

# Church Bell



January 2017

"Follow The Bells"



## Cortland Christian Church

Reverend

Donald P. Barnes

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Cortland, Ohio

Phone 330-637-4611

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### The Gospel

The Gospel is all that God has done, is doing, and will do through the perfect life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. This "Good News" of Jesus is the power of God to eternally save people from the penalty of sin and to unite believers with Christ so that his resurrected life is lived out through them. This revolutionary truth centers a believer's life on the heart-transforming work of Jesus Christ both for now and eternity.

### Pastor's Pen

January 2017

Unstring the lights – pack the tinsel away – off come the ornaments – the Koresh resumes its place in the attic – Christmas knick knacks are stored away for the season – the blue spruce is uprooted from its stand – and an Oreck vacuum sweeper disposes of the loose needles.

Lorra and I have a tradition at our house. She does the decorating and I do the un-decorating. Both exercises are founded on solid theological underpinnings. Lorra's efforts put us in the proper mental and emotional framework to receive a King – my task disposes us to go about the practical work of living for a King. It's January and Christ lives among us. Hallelujah! Praise God! In all respects, the season of celebration has been grand. My question: will there be any lasting impact. Has the arrival of our King been transformative in real terms? Are you ready to do the hard work of ministry? Are you bent on leading a Christ-centered life, practically-speaking? You know what I mean, don't you?

There's a wonderful story recorded in the Synoptic Gospels. It seems that Jesus leads his three closest disciples (Peter, James, and John) to a mountaintop. He is transfigured before them, clothed in shimmering light of his divinity. Rather than falling to his knees in fear and worship, our brother, Peter, chooses to put his "foot in his mouth: "Please Jesus. Let's set permanent camp in this place and capture this moment forever." You remember well, don't you? God speaks from the clouds: "This is my son, the beloved. Listen to him." Shortly thereafter, the three fall-in-step behind Jesus as he leads them from the majesty of the mountaintop to the shadows of the valley below. Mountaintop experiences are transformative, but the real work of ministry commences in the valley. Practically-speaking, are you ready to set the celebration aside and follow Jesus into the world? Are you ready to go to work?

According to Indira Gandhi, her grandfather told her "there are two kinds of people: those who do the work and those who take the credit. He told me to try to be in the first group; there was less competition there." Where are you at today? Celebrations are great and mountaintop experiences have their place, but God's initiative to join us calls us to do likewise. How long will you hold onto the "wonder" of Christmas, while ignoring the call to join in the grand proclamation that "God is with us"? I pray you and yours had a wonderful Christmas. I also ask that your time of worship reflection has been transformative, compelling you to move into the valley and make a difference for Christ's sake.

## Our Worship Assistants

### Elders:

January 1 Justin Klamut and John Klamut  
 January 8  
 January 15 (No Schedule)  
 January 22  
 January 29



### Deacons:

**Captain: Terry Swauger— 330-720-0346**

Call if you are not available

Barb Bradford, Judy Hansel, Mackenzie Polakoff,  
 Carol Glancy, Cindy Miller, Phyllis Hake

*The Church Office will be  
 open on Monday-  
 Thursday 9:00am.-Noon*

*Phone:*

**330-637-4611**

*Feel free to call or stop in  
 if you have  
 a question or need help.*

## Coffee Hour Hosts and Hostesses

Jan. 1 Terry and Linda Swauger and Tom Strimel  
 Jan. 8 Effie Welsh and Virginia Carr  
 Jan. 15 Chili Cook-Off  
 Jan. 22 Pat Taylor and Carol Deemer  
 Jan. 29 Jon and Sarah Kloboves  
 Barb and Bob Bradford



Day is over, night has come.  
 Today is gone, what's done is done.  
 Embrace your dreams through the night.  
 Tomorrow comes with a whole new light!



## FINANCIAL UPDATE OF CHURCH OPERATING FUNDS

Fund	December		2016	Year-to-Date		
	Income	Expense	Net	Income	Expense	Net
General	6,847	11,444	-4,597	96,450	94,013	2,437
Building (Mortgage)	1,026	2,048	-1,022	24,157	24,572	-415
Total>>	7,873	13,492	-5,619	120,607	118,585	2,022

**Mortgage Balance**

**\$111,328.36**



## *"Happy Birthday"*

Sydney Carr	January 7
Matthew Ball	January 9
Judy Hansel	January 18
Jerry Polakoff	January 18
Jon Kloboves	January 19
Addison Carr	January 25
Sarah Kloboves	January 28
Gage Sensabaugh	January 31

## *"Happy Anniversary"*

No Anniversaries?



Oh, How much fun these days are? How many times did you fall off the sled into the snow and lay there laughing?

### **Betty's Angels**

**Another one of our missions  
this year**

BettyAnn Strawderman houses and cares for way ward or lost children that do not seem to fit anywhere else. They are children whose parents are incarcerated, hospitalized, drug or alcohol addicted, living on the streets or for many other reasons.

BettyAnn supports these children with some assistance from outside sources but mainly she does it by herself. She has, at this time, about 12 children ages ranging from 3 years old to 26 years old.

They live simply, but she makes sure they are in school, and get spiritual fulfillment each week.

Our "Women of Worship" sponsored and helped finance a Christmas for her and her extended family, with a monetary donation, gifts and stockings for all her children.

They were delivered the Tuesday before Christmas and were placed under the tree for the children to see when they got home from school. They were so very surprised and happy.

She has group pictures of all these children down through the years on her walls and furniture. There have been over 100 children over 35 years. May God Bless this woman for her love and compassion.

Our church members took names from the giving tree and shopped for the items for these kids.

**"Thank You all"**

The beauty of life is,  
while we cannot undo  
what is done, we can  
see it, understand it,  
learn from it and change  
so that every new  
moment is spent not in  
regret, guilt, fear or  
anger but in wisdom,  
understanding and love.

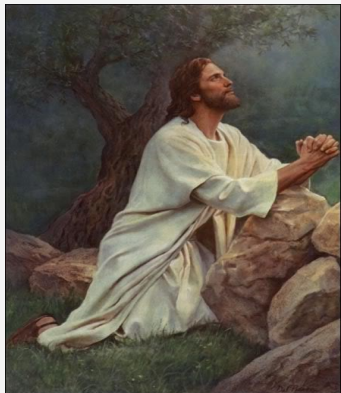
[Heartfeltquotes.blogspot.com](http://Heartfeltquotes.blogspot.com)

*Jennifer Edwards*

## *"Beginning Your New Life in Christ"*

### Day 1—Discovery —

Review these five truths. Make them part of your life as you grow in Christ. Find and read the verses listed beside each truth. Write observations of what you see and how you feel about the truth in the space given. Thank God that this is now true of you. Knowing these essential truths are critical to our growth in Christ.



You are forgiven: Colossians 1:13-14; 2:13

You are a child of God: John 1:12; Romans 8:15; 1 John 3:1

You are indwelt by Christ: Galatians 2:20; Colossians 1:27.

You have a new life: 2 Corinthians 5:17; Ephesians 2:4-5

You have eternal life: 1 John 5:11-13; John 5:24; 10:27-29

### Getting to Know Christ

In this section, you will focus on the life of Jesus as told in the gospel of Mark. Spend a few minutes each day reading the verses and reflecting on Jesus—his life, his relationships, and his teaching. As you do so, you will get to know and understand him better—this One who loves you dearly. Tell him what you are thinking.

#### Day 2 Discover Jesus

Read: Mark 1:1-13. Reflect on what you read—

#### Day 3 Discover Jesus

Read: Mark 1:14-28. Reflect on what you read—

#### Day 4 Discover Jesus

Read: Mark 1:29-39. Reflect on what you read—

#### Day 5 Discover Jesus

Read: Mark 2:1-17. Reflect on

### Days 6 & 7 Review and Ask Questions

Spend time reviewing what you have learned this week about your new life in Christ. What discoveries have you made?

## CORTLAND CHRISTIAN CHURCH ANNUAL CHILI COOK-OFF

### Sunday, January 15th

### After Church Service

Bring a "crockpot" of your favorite chili to share, any kind

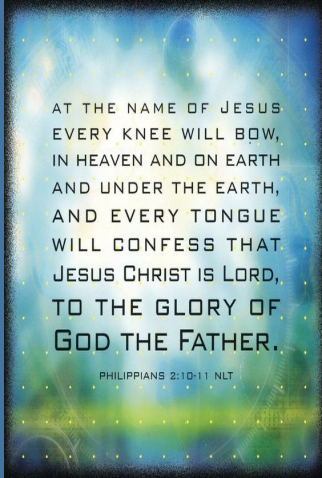
Bread, Salad, and beverages are furnished

Bring a dessert to share.....





# January 2017



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 <b>Happy New Year</b>	2	3 Finance 6pm and Board Meeting 7pm	4 <b>Joyful Noise</b>	5  Hello Winter	6	7 <b>Aerobics</b>
8 Service 10:30	9 <b>Aerobics</b>	10  © Can Stock Photo	11 <b>Joyful Noise</b>	12 Brownies Meet <b>Aerobics</b>	13	14  <b>Aerobics</b>
15 <b>Chili Cook_Off</b>	16 <b>Aerobics</b>	17	18 S/S prep day <b>Joyful Noise</b>	19 Soup and Sand- wich	20  Classic Strawberry © 2012 Collette Smith	21 <b>Aerobics</b>
22 Service 10:30	23  <b>Aerobics</b>	24	25  Blessed Christmas	26 Brownies <b>Aerobics</b>	27	28 <b>Aerobics</b>
29 Service 10:30	30 <b>Aerobics</b>	31		 Wish you have cool and pleasant winter days		



## A few little funnies.....

**Q:** What did the big furry hat say to the warm woolly scarf?

**A:** "You hang around while I go on ahead."

**Q:** How do you know if there's a snowman in your bed?

**A:** You wake up in a puddle of water.

**Q:** Where can you find an ocean without any water?

**A:** On a map!

**Q:** What did the icy road say to the truck?

**A:** "Want to go for a spin?"

## Soup and Sandwich



*Always the  
Third Thursday of the month.*

**January 19th, 2017 is the next  
Soup and Sandwich**

*We always need help and pies.*

**Please! Help support this mission to  
pay off the church mortgage**

# How to Stop Negative Self Talk with Scripture

<i>When you hear:</i>	<i>Replace it with:</i>
I am invisible.	I have been established, anointed, and sealed by God! -2 Corinthians 1:21-22
I am nothing special.	I am God's workmanship! -Ephesians 2:10
I am not good enough.	I have been chosen and God desires me to bear fruit. -John 15:15
I'll never accomplish anything worthwhile.	I have purpose! -Ephesians 1:9 & 3:11
I might as well give up in defeat.	I am victorious! -1 John 5:4
I am too broken and distraught to go on.	I have a heart and mind that is protected with God's peace. -Philippians 4:7
I have been rejected again.	I am chosen and dearly loved. -Colossians 3:12
I am unforgivable.	I am blameless. -1 Corinthians 1:8
I am stuck in this unhealthy place.	I am set free! -Romans 8:2; John 8:32
I cannot let go of my past.	I have been redeemed! -Isaiah 44:22

*Searching for Moments*  
[www.larischumaker.com](http://www.larischumaker.com)



A Peaceful moment in the winter snow. Watching the snow fall, kicking the snow as you walk. Making a snowball, and throwing it at a tree, or large rock, or bare pavement . What a great time to pray, you and the quiet world around you, He certainly must be able to hear you.

**WE LIVE ON A BLUE  
 PLANET THAT CIRCLES  
 AROUND A BALL OF  
 FIRE NEXT TO A MOON  
 THAT MOVES THE  
 SEA, AND YOU DON'T  
 BELIEVE IN MIRACLES?**

THEGOODVIBE.CO

How is it I detest every article of clothing I own, but when I go to throw something away, I develop this deep sentimental relationship with it?

Could somebody—help me simplify my life :))



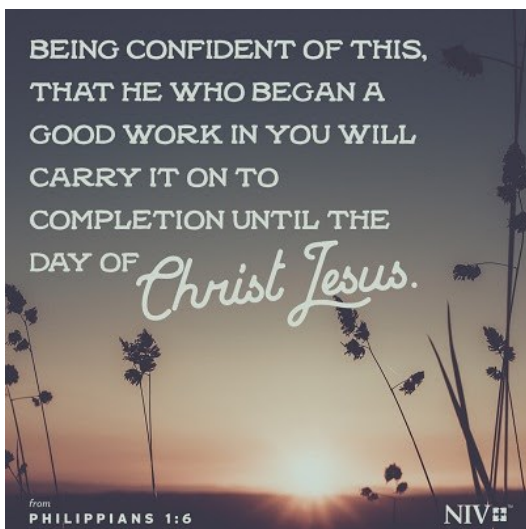
**“Thank you”**

for sharing your Poinsettias for the holiday season. They graced our altar for several weeks and are still beautiful.

What a lovely way to honor and remember our loved ones.

Look for the picture of the altar in this issue of The Church Bell to see how special they are.





## A Marvelous Gift

from *The Gift of Jesus* by Johnny Hunt

*The judgment which came from one offense resulted in condemnation, but the free gift... resulted in justification. For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ. — Romans 5:16-17*

What is the most special gift you've ever received? Did you receive it on your birthday, for Christmas, or on another occasion? Through the years I've received some amazing gifts, but Jesus is the most marvelous gift ever given. And it is the most needed gift ever given.

The apostle Paul taught that by one man — Adam — sin entered the world, and death was pronounced upon all, for in Adam all have sinned. On the other hand, grace entered the world through Jesus, and a forgiven life and eternal life are available to all who believe. Adam brought into the world sin, offense, judgment, condemnation, disobedience, and eternal death.

Yet Christ brought grace, justification, righteousness, obedience, and eternal life.

Christ's death saved us from God's wrath. We now live with hope of eternal life rather than under the curse of death. We rejoice in God who, in His Son, atoned for our sins. Our justification is complete and irrevocable; there is no condemnation in Christ Jesus. And Paul confidently wrote that "he who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ" (Philippians 1:6).

What a marvelous gift!

*Prayer—Father, thank You for the gift of Jesus. Thank You that because of Him I will one day stand before*

Our Church as it looks during the Christmas Season with all the poinsettias adorning the altar, the Advent candles and the Christmas Tree. The large nativity sits behind the altar table, a little hard to see in this picture.



## Cookie Sale 2016

This years cookie sale was a bit different than the former years. Along with all the decorated cookies, the women made several kinds of traditional cookies, 1500-1600 clothespin cookies, 300 Snowballs, 250-

300 Pecan Tassies, 800 or more Buckeyes and 125 fruit filled Kolachy cookies. This was very successful as we sold out of all the new cookies and 99% of the decorated cookies.



Gingerbread didn't seem to be quite as popular as in former years. They are so cute but some don't like the gingerbread taste. What we had sold out.

Next year we may try chocolate gingerbread for the decorated cookies, it is a new great taste.

There were many of our members contributing supplies, time and man power, smiles, monetary donations, and love for this project.

It is extremely rewarding , the fellowship is wonderful, seeing our returning and some new customers waiting for their turn to shop is exciting and knowing that we can help do so much with the funds from the sale is fulfilling.

The proceeds can help so many of our missions, and our church when things are needed.

If you can, come out and help next year, just a hour or two, or a day or two can make a big difference.

# January Purge Checklist

### *Bedroom*

- \_outgrown clothing
- \_outdated shoes
- \_torn clothing
- \_old hats
- \_shoe boxes
- \_old blankets
- \_clutter in drawers

### *Bathrooms*

- \_old bath toys
- \_empty bottles
- \_old brushes
- \_trash
- \_ripped towels
- \_bath mats/replace
- \_expired medicine
- \_old hair ties/bows
- \_expired sunscreen

### *Playroom*

- \_outgrown toys
- \_incomplete games
- \_toys w/o a match
- \_outgrown furniture
- \_broken electronics
- \_outgrown costumes
- \_organize/rotate

### *Kitchen*

- \_no lid tupperware
- \_cracked plates
- \_chipped glasses
- \_mismatched sets
- \_expired canned foods
- \_stale pantry food
- \_expired fridge foods
- \_combine cleaning liquids
- \_unused appliances
- \_scratched pans
- \_bottles w/o lids
- \_unneeded cookbooks

### *Garage*

- \_broken equipment
- \_dirty/ripped rags
- \_expired chemicals
- \_combine cleaning liquids
- \_trash
- \_dried out paint cans
- \_unneeded paint cans
- \_unwanted holiday decor
- \_old items/car seats
- \_empty boxes
- \_broken tools

### *Office*

- \_shred documents
- \_old keys
- \_dried out pens
- \_old chords/adapters
- \_old business cards



# If Jesus Comes Tomorrow

## What then?



If Jesus comes tomorrow to spend some time with you  
Would you answer all His questions or lie to hide the truth?  
Would you welcome Him with open arms, or even let Him in?  
If Jesus comes tomorrow, what then?

If Jesus calls your number, could you leave today?  
Are you ready to lay down your worldly goods and walk away?  
Would it take a month of Sundays just to tell Him of your sins,  
If Jesus comes tomorrow, what then?

If the sky turns black as midnight in the middle of the day  
and somehow you knew that Jesus would soon be on His way,.....  
Would you have to beg forgiveness,  
or could you reach out and take His hand?

If Jesus comes tomorrow, what then?

## Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at Cortland Christian Church



Our Beautiful Christmas lighted tree decorated with Chrismons, (Christian Symbols) stood stately on the altar. The manger scene sat up on a table at the top of the steps to the altar, bringing it very close to us. A sea of red Poinsettias adorned the front of the church, the lights were dimmed and the stained glass windows were alive with their beautiful colors. Wreathes hung from all the windows. A lighted candle was in each window also. The Narthex tree was lit and the another Nativity scene glowed peace-fully outside the main doors. A Quiet night, a wonderful sight. The outside night was very quiet.

Inside, Mackenzie Polakoff and Pastor Don sang a duet of a more recent popular Christmas song "Mary, Did You Know". Afterwards, Pastor and Lorra recited the story of the birth of Jesus and intermittently the congregation sang the old familiar Christmas Carols.

Pastor Don usually sings his favorite and very meaningful Christmas song, but this year Nate Sensabaugh played a saxophone rendition of the song, "Oh, Holy Night". Beautiful! The meaningful Communion was served from the altar with Gage and Aurora Sensabaugh doing the honors of serving. The 5 and 7 year old children of Nate and Heather Sensabaugh were dressed in clothing depicting the garments of the time of the birth.

When the church was darkened, the children helped carry candle light from the altar advent candle to light the first persons candle on the aisles and each person passed the light to the next person. Light started in one candle and eventually little lights filled the room, like stars in the sky, everyone sang "Silent Night, Holy Night". Beautiful ceremony for our Saviors Birthday.

There is always a complete sense of peace within, as this transpires. What a glorious way to spend Christmas Eve, no better way to celebrate Jesus birthday than this.

If you have never been to one of these services, be sure to put it on your calendar for next year. No where else can you get this feeling of peace and closeness to Jesus in just one hour.





# What Happens When You Pray

Submitted by Betty Evans

I dreamt that I went to Heaven and an angel was showing me around. We walked side-by-side inside a large workroom filled with angels. My angel guide stopped in front of the first section and said, "This is the Receiving Section. Here, all petitions to God said in prayer are received."

I looked around in this area, and it was terribly busy with so many angels sorting out petitions written on voluminous paper sheets and scraps from people all over the world.

Then we moved on down a long corridor until we reached the second section.

The angel then said to me, "This is the Packaging and Delivery Section. Here, the graces and blessings the people asked for are processed and delivered to the living persons who asked for them." I noticed again how busy it was there. There were many angels working hard at that station, since so many blessings had been requested and were being packaged for delivery to Earth.

Finally, at the farthest end of the long corridor we stopped at the door of a very small station. To my great surprise, only one angel was seated there, idly doing nothing. "This is the Acknowledgment Section," my angel friend quietly admitted to me. He seemed embarrassed. "How is it that there is no work going on here?" I asked.

"So sad," the angel sighed. "After people receive the blessings that they asked for, very few send back acknowledgments."

(continued on the next page)



## *Christmas Dinners for the less fortunate.*

Our Outreach Committee, under the direction of Linda Chagnot and friends helped three families with a full Christmas dinner.

The membership donated items and some of the groceries were purchased. The menu—Potatoes, green beans, corn, sweet Potatoes, stuffing, gravy, ham or turkey, desserts, fresh fruit, dinner rolls, coffee and flavored drinks, for these less fortunate families.

The dinners had to be prepared by the families but everything was there, including the plates, napkins, and drinking cups. They were delivered to the families a few days before Christmas.

It was made as simple for the families as possible to have a wonderful dinner for their families.





"How does one acknowledge God's blessings?" I asked.

"Simple," the angel answered. Just say, "Thank you, Lord."

"What blessings should they acknowledge?" I asked "If you have food in the refrigerator, clothes on your back, a roof overhead and a place to sleep, you are richer than 75% of this world. If you have money in the bank, in your wallet, and spare change in a dish, you are among the top 8% of the world's wealthy, and if you get this on your own computer, you are part of the 1% in the world who has that opportunity."

"If you woke up this morning with more health than illness.. You are more blessed than the many who will not even survive this day."

"If you have never experienced the fear in battle, the loneliness of imprisonment, the agony of torture, or the pangs of starvation... You are ahead of 700 million people in the world."

"If you can attend a church without the fear of harassment, arrest, torture or death you are envied by, and more blessed than, three billion people in the world."

"If you can hold your head up and smile, you are not the norm, you're unique to all those in doubt and despair....."

"Ok," I said. "What now? How can I start?"

The Angel said, "If you can read this message, you just received a double blessing in that someone was thinking of you as very special and you are more blessed than over two billion people in the world who cannot read at all."

Have a good day, count your blessings, and if you care to, pass this along to remind everyone else how blessed we all are.....

ATTN: Acknowledge Dept.

"Thank you Lord, for giving me the ability to share this message and for giving me so many wonderful people with whom to share it."

## Gloria Zanin

### a Former Member of CCC Passed Away

Gloria Gay Howell Zanin, a homemaker and an early childhood administrator and educator, passed away on December 28, 2016, at the Thunderbird Palliative Care Unit, Hospice of the Valley due to complications from a fall. She was 84.

Born in Portsmouth, OH, she was the daughter of Elsie Jane and George Denver Howell. She spent her early childhood in Portsmouth and then moved with her family to Cleveland, OH. In 1947, she met Frank Zanin and married him a year later. They lived in Cleveland and Windham, OH before moving to Leavittsburg, OH. In 1964 she and her family, now 3 children, moved to Cortland, OH. She began the Cortland Playroom. It was her lifelong love of children that prompted her to begin what became not just a business, but a highlight of the community.

For the next 34 years she progressed from founder to educator to administrator of one of the area's premier facilities for early childhood education. With the help of Frank, countless children's lives were impacted in the most positive of ways.

She became very active in the Cortland Christian Church where she not only taught children's Sunday School but also spearheaded many church wide activities. After moving to AZ, Gloria and her husband found their church home at Grace Community Church in Surprise.

She was also instrumental in creating the Howell Family Cookbook which continues to provide delicious food ideas for four generations.

A memorial service will be held at Grace Community Church on Saturday, January 14.

In addition to her devoted husband of 68 years, survivors include a brother, Jerome William Howell of Mentor, OH; two daughters, Pamela Bradbury and husband Rick of Columbia, MD and Susan Robertson and husband Ed of Peoria, AZ; a son, Frank Zanin and wife Patrea of Peoria, AZ; five grandchildren Jessica, Travis, Patrick, Joe and Vincent and three greatgrandchildren, Lillian, Vivian and 4 month old Jack William whom God allowed her to meet just hours before her life ended. She was preceded in death by her parents, sisters Mary Elizabeth and Joyce and brother Eugene.

In lieu of flowers the family request donations to Thunderbird Palliative Care Unit, Hospice of the Valley, Glendale, AZ. The family is forever grateful.

## Shut-Ins

Here are our shut-in members or members of concern.

Please!

Drop them a card or a note of encouragement

and let them know how much we care!

### Vivian Jensen

Meadowbrook Nursing  
3090 Five Points -Hartford Rd  
Fowler, Ohio 44416

### Grace Wagner

175 Wall Street  
Cortland, Ohio 44410  
330-637-5957

### Frank and Gloria Zanin

18170 N.91st Ave.  
Apt.1210  
Peoria, Az. 85382

### Vera Kidd

Community Skilled Nursing  
Room 221  
1320 Mahoning Ave.  
Warren, Ohio

### Phyllis Beer

Lake Vista  
41 Heron Circle  
Cortland, Ohio 44410  
330-637-1456

### Helen Carlton

477 N. High Street  
Cortland, Ohio 44410

### Raymond Kline

502 Arcaro Street  
Cortland, Ohio 44410  
234-244-4241

### Alice Kalas

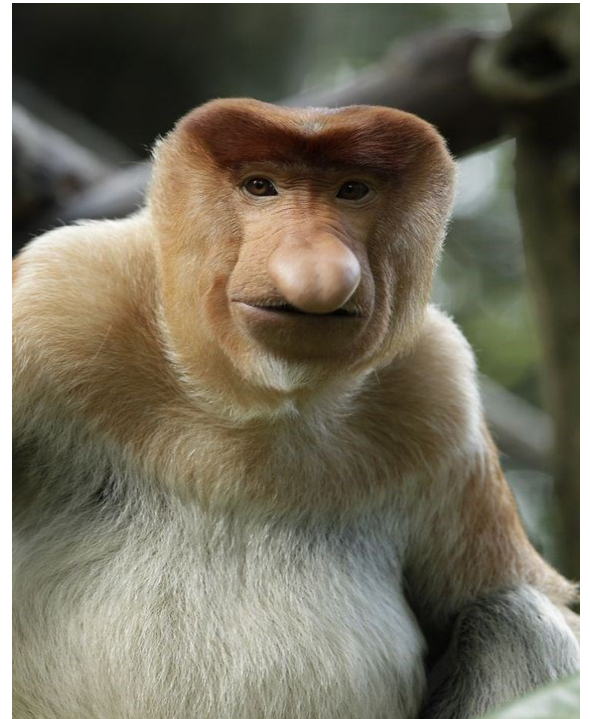
Champion Estates  
Room211  
Windsor Place  
Warren, Ohio 44484  
330-307-7583

Take time to enjoy the small things in life

“take pictures “  
of the sky, clouds, birds,  
moon, trees, lake, leaves  
on the ground,  
outside holiday decorations,  
animals, each other,  
church activities, etc.

Share your pictures with a shut in, like you do on Facebook.

Everyone likes to look at pictures, don't they??  
Did this monkey picture make you smile? Or at least make conversation?



**Happy New Year to everyone,**

**May 2017 be an**

**“explosion” of happiness, good health, new interests ,**

**and resolutions, blessings ,**

**and most of all a re-newed life In Christ.**

**Does this hairstyle make my nose look big?**

The rare proboscis monkey, native to the Island of Borneo, has the biggest nose of all primates.

Isn't he interesting and cute?