

The St. John's Messenger

Volume 14 Issue 11

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November 2014

Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. --1 Thess. 5:16-18

The scripture passage above comes from Paul's first letter to the church in Thessalonica, a church that he planted on his second missionary journey. Thessalonica was the capital and largest city of the Roman province of Macedonia. Located on the Egnatian Way, a major road from Rome to the eastern provinces, the city served as center of trade and commerce. Today, it is known as Thessaloniki, or Salonica.

In Paul's writings to this church, we find him on several occasions praising them for their strong faith and expressing that they are known around the provinces for their outpouring of love. As a matter of fact, Paul in the opening verses of his second letter, writes these words about them: "Therefore, among God's churches we boast about your perseverance and faith in all the persecutions and trials you are enduring." (2 Thess. 2:4) Wow! Isn't that amazing? The church of Thessalonica was known for its strong faith and remarkable love even though they were undergoing severe persecution.

Is it possible that they had taken Paul's advice from the closing of his first letter and had put it into practice? Had they become a people that had learned to rejoice in all circumstances? Were they a people devoted to prayer? Were they people of thankfulness?

Many years ago I was reading a book by Chuck Swindoll and I was permanently impacted by the following statement: "We cannot change our past . . . we cannot change the fact that people will act in a certain way. We cannot change the inevitable. The only thing we can do is play on the one string we have, and that is our attitude. I am convinced that life is 10% what happens to me and 90% of how I react to it. And so it is with you . . . we are in charge of our Attitudes."

OUCH! That is some serious toe-stepping going on there. But it is so true. So often in my own life I have let the circumstances around me

determine my attitude. If someone made me upset then it gave me license to act grumpy towards others around me. If I walked out to my car and found a flat tire, or a nick in my paint from a shopping cart, it could set me on course for a bad mood which would then spill over to those around me. But the Apostle Paul says to rejoice, pray and be thankful.

Church family, let's take on a challenge this month as a church body. As we head into the month of November, the month we most often associate with thankfulness, let's make it a point to be more like the church of Thessalonica. Let's purpose to heed the words of the Apostle Paul and every morning let's recite to ourselves 1 Thess. 5:16-18. Let's be known as a church that rejoices always, prays continually and gives thanks in all circumstances. Then if we come to the end of this month and find that we have more joy, more peace, and a much-improved outlook on life, then let's take up the same challenge for the next month.

Grace and Peace!

Dave Swartz, Minister of Music



CHOIR CHRISTMAS CANTATA

St. John's will be having a Christmas Cantata this year on December 14th. We are starting practice for this event on Saturday, November 8th at 10:00 a.m. in the choir room. If you are interested in being a part of this group, please see Dave Swartz (872-9121).

"10 UP 10 DOWN" RULE

When you study a verse from the Bible that seems difficult to understand, try this. Start reading again 10 verses before the verse and keep reading through 10 verses after the verse to give yourself better context for the verse. Most importantly, pray to God for wisdom and for the Holy Spirit to give you greater understanding as you study.

P R A Y E R C O N C E R N S

Arbors of Michigan City

Carol Schultz

Ruth Thompson

Settlers House

Dorothy Johnson

Clare Bridge Cottage, Alterra

Ruth Daschbach

Rittenhouse

Beatrice Miller, John Reetz, Anita McKee

Lifecare Center of Michigan City

Libby Rogers

Sterling House

Lou Hapke, Alice Roth



PRE-THANKSGIVING SERVICE Free Methodist Church 3001 S. Ohio Street, Michigan City Sunday, November 23rd, 2014 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

A freewill offering and non-perishable food items brought in will be donated to the Salvation Army. You may also bring new or like-new coats, new mittens, hats, gloves, scarves, etc. for donation.

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!

On Sunday, October 5th, we were pleased to welcome new members TaVanna Fryar, Ellen Fugate, Chris & Lora Lindzy, Phil & Angie Stebbins, and Dave & Lisa Kay Swartz. A very warm welcome from all of us at St. John's!

CROPWALK UPDATE

Eight CROP walkers came together to represent St. John's in our efforts to alleviate world-wide hunger. Many thanks to all who contributed. A portion of the funds will come back to our local Salvation Army.

The day was just right for outdoor fellowship with our prayers for our brothers and sisters who seek food and clean water.

We look forward to September 2015 when we host the CROP Walk.

UPCOMING SPECIAL OFFERINGS

Nov. 2: Communion, Thanksgiving Families

Nov. 27: Thanksgiving, Deacon's Fund

Nov. 30: 1st Sun. of Advent, Michiana Resources

CHRISTMAS TEA

St. John's is hosting a Christmas Tea this year on Saturday, December 6th from 12:00 -2:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. The theme is, "It's a Winter Wonderland". There will be a light lunch served of salad, soup and rolls followed by entertainment. The attire is "smart dress" and those attending should be 16 years or older. No childcare will be provided as this will be a time for our guests to relax and enjoy fellowship with other women before the hectic holiday season gets in full swing. Tickets will go on sale beginning November 2nd after both services or you may purchase them from the office during the week. Cost of the tickets will be \$12.00. The deadline to purchase your ticket is Sunday, November 23rd. Questions, please contact Debbie Dill at 219-362-4345 or Lisa Kay Swartz at 219-229-8461.

WANTED: SOCKS!

Our soup kitchen guests often walk long distances in cold, damp weather and really need a change of socks.

Will you help? Please bring new socks (especially men's socks) to our laundry basket display. They will really be a blessing to our neighbors. Many thanks!

6th ANNUAL PRE-THANKSGIVING MUSICAL

Sat., Nov. 15, 5:00 p.m.

Life Temple Church of God in Christ

3711 W. US Hwy. 20, LaPorte

Tickets, 1 for \$10, 3 for \$25; Children 6-12, \$5

For information, call 219-210-9810

NOISY OFFERING NOVEMBER 30

Please have your change or dollars ready. The children will be learning about helping our brothers and sisters around the world by choosing some "gifts"

from the Samaritans Purse catalog. <http://www.samaritanspurse.org/our-ministry/gift-catalog/>

The gifts may range from a clean water well that protects a village from diseases to shelters for Christians driven from their homes by the Islamic State. On Monday, October 13, Samaritan's

Purse began airlifting nearly 90 tons of relief supplies to Iraqi families displaced by the Islamic State. Nearly 200,000 pieces of children's clothing will be sent, along with 15,000 warm jackets, and tens of thousands of blankets and socks. More than 2,400 winter-rated sleeping bags will also be headed overseas and 400 rolls of plastic (800,000 square feet), which can be used to insulate the tents and unfinished buildings where families are living. Samaritan's Purse spreads the gospel by giving in the name of Jesus because of all that Jesus has done for us.

DEEPEST CONDOLENCES

St. John's wishes to extend deepest condolences to the family and friends of **Mrs. Betty Crama, Mrs. Kathy Jo Shaw, Mrs. Janet Gloff, and Mr. John Sadenwater** who recently entered eternal life. We pray God's peace and comfort on the Crama, Shaw, Gloff, and Sadenwater families.



CHANGE OF ADDRESS

It's that time of year! Please remember to notify St. John's office of any address change in order for our records to be kept up-to-date and for you to receive the Messenger or other correspondence in a timely manner. Thank you very much!

"PEEPS" FALL SCHEDULE

The Peeps group (Parents of Young Children) will be meeting after church from 11:30 - 1:00 on the following Sundays: Nov 9, 23, Dec 7, 21.

The six-week fall series is by Dr. Kevin Leman, "Making Children Mind Without Losing Yours" (how to bring out the best in your kids by doing what is best for them).

HOURS FOR OURS--MENTORS NEEDED!

The Michigan City Area School Hours for Ours Mentoring Program is in need of mentors for the '14-'15 school year. Volunteers meet with their assigned student one hour per week. Especially needed are men to be mentors, but ladies are needed also! Please call 873-2026 for more information, or you may stop into the church office and pick up an application form. Come help support the youth in our community build successful futures - one hour at a time!

SALVATION ARMY FOOD BANK

Since we provide gift certificates for individuals at Thanksgiving, please turn in names of the needy to the office. Tell us who might benefit from this outreach endeavor.

Especially needed for November are cereals, coffee, tea, and anything that might enhance someone's Thanksgiving dinner. *Thank you!*

USHERS

Ushers for the month of November are:
Elaine Burkhart, Con Eichelberg,
Paul Beebe



SUNDAY SCHOOL

We have learned about the power of prayer and how Moses set an example for us by studying Exodus chapters 3, 4, 15, 17, 32 and 34. We have also learned about how God wants us to pray to him at all times and how He responded when Moses prayed to Him. God provided water in the harsh desert and even spared the Israelites lives, all in response to the prayers of **one** man. This study brought out some great questions for all of us to consider as followers of Jesus. Do we really believe in the power of our prayers? Do we trust God to provide for our needs and the needs of the church? If not, will we ever have enough money stored up in the church's accounts to trust God to provide? How do we think God feels when we choose to trust ourselves to provide instead of Him? Let's practice praying and studying the Bible daily and waiting on the still small voice of God to guide us like Elijah (see 1 Kings 19:12). We will next learn about Joseph and his brothers by studying Genesis 37.

I-K UCC NEWS

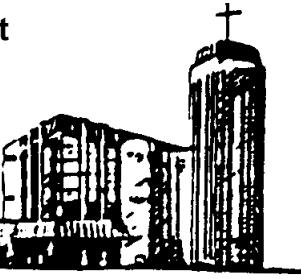
The present Conference Minister of the I-K Conference, Dr. John Vertigan, has formally tendered his resignation, to be effective no later than January 11, 2015. He has accepted an invitation to be the candidate for the position of Conference Minister for the UCC Florida Conference and is anticipating his election at their annual meeting on October 25, 2014. He will serve faithfully in this time of transition both in the coming months and when he will move to Florida at the end of this year. His letter is on the bulletin board outside the office for your convenience.

**PACKING UP
SHOEBOXES FOR
CHRISTMAS CHILD!
Sunday, Nov. 9th,
after 10 a.m.
worship**



St. John's United Church of Christ

101 St. John Rd
Michigan City, IN 46360
(219) 872-9121



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LIVE NATIVITY PLANNED

Christian Nurture is hoping to have a living nativity starting at about 5:00 p.m., before the Christmas Eve service at 6:30 p.m. We are looking to build a small structure on the east side of the main entrance of the church to imitate the humble birthplace of our Lord. We would also like to have some animals, if possible. If you are interested in helping with this project, please contact Jean Squires at 219-778-4789.

PEANUT BRITTLE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Could you donate some hours to assist in a St. John's project where the proceeds are donated to community mission work and St. John's projects? (*Note: . . . and we guarantee that you will have fun at the same time!*) Beginning Thursday morning, Nov. 20th, the Peanut Brittle Group will begin work in the kitchen. Our other work dates are December 4, 11, and 18. We only work four Thursday mornings, and we welcome your help for one morning or four mornings. Also, note that our volunteers include *gentlemen* of St. John's as our workers! All kinds of kitchen workers are needed and NO EXPERIENCE is necessary.

Sign up on the Volunteer sheet on the bulletin board by the office or call Judy Kerestury (872-4128) if you have questions. We will be selling our peanut brittle for \$8.00/pound.



PEANUT BRITTLE, ANYONE?

Join our Guild project by eating Peanut Brittle, selling peanut Brittle, or making Peanut Brittle!

All together we can contribute to agencies in our community which serve others. We can make a difference right here in Michigan City! St. John's will begin offering its famous Peanut Brittle at \$8.00/pound and just in time for Thanksgiving! Orders can be placed in the church office. Tell your family and friends that once again all profits from the sale will be donated to community agencies and to St. John's projects. We will be accepting orders for our work dates of November 20, December 4, 11, and 18.

Thank you for your continued support!

