

The Visitor

A monthly newsletter for
St. John's Christian Church Family and Friends

December 1, 2021 Volume 67, Number 12

Prayer Corner

Please pray for...

- ♦ Kathryn Graber and John Graber, as Kathryn entered into hospice care on November 30th.
- ♦ Paul & Joan Lovejoy, upon the death of their son, John, who died on Nov. 27th at the age of 56.
- ♦ Gretchen Heer, who is receiving therapy at Rupp Rehab following an automobile accident.
- ♦ Ann Grime, who is now home after being hospitalized for some time due to Covid.
- ♦ The family of Jack Spotts, as Jack entered into eternal glory on 11/14 at the age of 89.
- ♦ Matt Pardi, who is hospitalized in serious condition due to Covid
- ♦ Camryn Stuckey, twelve-year-old daughter of Shawn and Jenna, who dealt with illness for two weeks and was treated for an infection.
- ♦ Leah Nafziger, as she begins a time of vestibular therapy for treatment of concussion affects.
- ♦ Phyllis Swietzer, who is dealing with several health related issues, which are lengthy to explain, and is need of our prayers for many unspoken requests.
- ♦ Mike Meyer, who is in rehab at Fulton Manor following a hospitalization in Bryan.
- ♦ Brendan Bostelman, who is now home from Iraq and stationed stateside again with his wife, Malitia, in Kentucky.
- ♦ Cathy Nofziger, who continues to work through knee replacement rehab.

Prayers for protection and for the increase of peace worldwide:

- ♦ PFC Brenden Bostelman, Oak Grove, KY (Army) (Grandson of Bill & Kathy)
- ♦ Kali Collins, Washington, DC (Air Force) (Granddaughter of Nan Neill)
- ♦ Kohl Collins, Ft. Myers, VA (Army) (Grandson of Nan Neill)
- ♦ Kyle Ducey, Suffolk, VA (Navy) (Kelly & Betsy)
- ♦ Brayden Hall, Newton Falls, OH while at Kent State (OANG) (Son of Vond & Mary)
- ♦ MAJ Jared Kuntz, Washington, DC (Army) (Son of Keith & Kelli)
- ♦ Eric Maag, Port Clinton, OH (Coast Guard) (Son of Joe & Sheryl Short)
- ♦ Taylor Pitts, Albuquerque, NM (Air Force) (Granddaughter of Nan Neill)

- ♦ Shane Pitts, Deployed, Quatar (Air Force) (Grandson-in-law to Nan Neill)
- ♦ David Richardson, Okinawa, Japan (Marines) (Son of Shannon and Yesi)
- ♦ Joshua Richardson, Kaneohe, HI (Marines) (Son of Shannon and Yesi)
- ♦ Steve Schink, Chesterfield, MI (Coast Guard) (Son-in-law of Ed and Julie Ruffer)

Please consider sending cards to these individuals letting them know that we continue to lift them up to God in prayer; and that He will guide, comfort, and sustain them through these times:

Fairlawn Haven, 407 E. Lutz Rd., Archbold, 43502
Josephine Short, Room #405
Wayne Spiess, Room #174

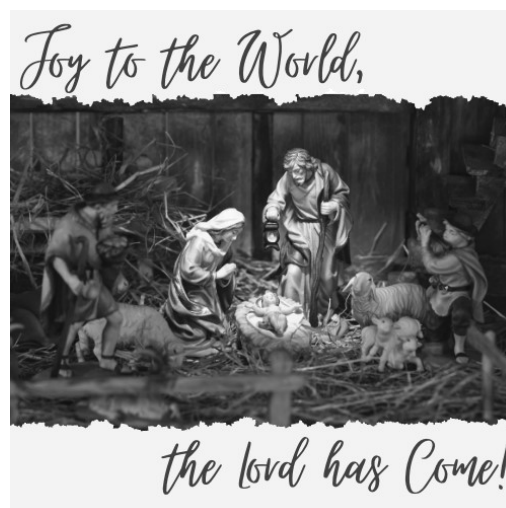
Fairlawn Assist. Living, 500 Haven Dr., Archbold, 43502
Donna Buehrer, Room #210

Independent Living, 600 Haven Dr., Archbold, 43502
Rosemarie Schmidt, Apt. #112

Fulton Manor, 723 S. Shoop Ave. Wauseon, 43567
Robert Kuntz, Room #225-2
Velma Overmier, Room #501-1
Bernice Rice, Room #224-2
Mike Meyer, rehab
Beverly Beaverson, Suite #605

SKLD, 1104 Wesley Ave., Bryan 43506
Verlene Lovejoy, Room #203B

Genacross, 1036 S. Perry St., Napoleon, 43545
Audrey Smith, Room #403



Pastor's Column

“Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.” Isaiah 7:14

The book of Isaiah was written around 700 B.C., 700 years before the virgin gave birth to a son, who would be called Immanuel. Immanuel means “God with us.” 700 years. 700 years of waiting. 700 years of prophecy. 700 years of anticipation and expectation. This length of 700 years of waiting is a point of reflection for me each Advent season, and maybe more so this year.

As the nation of Israel waited for the coming of the Messiah, the Hebrew people went through many periods of strong faith that were separated by times of weak faith. Generations of faithfulness were often followed by generations of faithlessness, all while the promise of a messiah was before them.

In the Advent season of anticipation and expectation, knowing Jesus as the Messiah, Christians look to the future for the time when Christ shall return. Christians have waited for over 2000 years for that promised return, and we continue to wait, living by faith, with great patience and perseverance. Such are my reflections in this Advent season, a needed reminder in our own day and time.

As a nation, we long for relief from a global pandemic and the associated health protocols and mandates. Yet the effects of the pandemic and the many aspects of disruption it caused continue to linger. In the church, including within St. John's, various effects continue to be felt. Several annual events have been altered or postponed. There are fewer adults volunteering and attendance in children, youth and adult ministries continues to lag behind pre-pandemic levels. People have switched churches and many have stopped attending. This is what I've read in publications about churches across the nation, including local churches and St. John's.

As I pray for wisdom and direction amidst these lingering realities, I wait with expectation. I wait in anticipation for an increase of devotion to the Lord, in a sense of renewal and restoration.

While there are many people volunteering to lead and assist with many ministries, there is always a need for more volunteers. We are in a lull in regards to our music ministry, and I await the person who will be called as the pastor of music and worship. I am grateful for the people helping to bolster our worship music ministries. We are in the annual process of nominations and I await to hear the responses of the many nominees. I continue to work at recruiting people to be trained as Stephen Leaders and Stephen Ministers, trusting that in God's timing these important programs will be revived. And the list of church administration realities goes on.

I admit I've had times of impatience and frustration, which has now been tempered once again by remembering the plight of the Israelites. 700 years of waiting. 700 years of a faithful remnant. We cannot be impatient in just a year or two, but must pray for a strong spirit of perseverance, trusting in the Lord's direction and sustenance.

May we each continue to pray, praising God for the Messiah and the promise of his return, living with hope, living in trust, living with a spirit of anticipation and expectation.

Blessings in Christ,

ERICH

Main Office—Ph. 419-446-2545
Custodian—Ph.419-551-1105

Website: www.stjohnsarchbold.org
Sunday Worship 10:30AM via YouTube Live

Ministry Happenings

LOGOS

Our Wednesday evening program for children kicked off on September 15th and continued every Wednesday evening through November 15th. Our evenings together began with sharing in meal time together prepared by our amazing cook team, led by Cathy and Vicki Nofziger. Following the meal, the 1st through 5th grade kids headed to Worship Skills. Four weeks were spent in Junior Choir and four weeks were spent in Hand Bells/Hand Chimes. The kids ended their evening in their Bible Study classrooms, where each grade concentrated on different concepts in the Bible.

On an average night, we had 25-30 children ages four through fifth grade, 10-15 JYFers, and 30 adult volunteers filling the church with energy, laughter and praise. LOGOS will start up again on January 12, 2021 with a Family Time theme of "Everyone's Birthday Night."

GIF Gals

Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise, Let us sing the songs of Christmas and tell the world of God's love.

The holiday season is upon us! The GIF Gals got together on Saturday, November 13th for our first holiday gathering as a small group. When Plan A (a cooked meal at the church) had to be postponed, Plan B was put into action! Ten ladies met at Samuel Mancino's for a fun lunch. From there, all went back to the church where we had our white elephant gift exchange with a wild game of "pass the presents." After rolling the dice and passing the beautifully wrapped gifts around the circle to the left...then to the right...then to the left... And again to the left... And then to the right again... (oh, my!), we were feeling a bit dizzy by the time we opened them! But they were all such nice gifts! We then moved to the Fireside Room for dessert and conversation.

For the month of December, some of the GIF Gals have booked a trip to Shipshewanna. Please check the church bulletins and future issues of The Visitor for 2022 GIF activities.

From the GIF Gals, we would like to wish all of our church family a happy and Blessed Christmas!

Third Thursday Luncheons with Pastor Erich

As the Fellowship Committee is hosting the annual Senior Citizen's Dinner on December 9th, the next Thursday Luncheon will be held on January 20th at 11:30am in the chapel.

Wednesday Evening Ministries - End of Year and 2022 Resumption

Senior High Programs - End of Year:

-SYF will meet on December 1st and 15th

-Life Planning will meet on December 8th

Logos - Finished for 2021:

-Will resume on January 12th for the spring semester

JYF - Finished for 2021:

-Will resume on January 12th for the spring semester.

St. John's Family Christmas Card

The second annual St. John's family Christmas card will be released this month! Please email your family's photo to the church office by December 12th, 2021. We will post the digital copy of the completed card on the church website and Facebook page during the week of Christmas.

Email: office@stjohnsarchbold.org

Couples Small Group

Couples Small Group began a marriage study titled, "Grace Filled Marriage" this past month. The next meeting is scheduled for December 12th at 6:00 p.m. in the Fireside Room. All are welcome! Please join us!



*Logos Junior Choir
rehearsal on 10/13*

Congregational News and Thank You's

Church Family:

Thank you for all of your prayers, cards, and phone calls during my recovery and healing from the stroke! And we are also so thankful for God's healing!

Tootie & Bud Beck

Dear Folks of St. John's Church and St. John's Evangelical Committee,

Well, it finally has snowed. The field outside was covered with a blanket of snow. It was there most of the day and cold. I don't get out very much so I am bound to our headquarters. But now I have time for other things as well. Last month, the dining hall was reopened so we can go to the dining room to eat meals. It's nice to see it all set up. They decorated the whole room with Halloween-style pumpkins and residents had door decorations. While we eat, of course, our tables are clothed in table cloths like we had at our homes. It's nice how it looks. The ladies work in the kitchen and serving ladies are in charge. It's so nice to see. They've made us meatloaf, Swiss steak, fried chicken, plus salads and vegetables.

Thank you for all the mail that I get here at the Manor. I have hand-written church letters as well. We read our Bible verses and printed bulletins as if we are attending in person. There are many of you that I still remember and know your names. Yes, I know Judy and Arlene Grime, Ann Grime, and a few others. But Mrs. Mary Silcox has moved. It is a change in living. I have family that live in Wauseon and now friends. Mike Meyer is now here at the Manor with me. He is up and around! The ladies are looking after him as a new resident. We are thankful for the service we receive. Hope all are doing good. Thanks for your prayers.

Bernice Rice

Committees

Results of Special Congregational Meeting held on November 14th

With an initial quorum of 100 church members, consisting of people in person and connected in via Zoom, the following motion was made by Brad Roth on behalf of the Consistory:

1. To approve the work of the Facility Committee and their proposed solution for improvements to the restrooms, sanctuary and accessibility as presented in the 2021 informational packet;
2. To approve a project budget not to exceed \$1,620,000; and
3. That the Consistory form a Building Committee to formulate a comprehensive building plan and provide a firm quote of construction that will be brought before the congregation for further action.

After Gloria Lauber seconded the motion, Jeff Rutledge, Chairperson of the Facility Committee, introduced Rick Graber from G5 Architecture, the architect the Facility Committee worked with on the proposed concepts and budget. Jeff then shared an informational presentation on the proposal.

Following discussion of the motion, a paper ballot vote was conducted with the following results: 108 votes in approval of the motion and 4 votes not in approval of the motion. With that approval, the Consistory will be acting upon the following action steps:

- a. The Consistory will form a Building Committee, which people of the congregation may volunteer to be considered
- b. The Capital Campaign Committee will begin meeting once again
- c. Architectural firms will be interviewed and screened until one is chosen
- d. The Building Committee will work with and oversee the work of the architect
- e. The Building Committee will oversee all phases of the pre-construction and construction process

Committees (cont.)

Search Committee for the Pastor of Music and Worship

The committee has learned from a few knowledgeable sources that there is a general reluctance on pastors to either make a change in their place of ministry or to move away from their current local area of ministry. It appears that such reluctance is due to either the known or unknown instability of ministry in churches across the nation as a result of the lingering effects of the pandemic.

As a result, the search committee has not received any further resumes or interest through the search avenues that were made use of in the last two pastoral search processes.

The search committee will be meeting on December 13th to explore the concept of contracting with a church-related staffing firm, which has been suggested by people who have been in contact with other churches regarding search processes.

The committee consists of Eric Nafziger, David Stuckey, Chris Baden, Sue Buehrer, Lynne Christman, Norm Fether, Kim Kern, Emma Nafziger, Avery Roth, Cayla Walker, Jocelyn Walker, and Pastor Erich.

Church Committees – Committee Members Needed

As 2021 draws to a close, each of our church committees are in the process of seeking new members for the next round of committee terms. The four primary committees of the church include:

Evangelism Committee – coordinates evangelism and discipleship ministries of the church – consists of 8 people, 2 from Consistory and 6 from the congregation, with 2 new people coming on each year, serving 3 year terms. Todd Nafziger is the current chairperson.

Fellowship Committee – coordinates and directs numerous fellowship activities of the church – consists of 8 people, 2 from Consistory and 6 from the congregation, with 2 new people coming on each year, serving 3 year terms. Crissi Stuckey is the current chairperson.

Mission Committee – coordinates mission activities of the church – consists of 11 people, 2 from Consistory and 9 from the congregation, with 3 new people coming on each year, serving 3 year terms. Ryan Christmas is the current chairperson.

Property Committee – oversees maintenance of church building and property – consists of 8 people, 2 from Consistory and 6 from the congregation, with 2 new people coming on each year, serving 3 year terms. Tim Beck is the current chairperson.

People interested in serving on one of these committees that are so vital to the on-going mission and ministry, may speak with the chairperson.

Consistory

Highlights of the November 15, 2021 Consistory Meeting

1. Budget & Stewardship – Keith Kern – financial reports were reviewed and approved; a report and recommendation on the Second Mile Fund will be made at the January annual meeting; a small group of Consistory members will meet with Mary Zimmerman to audit the 2021 financial records.
2. Fellowship Committee – Crissi Stuckey – the Veterans' breakfast was served on Nov. 14 during the Sunday school hour, serving 13 veterans/spouses and 4 members of the Fellowship Committee. Roger Merillat gave a presentation after the breakfast. Committee is making plans for the Senior citizen dinner and the children's Birthday Party for Jesus.
3. Mission Committee - Ryan Christmas – the Alternative gift market is underway and will run until November 28th. This year the money raised will be used to bless the youth at Crossroad Child and Family Services. The mission budget is only \$1500 short of being met for the year, which means giving will more than likely exceed the budget, a great blessing! The Mission Committee is asking consistory to empower them to disperse the funds that go above the designated budget. Motion was approved.

Consistory

4. Personnel Committee – Jan Lindsay – most staff reviews are completed, still waiting on insurance information – hope to have it by the December meeting
5. Property Committee – Tim Beck – Due to the social media advertisement, 2 resumes have been received for the part-time maintenance position, and one interview has been held so far, and the committee is attempting to set up the other interview in the near future. The committee decided to wait until next spring to plant grass where the tree stumps were ground down. The ovens in the kitchen are inconsistent and unreliable due to the gas line supply issues, as the tank less water heater is taking up a lot of the gas. Committee is working with a local plumbing company and Ohio Gas to address the issue.
6. Search Committee – Erich Christman – the Committee was scheduled to interview a candidate that reached out to SJCC, but just minutes before the interview was to take place, the candidate emailed that they he had taken another position closer to their current home. The Search Committee discussed the idea of contracting with a church staffing company that would assist in the search and interview process. Two companies will be researched/interviewed. Area churches have used similar companies, with good success
7. Spiritual Council – Erich Christman – the nomination process is under way, with a list of candidates compiled for the positions of President, Secretary, Elders, and Deacon/Deaconesses.
8. Formation of a South Property Task Force – Erich Christman – tabled until the February 2022 meeting when new Consistory members will be on board.
9. DQ Land Purchase – Erich Christman – Brent Winzeler has paperwork started. Tom Henry will survey the piece of property, and then Brent will use that information for the sale transaction.
10. Congregational Meeting Follow-up – Gary Frazier – observed that it was a good idea to have an informational meeting after one of the services – attendance was good. Zoom has been a great asset that allows people to participate in the meetings and the voting process. A Building Committee of 10-12 people needs to be formed.

Stewardship Report

As of November 30, 2021

	2021 Budget	2021 YTD Budget (47/52) Weeks	2021 YTD Receipts	2021 YTD Expenses	2021 YTD (+ / -)
Operating Fund	\$ 441,312	\$ 398,878	\$ 337,651	\$ 298,486	\$ 39,165
Mission Fund	\$ 116,800	\$ 105,569	\$ 115,052	\$ 101,170	\$ 13,882

Financial Comparison of 2021 from 2020:

	November 30, 2021	November 30, 2020
Operating Fund Revenue	\$337,651	\$321,052
Operating Fund Expenses	\$298,486	\$336,588
Operating Fund Net Balance	\$39,165	\$-15,537

Expenses are down from last year, primarily due to two full-time staff positions compared to three positions last year. Income is significantly higher this year compared to last year.

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Sunday Worship 8:00AM and 10:30AM

Calendar of Events

The Advent Tradition of the Sermon in Music

Started in 1971, under the leadership of Rev. Gary Hodges, the second Sunday of Advent has featured the annual Sermon in Music service. In 2020 the congregation shared in a service of hymns and hymn stories, a format that we will follow on the third Sunday of Advent this year, featuring a few special music offerings. Hopefully, in 2022, with a pastor of music and worship on staff, and with effects of the pandemic in the past, we will be able to resume with the 49th Sermon in Music!

Children's Christmas Program

Pastor Erich is reaching out to parents regarding some form of a children's program, most likely held as a part of our Christmas Eve worship this year. While we have had good attendance at our Wednesday evening Logos children's program, attendance at our Sunday morning children's program has averaged less than ten, which makes it difficult to plan for a children's program.

Memorial Sunday Observance

In the Reformed tradition of the church, an annual service is held in remembrance of people who have died over the course of the past year. As a part of our worship on December 26, we will share in this annual memorial service, remembering people of St. John's who have entered into eternal life, and remembering family members and friends who entered eternal glory, too.

Candles will be lit, bells will be tolled, and carnations handed out in remembrance of each person of the congregation who died, or whose funeral was held at St. John's, or for whom Pastor Erich shared in the memorial services.

Siberian Solstice – In Concert at SJCC on the evening of Sunday, December 19, 7:00pm

Siberian Solstice is a Trans-Siberian Orchestra Tribute featuring the presentation of the show, "The Angel's Gift." Siberian Solstice has become one of the very few enduring TSO tributes in the country through growth and hard work over the past 15 years. They perform in theaters and larger churches in northwest Ohio, northeast Indiana, and southern Michigan. The light show and video presentation augment the vocal and musical performance that brings many to return more than once a season and year after year.

A free-will offering will be received for the ministry of Siberian Solstice.



December Worship Schedule

The Worship Schedule for the month of December

- December 5 Second Sunday of Advent – The Candle of Peace
 Prelude - Buffy Riley singing “God Is with Us”
 Scriptures – Malachi 3:1-4, Luke 1:67-79, 2 Corinthians 5:17-21
 Sermon – “People of Peace”
 Mission Presentation – Crossroad, Liz Bergren
- December 12 Third Sunday of Advent – The Candle of Joy
 Scriptures – Zephaniah 3:14-20, Isaiah 12:2-6, Jeremiah 33:1-9
 Sermon – “Genuine Truth”
 10:30am Special Music – “While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks” – Norm Fether
- December 19 Fourth Sunday of Advent – The Candle of Love
 A Service of Scripture and Carols
 Scriptures – Micah 5:2-5a, Luke 1:46-55, Matthew 5:38-48
 Sermon – “Love: Turning the Other Cheek”
 10:30am “Sometimes Alleluia” - Scott Reeb
 “Birthday of a King” - Mixed Ensemble
- December 24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 7pm
 Advent Wreath – The Christ Candle
 Scriptures – Isaiah 9:2-7, Psalm 96, Luke 2:1-20, 49-52
 Message – “Children Learn What They Live”
 Children will present the Christmas story
 Women’s Ensemble – “Not That Far From Bethlehem”
 Joshua Reeb – “Mary, Did You Know”
- December 25 10am Christmas Morning Worship – An informal service of peace and joy!
Caroling at Fairlawn will not take place this year, but we hope and pray to carol in 2022!
- December 26 Memorial Sunday Observance
 2nd Offering for the Imagine Your Faith Building Campaign
 Scriptures – Psalm 148, Luke 2:41-52, Colossians 3:12-17
 Sermon – “Have We Been Obedient?”

*“For to us a child is born,
 to us a son is given,
 and the government will be on his shoulders.
 And he will be called
 Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
 Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”*

Isaiah 9:6



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Sunday Worship 8:00AM and 10:30AM



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Sunday Schedule: 8:00AM Worship 8:30AM Pause for Praise 9:15AM SS, FV, Confirm. 10:30AM Worship	Elder of the Month: Betsy Redd Mission-A-Month: Crossroad		1 8:30AM Moms in Prayer 7:00PM SYF	2 4:00PM Gym Reserved 5:30PM Gym Reserved 7:00PM Gym Reserved	3 6:00PM Gym Reserved	4
5 6:00PM Seekers	6 11:00AM Staff Meeting 4:00PM Gym Reserved 5:30PM Gym Reserved	7 9:15AM Bible Study 5:00PM Community Meal 7:00PM Mission Committee	8 8:30AM Moms in Prayer 7:00PM Life Planning	9 4:00PM Gym Reserved 5:30PM Senior Dinner 5:30PM Gym Reserved 7:00PM Gym Reserved	10 6:00PM Gym Reserved	11 7:40AM Men's Prayer Breakfast 8:45AM GIF Gals
12	13 11:00AM Staff Meeting 4:00PM Gym Reserved 5:30PM Gym Reserved 6:30PM Stephen Ministry 7:00PM Search Committee	14 9:15AM Bible Study 5:00PM Community Meal 7:00PM Property Committee	15 8:30AM Moms in Prayer 7:00PM SYF	16 4:00PM Gym Reserved 5:30PM Gym Reserved 6:00PM Girl Scouts 7:00PM Gym Reserved	17 6:00PM Gym Reserved	18
19 5:00PM Seekers 7:00PM Siberian Solstice	20 11:00AM Staff Meeting 4:00PM Gym Reserved 5:30PM Gym Reserved 5:45PM Spiritual Council 7:30PM Consistory Meal	21 9:15AM Bible Study 5:00PM Community Meal	22	23 4:00PM Gym Reserved 5:30PM Gym Reserved 7:00PM Gym Reserved	24 Christmas Eve 12:00PM Office Closed 7:00PM Christmas Eve Worship	25 Christmas Day 10:30AM Christmas Day Worship
26 2:30PM Parish Hall Reserved	27 Office Closed 4:00PM Gym Reserved	28 9:15AM Bible Study 5:00PM Community Meal	29	30 4:00PM Gym Reserved	31 New Year's Eve 12:00PM Office Closed	



- 1 Kenny Walker
- 2 Sandi Cowell, Jeff & Stacy Rutledge
- 5 Joyce Kinsman, Rich Lesniak, Betsy Redd
- 6 Denny Hornish, Kim M. Walker
- 8 Jim Liechty, JoAnn Short, Aiden Warneke
- 9 Scott & JoAnn Short
- 10 Greg Walker
- 11 Isaac Meyer, Doug Rupp
- 12 Paul & Joan Lovejoy
- 13 Linda Heer, Tony MacDonald
- 14 Kathy Bechstein, Jean Stamm, Cullen Yoder, Travis & Mindy Gruenhagen

- 15 Crissi Stuckey
- 18 Sheila Short, Mae Smith
- 20 Dawson Cover, Dax Cover
- 21 Devin Bernath, Nici Wyse, Dean & Darlene Sauder
- 23 Don & Charlene LaFountaine
- 26 Rod Kinsman
- 27 Klaire Kern, Paul Lovejoy
- 28 Emma Krukowski, Phyllis Miller, Josh & Kasey Grime
- 29 Maggie Enderle
- 30 Dean Beck, Bob Vos, Corey & Jocelyn Walker
- 31 Alice Leatherman

Mission Corner

December Mission-A-Month: Crossroad Child & Family Services

For more than 134 years, Crossroad Child & Family Services in Fort Wayne, Indiana, has focused on the needs of children and families who have few alternatives. Today, they work with emotionally troubled children other providers have chosen not to work with, or have failed to help. Your prayers and generous financial support truly helps change the futures of young people, and the Crossroad Board of Directors and staff send their thanks for our partnership in helping these vulnerable children!

Mission Experiences

- ♦ March 6-12, 2022 – Back Bay Mission Trip, Biloxi, Mississippi
- ♦ Summer Mission Trip – in conjunction with LaPorte County (Indiana) Habitat for Humanity – awaiting their build schedule to set a date

2022 Trip to Biloxi, Mississippi to Serve with Back Bay Mission (BBM)

A week in service with Back Bay Mission provides a wonderful opportunity to live out the prophetic call of Micah 6:8 – “...to act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.” The week is a service learning opportunity that builds upon a time away from the normal routine of everyday life. The impact of a week of fellowship and faith building while working with a group of volunteers on a common project is always a blessing to observe!

This Saturday to Saturday experience is scheduled for March 6-12, 2022. BBM serves the needs of the homeless, the needs of people living in poverty, and the needs of people surviving in low income realities. Besides working on a new home construction of existing home repair project, there are opportunities to spend time interacting with people at the Micah Day Center or a local soup kitchen. And the local seafood and Cajun style of cooking adds to the adventure!

Cost of the trip will be \$200, covering lodging, most meals, transportation, and work camp material fees. A sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board.

Mission Thank You's

St. John's Church Family,

Thank you so much for being part of my ministry team in India. I have really valued and appreciated all of the support over the years. I look forward to seeing how God will use this partnership to bless others and bring them closer to Him.

With a Grateful Heart,
Mackenzie Nofziger

St. John's Church,

Thank you for providing transportation to and from Camp Palmer for our Ignite weekend! Thank you also for the use of the Parish Hall for dodgeball. It is a great blessing to be able to partner with you in ministry!

Every time I think of you, I give thanks to my God... For you have been my partners in spreading the Good News about Christ."

-Philippians 1:3-5

God Bless,
Eliot Nofziger

Dear St. John's Christian Church,

We are deeply grateful for your gift to help the kids! These past two years have brought us all challenges. Your support is truly a God-send. We are also deeply grateful for the 138-year relationship we have with you in mission!

Bless you all!
Kyle Zanker, Chief Development Officer
Crossroad Child & Family Services

Dear St. John's Christian Church,

Thank you for your gift of \$470.00. You are so faithful to the Friendship House and such a blessing to us. We are doing the last minute touches and soon will welcome people inside to our home.

Thank you,
The Friendship House

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Website: www.stjohnsarchbold.org
Sunday Worship 10:30AM via YouTube Live

Mission Thank You's (cont.)

Hello Family & Friends,

Here is our Fall update in brief:

- It's been a busy three months!
- The new medical team is launched and living on the other side of island, waiting for approval to start work
- We're part of a year-long leadership training program and our leadership role is changing
- A short-termer came and went
- We had new chances to share and study stories with islanders
- Some new persecution for one island sister
- A longtime friend suddenly struggling and showing openness, praying for breakthrough
- Boys finished one school year and started another
- We're hoping to come to the US in summer 2022!

We hope you all are well and enjoying the Advent season's message of hope, joy, peace and love in spite of any difficulties you may be facing.
Let us know how we can be praying for you.

Blessings,

Megan, Tom, Grace, Peter & David Langsdorf

Additional Thank You's from...

- ♦ Back Bay Mission, for our gift of \$935.
- ♦ Cherry Street Mission, for our gift of \$1,230.
- ♦ Church World Service, for our gift of \$1,024 designated for blankets.
- ♦ Crossroad, for our gift of \$200.
- ♦ Jennifer McMahan, CRU, for our gift of \$100.
- ♦ Matt & Paige Waanders, CRU, for our gift of \$200.
- ♦ Jonathan & Rachel Doriot, for our gift of \$190.75.
- ♦ Tony & Leila Frank, for our gift of \$1,260.75.
- ♦ Tom & Megan Langsdorf, for our gift of \$560.
- ♦ Kyle Chase, Reliant, for our gift of \$200.
- ♦ David Hensch, Reliant, for our gift of \$100.
- ♦ Matt & MaryLynn Pardi, Reliant, for our gift of \$600.

Robert & Jenni McMahan, CRU (BGSU)

website - www.give.cru.org

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December Daily Scriptures

(From "Discovery" Daily Devotional)

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| <p>1 A Man of Authority ----- Mark 1:21-28</p> <p>2 Jesus the Healer ----- Mark 1:29-34</p> <p>3 Setting Priorities ----- Mark 1:35-39</p> <p>4 Infection Control ----- Mark 1:40-45</p> <p>5 God Takes Our Side ----- Psalm 124</p> <p>6 The Son of Man ----- Mark 2:1-12</p> <p>7 God's Mercy ----- Mark 2:13-17</p> <p>8 Radical Change ----- Mark 2:18-22</p> <p>9 Lord of the Sabbath ----- Mark 2:23-28</p> <p>10 Love Rules? ----- Mark 3:1-6</p> <p>11 Just As I Am ----- Mark 3:7-19</p> <p>12 Pushed too Far? ----- Psalm 125</p> <p>13 Letting Heaven In ----- Mark 3:20-35</p> <p>14 Seeing Reason ----- Isaiah 1:1-20</p> <p>15 Leaders We Deserve ----- Isaiah 1:21-31</p> | <p>16 The View From the Top ----- Isaiah 2:1-5</p> <p>17 Shaking the Earth ----- Isaiah 2:6-22</p> <p>18 Righteous Judgement? ----- Isaiah 3:13-4:1</p> <p>19 Reaping the Rewards ----- Psalm 126</p> <p>20 Promised Glory ----- Isaiah 4:2-6</p> <p>21 Sour Grapes ----- Isaiah 5:1-7</p> <p>22 The "But" of God ----- Isaiah 6</p> <p>23 Misplaced Fear ----- Isaiah 7:1-17</p> <p>24 I Will Wait ----- Isaiah 8</p> <p>25 The Day of "Nevertheless" ----- Isaiah 9:1-7</p> <p>26 The Best-Laid Plans ----- Psalm 127</p> <p>27 Leaders and Followers ----- Isaiah 9:8-17</p> <p>28 Consuming One Another ----- Isaiah 9:18-10:4</p> <p>29 A Remnant Will Return ----- Isaiah 10:20-27</p> <p>30 A Shoot Will Come Up ----- Isaiah 11</p> <p>31 The Joy of Salvation ----- Isaiah 12</p> |
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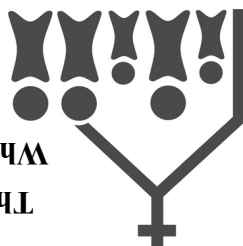
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Sunday Worship 8:00AM and 10:30AM
 Sunday School 9:15AM

St. John's Christian Church
 700 S. Defiance St.
 Archbold, OH 43502

Come Hear the Reason we're Inspired to Serve Together

Holy Communion:
 New Year (1/3), Ash Wednesday (2/17), Maundy Thursday (4/1), Pentecost (5/23), Mid-Summer (7/18), World Wide Communion (10/3), First Sunday of Advent (11/28)



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