



# First St. John Journal



Volume 27, Issue 10

October, 2014

## H

**ere are a couple stories, thoughts, and scripture passages that can be helpful to consider as we strive from day to day to be faithful followers and servants of the Lord, Jesus Christ.**

“In one of his books, Gordon MacDonald tells about a young Florida man who became devoted to Elvis Presley. For Dennis Wise, devotion meant spending every bit of money he had to collect Presley memorabilia (books, magazines, pillows, records, and even tree leaves from the Presley mansion in Memphis). Wise never met Presley but he saw him perform several times, and he had once seen him at a distance when he looked through the gates at Graceland (Presley's home). He had stood there for more than twelve hours to get a fleeting glimpse. Wise's devotion is so great that he underwent six hours of plastic surgery to make his face resemble that of the famous singer. (FORGING A REAL WORLD FAITH (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, Inc., Publishers, 1989), pp. 61-62.)”

Dennis Wise needs to get a life. Still when you worship someone, it is natural to want to be as much like that person as possible. When we say that Jesus is the reference point for our lives, it means we want to make our lives as much like his as possible.

It is our relationship with Christ that not only shows us the nature of God and the nature of humanity at its best, but it also gives us the power to overcome the humdrum nature of our daily lives. It is Christ and Christ alone who gives us the power to be all that God calls us to be. Does it make any difference who Jesus is? Yes, it makes all the difference in the world.

**And here is something else I found thought provoking.**

“Dietrich Bonhoeffer was a German theologian who was executed by Hitler during World War II.

Years later, one of his students recalled the last classroom session he had with his teacher. Bonhoeffer, knowing his arrest was imminent, asked his students a question that took them by surprise: He asked them if they loved Jesus. This is not the typical question one hears in a seminary classroom. Usually the classroom is reserved for more academic questions. But Bonhoeffer knew this was the heart of life. This is the question that stands above all others. Do you love Jesus?”

**And, as always, the Apostle Paul has something vital to contribute to any discussion.**

*“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God – what is good and acceptable and perfect. . . think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us.” (Romans 12:2ff)*

**Thanks for your time! – Pastor Rayl**

## REMEMBERING OUR LOVED ONES



On Sunday, November 2nd we'll observe All Saints Day. We will read the names of our church family who passed away during the last year (since the beginning of November, 2013).

We'll already have the names of church members who died from November 1, 2013 to October 31, 2014. If the person to be remembered either was not a member or was a member who passed away prior to November, 2013, please call the church office or sign the remembrance book that will be in the Narthex so their names will be read. Thank you.



## ALTAR GUILD NEWS

Thank you VERY MUCH to everyone who donated produce and decorations to help make our church beautiful for Harvest Festival on September 21st. We very much appreciate your generosity.

Our October meeting will be Monday, October 6th at 6:30 pm. Hope to see you there.

### MEMBERSHIP UPDATES

#### Births

9-10-14 *Noah Robert Warner*, born to Paul and Andrea (Schuffenecker) Warner.

#### Baptisms

None.

#### Marriages

9-13-14 Kristine Hecklinger and Nicholas Miller

#### Deaths

8-26-14 Jill Newell  
8-30-14 James Crandall  
8-30-14 Bernie Erdmann

#### Transfers to First St. John

None

#### Transfers from First St. John

Grant Winslow to St. Mark Lutheran on Woodville Rd. in Toledo; Noel and Martha Heisler to Olivet Lutheran in Sylvania, Ohio.

### MEMBER ADDRESS CHANGES



Mildred Hancock  
Riverview Pointe Care Center  
9027 Columbia Rd.  
Olmsted Falls, OH 44138

Chuck & Erin Popovich  
2420 N. Billman Rd.  
Genoa, OH 43430  
(Rilee, Ella)

### ELDERS FOR OCTOBER

	<u>7:45 am</u>	<u>10:15 am</u>
5th	Jeff Smith Jason Blazeovich	Dick Haar Jeff Ladd
12th	Darold Henninger Mike Winslow	Linda Yenrick Bill Nelson
19th	Tom Eppard Al Collins	Eric Johnson Laurie Witt
26th	Dick Haar Jeff Ladd	Jeff Smith Jason Blazeovich

### MEN'S BREAKFAST GROUP



Our next meeting is Saturday, October 4th at 8:00 am at Bob Evans on Navarre Ave. Call Bob Haar at 419-250-9409 for more information or if you need a ride.

### EARLY BULLETIN DEADLINE

Toni will be on vacation the week of October 12<sup>th</sup>. Please have all announcements for the October 12<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> bulletins turned in to the office by Tuesday, October 7<sup>th</sup>. Thank you.

### ADDRESS CHANGES/CORRECTIONS

To keep our office records up-to-date, if your name, address or phone number changes, please notify the office by faxing (419-691-7220), or mailing this form to: 2471 Seaman St./ Toledo, OH 43605. Or email us: [office@firststjohn.com](mailto:office@firststjohn.com)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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



## Chicken & Ham Dinner

Put us on your calendar for Saturday, November 1st—the biggest church event of the year! Delicious meals of chicken, ham, mashed potatoes & gravy, green beans, coleslaw, applesauce, rolls & butter, and homemade desserts will be served from 4:00-7:00 pm. This is a great community event, and it's not just for members. Invite your family, friends, neighbors, & coworkers—they'll be glad you did!!!

Tickets will be available soon. You may buy tickets from the church office or from circle members, or call Jane Schuetz at 419-691-5506, Joanne Crandall at 419-693-2081 or Karen Holmes at 419-691-3225. Tickets will go on sale after services in the lounge and narthex on October 19th and 26th. And, yes, you can buy them at the door.

### Ticket Prices:

Adults	\$9.00
Children 3-12 yrs	\$4.00
Children 2 yrs & under	Free (still need ticket)

The October bulletins will have a sign up sheet with ways you can help us make this dinner a success. If you receive this newsletter by email, a sign-up sheet will be included as a separate attachment.

### **Needed: Crafters & Bake Sale Items**

We need baked goods to be sold during the Craft Sale at the Chicken and Ham Dinner on November 1st. If you can donate baked goods or are interested in having your own craft table, please contact Jane Schuetz at 419-691-5506 or Louise Sommers at 419-691-7719.



### **HATS, MITTENS, SOCKS, AND BOOTS NEEDED**

WELCA will collect hats, mittens, socks, and boots for local children during October. Hat and mitten sizes 0-5 will go to the Toledo Day Nursery, and sizes 6-Adult will go to Riverside School and Raymer School. We also will collect toddler and preschool size socks and boots. You can place your donations in the specially marked boxes in the Narthex and/or in the lounge. Thanks for your help.

### **MESSAGE FROM MISS BETTY**

For the past 15 years I grabbed my music bag to get to church to greet the FSJ kids arriving for Sunday School. Sunday mornings began with our singing together before they joined the teachers in their classes. Over the years we have sung with wonderful pianists—Mark Kieswetter, Mike Gartz, Tony Zsigray and John Rowley—and were happy to be joined occasionally by Bill Hamilton and his guitar. Those kids who were part of the first music groups are now grown, graduated from college and are wonderful, contributing adults. Thankfully, at the beginning of each new year, there were always new preschool children and families to replace those who grew older and left our group.

This year I have retired as the Children's Music Director. I will treasure the memories of times spent singing with so many wonderful kids. We had fun times learning songs that named the Disciples, Books of the Bible, Gifts of the Spirit and more. We have joined the adult choir on many occasions, and they have joined in singing with our group, too. As always, each group complemented the other.

I have been especially thrilled to watch as some shy, frightened 3-4 year olds used all their courage to stand with the other singers in front of the sanctuary. Often they just stood uneasily without singing, looking out over all those faces in the pews and taking small comfort that their mom was nearby. How I loved them for their courage! And then, within a short time, those same children often sang with gusto and were excited to perform as those faces in the pews became far less threatening.

I give BIG THANKS to my First St. John family for giving me the opportunity to be a part of the music ministry of our church and allowing me to share a part of Jesus' message through song. And a BIGGER THANKS to the kids for sharing your talents with me and our FSJ family.

Together in Christ,  
Betty Hyre

## **PRAYER CHAIN LIST**

*(As of September 23, 2014)*

### **Crisis Prayer List**

*For those who need prayers in urgent matters such as surgery, emergency medical care (ICU), etc. Will be moved to Ongoing List after the 1st month unless we're contacted about special circumstances:*

**Betty Anderson**  
**Family of Bernie Erdmann**  
**Dick Haar**  
**Pastor Labuhn**  
**Family of John Sutton**

### **On-Going Prayer Concerns**

*For those who need prayers for ongoing serious situations such as cancer treatments, medical struggles, recovery and/or personal situations. Will be moved off the list after 3 months unless we're contacted about special/continuing circumstances:*

**Fritz Babcock**  
**Jordyn Beckhusen**  
**Karen Burris**  
**Gail Chaffee**  
**Tim Christman**  
**Greg Contat**  
**Tina Curtis**  
**Cliff Fordney**  
**Lily Georgeson**  
**Good Shepherd of the Deaf Church**  
**Robin Gram**  
**Larry Grant**  
**Lori Hall-Diehl**  
**Bob & Debbie Hecklinger**  
**Gary Henningsen**  
**Rose Hensley**  
**Scott Keller**  
**Ellie Krepz**  
**Stephanie Larkins**  
**Bonnie Lutzman**  
**Dan Martin**  
**George "Skip" McCullough**  
**Jeanette Miller**  
**Christopher Molnar & his family**  
**Joel Moszkowicz**  
**Jessica Mueller**  
**Norma Newell**  
**Charlie Ohlson**  
**Lucille Paul**  
**Demetra Pender**  
**Joan Probasco**  
**Sheryl Rayl**  
**Cindy Roecker**  
**Doris, Edward, & Neil Rutledge**  
**Dianne Schumaker**

**Brenda Seimet**  
**Tom Sigurdson**  
**John Spoerl**  
**Mary Vargyas**  
**Pat Vogelsang**  
**Ginny Wegman**  
**Terry Williams**  
**Bill Zeisler**

Please check the list and notify any prayer chain contact if a name can be removed.

### **Prayer Chain Contacts**

Carol Abbey 419-351-9795 or cabbey@jcrinc.com  
Lynn Folk 691-3410 Donna Koehn 693-5030  
Ada Kreger 693-1549 Gloria Ross 836-7166



### ***OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD***



It's time to start collecting for Operation Christmas Child! Since 1993, more than 100 million boys and girls in over 130 countries have experienced God's love through the power of shoebox gifts from Operation Christmas Child. Samaritan's Purse works with local churches and ministry partners to deliver the gifts and share the life-changing Good News of Jesus Christ. Empty shoe boxes are available in the JAM room under the Christmas tree and also in the lounge if you would like to participate.

If you receive this newsletter by email, a packing label sheet is attached. If you receive it via hard copy, packing label sheets will be in the office and the lounge. Once filled, please return the shoeboxes to the JAM Christmas tree or the church office.

**NOTE:** Donations of empty shoeboxes are needed. Please bring to the JAM room or the church office.

The final date for turning in boxes is Sunday, November 16th. If you have questions, please call  
4 Deb Ladd at 419-250-1460. Thanks!



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## MEMORIALS

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### **ALTAR GUILD**

In memory of **Evelyn Giles** by Bob & Sherrie Haar, Penny DeWitt.

In memory of **Bernie Erdmann** by Penny DeWitt.

### **CURRENT FUND**

In memory of **Evelyn Giles** by Carl & Janet Morrison.

In memory of **George Ackerman** by Louise & Jim Sommers, Jean DeWitt.

In memory of **Jim Crandall** by Louise & Jim Sommers.

In memory of **Norma Manteuffel** by Louise & Jim Sommers.

In memory of **Bernie Erdmann** by Louise & Jim Sommers, Karen Frey, Betty TenEyck, Russ & Chris Hunsaker, Ada Kreger, Dennis & Lisa Pavley, Terry & Jane Schuetz, Tom & Jan Eppard, Anthony & Margaret Bugaj, Paul & Shirley Tornow, John & Mary Tornow, Don & Marlene Tornow, Betty Tornow, Faye & Ballard Martin, Bob & Karen Tornow, Jim & Kim Cousino, Brent Shimman, Bill & Donna Nelson, Mark & Debra Ackerman, Jeff & Marianne Merren, Chuck & Betty Hyre, Don & Karen Holmes, Elaine Gladieux, Chuck & Jane Neal, Hank & Joanne Schumaker, Donna Koester, Darlene & Larry Paul, Eric & Cindy Johnson, Dick Crouse, Jean DeWitt, Esther Bell, Rudolph/Libbe Companies, Inc.

### **CEMETERY FUND**

In memory of **Evelyn Giles** by Eileen Young, Louise Diersch, Gene Hagedorn, Olga Zimmerman, Ada Kreger, Donna Koester, Ken & Joyce Villhauer, Jim & Sandy Hecklinger and family, Marilyn White, Ernie & Marge Bollinger, Glenn Koester, Jerry & Ginny Nissen, Bruce & Jan Sibbersen, Dave & Jean Wietelman, Paul Kuhlman, Deb Rowland, Bill & Cathy Caldwell, Henry & Irene Meech, Ralph & Ethel Mae Vogtsberger, Chuck & Jane Neal, Pat & Bev Toneff, David & Jan Nowak.

In memory of **Richard Harmon** by Ernie & Marge Bollinger, Ada Kreger, Ken & Joyce Villhauer.

In memory of **George Ackerman** by Norman Schumaker, Ernie & Marge Bollinger, Jerry & Ginny Nissen, Clara Breese, Paul & Ruth Price,

Ruth Cummerow, Jack Nissen, Dave Cummerow, Ken & Joyce Villhauer, Carl & Janet Morrison, Mary Ellen Miller.

In memory of **Jim Crandall** by William Fischhaber, John & Betty Pavuk, Mark & Deb Ackerman, Ernie & Marge Bollinger, Betty TenEyck, Norm Schumaker, Donna Koester, Chuck & Jane Neal, Elaine Gladieux, Hank & Joanne Schumaker, Carl & Janet Morrison, Ken & Joyce Villhauer, Terry & Jane Schuetz, Norman & Phyllis Schuffenecker, Dennis & Lisa Pavley, Ada Kreger, Mary Ellen Miller, Marilyn White, Chuck & Betty Hyre.

In memory of **Bernie Erdmann** by Carl & Janet Morrison, Norman Schumaker, Pastor Gerald & Mrs. Ilean Labuhn, Jerry & Ginny Nissen, Ernie & Marge Bollinger.

In memory of **Jill Newell** by Mary Ellen Miller.

### **AIR CONDITIONING FUND**

In memory of **George Ackerman** by Duane & Mary K. Hubaker, Ralph & Ethel Mae Vogtsberger.

In memory of **Bernie Erdmann** by Duane & Mary Kay Hubaker.

### **MEMORIAL FUND**

In memory of **Richard Harmon** by Jim & Dianne Schumaker, Mrs. Robert Bruggeman and family, Shirley Large, Howard & Phyllis Bookenger, Cheryl & William Garlow, Timothy & Mary Stapleton, Fred Johlin, Henry & Irene Meech, Raymond & Barbara Fisher.

In memory of **George Ackerman** by Streaker Tractor Sales, Inc., David & Susan Reed, Jeanette Dotson, Industrial Equipment of Northern Ohio, Inc., Ada Kreger, Gary & Joanne Henningsen, Terry & Brenda Weidner, Esther Bell, Donna Koester, Willie & Julie Moritz, Jim & Betty Lou Miller, Kurt & Laura Miller, Randy & Peggy Koch, Kevin & Stephanie Sawmiller, Paul Sawmiller, Helen & Rex Powers, Deborah L. Johlin-Bach, Robin & Ted Hoeflinger, Carol Tank, Jennifer St. John, Jane Rose, Marvin & Carol Keller, Norman Kuhlman, Norma Ridener, Lillian Lager, Pat Shaffer, Phil & Mary Ann Cervantes, William Fischhaber,

*(continued on the next page)*

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## *MEMORIALS, continued*

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### **MEMORIAL FUND (continued)**

Ron & Diane Geckinomega, Mary Ellen Miller, Glenn Koester, John Jenkins, Margene Spring, Eric Hirzel, Terry & Jane Schuetz, Henry & Joanne Schumaker, Joan Probasco, Don & Sarianne Petroff, Jerry Roessler, Chuck & Jane Neal, Darlene & Scott Denham, Deb Lofquist and family, Bob & Annette Textor, Betty TenEyck, Nancy Ice, Lowell & Diane Hartman, Paul Blausey Farms, Elaine Schwind, Chuck & Betty Hyre, Dan & Mary Jo Roggelin, Janice Sheahan, Karen Frey, June Smarkel, Franz Papeach, Roy Pickering, Jim Harrell, Eric & Cindy Johnson, Cliff & Madonna Bury, Marcella Easton Family, Jim & Dianne Schumaker, Donna Henderson, Mary Ellen Sieler, Elaine Gladieux, James Taelker, Ken Gabler, Bill & Donna Nelson, Bench Farms, Inc., Jan Livingston, Henry & Judy Lepiarz, Jim & Kim Cousino, Jerry Curran, Alvin & Christine Johnson, Paul Kuhlman, Deb Rowland, Roger, Lore & Kathrine Schutter, Harvey Greene, Tom Baughman Farms, Jim & Mona Vogelbacher, Dan & Janet Peacock, Katherine Luoma, Curtice Community Club, Terry & Debra Paul, Jeff & Eileen Creque, Todd Sheets, Noel & Marti Heisler, Bill & Rose Kusian, Bob & Paulette Giaimo, Catherine Lannen, Lee & Mary Meier, Chuck Bell, Tom & LuAnn Schuffenecker, Tom & Pam Boyer, Gary & Amy Boyer, Eric & Pam Boyer, Sandy Blausey, John & Jane Molyet, Dave & Lore Warnke, Keith & Russell Lenz, Phoebe & Jay Huddle, Darlene & Larry Paul, Donna Ondrus, Dennis & Lisa Pavley, Richard & Lisa Gargas, Jr., Prible Farms, LLC, Gary & Beth Iott, Knipp Farms, Inc., Mrs. Henry Helmke and family, Dennis & Linda Vogtsberger, Norman & Phyllis Schuffenecker, Mid America Food Processors Assoc., Signature Bank, N.A., Reed & Dianna Reamsnyder, Hollhouse Farms of Ohio, Inc., Durand Wayland, Inc., James & Judith Pilewski, Marilyn Kozama, Brian & Jodi Cummerow, Marianne Wright and family.

In memory of **Bernie Erdmann** by Men's Breakfast Fellowship.

### **ENDOWMENT FUND**

In memory of **George Ackerman** by Gene Hagedorn, Bill & Cathy Caldwell, Marilyn Cashen. In memory of **Bernie Erdmann** by Gene Hagedorn, Marilyn Cashen.

### **CHOIR FUND**

In memory of **George Ackerman** by M/M Richard Crouse, Dave & Diane Habegger, Kevin & Kris Ruedy, Dean & Kris Ackerman, Ron & Joanne Koch, Men's Breakfast Fellowship, Barbara Carr, Penny DeWitt, Olga Zimmerman.

In memory of **Jill Newell** by Ron & Joanne Koch.

### **BELL CHOIR**

In memory of **George Ackerman** by Dr. & Mrs. William Winslow.

### **ELEVATOR FUND**

In memory of **George Ackerman** by Pastor Gerald & Ilean Labuhn.

### **CARE-A-VAN**

In memory of **Bernie Erdmann** by Olga Zimmerman.

In memory of **Jill Newell** by Olga Zimmerman.



### **L.E.A.F. FESTIVAL TICKETS NOW AVAILABLE**



The first annual L.E.A.F. (Loving Educational Atmosphere in Faith) Festival benefitting our Dayschool is on Saturday, October 11<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 to 11:30 pm at the Sunrise Banquet Center on Woodville Rd. in Millbury (doors open at 6:00 pm). This is a fun-filled evening for the adults that will include dinner by Carolyn's Catering, Midwest Dueling Pianos, silent auctions, raffles, wine tasting, food and drink. Tickets are \$35 per person or \$280 for a table of eight. ***TICKETS ARE ON SALE NOW IN THE CHURCH OFFICE.*** Proceeds will help make improvements and necessary repairs such as a new playground and repairing floor tiles in the building. If you have items to donate for auction or can help, please contact Julie Gallaher at 419-250-4143 or [jgallaher848@gmail.com](mailto:jgallaher848@gmail.com) Thanks!

— Dayschool Board: Pastor Rayl, Bill Hamilton, Bill Caldwell, Julie Gallaher, Melissa Collins, Barb Shellhammer

## ***NEWS FROM OUR CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DIRECTOR***

### **9<sup>TH</sup> – 12<sup>TH</sup> GRADE SUNDAY SCHOOL**

We are excited to announce that we have a 9<sup>th</sup>- 12<sup>th</sup> grade Sunday class at 9:00 a.m. Pam Beavers is the instructor and this class meets in the Youth Room in the basement! The class cover topics such as: *Can I Be A Christian Without Going To Church, Can It Be Proven That God Exists, Can You Accept The Theory of Evolution and Still Be A Christian, What If My Friends Aren't Christian, Why Does God Let Bad Things Happen, How Do I Stop Doing Things I Know I Shouldn't Do, or What Does God Think About War?* These are just a few samples of the topics that will be explored. If you or someone you know is interested, please join us.

### **Catechism: Sundays 9:00 am – 10:00 am**

#### **7th Grade:**

10/5: Introduction: Martin Luther & the Catechism  
10/12: Faith Testimony  
10/19: Ten Commandments: God's Will Made Known  
10/26: Praise Singers

#### **8<sup>th</sup> Grade:**

10/5: The Creed: The Second Article  
10/12: Faith Testimony  
10/19: The Creed: The Third Article  
10/26: Pastor Sunday

### **Jesus and Me: Sundays 9:00 am to 10:00 am**

10/5: Noah's Ark  
10/12: David and Goliath  
10/19: Jonah and the Whale  
10/26: Cemetery Walk

### **All schedules are subject to change**

#### **Volunteers:**

We are always looking for volunteers for JAM. Whether you have 10 minutes or can volunteer for the whole hour, we can definitely use your God-given hands and talents. It is also a great way to get involved and meet other parents, like you! If you are interested, please contact Jamie using the contact information in the next column.

### **Upcoming Activities**

***Trunk or Treat***  
***Sunday, October 19, 2014***  
***2PM-3:30PM***



In the parking lot behind the church.  
Come out for some fellowship, games, food, and of course CANDY!

#### ***What is Trunk or Treat?***

A safe, fun-filled family afternoon for children through 6th grade. Children and families will walk around to cars and be greeted by FSJ volunteers with their trunks open handing out candy. Cars will be decorated, and volunteers will wear costumes. This is a great opportunity to invite friends and for us to embrace our new students plus their families in both the Sunday School and the Dayschool. To pull off this event we will need lots of volunteers. To volunteer please see registration info attached to this email or pick up a form in church or the Narthex, or contact me at the information below.

Contact information:  
Jamie Blazeovich

419-691-7222 or [cedir@firststjohn.com](mailto:cedir@firststjohn.com)

### ***Operation Christmas Child***



Did someone say "Christmas?!"  
Say it ain't so!

It is time to start collecting for  
Operation Christmas Child, so get  
those shoeboxes ready.

Since 1993, more than 100 million boys and girls in over 130 countries have experienced God's love through the power of simple shoebox gifts from Operation Christmas Child. Samaritan's Purse works with local churches and ministry partners to deliver the gifts and share the life-changing Good News of Jesus Christ.

If you receive the newsletter by email, a flyer will be attached. Flyers also will be in the Narthex and the lounge. This flyer explains all the details. Empty shoeboxes are available in the JAM room, under the  
7 Christmas tree.

## DAYSCHOOL NEWS

*"Here's another way to put it: You're here to be light, bringing out the God-colors in the world. God is not a secret to be kept. We're going public with this, as public as a city on a hill. If I make you light-bearers, you don't think I'm going to hide you under a bucket, do you? I'm putting you on a light stand. Now that I've put you there on a hilltop, on a light stand—shine! Keep open house; be generous with your lives. By opening up to others, you'll prompt people to open up with God, this generous Father in heaven.*

— Matthew 5:14-16

Dear Friends,

The above scripture is one of my personal favorites and also a scripture we want to be sure is firmly planted in the hearts of the children. We teach them about God, and we want them to tell others about Him. We want them to be equipped to share the good news and to learn how to do it from an early age. Many parents tell us their children bring the topic of our awesome God to their dinner table discussions or to chats as they're riding in the car—stories of how these discussions bring joy to grandparents, great-grandparents, aunts and uncles. No wonder Jesus said let them come to me. He knows who can get the attention of many. :)

At school we hear our Father's name often. We talk about God, His Son, and His Spirit in every situation as well as in the more formal setting of the beautiful chapel. Our chapel lessons began the week of Sept. 8. The messages shared in chapel have been over the top and a part of the day we all look forward to. Prayers for this piece of our ministry are always appreciated. If you are interested in presenting a chapel lesson, we would love to share this experience with you. Sharing God's love with children connects you to their spirit...and they feel it and respond in the most beautiful ways. :)

We are presently selling Save Around the City coupon books for \$20. If you are interested in purchasing one or know someone who is, your help would be appreciated. You can call the church office for more information.

We will raise funds in early October with our first annual L.E.A.F. FESTIVAL (providing a Loving Educational Atmosphere in Faith since 1976) to be

held Saturday, Oct. 11<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-11:30 pm at the Sunrise Park & Banquet Center, located at 1460 Woodville Road in Millbury. The doors open at 6:00 pm with grazing stations at 6:30 pm. Ticket price is \$35.00, or you may consider reserving a table for 8 for \$280.00 The event will include: grazing stations the entire evening by Carolyn's Catering, silent auction raffles, wine tasting by Chateau Tebeau Winery, entertainment provided by Midwest Dueling Pianos, and a cash bar (you must be 21). If you would like to buy tickets, make a contribution or need more information, please contact either Julie Gallaher 419-250-4143 or [jgallaher848@gmail.com](mailto:jgallaher848@gmail.com), Bill Caldwell 419-376-9846 or [Billcathyc@buckeye-express.com](mailto:Billcathyc@buckeye-express.com), or myself at the Dayschool office 419-691-6480 or [b.shellhammer@firststjohn.com](mailto:b.shellhammer@firststjohn.com) Thanks to all who have made contributions already. We are so appreciative!

Start using Shop with Scrip today. The first step is to create a free account by visiting [ShopWithScrip.com](http://ShopWithScrip.com) and clicking on the green 'Sign Up' box. Fill in the form and follow the simple registration instructions. This includes entering your non-profit organization's enrollment code, which is: 2EA34EF639166 That's all it takes to begin taking advantage of the easiest and most convenient fundraising program you'll ever use. Order due dates are: Oct. 2, 16, 30, Nov. 5 & 20, and Dec. 4 & 11. Share this information with your friends and family!

Jamie has matched each of our kindergarten children with a prayer buddy, and she is distributing their information. Thanks to all who have agreed to take part in this ministry. I am sure it will be full of blessings for all! Please remember this does not need to be an expensive project-- just a prayerful one.

Finally, we're looking forward to another month of learning and growing together! We will visit the apple orchard and pumpkin farm, have our pictures taken, and celebrate at Halloween parties. Halloween parties will be Oct. 28 and 29. Children will arrive in costumes, trick-or-treat for candy, and I will do a special chapel in the church where we will learn about faith and ways they can let the light of Jesus shine in them! Lots to enjoy!

In Him,  
8 Barb Shellhammer



## CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES—SEPTEMBER 16, 2014

President Keith Mullen opened and called the Tuesday, September 16, 2014 meeting to order, and council attendance was noted.

A motion was made by John Spoerl and seconded by LuAnn Spoerl to accept the minutes from the August meeting, motion carried.

**Christian Education Report**—In Jamie's absence Karen Holmes reported. This Sunday was Rally Day, and we had Jim "Basketball" Jones. The kids AND adults LOVED him! Teacher Installation was this past Sunday. For the past 4 years we have handed out scholarships at this service and if the DS families wanted to be in the running for the scholarships they had to be in attendance. This year, however, those scholarships were not handed out. All Dayschool children received notification marketing Rally Day, Teacher Installation service, and JAM as well as a letter and a picture introducing Jamie and outlining her job description as the liaison between the church and the Dayschool.

JAM officially starts this Sunday and we have 50 children registered. We have 11 catechism students. Six (6) 7th graders and five (5) 8th graders. This Sunday they will meet in the church with Pastor, and a representative from both Altar Guild and the Elders to go over the responsibilities of being an Acolyte and Cross Bearer.

We are starting a 9-12th grade Sunday School and we are so excited to have Pam Beavers teaching it. We sent out a letter to all in this grade level in our database, whether they were confirmed or not. The list includes 37 individuals – so here's hoping some of them attend. The curriculum will consist of watching a short video, discussion and activities. Some topics to be discussed are - *Can I Be A Christian Without Going To Church, Can It Be Proven That God Exists, Can You Accept The Theory of Evolution and Still Be A Christian, What If My Friends Aren't Christian, Why Does God Let Bad Things Happen, How Do I Stop Doing Things I Know I Shouldn't Do, or What Does God Think About War?*

Prayer Buddies are almost all assigned. We are looking for 5 more. If you are interested please contact Jamie a.s.a.p.

We are also looking for individuals to give their

faith testimonies to the 7th and 8th graders. This is your story of how you have overcome a struggle in your life through faith. We have guidelines on how to structure your testimony so if you are interested, please contact Jamie for more details. Save the date! Trunk or Treat will be October 19 from 2:00-3:30 pm in the back of the church. Volunteers are needed to decorate their trunks and to help run games and snack tables.

**Elders Report**—Bill Nelson reported there are three weddings remaining for this year. There have been no issues with the transition into the two services, and no others issues have come up.

**Property Management**—Dan Hugueley reported:

- 1) Underground piping complete east of Education Building for the downspouts. Provisions left on South end for future drain installation. Rough grading complete, final grading and seeding to take place next spring after settling takes place.
- 2) Broken toilet in the first floor men's restroom replaced.
- 3) Electrical plug at the sacristy to be installed within a week.
- 4) Electrical provisions (overload) on the west wall of the common offices to be researched.
- 5) Fire inspections complete.
- 6) Elevator inspection to take place next month.
- 7) Before October 15<sup>th</sup> the outside water provisions need to be blown out. Jim has offered his Nitrogen source to accomplish this task.
- 8) Door between the church and education building in the basement does not close and needs handle replaced.
- 9) Epoxy coating installed on first step of front entry to the church is holding up fine but the caulked joints are deteriorating. The last rain created a leak in the basement women's restroom. We will investigate.
- 10) Water temperature fluxuations in the basement boys' and girls' restrooms is creating a problem for the school children. Dan will investigate.

**Finance/Treasurer Report**—Jim Sommers reported the August and YTD figures show we have a shortfall year-to-date of \$43,881.46 as of August 31<sup>st</sup>. Jim stated that our harsh winter (snow removal, heating costs, cancelled services), health insurance and pension increases are some of the added costs contributing to the reduction in our "Weekly" Current Fund contributions.

## CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

(continued from previous page)

**Dayschool**—Barb stated that enrollment is healthy with a couple classes bursting at the seams. First St. John Dayschool is most referred to by area school systems and current and past families. At our school board meeting next week, the board and Barb will decide on the recipients of the Ackerman Scholarship. We have four kindergarten families expressing a need.

Save Around the City coupon books were sent home with our students. The books feature many locations and offers not found in any other program. The unique combination of local and national merchants means coupons worth using at places you already love. Cost is \$20 and you can preview the book in the church office.

Picture Days: Tuesday, September 30th and Wednesday, October 1st in the JAM room. Annual Leaf Festival: October 11<sup>th</sup> 6:30-11:30 pm at the Sunrise Park and Banquet Center. Halloween Parties: Tuesday, October 28<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday, October 29<sup>th</sup>.

Thanksgiving Feasts: Tuesday, November 18<sup>th</sup> at 10:45 am, Wednesday, November 19<sup>th</sup> at 10:45 am and 2:15 pm, and Thursday, November 20<sup>th</sup> at 10:45 am and 2:15 pm.

Christmas Programs: Monday, December 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm, Tuesday, December 16<sup>th</sup> at 10:45am, 2:15 pm, and 7:00 pm, Wednesday, December 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm, and Thursday, December 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm. All programs will be held in the church sanctuary. Thank you for your continued purchase of the Scrips gift cards; you can contact any school board member or the church office if you would like to purchase and/or pick up some.

**Pastor's Report**—In Pastor's absence, Keith reported the Constitution Committee is in the final stages of completing the constitution and will present it to the Council next month for review. On September 30<sup>th</sup> from 5-10pm there will be a "Conference Meeting with the Bishop," and pastor asked if anyone is interested in attending to contact him for details.

**Old Business**—Karen Holmes stated the Personal Needs Pantry has not had many full schedules, so she would like us to put the word out in our community about all that it offers.

**New Business**—Keith stated that Grant Winslow has transferred to St. Mark Lutheran Church on Woodville Rd. and Noel and Martha Heisler transferred to Olivet Lutheran Church in Sylvania. A motion was made by John Spoerl and seconded by Mike Winslow to accept the transfers, motion carried.

Keith also stated that he has received resignation letters from our Treasurer, Lisa Anderson, and our Assistant Treasurer, Jim Sommers.

Keith asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mike Winslow motioned to adjourn and LuAnn Spoerl seconded, motion carried. Meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Chris Hunsaker

### CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE NEWS

We have concluded updating our church's constitution, and I would like to thank the following: Pastor Rayl, Jane Schuetz, Darlene Lorenzen, Lee Wagner, Emily Kruse, Sue Ann Rogers, Joanne Henningsen, Sherri Haar, and Keith Mullen for their dedicated service on the committee. — *Bob Haar, Committee Chair.*

### CEMETERY CLEAN UP REMINDER

Fall cleanup begins October 15<sup>th</sup>, so before then please remove any items you may wish to keep.

Anything in violation of the cemetery rules will be removed on October 15<sup>th</sup>.

Cemetery rules state all decorations are limited to 12 inches in front of the headstone only. Glass floral containers, metal stakes, stone, marbles, fencing or edging materials, statues, benches, or planting trees, shrubs, and bushes is prohibited.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation and support.

