



# Perry Christian Church Newsletter

The Crier—December 2017



Volume 9, Issue 12

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Special Points of Interest:

- Christmas Potluck and Caroling
- Christmas Tea
- Project Hope “Giving Tree”



## Pastor’s Ponderings...

So, what’s new with you? Hopefully, you’ll come up with some type of answer having to do with the season of Advent, which, means “new.” So, Advent, or the “new” based upon my description, is on the verge of taking place within your life somehow? I guess that’s good. Or, perhaps within your life, things that are new are not always good. Maybe for you, new things tend to represent something that is bad. Gosh, I hope not! But then again, even if things within your life are unsettled in some way, what those things directly have to do with Advent, is not clear to me. Advent is a liturgical season recognized within the Church as symbolically ushering into this world, the placement and arrival of a Savior born and delivered to us

- those who are faithful to God. Not only is it a liturgical season that rolls around each calendar year, but it is also a meaningful season that transcends any number of human lifetimes.

Advent is new, but at the same time it represents something familiar to those of us within the Christian faith. Perhaps the biggest challenge we as Christians of faith, **face, is the “trick” associated with somehow keeping something so familiar to us – new.** How would we begin to go about that? How within this world, can we possibly begin to act as if a familiar thing is new all over again, despite its old familiar characteristics? Ah, I would guess that **the Savior’s announced arrival is not the issue of presenting a tired, old hum-drum level of familiarity.** I would be much

more inclined to think that the tired, old hum-drum characteristics presented by the Christian people who supposedly have faith, is what the true problem within this world has become.

**Maybe the “trick” is not so much a trick, after all. I’d be willing to bet my life on what the best answer is. I’d be willing to give up my life, if in the process of accomplishing that, someone could see within me that my love for them is akin to the love that Jesus has for us.** For me, I do not want that message to ever become old and familiar. Instead, what I want is for my service and obedience to God to represent something new to them. So new, in fact, that they sit up and take notice that Advent around here, anyway, ushers in something new and exciting! Christ is born indeed!

**Let’s make Advent new this year,**  
Pastor Paul

## ADVENT WREATH CANDLELIGHTING

Advent begins Sunday, December 3rd. We need groups of 2-4 people to light the Advent candles and share the Advent readings during the worship service. It could be a family, a couple or a group of friends. Please sign up at the bulletin board for one of the four Sundays in Advent. The secretary will send you the reading ahead of time.



## CHRISTMAS OFFERING

On December 10th and 17th, we will be collecting a special offering to benefit the Ohio Regional Ministries of the Christian Church.

The regional church cares for and supports congregations and pastors in Ohio. It is responsible for training

local and lay clergy leaders, sponsoring camps and conferences at Camp Christian, establishing new congregations, and offers program assistance to help revitalize existing congregations. The Christmas Offering enables the Christian Church in

Ohio to perform this essential work. 100% of your Christmas Offering will be used by the Ohio region.

Please give generously. More information and offering envelopes will be in the bulletins on December 10th and 17th.



In December, we will meet on Sunday, December 17 after worship. We have combined the church Christmas Luncheon and Caroling with the Call Road Hangout this year. We are hoping that will mean more carolers!

**The "Hangout" team will be meeting** to schedule upcoming dates. We are considering making some changes to The Call Road Hangout so if you have any ideas, please see Taunya or Aaron.



## SUNDAY SCHOOL

The younger Sunday School has been organized! A huge thank you to Mary Hale for her help in organizing the room. The younger Sunday School class will begin meeting after church.

Taunya is also emailing and talking with members to volunteer in the nursery. We need 2 members each Sunday. Please let her know if you would like to volunteer.



*As you celebrate the miracle of this special season, may your heart be filled with joy and peace. May the blessings of our Savior linger in your home and stay with you throughout the year.*

## CWM

Our delicious, hand-made buckeyes sold out again this year! Many thanks to Brenda Carr & Helen Hayes for all they did behind the scenes to prepare us for our “work “sessions. Eleven of us actually enjoyed all the laughter and fellowship as we dipped and rolled 60 pounds of chocolate covered peanut butter heaven!

December is going to be a busy month start-

ing with the *CWM executive board meeting* December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 8 AM. Our *Sue Talley Memorial Tea* is Tuesday, December 12<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. We had to change the day from Wednesday to accommodate Susan Hagan who will be providing the musical program. Secret Sisters will be



announced that evening and forms will be available to sign up again for next year.

We will have gifts for our special members 75 years and older at the annual *Christmas Potluck Luncheon* which will be held December 17<sup>th</sup> right after worship. Everyone is invited to go Christmas caroling after the luncheon to sing and bring gifts to our



shut-ins and those who were not in church that day. Note that being able to sing on pitch is definitely not a requirement!! Please set aside a few hours this day to spread the joy of Christmas...the more the merrier!

## PROJECT HOPE SATURDAY SIDE DISH



We will be preparing submarine sandwiches on Thursday, December 14<sup>th</sup> @ 6:00p for delivery to Project Hope on Saturday, December 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:45p. We need: 1 lb. bologna, 1 lb.

turkey, 2 lb. cheese, 1 small tub soft butter, 1 ranch dressing, 1 Italian dressing and sub buns. For sack lunches this month, we need: 2 case of water bottles, 5 loaves of bread, and 1 large jar of jelly.

We thank Susan Callahan for all the time, talent and effort she has given to this project. Thanks, too, for all you donate! Frankie Blanchard Brenda Carr



## THE PERRY CENTER

### SALVATION ARMY BELL RINGING

On Friday, December 1st, we need one more volunteer to raise funds for The Perry Center by ringing the bell for Salvation Army at the Perry IGA.

### CHRISTMAS BASKETS

Our church has been asked to donate 100 — 4 lb. bags of sugar for The Perry Center Christmas Baskets. The deadline for these donations is December 10th.

Volunteers are needed to help set up and stage the Christmas Basket packing area on Saturday, December 16th from

9am until finished, no later than noon.

Volunteers are needed to pack the Christmas Baskets on Monday, December 18th from 9-11a (or until done).

Baskets will be distributed on December 19th from 9-11a and 6-8p.

*If you can help on any of these days, please let Pat Johnson know.*



# DECEMBER 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 8a CWM Executive Mtg. 9:30a Worship & Fellowship 4p Messiah Chorus	4	5	6 9a Community Mission	7 9:30a Prayer Team	8	9
10 Deadline for sugar (4 lb. bag) donations 9:30a Worship & Fellowship	11 7p Trustee Mtg.	12 7p Sue Talley Christmas Tea	13	14 9:30a Prayer Team 6p Project Hope Food Prep	15	16 9a-12p Set up at Perry Center for food distribution 6:45p Project Hope Food Delivery
17 9:30a Worship After Worship: Christmas Potluck & Caroling	18 9a-12p Pack Christmas Baskets at Perry Center	19 9-11a and 6-8p Perry Center food distribution	20	21 9:30a Prayer Team	22	23
24 9:30a Worship & Fellowship	25 Christmas Day Church Office is closed.	26 Newsletter articles are due.	27	28 9:30a Prayer Team	29	30
31 9:30a Worship & Fellowship	<p><b>MESSIAH CHORUS</b>—“The Messiah” will be performed at St. John Vianney Church (7575 Bellflower Rd., Mentor) on Sunday, Dec. 3rd at 4:00 p.m. This is the 69th annual presentation by The Messiah Chorus of Lake County. More than 150 chorus members and four extraordinary soloists raise their voices and sing this beautiful, classical score, accompanied by piano, organ, trumpet, and strings all under the direction of Kevin Donahue. This is a grand tradition heralding the start of the Christmas season. A free-will offering is taken during the performance.</p>					

## December Service Schedules

	<i>Worship Leaders</i>	<i>Elders</i>	<i>All Month</i>
3	Isabelle Martin	Rick Bartlett Joann Rombough	<i>Deacons</i> *Donna Van Boxel Eric Van Boxel
10	Penny Angeloro	Vicki Wakelee Linda Warfield	<i>Sacristan</i> Sandy McKenna
17	Sydney Martin	Joann Rombough Carole Martin	<i>Counters</i> Connie Smith Frankie Blanchard
24	Joann Rombough	Earl Johnson Vicki Wakelee	<i>Hostess</i> Judy Bartlett Darla Bartlett Thurlene Lawson
31	Donna Van Boxel	Joann Rombough Linda Warfield	



## December Birthdays



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Paige Stevenson	2 Connie Smith
3	4	5 Sandy McKenna	6	7 Roberta McAlister	8 Andy Hinton	9 Shelley Braden
10 Rachel Collins	11	12	13 Elle Pierce	14 Taunya Brewer	15 Ethel Campbell	16
17	18	19	20	21	22 Mary Hale Joanna Lynch	23
24 Russell Sines	25	26	27	28	29	30 Sherry Smith
31						

## Finance Update & Approved by Our Congregational on Sunday, November 19, 2017



I would like to thank the finance team and other members of the congregation for all their time and assistance in meeting and preparing the 2018 very realistic Financial Forecast/Budget: They are Sherry Smith, Donna Van Boxel, Carole Martin, Linda Warfield, Don Bartlett, Pastor Paul and 2 other congregation members. Our Congregation approved a budget for 2018 of \$109,000. This represents a \$ 23.00 increase over 2017.

General Fund Expense Budget for 2018 includes 3 categories: Personnel, Operations & Administration, and Worship/Fellowship/Ministry/Mission.

Personnel is estimated at \$ 73,850 and includes Musician, Secretary, Custodian and Pastor salaries. Pastor Paul Bomeli was hired as our interim pastor effective August 16, 2017. He signed a 1-year contract for \$ 61,600 that includes Salary, Housing, Pension Fund, Travel Reimbursement, Health Care, and Continuing Education.

Note 1: There is a wage increase of \$0.50 cents per hour for our Secretary, Deb Kendrick.

Operation and Administration is \$ 26,100 and represents General Fund Expenses that include essential day to day operations, i.e., worship supplies, invited ministers, utilities, copier contract, maintenance, and ink, rubbish pick up, snow plowing, offering envelopes, dues and subscriptions, stamps, stationary, janitorial supplies, etc.

Note 2: Please thank the trustees and other members of our church who volunteered their time to mow and donate the gas and other mower expenses. They are Bob Wright, Eric Van Boxel, Earl and Tim Johnson, Susan Callahan, Frankie Blanchard, and Rick and Don Bartlett. Also, thanks to Martin Nursery for their help with the landscape work and to all the others who weeded. We so much appreciate your time, talents and giving!

Note 3: As you recall the congregation approved transferring \$ 500,000 of the Dream Campaign to the Christian Church Foundation (CCH) earlier this year because it presented a better opportunity for a greater return in our investment. With respect to The Dream Property Maintenance, Small Equipment Replacement and Capital Reserve Replacement we set aside some of the previously accrued interest to fund and cover future expenses and needs that are no longer a part of the General Fund Expenses.

Worship, Fellowship, Ministry & Mission is estimated at \$9050. With respect to:

Worship - the budget is based on actual needs.

Fellowship – We anticipate not funding our fellowship budget again as our Souper Sundays are supported by a free will offering. Christmas Luncheon and Holiday dinner are potluck, with a free will offering for the meat. Coffee Hours are supported by CWM, and the goodies are given by the Hostesses for the month, in addition to other member and CWM donations. We thank you all!

Discipleship - **This is currently a funded category and doesn't appear on our budget nor does it increase our budget** because we have had generous donations that have covered the costs of Sunday school materials, Vacation Bible School and sending youth to Camp Christian. We thank you!

Ministry and Missions -

We budgeted \$1,000 for the Regional Outreach – Ohio and \$1,000 for World Outreach which is Basic Mission – D.O.C.



NEW - \$7,050 was budgeted for Local & Community outreach. We will identify needs in the community and develop ways to support these specific needs at a later date.

The General Fund is funded through the generosity of your weekly giving. That is why we remind everyone if you miss a week, please make up your giving the next Sunday you are present.

Designated Funds: During our finance team meetings, there was concern that our dollars for ministry and mission did not appear on the budget. Designated funds for youth programs, missions and ministries are not part of our operating budget. However, be assured we do have money in the fund accounts on the balance sheet. These funds are always (from year to year) available until they are spent.

**This year's budget is based on actual donations from January through October 2017 and the estimation of the last 2 months of 2017 based on events we believe will happen.**

Below is a list of where your 2017 outreach dollars (that you designated in addition to your weekly giving) went. The funds which many of you give to are **'above and beyond' your weekly budget giving and not intended to be a part of our general fund expenses.**

In-Kind donations such as food for Project Hope and the donations at Thanksgiving and Christmas for Perry Center = \$2,000; Basic Mission = \$2,000; CWM Charities = \$2,600; Regional Outreach = \$1,000; Perry Center = \$1,400; 6-Special Offerings = \$1,196 (note this includes the \$1,142 we collected for Hurricane Relief 2017 through Week of Compassion); and Bethany Student support = \$1,200.

Total missions/ministry/designated funds for 2017 are estimated at \$ 11,396. This more than meets our goal of 10 % minimum tithe to the community.

Our congregation unanimously approved the 2018 budget.  
Respectively Submitted, Don Bartlett - Treasurer

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## PROJECT HOPE—"GIVING TREE"

Have you stayed at a hotel lately? What did it cost to spend the night? Was dinner included?

At Project Hope for the Homeless it costs \$39.11 to house someone for the night, be it a man, woman, or child.

The Giving Tree pictured



**night's stay...one night of protection from the elements of the weather and the dangers of the streets.**

There were 31 orna-

here has special ornaments representing the cost of one

ments at the beginning of **the project. That's 31 people** who will receive a warm, safe, place to stay, dinner to nourish their bodies and Christian guidance to fortify their souls.

The tree is located in the sanctuary and we would like all the ornaments to be purchased by Christmas.

Envelopes for your donation are there as well.

Please consider purchasing an ornament from the Giving Tree this Christmas season. Give someone in need **"help for today and bright hope for tomorrow."**



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**THANK YOU**—Dear Pastor Paul & Friends, On behalf of Project Hope for the Homeless, we would like to thank you for being instrumental in our mission. For the past 24 years, we have found that the support of our community has never failed to respond to those we serve. It is through your kindness that we are able to continue to offer shelter, care and guidance to the homeless of Lake County. Thank you very much for your gift of side dishes, lunches, and fruit that was donated on 10/21/17. Your partnership is important! In Service, Judy Burr, Executive Director



Interim Pastor  
Worship  
Fellowship  
Sunday School  
E-Mail  
Phone  
Website

Pastor Paul Bomelli  
9:30 a.m.  
10:45 a.m.  
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PERRY CHRISTIAN CHURCH