, great fellowship and much more. Possible weekends are March 21-23, 28-30, and April 4-6 for a cost of \$117. Contact Bruce Wooley (567-444-4757) if interested or sign up on the bulletin board.

# March 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
8:00AM Worship 9:15AM SS/FV/Conf. 10:30AM Worship	Mission-A-Month— Friendship House	Elder of the Month— Jon Rupp				1 9AM Cub Sc. Pinewood Derby
2 9:15AM Adult Sunday School Class in Parish Hall 12:00PM Private Party (Parish Hall & Kitchen) 6:00PM Seeker's Group	3 11:00AM Staff Meeting 3:15PM Staff Meeting 5:30PM 2nd Grade B-ball 6:00PM Preschool MWF AM Dad's Night	4 9:15AM Bible Study 12:00PM Prayer Time (Chapel) 3:30PM HS Guys Sm. Group 5:00PM Comm. Meal (SJCC) 6:00PM Preschool MWF PM Dad's Night	5 <b>Ash Wednesday</b> 7:00AM Imposition of Ashes 8:30AM Moms In Prayer 10:00AM AAMA 12:00PM Imposition of Ashes 5:50PM LOGOS Meal 6:25PM Junior Choir Reh. 7:00PM Ash Wed. Service 8:00PM Chancel Choir Reh.	6 7:15PM Mission Comm.	7 6:45AM HS Girls Small Group	8 9AM Cub Sc. Pinewood Derby (Parish Hall)  Daylight Savings Time Tomorrow (set clocks ahead 1 hour)
9 <b>Daylight Savings Time Begins</b> 9:15AM Adult Sunday School Class in Parish Hall	10 11:00AM Staff Meeting 3:15PM Staff Meeting 5:30PM 2nd Grade B-ball 6:00PM Sister Chicks 6:30PM Couples Small Group	11 9:15AM Bible Study 12:00PM Prayer Time 3:30PM HS Guys Small Grp. 5:00PM Comm. Meal (SJCC) 6:30PM Cub Scouts 6:30PM Preschool Board 7:00PM Evangelism Comm. 7:00PM Property Comm. 8:30PM Praise Band Reh.	12 8:30AM Moms In Prayer 9:00AM W. Haven Bible Study 5:50PM LOGOS Meal 6:30PM JYF 6:50PM Junior Choir Reh. 7:00PM Mid-Week Lenten Serv. 7:00PM SYF / Life Planning 8:00PM Chancel Choir Reh.	13	14 6:45AM HS Girls Small Group 3:30PM Joan Grieser—Piano Recital Practice	15 7:30AM—1:30PM Youth Serve (Parish Hall & Kitchen)
16 9:15AM Adult SS Class 10:50AM Junior Church 3:00PM Depart for TGRM 3:00PM J Grieser Piano Rec. 4:00PM Depart for Walleye Hockey Game 6:00PM Seeker's Group	17 11:00AM Staff Meeting 3:15PM Staff Meeting 5:30PM 2nd Grade B-ball 6:30PM Spiritual Council 7:00PM Sister Chicks 7:30PM Consistory	18 9:15AM Bible Study 12:00PM Prayer Time 3:30PM HS Guys Small Group 4:00PM CE Team 5:00PM Comm. Meal (SJCC)	19 8:30AM Moms In Prayer 5:50PM LOGOS Meal 6:30PM JYF 6:50PM Bells & Chimes Reh. 7:00PM SYF 7:00PM Mid-Week Lenten Serv. 8:00PM Chancel Choir Reh.	20	21 6:45AM HS Girls Small Group	22 6PM Cub Scouts (Parish Hall & Kitchen)
23	24 11:00AM Staff Meeting 3:15PM Staff Meeting 5:30PM 2nd Grade B-ball 6:30PM Couples Sm. Grp. 7:00PM Sister Chicks	25 9:15AM Bible Study 12:00PM Prayer Time (Chapel) 5:00PM Comm. Meal (SJCC) 8:30PM Praise Band Reh.	26 9:00AM W. Haven Bible Study 7:00PM Mid-Week Lenten Serv. 8:00PM Chancel Choir Reh.	27	28	29
30 9:15AM Judd & Becky McClarren	31 11:00AM Staff Meeting 3:15PM Staff Meeting 7:00PM Sister Chicks					

## MARCH BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1 Camden Warncke                                       | 17 Raegan Rutledge  |
| 2 Cameron Yoder  | 18 Molly Rutledge   |
| 3 Cindy Sauder, Rosemarie Schmidt, Cody Westfall       | 19 Ben & Sue Buehrer, Jeremy & Sarah Kinsman  |
| 4 Mary Jo Britt  | 21 Jenna Storrer  |
| 5 Roger & Kay Merillat, Brent & Lynda Schnitkey        | 22 Sandy Frazier, Jenell Yaichner   |
| 6 Keith & Nici Wyse                                    | 23 Sue Grieser, Brent Winzeler  |
| 7 Jeff Nofziger, Aimee Roth                            | 26 Bo Krukowski, Jacob Nofziger, Esther Rice  |
| 8 Brad Enderle, Meridith Short                         | 27 Jon Rupp   |
| 10 Ann Grime, Richard Neill                            | 28 Jamie Beck, John Beck, Jodi Beltz  |
| 11 Julie Buehrer, Lindsay Wyse, Coltin Short           | 29 Carson Baden, Cagnee Grime, Leah Nafziger,<br>Joan Sommer  |
| 12 Dawsyn Martinez                                     | 30 Dean & Lou Ann Beck, Dorothy Miller, Mark<br>Nofziger, Jeremy Neuenschwander, Jeff & Cathy<br>Nofziger |
| 13 Bud & Tootie Beck, Kenny Cowell, Bryson<br>Martinez | 31 Brayden Hall   |
| 14 Jennifer Lehman                                     |   |
| 16 Rachel Kinsman, Ron Rice                            |   |

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

## ministry happenings

cont.

### Walleye Hockey Game March 16th - Green Ice:

This year's outing to a Walleye Hockey game has been scheduled for Sunday, March 16th, featuring "Green Ice" in honor of St. Patty's Day. Tickets are \$13 each (sign up on the bulletin board and pay your ticket fees in the church office by March 2nd please) and the puck drops at 5:15PM. We are planning on taking the church bus, so please bring extra money the day of the game to help cover fuel expenses.



### New Life for Old Churches Seminar:

Studies show that the vast majority of churches in the United States are in a state of decline. Many older churches have members who remember the "glory days" back when there were large numbers of children in Sunday school and extra chairs set up in the sanctuary for Easter and Christmas services. Some of these same churches now have meetings during which the leaders spend most of their time discussing how to pay for repairs on an aging building and whether the church will even survive into the future.

Is there hope for the church that needs to experience a turnaround? Can a church that has started to stagnate begin to experience new life and be revitalized to meet the intense ministry demands of the 21st century?

The answer is "yes," but such a transformation will rarely be easy. EA National Minister Jim Barnes has put together a seminar to help participants consider the blessings of becoming a turnaround church while also looking carefully at the barriers that easily stop a church in its tracks from ever moving forward.

This seminar will be offered at the Spring Mid-West Regional Meeting of the Evangelical Association on Saturday, April 5 in Decatur, IN (near Ft. Wayne). Flyers are available on a table in the sanctuary and chapel narthex with registration forms included.

## 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 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

## worship

### March Worship:

Mar 2.....Sermon Series: Week 3 on "Vision and Discernment

Scriptures – Mark 9:14-29, Ps. 119:12-16

Sermon – "Only By Prayer" – Pastor Erich

Praise Band will be leading at 10:30 Service

(8:00) Reception of New Members

(10:30) Chancel Choir – "The Longer I Serve Him"

Mar 5.....Ash Wednesday – 7:00PM Service

Sermon Series: Part 1 of "Spectacular Sins"

Sermon – "Sovereignty of God" – Pastor Erich

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Women's Trio – "Take Time to be Holy"

Mar 9.....Sermon Series: Part 2 of "Spectacular Sins"

Scriptures – Phil. 1:18b-26, Psalm 51:1-12

Sermon – "Sovereignty of Christ" – Pastor Adam

(10:30) Chancel Choir – "Shut De Do"

Mar 16...Sermon Series: Part 3 of "Spectacular Sins"

Scriptures – Gen. 3:1-5, 14-15, Rev. 12:9,

Colossians 2:13-15

Sermon – "Fall of Satan" – Pastor Erich

(10:30) Junior Choir – "Jesus Lead Me"

Praise Band will be leading at 10:30 Service

Mar 23....Sermon Series: Part 4 of "Spectacular Sins"

Scriptures – John 13:31-35, 1 Corinthians

1:20-25, 1 Chronicles 16:28-31

Sermon – "Victory of Christ" – Pastor Adam

(10:30) Chancel Choir – "Season of the

Long Rains"

Mar 30...Sermon Series: Part 5 of "Spectacular Sins"

Scriptures – Romans 5:12-21, Psalm 32

Sermon – "Fatal Disobedience" – Pastor Erich

(10:30) Chancel Choir – "Think About His

Love"

# worship cont.

## The Season of Lent:

Ash Wednesday is the first day of the season of Lent, the 40 days (not counting Sundays) that precedes Easter. The Season of Lent is when the passion and death of our Savior come into focus. It's observed as a time for growth in faith, as well as a time for deepening the devotional life of faithful Christians. It's an invitation to 40 days of renewal, 40 days to prepare ourselves to take in the Good News of Easter through the disciplines of prayer, self-denial, and rededication.

Ash Wednesday represents our sorrow for our sins and our need for repentance. A traditional Ash Wednesday service will be held at 7:00 pm on March 5th. The service will include a Service of Confession, a study of Philippians 1:18b-26 and celebrating the Sacrament of Holy Communion. The sacrament reminds us that God's love is triumphant over sin and death, that He remains "in communion" with us, and that through Christ's redemptive act on the cross, our mortality is overcome.

Midweek Lenten services will be celebrated in the sanctuary, beginning at 7:00PM each Wednesday, from March 12th through April 9th. These services will include weekly hymn sings and a more in-depth study of the scriptures and book that are the basis of our Sunday morning Lenten worship. The book, "Spectacular Sins and Their Global Purpose in the Glory of Christ," was written by John Piper and offers insight to the good God intends through our journey of life in this sinful world.

## Imposition of Ashes:

This Ash Wednesday (the first day of Lent), we will be having two opportunities to receive the Imposition of Ashes. Service options are 7AM or noon in the Chapel. The Imposition of Ashes service reminds us of our need to repent. Using ashes as a sign of repentance is an ancient practice, often mentioned in the Bible (e.g., Jonah 3:5-9; Job 42:6; Jeremiah 6:26; Matthew 11:21). Ashes as an outward sign remind us of the inner cleansing provided by Jesus on the cross. This service usually takes about 15 minutes.

## february 8, 2014



# LADIES Retreat chosen





# stewardship

## Offering Information:

Sunday	Worship Attend.	Current Fund Actual Offering	Current Fund Weekly Budget	Current Fund Actual/Budget Difference
2/2/14	281	\$ 5,991.12	\$ 6,414.35	\$ (423.23)
2/9/14	230	\$ 5,422.08	\$ 6,414.35	\$ (992.27)
2/16/14	291	\$ 5,536.50	\$ 6,414.35	\$ (877.85)
2/23/14	313	\$ 6,903.13	\$ 6,414.35	\$ 488.78
Avg / Total	279	\$ 23,852.83	\$ 25,657.40	\$ (1,804.57)
As of February 26, 2014		Total Income	Total Expenses	Difference
YTD Totals		\$ 48,743.02	\$ 52,993.17	\$ (4,250.15)

Sunday	Benevolent Fund Offering	Benevolent Fund Weekly Budget	Benevolent Fund Actual/Budget
2/2/14	\$ 2,782.41	\$ 3,132.70	\$ (350.29)
2/9/14	\$ 1,840.40	\$ 3,132.70	\$ (1,292.30)
2/16/14	\$ 2,170.00	\$ 3,132.70	\$ (962.70)
2/23/14	\$ 1,919.00	\$ 3,132.70	\$ (1,213.70)
Total	\$ 8,711.81	\$ 12,530.80	\$ (3,818.99)

# consistory

## Special Congregational Meeting:

The Consistory of St. John's Christian Church has schedule a special meeting of the congregation for Sunday, April 13, 2014. The meeting will be held at 11:45AM for the purpose of acting upon the Facility Committee Report and Proposal to enter into a Capital Campaign.

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

Congregation President.....Jeff Rutledge  
 Congregation Vice-President ..... Ed Ruffer  
 Congregation Secretary.....Betsy Redd  
 Elders .....Norma Fish, Kim Hines, Jan Lindsay,  
 Jim Redd, Ed Ruffer, Jon Rupp  
 Deacons/Deaconesses ..... Ann Fether,  
 Jim Grieser, Tom Hines, Mike Meyer,  
 Scott Short, Brad Roth, Greg Walker,  
 Bruce Wooley, Justin Yoder  
 Church Treasurer..... Roger Miller  
 Custodians.....Dean Buckenmeyer, Julie Ruffer  
 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

# community news

## 2014 Community Meals:

The fourth year of this community ministry is underway. Each Tuesday afternoon our parish hall is turned into a cafeteria type of setting, with two serving lines of hot, delicious food and twenty-five tables for our guests to sit down and enjoy food and fellowship. Volunteers are always welcome to come and help with set-up, serving, hosting, and clean-up – just stop by between 3PM and 6PM and check it all out, and enjoy a meal too!

## World Day of Prayer:

You are invited to an individual “walk-thru” time of prayer, scripture and reflection at West Clinton Mennonite Church (18029 County Rd. C, Wauseon) on any of the following days: Thursday, March 6 from 6PM to 9PM; Friday, March 7 from 9AM to 7PM and Saturday, March 8 from 8AM to Noon. All are welcome to this self-guided, 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. Blessings to all of you!! - The Prayer Ministry Team at West Clinton.



# March Daily Scriptures

(From "Discovery" Daily Devotional)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1 Ouch! That Hurts! ----- Acts 16:6-15           | 17 Fear Of The Tyrant ----- Exodus 1:1-22         |
| 2 Screams Of Injustice ----- Psalm 58:1-11       | 18 Fighting Injustice ----- Exodus 2:1-25         |
| 3 Whose Are You? ----- Romans 1:1-7              | 19 Who Am I? Who Are You? ----- Exodus 3:1-22     |
| 4 Mutual Encouragement ----- Romans 1:8-13       | 20 Heart Of Moses' Problem ----- Exodus 4:1-17    |
| 5 Abundantly Generous ----- Romans 1:14-17       | 21 Character Matters ----- Exodus 4:18-31         |
| 6 World Gone Mad ----- Romans 1:18-32            | 22 Who's In Charge? ----- Exodus 5:1-21           |
| 7 No Favorites! ----- Romans 2:1-16              | 23 Lead Me, Lord ----- Psalm 61:1-8               |
| 8 Renewal Of The Heart ----- Romans 2:17-29      | 24 By My Hand Alone ----- Exodus 5:22-6:12        |
| 9 From Panic To Praise ----- Psalm 59:1-17       | 25 Pharaoh's Heart ----- Exodus 6:28-7:13         |
| 10 Righteousness Rules! ----- Romans 3:1-8       | 26 Killing The Nile ----- Exodus 7:14-24          |
| 11 How Much Did Jesus Pay? ----- Romans 3:9-31   | 27 Heading For Checkmate ----- Exodus 9:13-35     |
| 12 Faithful Abraham ----- Romans 4:1-12          | 28 None Greater ----- Exodus 10:21-29             |
| 13 Just What Is A Promise? ----- Romans 4:13-25  | 29 Justice Comes ----- Exodus 11:1-10             |
| 14 Hearts And Minds Together ----- Romans 5:1-11 | 30 Talking To Yourself Again! ----- Psalm 62:1-12 |
| 15 The Deeper Magic ----- Romans 5:12-21         | 31 Decisions, Decisions ----- Proverbs 1:1-19     |
| 16 Our Only Hope ----- Psalm 60:1-12             |   |

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

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

*Assoc.* Rev. Adam Just

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 Cell Ph. 419-551-6499

*Admin.* Sue Grieser

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*Dr. of* Jenna Storer

jennastorer1@gmail.com  
 Cell Ph. 419-205-0537

*Education* Deb Schmitkey

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*Music Ministry* Dean Buckenmeyer

Cell Ph. 419-551-1105

Julie Ruffert

Cell Ph. 419-572-9608

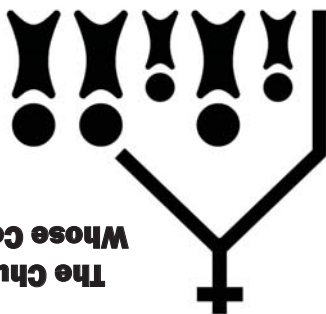
Church Ph. 419-446-2545

Web Site [www.stjohnsarchbold.org](http://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 (1/5), 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)

Return Service Requested

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