

ST. JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

January/February 2017

THE VOICE PASTOR TONY'S MESSAGE DEFENSE WINS CHAMPIONSHIPS!

As we live in times of certainty we forget that the church is still a vital part of our society. We worry more about Jesus in the four walls than Jesus is revealing to us that work is needed beyond our sacred grips.

Prayer:

The holiday is over but the work of Christmas is just beginning. Guide us, loving God, as we follow in the footsteps of the one whose birth we celebrate. Grant us the grace to order our lives so that others might know that we have knelt in Bethlehem and worshiped the newborn king. On the threshold of this New Year, let us remember to follow the star instead of the crowd. If we lose our way, help us to remember, O God, the angel songs and the gift born to us in the darkness of night and in the depth of winter that we might have life and have it abundantly.

As the light from the star guided the wise men of old, O God, so might your love shine from within us to encircle and embrace all those who have lost their way. Nowhere is the spirit of Christmas more radiantly present than in the simple faith of a child. We claim that faith as our own in the name of the Christ child, born to us this holy season.

The holiday is over but the work of Christmas is just beginning. Let it begin with us as we pray with gratitude the prayer of the one who calls us to new life, Jesus the Christ, who taught us to say when we pray togetherThe Lord's Prayer.

During Advent, in one study the question was asked, "As Christians, do we dream?" Or do we find ourselves singing the beautiful song of Doris Day, Que Sera Sera... Whatever Will Be, Will Be, the future's not ours to see? Although I love the melody of this song I must disagree with songstress Doris Day.

It's 2017 and we were reminded once again with the promises of Emmanuel who is with us. As we remembered our baptism, we are privilege to hear in the conversation of God and Jesus. And even John's announcement was different this time, especially as the Holy Spirit seals God's approval by a dove descending on Jesus. We should forever remember that we too are sealed through baptism.

Hans Urs Von Balthasar stated, "The church does not dispense the sacrament of baptism in order to acquire for herself an increase in membership but in order to consecrate a human being to God and communicate to that person the divine gift of birth from God." We are in the business of equipping people to live as disciples of Jesus. In 2017 not only others but also we may remind ourselves of these 6 things: grow in our relationship with God, live as Christ disciples, develop an understanding of the bible, and deepen our spiritual life practices, continual engaging in service locally and mission around the world, and especially participate in the life and ministries of our community.

My daughter Mariam often suggests movies for me to see. This time she asked me to watch the movie Carter High. And I must say the ending was surprising. However, the coach emphasizes defense wins championships. And as a previous cornerback and strong safety, I agree. Do not be surprised; I used to run a 4.5 seconds forty yards dash although it will take me about 2 minutes now (smile).

The coach later explained why defense wins championships. He stated, "It is a mindset. As a man thinketh in his heart so is he." You can only defend something that you already possess. So, the more the team believes they are already champions, they have already won in their mind. And now have something to defend. Hence, defense wins championships. (Carter High)

Therefore was not Christmas about God intervening in human history? God incarnate is with us. We can not do it all. However we can do something here at 141 West Main Street. We can do something and if we do it together with God on our side while reminding ourselves of the seal of baptism. Now just think of the great wonder God IS.....

January—February 2017

.CONSISTORY REPORT by Brenda Good, President

We have had a very busy November and December.

The Pot Pie Dinner held in November was a success although we will be going back to having our dinners family style on the table in the future. By the way, we will be having another Pot Pie Dinner in March.

We then went into getting ready for the Northern Lebanon High School Band Parents Christmas Bazaar. Since our gift baskets were a hit at National Night Out, we decided to do them for the Bazaar. We made approximately 20 gift baskets and about 20 wreaths. The Bazaar was a great success. We are planning on participating in the 2017 Christmas Bazaar.

We have all of our Deacons and Elders for 2017 in place.

I have appointed the Consistory to serve as the fundraising committee.

ST. JOHNS FELLOWSHIP, by Ginny Knapp

Good food, good fun, good fellowship was evident at the Christmas Dinner of St. John's Fellowship. The dinner was held at Heisey's Restaurant. Twenty-two members and guests attended.

Priscilla Rentschler, president, and Violet Leibensperger challenged us with some holiday games. Madelyn Fegan had the winning number for the scrambled Christmas letter game. Robin Gingrich won the prize for drawing a tree on a plate. The plate was on her head! Door prizes and gift bags ere distributed.

The Fellowship will not meet in January and February. Our next meeting will be Tuesday, March 21st at 7:00PM. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend this meeting. We need your help to keep the organization going in the right direction.

CONSISTORY OFFICERS FOR 2017

St. John's Consistory officers for 2017 elected at the Jan. 30th meeting are:

President – Julie Ditzler

Vice President – Keith Gingrich

Secretary – Louise Walmer

Treasurer – Walter Bolles

January—February 2017

JANUARY WORSHIP NEWS



Sunday, January 1, 2017

New Year's Day

Ecclesiastes 3: 1-13

Psalms 8

Revelation 21: 1-6a

Matthew 25:31-46

Sunday, January 8, 2017

First Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 42: 1-9

Psalms 29

Acts 10:34-43

Matthew 3: 13-27

Sunday, January 15, 2017

Second Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 49: 1-7

Psalms 40: 1-11

I Corinthians 1: 1-9

John 1:29-42

Sunday, January 22, 2017

Third Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 9:1-4

Psalms 27: 1, 4-9

I Corinthians 1: 10-18

Matthew 4: 12-23

Sunday, January 29, 2017

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Micah 6:1-8

Psalms 15

I Corinthians 1: 18-31

Matthew 5: 1-12

FEBRUARY WORSHIP NEWS

Sunday, February 5, 2017

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 58: 1-9-12

Psalms 112: 1-10

I Corinthians 2: 1-16

Matthew 5: 13-20

Sunday, February 12, 2017

Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

Deuteronomy 30: 15-20

Psalms 119: 1-8

I Corinthians 3:1-9

Matthew 5: 21-37

Sunday, February 19, 2017

Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

Leviticus 19: 1-2, 9-18

Psalms 119: 33-40

I Corinthians 3: 10-11, 16-23

Matthew 5: 38-48

Sunday, February 26, 2017

Last Sunday after Epiphany/Transfiguration

Exodus 24: 12-18

Psalms 2

2 Peter 1: 16-21

Matthew 17: 1-9

JANUARY CELEBRATION

Happy Birthday to:

2 Arianne Reigle

3 Glenn Noll

5 Barb Trainor

8 Mary Jane Bender

10 Stephanie Shutter

11 Cynda Kless

15 Jason Eberhart

16 Arlene Henderson

18 Mike Rudy

24 Chase Mease

26 Regina Engler

26 Karen Light

27 Pastor Herbert

Hibshman, Jr.

28 Rosanne Bolles

28 Rodney Boltz

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. Thank You.

Sunday Worship Volunteers, Thank You!

January Readers

Jan. 1- Charlene Ziegler

Jan. 8- Paul Smith

Jan. 15- Pam Emery

Jan. 22- Neal Grimes

Jan. 29- Youth Sunday

January Flowers

Jan. 1- OPEN

Jan. 8- OPEN

Jan. 15- Elizabeth Overton

Jan. 22- OPEN

Jan. 29- Walter Bolles

December Attendance

Dec. 4- 45

Dec. 11- 48

Dec. 18- 43

Dec. 24- 38

Dec. 25 - 38

January Bulletins

Jan. 1- OPEN

Jan. 8- OPEN

Jan. 15- Elizabeth Overton

Jan. 22- OPEN

Jan. 29- Walter Bolles

January Coffee Host

Jan. 1- Jean Ann Grimes

Jan. 8- Jean Ann Grimes

Jan. 15- Jean Ann Grimes

Jan. 22- Jean Ann Grimes

Jan. 29- Jean Ann Grimes

January Deacon

Brenda Good



FEBRUARY CELEBRATION

Happy Birthday to:

1 Brianna Nace
1 Alison Long
4 John Kless
6 Shirley Fortna
7 Jordan Oskam
9 Lori Marinkov
11 Shirley Rudy
12 Jay Losiewicz

13 Linda Nace
15 Madelyn Fegan
15 Cindy Michael
16 Jim Davis Sr.
16 Donnette Quairol
17 Tiffany Nace
21 Charlene Ziegler
22 Becky Griffiths

23 Joe Ditzler
23 Andrew Eberhart
23 Roger Myers
24 Shane Boltz
24 Kim Kapp
25 Pamela Myers
27 Dawn Losiewicz

Happy Anniversary to:

6 Cathy & Chris Rentschler

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

Sunday Worship Volunteers, Thank You!

February Readers

Feb. 5- Louise Walmer
Feb. 12- Robin Getz
Feb. 19- Wendy Dorsey
Feb. 26- Keith Gingrich

February Flowers

Feb. 5- Open
Feb. 12- Brenda Good
Feb. 19- Open
Feb. 26 Open

February Deacon

Scott Benfer

February Bulletins

Feb. 5- Kathryn Myers
Feb. 12- Brenda Good
Feb. 19- Open
Feb. 26- Open

February Coffee Host

Feb. 5- Pat Ziegler
Feb. 12- Pat Ziegler
Feb. 19- Pat Ziegler
Feb. 26 Pat Ziegler

SPONSORS NEEDED:

Flowers: Feb. 19,& 26
Mar. 5, 12 & 19
Bulletins: Feb. 19 & 26
Mar. 5, 12, & 19
Coffee Hosts: Month of
April



FUND RAISING EVENTS

The Fund Raising Committee recently met to begin planning events for 2017. It is hoped that these events will raise the \$6000 pledged in our 2017 approved budget. The Committee can't do it alone. Please consider supporting and/or volunteering to help at these events. Together we can reach the goal.

February -	Homemade Chicken Noodle Soup Sale on Fri., Feb. 17
March -	Pancake, Sausage, and Scrambled Egg Breakfast, on Sat., 11
April -	Chicken BBQ
June -	Golf Outing
September -	Chicken BBQ
October -	Pot Pie Supper on Sat., Oct. 7
November -	Gift Baskets and Wreaths at the NL Band Parents Bazaar

THANK YOU!

Dear St. John's.

Thank you for your prayers, cards and continued tender, loving care shown to me during these past difficult months. Your support during Richard's battle with lung cancer, his passing in April and now my recent surgery for an aortic valve replacement and pacemaker implant are greatly appreciated.

Wishing you blessings in the New Year.

Karen R. Light
206 Creek Drive
Lebanon PA 17042-8714
717-277-5190

ASH WEDNESDAY AND LENT BIBLE STUDIES

We will be celebrating Ash Wednesday with our sister church. Mt Zion Lutheran. Join us as we worship together.

Our Lenten Bible Study series is on Creed... What Christians Believe and Why. We will be exploring the Apostles' Creed, this historic statement of foundational Christian faith.

We recite this every Sunday and hope that you will join us during our Lenten season. My hope that even as we hear about our world conditions Christ will continue to be illuminated in our hearts. May these words jump off the pages as it has the power to motivate us to action, sacrifice, and service. The darkness of the world is the right time for ministry.

Sr. Choir by Louise Walmer Sr. Choir

The Sr. Choir will rehearse every Wed. evening at 7pm in February.

Our anthems for the month are:

Feb. 5 - Sr. Choir singing, "God Is So Good", including Hand Bells to be played by Robin Gingrich and Jason Eberhart.

Feb. 12 -

Feb. 19 - Sr. Choir Singing, "Open the Eyes of My Heart"

Feb. 26 - The Hand Bells will provide the special music.

We are in need of someone or a group to provide special music on Feb. 12

Financial Report by Neal Grimes BUDGET & STEWARDSHIP REPORT

Financial update for St. John's as of 11/30/16. Another encouraging report as the weekly offerings have increased steadily beginning in October. Thank you to everyone who has made this possible.

November, 2016	Income	Y.T.D.
Weekly Offerings (4 weeks)	\$ 7,961.00	\$ 84,111.75
Defray Cost of Envelopes		191.00
Bulletins	20.00	245.00
Joint Men's & Women's Fellowship	1,500.00	3,500.00
Fundraisers	2,742.00	2,847.00
Special Services		361.70
Social Hall Rentals/Misc.	15.00	266.00
Interest	.92	14.31
Missions		267.00
Thank Offering	374.52*	374.52*
Potato Bar Fundraiser	275.00*	275.00*
Total Income for November	\$ 12,888.84	\$ 91,803.76
Expenses November & Y.T.D	\$ 9,440.29	\$102,559.87
Net Income / (Loss)	\$ 3,448.15	\$ (10,756.11)

*Special Thank Offering and Potato Bar Donations were credited to the Joint Fellowship and Sr. Choir Accounts.

Our Budget for Weekly Offerings is \$1,923. In November the average was \$1,945.

JANUARY CONSISTORY REPORT by Julie Ditzler, President

I was elected the new president of the Consistory last evening at our January meeting. I look forward to the year ahead and the opportunities we will have to grow together as a church family. I have some specific ideas about ways I would like to make that happen, but I will save them for a time when I have them fully developed and approved by my fellow church leaders. An overall goal I have is to challenge each of you to be **actively engaged** in the life of St. John's as we encourage each other in our faith and work together to increase our church's active presence in the Fredericksburg community.

I would like to take a moment here to formally thank my predecessor, Brenda Good, for her service to the Consistory and to the church this year. I cannot imagine how difficult it was to lead a group without ever having been a member of it. We all owe her a debt of gratitude for her time and efforts, as well as those of others who ended their terms of service last evening. We have a good group to lead us in this next year, and I hope you will pray for them, and support their endeavors, as well as those of our Pastor Tony.

I was very impressed with the ideas brought forward last night for fundraising for the church. We will have a lot of events coming up, and we will keep you informed so you can help and support them. Our first one occurs this month, on **Friday, February 17**. We will have quarts (\$7) and pints (\$4) of chicken corn noodle **soup** available for sale that day, with pickup hours at the church from 2-6 p.m. What could be better for a Friday evening supper on a cold night than a bowl of soup? If you are available anytime between about noon and 6:00 that day, and would like to come and help with preparation of the soup, or filling orders, or taking money, please speak with our point person for the project, Brenda Good. We will have soup tickets available in church for you to buy and to sell to friends and family. Please help to make this project a success!

We have much to look forward to as we approach this new church year and the opportunities that come our way. Let's make the most of it!

February 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Office Hours 9:00AM-3:00PM	2 Office Hours 9:00AM-3:00PM	3	4
5 9AM Christian Connection 10:30 Worship (Communion) Helen Walmer Fund Sunday	6 7:00 PM Music & Worship Committee Meeting	7 Office Hours 9:00AM-3:00PM	8 Office Hours 9:00AM-3:00PM 7:00 PM Choir Practice	9 Office Hours 9:00AM-3:00PM	10	11
12 9AM Christian Connection 10:30 Worship JOY Pantry Sunday	13 DEADLINE FOR March- April VOICE	14 Office Hours 9:00AM-3:00PM	15 Office Hours 9:00AM-3:00PM 7:00 PM Choir Practice	16 Office Hours 9:00AM-3:00PM	17 Bake & Soup Sale 2:00PM—6:00PM	18
19 9AM Christian Connection 10:30 Worship	20	21 Office Hours 9:00AM-3:00PM Pastor Tony @ Mid Winter Convocation	22 Office Hours 9:00AM-3:00PM Pastor Tony @ Mid Winter Convocation 7:00 PM Choir Practice	23 Office Hours 9:00AM-3:00PM Pastor Tony @ Mid Winter Convocation	24	25
26 9AM Christian Connection 10:30 Worship Dine & Donate Sunday Deacon Fund Sunday Pastor Tony on Vacation	27 Office Hours 9:00AM-3:00PM Pastor Tony on Vacation 7:00 PM Consistory	28 Pastor Tony on Vacation				

ST. JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

141 W. Main Street P.O. Box 87
Fredericksburg, PA 17026

ST. JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

141 W. Main Street P.O. Box 87
Fredericksburg, PA 17026

Every Sunday
9:00 AM Christian Connection
10:30 AM 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

Rev. Tony Fields, Sr. Pastor
Mrs. Beth Ann Griffiths, Organist
Mrs. Louise Walmer, Choir Director

Consistory

Julie Ditzler, President
Keith Gingrich, Vice President
Louise Walmer, Secretary
Walter Bolles, Treasurer

Elders

Keith Gingrich
Neal Grimes
Ken Leibensperger
Bob Seltzer
Louise Walmer

Deacons

Scott Benfer
Julie Ditzler
Brenda Good
Elizabeth Overton
Elizabeth Zimmerman