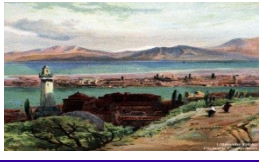


St. John's United Church of Christ

The VOICE

February 2014



Prepared and shared by R.L. Getz, based off of 1 Corinthians 3: 10-15

According to the grace of God - All that Paul had done had been by the mere favor of God. His appointment was from him; and all the skill which he had shown, and the entire agency which he had employed, had been from him. The architectural figure is here continued with some striking additions and illustrations. By the "grace of God" here, Paul probably means his apostleship to the Gentiles, which had been conferred on him by the mere favor of God, and all the wisdom, and skill, and success which he made clear in founding the church.

As a wise master-builder - Greek "Architect." The word does not imply that Paul had any pre-eminence over the people, but that he had proceeded in his work as a skillful architect, who secures first a firm foundation. Every builder begins with the foundation; and Paul had proceeded in this manner in laying first a firm foundation on which the church could grow. The word "wise" here means "skillful" or "judicious"; compare [Matthew 7:24](#).

I have laid the foundation - "What" this foundation was, he states in [1 Corinthians 3:11](#). The meaning here is, that the church at Corinth had been at first established by Paul; see [Acts 18:1](#), etc.

And another - Other teachers have communicated to the church the first elements of Christian knowledge. Others follow out this instruction, and instruct the church. The discussion here undergoes a slight change. In the former part of the chapter, "Christians" are compared to a building; here the "doctrines" which are taught in the church are compared to various parts of a building. Grotius. See similar instances of translation in [Matthew 13](#); [Mark 4](#); [John 10](#).

But let every man ... - Every man who is a professed teacher. Let him be careful what instructions he shall give to a church that has been founded by apostolic hands, and that is established on the only true foundation. This is designed to guard against false instruction and the instructions of false teachers. People should take heed what instruction they give to a church:

- (1) Because of the fact that the church belongs to God, and they should be cautious what directions they give to it;
- (2) Because it is important that Christians should not only be on the true foundation, but that they should be fully instructed in the nature of their religion, and the church should be permitted to rise in its true beauty and loveliness;
- (3) Because of the evils which result from false instruction.

Even when the foundation is firm, unpredictable evils will result from the lack of just and discriminating instruction. Error sanctifies no one. The effect of it even on the minds of true Christians is to mar their piety; to dim its luster; and to darken their minds. No Christian can enjoy religion except under the absolute shining of the word of truth; and every man, therefore, who gives false instruction, is responsible for all the darkness he causes, and for all the lack of comfort which true Christians under his teaching may experience.

(4) Every person must give an account of the nature of his instructions; and he should therefore "take heed to himself, and his doctrine" [1 Timothy 4:16](#); and preach "such" doctrine as shall bear the test of the great Day. And from this we learn, that it is important that the church should be built on the true foundation; and that it is scarcely less important that it should be built up in the knowledge of the truth. Vast evils are constantly occurring in the church for the lack of proper instruction to young converts. Many seem to feel that provided the foundation be well laid, that is all that is needed. But the grand thing which is needed at the present time, is, that those who are converted should, as soon as possible, be instructed fully in the nature of the religion which they have embraced. What would be thought of a farmer who should plant a tree, and never water or trim it; who should plant his seed, and never cultivate the grain as it springs up; who should sow his fields, and then think that all is well, and leave it to be overrun with weeds and thorns? Piety is often stunted, its early shootings blighted, its rapid growth checked, for the lack of early culture in the church. And perhaps there is no one thing in which ministers more frequently fail than in regard to the culture which ought to be bestowed upon those who are converted - especially in early life.

So let us continue to be a church of one strong and unified foundation, worshiping and learning as one united in faith.

FEBRUARY WORSHIP NEWS



SCRIPTURES FOR FEBRUARY

Sunday, February 2 – Fourth Sunday After Epiphany

Micah 6:1-8

Psalm 15

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

Matthew 5:1-12

Sunday, February 9 – Fifth Sunday After Epiphany

Isaiah 58:1-12

Psalm 112

1 Corinthians 2:1-16

Matthew 5:13-20

Sunday, February 16 – Sixth Sunday After Epiphany

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Psalm 119:1-8

1 Corinthians 3:1-9

Matthew 5:21-37

Sunday, February 23 – Seventh Sunday After Epiphany

Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18

Psalm 119:33-40

1 Corinthians 3:10-11, 16-23

Matthew 5:38-48

Consistory News by Robin Getz

As of this writing, I can inform you that we met January 27th at 6PM with a shared celebration meal organized by Angela. At that time we recognized our members who will be leaving consistory. We have been blessed with the work of Jean Ann Grimes, Jerry Mohn and Missy Seltzer. And we officially welcomed our newest servants Walter Bolles, Missy Daub and Terry Knapp for agreeing to serve as Elders, and for Connie Martin, Bob Seltzer and Pat Ziegler for agreeing to join us in 2014.

Hopefully everyone enjoyed the Annual Congregation meeting. I would like to thank our secretary Donna who kept up her efforts to get all of the reports completed and compiled for our review AND to "Mickey" for arranging the beautiful video we all share. Finally to all of our fabulous cooks who could probably make a wet dish towel taste great. Thank you one and all!

Shortly we will all be looking at a recommended candidate as presented by the Search Committee. By the time this edition of the VOICE hits your door, our members will also have received or will be receiving shortly an informational letter from the search committee. As has been requested of us, over and over before, always give prayerful consideration when making such wonderful decisions concerning the life of our church.

Next month a new Consistory President will be addressing you, the members of this congregation of the great work we continue to do. Even though it is a new person delivering the message, our commitment will never change, just a new driver behind the wheel of the bus who we will all continue to support.

We continue to work hard to keep our church as loved and necessary as it always has been. You are the people who make it what it is. You give it life and offer it breath to sustain our Christian lives. May we always continue to do this work together as one in the body of Christ.

Search Committee

Upon receiving the Consistory's unanimous endorsement at their January meeting, the Search Committee is now able to move ahead and prepare and mail a letter of introduction of our candidate to the members of St. John's. We are pleased and excited to bring this good news to you.

The UCC Search and Call process has required steps to follow. Penn Central Conference asks that congregations be notified of the Committee's chosen candidate by mail. Our letter, a brief bio of our selected candidate and statements of support from each Search Committee member are expected to be mailed by Feb. 1.

FEBRUARY Celebrations

Happy Birthday to:

1 Brianna Nace	9 Lori Marinkov	16 Donnette Quairoli	24 Shane Boltz
1 Alison Long	11 Shirley Rudy	17 Tiffany Nace	24 Kim Kapp
4 John Kless	12 Jay Losiewicz	21 Charlene Ziegler	25 Pamela Myers
4 Richard H. Light	13 Linda Nace	22 Becky Griffiths	27 Dawn Losiewicz
5 Steve Kubik	15 Madelyn Fegan	23 Joe Ditzler	
6 Shirley Fortna	15 Cindy Michael	23 Andrew Eberhart	
7 Jordan Oskam	16 Jim Davis Sr.	23 Roger Myers	

Happy Anniversary to:

6 Cathy & Chris Rentschler

If your information is incorrect or not included, please contact the church office.

Sunday Worship Volunteers, Thank You!

February Readers

Feb. 2- Paul Smith
 Feb. 9- Pam Emery
 Feb. 16- Rachael Miller
 Feb. 23- Keith Gingrich

February Flowers

Feb. 2- Walter Bolles
 Feb. 9- OPEN
 Feb. 16- OPEN
 Feb. 23- Dena Eberhart

January Attendance

Jan. 5- 54
 Jan. 12- 68
 Jan. 19- 66
 Jan. 26- 54

February Bulletins

Feb. 2- Walter Bolles
 Feb. 9- OPEN
 Feb. 16- OPEN
 Feb. 23- Dena Eberhart

February Coffee Hosts

Feb. 2- Butch & Shirley Rudy
 Feb. 9- Butch & Shirley Rudy
 Feb. 16- Ken & Violet
 Leibensperger
 Feb. 23- Ken & Violet
 Leibensperger

February Deacon

Angie Michael

Christian Education Corner by Angie Michael

We did not meet in December, and since we didn't meet that month, there are a couple items of 'old' business to share. The Thanksgiving Lock in/Breakfast was a success.

This was the first time the breakfast was hosted here at St. John's and there were 46 people in attendance.

Special thanks to Amber and Melissa Daub and Kayla and Scott Benfer who did a phenomenal job planning, organizing, and coordinating the lock in and the breakfast.

During the December 8 Advent workshop, those who were in attendance decorated 60 heart shaped Christmas Ornaments that were donated to the JOY Pantry.

Melissa Seltzer is planning a bowling outing to the bowling alley in Fredericksburg for the youth. This is tentatively planned for Sunday, February 16 following worship pending availability of the bowling lanes. Please contact Melissa Seltzer if you have any questions regarding this event. We have postponed until the February meeting the planning of a March youth event.

We are awaiting news regarding the calling of a new pastor. If a new pastor is called, we'd like to plan a youth event with him so that the youth can get to know him.

We are also beginning to discuss how we want the Christian Connection program to look on Easter morning. Easter is not until April 20, so next month we will discuss ideas regarding a Christian Connection program for that morning.

CROP WALK by Pam Emery

On October 20, 2013, the Northern Lebanon Area CROP Walk was held at Memorial Lake State Park, raising \$5,790 to fight world and local hunger, according to local walk coordinator, Don Eby. Twenty-nine walkers representing eight area churches participated in the event, including our own Melissa Seltzer, Pam and Gary Emery, and canine walkers Gracie and Jake. The sponsorship effort from our church community totaled \$295.

CROP Hunger Walks are community-wide events sponsored by Church World Service and organized by religious groups, businesses, schools and others to raise funds to end hunger in the U.S. and around the world. Of the funds raised, seventy-five percent go to Church World Services' initiative to wipe out world hunger, and 25 percent is shared by Lebanon County Christian Ministries food bank and JOY Food Bank, Jonestown.

MUSIC AND WORSHIP NEWS by Louise Walmer

Musical Offerings – February 2014

SENIOR CHOIR

After our exhausting Nov. and Dec. rehearsal schedule, and 2 weeks off due to Christmas Day and the New Year holiday, the Sr. Choir is back to our regular 7pm, Wednesday evening rehearsals. “Practice makes perfect” and that’s what we try to do as we prepare our anthems as musical offerings for our worship services.

Anthems scheduled for February are:

Feb. 2 - The Sr. Choir will sing, “Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus”.
An arrangement that includes parts of “Open Our Eyes, Lord”
Words and music by Helen Lemmel & Bob Cull; arranged by Brad Nix

Feb. 9 – to be announced

Feb. 16 – The Sr. Choir will sing, “Foundations of Faith”.
This anthem incorporates the songs, “Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation and The Church’s One Foundation” and was arranged by Joseph Martin. We are hoping to have 3 or 4 brass instruments and the piano accompany the choir for this anthem.

Feb. 23 - Hand Bell Sunday

The Choral Benediction for February is, “Go in His Name” by David Gormong and arranged by John Coates.

Christmas In July

Did you mark your new calendar for the planned Christmas in July event?

Yes, on Friday, July 25, 2014, the Music and Worship Committee will be sponsoring a Christmas in July event that you won’t want to miss. Please reserve that date now for an evening of music (Christmas of course), fun, food and fellowship.

Music and Worship

There was no meeting of the Music and Worship Committee in January. This committee is scheduled to meet on Mon., Feb. 3 at 7pm. Robin Getz volunteered to lead our devotion time.

It’s hard to believe but Ash Wednesday and the Lenten season begin on March 5. Our worship services and celebrations associated with this season will be on our Agenda.

Editor’s Note: The good news is that once Lent begins there are “only” 40 days until Easter. Perhaps that will mean warmer weather and we’ll be out of the clutches of the so-called polar vortex!



From Robin's Nest to Yours

I remember as a child I would sing Jingle Bells in hopes that the Christmas season would come a little quicker each year. I am not sure what to sing to fast track some warm weather!!! It has been one of the coldest winter seasons I can remember. I hope all are doing what they can to stay warm.

This first Robin's Nest for 2014 I would like to address faith, forgiveness and acceptance. The cover article that I shared this month really caused me to think. If you follow the complete lectionary, the full scripture is 1 Corinthians 3: 10-11, 16-23. Another thing that has given me a lot to think about is serving on the search committee and what that process has been and more importantly the lasting effect it has had on me and my faith journey.

When I was a child and played children's games at recess, if you messed up with the game you were playing and quickly called for a "do over", you had the opportunity to repeat the task and hopefully get it right the second time. When I was older and played golf with my husband and his uncles I quickly learned what a "Mulligan" was. In a way you were granted forgiveness and given the chance to do it again and hopefully get it right the second time around. Today as an adult, if I mess something up, where do I go for a "do over"?? I mean seriously, I can really mess something up and no one but me is around. How does that happen? So I do all that I know how to do....I close my eyes and fold my hands and pray to the heavenly God up above to consider offering me forgiveness so that I might have the opportunity to get it right the second time. To give me the wisdom and strength to be able to fix whatever I made a disaster of and to know when I can salvage what I have or if I need to start over from the very beginning.

Have you ever noticed that when you ask for forgiveness it usually includes a test of your faith? Your faith is what lets you know that it was wrong in the first place. Your faith is what drives you to soulful prayer of forgiveness. Your faith is what makes you strong

and lets you understand that all good things will be given if you truly believe. Let's look at the facts....if you did not truly believe that moving a checker three spaces or switching out cards and not following the rules when playing solitaire would be a non-issue. But our absolute faith is what places that little person behind us that will offer a "tsk, tsk, tsk when we don't follow the rules or are not truthful about what we are doing wrong. If we did not have faith, it simply would not matter, would it?

Than we look at acceptance. Forgiveness and Faith also walk hand in hand with acceptance, because after all, isn't that what we are truly looking for? God and his people to accept us for who and what we are? I remember elementary school when we had two captains and everyone stood across from them. Regardless whether it was kick ball, or baseball, or any other multitude of playground sports that our young minds could create we had that demeaning time of waiting to see if we would get picked. We all grew up with that horrible, irreconcilable stigma that stayed with you for life when being the last one standing and the captain who had to make the call still hesitated in calling your name. You just wanted to scream LOOK INSIDE!!! My Heart is big enough to win any game you may play. So I physically am the shortest, the thinnest the weakest. But did you ever think that could make me the fastest or the most agile? Did you ever think that I might have some miraculous skill that no one else has? Not the first or the second or the third pick could do what I can do and what I have to offer. But, how many times did those words pass our lips? We just put our head down, kicked some dirt with our toe and waited those painful seconds to hear your name get called as the last one standing. I remember the captain calling someone else who was playing in another area and not even wanting to play our game being called and offered the position over you, the one who is still waiting to play.

That my friends is what I think of

when I think of acceptance, or the lack thereof. That feeling that I developed when my peers and friends judged and dismissed me. That sense of loss and worthlessness when it was clear that the school janitor looked like a better candidate for dodge ball than what I did. When we have lost our faith to the degree that we cannot accept what someone has to offer. That we cannot recognize the gifts they have to give and that we cannot look beyond the window dress of a person to see the heart of gold that beats within.

All things we know....our church, our denomination and our faith clearly outline our commitment to be accepting of all people. But do we truly accept? Are we always willing to peel through those layers and discover the gift that is standing before us? If not, than we must close our eyes and clasp our hands and ask our heavenly Father above for forgiveness. Our "do over" or "Mulligan" is not having enough faith to understand and accept those that God has sent to us to share with us the talents that He has given to them.

So when you have that next opportunity to make the call as the captain of the team, remember my story of acceptance. I urge you to remember my prayer of forgiveness and I prayerfully wish each of you the absolute Faith to know the difference of what God has given to you as long as you are willing to accept it.

Dear Heavenly Father, there are days when I feel like the lost soul waiting longer than life itself to be given just that once in a lifetime opportunity to show that there is more to me than what you see. Offer those who do not recognize my gift forgiveness for their Faith is perhaps a bit weaker than it should be. No matter what they think of my small stature, let them hear the beating of my large heart. Allow me to cross the line and be part of that team and allow them to recognize I am worth their acceptance. In Your glorious name I will always pray.....Amen!

BUDGET & STEWARDSHIP By Neal Grimes

The final report for 2013 is listed below and it shows the December total and the year to date. At the end of December, we transferred \$10,751.56 from the Memorial Fund to the General Fund to cover the cost of the renovations to the lower Sunday School area that was damaged by the storm in 2012.

DECEMBER	INCOME	Y.T.D.
WEEKLY OFFERINGS (5WEEKS)	\$ 9,449.15	\$ 107,630.69
DEFRAY COST OF ENVELOPES	-0-	197.00
BULLETINS	70.00	410.00
JOINT MEN'S & WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP	-0-	2,500.00
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION	-0-	505.00
FUNDRAISING	52.00	1,980.94
SPECIAL SERVICES	1,019.50	1,334.50
SOCIAL HALL RENTALS/MISC	205.00	517.65
INTEREST	1.85	18.21
TOTAL INCOME FOR DECEMBER	\$ 10,797.50	\$115,093.99
EXPENSES	\$ 9,357.96	\$ 90,833.03
NET INCOME/(LOSS)	\$ 1,439.54	\$ 24,260.96
+TRANSFER OF MEMORIAL FUNDS (12/31/13)		\$ 10,751.56
TOTAL NET GAIN FOR 2013		\$ 35,012.52

Our budget for weekly offerings \$2,300. For 2013 we averaged \$2,069.82.

As we look to a new year with hope and faith in our Lord may all of us commit to being faithful members and stewards of St. John's.

February 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Devotions at 9 AM Followed by Christian Connection 10:30am Worship (Communion) Helen Walmer Fund	3 7 PM Music & Worship Committee	4 Office Hours - 9AM—3 PM	5 Office Hours - 9AM—3 PM Bible Study—Noon Choir Practice—7PM	6 Office Hours - 9AM—3 PM	7 Little Learners 9 AM—11 PM	8
9 Devotions at 9 AM Followed by Christian Connection 10:30am Worship JOY Pantry Bowling Party following Worship at Fredericks- burg Bowling Alley	10	11 Office Hours - 9AM—3 PM	12 Office Hours - 9AM—3 PM Bible Study—Noon Choir Practice—7PM	13 Office Hours - 9AM—3 PM	14 Little Learners 9 AM—11 PM	15
16 Devotions at 9 AM Followed by Christian Connection 10:30am Worship Christian Ed Meeting following Worship	17	18 Office Hours - 9AM—3 PM	19 Office Hours - 9AM—3 PM NO Bible Study Choir Practice—7PM	20 Office Hours - 9AM—3 PM	21	22
23 Devotions at 9 AM Followed by Christian Connection 10:30am Worship Deacon Fund Sunday Dine & Donate Sunday	24 Office Hours - 9AM—3 PM 7 PM Consistory Meeting	25	26 Office Hours - 9AM—3 PM Bible Study—Noon Choir Practice—7PM	27 Office Hours - 9AM—3 PM	28	

St. John's United Church of Christ

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Pastor's Numbers 717-866-5390
E-mail stjohnsucc@comcast.net
Website: www.stjohnsuccfburg.org

**Every Sunday
Devotions at 9:00am Followed by
Christian Connection
10:30am Morning Worship**

St. John's United Church of Christ is: A church of faith, heeding to God's call, through worship, evangelism, discipleship and fellowship. We are building on our church's history, while looking to our future. Our church is filled with messengers, who share the gift of God's love, with the community and beyond. We strive to be a church that reaches out to all with compassion, a vision of God's everlasting peace, and a witness of spiritual hope to our present and future generations. For all this and so much more, we pray in God's name.

Church Staff

Pastor Herb Hibshman, Jr. Interim Pastor
Mrs. Beth Ann Griffiths, Organist
Mrs. Louise Walmer, Choir Director
Mrs. Donna Eberly-Lehman Church Secretary

Consistory

Joe Ditzler, President
Angela Michael, Vice President
Missy Daub, Secretary
Walter Bolles, Treasurer

Elders

Walter Bolles
Missy Daub
Joe Ditzler
Wendy Dorsey
Robin Getz
Terry Knapp

Deacons

Robin Gingrich
Connie Martin
Angela Michael
Bob Seltzer
Mark Tyrpin
Pat Ziegler