

St. John's Messenger

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Mansfield Ohio

JUNE



From the Rev

Dear friends in Christ:

As I write this article, I have been officially on the job for 17 days. The time has been busy and productive. I have been getting acclimated to the office, the church, the town, the association, etc. etc. However, in many ways it seems like I have been settled here for a long time. All of you have made me, Marcy, Emily, Lily, and Noah (even though you have yet to meet him) feel so welcome that we feel like we have been members of the family for years!

If I have learned one thing so far, it is that St. John's is one big family for sure. We are together the body of Christ and individually members of it. Though I don't know everyone's name yet, I do feel that the Holy Spirit has made a special connection between us already. I have been pondering the Holy Spirit quite a bit lately (Pentecost is only 4 days away). Here are some of the fruits of that pondering.

When we trust that the Holy Spirit is at work in our lives, both individually and corporately, amazing things begin to happen. First, we begin to realize that without the Holy Spirit, we would not be who we are. What I mean by this is that when the Holy Spirit breathes into us and works through us, we recognize that God deserves all the glory and

honor for whatever accomplishments we may feel we have made. The words of the treasured hymn "Breathe on Me, Breath of God" come to mind:

"Breathe on me, Breath of God, fill me with life anew, that I may love the way you love and do what you would do."

Every time I sing this hymn, it reminds me that I am called to do what God would do in any given situation (as best as I am able) and to give God the glory for it. Neither I, nor you, can accomplish anything without God and the power of the Holy Spirit.

"Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen."
(Ephesians 3:20-21)

When we believe that the Holy Spirit is at work in the life and worship of St. John's, and experience the love of Christ in a powerful way, then we will want to share that experience with others. The love of Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit are infectious. Let us share with others and let the Holy Spirit breathe in them, as it has in us, and see what God has in store around the corner.

With Christ's love,
Rev. Steve

CHURCH HAPPENINGS

Youth News – Sunday School

Are you interested in participating in a Sunday School program for children? Would you help teach if it meant maybe teaching once a month or even once every six weeks? How about if the whole hour was prepared for you in advance right down to the curriculum and all supplies provided? Would you give just an hour for the children of our church at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday?

If you can answer yes to one or more of these questions, we need you! We are asking that anyone interested would sign-up with Rev. Steve, Jim Henry, or Cookie Schuck. We are planning on having an organizational meeting with the Christian Education Committee soon and beginning a summer adventure program. If this is going to happen, we will need some help! So, are you called to this ministry? If so, we would like to hear from you!!

OTHER HAPPENINGS

THE LUNCH BUNCH...

The Lunch Bunch is a group that meets the 3rd Wednesday of each month at Brunches 1120 Lexington Ave. The next Lunch Bunch luncheon will be June 16 at noon. All are invited

CELEBRATIONS

June Birthdays

- 3 – Lillian Textor
Carl Pfeifer
Dan Burgess
Lowell Kunkle
- 5- Richard Weddell
- 6 – Darlene Profit
- 9 – Chris Whitlatch
Amy Eaton
- 11 – James Henry
- 13 – Don Rettig
- 14 – Donald DeBaltzo
- 16 – Larry Eberts
- 19 – Kurt Olson
- 20- John Alexander
- 22 – Makayla Eaton
- 23 – Darline Hunt
Lewis Hendrickson
- 25 – Joe Boebel
Ron Pore
- 28 – Barbara Rettig

Celebrating *An Anniversary This Month*

June Anniversaries

- 6 – Wayne & Carol Henry
- 16 – Forest & Claudia Schuck
- 19 – Dr. George & Doris Spink



GRADUATES 2010

Rachel Benzing

Graduating May 30, 2010

Saint Charles North High School-Illinois

She will be attending

Loyola Marymount University- Los Angeles CA

Parents: Deb & Jim Benzing

Grandparent: Greta & Bill Benzing

Paul Krauss

Graduating June 6, 2010

Lexington High School

He will be attending University of Akron

Parents: Debbie & Tony Krauss

Grandparent: Greta & Bill Benzing

Jennifer M. Blocker

Graduated May 8, 2010

Malone College – Canton OH

Bachelor of Science in Nursing

Parents: Steven & Joyce Blocker

Grandparent: Audrey Blocker

Kylie Bonham

Graduated May 2010

Hilliard High School

She will be attending Columbus State

Majoring in Nursing

Parents: Claudia & Terry Bonham

Grandparent: Audrey Blocker

Elizabeth (Blocker) Poole

Graduated August 2009

North Carolina State

Masters in Bio Chemistry

Parents: Gary & Jean Blocker

Grandparent: Audrey Blocker

Emily Blocker

Graduated 2010

North Carolina State

Bachelor of Science in Biology

Minor in Chemistry & Music

Parents: Gary & Jean Blocker

Grandparent: Audrey Blocker

Alexandra Ellis

Graduating on June 6, 2010

Floyd Central High School – Indiana

She will be attending Indiana State University

Parents: Richard & Marchell Ellis

Grandparents: Wayne & Carol Henry

Shelby Harrison

Graduated May 22, 2010

Gardner-Edgerton High School- Kansas

She will be attending University of Pittsburg-Kansas

Majoring in Nursing

Parents: Kristy & Scott Harrison

Grandparents: Joyce Eaton and Rick Eaton

Phyllis and Ken Harrison

Great-Grandmothers: Dorothy Layman

Alice Eaton

Eric Lee

Graduating June 2010

Madison High School

He will be attending North Central State College

Parents: Stacy & Jeff Lee

Grandparents: DiAnn & Loren Lee

Great-Grandmother: Dorothy Layman

THANK YOU'S

Dear People of St John's,

Thank you from the depths of my heart for the wonderful send-off and your incredibly generous gifts. The stole, as you know if you saw it, is gorgeous. I've never owned a silk stole, and wearing it made me feel dressed for a wedding - as indeed, the Bridegroom invites us all to celebrate with him! The gift certificate will make it possible for me to buy a nice robe from WomenSpirit. Now all I need to do is make up my mind between the two I like best. I am most thankful for the pleasure and privilege of knowing you - individually and as a congregation in whose house God has made a home. What a blessing it has been to me to pitch my tent among you for a time. May God continue to bless all your possibilities.

In Christ's love, Gretchen Wagner

Thank you for the cards and especially all the prayers that I received during my recent stay in the hospital. Thanks to all of you, I am well on the road to recovery.

Dottie Nikolaus

THANKS TO COOKIE SCHUCK for cleaning the Nursery, it looks great.

THANKS to the Trustees for cleaning the front of the church, it looks so much more inviting for those who pass thru the doors to church.

THANKS to Marge Floro for planting the planters with the pansy's that seem to say, come on in and join us!

A Big thank you to the St. John church family for the love and support you gave to Martha and her family during her illness and death.

The cards, prayers, phone calls and visits were all greatly appreciated and comforting.

Thank you to Pastor Gretchen and Dr. Spink for their visits and prayers, Martha always looked forward to you visits.

*In Christian love,
The Minich & Haring Families*

A PEEK INTO THE PAST

In 2012, St. John's present building will be one hundred years old. On May 5, 1912, the current building, the third church building of St. John's, was dedicated. The church leaders' intent was to continue the tradition of teaching and preaching as well as to provide much needed Christian social activities for their many members. This series of articles is designed to explain why and how the present church building came to be.

Second Church—Mulberry and First streets Part Two—Bells, Beautification and Anniversary.

When Rev. Buesser arrived in 1886, the church tower was silent. He spearheaded the drive to add bells. The bells were purchased in 1887. "Concordia," the largest was purchased by the congregation. "Margaretha," meaning pearl, was given by the Ladies Aid Society. "Regina," or queen, was given by the students and teachers of the Sunday School. A great celebration was held for the first ringing of the bells. Rev. Buesser was also quite a writer; penning a monthly column in the "Frieden-bote" (The *Messenger* of its day) He eventually became the Vice-President of the Synod.

The building needed improvement after almost twenty years, so in 1894, the organ was replaced; this organ was brought to the third church, providing music until 1926. The Young People's Society paid for frescoing, which brightened the sanctuary. The Ladies Aid Society provided a new pulpit and carpets, just in time for the diamond jubilee in 1895. The fiftieth anniversary of the congregation was also celebrated with the purchase of chimes. The "Annual Easter Offering" was instituted then, which allowed St. John's to support many programs over the years.

The sixtieth anniversary of St. John's, in 1905, found a vital church. Ladies Aid and Young People's Society were thriving. (the Young Peoples' Society had 192 members) Cradle Roll and Home Department, Willing Workers, and Missionary Society had been added. The debts had been paid and the church focused on expanding the Christ Evangelical Sunday School. One charter member of the original Forty, George Bauer, was still living.

The issue of English services had become critical, primarily to the young people who wanted

ATTENDANCE

May 02	83
May 09.....	161
May 16.....	90
May 23.....	107

Addresses of interest...

St. John's UCC:
www.StJohnsMansfield.org
 Ohio Conference: **ocucc.org**
 United Church of Christ: **ucc.org**
 Northwest Ohio Assc: **NWOA.org**



Greeter's Schedule for June

June 06: PAE – Beverly Bauer
 Franklin St – Charles Bauer

June 13: PAE – Virginia Bauer
 Franklin Street – Bill Bauer

June 20: PAE – Lee Jones
 Franklin St – Ellie Hamilton

June 27: PAE – Denny Hunt
 Franklin Street – Darline Hunt



Anna Bogantz, Dan Burgess, Blanche Cary,
 Kathleen Davis, Dorothy Gaubatz, John &
 Miriam Gross, Helen Grosso, Doris
 Hartman, Ruth Mengert, Cliff & Mildred
 Odson, Norma & Carl Pfeifer, Margaret
 Schwab, Katherine Warga, Mary Ann
 Warner, Jim & Karen Whitlatch

Norma Pfeifer at home
 Don Retting at home

to worship, learn and speak in English. In fact, members' children had left to worship elsewhere, even though English evening services had been added. Although German immigrants had been delighted to find a "home" at St. John's, with fewer immigrants, other English services had to be added. With the support of Rev. Dresel, Katherine Aberle became the first teacher of a Sunday School class in English. She and her twelve students began the wave of growth of the Sunday School at St. John's.

Ruth Darby, St. John's U.C.C. Historian
***I have spent time in the last few weeks doing research to clarify some points. This is the most accurate information I have. Unfortunately, the oldest information is in German. I would be grateful for any help with translating a few things.**

If you have insight, questions that you would like answered, or some history brought to light, please, contact me at 419-526-6595 and leave a message, or email me at: radrad6@gmail.com

INFORMATION

St. John's has put together a new cookbook –it is in and for sale. Some of the recipes are from our previous cookbook (so you may be surprised to see your name even though you didn't submit a recipe this time).

The cost of the cookbook is \$10 and will be available after the church services. You may also get them from the church office.

We will be happy to mail it to you. The cost will be \$13.00.

Please call the church office (419) 522-2813, email the church or send your check made payable to St. John's to place your order. Please be sure to include your address.

WORSHIP