December 2018 Tydings

Sunday, December 9, 2018

advent
lessons & carols
10:30 am

Christmas Caroling
Caroling to our Homebound
COME JOIN US!
Sunday, December 16, 2018
following 10:30 am service

The Longest Night
A service of healing and hope in the midst of Christmas
Thursday, December 20th at 12:00 & 5:15 pm.

The light shines in the darkness... John 1:3

Christmas Eve Services
6:30 pm
Family Worship in the Sanctuary
Songs & Stories
9:30 pm
Festival Choral and Organ Music

Christmas Lessons & Carols
Sunday, December 30, 2018

Come One, Come ALL to the Banquet Hall!
EPHANHY MADRIGAL FEAST
and Annual Visit of the Three Magi
FRIDAY, the 4th of JANUARY
in the Year of Our Lord, Twenty-Nineteen
in the Great Hall of Westminster at Christ Church in Canton

Come gather with friends to celebrate in grand style the conclusion of Christmas Revelry: the 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 and in the Church office.

Sunday, December 23, 2018
Combined Worship Service
at 10:30 am

TAG
Tuesday Afternoon Group
Tuesday, December 18—11:30 am
Christmas Music Program
See page 5 for details

END 2018—START 2019
New Year’s Eve Dinner & Worship
Monday, December 31, 2018
6:00 p.m. Dinner; 7:00 p.m. Worship
We finish up by 8:00 p.m. in time to meet other friends and family for continued celebration.
Commentary: Ignorance, fear of ‘others’ triggers violence

By Rabbi John Spitzer
Rabbi John Spitzer is rabbi emeritus at Temple Israel in Canton and currently an associate professor of Jewish Studies at Walsh University. (Photo courtesy of Walsh University). Reprinted with permission

The Jewish community of Stark County reels in shock and sorrow as we confront the tragic violence at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh. It is a cruel awakening to the reality that anti-Semitism, which has plagued our people so unjustly and so irrationally through the ages, has not disappeared but continues to poison the relationships between people of faith, all too often erupting in violence and death.

Our tradition mourns the loss of loved ones most intensely for the shivah period of seven days following burial. We are taught that one doesn’t recover from intense grief immediately. Rather, we think of those we have lost, of their lives and lessons, their gifts and their legacies. While it is painful they no longer are with us physically, acknowledging the pain is the first step toward feeling again and healing.

During this shivah period, we have been and continue to be strengthened by the many personal messages of condolence, comfort and prayer received from our friends in the Muslim and Christian communities. At times such as this, we put aside our awkwardness or perceived differences and embrace the humanity of our neighbors. Personally, I am deeply grateful and moved by such outpourings of concern and authentic expressions of grief.

While Jews have special reason to “sit shivah” this week, we also need to remember our blood is not redder than others’. Indeed, the 11 murdered in Pittsburgh on the Sabbath day are merely the most recent to be offered up on hate’s sacrificial altar. Our victims join African Americans, Muslims, Sikhs, LGBTQ individuals and so many other innocents, each created in God’s image, who violently were torn from life and loved ones through savage acts of hatred and violence. We form a community of victims of all colors, faiths and orientations.

What is the cause of this outbreak of violence against the innocent? While many causes can be identified, I focus on fear and ignorance. Beyond “prayers and concerns” we, as a multicultural and diverse American society, need to focus our faith and our outrage on alleviating fear and dispelling ignorance of the “other.” We do that by being together and working together. We do that by monitoring how we speak and act in public and by holding others accountable for their words and deeds.

Dealing with fear and ignorance requires more than “head work.” It requires “doing.” We can’t change hearts and minds from afar. We need to touch, to get dirty together. The Rev. Walter Arrington once suggested a Black and White Softball League as a way of bringing diverse communities together to get to know each other. Imagine if people of different races and backgrounds joined together for wholesome fun during the summer months. Imagine the conversations and the friendships that would occur.

We at Temple Israel have engaged in gan b’racha (a Community Garden of Blessing) tended and harvested by an interfaith group. We have shared in building houses with other faith groups for Habitat for Humanity, and we have marched, shoulder to shoulder with others in Stark County for justice for immigrants to our country and those taken by gun violence. What is important is not that “we,” meaning our Jewish community, have done these things, but that “we” — as part of greater Stark County — have found partners and become partners with others who seek, dream of and long for a Sabbath when hatred and violence will be no more.

May these victims not have died in vain.

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**Food/Clothing/Prayer Ministry: Community Pantry Update**

Ever wonder if the donation you give will make a difference? I received in the mail a check for $50.00 earmarked for the Community Pantry. We had just finished our distribution, and, as is often the case, our shelves were looking pretty bare. I went out on a mission to make that money go as far as possible.

That $50 donation purchased the following: 30 rolls of paper towels, 60 laundry pods, 50 razors, 10 dish liquids, 5 grape jelly, 5 cans of Progresso soup, and 3 jars of spaghetti sauce. Think of all the families that will be touched by that donation!

As is the case with so many ministries at our church, we do not take your help for granted.

With Love,
Lorraine Murphy
Jesus was Jewish. Further, his life was lived, from start to finish, as a resident of an occupied nation. The Roman Empire was at its zenith and ruled Jerusalem and the surrounding area with an iron fist. The “Pax Romana” (Latin for “Roman Peace”) was no peace at all. It was a way of governing through force. In fact, it was officially sanctioned tyranny designed to keep conquered peoples in submission. The Jews took the brunt of this government-authorized brutality.

The world witnessed a twentieth century version of the Pax Romana on 9-10 November 1938. Kristallnacht (“Crystal Night”) marks a night of persecution carried out by paramilitary forces and civilians aimed at Jewish populations throughout Nazi Germany. These acts of horrific violence were then followed by years of ruthless economic and political persecution, and murder, the culmination of which we now identify historically as “The Holocaust.”

For Rabbi Spitzer, the attack on the Tree of Life Synagogue served as “a cruel awakening to the reality that anti-Semitism, which has plagued our people so unjustly and so irrationally through the ages, has not disappeared but continues to poison the relationships between people of faith, all too often erupting in violence and death.” Anti-Semitism may be acted out by “only a few,” but it is legitimated by powerful forces and structures seen and unseen, sanctioned and unsanctioned.

The power of political leaders to exploit and poison the differences between peoples and populations is substantial. Words direct action! Political leaders control the “cultural pulpit.” History is directed, for better or for worse, by the words political leaders choose and use. Who would deny that the rhetorical skills of Adolph Hitler ultimately fed both the hatred and the violence directed against Jewish populations: “With satanic joy in his face, the black-haired Jewish youth lurks in wait for the unsuspecting girl whom he defiles with his blood, thus stealing her from her people (From Mein Kampf, published in 1925).”

Among other “powerful forces and structures seen and unseen,” is religion. As Rabbi Spitzer has suggested, there is something that poisons relationships between people of differing faiths. I would suggest that where there is difference there is likely to be ignorance, and where there is ignorance there will likely be fear. When fear gets the upper hand, violence is often condoned... in the nation, in the church, in the mosque, and in the synagogue.

The sheer power and effectiveness of Nazi rhetoric won over much of the Christian population of Germany. Perhaps the most effective tool exploited by the Nazi regime was a book that occupied an honored place in every Christian home; the Bible. Nazi leadership proved itself extremely effective in corrupting the Hebrew Scriptures alongside New Testament stories and words, turning them into weapons of mass destruction. Words direct action! This misuse of scriptures is hardly a singular historical event. Indeed, throughout all Church history, Christians have been taught to hold Judaism and its adherents in contempt. Unfortunately, with regards to anti-Semitism, it appears our “present” may be increasingly reflecting our past.

One of the books I have within easy reach is entitled Preaching the Gospels Without Blaming the Jews. It is a Bible commentary that addresses Gospel passages that have been used over the course of history as polemics justifying the degradation of Jewish people, their faith, their practices, and their human worth. Why would such a commentary be necessary? Words direct action! The author writes:

The most frequent way in which anti-Judaism remains alive in the teaching and preaching of the church is through the negative images of Jews and Judaism that occur throughout the Gospels. Sociological studies suggest that the more Christians believe depreciatory things about the Jews in Jesus’ time, the more they tend to project those negative images on Jews today.”

Words direct action! Jesus was a Jew. So were the Gospel writers. Context is everything. It is silly and naive to believe that the words of these Jewish authors were intended to demean and belittle the faith practices of their own people. It is self-serving to press the idea that their words were intended to disparage and devalue an entire race (their own!) and to play it off another race (our own!). It is the small and inept mind (not to mention the dead and withered spirit) that warps stories written in another land, by a differing culture, in a distant time—words written with the express purpose of revealing the love, grace, and mercy of God—to serve the purposes of hate, division, and degradation.

As Christians, we are at our worst when we pretend lies are truth and that truth is fiction. We are at our worst when we make excuses for those who would pervert words of patriotism and faith for purposes of hate and division. We are at our worst when we lend (and therefore forfeit) our own legitimacy to the destructive words and ideas of others.

Words remain important. Words direct action! As Christians, we are at our best when we proclaim the Kingdom of God, and call out those who co-opt words of patriotism and faith to divide and segregate peoples and communities. As Christians we are at our best when our words are words of Jesus, words that counter the words of those who would debase people of differing ethnic make-up or religious belief. As Christians, we are at our best when, with Jesus, we refute those who speak only to inflame judgement and hatred directed toward those of diverse opinions and orientations. As Christians, we are at our best when we proclaim the peace and provision of Christ even as others seek to incite violence against the vulnerable and the weak.

Why? Because words are important. Because words have power. Because words really do direct action!
Christmas Gift Ideas

As I have done the last few years, I continue to give you a few recommendations for that last minute Christmas gift that will certainly encourage and delight someone in their Christian walk. Below is a listing of some books that I have read that have fed my soul in different ways and I recommend them to you and yours.

The Beatitudes of Peace by Fr. John Dear—This author came to CPC on a book tour in April of this year, but I also had a chance to read another of his books, this one being a meditation on the Beatitudes, particularly from the perspective of creative non-violence or peacemaking. The chapter that convicted me the most was on “blessed are those who mourn,” in which Dear writes, “if we see everyone on earth as our very sister and brother, then we are, de facto, grieving. Tens of thousands of our sisters and brothers die every day! This fact shocks us every time we remember what is happening around the planet.” (50)

Liturgy of the Ordinary by Tish Harrison Warren—Framed around one ordinary day, this book explores daily life through the lens of liturgy, small practices and habits that form us. Each chapter looks at something making the bed, brushing her teeth, losing her keys that the author does in the day. Drawing from the diversity of her life as a campus minister, Anglican priest, friend, wife, and mother, Tish Harrison Warren opens up a practical theology of the everyday.

How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth by Gordon Fee and Douglas Stuart— Covering everything from translational concerns to different genres of biblical writing, How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth is used all around the world. In clear, simple language, it helps you accurately understand the different parts of the Bible—their meaning for ancient audiences and their implications for you today—so you can uncover the inexhaustible worth that is in God’s Word. The Discipleship team recommends this book as a companion to this year’s Westminster Hall class on the Bible or for anyone! Copies are available in the office.

Inspired by Rachel Held Evans—Drawing on the best in recent scholarship and using her well-honed literary expertise, Evans examines some of our favorite Bible stories and possible interpretations, retelling them through memoir, original poetry, short stories, soliloquies, and even a short screenplay. Undaunted by the Bible’s most difficult passages, Evans wrestles through the process of doubting, imagining, and debating Scripture’s mysteries.

Accidental Saints by Nadia Bolz-Weber—Tattooed, angry and profane, this former standup comic turned pastor stubbornly, sometimes hilariously, resists the God she feels called to serve. Accidental Saints demonstrates what happens when ordinary people share bread and wine, struggle with scripture together, and tell each other the truth about their real lives. This unforgettable account of their faltering steps toward wholeness will ring true for believer and skeptic alike.

(Some of the descriptions above are adapted from goodreads.com)

An early Merry Christmas and Happy Reading!
Pastor Michael

Page 4
This Christmas, the CPC Children, Youth and Family Ministry will be adopting a family that is caring for children ranging in age from 7 months to 6 years. Details on the children and their needs are available in the lower level and gifts will be due December 16th so that they can be delivered before Christmas. Please prayerfully consider if your family can make helping this family part of your Christmas giving this year. Thank you.

TAG
Tuesday Afternoon Group
Tuesday, December 18

TAG for December features our annual Christmas music program. Again this year we’ll be entertained by Joyce Corbett and David Kienzle. They have planned a musical treat that will take us into the sanctuary for a combined piano-organ instrumental music concert. In addition to the wonderful music, we’ll have our special annual Christmas meal prepared by the TAG chefs: Judy Douglass’ delicious ham balls. You simply do not want to pass up these yummy ham balls!

We will gather at 11:30 a.m. for a time of fellowship and greeting friends, followed by carol singing at 11:45 a.m., and lunch at noon. The program begins at approximately 12:45 p.m. 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 16 to help make sure we make enough food for this very popular event.

So you can plan ahead for TAG, here are the upcoming dates and programs. Plan to join us!

Tuesday, January 15, 2019 – Group lunch at a restaurant
Tuesday, February 19 – Group lunch at a restaurant
Tuesday, March 19 – Music in the White House, presented by Christopher Kenney
Tuesday, April 16 – A visit with President & Mrs. Grant, portrayed by Janie McClelland Davis
Tuesday, May 21 – Surprise guest musician

QUALIFIED CHARITABLE DISTRIBUTIONS (QCDs)

A QCD is a direct transfer of funds from your IRA custodian, payable to a qualified charity. These transfers can be counted toward satisfying your required minimum distribution for the year, as long as certain rules are met.

While many IRAs are eligible for QCDs – Traditional, Rollover, Inherited, SEP and Simple – there are requirements:

- You must be 70 1/2 or older.
- QCDs are limited to the amount that would otherwise be taxed as ordinary income.
- The maximum annual amount is $100,000. This applies to the sum of QCDs made to one or more charities in a calendar year.
- For the QCD to count towards your current year’s RMD, the funds must come out of your IRA by your RMD deadline, generally December 31.
- The distribution must be payable to a qualified charity to be eligible to receive the tax-deduction.
- Funds distributed directly to you, the IRA owner, then given to a charity do not qualify as a QCD.

Before going forward with any attempted payout from your RMD, make sure you work with the broker holding your IRA to make sure that any distribution for a charity is done in a proper way to qualify.
from the
Deacons’ Bench

from the Deacons’ Bench

Carolig will be on Sunday, December 16, following the 10:30 am service. There will be a light lunch before we leave to carol. Signup online or in Cloister Hall.

Our new coordinators for Friends Helping Friends:
Alice Rauch: 330-494-2997
& Sue McCarty: 330-323-0934

We are in need of coffee cans for flower delivery. If you have any available, please take them to the Custodian’s office. Thank you!

As the year comes to an end, the Deacons would like to thank everyone for helping us make our mission a success. Your kindness is deeply appreciated!

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, feel free to contact any member of the Endowment Ministry (Jack Burnquist, Roger Gray, Teresa Houston, Linda Norton, or Steve Stocker).

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Common Table: Cooking Class for Confrmands

On Sunday, November 11, the confirmation classes from Christ Church and from the Chadash Community Hebrew Academy joined together at Temple Israel in Canton to take a cooking class together. We navigated no fewer than three different cultures/sub-cultures: Nicaraguan (where our chef is from), American Christian, and American Jewish. Seeking to honor kosher regulations, we tailored our menu accordingly: guacamole, pico de gallo, rice, beans, tortillas, horchata, and flan! We cooked the food, enjoyed the delicious meal, and talked about all of our international family roots. Great fun was had by all and we are excited that a relationship between the youth will continue to develop as the Chadash confirmation class visit CPC on Sunday, December 2 and plans are in the works to have our confrmands visit the Temple sometime in the spring.

From left to right: One of the student ambassadors and translators helped students with guacamole, Pastor Michael helps a student to get seeds out of jalapeños, the other student ambassador helps others cut up onions for our meal, and Rabbi Adland welcomes all and teaches us a Hebrew song to bless our food.

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 23.
I wanted to say a special thank you to my Christ Church family for your kind and thoughtful words of support, prayers, cards, and actions regarding the passing of my father, Carl Slackford. The love and support I and my family have received from the Congregation, Leadership, and Staff has been sustaining and strengthening in this difficult time. I am so thankful that Dad found a church home here with all of you. God bless you and thank you from my entire family.

~Jennie George

To the Sharing & Caring Ministry:
Thank you so much for a beautiful luncheon.
Gertie Slackford & Family

A big THANK YOU to all who made the annual Camp Wakonda Benefit Auction a success! We are thrilled to announce that this year’s Benefit Auction raised over $22,000 for our campership fund and programing! Because of your support, a great many children can experience the unconditional love and hospitality of Christ in the setting of God’s glorious creation. Shalom!

Thanks again to Marna Holcomb for donating the evergreens used in the Church’s outside swags.

Session met on Tuesday, November 13. It was a bit of a progressive meeting as we started in the Pine Room by enjoying a delicious soup and salad meal prepared by Jerry Norton, then we moved to the Chapel for worship led by Carol Orin inspired by Thanksgiving and Psalm 100, and we finally landed in the Library for the remainder of our meeting. The Clerk’s report and Session minutes were approved, and Session received the current financial reports from TJ Hon. Motions were approved regarding Christmas bonuses; remittance of the 2019 per capita assessment to GA, Synod, and Presbytery on a monthly basis; and the purchase of an electric keyboard for use with CPC children and youth, choirs, and Camp Wakonda ministries.

Session received pastors’ reports from Pastor Dave and Pastor Michael. Pastor Dave reported that Brian Ohler will install 4 more security cameras during the Christmas break, and that initial planning work is underway to support livestreaming of our worship service. Pastor Michael highlighted the partnering of the confirmand class with the youth at Temple Israel. They jointly enjoyed a cooking class in the kosher kitchen at Temple Israel, and had a tasty non-meat Nicaraguan meal. Session continued its review of the church rolls, and tabled a decision on whether to pursue registration as a National Historic Landmark. Finally, we identified individuals and families in need of our prayers. Our meeting closed with prayer led by Pastor Dave.

Respectfully Submitted by Nancy Irving

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.

We have added ONE additional day for the congregation to have their photo taken for inclusion in the new church directory. Sessions will be available on SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2\textsuperscript{nd}

from 12 noon-2:30pm

Call the church office or sign up at the table in Cloister Hall to schedule your session. Don’t miss your chance!

The Hat and Mitten Tree is up through December 9.

We accept all sizes of hats and mittens. All hands, both big and small, male and female get cold. Let’s have a “warm hands winter.” All of the donations go to Pine Ridge and our own Food, Clothing and Prayer Ministry.
**Sunday Morning Schedule**
8:00 & 10:30 am Worship  
9:15 am Adult Classes  
10:45 am Kids’ Church

**Monday Schedule**
10:00 am Staff Meeting

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**December**

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**Saturday, 12/1**
8:00 am-2:30 pm Candy Making—Kitchen

**Sunday, 12/2—Communion**
9:15 am Youth meet in Chapel  
12:00 pm—2:30 pm Picture Directory Photos Taken

**Wednesday, 12/5**
10:00 am Spirit & Space Communications—Parlor  
6:30 pm Stephen Ministry Supervision-Parlor

**Friday, 12/7**
10:30 am Small Group Meeting—Library

**Saturday, 12/8**
8:30-10:00 am Food Ministry Breakfast  
10:00 am Presbytery Meeting—Wooster Westminster

**Sunday, 12/9**
10:30 am Advent Lessons & Carols—Sanctuary  
5:00 pm Confirmation  
6:00 pm Youth Group

**Monday, 12/10**
1:00 pm Personnel Meeting—Parlor  
4:00 pm Property Meeting—Parlor

**Wednesday, 12/12—TYDINGS DEADLINE**
8:00 am Food Ministry Christmas Party—West. Hall  
4:30 pm Worship Ministry—Parlor

**Sunday, 12/16**
11:45 am Congregational Caroling to Shut-ins

**Tuesday, 12/18**
11:30 am TAG Lunch & Program—Westminster Hall  
6:00 pm Session Dinner/Meeting—Parlor

**Thursday, 12/20**
12:00 pm Longest Night Service—Chapel  
5:15 pm Longest Night Service—Chapel

**Friday, 12/21**
10:30 am Small Group Meeting—Parlor  
6:00 pm Chancel Choir Party—Norton Home

**Sunday, 12/23—Christmas Joy Offering Received**
10:30 am Combined Worship (No 8:00 am Service)

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**Monday, 12/24—Church Office/Building Closed**
6:30 pm Christmas Eve Family Service—Sanctuary  
9:30 pm Special Music—Sanctuary  
10:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service—Sanctuary

**Tuesday, 12/25—Merry Christmas!**
Church Office/Building Closed All Day

**Wednesday, 12/26**
8:00 am Food Ministry

**Sunday, 12/30—Christmas Lessons & Carols**
10:30 am Combined Worship (No 8:00 am Service)  
11:30 am De-Decorate Church

**Monday, 12/31—Church Office/Building Closed**
6:00 pm New Year’s Eve Dinner—Westminster Hall  
7:00 pm New Year’s Eve Service—Sanctuary

**Tuesday, 1/1—Happy New Year!**
Church Office/Building Closed All Day

**Friday, 1/4—Epiphany Madrigal Feast (tickets required)**

**Sunday, 1/6—Combined Worship at 10:30 am**
(no 8:00 am Service)

**Sunday, 1/13—Combined Worship at 10:30 am**
(no 8:00 am Service)

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**A Very Merry Christmas**

_and Happy New Year!_

_from the Staff_

_at_

_Christ Church_

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<tr>
<th>Liturgists:</th>
<th>Van Drivers:</th>
<th>Ushers:</th>
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| 12/2        | Jon Peterson | Jack Burnquist  
|             |              | Brian DeLap, Jack Burnquist, Skip & Linda Shriver, Bob Stanley, Amanda Carter, Curt & Stephanie Werren |
| 12/9        | Emma George  | Shawn Campbell  
|             |              | Becky Banfield, Mary Jane Ebie, Steve Schott, Shawn & Lisa Campbell, Julie Sproul, Scott & Lori Sproul, Beth Souers |
| 12/16       | Bette Maier  | Dan McGrew  
|             |              | Joyce McKimm, Darrell & Dianne Holland, Bob Clark, Mike & Carol Gravilla, Kent Berg, Kim Kemper |
| 12/23       | Steve Schott | Marsha/Ken Wise  
|             |              | Randy & DeDe Bailey, Debbie D’Antonio, Heather Leadbetter, Gregg Schorsten, Karl Hershberger, Mary Ann Beck, Libby Wilson, Kari Martinez |
| 12/24       | Christmas Eve—6:30 pm | Dan McGrew, Josh & Allison Burdeshaw, Rick & Mary Angeli, Erica Davison, Ray & Pamm Ohlinger |
| 12/24       | Christmas Eve—9:30 pm | Marsha & Ken Wise, Terry Everett, Debby Pauls, Scott & Pam McCahan, Jonathan McCahan, Barb Gheen |
| 12/30       | Chrissy Rice  | Jack Burnquist  
|             |              | Brian DeLap, Jack Burnquist, Skip & Linda Shriver, Bob Stanley, Amanda Carter, Curt & Stephanie Werren |

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**Page 8**
On Sunday, December 30, 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 after the 10:30 am worship service. 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.

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, December 30 and it will be ready for pickup in the kitchen Sunday, January 6th), please call or email Jennie George (330-368-2196/ jgeorge@cantoncpc.org) and let her know. Thank you!

FINANCIAL NOTES

Beginning Balance Operating Funds as of 7/1

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Ending Balance Operating Funds as of 6/30/19

$125,401 $65,067

This reporting reflects the General and Camp Funds from July 1, 2018-June 30, 2019. PLEASE REMEMBER TO KEEP YOUR PLEDGE CURRENT. THANK YOU!

STEWARDSHIP—October

| Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 2 Corinthians 9:7, NIV |
|-----------------|-----------------|-------|-------|
| Average Monthly | Oct—17          | Oct—18          |
| Attendance      | 236             | 231             |
| General Fund Income | $35,537      | $45,108      |
| G/F Budget Needed | $61,363      | $61,794      |
| Monthly Net + / - | (25,826)   | (16,686)      |

Online Giving with a Credit/Debit Card or directly from your Checking or Savings Account.
Designate amount, general fund (or choose other fund), one time or recurring gift, credit card or debit bank.
Text CANTONCPC to 73256 to give using your text messaging. Standard text messaging rates may apply.
Need help or have questions? Contact Diane in the Church Office 330-456-8113.

2019 Offering Envelopes

If you requested envelopes, you will find them beginning December 16 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.

2018 Charitable Contribution Deduction:

Please remember that all cash donations and/or stock transfers must be delivered to the Church Financial Office by December 31, 2018, in order to claim them as a charitable contribution deduction on your 2018 tax returns. Checks placed in the Church offering on the first Sunday in 2019 will not qualify for a charitable contribution deduction in 2018, even if the check is predated to 2018 or was actually written in 2018.

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

REMINDER: The 2019 Per Capita Communicant Apportionment is set at $30.56 per member, with the General Assembly receiving 8.95, Synod $3.25, and the Presbytery $18.36. Your assistance in donating to help defray the cost to the church will be greatly appreciated. Please indicate on your check for the 2019 apportionment.
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 dnav@cantontcpc.org no later than Wednesday, December 12, 2018.

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**Sunday Mornings**
8:00 & 10:30 am
Listen to the Cathedral Hour on 640WHLO, or log on your computer to www.640whlo.com for live streaming.

**Office Hours:**
Monday-Friday
8:00 am—5:00 pm

**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 co-coordinator:
- Alice Rauch—330-494-2997
- Sue McCarty—330-323-0934

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**Spirit & Space Team Report**

Christmas greetings from Spirit & Space Team! Session charged the Spirit & Space Team to determine how CPC can continue to be a welcoming community through empowering the structural, visual, and practical design of the space we call our church home. Check out our [Spirit & Space link on CPC’s Web site](http://www.cantontcpc.org) to access past Tydings articles and other information. We want to keep you informed of our progress!

We wish to thank those of you who attended the charrette to which you all were invited last month. If any additional design ideas occurred to you after the event, of if you weren’t able to attend the charrette and wish to convey those thoughts to someone, please contact Lorraine Murphy @ (330) 495-8963. We certainly look forward to what architects Elizabeth Murphy and Lauren Burge from the firm of Perspectus Historic Architecture, Chamber, Murphy & Burge Studios gleaned from that "brain storming" experience!

In past issues of Tydings, we discussed highlights – specifically affirmations, observations, and some opportunities for generosity growth – of a Generosity Climate Report prepared by a professional consultant with Generis, with whom the church has now signed a contract. This month we share with you additional opportunities for generosity growth identified in that report.

**OFFERING TIME DURING WORSHIP:**
1. It should be cast as a time of celebration by adding music, stories of impact, and emphasizing mini-teaching moments.
2. “Grace in Our Midst” – for some of these moments of “grace” consider messaging how generosity is achieved.
3. Use the worship experience to teach sound theology about Biblical stewardship and generosity, continue to build trust, cast and re-cast our CPC vision, and present stories of impact, e.g., relate how giving to the operating budget has real impact on the ministries within the church.

**TEACHING AND DISCIPLESHIP:**
1. Growing in our generosity is a lifelong development process. So consider offering at least annually at time(s) other than the stewardship campaign a series on finances, stewardship or generosity.
2. Teaching Biblical money management should be a part of a congregation’s discipleship curriculum.
3. Generous churches are led by generous leaders. Church staff and lay leaders should be explicitly encouraged in matters of their own financial stewardship to the church.

**ON-RAMPS FOR NEW GIVERS:**
1. Improve and modernize the online giving portal experience on the church’s website and consider developing a smart phone online giving app.
2. Especially for new givers, be creative and innovative with insuring that existing on-ramps for giving are strengthened and new ramps for generosity, other than cash or checks, are continually being evaluated and implemented.

The Spirit & Space Team