



First St. John Journal



Volume 26, Issue 1

January, 2013

B

y the time you read this, we are rapidly heading toward not a “fiscal” cliff, but a “year-end” cliff. We are all journeying from the year 2012 to the year 2013. In some ways, 2012 was like a roller coaster ride with lots of highs and lows throughout the year.

What about 2013? What lies ahead? We’ll handle that each day, day by day. And remember these words from I Corinthians 16:13 -14, the words of Paul: “Keep alert, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love.”

May 2013 be a blessed year for you!

— *Pastor Blohm*

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. Deadline for returning completed applications is March 30th. We must receive the applications in the church office by March 30th to be considered.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
January 25th

THANK YOU!

What a wonderful experience at your lovely church when we were blessed to present a (German/English) Weihnachtsstimmung on December 16th. The German word ‘Weihnachtsstimmung’ carries the understanding of a worship service in anticipation and the atmosphere of Christmas. Well, to my feeling, it did just that. We heard certain scripture verses and an understanding of those scriptures both in German and English, along with the wonderfully appropriate anthems of the Teutonia Maennerchor and Damenchor, plus the wonderful sounds of your bell choir with our anthems, and some individual pieces. Then there was the opportunity for the congregation to sing some favorite German Christmas songs— or listen to them, whatever the case may have been!

So with a heartfelt thanks to your congregation, your bell choir director Cheri, your church secretary Toni, Pastor Bob, and the tremendous help of Bill Nelson and others (and hopefully your voice choir next year) . . . Danke!

P.S. We look forward to doing this again next year. The secured date will be determined soon.

Since Christmas greetings are now in the past, I wish you all Ein gluecklich Neues Jahr!

Pastor J. VanBrussell,
Ret’d ELCA and Secretary, Teutonia Maennerchor
and Weihnachtsstimmung creator

CHRISTMAS DECORATION REMOVAL



The Christmas decorations will be taken down and stored on Friday, January 4th after 4:00 pm. Please do not schedule any events or meetings in the church during this time. Thank you.

MEMBER UPDATES

Births

11-29-12 *Charlotte Ruby Cromly*, born to Brian and Jennifer (Schuetz) Cromly.

Baptisms

11-25-12 *Caden Kenneth Mallett* and *Dane Joseph Mallett*, born December 30, 2007 to Adam and Candyce (Kovesdi) Mallett. Sponsors for Caden are Jacob Mallett and Emea Kovesdi, and sponsors for Dane are Joseph Kovesdi and Lindsey Felder.

Marriages

None.

Deaths

12-12-12 Eleanor "Ellie" Symington

Transfers from First St. John:

Dave and Diane Habegger to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Cincinnati, Ohio

Transfers to First St. John:

None.

ELECTION RESULTS



Dear Congregational Members,

The church council appreciates your time in attending and voting at the congregational meeting in December. The outcome of the meeting gave approval for the budget. If anyone has additional questions or would like to further discuss the budget, please call Lisa Anderson at 419-693-1232. Thank you to everyone who ran for council. Please welcome our new and incumbent council members:

Property Management: John Roth

Elders: Bill Nelson, Dick Haar, Laurie Witt

Finance Committee: Gloria Ross, John & LuAnn Spoerl

*** IMPORTANT! We still need to fill one spot in Property Management and one elder position. Please contact President Keith Mullen at 419-206-0203 if you would consider filling one of these open positions. THANK YOU. ***



FEED YOUR NEIGHBOR

We have recently learned that we can begin accepting hotel toiletries such as soap bars, shampoo, hand cream, etc. (unused, of course). If you have some of these you want to donate, just place them in the bins in the Narthex under the main bulletin board and the lounge under the table by the double doors. And as always, we still accept canned goods and groceries such as peanutbutter, cereal, boxed cakes, etc. (No glass jars, please.) Thank you for your generosity.

COUNCIL DINNER

A dinner and brief meeting will be held at Cousino's Steakhouse on Woodville Rd. on Saturday, January 12th at 6:30 pm for all current, incoming, and outgoing council members and their spouses. Dinner is taken care of, you will only be responsible for your drinks. Please RSVP to President Keith Mullen at 419-345-3474 or to the church office at 419-691-7222 by Tuesday, January 8th, or email the church at office@firststjohn.com

ADDRESS CHANGES/CORRECTIONS

To keep information for office records current, please notify the office of any changes to your name, address, or phone: **Fax:** (419-691-7220) **Mail** this form to: 2471 Seaman St./ Toledo, OH 43605 or **Email:** office@firststjohn.com

Name _____

Address _____

City, State Zip _____ Phone _____



ALTAR GUILD NEWS

Our new officers and members for 2013 are listed below:

Officers:

June Might	President
Emily Kruse	Vice President
Brenda Fussell	Secretary
Marilyn Miller	Treasurer
Susie Skorupa	Supply Chairman
Karyl Antoine	Flower Chairman

Members: Sue Ann Rogers, Claudia Patchen, Joanne Crandall, Jane Schuetz, Nancy Gallaher, Joyce Yard, Lynn Folk, Pam Beavers, Delores Glass

Alternate: Raylene Draeger

Thank you to our outgoing member Wanda Rice. We appreciate the work you did serving your church.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD UPDATE



We collected 54 shoeboxes this past November. For each box sent, we created a happy face to place on our wall in the J.A.M. Sunday School room. Thanks to everyone who donated and prayed for the children receiving them and to Pastor Blohm for the special blessing for all the boxes.

ELDERS FOR JANUARY

7:45 am

6th Darold Henninger
Kevin Ruedy

10:15 am

Linda Yenrick
Bill Nelson

13th Tom Eppard
Al Collins

Eric Johnson
Laurie Witt

20th Dick Haar

Jeff Smith
Jason Blazeovich

27th Linda Yenrick
Bill Nelson

Darold Henninger
Kevin Ruedy

MILITARY SERVICE NOTES

Here are the names and addresses of members, family, and friends of First St. John who serve in the military. Please remember them especially at this time of year. You can send cards or packages, and remember to pray for them, too! Thank you.

Chief Petty Officer Cynthia Henderson
44425 Scobee
California, MD 20619

A1C 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

Captain Lindsey Rowland
Madison Barracks
237 Bartlett Dr.
Sackets Harbor, NY 13685

NEW MEMBERS CLASS

A new member class will be held for those wishing to become members of First St. John on Sunday, January 13th at 11:30 am in the lounge following our late service. Lunch will be provided. Please register for this class by calling the church office at 419-691-7222 or completing the form below and dropping it in the offering plate or mailing it to the church office. Anyone who would like to become a member is welcome to attend this one-session class.

*Yes! I/we will attend the New Members Class on
January 13th.*

Names: _____

Phone: _____

MEMORIALS

CEMETERY FUND

In memory of Larry Vogtsberger by Carl & Janet Morrison, Ken & Joyce Villhauer.

In memory of George Wagner by Carl & Janet Morrison.

In memory of Sally Hartzell by Carl & Janet Morrison, Norman Schumaker and Elaine Gladieux.

In honor of Gene and Ruth Price's 50th wedding anniversary by Carl & Janet Morrison.

In memory of Sue Erdmann by Norman Schumaker.

In memory of Pastor Buenting by Terry & Jane Schuetz, Ernie & Marge Bollinger.

DEBT RETIREMENT

In memory of Larry Vogtsberger by the Ruth Circle, Jean DeWitt, Louise & Jim Sommers.

In memory of Sally Hartzell by Louise & Jim Sommers.

In memory of George Wagner by Louise & Jim Sommers.

In memory of Pastor Buenting by Louise & Jim Sommers.

ALTAR GUILD

In memory of Larry Vogtsberger by Penny DeWitt.

PRAISE CHOIR

In memory of Larry Vogtsberger by Pastor & Ilean Labuhn.

BETTY HYRE'S CHILDRENS CHOIR

In memory of Larry Vogtsberger by Olga Zimmerman.

In memory of Sally Hartzell by Olga Zimmerman.

In memory of Pastor Buenting by Olga Zimmerman.

ENDOWMENT FUND

In memory of Larry Vogtsberger by Gene Hagedorn.

In memory of Bob Webb by Ada Kreger.

In memory of Darrel Arnold by Irene Abbott.

MEMORIAL FUND

In memory of Harry Myrice by Norman & Phyllis Schuffenecker.

In memory of Larry Vogtsberger by Paul & Vivian Kuhlman, Norman & Phyllis Schuffenecker, Elaine Gladieux, Bill & Ginny Wegman, Donna Koester, Chuck & Jane Neal.

In memory of Etta & Roy Rideout by Georgia Huebner.

In memory of Sally Hartzell by Norman & Phyllis Schuffenecker, Henry & Joanne Schumaker, Elizabeth Meinert, Chuck & Jane Neal.

In memory of George Wagner by Tom & Janet Eppard.

In memory of Pastor Buenting by Jean DeWitt, Chuck & Jane Neal, Jan & Donna Koenker, Louise Diersch, George & Elaine Ackerman, Ada Kreger.

CURRENT FUND

In memory of Pastor Buenting by Karen Frey, Roy & Rita Reigle, Esther Bell.

In memory of Sally Hartzell by Esther Bell.

HOMEBOUND MINISTRIES

In memory of Sally Hartzell by Bob & Sherrie Haar.

CHOIR FUND

In memory of Pastor Buenting by Margie Heninger.

FAMILY BLESSING SUNDAY JANUARY 13, 2013

In Luke 2, Jesus is taken to the temple by Mary and Joseph and He receives a blessing from both Simeon and Anna. Blessings are very important to us.

On Sunday, January 13th we will have the opportunity to come as a family (and yes, one person is a family in God's eyes) and receive a blessing from the pastor. You can come up with different people in your extended family (you and your spouse, you and your daughter's family, etc.) as many times as you want. What a special way to begin 2013!



QUILTING TIME!

The Quilting Group meets each Monday at 9:30 a.m. in the lounge beginning Monday, January 7th and running through Monday, March 25th. Most of the help needed involves tying layers of a quilt together (all you need to know is how to tie a knot). Bring a sack lunch. If there is bad weather, they follow Oregon Schools for cancellations.

Most of the quilts made will be donated to Lutheran World Relief and local charities. If you would like to sew quilting blocks at home, please call Ginny Nissen at 419-698-2822. Thank you.

BOARD OF MINISTRIES MEETING

We begin 2013 with our next meeting on Tuesday, January 8th at 6:30 pm. Board of Ministries is for the heads of all major church groups to talk about upcoming needs and plans.



MEN'S BREAKFAST FELLOWSHIP

Our next men's breakfast fellowship will be held on Saturday, January 5th at 8:00 am at the Bob Evans on Navarre Ave. We will begin a 12-month devotional study based on the writings of noted preacher and theologian Oswald Chambers. We have snowbirds down south, so we have plenty of room for you and a friend to join us. Any questions or if you need a ride, call Bob Haar at 419-250-9409. See you there!

2012 AND 2013 CHURCH COUNCIL, WELCA, & ALTAR GUILD OFFICERS

If you've finished your term, please turn in your church keys and access cards (for the educational building) to the office as soon as possible. If you are new to your office and need an access card and/or keys, please see Toni in the church office. **Note:** All access cards should be returned—they cannot be handed to new officers because the numbers on the back are tied to a specific person. All newly elected officers should soon be able to get keys and/or access cards from their chairmen OR contact Toni in the office.

2013 OFFERING ENVELOPES

The 2013 offering envelopes are in the lounge through the month of January. They are listed in alphabetical order. Envelopes are prepared for confirmed members of First St. John and friends (upon request). If a husband and wife share offering envelopes, only the husband's name will appear on the envelope box.

If you cannot find your offering envelopes or if there is a correction in your address or name, please call the church at 419-691-7222 as soon as possible.

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

All newly elected and incumbent members of Church Council, WELCA, and Altar Guild should plan to attend church on Sunday, January 20th. Officers will be installed during both church services that day as they begin their 2013 service.



WELCA NEWS

The 2013 Rosters will be available soon in the lounge. Our next board meeting is Monday, January 21st at 6:30 pm in the lounge.

HOMEPLATE 2013 — CALL IN YOUR RESERVATIONS NOW



It seems too early to talk about baseball, but it's time to turn in your reservations for the Homeplate event with the Detroit Tigers. Homeplate is an annual program held just before the Tiger game where Tiger players and coaches and former Tiger stars talk about their faith in Jesus. It's truly an uplifting thing to hear how God has worked in their lives.

Homeplate 2013 will be Saturday, April 27th. The program begins at 9:30 am, and the game is at 1:05 pm when the Tigers will take on the Atlanta Braves. We will order 15 tickets (we're waiting on more information regarding ticket prices). Tickets include the program, game ticket, food voucher and souvenir. Get your RSVP in to the church office as soon as possible in order to attend.

FIRST ST. JOHN PRAYER CHAIN

(as of 12/26/12)

Crisis Prayer List: *For those who need prayers in urgent matters such as surgery, emergency medical care (ICU), etc. Will be moved to the Chronic list after the first month unless someone is contacted about special circumstances:*

**George & Elaine Ackerman
& Ackerman Family
Jim Franks
Anne Hermiller
Jude Kevern
Jim Schumaker
Family of Ellie Symington**

Chronic Prayer List: *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 someone is contacted about special/continuing circumstances:*

**Karl Ackerman
Family of Darrel Arnold
Jordyn Beckhusen
Family of Pastor Harold Buenting
Bob "Bobbie G" Brown
Family of Amy Barda Buehrer
Karen Burris
Raylene Draeger
Nick Elkington
Andrew Gale
Family of Sally Schumaker Hartzell
Grace Heninger
Herman Jeskey
Sophie LeDuc
Wayne Lytle
George "Skip" McCullough
Jeanette Miller
Christopher Molnar
Charlie Ohlson
Florence Partin
Bishop Sanchez
Sam Sharp
Bruce Traver
Family of Larry Vogtsberger
Candy Webster
Terry Williams**

Please check the list and let any of the prayer chain contacts-listed below-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



THANK YOU!

Thank you to everyone who ordered poinsettias to decorate the church for Christmas Eve. The altar was just beautiful, and it couldn't have happened without your donations.

— *The Altar Guild*

DINNER WITH FRIENDS

Tired of cooking for one or eating take-out food? Just want to get out of the house? Then you might be interested in having Dinner With Friends. Meet here at church for a light dinner in the company of your friends from First St. John. Our FREE dinners will be in January, March, May, September, and November. Our next dinner is Wednesday, January 16th at 6:00 pm. (Menu to be announced.)

If you would like to attend, please fill out the slip below and return it in the offering plate or mail to the church office so we know how many to plan for. Please make sure you include your phone number in case we have to cancel due to inclement weather. We look forward to seeing you!

-- *Hannah Circle Members: Karen Holmes, Kim Kwiatkowski, Debbie Smith, Janine Contat, Toni Wilbarger, Brenda Fussell, Kate Gladieux, and Karen Frey*

*Yes, I will attend the Dinner With Friends evening
on Wednesday, January 16th*

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

From Jamie's Director's Desk

This devotion was taken from Daily-Devotions.com and I couldn't have written anything better. Enjoy her article.

As we embark on the New Year, may we be reminded of these simple instructions found in 1 Thessalonians, Chapter 5:

Rejoice all the time.
 Pray without stopping.
 Give thanks in everything.
 Don't quench the Holy Spirit.
 Don't despise prophecies.
 Test everything and hold onto what is good.
 Stay away from every form of evil.

The result of following these instructions (which only can be done while allowing the Holy Spirit to live them out through you) is found in verse 23: amazing peace. As we express our joy and thankfulness to God and stay in touch with Him continually, we will be transformed and will become the better person that He wants to change us into throughout this coming year.

-- See more at: <http://www.daily-devotionals.com/2011/01/new-year-devotional/#sthash.hGSyuJan.dpuf>

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!"
[2 Corinthians 5:17 \(NIV\)](#)

Thank you to all who helped with Project Give a Blessing. Your generosity as a congregation is AMAZING! We all should feel so BLESSED to be part of this wonderful church family!

I look forward to 2013 and the AMAZING things our church will accomplish!!!

JESUS AND ME / 1st – 6th SCHEDULE

January	6	The Life of Noah – Everlasting Covenant
	13	Developing Godly Character - Purity
	20	Developing Godly Character - Wisdom
	27	Developing Godly Character - Honesty

JESUS AND ME / PRE-K and KINDERGARTEN SCHEDULE

January	6	Growing for Jesus - God's Little Helpers
	13	Growing for Jesus - God Helps Us Grow
	20	Growing for Jesus - Working for Jesus
	27	Godly Living – Sharing Your Blessings

HAVE YOU SEEN...



Have you seen the flower vase carrier the Altar Guild uses? It's wooden, painted white, with slots for the side vases. There is a handle in the middle of the carrier as well. If you've seen it, please notify the church office. Thanks.

FROM THE CHURCH MOUSE

It was the night before Christmas,
 when all through the house
 not a creature was stirring,
 not even the Mouse.
 The lounge,
 my winter warm place,
 was moving at a hectic pace.
 With Christmas now over,
 I think I'll roll over.
 Start the year right—
 Nap over!