ADVENT & CHRISTMAS AT CHRIST CHURCH

SUNDAY MORNINGS—WORSHIP—8:00 & 10:30 A.M.
Expectation! Annunciation! Proclamation! Completion! Celebration!

Sunday, November 27—First Advent—Expectation! - Isaiah 2:1-5, Psalm 122, Romans 13:11-14, Matthew 24:36-44
Sunday, December 11—Third Advent—Proclamation! - Isaiah 35:1-10, Psalm 146:5-10, James 5:7-10, Matthew 11:2-11

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10—CHRISTMAS CAROLING
Meet in Westminster Hall at 1:00 p.m.; Returning for refreshments at 4:30 p.m.
Sign up online or at the kiosk.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13—TAG LUNCHEON & MUSIC PROGRAM
11:30 A.M. Fellowship/11:45 a.m. Lunch in Westminster Hall followed by program, “A Steinway Christmas”, presented by Bob Morrison and Joyce Corbett. Sign up in the church office or online. Cost—$7.00

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18—CHRISTMAS PROGRAM
The children of Christ Church invite you to attend this year’s Christmas Program, “Checkin’ It Twice” at 5:00 p.m. Join us for a great evening of music, laughter, and a special telling of the Christmas story. Cookie and punch reception to follow.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25—CHRISTMAS MORNING FESTIVAL WORSHIP SERVICE OF LESSONS & CAROLS
Our Church Family comes together as one for worship at 10:30 a.m. Brass Quartet and Chancel Choir lead the congregation in the annual Festival of Lessons and Carols in the Sanctuary. (No early service or Sunday School this morning.)

SUNDAY, JANUARY 1—NEW YEAR’S MORNING WORSHIP
10:30 a.m. Chancel Choir offering Christmas carol arrangements and leading the congregation in traditional carols. (No early service or Sunday school this morning.)

FRIDAY, JANUARY 6—EPIPHANY MADRIGAL FEAST
Madrigal Feast featuring the Akron Firestone High School Singers. See page 9 for more information. (Tickets required; doors open at 6:00 p.m., feasting at 6:30 p.m.)
There is much to get done to prepare my church, my family...myself for Christmas, yet Pine Ridge keeps intruding on my time, my thought, and my energy. I already know that this will be a lengthy Pastoral Note.

I’m not sure just what it is that I want for Christmas this year, yet I think God is working to give me peace in, and understanding of, a question that has haunted me for a good part of my adult life: What role does government play in the welfare of people? To most, this appears to be a political question. To me, it is among the most spiritual of questions. This season reminds me that “the kingdom of God is at hand,” as John the Baptist proclaims. The kingdom John speaks of “began” as Jesus took up his calling to follow and bear witness to God the Father. The real question the Christian must ask is not “What role does government play in the welfare of people?” For the Christian, the most precise and truthful question is, “What means does God give to us to live into the Kingdom of God: the Church, individuals, public institutions and business, charities, governments?”

Last week Nancy Montgomery, Becky Blackford, and I took a short trip to meet with friends on the reservation. We are attempting to construct a long-term plan for our ministry with the Porcupine Presbyterian Church and the larger community that surrounds the congregation. In preparing for the trip we all read Not For Sale, Finding Center in the Land of Crazy Horse, by Kevin Hancock. Hancock is a New England business owner who felt called to enter into a spiritual journey centered on and around the Pine Ridge Reservation. For several years he traveled back and forth, spending weeks at a time meeting the people and exploring places of Pine Ridge.

Though most of the book is about his spiritual awakening, Hancock also offers keen insight and reflection into the political and common life of the Pine Ridge and has helped to add clarity to my own question as restated above: What means does God give to us to live into the Kingdom of God: the Church, individuals, public institutions and business, charities, governments?

Wade, if you will, through several quotes taken from Hancock:

- The word colonization comes up frequently at Pine Ridge...The Lakota were colonized. Our history books don’t write the story this way, but that’s what happened. A foreign civilization came to the land of the Lakota and claimed it for their own. Their land was taken, their means of subsistence (the buffalo) was destroyed, and they were sequestered away...along the way, many promises were made and then broken, or unfulfilled. (Page 129)

- Most residents here believe that since the government made promises...they should be held accountable for keeping them. Even if those promises are the very things standing in the way of Pine Ridge evolving, should the people who live here still fight to make sure they are kept? (Page 126)

- Distrust of the government runs deep at Pine Ridge...even though the government system was poorly administered, mismanagement was not the greatest injustice. The greatest injustice was the system itself, which created dependency and left the people with nothing (but promises). The notion that government should take care of me is strong in the culture of the reservation. If I am hungry, I go see my government. If my home is in need of repair, I go see the government. Solutions are government-centric at Pine Ridge, and they don’t produce good results. (Page 61)

- This is the baffling, political side of Pine Ridge, as government has had over 130 years to dispense resources, empower residences, and create economic opportunity. By any statistical measurement, that process has produced an economic disaster, yet, people here continue to look to the government for solutions...I am curious to know if people who live here think that another 20, 40, or 100 years of government-led solutions will produce something different, or more of the same? (Page 126)

So the question: What means does God give to us to live into the Kingdom of God: the Church, individuals, public institutions and business, charities, governments?

Simplistic answers are the ones we hear most often. “You must pull yourself up by your own bootstraps!” Given the First Law of Thermodynamics notes that you can’t get something from nothing, this idea seems rather silly. People “with nothing,” cannot create “something.” Others note that government, given its scope and power, is charged with “taking care of people.” My response? Read the above bullet points again! As former U.S. President Ronald Reagan once said, “Some years ago, the Federal Government declared a war on poverty, and poverty won.” Still others suggest that the free enterprise “system” will

...continued on next page
respond, if we really let it. An addendum to this suggests that it is in the best interest of the business community to foster healthy social systems. Yet the twenty-first century has realities all its own. If government is too big and clumsy to bring about healthy social change, capitalism and free enterprise is too corrupt. Rarely is greed coupled with any sense of social responsibility. We can no longer speak of “moral capitalism.” The news headlines say it all (though nowadays, as the Presidential election has shown us, even the various forms for news coverage understand their purpose solely in economic terms).

What about the church? Are we the means God has given to live into the Kingdom of God, to pursue a world of peace, justice and equality? This is a nice thought, and did work in significant ways when people lived in small communities, where people knew each another, and cared for one another—where the resources of the church could meet individual need while fostering social relationships and responsibility. But today urban priority and life severely limit and overwhelm our capacity to enter into social change. Our resources pale in comparison to those of government and business.

In fact, the answer to my question, “What means does God give to us to live into the Kingdom of God: the Church, individuals, public institutions and business, charities, governments?” is simple enough. None can make much difference alone. A coalition of the whole is needed. Easy to say! Difficult to weave into a new reality!

In a strange way, I think God has already offered me a Christmas present of incredible worth. I share it now with you. I invite you to go to www.thundervalley.org. Click on “I’m Curious and Want to Learn More.” Watch the video “Ecosystem of Opportunity.” Here you will come to know of a “Lakota—run grassroots Community Development Corporation that is building a community as a catalyst to create systemic change on the Pine Ridge Reservation.” Here we see the power of the individual, government, business, and the religious community pulled together to create new synergies for change. The church holds the vision and the calling to proclaim the coming of the kingdom of God. May we work to include others in the work to be done. A new star is rising! A new opportunity is born!

Merry Christmas, Pastor Dave

An Instrumental Christmas Celebration
Christ Church Nativity Worship 2016

Yes, we are indeed fortunate at Christ Church to have a spectacular large pipe organ and an equally impressive grand piano. For Christmas Eve and Christmas Day worship, we will further adorn our choral and congregational music with strings, brass, and other instruments.

On December 24, the 6:30 family service will include the artistry of flutist, Dianne Williams, in addition to other young CPC musicians and handbell ringers. Our late evening service will include a string chamber orchestra and organ solos by Gibbs Music Intern, Mario Buchanan. Featured music begins at 9:30 pm, and the 10:00 service will offer portions of Mozart’s expressive Missa Brevis in D (K. 194) and other carol accompaniments with the stringed instruments.

On Christmas morning, our 10:30 service will be the annual Festival of Lessons and Carols, accompanied by a professional brass quartet, along with the organ and piano. The busy and dedicated Chancel Choir will lead the congregation in favorite carols as well as offer special choral arrangements.

What a splendid opportunity we have to celebrate Christ’s birthday IN CHURCH on Christmas Day! Come offer your voice in prayer and praise of the Newborn King . . . indeed, singing Christmas Carols on the actual DAY! Yes, come croon your “harks” along with the singing herald angels!

Holiday Office/Building Hours
In observance of the Christmas and New Year Holiday, the Church office and Building Hours will be as follows:

Friday, December 23—Office/Church Building Closed All Day
Monday, December 26—Office/Building Closed All Day
Friday, December 30—Office/Building Closed All Day
Monday, January 2—Office/Building Closed All Day
Christmas Gift Ideas

If you are looking for different gifts to give this Christmas that will encourage someone in their Christian walk, please allow me to offer a few suggestions. Below is a listing of some books that I have read and some music that I have listened to in the last few years. These resources have fed my soul in different ways and I recommend them to you and yours.

*Hidden Inheritance* by Heidi Neumark. Written by a Lutheran pastor, this book tells the story of how, as an adult, Neumark discovered that she was half Jewish and that both of her paternal grandparents were in concentration camps during WWII. This sobering and beautiful memoir follows Neumark on a journey of discovery and features many theological reflections relating to family, faith, the Sacraments, and the Shoah.

*Her Heart Can See* by Edith L. Blumhofer. Fanny Crosby (1820-1915) was one of the most prolific hymn writers of the Church, composing over 10,000 texts, of which many were set to music during her long life. The most famous of her songs include, “Blessed Assurance,” “Pass Me Not,” and “To God Be the Glory.” This Crosby biography not only tells about her personal life and Christian journey, but also provides historical context for the era and details the stories of Crosby’s colleagues and partners in ministry. The book is so named because Crosby was blind from infancy, yet persevered and had a solid source of strength.

*Night Comes* by Dale C. Allison, Jr. Dr. Allison was one of my favorite seminary professors and is easily one of the smartest people I have ever met. Normally his books are thick, theological, and historical works with many footnotes. However, in this slim volume, Allison offers his reflections on death, resurrection, hell, and heaven in light of science, Scripture, and his own experience. This book will challenge you to think about the afterlife differently.

*Recovering the Scandal of the Cross* by Mark D. Baker & Joel B. Green. As we consider Christ’s death on the cross, we say that He died for our sins, but rarely do we ask the questions of ‘why did Jesus have to die’ and ‘how are our sins forgiven’ or ‘how are we reconciled to God’? This theological book explores the significance of the cross and theories of atonement. It outlines and assesses the scriptural witness and historical considerations of atonement in order to dispel popularly-held, but often unbiblical ideas of how Jesus’ death saved us.

*The Sisters of Sinai* by Janet Soskice. The Charleston Gazette describes it as “A combination travelogue, mystery story, [and] adventure narrative.” This incredibly engaging story follows two Victorian-era pioneers, amateur scholars, and sisters, Agnes and Margaret Smith. Over many visits to St. Catherine’s Monastery in Egypt, they uncover the Syriac Sinaiticus, which is an important manuscript for biblical scholarship as it contains the oldest Syriac translation of the Gospels. Syriac is a language that is a close dialect of the language Jesus spoke!

*The Odes Project.* The lyrics for the songs on this two-volume CD come from the *Odes of Solomon*, which were composed in the first three centuries AD. Some have called this early composition “The First Christian Hymnal.” In listening to these magnificent lyrics and the haunting melodies, you will certainly be blessed as you are transported back to the early church to raise your voices alongside the saints of old.

*Shadow of Your Wings: Hymns & Sacred Songs* by Fernando Ortega. I recommend that if you don’t already know Ortega, you should purchase two copies of this CD, one for you and the other for a friend. Much of Ortega’s music is meditative and features compelling arrangements that will surely be a blessing.

*Psalms for All Seasons.* This is a hymnal that I believe every Christian musician should have on his or her shelf. It organizes songs in order of the psalms and offers music from many genres. This is a wonderful tool to use devotionally in the reading and singing of the psalms.

As a bonus, give yourself a free gift this year by subscribing to two podcasts that I have discovered this year.

*Unbelievable with Justin Brierley.* This show out of the UK has been around for 10 years and features a debate/conversation between two guests; sometimes this means that one is a Christian and the other is an atheist or that both guests are Christians on various sides of the debates. The subject of the conversations vary widely from such shows as “Are the Gospels based on eyewitness testimony?” to “How would finding alien life affect Christianity?”

*The Liturgists.* This podcast, which was started by Michael Gungor and “Science Mike”, blends interviews, poetry, and music, with conversations that often intersect with faith, science, and art. While occasionally coarse, but often funny, this podcast offers enriching reflections on faith, alongside vulnerable recollections of the loss, but eventual reclamation of faith. Topics include such things as spiral dynamics, evolution, the multiverse, and eschatology.

Merry Christmas!
Pastor Michael
Many in the congregation are already using the online membership program, Access ACS. If you have never used it, give it a try!

This allows members to view online Membership Information/Directory; Give online; sign up for events; email ministry/groups you are involved in, etc. If you have never logged in, check it out! Visit the Church website: www.cantoncpc.org and click on CPC Members/Member Login. If you have never logged in, click on need a login below the blue sign in box.

Once you have created a login on the membership program, you can download a free mobile app to stay connected on the go! Search for ACS Church Life with the icon pictured at the right. This app allows you to contribute from your mobile device, look up phone numbers, addresses, and emails, send text or call, pull up directions and a map for home visits, and view calendar events. You simply use the same username/password you use for Access ACS.

**Giving Opportunities:**

There are several ways to give in addition to giving by cash or check.

- **Online Giving:** Through our church website: www.cantoncpc.org/onlinegiving
  Click on Give Now. Enter your Amount, Select a fund, and add a comment in the optional memo if you wish. If you wish to give to more than one fund, simply click on the add more. Enter your email address and click on continue. If you have already setup an account, enter your password or continue as guest. If you don’t already have an account, confirm your email to create an account or continue as guest. Enter your payment information and click on Give. You will receive an email receipt for your gift. If you wish to setup a recurring gift, login to the membership program, Click on Giving/My Scheduled Giving.

- **Mobile giving:** Through the Church Life app. (see above)
  When you are in the Church Life app, click on the menu button ☰. Click on Give. Enter your Amount, select a fund, and add a comment in the optional memo if you wish, choose your frequency (one time, or if you wish to set up a recurring gift—click on weekly, monthly, etc.), choose the date you wish to give on, and then enter your payment information, verify you are not a robot, and click on Give. You will receive an email receipt for your gift.

- **Text giving:** Text the word **cantoncpc** (no spaces) to 73256 (standard text messaging rates may apply).
  Click on the link in the reply message. Enter your amount ($3 minimum), choose from a list of funds (General Fund is the default), enter your payment information, and verify that you are not a robot and click on GIVE. You will receive a text message receipt and also an email receipt for your gift.

If you have questions or need help, please call Diane in the church office (330-456-8113).

Like and share our Church facebook page—where we share upcoming church and fellowship events. Go to the Church website: www.cantoncpc.org and click on the “Find Us On facebook” icon at the bottom of the home page.

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This Christmas, the CPC Children and Family Ministry will be adopting a family that is caring for 13 children. Details on the children and their needs are available in the lower level and gifts will be due December 18th so that they can be delivered before Christmas. Please prayfully consider if your family can make helping this family part of your Christmas giving this year. Thank you.

On Tuesday, January 3, 2017, we will be taking down the Christmas decorations. We need several people to help take down the trees, wreaths, garland, and bows. This will take place from 6:00-8:00 p.m. The more helpers we have, the faster the task is completed. A simple meal will be provided. Please sign up in Cloister Hall or online if you can help.
Sunday Morning Schedule
8:00 & 10:30 a.m. Worship
9:15 a.m. School Classes All Ages
10:45 a.m. Kids’ Church

December

Tuesday Schedule
9:30 a.m. Bible Study
1:00-3:00 p.m. Staff Meeting—Library

Wednesday
4:45-6:15 p.m. Boychoir Rehearsal
5:30-7:00 p.m. Girls’ Choir Rehearsal

Thursday Schedule
7:00 a.m. Men’s Bible Study—West. Hall
7:15 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Friday, 12/2
6:00-8:00 p.m. Young Families—Wallace Home

Sunday, 12/4—Communion
4:40 p.m. Youth meet at Laser Quest

Wednesday, 12/7
7:00 p.m. Deacons Meeting—Upper Room
7:00 p.m. PM Supervision—Parlor

Saturday, 12/10
3:00-5:00 p.m. Food Ministry Brunch—West. Hall
1:00 p.m. Christmas Caroling to Shut-Ins

Sunday, 12/11
12:00-2:00 p.m. Children’s Christmas Program Rehearsal

Monday, 12/12
3:00 p.m. Property Meeting—Parlor

Tuesday, 12/13
11:30 a.m. TAG Luncheon/Christmas Music Program
11:30 a.m. Staff Meeting
1:00 p.m. Personnel Ministry—Parlor
7:00 p.m. Adult Discipleship—Edith Ophardt’s

Wednesday, 12/14—TIDINGS DEADLINE
8:00 a.m. Food Ministry
1:00 p.m. Finance Ministry—Parlor
7:00 p.m. Worship Ministry—Upper Room

Thursday, 12/15
6:30-8:30 p.m. Children’s Program Dress Rehearsal

Sunday, 12/18—Joy Offering Received
5:00 p.m. Children’s Christmas Program—West. Hall

Tuesday, 12/20
6:00 p.m. Session Dinner/Meeting—Parlor/Chapel

Wednesday, 12/21
7:00 p.m. SM Supervision—Parlor

Friday, 12/23—Church Office/Building Closed

Saturday, 12/24
6:30 p.m. Family Christmas Eve Service
9:30 p.m. Music
10:00 p.m. Candlelight Christmas Eve Communion Service

Sunday, 12/25—Merry Christmas!
10:30 a.m. One Worship Service of Lessons & Carols
(no 8:00 service or Sunday School this morning)

Monday, 12/26—Church Office/Building Closed

Wednesday, 12/28
8:00 a.m. Food Ministry

Thursday, 12/29
No Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Friday, 12/30—Church Office/Building Closed

January

Sunday, January 1
10:30 a.m. Single Worship Service

Tuesday, January 3
6:00-8:00 p.m. De-decorate Church

Friday, January 6
6:00 p.m. Epiphany Madrigal Feast—tickets required

Sunday, January 15, 2017
Evening of Fellowship & Entertainment
(viewing of “Hear My Song”)

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**Tuesday, December 13**

TAG for December features our annual Christmas music program titled “A Steinway Christmas” and features the Westminster Hall Steinway piano with Joyce Corbett and Bob Morrison, and vocals by Robert Karl Bortz. Duet selections will include items sacred and secular: “The Sleigh” of Kountz; Leroy Anderson’s “Sleigh Ride,” several carols, a Messiah excerpt, “Santa’s Tummy Tuck” and “The Twelve Days after Christmas.” Joyce Corbett holds her Bachelor’s in piano and German from Oberlin and a Master’s in organ from KSU. She has had a dual career as an RN pediatric nurse and concert artist. Bob Morrison was the parish musician at the downtown Methodist Church for 45 years and is presently at St. Mark’s. He was a teacher of high-schooler David Kienzle.

In addition to the wonderful music, we’ll have our special annual Christmas meal prepared by the TAG chefs: Judy Douglas’ delicious ham balls. You haven’t lived until you’ve had these ham balls! We will gather at 11:30 for a time of fellowship and greeting friends, followed by carol singing at 11:45, and lunch at noon. The program will begin at approximately 12:45 pm and concludes by about 1:30 p.m. Despite the special meal and program, the cost is still only $7.00. Please sign up no later than Sunday, December 11, to help make sure we make enough food for this very popular event.

**Mission M.O.M.E.N.T.**

**The Hat and Mitten Tree** will be up through December 11. We accept all sizes of hats and mittens. All of the donations go to Pine Ridge and our own Food, Clothing, and Prayer Ministry.

Please remember to watch for and cut out Box Tops for Education. Please put your unexpired box tops in a marked envelope in the collection plate.

**Theophilus James Wallace and Genevieve Lynne Wallace, children of Rev. Michael & Courtney Wallace were baptized Sunday, October 16, 2016 at Christ Presbyterian Church.**

**Sunday Morning Adult Classes 9:15-10:15 a.m.**

**The Library Class** is studying “Women of the Bible,” by Jean E. Syswerda.

**Contemporary Issues and Biblical Thought Adult Class** meets in the Quilting Room Sunday mornings 9:15-10:15 a.m. and is studying a book by James W. Moore entitled, “How God Takes Our Little and Makes It Much.”

**The Parlor Class** is studying from the Present Word. 12/4—God Promises a Savior, led by Paul & Barb Batchelder; 12/11—The Affirmation of the Promise, led by Betsy Smith; 12/18—The Forerunner of the Savior, led by Jim Smith; 12/25—The Savior Has Been Born, led by Ken Wulff.

**The Intergenerational Sunday School (ages 13-130):** A discussion oriented class that focuses on the weekly readings in scripture (the Daily Grace, printed in each week’s bulletin). The class meets in the upper meeting room, above the Parlor class, and is facilitated by Michael Ophardt.

**The Westminster Class:** TBA

**Upcoming TAG Program**

**Tag Tuesdays, 1/17/17 & 2/21**

Group lunch at a restaurant TBA

**Tag Tuesday, 3/21**

Fran Kitchin, wildlife rehabilitator

**Tag Tuesday, 4/18**

Celtic music program presented by John Whitacre, observing Ohio’s Scottish Day

**Tag Tuesday, 5/16**

Sam Vasbinder & Mario Buchanan on the Schantz organ

**Deacons’ Bench**

The frost on today’s window panes reminds me of the upcoming winter months ahead. Christmas is just around the corner! The Food, Clothing, and Prayer Ministry will be hosting two special events in December, and your support is requested.

We are planning a Christmas party of donuts, coffee, fellowship and song on Wednesday, December 14. At this gathering we plan to distribute hats, gloves and “goody bags.” If you have travel size or smaller size lotions, body wash, perfumes, nail polish, shaving cream or other personal size toiletries to fill our goody bags, we would be most grateful. Items geared toward men and children are so appreciated.

Secondly, we will be doing a special post Christmas distribution on Wednesday, December 28. The end of the month is always difficult for families and that is often compounded by the expense of Christmas. We are looking for non-perishable items to stock our bags for this distribution—especially items for kids who will be home during winter break. Food items might include: cereal, crackers, pretzels, pudding cups, fruit cups, and of course peanut butter and jelly. We would like all of these items before Christmas so that the bags can be made ahead of time.

Monetary donations are also welcome—we are happy to do the shopping for you! Please identify that your donation should be used for FCP Christmas. Your love and support of our Ministry is such a blessing. Thank you!

Lorraine Murphy
2017 Offering Envelopes
If you requested envelopes, you will find them beginning December 11 in alphabetical order on the table in Cloister Hall. If you do not find envelopes with your name, and would like to receive them, please call the church office or print your name on the pad found on the table. If you are not able to pick up your envelopes, please call the church office, and we will gladly mail them out to you.

2016 Charitable Contribution Deduction:
Please remember that all cash donations and/or stock transfers must be delivered to the Church Financial Office by December 31, 2016, in order to claim them as a charitable contribution deduction on your 2016 tax returns. Checks placed in the Church offering on the first Sunday in 2017 will not qualify for a charitable contribution deduction in 2016, even if the check is predated to 2016 or was actually written in 2016.

When contributing stock, please send a letter of direction and intent to Merrill Lynch and also a copy to myself in the church office.
Thank you,
Donald Weltlich

The Christmas Joy Offering provides assistance for those who have dedicated their lives to the service of the church and supports leadership development and education at Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges.

The Christmas Joy Offering will be received on Sunday, December 18.

Session Notes—November 15, 2016

Session meeting began with dinner and prayer in the Church Parlor. Kathy Kettlewell was our guest. Pam Moretta led worship in the Chapel, based on Matthew 11:28-30.

Minutes of previous meeting and the Clerk’s Report were received and approved. The baptism of Theodore James Wiggins, born January 31, 2016, was approved to be performed January 1, 2017. Parents are Adam J. and Bonnie E. (Smith) Wiggins.

Prayers of the people were offered at this time.

Motions approved: 1. from the Endowment Bequest Review Committee that Session accept a gift in the amount of $10,000 from the estate of Robert V. Wade. 2. This gift will be deposited into the Permanent Endowment Fund at KeyBank, earnings will go into the General Fund. 3. The KeyBank and Huntington Resolutions that had been tabled last month were approved. 4. from Personnel Ministry that Session fund the pastoral care position of The Rev. Eldon Trubee to include one full day of service per week and auto mileage reimbursement. 5. To award a Christmas Bonus to all Employees. 6. To modify the housing allowance for 2017 for Rev. Michael Wallace as requested in his letter to Session. 7. from Personnel that the contract for Director of Outdoor Ministries be met, and brought up to date in the amount of $1,500. 8. from Worship Ministry to purchase additional ear buds and head sets for the hearing loop.

Letter from Perry & Ella Lazich was discussed.
Pastor Dave de Vries reported on the recent trip to Pine Ridge with Nancy Montgomery and Becky Blackford. He will be publishing a more extensive report in the Tydings.

Meeting was closed by elders gathering in a circle and saying the Lord’s Prayer together.

Respectfully submitted by Alice R. Bailey
Epiphany Madrigal Feast
and Annual Visit of the Three Kings

Friday the 6th day of January,
in the Year of Our Lord, Twenty-Seventeen
In the Great Hall of Westminster at Christ Church

Last year, the profits from our madrigal feast made possible a gift of more than $2,000 to the Food, Clothing, and Prayer Ministry. Last year, the guests at the feast were amazed at the mature artistry of the entertaining singers from Akron. Last year, everyone was deeply moved by the cast performing the script written by Pastor de Vries. The Food?...so delectable!

Come gather with friends to celebrate in grand style the conclusion of Christmas Revelry, feasting, pageantry, and entertainment featuring the Firestone High School Madrigal Singers, under the direction of Chad Pittman. Fare: grapes & cheeses; roast beef, potatoes, vegetables, bread pudding, and beverages. Doors open at six o’clock; feasting begins at half past six. Tickets are $25 per person ($10 for Children & Students).

Proceeds from this event benefit the Food, Clothing, and Prayer Ministry of Christ Church.

Seating is limited to 120 guests. Tickets available online or in the church office.

Thank you all so very much for your prayers and well wishes. It really means very much to Cheryl and myself. It’s wonderful knowing we have such a great family supporting us. May God bless you all. Thank you so much.

Love, Ron & Cheryl Pelger

It would be SOUPer
if you could help!

We are in need of several soup tureens for our Madrigal Feast. If you have one you could lend us for the event (drop it off in the kitchen Sunday, January 1st and it will be ready for pickup in the kitchen Sunday, January 8th), please call or email Jennie George (330-368-2196/ jgeorge@cantoncpc.org) and let her know. Thank you!

December Birthdays

1. James Broad, Julie Sproul
2. Jace Anderson, Bob Clark, Gary Motts
3. Dorothy Kandel, Tyler Kojac, Doris Sterling
4. Mario Buchanan
5. Diana Loree, Joe Orin
6. Jeff Dieringer, Ron Dougherty
7. Kris Alecusan
8. Danielle Chance, Clara Snively, Courtney Wallace
9. Collette Everhart
10. Dawn Plug
11. Jennifer Anderson, Fred Bohse
12. Jennifer Anderson, Fred Bohse
13. Melinda Graham, Curtis Martin
14. Jennifer Johnson, Chris Moore
15. Terry Stoffer
16. Adam George
17. Rhoda Hart, Michael Krew, Judith Putman
18. Jon Dillon, Joni Factor, Jon Peterson, Charles Roberts
19. Marjorie Morris, Karen Peterson
20. Gabriel Dallas
21. Zane Parker, Brice Simon
22. Anne Crowl, Max Halter, Carol Orin, Cynthia Repasky
23. Gene Bonchu, Dorothy Killian, Millie Snyder
24. Bill Blair, Nancy Dean, Lydia Halkides, Matthew Halter
25. Roger Barrett
26. Christ Church celebrates birthdays of members who are 95 years or more:
   December 14—Curtis Martin (102)
The Church is charged for every returned Newsletter. If you have moved, or changed a seasonal address, please notify the church office. Thank you.

To be added to the Tydings email list or to submit an article for Tydings, please email dnave@cantoncpc.org no later than Wednesday, December 14, 2016.

Prayer Chain:
Whenever there's a need for prayer, please call one of our Prayer Chain co-chairs:
Miriam Hinterleiter ~ 330-966-5846
Miriam Carter ~ 330-832-5120
Alice Bailey ~ 330-456-6290
or email AliceB1519@aol.com

Friends Helping Friends:
If you are in need of temporary assistance or medical equipment, we want you to know that we care. God has His hand in this ministry, sees your need, and wants you to receive this assistance through Friends Helping Friends. Please do not hesitate to call coordinators:
Alan Plug—330-704-1107
Heather Dominik—330-459-4590

Sunday, December 4—Laser Tag
Meet at Laser Quest Canton at 4:40 p.m., pick up at 6:45 p.m.
4716 Everhard Road NW, Canton OH 44718
$19 per person (includes 2 games and pizza and pop)
RSVP by Sunday, November 27

Saturday, December 10—1:00 p.m. Caroling (meet in Westminster Hall)

Sunday, December 18—4:00 p.m.—Youth Christmas Party (in Youth Room)
5:00 p.m. Join the Church community for the Children’s Play and reception

Sunday, December 25—No Meeting—Merry Christmas!

Have you remembered your church in your will?

Christ Church urges you to make a plan for yourself and when you do, to please remember your church in it. You can leave a set amount or a tithe (for example, 10% of your estate). If you already have a will, you can amend it with a call to your attorney. For questions about making a bequest to CPC, fell free to contact any member of CPC’s Endowment Ministry (Jack Burnquist, Roger Gray, Teresa Houston, Linda Norton, or Steve Stocker).