



Epiphany

A Season of Discovery and Sharing!

God's Winter Wonderland

This newsletter comes to you following the busy rush of Christmas, family visits, and gift giving. January rushes in with the cold reality of winter's dominion. It's a chilled vision perhaps but I have moments when I see a winter wonderland. The wild birds flock to the birdfeeder dodging snow flakes. My friend, Squirrel Nutkin makes her way from the tree next to the porch to search for the buried treasure of an acorn cache. Snowflakes drifting across the window create a scene of winter beauty as they coat the dark trees with scarves of glittering white fluff.

The winter season reminds me of my experience in this congregation and I don't mean a "wint'ry chill! Winter is the time when growth and possibility is preparing, hard earth and in growing, developing under the *happening that we* the closed blooms. *There is much don't see.* In the past twelve months we have been discovering hidden life bursting into bloom after what seemed a too long hibernation. We are all being awed with wonder at what God has been doing while we thought we saw little or nothing. We give praise to God that even when our physical eyes cannot "see" God at work, we can rest in the promise that God is, in fact, in reality, at work. God is busy "*practicing resurrection"... this winter is our time to ask God to do "practice resurrection" in our own lives. (*the phrase, *practicing resurrection* is borrowed from Wendell Berry, author and poet)



Peace, Joy, Wonder,
Bob Anderson

Jesus.

New Sermon Series: January 20 – February 10

Jesus – Who is this man?

His message changed the world.

And history!

Was he God? A prophet? A radical Jewish Zealot who failed? Joe the Plumber? Messiah? Savior? Jesus will introduce himself to us as we explore four statements he made that are in the Gospel of John. ***Knowing Jesus will change your life!***

Sundays, January 20 – February 10

Jan. 20 - *Jesus is Life – How to live with abundant joy.*

Jan. 27 - *Jesus is the Light – How to change the world.*

Feb. 3 - *Jesus is the Gate – Encountering God's Eternal Mission Today!*

Feb 10- *Jesus is the Vine - How to live a fruitful and purposeful life.*

Coming in Lent – *“Facing the Heat” – Tested Tools That Trump Temptation*

PER CAPITA APPORTIONMENT – 2013

The Presbytery annually assesses ecclesiastical expenses in

support of our General Assembly, Synod of the Covenant and

Maumee Valley Presbytery. The assessment for 2013 is based on our membership of 195 as reported on December 31, 2011, and is distributed as follows:

General Assembly - \$ 6.87 x membership	= \$ 1,339.65
Synod of the Covenant - \$ 3.25 x membership	= \$ 633.75
Maumee Valley Presbytery - \$ 17.83 x membership	= <u>\$ 3,476.85</u>
Total Apportionment	= \$ 5,450.25

Our apportionment amounts to \$ 27.95 per member on our active rolls, and is due in the Presbytery office prior to January 31, 2013. We are committed to payment of the full amount. However, Session is asking for the support of each active member to help our already strained budget by sending a check to the church office to cover his or her share of the apportionment in the amount of \$ 27.95 per active member in your giving unit before January 31, 2013. Thank you.

Happy New Year Everyone

For those who had picked up their Giving Envelope orders the last 2 years, the re-order for 2013 Envelopes had been placed and they have arrived. They are available for you to pick up in the back of the

Fellowship Hall. They are close to the doors by the elevator.

***The 4th Quarterly Giving Statements for 2012 will be going out in the mail by January 9, 2013**

Please be sure to contact Christine Birmingham if there are any Concerns or questions once you receive them. Blessings to you and your family in 2013.

God Is GREAT!

~Christine Birmingham

Deacon of the Month

The Deacons of Collingwood are working to fulfill our mission of supporting the members and friends of Collingwood Church. In order to accomplish this mission, we have established "Deacon of the Month".

**DECEMBER'S DEACON OF THE MONTH:
RONDA GARCIA**

Each month, one deacon has been assigned the responsibility of providing support with hospital visits, acknowledging new babies, attending memorial services, serving as a liaison for the church, etc. If you have a need, please contact Rolanda at the church office and she will be in contact with the "Deacon of the Month". Thank you for helping us fulfill our mission!



Happy Birthday

- 1/03 Malcolm Kantner
- 1/05 William Hufstader
- 1/07 Leslie Cribbs
- 1/08 Edward Kubiak
- 1/08 Shannon Bengé
- 1/08 Isaac Kuhlman
- 1/11 Dorothy Byers
- 1/16 Jeanne Galliers
- 1/19 Caroleina Heintz
- 1/20 Jeff Olszewsk (Mike & Karen Callinan's son in law)
- 1/21 Nancy Kantner
- 1/22 Vince Kuhlman

- 1/23 Thomas Tousley
- 1/25 Karen Callinan
- 1/26 Marilyn Morris Porter
- 1/27 Jack Lindberg
- 1/29 Jeremiah Jones

PRAYER REQUEST



Our Shut-ins:

- Margaret Hallenbeck
- Jeanne Galliers
- Caroleina Heintz

Cancer Treatment:

- Pam Swart (Barb Klopfenstein's daughter)
- Peggy Herlinger (Mary Lindberg's sister)
- Deidre Wells
- Jackson Fineske

Those Needing Special Prayer:

- Meg Keller- Klopp (recovery from Surgery)
- Christina Starkey
- Rhonda Cowell
- Charlotte Cuno
- Stella Wodarski (Melanie Holt's mother)
- Ted Hufstader
- Ed and Melissa Cusino (Jean Powell's son-in-law)
- Patricia Okoyomo
- Jean Powell
- La Nita Leno and family
- Rev. Dr. Dale and Kerry Dickey (Liz Lacy's Parents)
- Glenn Sherman (Good friend of the Sears)

- Jeff Jones
- Kris Ensign
- Paula Runyan

Families of those Recently Deceased:

Our dear friend Tyna Darnell has passed away. Thanks for all prayers. Ronda and John Garcia



Philippians 2:14-18 ... be God's children, blameless, sincere and wholesome, living in a warped and diseased world, and shining there like lights in a dark place. For you hold in your hands the very word of life. (JB Phillips)

From time to time we carry forward the prayer emphasis for our City of Toledo first developed in our City Lights Concert of Prayer in 2011. As we begin a new year let's pray continually for our city. Our focus this month will be gun violence.

We must *pray for wisdom* so that our governmental leaders can make wise moves regarding gun control issues. Weapons and people don't always mix well. In a society where so many feel powerless (marginalized people are basically powerless) it is easy to fill that void with the "faux power" of guns. We must *pray for social healing* in our city. Fears generated by stereotypes, racial, and ethnic differences feed the flames of violence. Current trends in film violence, violent electronic games and internet pornography serve to "de-sensitize" people to violence. What was unthinkable to view 40 years ago is now commonly accepted opening the way to new levels of tolerance. Let's pray that the spirit of evil that promotes such spiritual domination be crushed by the power of love in Christ's resurrection.