

# St. John's United Church of Christ

## *The VOICE*

January 2014



### The Baptism of Jesus

prepared and shared by R. Getz

The **Baptism of Jesus** simultaneously marks the inauguration of Jesus' earthly ministry as well as marking the beginning of the decline of John the Baptist's ministry.

Many in Israel wondered if John might be the Messiah. Yet the last prophet declares with assurance that he is not even worthy to untie the laces of the Messiah's sandals (Matthew 3:11). John, the official herald of the coming king, was waiting for the Christ to be revealed. The baptism of Jesus fulfills that need as the Messiah is identified to John by a special Theophany of the Holy Spirit. It is this identification which enables the Baptist to complete his task as herald (John 1:29-34). But the herald must wait his turn to announce the king's arrival; the first public announcement is made by God the Father himself.

Here at his baptism the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus is first prefigured. It is here at his baptism that the perfect one intentionally identifies himself with repentant sinners, and demonstrates his full humility. It is at his baptism where the redemptive ministry of Jesus

Christ begins.

Each gospel contains an analogous passage which serves to clarify certain aspects of the Matthew narrative. Mark 1:9-11 identifies the geographic origin of Jesus more accurately as Nazareth. Luke 3:21-22 informs us that Jesus was praying as the heavens were opened, and further clarifies that the Holy Spirit which descended on Jesus was in the bodily form of a dove rather than simply flying down the way a dove would. Both Mark and Luke have the heavenly voice speaking directly to Jesus as in, "you are my beloved son..." which raises significant questions concerning Matthew's purpose in changing it. John's addition to the baptismal story (John 1:31-34) is more contextual in nature. It is from John 1:32 that we discover the baptizer did not know for certain that Jesus was the Messiah until after he saw the dove come upon him. Therefore there was something else about the nature and character of Jesus which caused John to seek baptism from his cousin. These collective hints, together with Matthew's account combine to display and explain the baptism of Jesus Christ.

**Biblical accounts:** And this was his John the Baptist message: "After me will come one more powerful than I, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. As [Jesus](#) was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased." At once the Spirit sent him out into the desert, and he was in the desert forty days, being tempted by [Satan](#). He was with the wild animals, and angels attended him. - Mark 1:7-13, Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. But John tried to deter him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" Jesus replied, "Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness." Then John consented. As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased." - Matt. 3:13-17,

# JANUARY WORSHIP

Sunday, January 5 – Second Sunday After Christmas

Jeremiah 31:7-14

Psalms 147:12-20

Ephesians 1:3-14

John 1:1-18



Monday, January 6 – Epiphany

Isaiah 60:1-6

Psalms 72:1-7, 10-14

Ephesians 3:1-12

Matthew 2:1-12

Sunday, January 12 – The Baptism of Christ Sunday

Isaiah 42:1-9

Psalms 29

Acts 10:34-43

Matthew 3:13-17

Sunday, January 19 – Second Sunday After Epiphany

Isaiah 49:1-7

Psalms 40:1-11

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

John 1:29-42

Sunday, January 26 – Third Sunday After Epiphany

Isaiah 9:1-4

Psalms 27:1, 4-9

1 Corinthians 1:10-18

Matthew 4:12-23

## Youth Event-Open to Everyone!!

**HERSHEY BEARS GAME**

**Saturday, January 18, 2014**

**at 7:00pm**

**We will meet at the church at 5:45pm. Admission for youths will be paid.**

**The cost of an adult ticket is \$21.50. There is also a parking fee \$12.00.**

## Consistory News by Robin Getz

As of this writing, I can inform you that we will be meeting on the 30<sup>th</sup> of December. That will be the last official duties of our members who will be leaving consistory. We have been blessed with the work of Jean Ann Grimes, Jerry Mohn and Missy Seltzer. They have been very diligent and contentious of all of the decisions that have been necessary on behalf of our members. Please take a moment or two to thank them for their unselfish service when you see them. They have been very faithful servants.

I will again repeat that we will always be thankful to all who decide to share their time and talents not only in the name of your church but by doing the work that God has called all of us to do. We are thankful to Walter Bolles, Missy Daub and Terry Knapp for agreeing to serve as Elders. We are also thankful for Connie Martin, Bob Seltzer and Pat Ziegler for agreeing to join us as Deacons in 2014.

We will be working on pulling together the annual Congregational Celebration in January with a pot-luck luncheon following our Sunday Worship. Keep an eye on the bulletin for that information as soon as it is finalized. When the January meeting takes place, we will then have our new members sit at the table for the first time, beginning their official duties to the positions in which they were placed, and we will have had elections for the next members who will lead consistory.

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.

## *St. John's Fellowship News,* By Ginny Knapp

Members of St. John's Fellowship and their guests enjoyed an evening of Christmas cheer as we dined together at Farmer's Wife Restaurant. Twenty were in attendance.

Louise Walmer conducted a game session. Prizes were awarded to Robin Getz, word scramble, Ginny Knapp, word search and Wendy Dorsey identifying the last line of the Christmas hymns.

Table centerpieces were given to Kass Myers, Joe Miller, Violet Leibensperger, Barb Miller, Arlene Walmer, Jerry Mohn, Madelyn Fegan, Gerald Rudy and Neal Grimes. Gail Grimes decorated the tables with Christmas figures and candles.

Although we were few in number, we had lots of good humor. Good food, good fun, good fellowship. Won't you come and join us? Our next meeting is Tuesday, March 18th at 7:00 PM. Hope to see YOU there!

## January Celebrations

### Happy Birthday to:

2 Arianne Reigle	11 Cynda Kless	26 Regina Engler
3 Glenn Noll	15 Jason Eberhart	26 Karen Light
5 Barb Trainor	15 Loretta Lutz	27 Pastor Herbert
6 Dianne Rhoads	16 Arlene Henderson	Hibshman, Jr.
8 Bobby Lutz	18 Mike Rudy	28 Rosanne Bolles
8 Mary Jane Bender	20 Connie Martin	28 Rodney Boltz
10 Stephanie Shutter	24 Chase Mease	

### Happy Anniversary to:

16 Karen & Jim Davis  
29 Dena and Phil Eberhart

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

# Sunday Worship Volunteers, Thank You!

#### January Readers

Jan. 5- Wendy Dorsey  
Jan. 12- Robin Getz  
Jan. 19- Gail Grimes  
Jan. 26- Charlene Ziegler

#### January Flowers

Jan. 5- OPEN  
Jan. 12- Dena Eberhart  
Jan. 19- Pam Emery &  
Nancy Frantz  
Jan. 26- Karen & Richard  
Light

#### December Attendance

Dec. 1- 68  
Dec. 8- 51  
Dec. 15- 39  
Dec. 22- 95  
Dec. 24- 81 (7:00 PM)  
24- 28 (11:00 PM)  
Dec. 29- 58

#### January Bulletins

Jan. 5- OPEN  
Jan. 12- Dena Eberhart  
Jan. 19- OPEN  
Jan. 26- Karen & Richard  
Light

#### January Coffee Hosts

Jan. 5- Jean Ann Grimes  
Jan. 12- Jean Ann Grimes  
Jan. 19- Jean Ann Grimes  
Jan. 26- Jean Ann Grimes

#### January Deacon

Mark Tyrpin



*Thank you for supporting the JCY Pantry with your generous donation of: 173 pounds of food in October & 52 pounds of food in November.*

*The goal of the JCY Pantry is to treat our clients with respect by allowing them to choose a variety of healthy foods. Your donation allows this selection.*

*We opened our doors in September 2011, providing 9 households with food. We have been averaging 115 households every month. Your continuous support is vital for this growing ministry.*

*The volunteers at the JCY Pantry thank you for your support of our community pantry. The smiles on our client's faces as they leave the pantry with bags full of food remind us of the importance of this ministry.*

*Together we can make a difference!*

*The JCY Pantry*

*Thank You!*

*I want to thank everyone for their Christmas cards and gifts.  
I appreciate your thoughtfulness.*

*Wishing all of you a very Happy New Year!*

*Donna J. Eberly-Lehman*

**Attention Christian Education Members:** To accommodate the Congregation Celebration Potluck after worship on January 19, 2014, the Christian Education Committee will meet Sunday, January 12, 2014, following worship. Sorry for this inconvenience, but please mark your calendars. It's important that we meet in January since we did not meet in December. Thank you and see you then! Sincerely, Angie Michael

## MUSIC AND WORSHIP NEWS by Louise Walmer

### Musical Offerings – January 2014

- January 5 -** Senior. Choir singing: “Ring the Bells”  
Words and Music by Harry Bollback; arranged by Joseph H. Martin
- January 12 -** Denise Voshell “Mary, Did You Know?”
- January 19 -** Senior. Choir singing: “I then Shall Live”  
Words by Gloria Gaither; tune “Finlandia” by Jean Sibelius;  
Choral Setting by Lloyd Larson
- January 26 -** Hand Bells

### *Thank You!*

The Music and Worship Committee would like to thank all who participated in our Advent Wreath Candle Lighting for 2013.

Dec. 1 – The Hope Candle	Pam Emery and Nancy Frantz
Dec. 8 – The Peace Candle	The Scott Benfer Family
Dec. 15 – The Love Candle	Andrew and Jason Eberhart
Dec. 22 - The Joy Candle	Missy and Amber Daub
Dec. 24 – The Christ Candle	Loretta Lutz and Noah Gingrich

### **New Calendars .... Reserve the Date Now**

It's 2014. Everyone has their new calendar and I bet you are ready to add something to it.

Please open it to the month of July. And reserve the date of **Friday, July 25, 2014.**

The Music and Worship Committee will be sponsoring a **Christmas In July** event that Friday evening. Once you've reserved that date, look in future issues of The Voice and the Sunday morning bulletins for more information on this event as it becomes available.

### **Music and Worship Committee**

Our committee met on Mon., Dec. 2. Louise led devotions. Several Advent Wreath Candle Lighting volunteers are still needed. Louise and Pastor Herb will make some contacts.

Draft bulletins for Sunday Dec. 22, and both the 7pm and 11pm Christmas Eve Services were reviewed. Suggestions were made and the hymns were selected. Ideas for an informal morning worship service for Dec. 29 were discussed.

Our summer morning worship time was discussed. The Committee decided to send a letter to the Consistory expressing our unanimous recommendation concerning this matter.

Our next meeting, our 1<sup>st</sup> for 2014, will be on Monday, Feb. 3 at 7PM. Robin Getz volunteered to lead our devotion time.

## ***KIDS SAY THE DARNDEST THINGS***

A Sunday school teacher asked her class, "What was Jesus' mother's name?"  
One child answered, "Mary."

The teacher then asked, "Who knows what Jesus' father's name was?"  
A little kid said, "Verge."

Confused, the teacher asked, "Where did you get that?"  
The kid said, "Well, you know they are always talking about Verge n' Mary."



3-year-old, Reese:  
"Our Father, Who does art in heaven, Harold is His name.  
Amen."



A little boy was overheard praying:  
"Lord, if you can't make me a better boy, don't worry about it.  
I'm having a real good time like I am."



A Sunday school class was studying the Ten Commandments.  
The teacher asked if anyone could tell her what the last one was.

Susie raised her hand, stood tall, and quoted,  
"Thou shall not take the covers off the neighbor's wife."



After the christening of his baby brother in church,  
Jason sobbed all the way home in the back seat of the car.  
His father asked him three times what was wrong.

Finally, the boy replied,  
"That preacher said he wanted us brought up in a Christian home,  
and I wanted to stay with you guys."

## BUDGET & STEWARDSHIP By Neal Grimes

The proposed 2014 budget was presented to the congregation at our annual meeting and was approved. It has a 01% increase over the 2013 budget.

This report shows the November and year-to-date totals.

November	Income	Y.T.D.
WEEKLY OFFERINGS (4 WEEKS)	\$ 7,692.01	\$ 98,181.54
DEFRAY COST OF ENVELOPES	-0-	197.00
BULLETINS	40.00	340.00
JOINT MENS & WOMENS FELLOWSHIP	-0-	2,500.00
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION	116.40	505.00
FUNDRAISING	365.40	1,928.94
SPECIAL SERVICES	-0-	315.00
SOCIAL HALL RENTALS/MISC	10.00	312.65
INTEREST	1.63	16.36
 TOTAL INCOME FOR NOVEMBER	 \$ 8,225.44	 \$104,296.49
EXPENSES	\$ 6,423.62	\$ 81,475.07
NET INCOME/(LOSS)	\$ 1,801.82	\$ 22,821.42

Our budget for weekly offerings \$2,300. to-date we are averaging \$2,088.96.

There is one who scatters, yet increases more; and there is one who withholds more than is right, but it leads to poverty. The generous soul will be rich, and he who waters will also be watered himself.

Proverbs 11:24-25 NKJV



# January 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 	2 Church Office Hours—9:00 AM—3:00 PM	3 Church Office Hours—9:00 AM—3:00 PM	4
5 Devotions at 9 AM Followed by Christian Connection 10:30am Worship (Communion) Helen Walmer Memorial Fund	6	7 Church Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00 PM	8 Church Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00 PM  Bible Study— Noon 7:00 PM Choir Practice	9 Church Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00 PM	10 Deadline for Annual Reports	11
12 Devotions at 9 AM Followed by Christian Connection 10:30am Worship JOY Pantry Sunday Christian Ed Meeting following Worship	13	14 Church Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00 PM	15 Church Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00 PM  Bible Study— Noon 7:00 PM Choir Practice	16 Church Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00 PM	17 DEADLINE FOR THE VOICE	18
19 Devotions at 9 AM Followed by Christian Connection 10:30am Worship January Celebration following Worship	20	21 Church Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00 PM	22 Church Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00 PM  NO Bible Study  7:00 PM Choir Practice	23 Church Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00 PM	24 9:00 -11:00 AM Little Learners	25
26 Devotions at 9 AM Followed by Christian Connection 10:30am Worship Deacon Fund Sunday Dine & Donate Sunday	27 Church Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00 PM  6:00 PM Consistory Welcome	28	29 Church Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00 PM  Bible Study— Noon 7:00 PM Choir Practice	30 Church Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00 PM	31 9:00 -11:00 AM Little Learners	

## St. John's United Church of Christ

141 W. Main Street P.O. Box 87  
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Website: [www.stjohnsuccfburg.org](http://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

Robin Getz, President  
Wendy Dorsey, Vice President  
Melissa Seltzer, Secretary  
Walter Bolles, Treasurer

### Elders

Joe Ditzler  
Wendy Dorsey  
Robin Getz  
Jean Ann Grimes  
Jerry Mohn  
Melissa Seltzer

### Deacons

Walter Bolles  
Missy Daub  
Robin Gingrich  
Terry Knapp  
Angela Michael  
Mark Tyrpin