

# The Epistle

---

**St. John UCC; 409 Park Ave., P.O. Box 156; Bolivar, Ohio 44612**

**FRIENDSHIP•MISSION•SPIRITUALITY**    January 2017

---

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:  
    a time to be born, and a time to die;  
a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;  
    a time to kill, and a time to heal;  
a time to break down, and a time to build up;  
    a time to weep, and a time to laugh;  
    a time to mourn, and a time to dance;  
a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together;  
a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;  
    a time to seek, and a time to lose;  
    a time to keep, and a time to throw away;  
    a time to tear, and a time so sew;  
a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;  
    a time to love and a time to hate;  
    a time for war, and a time for peace.

God has made everything suitable for its time; moreover God has put a sense of past and future into our minds. . . . Whatever God does endures forever; nothing can be added to it, nor anything taken from it; God has done this, so that all should stand in awe before God.

Ecclesiastes 3: 1-8, 11, 14

What a year it's been! At this point in 2015 I had been at St. John for only five weeks. Now I have been your settled pastor for that long. I deeply appreciate the confidence you have placed in me for that task. May God be with each of you in the coming new year and beyond, as we work together for the future of our church.

Blessings,

Pastor David+

# The Epistle

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Pg. 1 Pastor's Page  
 Pg. 2 Calendar  
 Pg. 3 Birthdays, Serving in December,  
 Thinking of You  
 Pg. 4 Mission Committee Reports, Thank You

Pg. 5 New Study Group  
 Pg. 6 -8 Consistory Minutes  
 Pg. 9-10 Treasurer's Report

| January 2017  |   |  |  |   |                      |           |
|---|---|--|--|---|----------------------|-----------|
| Sun   | Mon   | Tue                                      | Wed  | Thu   | Fri                  | Sat       |
| <b>1</b><br>Communion<br>Sunday   | <b>2</b><br>Bd. Of Christian<br>Education, 7pm                                    | <b>3</b>                                 | <b>4</b><br>Regular<br>Office<br>Hours<br><br>Choir<br>6:30pm                | <b>5</b><br>Regular Office<br>Hours   | <b>6</b><br>Epiphany | <b>7</b>  |
| <b>8</b><br>Taking down the<br>Greens<br><br>Year End<br>Reports<br>Due               | <b>9</b><br>Clothes Closet/<br>Pastor's Pantry<br>9-noon, 5:30-<br>7:30           | <b>10</b>                                | <b>11</b><br>Bolivar UMC<br>Lunch, 11:30<br>am<br><br>Choir 6:30<br>pm       | <b>12</b>   | <b>13</b>            | <b>14</b> |
| <b>15</b><br>Installation of<br>New<br>Consistory<br>Members                          | <b>16</b><br>Mission Comm.<br>10:00am<br><br>Ladies<br>Luncheon<br>11:30, Wendy's | <b>17</b>                                | <b>18</b><br><br>Choir 6:30pm  | <b>19</b><br>St. Paul's<br>Community<br>Dinner<br>5:00 – 6:30pm<br><br>Consistory,<br>7pm | <b>20</b>            | <b>21</b> |
| <b>22</b><br>Annual Congre-<br>gation Meeting<br><br>Year End<br>Reports<br>Presented | <b>23</b><br>Clothes Closet/<br>Pastor's Pantry<br>9-noon, 5:30-<br>7:30          | <b>24</b><br>Homeless<br>Shelter<br>Meal | <b>25</b><br><br>Choir 6:30pm  | <b>26</b>   | <b>27</b>            | <b>28</b> |
| <b>29</b>   | <b>30</b>   | <b>31</b>                                | <b>Notes: Communion Servers for January: Fred Miller<br/>and Barb Berens</b> |   |                      |           |

# The Epistle

---



## January Birthdays

Kelsey Brinkman (Jan. 4)  
Lindsey Goudy (Jan. 7)  
Beth Carpenter (Jan. 15)  
Virginia Regula (Jan. 16)  
Don Baad (Jan. 17)

Charles Regula (Jan. 18)  
Lucile Lebold (Jan. 22)  
Zach Brinkman (Jan. 27)  
Ann Scott (Jan. 30)

## Serving in January

### Liturgist

Jan. 1 Ron Gauding  
Jan. 8 Arline Mase  
Jan. 15 Dale Duerr  
Jan. 22 Carolyn Birk  
Jan. 29 Chris Berens

### Acolyte

Jan. 1 Julia Felgenhauer  
Jan. 8 Hallie Carpenter  
Jan. 15 Deisy Felgenhauer  
Jan. 22 Max McCoy  
Jan. 29 Julia Felgenhauer

### Coffee Hour

Jan. 1 anyone  
Jan. 8 anyone  
Jan. 15 anyone  
Jan. 22 anyone  
Jan. 29 anyone

### Greeters

Jan. 1 Chris Stevenson & Molly Steiner  
Jan. 8 Cathy & Chuck Fenstermaker  
Jan. 15 Dick & Pam Diehl  
Jan. 22 Mark & Paula Goudy  
Jan. 29 Ron Gauding & Dale Duerr

### Bell Ringer

Jan. 1 Max McCoy  
Jan. 8 Julia Felgenhauer  
Jan. 15 Camden & Luke McCoy  
Jan. 22 Hallie Carpenter  
Jan. 29 Max McCoy

(Please try to find a replacement if you are unable to serve.)

Esther Simon  
Helen Hall  
Russell Ross  
Claudia Duerr  
Bill & Lucile Lebold  
Clare Stevenson  
Bob & Joyclin Ely

Scotty Trambaugh  
Crystal Weaver  
Robert Vandall  
Dick Lebold  
Shelley & Brandon Myers  
Courtney Levensgood  
Steven Sissel (nephew of  
Susan Henry)



# The Epistle

---

## MISSION COMMITTEES

### Clothes Closet

The Clothes Closet was open on Saturday, Dec. 10th and on Monday Dec. 19<sup>th</sup>. We had a total of 19 customers during the day and receipts of a little over 75 dollars. Workers at the Closet included Cathy, Jane and MaryAnn. Barb and her helpers had the Pastor's Pantry at the same time.

The Clothes Closet added \$24.42 to a twenty dollar cash donation to pay for the cranberries and butter used for the Shut-In Thanksgiving Dinner Project. We also had 17 dozen dinner rolls donated by members of the congregation. Thank you to everyone who helped to pack the bags and deliver them. Our church delivered 13 meals to six families who are members or friends of St. John. (I gave incorrect information for the December Epistle and said five families.)

The Clothes Closet has also provided the postage for two more bundles of coupons sent to military bases in the program coordinated by Barb.

Don't forget to buy packages of snack crackers for the backpack program to which we donate. The collection box is in the vestibule.

The next open dates for the Clothes Closet and Pastor's Pantry are January 9<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>. We invite anyone who is interested to come and help sort and hang up the donated clothing or just come for a cup of coffee, a cookie, and some conversation. We'd love to see you.



Thank you so very much for all your prayers and phone calls during the time Bob was in the hospital and during his recuperation. We are blessed to have so many wonderful and supportive friends at St. John. We have been blessed in so many ways, thanks be to God.

# The Epistle

---



All are invited to join the new Study Group that will commence on **Tuesday, February 7, 2017** and meet the first and third Tuesday of each month.

The title of the book is *Saving Jesus from the Church* by Robin R. Meyers.

Here is a brief introduction of the book.

Countless thoughtful people are now so disgusted with the marriage of bad theology and hypocritical behavior by the church that a new Reformation is required in which the purpose of religion itself is reimagined. Meyers takes the best of biblical scholarship and recasts these core Christian concepts to exhort the church to pursue an alternative vision of the Christian life:

- Jesus as *Teacher*, Not Savior
- Christianity as *Compassion*, not Condemnation
  - Prosperity as *Dangerous*, not divine
  - Discipleship as *Obedience*, not control
- Religion as *Relationship*, not Righteousness

This is not a call to the church to move to the far left or to try something brand new. Rather, it is the recovery of something very old. *Saving Jesus from the Church* shows us what it means to be a Christian and how to follow Jesus' teachings today.

**If you are interested in attending this Study Group, contact the church office. We will need an accurate number of attendees in order to purchase the books in advance of the study.**

# The Epistle

---

## DEC. 15, 2016- CONSISTORY MEETING

Members present: Rev. Houdeschelle, Cathy Fenstermaker(Pres.),  
Chris Stevenson (Sec.), Chris Carpenter, Missy Jones, Carolyn Birk  
Members not present: Birdie Wilt  
New members present: Fred Miller, Barb Berens

The December consistory meeting was held in the social hall of the Church beginning with a fellowship meal provided by consistory members. Rev. Houdeschelle opened the meal with a prayer.

The meeting was called to order by Cathy.

### **MINUTES: (ALL REPORTS ARE PRINTED IN THE EPISTLE)**

Secretary's minutes- A motion to approve the minutes was made by Missy and seconded by Carolyn.

**Treasurer's report:** A discussion concerning the approval of the payment to the architects was brought up to consistory. It was explained that per the Constitution, the payment fell within the guidelines of approval by consistory.  
A motion was made by Chris Carpenter, and seconded by Chris Stevenson to accept the minutes.

**Pastor's report:** Rev. Houdeschell reviewed his report with consistory.

**Communications:** None

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

#### **Building and Grounds:**

Chris Carpenter is working to repair the existing exit signs.  
Mark Goudy has repaired the toilet in the women's restroom by the parlor.  
Chris Carpenter has been voluntarily cleaning the snow from the sidewalks.  
Finlayson's will continue to plow the parking lot.  
Chris Carpenter will talk to Ron Gauding about helping him repair some of the weather stripping on the double doors.

### **MISSION:**

**The Clothes Closet**, as of Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>, is showing a cash balance of \$229.59. The balance does not reflect the amount in our bank account.

The Thanksgiving Dinner, with the help of the Churches in the Community, served 200 dinners.

**The Community Christmas project** provided 160 gift cards for recipients to use at Dollar General.

# The Epistle

---

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

Cathy reported on the LifeTouch picture session. The representative for LifeTouch will meet with the representative from St. John in March. The session itself will be scheduled for May 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>. Each person who schedules a sitting and has photos taken, will receive a free 8X10 photo and directory. We will need at least 15 people to schedule the photos.

New organist/choir director search: Chris Carpenter had nothing new to report, and is continuing with the search.

Fund for gas and food cards. The funds for the cards have been provided, but the distribution of the cards is still being worked out.

Constitution update- Barb expressed concern about a revised copy of the Constitution being available to the Congregation. A revised Constitution, dated July 26, 2015 will be made available to the Congregation.

Investment accounts- Charles and Don will not be continuing to serve on the Investment committee once the investment issue is resolved. Fred said his name was still on the parsonage account. He has signed off of the account, and forwarded the paperwork to Fidelity in Cincinnati. Fred received more paperwork back from Fidelity which needed to be signed in order to open a new account. Fred gave the paperwork to Charles who will be contacting a Fidelity representative to work out the details.

Cathy said that usually once a new account is opened, the new financial firm will take care of transferring the funds into it. Inquiries were made concerning the reliability of the UFC, and it was found to be safe and reliable. Mark is also on the Investment committee.

Architect payment- Please see the Treasurer report.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

Installation of new consistory members will take place on Jan. 15, 2017. This will include Birdie Wilt, who will be absent.

Annual reports are due by the end of the first week of January if possible, depending on financial reports being received.

The annual meeting will be held on Jan. 22.

## **ADDITIONAL ITEMS:**

Election of new officers for the new Consistory term:

The new officers are as follows

Barb Berens- President

Vice President- Carolyn Birk

Fred Miller- Secretary

The meeting concluded with the Lord's Prayer. The next meeting will be held on Jan. 19, 2017

# The Epistle

---

## **DEC. 26, 2016- CONSISTORY MEETING**

Members present: Cathy Fenstermaker (Pres.), Chris Stevenson (Sec.)  
Chris Carpenter, Carolyn Birk, Birdie Wilt

New members present: Barb Berens

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Missy Jones has decided to resign from consistory.

A motion was made by Carolyn to regrettably accept Missy's resignation and was seconded by Birdie.

Chris Stevenson has agreed to fill Missy Jones's position.

A motion was made by Chris Carpenter and seconded by Carolyn to accept Chris's appointment.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

Cathy confirmed the May 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>. dates for pictures to be taken by LifeTouch Photos.

A motion was made by Chris Stevenson and seconded by Chris Carpenter to adjourn the meeting.

# The Epistle

## St John United Church Of Christ ~ Treasurer's Report ~ November 2016

|   |                    |        |                  |
|---|--------------------|--------|------------------|
| 10/31/2016 Balance on hand - Checking Account | \$ 1,431.00        |        |                  |
| General Fund Deposits                         | \$ 8,683.00        | YTD \$ | 70,915.20        |
| Other Deposits                                | \$821.70           | YTD \$ | 5,279.02         |
| Transfer from Money Market Acct               |                    | YTD \$ | 12,600.00        |
| Fidelity Transfer                             |                    | YTD \$ | -                |
| Balance and Receipts                          | \$ 10,935.70       | YTD \$ | <b>88,794.22</b> |
| Disbursements                                 | \$ (7,420.50)      | YTD \$ | (86,288.51)      |
| 11/30/2016 Balance on hand - Checking Account | \$ <b>3,515.20</b> |        |                  |

|                    |             |                      |           |
|--------------------|-------------|----------------------|-----------|
| Envelope Offering  | \$ 8,548.00 |                      |           |
| Plate Offering     | \$ 135.00   | Anonymous Donations  |           |
| Sunday School      |             | Miscellaneous        | \$821.70  |
| Total General Fund | \$ 8,683.00 | Total Other Deposits | \$ 821.70 |

### Money Market Account Fund

|  |                     |                   |
|--|---------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Memorial Fund</b> - Balance beginning of month:   | \$ 42,936.55        |                   |
| Check # 1024   | (\$10.00)           | Gas Mission       |
| Check # 1025   | \$ (8,194.00)       | Caplea Architects |
| Contribution   |                     |                   |
| End of month balance                                 | <b>\$ 34,732.55</b> |                   |
| Funeral Lunch Donations                              | \$ 742.45           |                   |
| Contribution/Check # 1023                            | \$ (54.03)          | Memorial Service  |
| End of month balance                                 | <b>\$ 688.42</b>    |                   |
| Mrs. Floyd Burris Mission                            | \$ 750.68           |                   |
| Check #  |                     |                   |
| Check #  |                     |                   |
| End of Month Balance                                 | <b>\$ 750.68</b>    |                   |
| Clothes Closet Fund                                  | \$ 628.55           |                   |
| Check #  |                     |                   |
| Contribution   |                     |                   |
| End of Month Balance                                 | <b>\$ 628.55</b>    |                   |
| <b>Capital Fund</b> - Balance beginning of month:    | \$ 338.29           |                   |
| Contribution   | \$ 5.00             |                   |
| End of month balance                                 | <b>\$ 343.29</b>    |                   |
| <b>Savings Fund</b> - Balance at beginning of month: | \$ 49.02            |                   |
| Contribution   |                     |                   |
| Interest   | \$ 4.63             |                   |
| End of month balance                                 | <b>\$ 53.65</b>     |                   |
| <b>The Fund</b> - Balance at beginning of month:     | <b>\$40,970.29</b>  |                   |

**TOTAL MONEY MARKET ACCOUNT FUND**

**\$ 78,167.43**

# The Epistle

## Financial Secretary Report 2016

|                             | November           | Year-To-Date        |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Pledges                     | \$ 8,548.00        | \$ 69,178.00        |
| Plate                       | \$ 135.00          | \$ 1,737.20         |
| Sunday School               |                    |                     |
| <b>Total Offering</b>       | <b>\$ 8,683.00</b> | <b>\$ 70,915.20</b> |
| Initial Offering            |                    | \$ 161.00           |
| OCWM                        | \$ 5.00            | \$ 50.00            |
| Food Pantry                 | \$ 258.70          | \$ 258.70           |
| One Hour of Sharing         |                    | \$ 130.00           |
| Neighbors In Need           |                    | \$ 120.00           |
| Christmas Fund              |                    | \$ 150.00           |
| Breakfast                   | \$ 380.00          | \$ 1,288.00         |
| Recycling                   |                    |                     |
| Rent                        |                    |                     |
| School Supplies             |                    |                     |
| Donation                    | \$ 178.00          | \$ 2,303.00         |
| Misc:                       |                    |                     |
| Boiler Inspection Refund    |                    | \$ 106.50           |
| Funeral                     |                    | \$ 450.00           |
| Easter Flowers              |                    | \$ 140.00           |
| Refund                      |                    | \$ 121.82           |
| <b>Total Other Deposits</b> | <b>\$ 821.70</b>   | <b>\$ 5,279.02</b>  |
| <b>Total</b>                | <b>\$ 9,504.70</b> | <b>\$ 76,194.22</b> |