



First St. John Journal



Volume 27, Issue 1

January, 2014

The Hubble Space Telescope has been surprising astronomers, physicists, and ordinary folks with amazing pictures of far off stars, galaxies, and other objects in space. I know that I have been fascinated by the discoveries and photos from the Hubble Telescope over the years. I remember being astonished with the report of a star that was over 15 billion light years away from the earth. Seeing the light from that star, scientists said, allowed them to see back into the earliest reaches of the beginning of the universe. WOW! What a testimony to the majesty and wonder of God's power at work in creating and sustaining such a marvelous universe!

There is another light stretching back to the very beginning of all creation and beyond, a light that we may see here on earth, the most wondrous and marvelous of all light. And it doesn't take a sophisticated telescope or computer-enhanced photographs to behold the brilliance of this light. But what you must have is an open and believing heart. The first chapter of the Gospel according to St. John sings a hymn of praise to this light, who is the Light of the world, Jesus Christ. *"In him was life and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not overcome it . . . The true light that gives light to every person was coming into the world . . . to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the power to become the children of God."* (John 1:4,5,9 & 12)

The story is told about a fisherman who went out in his boat one evening to fish. Suddenly he was caught by a raging storm. The wind and waves forced him further and further out from shore, until in the gathering darkness he lost sight of the land. When the storm eased, the fisherman discovered that he was lost in the darkness. As he looked out over the water he could see a small light off in the distance. It was faint but steady, the only reference point he could put his hope on. He endeavored to keep his sights on the light as he struggled against the wind to

stir the boat toward it. As he got closer he noticed the light was getting larger, until he realized that it was moving toward him faster than he was sailing toward it. Peering through the darkness at the approaching light, he was relieved to find that it was the beam of a search beacon from a larger rescue boat that had come looking for him.

Light is the theme of the church worship season of Epiphany. The term "epiphany" means to appear, to make manifest, to show forth. And one of the powerful images of the season is that of light. Epiphany begins with a star pointing the way toward the light of the world, newborn as an infant in Bethlehem. Throughout the season, light shines progressively stronger as we celebrate how Jesus began his ministry of "showing forth the kingdom of God" through his preaching, teaching, reaching and healing. The light grows brighter until we arrive at the mountain of transfiguration where Christ's glory is revealed in dazzling brilliance.

Yes, there are amazing lights shining in the darkness of the universe that we can see with the assistance of great telescopes. But, there is a more brilliant light that shines to illumine our lives each day. The light of our Lord Jesus Christ radiates from the church's worship life of Word and Sacrament. The Holy Spirit calls us to gather around the light so that He may enlighten and guide our lives each day. Jesus promised, *"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."* (John 8:12). Don't get lost or stumble in the darkness. Come to worship and celebrate the Light!

— Pastor Jerald Rayl

 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
 January 17th

MEMBER UPDATES

Births

None of which we are aware

Baptisms

12-22-13 Vivian Dee Perkins, born July 29, 2013 to Jason and Kristin (West) Perkins. Sponsors are Lindsey Rowland and Mark Fox.

Marriages

11-30-13 Samantha Cox and Kaylon Gregory

12-14-13 Jenna Guy and Douglas Bachmayer

Deaths

11-21-13 Elnore Groll

11-28-13 Grace Heninger

Transfers to / from 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 newly elected council members:

President: Keith Mullen

Property Management: Dave Wilbarger, Dan Hugueley

Elders: Jeff Smith, Darold Henninger, Jason Blazevich, Mike Winslow

Finance Committee: Pam Beavers

Board of Education: Jennifer Cromly



BOARD OF MINISTRIES MEETING

We begin 2014 with our next meeting on Tuesday, January 14th at 6:30 pm.

PASTOR RAYL'S CONTACT INFORMATION

The church now has a cell phone for the pastor. Here is that number if you need to contact Pastor Rayl by phone: 567-395-0143. Pastor Rayl also has a new church email address. Please *disregard* all previous email addresses that you may have for him and use this address when contacting him via email: pastor1@firststjohn.com Thank you.

COUNCIL DINNER

A dinner and brief meeting will be held at Cousino's Steakhouse on Woodville Rd. on Wednesday, January 15th 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 419-206-0203 or to the church office at 419-691-7222 by Tuesday, January 7th, 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 2014 are listed below:

Officers:

Emily Kruse	President
Joyce Yard	Vice President
Joanne Crandall	Secretary
Jane Schuetz	Treasurer
Pam Beavers	Supply Chairman
Lynn Folk	Flower Chairman

Members: Cathy Caldwell, Nancy Gallaher, Beth Hodges, Beth Hugueley, Janet Morrison, Ginny Nissen, and Carol Schwegler

Thank you to our outgoing members June Might, Karyl Antoine, Brenda Fussell, Marilyn Miller, Claudia Patchen, Sue Ann Rogers, and Susie Skorupa. We appreciate the work you did serving your church.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD UPDATE



We collected 108 shoeboxes this past November, which was exactly double last year's total! Thank you to everyone who donated and prayed for the children receiving them. Outstanding job, everyone!

ELDERS FOR JANUARY

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

MILITARY SERVICE NOTES



Here are the names and addresses of members, family, and friends of First St. John who serve in the military. 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

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

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

Lindsey Rowland
1 Surf Way #113
Monterey, CA 93940

NEW MEMBERS CLASS

Our new members class will begin on Sunday, January 12th at 9:00 am (Sunday School hour) in the Chapel. If you or someone you know would like to be a part of this class, please contact the church office.

There will be four sessions, meeting on consecutive Sundays (January 12 – February 2nd). Even if you're already a member, if you would like to review some of the basics of our Christian faith and Lutheran teachings you also are invited to participate. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Rayl.

*Yes! I/we will attend the New Members Class
beginning on January 12, 2014*

Names: _____

Phone: _____

MEMORIALS

HOMEBOUND MINISTRIES

In memory of Elnore Groll by Bob & Sherrie Haar.

CEMETERY FUND

In memory of Elnore Groll by Ken & Joyce Villhauer, Carl & Janet Morrison, Norman Schumaker, Nancy Gallaher, Local Union No. 8, M/M Dennis Pavley, Tom & LuAnn Schuffenecker, Wilma Dippman, David Munding, Hank & Joanne Schumaker, Ruth, Ronald and Randy Kozina, Kathy & Ronald Watkins, Mary Ann Campbell, Barry & Pam Klatt, LilMar & Dean Stroh, Norman & Phyllis Schuffenecker, Terry & Jane Schuetz, Amy Brezinski, Mike & Elsie Dippman, Margie Kusian, Betty TenEyck, Marty Veith, Michael Daunhauer. In memory of Grace Heninger by Terry & Jane Schuetz.

CHOIR FUND

In memory of Phyliss Wagner by John & Karen Rowley.
In memory of Grace Heninger by M/M David Luoma, The Morrison Family, Gene & Janet Schacht, Ron & Joanne Koch, Robert & Annette Corey, Beverly Koevinig, Ernie & Marge Bollinger, Dan & Sue Tignor, Carol Rose & Jackie Jurski Family, Darlene Harder, Marge & Chuck Mendeljian, Betty TenEyck, Tim & Tina Frank, Sue Whalen, Dick & Sue Herrington, Trudi & Ron McCamey, Lowell & Diane Hartman, Dave & Beth Hodges, Chuck & Jane Neal, Gary & Sandra Beckman, William & Jean Weaver, Marilyn Cashen, Jen & Mike Murphy, Alma Berry, Lawrence & Jane Rozborski, Jeff & Theresa Groll, David & Diane Habegger, Satin Gavel HVYC.

MEMORIAL FUND

In memory of Elnore Groll by Elaine Gladieux.
In memory of Etta & Roy Rideout by Georgia Hebner.

NEW ELEVATOR FUND

In memory of Elnore Groll by Verlone and Edward Schweizer Family.

DAYSCHOOL

In memory of Elnore Groll by Christine Johnson.

ENDOWMENT FUND

In memory of Grace Heninger by Gene Hagedorn.

CURRENT FUND

In memory of Grace Heninger by Louise & Jim Sommers.



WELCA NEWS

The 2014 Rosters will be available soon in the lounge. Our next board meeting is Monday, January 20th at 6:30 pm.

WINSLOW SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS



This scholarship helps members of First St. John who will attend college for the 2014/2015 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.

FAMILY BLESSING SUNDAY JANUARY 19, 2014

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 19th 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 2014!



QUILTING TIME!

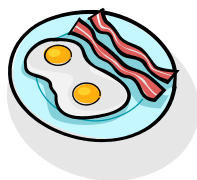
The Quilting Group meets each Monday at 9:30 a.m. in the lounge beginning Monday, January 6th and running through Monday, March 31st. Most of the help needed involves tying layers of a quilt together (all you need to know is how to tie a knot). Bring a sack lunch. If there is bad weather, they follow 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 or if you have any questions, please call Ginny Nissen at 419-698-2822.

IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING CHAPEL COMMUNION

Beginning January 5, 2014, the Chapel communion service will be moved to 2:00 pm on the first Sunday of each month. This will help those who do not like to drive in the dark. Please mark your calendars.

MEN'S BREAKFAST FELLOWSHIP



Our next men's breakfast fellowship will be held on Saturday, January 4th at 8:00 am at the Bob Evans on Navarre Ave. 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!

ATTENTION 2013 AND 2014 CHURCH COUNCIL, WELCA, AND 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.

2014 OFFERING ENVELOPES

The 2014 offering envelopes are in the lounge through the month of January. They are arranged 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 12th. Officers will be installed during both church services that day as they begin their 2014 service.

FROM THE CHURCH MOUSE



With the excitement of our Savior's birth and a fresh new year upon us, we now face the preliminary time of reflection, evaluation, change and anticipation regarding the future of First St. John leading up to the call process.

A committee to update our church constitution is being formed. (It has not been updated since 1992.) During the upcoming year, we will look into updating other documents, activities and goals. All these documents will become part of the information package available to candidates for our call to the position of Senior Pastor.

Your Mouse has been reviewing the "A BRIEF HISTORY OF OUR CHURCH" document. The last entry is from 1992. Have we not experienced an historical or memorable event since? Be a part of a membership-wide committee and submit your nominations for updating our history. Submit your written nominations by mail to "Mouse House," c/o Toni at the church office or email: office@firststjohn.com

From the Mouse House, 1-1-2014

FIRST ST. JOHN PRAYER CHAIN

(as of 12/27/13)

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:*

**Family of Ron Curtis
Mark Gingrich
Marvin Gladieux
Tom Walls**

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:*

**George Ackerman
Jordyn Beckhusen
Karen Burris
Baby Camille
Ann Sherman Connor
Rebecca Ervin
Annette Frybarger
Fred Garza
Lily Georgeson
Bob & Debbie Hecklinger
Margie Heninger
Connie Koch
Sophie LeDuc
Norma Manteuffel
George "Skip" Mc Cullough
Jeanette Miller
Christopher Molnar
Jessica Mueller
Charlie Ohlson
Demetra Pender
Nancy Pfefferle
Family of Riley (last name not given)
Cindy Roecker
Dr. Steve Row
June Smarkel
Gordon Thayer
Candy Webster
Terry Williams**

Please check the list and let any of the prayer chain contacts 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



HOMEBOUND MINISTRY NEWS

Our next meeting of the Homebound Ministry teams will be Wednesday, January 8th at 4:00 pm. These teams go out each month and give communion and visit with our homebound members. If you think you may be interested in joining this ministry, please contact Pastor Rayl at 567-395-0143.

DINNER WITH FRIENDS

Dinner With Friends is back in January with our first ever Chili Cook-Off. Join us on Wednesday, January 22nd at 6:00 pm in the lounge. All guests are invited to bring their own chili dishes, and we'll vote for the BEST CHILI. But if you don't have a chili recipe or cannot make any, be sure to come anyway! We'll still need your vote, and you're welcome to bring chili fixin's such as onions, crackers, cheese, etc. We'll provide dessert, tableware, and beverages. No pressure—if you cannot bring anything, you're still very welcome to come out and enjoy the dinner. Please RSVP using the slip below if you want to attend, and please mark whether you will bring chili or fixin's. See you soon!

*Yes! I/we will attend Dinner With Friends
on January 22nd.*

Name _____

Phone _____

I will bring: ___ Chili ___ Onions ___ Crackers
___ Cheese _____ Other

From Jamie's Director's Desk

Happy New Year!

The first word that comes to mind every New Year's Day is Resolution.

res-o-lu-tion: [rez-uh-loo-shuhn]

Noun:

1. Formal expression of opinion or intention made, usually after voting, by a formal organization, a legislature, a club, or other group. Compare concurrent resolution, joint resolution.
2. Decision or determination; a resolve: to make a firm resolution to do something. Her resolution to clear her parents' name allowed her no other focus in life.
3. The act determining upon an action or course of action, method, procedure, etc.; the act of resolving.
4. Firmness of purpose; the mental state or quality of being resolved or resolute: She showed her resolution by not attending the meeting.
5. The act or process of separating into constituent or elementary parts or resolving.

So, what sort of New Year's resolution should a Christian make? Here are some suggestions:

- (1) Pray to the Lord for wisdom (James 1:5) in regard to what resolutions, if any, He would have you make;
- (2) Pray for wisdom as to how to fulfill the goals God gives you;
- (3) Rely on God's strength to help you;
- (4) Find an accountability partner who will help and encourage you;
- (5) Don't become discouraged with occasional failures; instead, allow them to motivate you;
- (6) Don't become proud or vain, but give God the glory. Psalm 37:5-6 says, "Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him and he will do this: He will make your righteousness shine like the dawn, the justice of your cause like the noonday sun."

Read more: <http://www.gotquestions.org/new-years-resolution.html>

JESUS AND ME / 1st – 6th GRADE SCHEDULE

January	5	Discover Jesus—We Can Believe in Jesus
	12	Discover Jesus — We Can Know Jesus
	19	Discover Jesus — We Can Obey Jesus
	26	Discover Jesus — We Can Live for Jesus

JESUS AND ME / PRE-K and KINDERGARTEN SCHEDULE

January	5	All for Jesus—Cheerful
	12	All for Jesus — Poured Out for Jesus
	19	All for Jesus — The Greatest Commandment
	26	Miracles of Jesus — Jesus' First Miracle

7th GRADE SCHEDULE

January	5	Ten Commandments—The Fourth Commandment
	12	Faith Testimony
	19	Ten Commandments — The Fifth Commandment
	26	Women's Circles / Men's Group

8th GRADE SCHEDULE

January	5	The Lord's Prayer — The Fifth Petition
	12	Faith Testimony
	19	The Lord's Prayer — The Sixth Petition
	26	Faith Testimony Working Class

(Continued on next page)

FROM JAMIE'S DESK
(continued from previous page)

In this New Year:

May it lead you to the path of beautiful tomorrows
May you rise to the new heights of success
May the dreams of your eyes come alive
And may each step in this New Year
Bring smiles to you

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!

Thank you to all of those who helped with our Annual Christmas Program, "The Gift That Started It All." Special acknowledgments go to:

<u>Jane Neal</u>	Angel Robes
<u>Dolores Glass</u>	Wiseman Costumes
<u>Toni Wilbarger</u>	Helping with the bulletins
<u>Chuck Hyre</u>	Sound/Tech Guy/Right Hand Man
<u>Gene Hagedorn</u>	Riser setups – more than once
<u>JAM Teachers</u>	Rachel Nelson. Sue Ann Rogers, Deb Ladd, Susan Tilton, Darlene Paul, Max Schwiefert
<u>FSJ Choir</u>	For letting us join in the anthem
<u>Jamie Blazeovich AND Betty Hyre</u>	For their patience and sense of humor
<u>Dads & Moms</u>	For help with setup, costumes, and your wonderful children

I look forward to 2014 and the AMAZING things our church will accomplish.

**NOTICE ABOUT
MAGAZINE RECYCLING**

Beginning in 2014, we will no longer collect magazines to donate to St. Charles. You can still take your magazines and drop them off at the emergency room entrance at either St. Charles or Bay Park, or take them to recycling centers in your area. Thank you to all who donated over the last several years.

**MEMBER ADDRESS
CHANGES**



Christina Boos
427 Utah St.
Toledo, OH 43605
(Nicholas)

Richard & Marjorie Counterman
24475 W. Trowbridge Rd.
Millbury, OH 43447

Jacob & Jessica Donley
1417 Forrester Dr.
Oregon, OH 43616
(Jacob)

Please use the form on the back of the first page to notify the church office of your change of address. The church pays a fee each time the post office sends mail back. You can also call 419-691-7222 or email: office@firststjohn.com

***ATTENTION THURSDAY
BIBLE STUDY MEMBERS***

We will begin meeting again on Thursday, January 9th at 11:00 am. Please mark your calendars.

THANK YOU



Each year, the Women of the ELCA (WELCA) holds several events in which our congregation participates in order to earn money for organizations in our area. The following are groups who have acknowledged their appreciation of these monetary gifts in 2013:

Lutheran Home at Toledo
Lutheran Home of Mercy
Toledo Gospel Rescue Mission
Lutheran Outdoor Ministry
Proclaim FM (formerly WPOS)
The Sight Center
American Red Cross

This represents \$900 of your labors of love to help meet our budget, and we want to thank all of you for helping at the Card Party, Rummage Sale, and 8 Chicken and Ham Dinner. WELCA THANKS YOU.

FIRST ST. JOHN COUNCIL MINUTES—DECEMBER 10, 2013

President Keith Mullen opened the Tuesday, December 10, 2013 meeting with Pastor Rayl giving the devotion.

Secretary's Minutes-Minutes of the November meeting were read and a motion was made to accept the minutes by Dave Warnke, John Spoerl seconded. Motion carried.

Sunday School/Christian Education-There were 108 boxes made for Operation Christmas Child! A donut party was a reward for the JAM group for working on this project. The Children's play will be at the 10:15 service this Sunday. The personal needs pantry fundraiser at Bob Evans is tomorrow. Play practice will also be tomorrow. There are 24 new angel robes made by Jane Neal and some additional costumes by a student's grandparent. The gift tree has had to be replenished twice due to so much help. A big thank you goes out to Miss Betty for helping make the Christmas play a success!

Elder's Report -Dick Haar stated they discussed the times for the Dayschool Christmas programs and the German service, as well as the Christmas Eve services.

Property Mgmt.-Shelves were built in the storage area to store the portable A/C units. Some new lights were replaced in the JAM room. They are battery back up emergency signs. The sprayer in upstairs kitchen needs replaced as it is leaking. The new sign for Pastor will be remade due to an error by the sign company. Boilers are up and running.

Treasurer/Finance Report-Annual meeting was Sunday and the congregation passed the new 2014 budget. We are hopeful we'll end the year close to budget. Larry Paul motioned we accept the minutes, Dave Warnke seconded. Motion carried.

Dayschool- No report.

Pastor's Report-The Synod does not anticipate that anything will change until at least September of 2014 (new pastor). A new postcard will be sent out to invite others to our Christmas Eve services. We have many baptisms coming up. Have we ever asked the City of Toledo for a crosswalk? Pastor

noticed the people dodging traffic after a funeral to get to their cars. The healing service at Lutheran Home went very well with about 30-40 people attending.

ETLM-East Toledo Lutheran Ministry is going well. Karen Holmes has asked if someone could look into where the money goes that is collected for this group. We must have 501C3 status in order to receive additional matching funds. We should look into the WELCA group to see how they handle it. The ETLM group is looking into things the churches can do...for example: Helping Hands of St. Louis or Habitat for Humanity, places that need bodies, not money.

Old Business -The "cradle roll" idea was revisited with Lisa Anderson asking who will start it. This will be looked at in January. We need to make sure these parents are included in By Design meetings, too. This organization could be done by a homebound member...making them also feel needed. The idea for praying for new families, newborns, Prayer Buddies, also was mentioned. Pastor has asked for prayers to be shared, as well as joys, during service. Prayer Request cards are available in the Narthex and the lounge.

New Business-Keith thanked Larry Paul for his six years of service as well as the others who are leaving after two years of service.

Wednesday, January 15 at 6:30 pm at Cousino's is our January dinner meeting with the new council members.

New members include Dave Wilbarger-trustee, Dan Hugueley-trustee, Pam Beavers-finance, Jennifer Cromly-board of education, Mike Winslow-Elder.

Sunday, January 12 will be the installation of officers.

Meeting motioned to be adjourned by Tom Eppard. This was seconded by LuAnn Spoerl. The motion carried. Closing was led by reciting the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Lynn Folk, Council Secretary