

St. John's United Church of Christ

The VOICE

March 2014

UBI ERIS?

Where were you at 10:30 am on December 22, 2013? If you were not at St. John's UCC in Fredericksburg, you missed hearing a beautiful Cantata celebrating the birth of Jesus.

Where were you at 7 pm or 11 pm on December 24, 2013? If you were not at St. John's UCC in Fredericksburg, you missed preparing yourself for the celebration of the birth of Jesus.

Where will you be at 10:30 am on March 9, 16, 23, and 30, 2014? If you are not at St. John's UCC in Fredericksburg, you will have missed traveling with fellow pilgrims on a Lenten Journey.

Where will you be at 7 pm on Wednesday, March 5, 2014? If you are not at St. John's UCC in Fredericksburg, you will have missed an Ash Wednesday experience with St. John's Lutheran and Zoar Lutheran Churches.

Where will you be at 6:30 pm on March 13, 20, and 27, 2014? If you are not at St. John's UCC in Fredericksburg, you will have missed eating soup and a sandwich and sharing in a brief Lenten message.

On December 1, 2013, we began our Advent Adventure. For four Sundays we traveled together on a journey of anticipation and preparation, which included candle lighting and a joyful Cantata. Christmas morning, each of us in our own way, welcomed the birth of the Christ Child. After celebrating

the birth of Jesus, we travel with him on his journey.

Now we are closing in on the end of Jesus' earthly journey. The beginning of this ending starts with Ash Wednesday and our acknowledging that, as it is written in Genesis 3:19, "You are dust, and to dust you shall return."

During the forty days of lent, excluding Sundays, of Lent we will prayerfully journey together on a pathway of self examination and growth.

On this journey we will experience Jesus being tempted by the devil, Abram and Sarai being called to leave home and travel to a new land, Nicodemus going to Jesus in the night, water coming from a rock, a Samaritan woman meeting Jesus at a well, a blind man being healed by Jesus, dry bones receiving life, Jesus riding a donkey, foot washing and sharing a special meal, and death on a cross.

During this Lenten Season, be sure to look at the altar area, as each Sunday will bring a visual message to go along with the verbal message of the sermon.

The title of my article asks you a question. One way or another, I will see your answer.

Thank you for the privilege of sharing the season of Lent with you.

Pastor Herb

MARCH WORSHIP NEWS



SCRIPTURES FOR MARCH

Sunday, March 2 – Transfiguration Sunday

Exodus 24:12-18

Psalm 2

2 Peter 1:16-21

Matthew 17:1-9 (Focus Scripture)

Wednesday, March 5 – Ash Wednesday

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

Psalm 51:1-17

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Sunday, March 9 – First Sunday in Lent

Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7

Psalm 32

Romans 5:12-19

Matthew 4:1-11 (Focus Scripture)

Sunday, March 16 – Second Sunday in Lent

Genesis 12:1-4a (Focus Scripture)

Psalm 121

Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

John 3:1-17 (Focus Scripture)

Sunday, March 23 – Third Sunday in Lent

Exodus 17:1-7 (Focus Scripture)

Psalm 95

Romans 5:1-11

John 4:5-42 (Focus Scripture)

Sunday, March 30 – Fourth Sunday in Lent

Samuel 16:1-13

Psalm 23

Ephesians 5:8-14

John 9:1-14 (Focus Scripture)

Congregational Meeting by Joe Ditzler

A congregational meeting was held on Sunday, February 23rd after the worship service. The worship service that day had been conducted by Reverend Tony Fields as a candidate for calling as St John's next minister. At that meeting a vote was taken to decide whether a call would be extended to Rev Fields. Seventy three ballots were cast by congregation members present at the meeting. A total of sixty six votes were in favor of a call being extended to Rev Fields, and seven votes were not in favor of that call be extended. With these numbers a 90% approval was expressed by the voting members, resulting in the call being extended to Rev Fields. Rev Fields accepted the call and is expected to begin his ministry as pastor of St John's In June. While this meeting and the voting result brings an end to the search process, the transition process continues with much work to be done. May we continue to ask for God's guidance as we together work through this process.

Consistory Notes

January Meeting

At their meeting in January, the Consistory of St John's discussed making some renovations to the church sanctuary. Problems had been noted with the wallpaper peeling causing need for continual repair, along with some other issues. The Building and Grounds Committee was asked to explore ways to deal with these concerns; ways that could include repapering and/or painting or other options.

St John's Search Committee addressed the consistory. A unanimous recommendation was received from that committee for Reverend Tony Fields to be presented to the congregation as a candidate to become our next minister. After discussing the recommendation, consistory unanimously agreed with that recommendation. Sunday, February 23rd was decided upon as the date for Rev Fields to conduct the worship service and deliver a trial sermon. Letters will be sent and announcements made to advise the congregation of this decision.

Consistory voted to increase the hourly wage of the church secretary, Donna Eberly-Lehman, from \$10.75 to \$11.25. This increase will become effective beginning January.

February Meeting

Consistory was advised of the results of a recent audit of the church's financial records that had been conducted. The audit determined those records to be in order with no discrepancies found. The audit was done by Ginny Knapp, Barb Trainor, and Neal Grimes. Consistory thanks those individuals for their work.

The Building and Grounds Committee was given the approval to move ahead on the projects of replacing the ceiling tiles in the social hall and completing the renovation of the downstairs restrooms.

Consistory voted to accept a request for a Letter of Transfer from Jeffrey Ditzler. His membership will be moved from St John's to Christ UCC, Elizabethtown.

Consistory members began a review of the Pastor's Job Description to update it and make any changes deemed necessary. This review will be completed prior to the arrival of Pastor Fields. Copies of the job description are available and input from members is appreciated. Please speak to any member of

SHARING RESOURCES CHANGING LIVES

On Sunday March 23 a special offering will be received as St John's participates in One Great Hour of Sharing. Through the United Church of Christ, One Great Hour of Sharing provides clean water, food, medicines, shelter, healthcare, and disaster relief in the US and internationally. Special envelopes to receive this offering will be placed in the pew pockets. Please consider giving back some of what you have received to aid this effort.

MARCH Celebrations

Happy Birthday to:

- | | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| 1 Anna Marie Lauer | 8 Randy Ziegler | 21 Kathy Fegan |
| 5 Jim Davis Jr. | 12 Elda Bugg | 21 Ginny Knapp |
| 6 Missy Daub | 16 Paul Smith | 24 Steve Shaffer |
| 6 Rev. Thomas Jackman | 16 Marlene Zechman | 26 Jeremy Stoltz |
| 6 Glenn Rudy | 20 Mildred Schriver | 28 Gary Trautman |
| 6 Brenda Good | 20 Beth Yingst | 30 Melissa Seltzer |

Happy Anniversary to:

- | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 2 Violet & Ken Leibensperger | 15 Marc & Beth Ann Griffiths |
| 11 Diane & Ken Mohn | 27 Jeremy & Alyssa Stoltz |
| 12 Denise & Lee Flanick | 29 Barb & Thomas Trainor |
| 15 Brenda & Jack Good | |

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

Sunday Worship Volunteers, Thank You!

March Readers

- Mar. 2- Sharon Hibshman
- Mar. 9- Regina Engler
- Mar. 16- Wendy Dorsey
- Mar. 23- Robin Getz
- Mar. 30- Gail Grimes

March Flowers

- Mar. 2- Pastor Herb & Sharon Hibshman
- Mar. 9- Brenda Good
- Mar. 16- OPEN
- Mar. 23- Betty Schriver
- Mar. 30 Gary Trautman

February Attendance

- Feb. 2- 64
- Feb. 9- 64
- Feb. 16- 62
- Feb. 23-94

March Deacon

Bob Seltzer

March Bulletins

- Mar. 2- Pastor Herb & Sharon Hibshman
- Mar. 9- Brenda Good
- Mar. 16- OPEN
- Mar. 23- Betty Schriver
- Mar. 30- OPEN

March Coffee Hosts

- Mar. 2- Priscilla Rentschler
- Mar. 9- Priscilla Rentschler
- Mar. 16- Priscilla Rentschler
- Mar. 23- Priscilla Rentschler
- Mar. 30 Priscilla Rentschler

March Acolytes

- Mar. 2- Noah Gingrich
- Mar. 9- Nick Benfer
- Mar. 16- Andrew Eberhart
- Mar. 23- Kayla Benfer
- Mar. 30 - Jason Eberhart

SPONSORS NEEDED:

We are in need of Sponsors for:

Flowers: March 16th; April 13th & May 11th

Bulletins: March 16; April 13th & May 11th.

Sign Up sheets are in the Social Hall

Christian Education Corner by Angie Michael

There were about 30 people in attendance for last month's bowling party organized by Melissa Seltzer. Everyone had a great time and we hope to bring back the bowling party again next year!

The fundraising committee is bringing back the Pot Pie Supper on March 29. This will serve as a service oriented youth event, and all youth (young and older) are encouraged to come out to help with the dinner.

For Easter we are planning a Backward Easter Egg Hunt and Prayer Station Event. This will be an intergenerational program for children and adults and I encourage everyone to spread the word and perhaps bring a friend or a neighbor. More details will be shared regarding this event in the next newsletter.

Please note that this month's Christian Education Committee meeting will be held on March 9.

St. John's Fellowship by Ginny Knapp

We've had a long vacation; now it's time to get back to work!

Planning for the Spring Flea Market and Bake Sale will be necessary and other Spring activities. We need your help to keep the fellowship active and available for the work of the church.

Why not resolve to start the new year with being an active member of the Fellowship. We really need your help! Will we see you on March 18th.

Letter received from the Jonestown Outreach Pantry

Dear Members,

The JOY Pantry relies on donations to continue its mission of feeding the less fortunate in the northern part of Lebanon County.

Your donation of 68 pounds of food will bless many families in this area.

While there is an urgency in our community to help people in need of food, we are grateful for your support.

THANK YOU!

IT'S BACK!
CHICKEN Pot-Pie Supper
We can not wait
All you can eat Chicken Pot-Pie supper will be
making a stop on Saturday, March 29th from
4:00 PM – 7:00 PM.
Adults \$7.00 Children (under 12) \$5.00.
More details coming.

MUSIC AND WORSHIP NEWS by Louise Walmer

Musical Offerings – March 2014

March Choir Anthems and Special Music

March 2	Sr. Choir	<i>“Yes, He Did”</i>	Words by J. Paul Williams / Music by Lloyd Larson
March 5 – Ash Wednesday		<i>“Remember, Remember Me”</i>	Words and music by Jack Schrader
March 9	Solo by Robin Getz	<i>“Amazing Grace”</i>	the Hymn tune
March 16	Hand Bells		
March 23	Sr. Choir	<i>“He Hideth My Soul”</i>	Arranged by Brad Nix
March 30	Wike and Emery Family	<i>“How Long Has It Been”</i>	by Mosie Lister

Senior Choir

Choir members please note: There will be **no choir rehearsal** on Wednesday, March 5th, due to the Ash Wednesday worship service. And there will be **no choir rehearsal** on Wednesday, March 9th.

The Choral Benediction on March 2nd is “Go in His Name”, by David Gormong and arranged by John Coates. Beginning March 9th our Choral Benediction will be, “God Be With You”

Music and Worship

The Music and Worship Committee had to cancel its February 3rd meeting due to inclement weather, (I hesitate to use the word snow because everyone is so tired of hearing and reading about snow and zero temperatures.) We were able to get together and have our meeting on Monday, February 10th. Robin Getz led our devotion time with the scripture reading from Isaiah 26:1-21 and the theme of, Just a Simple Song.

The main item on our Agenda was our Lenten worship. Ash Wednesday begins on March 5th with a worship service at St. John’s with our sister churches, St. John’s Lutheran and Zoar’s at Mt. Zion. Louise will contact the Lutheran organist and invite their choirs to join ours for a joint choir anthem for that evening. Priscilla Rentschler will be contacted to request that The Fellowship will be responsible for refreshments after the service.

Enhancing our worship space was discussed. Pastor Herb provided us with his focus scripture and themes for the Lenten season. Watch for things that will be placed on Communion Table beginning on Sunday, March 9th. The items will have significance for the Pastor’s message for that day.

We agreed with Pastor Herb to try a different evening and a different format for our Mid-Week Lenten Devotions as described in Pastor Herb’s article in his issue of the Voice. There is a signup sheet on the bulletin board for anyone or two who are willing to provide the soup and sandwich for a light supper before the devotion time.

The Altar Cloths will be changed from green to white for Sunday, March 2 as we celebrate Transfiguration Sunday. Then the cloths will be changed to purple for the 40 day Lenten season beginning on Ash Wednesday.

The next meeting of our Music and Worship Committee is scheduled for Monday, April 7 at 7pm. Sharon Hibshman has agreed to lead our devotion time.

Music Ministry Donations by Louise Walmer

I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge 2 unexpected donations that we recently received for our Music Ministry here at St. John's.

In early February, Wendy Dorsey, Gary Trautman and I participated in the funeral service for the late Robert Mowery. It was a simple and easy act of kindness to go to the funeral and sing Mr. Mowery's favorite hymn, "Amazing Grace". The Mowery family was so grateful and touched that they sent a \$100 check for our church's music ministry with their thank you note to us.

On Sunday, February 16th a brass quartet under the leadership of Pam Emery accompanied the Sr. Choir in our rousing anthem, "Foundations of Faith". The purchase of the orchestration for the brass ensemble was purchased and donated to us by Pam's husband, Gary. Thank you so very much, Gary.

On Sunday, February 9, Pastor Herb had a salt shaker and a light bulb on the table in front of the church as a visual illustration of his sermon. The Music and Worship Committee decided that visual sermon illustrations would be a good thing to do during the Lenten Season, so keep your eyes as well as your ears open during Lent.

While Wednesday is normally considered the day to have special services during Lent, Pastor Herb asked the Music and Worship Committee to change that to Thursday for this year. So, on Thursday, March 13, 20, and 27 at 6:30 pm in the social hall, you are invited, along with everyone else that you invite, to gather for soup and a sandwich and a short Lenten devotion. If you would be willing to provide the soup and sandwiches, please see the sign up sheet on the bulletin board in the social hall.

KEY INVENTORY by Joe Ditzler

Did you know that March is KEY INVENTORY MONTH at St John's? Probably not....so let me explain. Last year consistory worked on establishing a key control policy. Exterior door locks to the church building had recently been changed and to help maintain building security a policy was discussed. It was determined that in our situation a strict limitation on the number of keys is not practical. So while some controls may be needed, keys will continue to be issued to members as needed. It was decided that a yearly inventory of keys should be done to keep a current list of who has a key. I'd like to do this inventory during the month of March. It will be an easy process. If you are on the list as having a church key, I will contact you to verify that you still have the key and to verify the key number. This same verification will be made with any businesses or groups that use or have access to the building. So I may be asking you about a key that you have. Please understand the reason is to conduct this inventory so we can keep our records current. Thanks for your cooperation with this.

BUDGET & STEWARDSHIP By Neal Grimes

The first report for 2014 is listed below for the month of January. Our committee will be holding a meeting on Thursday, February 20th to review and discuss the activity that has occurred to-date. An audit of the books for 2013 is currently underway and should be completed by the end of the month.

JANUARY	INCOME
WEEKLY OFFERINGS (4WEEKS)	\$ 6,794.00
DEFRAY COST OF ENVELOPES	223.00
BULLETINS	10.00
JOINT MEN'S & WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP	-0-
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION	-0-
FUNDRAISING	56.00
SPECIAL SERVICES	-0-
SOCIAL HALL RENTALS/MISC	55.00
INTEREST	2.16
TOTAL INCOME FOR JANUARY	\$ 7,140.16
EXPENSES	\$ 5,862.21
NET INCOME/(LOSS)	\$ 1,277.95

Our budget for weekly offerings \$2,300. For January we averaged \$1,698.50.

But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to offer so willingly as this? For all things come from you, and of your own we have given you.

I Chronicles 29:14 NKJV

March 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 Lasagna Lunch following worship	3	4 Office Hours - 9AM—3 PM	5 Ash Wednesday Office Hours -9AM—3 PM Bible Study—Noon No Choir Practice Worship 7:00 PM With St. John's Lutheran & Zoar Luthern Churches at St. John's UCC	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 Christian Ed Meeting following Worship	10	11 Office Hours - 9AM—3 PM	12 Office Hours - 9AM—3 PM Bible Study—Noon No Choir Practice	13 Office Hours -9AM—3 PM <i>Soup and Sandwich Len- ten Study in the Social Hall at 6:30 PM</i>	14 Little Learners 9 AM—11 PM	15
16 Devotions at 9 AM Followed by Christian Connection 10:30am Worship	17	18 Office Hours - 9AM—3 PM 7PM—Fellowship Meeting	19 Office Hours - 9AM—3 PM Bible Study—Noon 7PM Choir Practice	20 Office Hours -9AM—3 PM <i>Soup and Sandwich Len- ten Study in the Social Hall at 6:30 PM</i>	21	22
23 Devotions at 9 AM Followed by Christian Connection 10:30am Worship Deacon Fund Sunday Dine & Donate Sunday	24	25 Office Hours - 9AM—3 PM	26 Office Hours - 9AM—3 PM Bible Study—Noon 7Pm Choir Practice	27 Office Hours -9AM—3 PM <i>Soup and Sandwich Len- ten Study in the Social Hall at 6:30 PM</i>	28 Little Learners 9 AM—11 PM	29 Pot Pie Dinner 4PM—7PM
30 Devotions at 9 AM Followed by Christian Connection 10:30am Worship	31 Office Hours - 9AM—3 PM 7PM Consistory Meeting					

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Church Phone # 717-865-7222
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