
♥ First St. John Journal ♥

Volume 26, Issue 2

February 2013

A writer by the name of Barbara Sher just might have been reflecting on life (and Lent?) when she wrote: "You can learn new things at any time in your life if you're willing to be a beginner. If you actually like being a beginner, the whole world opens up to you."

In the early days of the Christian Church Lent actually was a time for "beginners" in their Christian walk to prepare for their Baptism on Easter Sunday. I think author Barbara Sher has made a great observation for us as the Lenten season soon begins. Perhaps this year we can look at the introspection and preparation that is part of Lent from a different perspective-- as a "beginner" in the faith, learning (again) about the sacrifice and love that God in Christ Jesus has for you and me. We hope to see you during our Lenten days of worship.

—Pastor Blohm

**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
FEBRUARY 20**

2013 HOME PLATE



Tickets are available for the 2013 Home Plate event with the Detroit Tigers on Saturday, April 27 at Comerica Park as the Tigers take on the Atlanta Braves. The program prior to the game begins at 9:30 am. 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 run from 11:00 am to 12:15 pm. Everyone gets a meal coupon for the concession areas, too. Then stay for the game, which begins at 1:05 pm.

Tickets are \$29 per person. Call the church office to reserve your tickets, or you can email the church office at office@firststjohn.com

ASH WEDNESDAY & LENTEN SERVICES

Ash Wednesday begins February 13th. Services will be at noon in the chapel and 7:00 pm in the church. Each Wednesday in Lent we hold services at noon in the chapel and 7:00 pm in church. We look forward to seeing you!

FEED YOUR NEIGHBOR

For February, we are concentrating on canned soup, canned vegetables, and canned fruit. Please place your donations (no glass jars, please) in the Feed Your Neighbor bins in the Narthex under the main bulletin board or in the bin in the lounge underneath the tables by the double doors. Thank you.

DARTBALL TOURNAMENT



The Lutheran Men's Dartball tournament will be here at First St. John on Monday, February 4th at 7:00 pm in the gym. Set-up for the tournament will be Sunday, February 3rd at 1:30 pm.

MEMORIALS

MEMORIAL FUND

In memory of Eleanor Symington by Jerry & Ginny Nissen, Elaine Gladieux, Carl & Janet Morrison, Donna Koester, The Peterson Family, Ronald & Evelyn Brennan, Cliff & Madonna Bury, Kelly Bury, Penny DeWitt, Pastor Gerald & Ilean Labuhn, John & Barbara Mazur, Chuck & Jane Neal, Joan Probasco, Ruth Circle, Jean DeWitt, Algie Young, Doug & Kristin Bury, Willie Chastein, Jim & Kim Cousino, John Anderson, Milan & Helga Mihaler, the Bill Nelson Family, Sue Tipton, Joyce Yard.

In memory of Phyllis Coontz by Gary & Joanne Henningsen.

ALTAR GUILD

In memory of Eleanor Symington by Bob & Sherrie Haar.

CURRENT FUND

In memory of Larry Vogtsberger by Carolyn, Kim Brad and Brian.

In memory of Eleanor Symington by Esther Bell.

CHOIR FUND

In memory of Pastor Buenting by John & Karen Rowley.

DAYSCHOOL

In memory of Pastor Buenting by Lucille Paul.

CEMETERY FUND

In memory of Eleanor Symington by Terry & Jane Schuetz.

In honor of Ginny Wegman's 80th birthday by Dutch & Janet Morrison.

DEBT FUND

In memory of Eleanor Symington by Ruth Ziethlow, Louise & Jim Sommers.

In memory of Pastor Buenting by Russ & Chris Hunsaker.

AIR CONDITIONING FUND

In memory of Eleanor Symington by Ralph & Ethel Mae Votsberger.

ENDOWMENT FUND

In memory of Eleanor Symington by Barb Uhler.

In memory of Bob Webb by Hilda Saelzler.

HOMEBOUND MINISTRIES

In memory of Pastor Buenting by Bob & Sherrie Haar.

ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

The hard copy version now is in white paper. New postal regulations require a heavier paper weight for bulk mailing. The price of colored paper in the heavier weight is nearly double, so our hard copy newsletters now will be in white.

Also, the length of the newsletter can only be six pages (front and back). This means we cannot print flyers or full page registrations. For those whose newsletter is emailed, we'll send flyers and registrations as separate attachments. For those who receive hard copy versions, these items will be in the office, lounge, and Narthex. We apologize for any inconvenience.

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: office@firststjohn.com

Name _____

Address _____

City, State Zip _____ Phone _____



MILITARY SERVICE NOTES

Here are the names and addresses of members, family, & friends of First St. John who serve in the military. You can send cards or packages, and remember to pray for them, too!

Chief Petty Officer Cynthia Henderson
44425 Scobee
California, MD 20619

AIC Zachary Huss
3312 Sharon Dr.
Moore, OK 73160

Chief Petty Officer Marc Le Duc
78382 Dukewood Trail
Yula, FL 32097

Matthew Phillips
4924 Soaring Springs Ave.
Las Vegas, NV 89131

Lindsey Rowland
5250 Corduroy Rd.
Oregon, OH 43616

FIRST ANNUAL MOM 2 MOM SALE



Children grow so quickly! Ever wonder what to do with all their “stuff”? Join us on Saturday, March 2nd from 8:30 am to 1:30 pm in our gym where moms can sell their new and gently used children’s items. Why continue to pay high prices for toys, clothing and equipment you will not use very long?

This event is like a garage sale, but instead of visiting yards or driveways, we anticipate over 150 moms will come together for one day only under one roof to sell their children’s stuff to other moms at amazing prices.

You can help by donating the following items to complete raffle baskets: snack foods, chocolates, photo frames, lotions from Bath & Body Works, coolers (to be used as baskets), modeling, sodas, and candles.

We also need volunteers to help. If you are interested in helping or need more information, contact Barb Shellhammer at 419-691-6480.

MEMBER UPDATES

Births

None.

Baptisms

None.

Marriages

12-29-12 Leigh Yenrick and DJ Gierhart

Deaths

None.

Transfers to/from St. John

None.

2013 OFFERING ENVELOPES

Offering envelopes for 2013 have been stored away. If you haven’t gotten yours yet, please call Toni in the church office to arrange pick up. If you don’t have offering envelopes but would like some, please call Toni in the church office to arrange it. Thanks.



ELDERS FOR FEBRUARY

7:45 am 10:15 am
3rd Eric Johnson Tom Eppard
Laurie Witt Al Collins

10th Jeff Smith Dick Haar
Jason Blazeovich Jeff Ladd

Ash Wednesday, 2/13, 7:00 pm
Tom Eppard, Al Collins

17th Darold Henninger Linda Yenrick
Kevin Ruedy Bill Nelson

February 20, 7:00 pm
Eric Johnson, Laurie Witt

24th Tom Eppard Eric Johnson
Al Collins Laurie Witt

February 27, 7:00 pm
Dick Haar, Jeff Ladd

First St. John Lutheran Church Prayer Chain

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 :

**Karen Bless
Christopher Molnar
Lee Wagner**

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:

**George & Elaine Ackerman
Jordyn Beckhusen
Bob "Bobbie G" Brown
Family of Pastor Harold Buenting
Karen Burris
Ron Curtis
Raylene Draeger
Nick Elkington
Family of Jim Franks
Family of Harry Hartford
Family of Sally Schumaker Hartzell
Bob & Debbie Hecklinger
Grace Heninger
Anne Hermiller
Herman Jeskey
Sophie LeDuc
Wayne Lytle
George "Skip" McCullough
Jeanette Miller
Charlie Ohlson
Ed Roecher
Bishop Sanchez
Family of Sam Sharp
Family of Ellie Symington
Bruce Traver
Family of Larry Vogtsberger
Candy Webster
Terry Williams**

Please check the list and let any of the prayer chain contacts-listed in the next column-know if individuals can be moved off the list.

Prayer Chain Contacts

Coordinator, Carol Abbey
419-351-9795 or cabbey@jcrinc.com

Lynn Folk 419-691-3410
Donna Koehn 419-693-5030
Ada Kreger 419-693-1549
Gloria Ross 419-836-7166



CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to Laurence St. John, one of our members, who has recently published a young adult sci-fi adventure book entitled "Metatron: The Angel Has Risen." His book sells for \$9.99 and is available at online booksellers. For more information about Laurence and his book, you can go to his website: www.laurencestjohn.com

2013 ROSTERS FOR ALL WOMEN OF THE CHURCH

New 2013 rosters are in the lounge on the table by the window near the library. These booklets include the officers of WELCA and Altar Guild, a calendar of events for the women of the church, ongoing mission project needs, and a list of all women's Bible study group members and meeting times.

BOARD OF MINISTRIES

Our next meeting is Tuesday, February 12th at 6:30 pm. Hope to see you there.

DAYSCHOOL ENROLLMENT FOR FIRST ST. JOHN MEMBERS

Beginning February 1st, First St. John members and those who have children currently enrolled are invited to enroll their children for the 2013/2014 school year. All children who will be age 2 1/2 years old by August 1, 2013 are eligible to attend (*note the eligibility date has changed from previous years; this is to make us comparable to Oregon City Schools*). If you're interested and/or would like more information, please call Barb Shellhammer at 419-691-6480.

FROM JAMIE'S DESK

February to me means love! Here is the definition of love: [luhv] noun, verb, loved, lov-ing. noun

1. a profoundly tender, passionate affection for another person.
2. a feeling of warm personal attachment or deep affection, as for a parent, child, or friend.
3. a person toward whom love is felt; beloved person; sweetheart.
4. (used in direct address as a term of endearment, affection, or the like): Would you like to see a movie, love?

We all know February 14th is Valentines Day! Yes, to some people it's just another "Hallmark" holiday. According to the [National Retail Federation](#), the average American will spend about \$116 on Valentine's Day this year. The average man plans to shell out more than twice as much (\$159) as the average woman (\$76). While it may seem absurd to spend that much, it doesn't have to be about money.

Remember how much money the Lord, our God, spent on us and how much he loves us. The price he paid was priceless to us. Thankfully, that price has already been paid and we don't have to die on a cross to show our love to our significant other, family members, children, etc. But we can show them how much we love them and care for them EVERY DAY OF THE YEAR.

Here are some FREE ways to show someone you love them, straight from the Bible.

- | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------|
| Listen without interrupting. | (Proverbs 18) |
| Speak without accusing. | (James 1:19) |
| Give without sparing. | (Proverbs 21:26) |
| Pray without ceasing. | (Colossians 1:9) |
| Answer without arguing. | (Proverbs 17:1) |
| Share without pretending. | (Ephesians 4:15) |
| Enjoy without complaint. | (Philippians 2:14) |
| Trust without wavering. | (1 Corinthians 13:7) |
| Forgive without punishing. | (Colossians 3:13) |
| Promise without forgetting. | (Proverbs 13:12) |

Full descriptions of these can be found at:

<http://EzineArticles.com/6705391>

JESUS AND ME 1st – 6th SCHEDULE

February	3	Special	Making Valentines
	13	Special	Deliver Valentines to LHS
	17		True Love – Love is Patient
	27		Preparing for Easter – First Communion

JESUS AND ME PRE-K and KINDERGARTEN SCHEDULE

February	3	Special	Making Valentines
	13	Special	Deliver Valentines to LHS
	17		Godly Living – Lets Go To Church
	27		Godly Living – Teach Me About God

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

Our Souper Bowl of Caring begins February 3 and will run through February 24th. We will collect money and canned goods to help fund the Lutheran Social Services local food pantry. In 2012, Lutheran Social Services served over 15,000 people with this program, which is supported entirely by donations from Lutheran congregations and individuals. A large soup pot will be in the Narthex for your donations. When you see it, please consider tossing in a dollar or some change, or whatever amount you would like to donate.

To create some friendly competition, there will be two grocery carts (with the help of Kroger) for collecting canned goods -- one downstairs in the JAM area, and one in the Narthex. The cart in the JAM room will be for our JAM Students, choir participants, both Adult Sunday school classes, and the 7th and 8th graders. The one in the Narthex will be for the rest of the congregation. This will be exciting, and we encourage everyone to participate!



**ATTENTION:
MONDAY EVENING
BIBLE STUDY MEMBERS**

We have temporarily discontinued our Bible Study until sometime in April. Please mark your calendars.

THANK YOU!

I wish to thank my church family for their prayers, cards and phone calls during my recent heart surgery and recovery. Also, a special thank you to Pastor Blohm for his comforting visits and prayers of encouragement.

-- Jim Schumaker

FROM JAMIE'S DESK
(continued from page 5)

Calling all 7th – 12th Graders! You are invited to a SURVIVOR CHALLENGE!

Do you have what it takes to Outwit, Outplay, and Outlast? If so, join us for a Survivor Challenge on Sunday, February 10th from 6:00 to 8:00 pm. You can enjoy pizza and then participate in challenges that will test you both mentally AND physically. It's sure to be filled with fun and laughter. If you are interested in participating, please sign up on the sheet found in the Youth Room.

To sign up or if you have any questions, please call either Mike Winslow at 419-691-8430 or 419-698-6507 or Jamie Blazeovich at 419-691-7222.

Yes! We will attend the Survivor Challenge on February 10th.

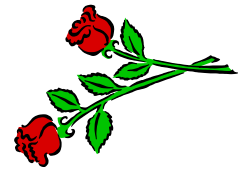
Name(s) _____

Phone: _____

**DISCOUNT CARDS STILL
AVAILABLE**

We still are selling discount cards to use at area merchants, which saves you money each time you use them. They are good through the end of 2013. See www.firststjohn.com or call Jamie for details. Each card costs \$10. Please help support Christian education at First St. John by buying a card from the Youth Group, Church Council, Board of Education, JAM parents, OR you can buy one from Jamie Blazeovich or Toni in the church office. Get your card so you can start saving NOW!!!

DAYSCHOOL NEWS
(continued from page 8)



The following list shows the items you can donate to help us with our raffle baskets for our MOM2MOM sale:

- Photo frames
- Lotions from Bath & Body Works
- Coolers (to be used as a baskets)
- Sodas
- Modeling Clay
- Candles
- Chocolates
- Snack foods

Another upcoming fundraiser is our annual sale of Club Choice products. This sale gets underway mid-February. 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 raise funds for new flooring throughout the basement of the educational building.

Order a pizza from Marco's on Starr or Woodville on Tuesday, March 5 and mention you are calling on behalf of the Dayschool and a percentage of money made on the total orders will be sent to the school! What an easy way to help us raise funds!

Thank you again for your continued support of the Dayschool ministry. My personal prayer is that our eyes be opened to see the scriptures in action, so that we always know who we are and whose we are.

In Him,
6 Barb Shellhammer



MEN'S BREAKFAST FELLOWSHIP

The next meeting of the men's breakfast fellowship will be Saturday, February 9th at 8:00 a.m. Note this is the second Saturday of the month. We will meet at the Bob Evans restaurant on Navarre. Remember, we have snowbirds so we have plenty of room. This year we are using the writings of Biblical scholar and preacher Oswald Chambers for our devotionals. If you need a ride just call Bob Haar at 419-250-9409. Join us!!!

ATTENTION REBECCA CIRCLE MEMBERS

We will not meet in February. Our next meeting is Saturday, March 2nd at 11:30 am in the lounge. Please make a note of it. Thanks.

DAVID WINSLOW MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS



This scholarship helps members of First St. John who will attend college for the 2013/2014 school year. Money is supplied from proceeds of the David Winslow Memorial Golf outing held each summer, along with donations from church members. Applications are in the church office. Applications must be completed and returned to the church office by March 30th to be considered.

WELCOMING SUGGESTIONS ON...

Welcoming! Recently, the topic of welcoming visitors to First St. John has been brought up and discussed among some of the church staff, but we were wondering what you think. Do you have suggestions on how we as a congregation can be more welcoming to newcomers? Do you have an idea for encouraging visitors to attend First St. John? You can share your ideas with us by emailing us at office@firststjohn.com Or, please find the wooden suggestion box with pens and slips of paper in the Narthex OR write your idea on the back of the announcements and drop it in the offering plate.

Let's put our best thoughts together to make First St. John a warm and friendly place to visit.

FIRST ST. JOHN ALTAR GUILD EASTER FLOWER SALE



It's time to buy flowers that will decorate the church at Easter. The price is \$8.00 per plant. You can choose a lily, daffodil, hyacinth or tulip plant. An order form will be in the bulletin from February 10th through March 3rd, and someone will take orders in the Narthex on March 10th.

Please complete the order blank below and place it in the offering plate or mail it to the church office: 2471 Seaman St., Toledo, OH 43605. Please make checks payable to: *First St. John Altar Guild*. Payment must accompany orders.

The deadline for ordering is Wed., March 13th.

No. of plants @ \$8.00 each: _____

Enclosed: \$ _____

Type of plant(s): _____
(lily, daffodil, hyacinth, tulip)

Name: _____

Phone: _____

In Loving Memory of (Deceased):

In Honor of (Living): _____



No one's ever seen or heard anything like this, Never so much as imagined anything quite like it— What God has arranged for those who love him. But you've seen and heard it because God by his Spirit has brought it all out into the open before you. 1 Corinthians 2:9 (The Message)

I used this verse last year but can't resist using it again. It is exactly what I want us to think about as we move to the fall registration season. We are blessed because we know our heavenly Father and have the ability to share the good news with those who have never heard anything like it or imagined anything as wonderful as the promise of being eternally His. That's what He expects from us and it is also what the congregation of First St. John does so well through many ministries, one of which is the Dayschool. Thank you for your continued prayers of support and we continue tell children and families about the God who loves them so.

With that . . . your help is needed in spreading the word about the quality, Christ-centered education we provide at First St. John Dayschool. Enrollment for the 2013/2014 school year begins Friday, February 1 for the members of First St. John and those students currently enrolled. Registration opens to the public Friday, March 1. We will be having an open house from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 5 for those children considering joining us for the 2013/2014 school year. Word of mouth has always been our best advertisement. Registration forms are available in both the church and Dayschool offices. Please share them with friends and neighbors!

I also want to share with you a few good reasons to choose First St. John Kindergarten and Preschool:

- ◆ Christ-Centered Education (He is a part of everything we do!)
- ◆ Highly qualified teachers (we have two teachers per classroom and I cannot begin to express how exceptional they are. Please feel free to visit the class in operation and see for yourself.)
- ◆ Small class size (We are committed to keeping each kindergarten classroom to a maximum of 18 children.)
- ◆ No overwhelming lunchrooms or playgrounds
- ◆ Affordable, all day, every day kindergarten with the option of before and after care
- ◆ Well rounded, self-contained program
 - Physical Education
 - Outdoor Exploration and Play
 - Addresses the national Common Core Standards and meets the needs for cognitive, physical, emotional, social, creative, and spiritual development.
- ◆ Safe, loving family environment, with all who come in contact with the children rooting for their success
- ◆ Nutritious snacks and lunches provided daily in a stress free environment.
- ◆ Many opportunities for family involvement, sending a clear message to children that who they are and what they are learning are important.
- ◆ Mixture of teacher-directed and child-directed instruction
 - One-on-one instruction
 - Small group instruction
 - Whole class instruction
 - Center time learning experiences
- ◆ Various teaching strategies and tailored methods and materials to accommodate different learning styles – Differentiated Instruction

Another way you can help is through the many fundraising opportunities yet to take place this year. Would you considering helping us? On Saturday, March 2, the Dayschool ministry and the By Design ministry are planning a MOM2MOM sale. Proceeds from table rentals, refreshment sales, and raffles will support both ministries. We are already getting a great deal of positive feedback about the upcoming sale, and your help is needed in spreading the word and, if possible, contributing items for our raffle baskets from the following list:

(See page 6 for the list and a continuation of this column.)

FIRST ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES—JANUARY 12, 2013

Pastor Blohm opened the dinner meeting with prayer. President Keith Mullen called the meeting to order. Attendance was taken, it was noted that there was a quorum.

Keith asked for a motion to accept the new members who volunteered to fill the empty positions on council, motion was made by Larry Paul, seconded by Karen Holmes, motion passed. Keith asked for a motion to accept the minutes from the December meeting, motion was made by Tom Eppard, seconded by Dick Haar, motion passed.

Christian Education Report - Jamie reported the family that received the Christmas gifts was very appreciative. The 7th and 8th graders will be singing with the praise singers this week. There are about twelve weeks to go in the Sunday School curriculum. By Design will meet the second and fourth Wednesday of the month. They also are looking at having a mom to mom sale on March 2. There will be a blood drive on April 30 in conjunction with the Lutheran home. The Dayschool bowling event will be coming up soon at Penny Jo's bowling center on Woodville Rd.

Elders Report - Bill Nelson reported that they are very happy that all twelve positions for elder have been filled. Schedules have been made out. There are 5 weddings scheduled so far for 2013.

Property Mgmt - Larry Paul noted that he is close to having the evergreen tree removed from the front of the church. There has been a \$200 donation made for the Pepsi machine that was removed from the basement of the church. The handrail on the west side of the narthex has been repaired.

Treasurer/Finance Report - Jim Sommers reported that in early December we had a shortfall of approximately \$20,000. He was pleased to announce that due to the five Sundays in December, insurance re-adjustment, and members stepping forward, the shortfall ended up being \$889.00. Keith asked for a motion to accept the treasurer's report, Lori made motion, seconded by Mike Folk, motion passed.

Dayschool Report - None

Pastor's Report - Pastor reported the Christmas

services were beautiful and very meaningful. He also reported the German service was fantastic, and the bell choir was outstanding. There also was a very beautiful wedding in December (Leigh Yenrick).

Old Business - None

New Business - Keith asked Mike Folk to stay on as vice president and he was happy to report that Mike accepted. Thanks, Mike.

A motion to adjourn was made by Lori Pfeiffer, seconded by Larry Paul, motion carried. The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Mullen

FROM THE CHURCH MOUSE

A New Mouse in the House

Over the past two years, Mouse fans have found and relocated our "church mouse," only to have it move again. Since the holidays, the Mouse has not been seen. Last Sunday a new Mouse appeared. Thanks to whoever is continuing the "Spirit of the Mouse."

Ho Hum!

Your Mouse has returned from his Holiday Nap to find the winter activities in full swing, along with New Year rules and regulations taking effect. A new postal rule limits our newsletter to six pages. Therefore, we will attempt to be brief and share the available space with other writers and reporters.

The Cemetery Committee has identified over 80 available gravesites, all with a great view and competitively priced. The sites are mostly singles and doubles with one or two multiples. *Note:* two cremation burials are permitted on a single grave. Contact Toni in the church office for your selection.

Rumor has it that a cemetery memorial patio is in the planning stage, to be dedicated to members and veterans interred at St. John or elsewhere. They may be memorialized with a patio block. Dates and details to be announced as details are developed.

Mark your calendar for the St. John Cemetery Memorial Day ceremonies!