

St. James United Church of Christ

Newsletter
January 2017
Volume 2, Issue 1

News from Pastor Ken



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Upcoming Events

- ◆ January 1 - Joint service with St. Paul Lessons & Carols and Communion Sunday
- ◆ January 10 - Council Meeting
- ◆ January 15 - Communion Sunday
- ◆ January 21 - Euchre
- ◆ January 25 - Group Study
- ◆ January 29 - Healing Service and Annual Report Meeting

Happy New Year!

There is something about the New Year that speaks to a time of hope and new beginnings.

The New Year gives me a sense of optimism and excitement for what may lie ahead. It is like turning to the first page of the calendar allows us to set aside the challenges, disappointments and hurts of the past year and look forward to a fresh beginning. It is in fact what our past month of Advent and Christmas has been all about. Maybe that is why the church calendar always begins approximately a month before our standard secular calendar year. It gives us a little extra time to plan and prepare for this new beginning. It was good this past Advent spending time of active prayer and meditation discerning what I feel God has called me (and us) to do and who God has called me (and us) to be. Once again, the Spirit has provided me spoken to me in a wonderful and enriching way. As always, I look forward to sharing the journey with you.

As we look toward our New Year I encourage each of us to consider our individual and personal gifts and opportunities and to actively participate in the growth and sustainability of the St James community of faith. This may include planning and/or growing a ministry, reaching out to those in need, inviting friends and family to St James, reaching out to former members or your unchurched neighbors to visit us, encouraging generous giving, and sharing your St James story in the community.

The reality is that St James needs and more importantly calls you to be an active part in its important role in the community and it cannot do it without you. Just as Christ could not carry on his ministry without his disciples, St James cannot carry on without your active participation in spreading the good news. This approach to ministry more closely reflects the way Christ's own ministry was carried out.

News from Pastor Ken Continued

It creates wonderful opportunities for all to participate each according to our individual gifts of time, energy, talent, treasure and other resources as we are able in various and appropriate ministries.

As we speak of gifts, Jan 6 is Epiphany a time when the wise men brought gifts to the baby Jesus. I so much enjoy the whole idea of Epiphany and all the symbolism that goes with it. First, there was the arrival of the wise men on Epiphany, Jan 6. They traveled across what was then the entire world on faith, following a star to a place where, when they arrived, they were struck by a vision of hope and love so simple and yet so profound that it changed their lives. During this season of Epiphany, we too are invited to come to that place where our lives may be changed forever.

We also in the first week of Epiphany celebrate the baptism of Jesus Christ. It is in that very same baptism that we too are baptized and called to be disciples each of us according to our gifts and abilities.

This is for me an exciting time. A time when the world so desperately needs to see hope, so desperately needs to see the love of Jesus. We are called to be the face of Christ, to be that light for the world to see. I think to myself "what an overwhelming task" but I realize that we do not go alone nor are we expected to do it all. We go knowing that God stands before us and behind us, that God will give us the words to speak and the strength to do God's will each according to our gifts and abilities. We are called to reach out to change the life of one person, who will change the life of one person, who will change the world. I always remember this wonderful quote "We are not called to do everything but we are called to do something.'

Remember that whoever you are and wherever you are on life's journey, you are surrounded by God's unconditional love, boundless mercy, and unending grace. There is a place for you here in at St James.

May this Epiphany season fill you and us with hope, recognizing and acting on our call to be disciples.

Happy New Year!! Take care and be well, Peace
Ken

Prayers for...



Karen Marie
Sue
Scott,
Mimi
Dan
Kathy
Rich
Maraleen
Doug
Gordy

Jack Bishop Sr. & Jr.
George
David
Deborah
Lynn
Johnnie
Paul
Peggy
Bobbie
Marion

Outreach Ministry

Kids in Distress

Current needs are as follows:

Winter is coming, in need of coats sizes 5- 10, hats, boots and gloves all sizes.

St. Augustine Richmond Food Pantry

In need of... jam/jellies, jello and boxed oatmeal.

Blue Water Area Rescue Mission - B-WARM

Blue Area Rescue Mission is in need of cleaning supplies and paper products. Collection bin (B-WARM) is in the church basement.

B-WARM provides emergency shelter and mission program 7 days a week, 365 days a year for the homeless of St. Clair County as well as a discipleship program.

Member Needed

St. James is looking for a person to fill the position for **Parish Life Leader**.

Please contact a council member or Pastor Ken if interested.

Happy Birthdays in January

2 - Mark Pittman
6 - Bill LaDuke
8 - Elizabeth Kulman
14 - Bill Osterland
16 - Andrew Kargula
20 - Jim Maedel
26 - Tommy Bandlow
30 - Cindy Pittman

Happy Anniversary's in January

No Anniversaries this month

Spiritual Growth Ministry

In need of adults to volunteer and assist Sue Tews in providing our young folks with Sunday School. Sign-up our provided in the basement.

Four week discussion group studies on Wednesdays from 7:00pm to 8:00pm. Starting on January 25th and will be centered on Prayer and Meditation.

Earthly Gifts Ministry

Financial Goal Report

November Financial Goal Report

The goal for December is \$6000.00. Donations thus far are \$5,043.00 as of December 20th. Please remember St. James during this great Christmas season since our financial obligations still need to be met.

Donation envelopes for 2017 are now available for pick-up. They are located on the front pew next to the mail entrance of the church lobby. If you cannot find your envelopes please notify Dan Riley or Ralph Ski.

Worship Ministry

Volunteers Needed

Signup sheets are provided in the basement for a free and feel good stewardship of being an Usher/Greeter, Liturgists, Communion Server or an Altar Care person.

Toll Bells

Did you know that the church bell is rung as soon as notice is received when a member of St. James UCC has passed away. The bell rings once for each year of their age. This is an old tradition that has been passed down and preserved which was to notify nearby members when someone passed away, before phones and social media.

The Discretionary Fund January 1st, 2017

Did you know this fund is utilized to provide assistance for rent, utilities, medical supplies, food and transportation to doctors, etc?

This is generated from the loose change collected the first Sunday of each month. Please empty your pockets and change purses that day in order to meet the needs of our church and community.

Fellowship Ministry

Christmas Shoebox Items Needed for 2017

This is going to be a year round Fellowship Ministry project for 2017. The items to be collected for the shoeboxes are as follows: toys, plastic tote bags with handles, school supplies, notebooks, coloring books, crayons, pencils, pens, erasers, pencil sharpeners, toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, washcloth, combs, socks, hats, gloves or mittens and always \$7.00 for mailing costs. If you are not a shopper, you can still donate to this worthy cause by providing a cash donation.

My goal is to fill 100 shoeboxes next year. Please buy when things are on sale or at end of season. Donation tubs will be located in the church basement for collection.

Roof Collection



St. James will be collecting funds to offset the cost of the new roof (\$27,500.00 including cost of lift). A special thanks to the Women's Fellowship for their donation of \$277.00 plus a donation of \$5.00, which reduced the debt to \$27,218.00.

Please earmark all donation amounts for this purpose on your check/envelope or use the envelopes in the pew marking it "ROOF" with your name and envelope number. All funds will be recorded and reflected for tax purposes. Funds will be coming from the Waddell and Reed Investment Fund and Memorial Funds. Monies collected will be given to Wayne for direct deposit into the Investment and Memorial Funds. A new fund raising thermometer is placed in the church lobby designating the funds received.

Thank you in advance for your generous donation.

Kid's Page



Altar Care

January - Open

Communion Servers

Preparer: Doris Doss
Communion Servers: Doris Doss
and Roberta Fisher

Ushers & Greeters

January 1 - Open
January 8 - Open
January 15 - Open
January 22 - Open
January 29 - Open

Liturgists

January 1 - Open
January 8 - Open
January 15 - Open
January 22 - Open
January 29 - Open

Scripture Readings for January

Sunday, January 1

Eccl 3:1-13
Ps 8
Rev 21:1-6a
Matt 25:31-46
Truly I Tell You

Sunday, January 8

Isa 42:1-9
PS 29
Acts 10:34-43
Matt 3: 13-17
Possibilities Unfolding

Sunday, January 15

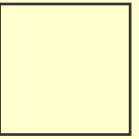
Isa 49: 1-7
Ps 40: 1-11
1 Cor 1: 1-9
John 1: 29-42
All That We Are

Sunday, January 22

Isa 9:1-4
Ps 27: , 4-9
1 Cor1: 10-18
Matt 4: 12-23
Called Together

Sunday, January 29

Micah 6: 1-8
Ps 15
1 Cor 1: 18-31
Matt 5:1-12
The Vision Beautiful



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