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# ♥ First St. John Journal ♥

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Volume 22, Issue 2

February 2009

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**W**ow! What a winter it's been so far! In the same week we had over 11 inches of snow, and then we saw the temperatures drop to minus 15 degrees. Thank goodness January is leaving.

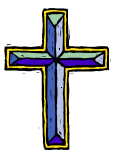
I want to talk about how the decision is made to cancel or not cancel church when one of these "winter events" happen during the weekend. It's a very difficult decision. It's not a decision I make alone, or make lightly. I first talk to people on staff and in leadership positions here at church. I also try to talk with respected colleagues (like Pastor Beth Giller at St. Mark's) to see what they're doing. Then, unless it's a real "no-brainer" (snowing to "beat the band" all Saturday night into Sunday morning) I will wait until very early Sunday morning and talk to respected leaders and then decide what to do.

Closings will be scrolled on television (channels 11 and 13), so please check the tv stations and/or their web sites Saturday night and Sunday morning. And if Lucas County declares a "Level 3 snow emergency" there will be no services at all. Please note that we will be listed under "First St. John Lutheran Church" on the scroll. But, hopefully every Sunday will be beautiful for the rest of the winter season! See you in God's House!

—Pastor Blohm

## DARTBALL TOURNAMENT

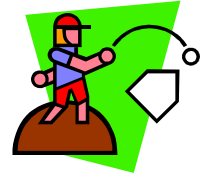
St. John Team #1 and #2 have their tournament here at First St. John at 7:00 pm February 2nd in the gym. Set-up is 2:00 pm on February 1st.



## NOONTIME LENTEN SERVICES

We'll have noontime prayer services on Wednesdays during Lent in the chapel. These services begin Wednesday, February 25th (Ash Wednesday) and run through April 1st. Please join us as your schedule permits.

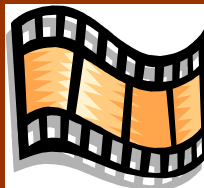
## TIRED OF THE COLD? THINK SPRING! 2009 HOMEPLATE



Believe it or not, tickets are available for the 2009 Homeplate event with the Detroit Tigers. Okay, so they didn't have a good season in '08, but it's good to get out for an afternoon, right?

The annual event will be Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> at Comerica Park as the Tigers take on the Cleveland Indians. The program prior to the game begins at 12:05 pm. Members of the Detroit Tigers, coaches, and broadcasters speak about their faith in Jesus Christ. After the program, an on-the-field baseball clinic will be from 1:35 to 2:50 pm. Everyone gets a meal coupon for the concession areas, too. Then stay for the game, which begins at 3:40 pm.

Tickets are \$26 per person. Call the church office as soon as you can to reserve your tickets, or email us at [firststjohn@sbcglobal.net](mailto:firststjohn@sbcglobal.net) We'll only have a limited number of tickets, so call soon!



## FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT

Join us on February 6<sup>th</sup> from 7:30 pm to 9:30 pm. We'll watch "The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian." This event is free, and all ages are welcome! Activities will be provided for preschool and kindergarten age children and will be sponsored by the Board of Education. There will be intermission with snacks and a short devotion. We hope to see you there!

This event is sponsored by The RENEW Student Ministry and The Board of Education. If you have any questions, please contact Mary at the church office or email her at [mdarling05@yahoo.com](mailto:mdarling05@yahoo.com)

## ***WHO'S WHO AT FIRST ST. JOHN***

| <b>Position</b>              | <b>Name</b>                  | <b>Phone Number</b>          | <b>Email Address</b>             |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Senior Pastor                | Robert W. Blohm, Jr.         | 419-691-9524                 | pastorblohm@sbcglobal.net        |
| Secretary                    | Toni Wilbarger               | 419-691-7222                 | firststjohn@sbcglobal.net        |
| Sunday School Superintendent | Deb Ladd                     | 419-691-5594                 | jladd45166@aol.com               |
| Custodian                    | Gene Hagedorn                | 419-693-5687                 |                                  |
| Dayschool                    | Barb Shellhammer             | 419-691-6480                 | bshellhammer@sbcglobal.net       |
| Director of Music            | John Rowley                  | 419-698-3492                 | jrowley@toledosua.org            |
| Organist                     | Norma Ridener                | 419-537-0145                 | rideners@att.net                 |
| Handbell Choir               | Cheri Johnson                |                              | cj_48@sbcglobal.net              |
| Children's Choir             | Betty Hyre                   | 419-836-9320                 | chyre@woh.rr.com                 |
| Youth Director               | Mary Darling                 | 740-358-6060                 | mdarling05@yahoo.com             |
| Council President            | Bill Caldwell                | 419-698-3285                 | billcathyc@buckeye-express.com   |
| Treasurer                    | Lisa Anderson                | 419-693-1232                 | ljanderson@bex.net               |
| Recording Secretary          | Diane Habegger               | 419-693-6852                 | dihab53@gmail.com                |
| Financial Secretary          | Duane Hubaker                | 419-691-7886                 |                                  |
| Finance Committee            | TBA                          |                              |                                  |
| Memorials                    | Esther Bell                  | 419-693-8118                 | estherhbell@sbcglobal.net        |
| Property Management          | Gary Henningsen              | 419-836-9650                 |                                  |
| Elder Chairman               | Bernie Erdmann               | 419-698-8063                 | erdmann12149@buckeye-express.com |
| Special Funds                | Bill Caldwell                | 419-698-3285                 | billcathyc@buckeye-express.com   |
| Altar Guild President        | Laurie Witt                  | 419-836-9702                 | ljwitt@hotmail.com               |
| Altar Guild Flowers          | Karyl Antoine                | 419-697-1693                 | KARYL1961@yahoo.com              |
| WELCA President              | Darlene Lorenzen             | 419-666-5804                 |                                  |
| Board of Education           | Karen Holmes<br>Melissa Lang | 419-691-3225<br>419-837-1005 |                                  |
| Prayer Chain                 | Lynn Folk                    | 419-691-3410                 | hpyhmker@sbcglobal.net           |
| Librarian                    | Marilyn Cashen               | 419-698-2363                 | CMarilyn37@netscape.com          |
| Reader Coordinator           | Marion Fouty                 | 419-693-0940                 | info@foutywaterjet.com           |

## MEMORIALS

### CURRENT FUND

In memory of LaVerne Klawitter by Sherrie Haar, Carl & Janet Morrison, M/M Cliff Bury, Walter & Eileen Young.

### DEBT RETIREMENT

In memory of LaVerne Klawitter by Louise & Jim Sommers.

### AIR CONDITIONING FUND

In memory of LaVerne Klawitter by Duane & Mary Hubaker.

### ALTAR GUILD

In memory of LaVerne Klawitter by Gary & Linda Kusian and family.

### IMPROVEMENT FUND

In memory of Keith Erdmann by Bernie & Linda Erdmann.



## HATS, GLOVES & MITTENS NEEDED AGAIN!

With the weather being as cold as it's been, many elementary school children still need hats, gloves, and mittens. As children do, many have lost their mittens and are going to school with none. Collection boxes will be in the Narthex and lounge for your donations of hats, gloves, and mittens *for elementary school children.*

If any of you are teachers and need these items for your class, please contact Louise Sommers at 419-691-7719. Thanks for your help.

## ADDRESS CHANGES

Tod & Amy Minnick  
6101 N. Billman Rd.  
Curtice, OH 43412  
(Grady, Gavin)

Jay Swanson  
136 Steel St.  
Toledo, OH 43605

## LIBRARY NEWS



**THE SHACK** by Wm. Young has been on the best seller list for a number of weeks. The story will make you laugh and cry, and reads like a prayer. This piece of fiction asks the question, "Where is God in a world so filled with unspeakable pain?" The answer may transform you.

Have you ever listened to Larry Michaels speak? He is a Lutheran minister and also an historian for the East Side. He has written two books on East Side history, **EAST SIDE STORY** and **TREASURES OF EAST TOLEDO**. In **TREASURES OF EAST TOLEDO**, there is the story of our church and the Lutheran Home. These are good books to read or to just browse through on a cold winter night. Their call numbers are 970 Mic.

Don't let your worries get you down, remember Moses started out as a basket case.

— *Marilyn Cashen*



**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**

**FEBRUARY 20**

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## ADDRESS CHANGES/CORRECTIONS

To keep current information for office records, if your name, address or phone number changes, please notify the office by mailing this form to: 2471 Seaman St./ Toledo, OH 43605 or e-mail us: firststjohn@sbcglobal.net

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

## MEMBER UPDATES



### Births

None of which we are aware.

### Baptisms

1-11-09 *Max William Morrison*, born August 27, 2008 to Brad and Nichole (Klein) Morrison. Sponsors are Mark Morrison, Kelley Heninger, and Casey Klein.

*Sidney Naomi Swiderski*, born July 9, 2005 to Darron and Ashley (Bain) Swiderski. Sponsors are Adam Bain and Ashlee Brown.

*Braydi Lynn Swiderski*, born October 27, 2006 to Darron and Ashley (Bain) Swiderski. Sponsors are Bryan Swiderski and Tammi Richards.

### Marriages

1-3-09 Michelle Habegger and Matthew Phillips

1-17-09 Tamera Morse and Eric Hugueley

### Deaths

1-2-09 Suzanne Garey

### Transfers to/from St. John:

None.



## ELDERS FOR FEBRUARY

|             | <u>7:45 am</u>                        | <u>10:15 am</u>                     |
|-------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <i>1st</i>  | Mark Ackerman<br>Janine Contat        | Mike Winslow<br>LuAnn Schuffenecker |
| <i>8th</i>  | Darold Henninger<br>Joanne Henningsen | Dick Haar<br>Lynn Folk              |
| <i>15th</i> | Jeff Smith<br>Linda Kusian            | Bernie Erdmann<br>Eric Johnson      |
| <i>22nd</i> | Mike Winslow<br>LuAnn Schuffenecker   | Mark Ackerman<br>Janine Contat      |

*Ash Wednesday—February 25*  
Jeff Smith, Linda Kusian

## MILITARY SERVICE NOTES

Here are members, family, and friends of First St. John who serve in the military. Use these addresses to send cards or packages to them. And remember to pray for them, too! Make sure you have your family member's or friend's name and address turned in to the church office so it is included in future newsletters.

*SSGT Kevin Fouty*  
2021 A Mustang Ct.  
Langley AFB, VA 23665

*CPL Nick Grady*  
4429 Mission Ave. #C204  
Oceanside, CA 92057

*Cynthia Lynn Henderson*  
6088 B Flying Gator Run  
Jacksonville, FL 32212

*Chief Petty Officer Marc Le Duc*  
3105 Tullibee Circle P-1  
Silverdale, WA 98315

*SSGT Matthew Phillips*  
2611 10th Ave. S.  
Suite 2, Box 263  
Great Falls, MT 59405

*1 LT. Lindsey Rowland*  
CMR 418 Box 1155  
APO, AE 09058

Grant Rowland  
BP 493 Kaolack  
Senegal, W. Africa

GMSA SWANSON CHRISTOPHER  
1474 GILBERT ST.  
CEP 162  
PCD TRUXTON DDG103  
NORFOLK, VA 23511 (*capitalize all letters*)

## SOUP & SALAD SUPPER

Don't rush to cook dinner before coming to the Ash Wednesday service! Please join us on Wednesday, February 25th at 5:30 p.m. for a light supper of soup and salad prior to the 7:00 p.m. service. Sponsored by the RENEW youth group.

# First St. John Lutheran Church Prayer Chain *(As of January 26, 2009)*

## Crisis Prayer Chain List

*This list is for those who need our prayers in an urgent matter such as upcoming surgery, emergency medical care (ICU), etc. Individuals will be moved to "Chronic Prayer List" after the 1st month unless one of the prayer chain contacts is contacted :*

**Jim Ackerman  
Larry Amsler  
Dewey Caldwell  
Family of Judy Cole Evanoff  
Family of John "Jack" Franks  
Family of Suzanne Garey  
Family of Sharon Monday  
Warren Nenno  
Nancy Pass  
Melissa Perry  
Hank Schumaker  
Jimmer Woods**

## Chronic Prayer List

*This list is for those who need prayers for ongoing serious situations such as cancer treatments, medical struggles, recovery and/or personal situations. Individuals will be moved off the list after three months unless one of the prayer chain contacts has been contacted about special/continuing circumstances:*

**Kara Albrecht  
Janet Bain  
Virginia Brandeberry  
Kyle Cannon & Family  
Marjorie Counterman  
Linda Curran  
Jackie Curtis  
Ronald Curtis  
Tina Curtis  
George Davenport & Family  
Ed Ellis  
Walter Felder  
Marlene Fouty  
Rick Fouty  
Eleanor Habegger  
Sally Winstead Hartzell  
Justin Heath  
Family of LaVerne Klawitter  
Laurie Madrazo  
Bishop Sanchez  
Dennis Scott  
Diane Smith  
Leroy Smith  
John Spoerl  
Family of Austin Takacs  
Betty Timbrook  
Shirley Warnke  
Candy Webster  
Bill Zeisler**

Please check the above list and let any of the prayer chain contacts -listed below- know if there are individuals who could be moved off the list.

## **Prayer Chain Contacts**

Lynn Folk 419-691-3410 (hpyhmker@aol.com)  
Donna Koehn 419-693-5030  
Ada Kreger 419-693-1549  
Gloria Ross 419-836-7166

## ***RENEW FEBRUARY SCHEDULE***

**February 4, 7:00 to 8:30 pm:** Worship Service in Sanctuary.

**February 6, 7:30 to 9:30 pm:** Family Movie Night. Free to all; all ages welcome. Preschool and kindergarten age children will have separate activities. Intermission will include snack & short devotional.

**February 11, 7:00 to 8:30 pm:** Worship Service in Sanctuary.

**February 18:** NO RENEW.

**February 20-22:** 9th through 12th graders. Festival of Faith at Emmanuel Lutheran in Marion, OH. Pick up flyer from Mary for additional information.

**February 25, 5:30 pm:** Ash Wednesday, Soup & Salad Supper. Supper at 5:30pm, stay for Ash Wednesday service in church at 7:00pm.

*Remember, friends are always welcome!*

For additional information, check out our website at:  
[www.firststjohn.com/youth-group-happenings/](http://www.firststjohn.com/youth-group-happenings/)

***SHARE IN GROWTH BY  
BEING IN COMMUNITY!  
COME TO RENEW EVENTS!***

Scripture of the Month: *"If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it." — Matthew 16:25-25*



## ***DARTBALL DIARY***

**December 15, 2008—1st St. John #1 at Messiah:** In the 1st inning of the 1st game Messiah got off to a 1-0 lead on 2 doubles. In our half of the 2nd Tom E. doubled and Darold homered to make it 2-1. In their half of the 2nd they homered to tie it 2-2. In the 4th Eric homered to make it 3-2. In the 5th, Bernie, Mike, Eric, and Tom E. doubled and Frank and Raj homered to make it 8-2. In the 6th Messiah hit 2 doubles to make it 8-3. In the 9th Mike doubled, and Frank and Raj homered to make the final score 11-3.

In the 2nd inning of the 2nd game Messiah homered to make it 1-0. In the 3rd Bernie and Eric doubled to tie it 1-1. Terry homered in the 4th to make it 2-1. In the 5th they hit 2 doubles to tie it 2-2. In the 6th Tom G. homered to make it 3-2. In the 8th Tom E. and Ted doubled to make it 4-2. In their half of the 8th Messiah got their final run of the game on a double and a triple to make the final score 4-3.

In the 3rd game in Messiah's half of the 1st inning they hit 3 doubles to take a 2-0 lead. In the 2nd inning Tom E. and Ted doubled to make it 2-1. In the 5th Terry homered to make it 2-2. In their half of the 5th they homered to make it 3-2. In the 6th we went ahead 4-3 on Raj's double and Ted's homer. In the 6th, they tied it 4-4 on a homer. In the 9th Eric homered to win it for us 5-4 for our 3rd win of the evening. Our record is now 13-8.

**January 12, 2009—1st St. John #1 at St. Mark:** Tonight we won 2 of 3 games. Our record is now 15-9. In the 1st game we got off to a 3-0 lead in the 1st on a single by Frank, Raj was safe on an error, and Tom G. hit a 3-run homer. In the 5th we increased our lead to 6-0 as Mike and Terry doubled and Tom G. hit a 2-run homer. In the 7th they homered to make it 6-1. In our half of the 8th, Tom G. and Darold doubled to make it 7-1. In the 9th they singled and homered to make it a 7-3 final score.

In the 1st inning of the 2nd game we got off to a 3-0 lead as Frank singled, and Tom G. and Bernie homered. In their half of the 1st they made it 3-2 on a single and a homer. In the 2nd we make it 4-2 on doubles by Bernie and Ted. In the 5th Frank tripled, Eric was safe on an error, and Tom G. homered to make it a 7-2 final score.

In the 2nd inning of the 3rd game they homered

twice for a 2-0 lead. In the 4th Raj homered to make it 2-1. We tied it in the 6th on doubles by Eric and Tom G. In the 8th they won it 3-2 on a home run.

**January 19, 2009—1st St. Mark at 1st St. John #1:** Tonight we lost 2 of 3 games. Our record is now 16-11. In the 2nd inning of the 1st game they got off to a 2-0 lead on two doubles and two singles. In the 6th they made it 3-0 on 2 doubles. Frank homered in our half of the 6th to make it 3-1. In the 9th they hit 2 doubles to make it 4-1. In our half of the 9th Ted homered to make it a 4-2 final score.

In the 2nd game they got off to a 1-0 lead in the 5th on a homer. In our half of the 5th Bernie homered to tie it 1-1. They then won it on a homer in the 7th to make the final score 2-1.

In the 3rd game we got off to a 1-0 lead in the 2nd inning on a homer by Bernie. In the 4th they tied it 1-1 on a homer. We won the game in the 8th inning as Tom G. and Darold doubled, and Ted and Bernie homered to make the final score 5-1.

Don't forget the Dartball Tournament is February 2nd at 7:00 pm sharp. See you then.

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### **MEN'S MINISTRY NEWS**



Our next gathering is Saturday, February 7th at 8:00 am at Frisch's Big Boy on Navarre Ave. (Frisch's Big Boy will be our permanent meeting place.) Come for breakfast, a short devotion, and fellowship. Call Bob Haar at 419-360-7510 to let him know if you are planning to attend so he can arrange for enough seating. Also let him know if you need transportation. Thanks!

### ***DAYSCHOOL ENROLLMENT FOR FIRST ST. JOHN MEMBERS***

Beginning February 2nd, First St. John members and those who currently have children enrolled are invited to enroll their children for the 2009/2010 school year. All children who will be age 3 by September 30, 2009 are eligible to attend. If you're interested and/or would like more information, please call Barb Shellhammer at 419-691-6480.



Dear Friends,

February already! Another school year is flying by! It is amazing how much the children have learned and grown since August. The teachers are busy planning another exciting month of learning. I am always delighted to visit the classrooms and see children happily engaged in creative activities. The children are blessed to have teachers who put both heart and soul into creating an environment conducive for learning. They truly make my job easy!

Do you know someone who is looking for a great Christian preschool or kindergarten for their child? This month we will begin registration for next year and summer daycare. Enrollment for members of First St. John and those families currently enrolled begins Monday, February 2. Please consider sharing this information with families who are in need of a loving, Christian, quality school for their children. Word of mouth has always been our best advertisement. Please contact the Dayschool office at 419-691-6480 for more information. Registration will be open to the general public beginning Monday, March 2. An open house will be held on Tuesday, March 3 from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. for those wanting to learn more about our school.

Our annual fundraiser with Club Choice products will get underway at the end of February. Pizza, desserts, candy, and more will be for sale. Look for posters announcing this event that were created by our Dayschool children. The Club Choice fundraiser has been well received in the past, and we are hoping for an even better response this year as we continue to work toward academic improvements.

February is a month for celebrating love. We want to share with you the children's thoughts on God's love. We hope their ideas bring a smile to your face.

*We love because He first loved us.  
1 John 4:19*

What does it mean to be loved by God?

It means to be happy.

*Jimmy Tomlinson*

It means I miss Him because He is up in the sky.

*Alex Rife*

It means I love Him, too.

*Molly Anderson*

I like Him too and I sing songs to Him.

*Maura Carr*

I love that He made the school.

*Joslyn Jurski*

It means we love Him, He cares for us, and He holds us.

*Zachary Wells*

I feel inside my heart happy about Jesus.

*Ava Moore*

He loves you because you have been made by God.

*Dee Dee Soncrant*

Special!

*Mallory Nelson*

When I sleep it makes me dream about Jesus.

*Hannah Lang*

He takes care of you.

*Grace Moore*

He takes care of us. He makes us. He's our strength.

He made our bones and stuff.

*Aden Vriezelaar*

He watches over us. He finds us when we're lost.

*Ethan Miller*

It means I listen to God.

*Nadine McQueary*

It makes me happy.

*Karlee Zurawski*

Care, respect, love, and kisses.

*Chase Flanagan*

To make Him happy.

*Adam Wehbi*



## FIRST ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES—JANUARY 25, 2009

The meeting took place at President Bill Caldwell's house. Bernie Erdmann opened the meeting with a devotion. Roll call was taken. Minutes were read and approved. Gary Henningsen made a motion to accept and Bernie Erdmann seconded it. Motion passed

Bill had the council introduce themselves and their position on council. Bill will update the council's roster by getting email addresses from each person.

Bill talked about church attendance for the year. Need to bring people to our church. Encourage people to come to church this year. Now with youth director, Mary Darling, we should be able to grow our church. Attendance was down 4% compared to 10% at the same date last year.

**Treasurer's Report** The church ended up \$10,000 ahead at the end of year. A bequest was added to the reserve account. Everything has been converted electronically to keep track of disbursements and money given for the year. Gary Henningsen motioned to accept the Treasurer's report. Mike Folk seconded. Motion passed.

**Property Management** Committee will meet before next council meeting to talk about larger items that need to be worked on. Parking lot project is a big one, among others. A new hinge was put on the back door of education building since it wore out. The light in back of the church needs to be taken down and replaced. Boiler was down because it froze. Did get it reset and it worked. Jim and Gary will be working on them this week and they should be up. Have a new type of salt for steps and sidewalk that doesn't track in as much rock salt that causes damage to carpeting.

**Finance Committee** No report.

**Youth** 15 youth came to game night last Wednesday evening. The youth need other people to step up to help hang out with kids. Some activities coming up will be Family Movie Night in Feb. and Spaghetti Dinner on Jan 31. Festival of Faith upcoming.

**Pastor** Christmas services went well. Good attendance in spite of weather. Pastor mentioned creating a closer relationship with the Dayschool.

**Board of Education** Getting together to look at their program and maybe change a few things.

**Old Business** Nominate Julie Gallaher to Board of Education. Joanne Henningsen made motion and Mike Folk seconded. Passed. Julie will be taking over for Pam Beavers.

It was discussed at the last meeting about having a babysitter in the nursery during church services. Someone has offered. Before someone can be hired, a work-up of a job description and salary suggestion needs to be put together. Also the work-up needs to address insurance and qualifications that an interested party needs to have for the position. A nursery attendant was described as a need and a way to make parents feel secure in leaving their children in the nursery. This will be brought up at the February council meeting.

Karen Homes made a motion to adjourn. Bernie Erdmann seconded. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,  
Diane Habegger, Recording Secretary

### ***SOUPER BOWL OF CARING***



Each year the NFL has its Superbowl – the big showdown of the best teams. We at First St. John and many NW Ohio congregations also have our Souper Bowl – a drive to collect funds to help the Feed Your Neighbor program. Feed Your Neighbor distributes non-perishable food items to people in need. We collect these items throughout the year (keep 'em coming!). But they also need monetary funds to keep up their food supply. With the economy the way it is today, even more people are using this program. To help, on February 1<sup>st</sup> and February 8<sup>th</sup> we'll have a soup kettle in the Narthex to collect money to help Feed Your Neighbor. If everyone only throws in \$1 (but you can add more if you'd like!), we'll go a long way toward helping this cause.

To provide additional help, please also bring one can of soup on these days that will go directly to the Feed Your Neighbor program. Remember, that's February 1<sup>st</sup> and February 8<sup>th</sup>. Thanks.