

THE COMMUNICATOR

Pastor's Notes
December 2016

There was once a preschool Sunday School teacher who was concerned that her students may have been a little confused about Jesus because of all the emphasis on worldly things, especially during the Christmas season. She wanted to make sure that they understood that Jesus was really born, really lived, really died, and was really resurrected. So she asked her students, *"Does anyone know where Jesus is today?"*

Mark raised his hand and said, *"Jesus is in heaven!"* Julia was called on and answered, *"Jesus is in my heart."* Jordan chimed in, *"He's lying in a manger."* Little Johnny, waving his hands furiously blurted out, *"I know! I know! He's in our bathroom."* The whole class became very quiet, looked at the teacher, and waited for her response. She was completely at a loss for words. After gathering her wits, the teacher asked, *"Johnny, how do you know that?"* Johnny responded, *"Every morning, my daddy gets up, bangs on the bathroom door, and yells, 'Good Lord, are you still in there?'"*

During this blessed season of Advent, where is Jesus for us? Is He front and center, or is He in the background? As I observe how the Christmas holiday season has been reduced to an almost purely commercial and economic venture, I lament that each year, slowly, almost imperceptibly, a little more of Jesus is removed from Christmas, and from our culture at large. We see far too many Santa's, elves, and reindeer on rooftops, and too few mangers, shepherds, wise men, and lowly cattle in a stall. That which should be central to the image and substance of the season has been forced to the periphery while that which is peripheral and ornamental has taken center stage.

We Christians often become caught up in this fundamental error of getting our priorities out of order. If our minds are filled during most of the Advent and Christmas season with thoughts of dinner parties, decorations, gifts, and travel, with little room left for thoughts of the coming of Christ and what that means to the world and to our individual lives, we need to reset our priorities. We who profess Jesus as our Lord and Savior should, above all, make the season we call "Advent" one of spiritual expectation and preparation, not worldly expectation and preparation. All year long, but especially during Advent, we should be on our knees each morning, and in our Bibles every evening, learning about and giving thanks for the One who this season is really and exclusively about.

Where is Jesus today? Is He central for us, or is He on the edges? Let us meet faithfully throughout the Advent season in God's house to bring our thoughts of Jesus more to the front and center where they rightfully belong. And may we be blessed in our expectancy-filled preparation for His coming into our hearts anew.

Laury



December Birthdays

Mary Borton ----- 1
 Jim Inks ----- 4
 Sue Fryer ----- 6
 Herb Shreiner -----6
 Donna Donovan ----- 7
 Judy Miday----- 7
 Genie Ross ----- 8
 Sandy Muirhead-Gould- 8
 Katy Larkin ----- 10
 Ann Butler ----- 11
 Peyton Sibert -----13
 Ann Conkle-----14
 Liz Sibert -----14
 Eleanor Weatherbee ----15
 Lori Murphy -----16
 Ken Kanipe-----17
 John Oberlin-----18
 Samantha Eubank-----19
 Rachael Fleischaker---- 20
 Evan Georgiou----- 20
 Allison Conley -----21
 Linda Miller-----21
 Allison Norris----- 22
 Chris Craddock ----- 22
 Tom Meek----- 24
 Ralph Green ----- 28
 Debbie Smith ----- 29
 Greg Busby-----31


Fellowship Hour
Outreach Ministry

Card Ministry

Peggy Burau

Please Pray for:

Marie Buckey -----Caldwell
 Chuck Cochran ----- Rose Lane
 Earl Coen ----- Regency
 Mickey Coen ----- Hanover House
 Patty Daughenbaugh -----The Landing
 Margaret Fetzer -----Altercare Navarre
 Dick & Sally Frieg -----Amherst Meadows
 Herm McClurg ----- Home
 Barbara Mertes ----- Inn at Belden Village
 Jenny O'Connor----- The Danbury
 Orson Rice ----- Brewster Park
 Hank & Genie Ross ----- Home
 Annitta Schrickel-----Tuttle Crossing
 Hermine Schwendiman ----- Amherst
 Walker Smith----- Inn at Belden Village
 Happy Snively ----- Home
 Velda Snyder ----- Hospitality House
 Helen Swann ----- Amherst Meadows

December Liturgists

Ann Butler ----- 4
 Sue Kelewae ----- 11
 Shannon Baker ----- 18

Hospitalized In November

Ansel Shoaf Bob Arther Bob Houchins
 Velda Snyder Nonie Sibert

December Anniversaries

Leo & Jean Mummertz ----- 1
 Ron & Gloria Armitage ----- 2
 Gene & Donna Hovis-----11
 Ken & Marlene Kanipe ----- 12
 Don & Mary Wassil ----- 16
 Dale & Debbie Smith----- 19
 Jim & Judy Inks ----- 23



Stewardship of Attendance

November 6-----161
 November 13 ----191
 November 20 --- 234
 November 27 --- 176
Average ----- 191

December Greeters

Kelly Fogle & Rich Long -----4
 Linda Rankl & Nonie Sibert----- 11
 Dale & Debbie Smith----- 18

Pastor's Vacation

Pastor Larry will be on vacation from December 26 through January 1. Filling the pulpit on Sunday, January 1, 2017 will be Rev. John Lane. *[Please note that communion will be moved to January 8]* In pastor's absence, Rev. Lynn Shetzer from Reedurban Presbyterian Church will be on call for any pastoral emergencies.

Financial Snapshot

	<u>As of October 31, 2015</u>	<u>As of October 31, 2015</u>
YTD Receipts -----	\$258,736.12	\$271,294.98
YTD Disbursements -----	\$267,790.93	\$265,078.53
YTD (Deficit)/Surfeit -----	\$(9054.81)	\$6,216.45
Operating Fund Balance -----	\$414.13	\$15,673.45

As of October 31, receipts are well-below what is needed to end the fiscal year with a balanced spread sheet. Your help is URGENTLY needed! Thank you.

A Little Funny



Sending our Condolences

Our church family is in prayer for those who are dealing with the grief of having lost loved ones.

To Jean Kidd, family and friends on the passing of Jean's sister **Coral Schuller** who was called home to the Lord on November 3 at the age of 98. Services were conducted for Coral on November 14 in Coshocton, Ohio.

To family and friends of **John Robert "Bob" Arther** who entered eternal glory on November 12 after a brief illness. Bob was 85 years of age. Services were conducted for Bob at Paquelet Funeral Home on November 23 with Pastor Larry officiating and Leigh Conti and Shannon Baker providing a ministry of music. Inurnment followed at Rose Hill Cemetery.

To Janet Cseak, Jeanne Henderhan, Nonie Sibert, family and friends of **Mildred "De" Sibert** who was received into the arms of Christ on November 21 following a lengthy period of declining health. De was 90 years of age. Services were conducted for De in our sanctuary on November 27 with Pastor Larry officiating and Leigh Conti offering music.

"When this perishable body puts on imperishability, and this mortal body puts on immortality, then the saying that is written will be fulfilled: 'Death has been swallowed up in victory.' 'Where, O death is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting.'" 1 Corinthians 15:54-55

November Need A Lunch?

Today was food for the soul. Pastor Larry presented a short memorial, scripture, and prayers in the memory of Randy Bickel, for our guests, and lunch crew. I prepared Randy's signature dish of Chicken and Dumplings over mashed potatoes, with a side of "Don't Stir the Beans." Just prior to Randy's passing, I ordered and purchased a new range for the church kitchen with monies from my Uncle Ted's estate. Over the past two weeks, several "church mice" (special thanks go out to Carl Wise, Nancy McEwen, Chris Craddock, and Curtis White) have been diligently preparing the intended location for the range. On Thursday, the church took delivery of a Southbend Ultimate Restaurant Range. This unit has four burners capable of 33,000 BTU's each for use with fourteen-inch pots and an oven that will fit a full sheet pan. On Friday, the appropriate gas lines were installed and I was able to begin preparations for Saturday's Need a Lunch program. This is an additional unit to the kitchen and is not a replacement for the existing range. This is my gift to this church community of friends who were supportive to me when I was in need. May we serve thousands of meals in the future.

Thank you, Thomas Benko

Hope Rebekah Circle

Christmas Luncheon

Hope Rebekah Circle's Annual Christmas Luncheon will be at Kozmo's on Thursday, December 8, 2016, beginning at 11:30 a.m. If you have a special Christmas Ornament or Decoration and would like to share its story, bring it for "show and tell." All women of Central Church are invited to join us for lunch and fellowship. For a reservation please call Jean Mummertz at (330) 832-4325 or Polly Thompson at (330)832-8084 on or before Tuesday, December 6.

Cash Crew Reminder

Charla Paulus starts her schedule on December 4 and completes it on December 25. Please report to the office after worship on your scheduled Sundays. If you have any conflicts please contact Bob Dawson.

Outreach Ministry Highlights

Guidelines for Share a Gift program:

Gold Stars:

- ★ These are monetary gifts for the purchase of food certificates from Giant Eagle.
- ★ Return the **Gold Star with your donation to the church office by December 12th and that completes your task.**

Red Candy Canes and Green Christmas Trees with a needed gift:

- ★ Please purchase the gift that is listed on the gift card for the family member.
- ★ **Please include a gift receipt for the clothing.**
- ★ Do not wrap any gift
- ★ Please include the gift card and return the red candy cane or green Christmas tree with the gift so we can identify the family for whom the gift was purchased.
- ★ **Return the gift to the sanctuary and place it under the Christmas tree by December 12th.**

Christmas Joy Offering; December 18, 2016

This is the final special offering of the year. The offering is used 50% for support of the Board of Pensions and the other 50% is used for racial ethnic education and leadership development .

Supporting the Christmas Joy Offering is one way that our congregation can celebrate and grow that gift, by faithfully supporting church workers in times of need and the development of the future ethnic leadership of our church.

Because of your generous support of Christmas Joy Offering, church workers have received aid in their time of need, and students Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges have been afforded opportunities to learn, grow and lead in their faith. As you prepare to celebrate the Advent in our church this year, celebrate also the gifts Christ has given us in our church leaders---past ,present, and future. .
Thank you for your support.

Mountain of Food Sunday

Mountain of Food Sunday was held on Sunday November 20. The Outreach Ministry would like to thank the entire congregation for their generous giving of 110 bags of non perishable food. We were able to fill Door Ministry cupboard and take 80 bags of food to Salvation Army of Massillon.

Mitten Tree

In addition to the Share a Gift tree we will be collecting mittens, gloves, hats and scarves for youth and adults for the Salvation Army to distribute to persons in need. Deadline for collection of the mittens, gloves, hats, and scarves is December 8th. An empty Christmas tree will be set up in the dining room mid-November through December 10th to hang your mittens, hats, gloves and scarves on or place the items in a decorated box in the Narthex. Your donations will help all persons during the winter months to keep their hands and head warm.



The Deacons Second Annual Quarter Auction raised more than \$1400 to support CPC's very active Door Ministry. Thank you to everyone who made this event a wonderful success.

Welcome Newest Members

At its regular meeting on November 17, Session examined and was pleased to welcome into membership our two newest members. **Kenneth Kanipe** was received by Affirmation of Faith pending his baptism on Sunday, December 11. **Marlene Kanipe** was received by Letter of Transfer from First United Methodist Church of Massillon. Kenn is retired from the U.S Navy and the FBI, while Marlene is a CPA at the College of Wooster. Marlene and Kenn have three children: Lorinda, age 15; Grace, age 12; and Abigail, age 8. If you've not had the opportunity to do so, please extend a hearty welcome to the Kanipe family!

Report from the November Session Meeting

The regular meeting of Session was held on November 17, 2016 with Rev. Larry Lalama moderating. Ruling Elders in attendance were Nancy McEwen, Dana Vargo, Herb Shreiner, Bob Porter, Rich Wilder, Don McDonald, Bill Patt, Chris Evans, Char Bickel, Debbie Feichter, Gary Werner, Carl Wise, and Camille Leslie. Deacon Representative was Sue Wesley.

Elder Wise offered a devotion followed by review of the church family prayer list and opening prayer by Rev. Lalama.

General Business

- Appointed Camille Leslie to serve as Clerk pro tem for this meeting.
- Approved request for baptisms of Kenneth Kanipe and infant Madison Stella Rose Becker to be conducted during worship on Sunday, December 11.
- Approved Rev. John Lane to supply the pulpit on Sunday, January 1, 2017.
- Approved change of communion from January 1, 2017 to January 8, 2017.

Order of the Day

Examination of Kenneth and Marlene Kanipe for church membership. Motion approved to receive Kenneth by Affirmation of Faith pending his baptism on December 11. Motion approved to receive Marlene by Letter of Transfer from Massillon First United Methodist Church.

Report of the Pastor

Pastor Lalama submitted a written report recapping his activity since the October Session meeting. He reported 10 hospital visitations, 6 nursing home visitations, and 3 home visitations. He officiated 2 funerals, conducted 1 pre-baptismal counseling session and 1 marriage counseling session, attended 7 church committee meetings, and led 4 Sunday worship services. Several other activities were noted.

From the Ministries

- Approved the Report of the Treasurer which showed an Operating Fund Balance of \$ 414.13 as of October 31, 2016.
- General discussion regarding Lil Pumpkin Fest, children's Christmas program, Vineyards, Advent and Christmas activities, future women's retreat, 2017 personnel budget, new Board of Pension requirements, anticipated giving for 2017, door repairs, new kitchen range, photo directory, Mountain of Food, Christmas JOY Offering, Need-a-Lunch gifting, Share-a-gift tree, hosting of meeting of Muskingum Valley Presbytery, work of Team Vision 21.1, and activities of Deacons. A presentation was made to Bob and Carolyn Porter recognizing their years of faithful service to Central Presbyterian as they prepare to relocate to Virginia.

Report of the Clerk

- Holy Communion served on November 6, 2016 to 138 communicants.
- Death of Randy Bickel (10/25/16) and John Arther (11/12/16)

Respectfully Submitted by Camille Leslie, Clerk pro tem



Festival of Lessons and Carols

Special music will begin on Christmas Eve at 7 o'clock p.m. featuring a brass ensemble. The service proper will begin at 7:30. Our Chancel Choir under the direction of Doug Beery and accompanied by Leigh Conti and brass will be providing several anthems including "A Festive Gloria," "Gloria! A Christmas Fanfare," "What Child Is This?" "Emmanuel," "Still, Still, Still," and "By Candlelight" as we bring light to the sanctuary at the close of the service. Readers for the evening will be Rich and Amy Wilder. Please plan on arriving early as we expect a full house.

CPC Children's Program "Jesus Means Christmas to Me" December 11, 2016 during worship





DECEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
4 2nd Sunday of Advent Communion 10:30 Worship 10:45 Gateway 11:30 Fellowship	5 ABLE 1-3:00 Quilters & Shawl Ministry 7:00 Men's Study	6 ABLE 8:00 Men's Prayer Group	7 ABLE 6:15 Bells 7:30 Choir	8 11:30 Hope Rebekah Luncheon	9 Pastor's Day off	10 Need A Lunch
11 3rd Sunday of Advent 10:30 Worship Children's Christmas Program 11:30 Fellowship	12 ABLE 1-3:00 Quilters 7:00 Men's Study	13 ABLE 8:00 Men's Prayer Group	14 ABLE 6:15 Bells 7:30 Choir	15 6:30 Session	16 Pastor's Day off	17 5:00 Girl Scout Reunion
18 4th Sunday of Advent 10:30 Worship 10:45 Gateway 11:30 Fellowship	19 1-3:00 Quilters 7:00 Men's Study	20 8:00 Men's Prayer Group	21 6:15 Bells 7:30 Choir	22 6:30 Session	23 Pastor's Day off	24 7:00 Christmas Eve Service
25 Merry Christmas 10:30 Worship	26 1-3:00 Quilters 7:00 Men's Study	27 8:00 Men's Prayer Group	28 6:15 Bells 7:30 Choir 3-9 Cub Scouts	29	30 Pastor's Day off	31 Pastor's Day off