

# The Cornerstone News

## First Presbyterian Church, Paulding Ohio

Volume 2 Issue 1



### Out of the Saltshaker...

Be sure to set aside a tenth of everything. (Deuteronomy 14:22)

Tithing isn't a financial issue. It's a Lordship issue. (Barry Cameron)

In the Christmas classic, *It's A Wonderful Life* there is a brief exchange between the movie's hero, George Bailey, and the angel who has been sent down to rescue him after he's jumped off a bridge. George is explaining that he jumped because he was distraught over the loss of a large amount of money from his business. The angel says, "Where I come from we don't need money." George's response is one of my all-time favorite movie lines: "Well, it comes in pretty handy down here!"

I think we'd all agree that money "comes in pretty handy down here", which is why probably most of us don't tithe. I don't know how much people give in our church, so I'm making an assumption based on a fact, and this is the fact: the average American church attender puts about 2.5% of his or her income into the offering plate. I realize that some people (including Patty and me) give some of their tithe to missionaries or to mission organizations, but it's also true that, in a typical American congregation, only 10-25% of people are tithers.

In the Old Testament, God's people were commanded to set aside a tenth (a "tithe") of everything they had and to dedicate that portion to the Lord. It was not only a matter of discipline; it was also a matter of worship. In the giving of their tithes, the Israelites were acknowledging God's sovereignty over everything in their lives.

Tithing is also a matter of trust and a mechanism for blessing. This is what

Malachi 3:10 says, **"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse. ... Test me in this,"** says the Lord Almighty, **"and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it."** When we trust God enough to invest our money (and also our time and talent) into His kingdom, the reward is actually greater than the investment. This is what the Apostle Paul says in 2 Corinthians 9:6, 10 -- **Whoever sows generously will also reap generously. ... He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness.** This principle holds true in both the Old and New Testaments: whatever we give to God, He multiplies, and the blessings we receive in return are greater than what we invested.

So, here's a suggestion for a New Year's resolution: set yourself a goal to either tithe or to at least move in the direction of tithing. It's a big challenge for most people, but the blessings are even greater. It's true that money "comes in pretty handy", and it's also true that God doesn't need our money, because God doesn't need anything. But the Lord does desire to bless his people. He does this in many ways, and one of the most significant ways is through the discipline of tithing.

Shalom,  
*Pastor Dave*

*How does God want to express Himself through this church in this community at this time?*

Catching a Vision of God: from the Multiply Conference held on January 10, 2015

# January 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> McDougle Christmas in the fellowship hall
<b>3</b> Communion	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> Circle 7:00	<b>6</b> 1st Wed meal and worship 5:30 & 6:15 7:00 Choir 7:00 Youth	<b>7</b> Prayer and Worship 7:00	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> Session 7:00	<b>13</b> 7:00 Choir 7:00 Youth Group	<b>14</b> Prayer and Worship 7:00	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> Hands of Love 10:00 fellowship hall
<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> Martin Luther King Day	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 7:00 Choir 7:00 Youth Group	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 5th Quarter Party at the School	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> Annual meeting, lunch	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 7:00 Choir 7:00 Youth Group	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b>						

## January Birthdays:

2 <sup>nd</sup> - Matthew Meriwether	20 <sup>th</sup> - Cody Clark
2 <sup>nd</sup> - Dianna Karlstadt	20 <sup>th</sup> - Kristen (Koenig) Gerber
4 <sup>th</sup> - Darwin Cline	21 <sup>st</sup> - Jessica Verfaillie
10 <sup>th</sup> - Mary VanAtta	22 <sup>nd</sup> - Harry Weibe
11 <sup>th</sup> - A. J. Wolford	23 <sup>rd</sup> - Betty St. John
11 <sup>th</sup> - Kenny Robinson	24 <sup>th</sup> - Scott St. John
16 <sup>th</sup> - Larry Fishbaugh	28 <sup>th</sup> - Bryce Verfaillie



Pictured on the left are Sue Crossland and Ruby Crossland pouring hot chocolate for carolers.

Pictured below are carolers Joe Reineck, Erin Karlstadt, Megan Harpel, Chris Rivera and Sydney Reineck from the Youth Group.

This is always a night of blessing for those who sing and for those that are vis-

## Christmas Caroling



## Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday January 24th following the worship service  
Women's Board will serve lunch following



**You Are Invited!**  
**To an Open House**  
**At the Meriwethers' Home**  
**(502 N. Cherry Street)**  
**New Year's Eve**  
**Beginning at 7 PM**  
**\*Bring finger food/treats**  
**to share if you like**  
**\*Prayers for the year**  
**ahead at 9 PM**



## Decorators for Advent

Some of the elves scurrying about the church to decorate this year were: Barb Searing (up high on the ladder) and Becky Fishbaugh, Phyllis Crossland and Dorothy Hooker, and Jill Straley (fearless leader) with Gretchen Noneman. Not pictured are Sue Crossland who took the pictures, Jane Nice, Leslie Heilshorn, Alex and Dan Straley who put the large tree together, and Carol Razo who ordered all the poinsettias.

According to Jill, the fearless leader, it took 12 people to get the needed work done to get the sanctuary into its Christmas glory.

Thanks to everyone that helped. We appreciate the time and effort you put into the project.





## *Warm Fuzzy Tree*

The Warm Fuzzy Tree is again packed full of scarves, mittens and hats, as well as undies, sox and some warm elastic waist pants. These

will go to the schools for the children that fall in puddles, spill their food trays or have other types of accidents. You are such a generous group of Christians. Thank you so much.



## **7th Graders Volunteering**

The seventh graders pictured above came to our church to do their own outreach program. Several went to the nursery with Miss Rickenberg to clean and scrub, the rest stayed in the sanctuary and annex to clean, polish and dust. Add to that the cleaning they did in the elevator and we had a bright shiny house of worship. We gave a "dirtiest dust cloth" award, which was given to two of the young men. The winners received bells off the tree (yes, donations were made by our people involved in supervision while they were here), all enjoyed homemade cookies made by Barb Searing and all had a good time. The youth worked hard, had fun, showed great attitudes. This is encouraging as we think about the future of our country. These kids are GREAT!

### **THINGS YOU CAN DO TO BLESS YOUR COMMUNITY**

[This is not a "to do" list or a "should" list. These are suggestions for anyone who would like to do something "outside our walls" but hasn't been sure where to start. This list itself is just a start--many more things could be added (maybe some of you are already doing them)]

- Pray for your neighbors (write names on a 3 x 5 card / walk & pray in your neighborhood / sit & pray in your living room)
- Help out at the Caring & Sharing food pantry (399-9562 / open Wed. & Sat., 9 - noon)
- Show up for the Paulding Middle School after school program (399-4656, Mon. & Wed., 3: - 4:15)
- Help stock the Drug Court reward basket
- Help stock the Caring & Sharing basket
- Send notes to people in the community
- Fold clothes for TGIF (week of 11/29 - 12/4 -- call Methodist Church 399-3591)
- Help with one of our 1st Wednesday meals
- Ring a bell for the Salvation Army (contact Kim Tracy / 419-956-2025 / [dockimble01@gmail.com](mailto:dockimble01@gmail.com) )
- Live with hope, peace & joy (Philippians 4:4-5)
- Add your own . . . .

**"Whatever you did, you did for me."**  
(Matthew 25:40)

#### **DRUG COURT REWARD BASKET**

We have the privilege of supporting the Drug Court program (overseen by common pleas Judge Tiffany Beckman) through the supplying of a reward basket for the participants. This basket is in the entry hall right by the bulletin board. Dave Nice takes this basket (which contains 10 items) twice a month to the common pleas court. The items are \$4 - \$6 each, and include things like: candy bars, pop, Gatorade, shampoo, lotion, gift cards (Chief, Subway, Marathon, McDonalds, Dairy Queen), etc. You can place items in the basket anytime, just as you would for the food pantry basket.

# JEWES FOR JESUS

We are so grateful for the birth of our messiah; amidst the holiday hubbub, we wanted to encourage you with how the Lord's plan for his people is effecting spiritual transformation worldwide through Jews for Jesus missionaries.

I'd like to share with you a special story about a man named Tom. Mark who works with us in Sydney, Australia has been ministering to Tom for some time. Though he lives in Sydney, Tom was born in Berlin and remembers *Kristallnacht* as a young boy. His father was a doctor on a major street. Seeing the riot coming up the street, his father quickly thought to remove the required notice (that this was a Jewish practice) from the front of the building the practice was located in, before the riot got to them. They lived above the practice.



They had already applied for papers to leave Germany, but realized they could not wait for the proper papers and had to leave immediately. They got as far as the border of China and Russia and were stopped by the Japanese.

The authorities at the border crossing yelled at them, made them wait a long time, yelled some more, and then waived them through. The authorities knew if they were turned back, it would spell their death. Tom is to this day ever so grateful for the mercy shown them at that border crossing.

Tom studied in English and Russian in Harbin (China). Later the family moved to Israel, where he met his wife. He worked hard and earned another degree, this time in Hebrew. Later they migrated to Australia.

**Mark first met Tom just after Mark had been praying for more Jewish people with whom he could share Messiah.** Mark met Tom on the footpath in front of our shop. He was soft spoken but showed a real openness to Jesus. Mark was so glad for this immediate answer to prayer.

It took a while to first get together. Since that first visit with Tom, he and Mark had numerous meetings and

talked about being Jewish and believing in Jesus. They continue to read and discuss relevant Bible passages. Mark remembers well explaining how Yeshua suffered for everyone's sins. Tom replied, 'That doesn't seem fair.' Mark replied it wasn't fair to Yeshua, but it is our only hope, the only way our sins can be forgiven and for us to be right with God.

Tom recently prayed with Mark to receive Yeshua as his Messiah. Please pray that Tom grows strong in Yeshua and in his knowledge of the Bible.

Our Lord, born so many years ago in a humble setting and city in Israel, is moving His people all across the world, calling them to Himself.

Jews for Jesus is able to equip missionaries to do this good work through friends like you. [We covet your prayers and support in this endeavor to bring Jewish people to their Messiah.](#)

Blessings in our Messiah,



David Brickner, Executive Director

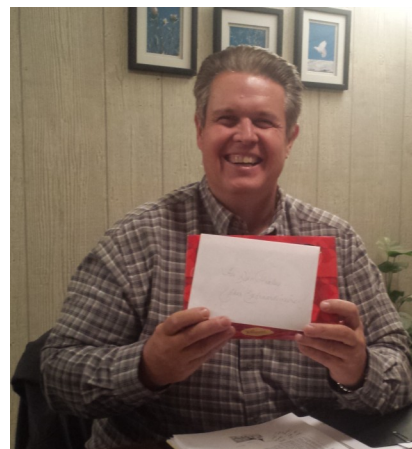
## Dan Straley Ends Term on Session

After serving on Session for six years, Dan is retiring from the board. Six consecutive years is the maximum term allowed by our Presbytery.

New officers, elected by the congregation on Sunday December 20th are as follows: Session Members staying on for a second term are Dave

Nice and Ed Cline, our new Deacon is Jill Straley, while Brent Fishbaugh has agreed to a three year term after stepping in to serve a partial term this year following a resignation of a previous Deacon.

Thank you to Dan from all of us. And thank you for agreeing to stay on as head of the property committee. A big thank you to all of our new or returning officers.



## CARING & SHARING FOOD PANTRY

### Hygiene Items for men and women:

Shampoo & Conditioners  
Body Washes  
Hand Sanitizers  
Deodorant  
Tooth Paste & Toothbrushes  
Lotions for children & adults  
Diapers  
Toilet Paper  
Bars of soap

### Other:

Dish soap  
Laundry Soap  
Antibacterial Cleaners  
Scouring Powder

### Condiments:

Ketchup  
Mustard  
Mayonnaise  
Salad Dressing  
Pickles  
BBQ Sauce

### Canned Fruit of all kinds

**“If you can't  
FEED A  
HUNDRED  
people, then  
just feed  
ONE.”**  
— Mother Teresa

Our 1st Wednesday meal is now offered as a free meal for the community.

1st Wednesday  
Supper

On the 6th at 5:30

Followed by a worship  
service at 6:15

Youth Group and Choir  
Practice at 7:00

Given to Cornerstone News by Cleo Zeigler, found on the internet and copied. A cute story, whether it is true or not.

### A Little Boy's Explanation of God:

It was written by an 8-year-old named Danny Dutton, who lives in Chula Vista, CA. He wrote it for his third grade homework assignment, to 'explain God.'

"One of God's main jobs is making people. He makes them to replace the ones that die, so there will be enough people to take care of things on earth. He doesn't make grownups, just babies. I think because they are smaller and

easier to make. That way he doesn't have to take up his valuable time teaching them to talk and walk. He can just leave that to mothers and fathers.

"God's second most important job is listening to prayers. An awful lot of this goes on, since some people, like preachers and things, pray at times beside bedtime. God doesn't have time to listen to the radio or TV because of this. Because he hears everything, there must be a terrible lot of noise in his ears, unless he has thought of a way to turn it off.

"God sees everything and hears everything and is everywhere which keeps Him pretty busy. So you shouldn't go wasting his time by going over your mom and dad's head asking for something they said you couldn't have.

"Atheists are people who don't believe in God. I don't think there are any in Chula Vista. At least there aren't any who come to our church.

"Jesus is God's Son. He used to do all the hard work, like walking on water and performing miracles and trying to teach the people who didn't want to learn about God. They finally got tired of him preaching to them and they crucified him, but he was good and kind, like His father, and He told His father that they didn't know what they were doing and to forgive them and God said O.K.

"His dad (God) appreciated everything that He had done and all His hard work on earth so He told Him He didn't have to go out on the road anymore. He could stay in heaven. So He did. Now He helps His dad out by listening to prayers and seeing things which are important for God to take care of and which ones He can take care of Himself without having to bother God. Like a secretary, only more important.

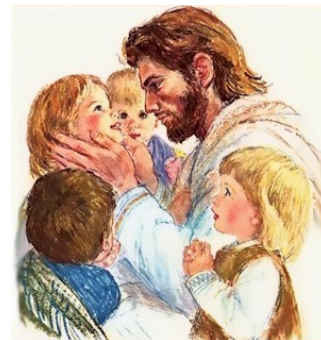
"You can pray anytime you want and they are sure to help you because they got it worked out so one of them is on duty all the time.

"You should always go to church on Sunday because it makes God happy, and if there's anybody you want to make happy, it's God!

"Don't skip church to do something you think will be more fun like going to the beach. This is wrong. And besides the sun doesn't come out at the beach until noon anyway.

"If you don't believe in God, besides being an atheist, you will be very lonely, because your parents can't go everywhere with you, like to camp, but God can. It is good to know He's around you when you're scared, in the dark or when you can't swim and you get thrown into real deep water by big kids.'

"But...you shouldn't just always think of what God can do for you. I figure God put me here and he can take me back anytime and...that's why I believe in God.







**What:** Music! Games! Free Food!  
**Who:** 7th through 12th grades  
**Where:** Paulding School Auditoria and Middle School Gym  
**When:** after the basketball game until 11:30 pm

**Friday January 22 (Columbus Grove)**

Be sure to “like”  
5th Quarter Party  
 on facebook

and check there for more details

Please pray as we step out in faith; for the details to work out smoothly, for enough adult help, and enough food as we have no idea now many kids will participate in this second 5th Quarter Party following a basketball game.

Thanks to all who have encouraged by praying, by donating, by volunteering, by simply being involved.

## Update on Lucas:

This beautiful smiling baby tells his own story: he is getting better every day.

His Grandma Cindy Constien writes on facebook: “Luke is coming home from the hospital today (Tuesday). We are overjoyed. Emmanuel, God IS with us!!! Can’t wait to get that boy home and be with our family.”



Cara Lou Strahley is pictured at left with her grandson Travis and great granddaughter Natalie Renee Zartman. Cara Lou and her husband Charles celebrated the birth of their great granddaughter, born on December 14, weighing 6 pounds and 12 ounces, 19 inches long. Natalie Renee is the daughter of Travis and Elizabeth

(Gottke) Zartman. She has a big brother, Thayer, who is three. Thayer states that he will change all the dirty diapers for baby sister Natalie so that his mom and dad don’t have to do that chore.

## Our Beautiful Babies



“Come on ring those bells, light the Christmas tree, Jesus is the King, born for you and me. Come on, ring those bells, everybody say “Jesus, we remember this your birthday!”

The Organ Repair Fund received gifts of \$1,800.00 during the month of December, much of that was donations made due to the bells on the tree. Thanks to Jill Straley for the great idea!

And **To God Be the Glory!**

# Schumacher Update

A Christmas letter from Ron and Donna:



Today I checked Luke's account of Christ's birth, translated into a Philippine language. As we work with this story, we have to watch out for common misconceptions. Does the Bible really say that...

*...Mary's pregnancy was full-term when she and Joseph reached Bethlehem?*

*...Joseph and Mary tried to check into an "inn"?*

*...Jesus was born in a stable?*

The answer to all of these questions is NO. As we learn more about the culture of that day and what the Bible actually says, we get a more accurate picture of how it must have happened. The important thing, however, is that God "put on skin and walked among men" (as a song says) to save us sinners. This is the message we want to translate accurately, clearly, and naturally.

### As you pray for us:

Praise the Lord that Ron was able to see a retina specialist about flashes in his eye, and to find out that it's okay for now.

Pray for our dear neighbors/friends Marvie and Zaca who have just found out that her brother who lives with them has an advanced case of tuberculosis. Pray for effective treatment for him and his little daughter who also has TB and for protection for the rest of the family. Ask God to make this a time of spiritual growth and b

blessing. Marvie has been meeting with Donna for weekly Bible studies (which will be interrupted now) and then going over the same material with her family members in their language. Praise the Lord that they seem eager to learn and believe.

Pray for wisdom for us both as we each check a New Testament nearing completion.

Praise the Lord for the opportunity to learn patience as we experience daily water interruptions.

Pray for the safe arrival of our two boxes which are on a ship heading this way, containing resources for translators as well as some of our personal things.

Thank you all, and have a Blessed Christmas!

Our Hands of Love knitters and crochet-ers spent several hours making the caps pictured below for cancer patients. These women are dedicated and faithful God is blessing their work.



## Hands of Love Project

## Warm Hearts/Warm Homes

Help our less fortunate Paulding neighbors afford their utilities this winter.

Your contribution to Warm Hearts /Warm Homes will be rolled into one check by the church, and forwarded to the Paulding County chapter of the Salvation Army, which will administer the funds to Paulding County residents.

Checks should be made out to the church, please put Warm Hearts /Warm Homes in the memo line. 100% of these funds will be used in Paulding County.

This has been a project of Women's Fellowship since 2005.





## VISION TEAM UPDATE

Reprinted below is what the vision team was given at our last meeting on December 16, along with pocket-sized notepads. These suggestions are also appropriate for our whole church family, so everyone is invited to participate in this challenge. It's not about "coming up with ideas", (though we certainly hope that ideas will come from doing this) but about taking the time to seek the Lord and listen to the Holy Spirit. May we all recognize the doors God will open as we look to Him for direction.



### PRAYING FOR OPEN DOORS

**Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. And pray for us, too, that God may open a door ...** (Colossians 4:2-3)

- **Devote yourselves to prayer** : set aside 5 - 10 min. every day to pray for the Holy Spirit to open doors for our congregation to connect with our community (both individually and corporately)
- **being watchful and thankful** : thank God for what we're already doing, be watchful for opportunities to do more
- Read Colossians 4:2-6 as you begin (or Acts 8:26-40 or Acts

16:6-10 or some other passage)

- You don't have to pray out loud--sitting quietly and listening is also praying
- If anything comes into your mind, write it down: it doesn't have to be a specific outreach idea (though that would be nice)--it could be a phrase or a picture or a scripture
- Do this every day until our next meeting and we'll see what everyone has to report



## PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR LEADERS & OFFICERS

### Ruling Elders :

Ed Cline  
Phyllis Lutz  
Barb Searing  
Rhonda Smalley  
Dan Straley  
Dave Nice

### Deacons :

Darwin Cline  
Brent Fishbaugh  
Stan Searing  
Jane Nice  
Marcia Wiebe  
Jeff Summers

### Vision Team

Sue Crossland  
Dave Nice  
Matt Reineck  
Barb Seariang  
Rhonda Smalley-  
Jeff Summers  
Dave Meriwether



## Paulding High School Band

The Christmas Concert for all the bands and school choirs was held Sunday December 13th. Those close to our church family who are in the band are Christine Clapsaddle (bass clarinet), Kristen Razo (tenor sax), Lauren Hill (trumpet), Charles Clapsaddle and Joseph Reineck (both on trombone) and Megan Reineck (percussion). Megan Reineck also sings in the high school choir. Great job! Our youth helped but several hundred people in the Christmas Spirit.



## **Worship Schedule**

Sunday School 9:00  
Praise Music: 10:15  
Worship Service 10:30

***First Presbyterian Church  
Corner of Caroline & Cherry,  
Paulding OH 45879***

### **First Presbyterian Church**

PO Box 366  
Corner of Caroline and Cherry Street  
Paulding OH 45879

Phone: 419-399-2438  
Secretary's e-mail:  
Pauldingpresbyterianmarcia@windstream.net

**pauldingpresbyterian.com**

**In Essentials, Unity.  
In Non-Essentials, Liberty.  
In All Things, Charity.**

