

The Christian Window
Volume 52 Number 14 December 2011
First Christian Church of Kent
(Disciples of Christ)
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CHURCH NIGHT AT LOGOS – Monday, Dec 5

Our church “night” begins at 10 a.m. and ends at 7 p.m. Logos will give us 10% of all sales during that time for the purchase of items for our church library. If you know you want a certain item, you can call ahead (330-673-6099) and ask them to hold it for you, then pick it up on Dec. 5. Did you know that all of their greeting cards are always 99 cents? Even if books aren’t your thing, you can stock up on cards at a bargain price and help our library at the same time. They also have a nice selection of gift items, Nativity scenes, and music CD’s. All purchase count toward this wonderful gift. If you shop at other times, be sure to ask for Library Stamps. You get one stamp for each \$1 you spend. Put them on the desk in the library. 100 stamps are worth \$5 toward library purchases.

Children's Christmas Program & Worship Service

The Children will present a very special Christmas program on **Sunday, December 11th at 10:45 am**. This will be the only Worship Service on the 11th. All Children are invited to participate. Please let Jodi Stillisano know if your kids will be there! (see her Sunday, Nov. 30th at church or RSVP by email to jodi_stillisano@yahoo.com) Costumes are provided.

Dress Rehearsal for all participants will be on **Saturday, December 10th at 4:30**, followed by a pizza party for the kids and their families! No Sunday School for kids on Dec. 11th- we will be getting into costumes at 10:00.

We would like to have a Coffee Hour to honor our Children following the Service on Dec. 11th.

Donations of refreshments (cookies & snack mixes) will be greatly appreciated!

Please contact Jodi Stillisano if you have any questions!



Gift Boxes

We would like to remember the church staff members this Christmas season. In the Narthex of the church are *two gift boxes* where you may give Holiday monetary gifts for Rev. Wearstler and for our paid staff, which includes Vicki Lynn Phillips, Donna Oberlin, Sarah Redman, Cathy Steele, Jodi Stillisano, and Patty Wiley in appreciation for their ministry and service to First Christian Church.



The **Lord’s Pantry will be** on December 4th. In the November Lord’s Pantry we collected 27 bags of food including 42 jars of peanut butter along with \$106.25. Thanks for helping Kent Social Services. Remember they will be doing Christmas baskets for those in need in the community. Special Needs for the Holiday Baskets are: **Cranberry Sauce, Stuffing, Instant Potatoes, Sweet Potatoes, Gravy Packets, Turkey or**

Chicken, Dry Milk, Rice, Pumpkin, Evaporated Milk, Boxed Pie Crust, Muffin Mix, Jello, and Gift Cards at Acme in \$10 amounts.



Index:

- Page 2: Hiram Farm, Library News, Quilt Raffle, Morning Bible Study, Christmas Cookie Sale, Christian Men’s Fellowship
- Page 3: Prayer Concerns & Joys, Search Committee, Special Christmas Offering, Come Hone Calendar
- Page 4: Birthdays & Anniversaries, Serving Schedule
- Page 5: December calendar
- Page 6: CCH Wish List, Book Discussion Group, Deadline dates, Thanksgiving Special Offering
- Page 7: Writing from The Rev.
- Page 8: Worship Times and Staff, Sermons & Scriptures, Wiggle Worship/Acolytes

HIRAM FARM

We were blessed to be a blessing! Thanks to the hard work and generous hearts of many of our people we were able to meet our goal of raising \$2500 for the Hiram Farm Living and Learning Center during 2011. The rummage sale was by far the biggest fund raiser at \$1298.44, and the luncheons, bake sales, and donations from CMF dinners, and the T-shirt sale took us to the top.

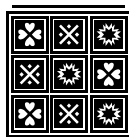
LIBRARY NEWS



We have a really nice selection of Christmas books and DVD's in our church library. Feeling kind hum-drum? Reading one of our inspirational books might lead to a new Christmas tradition at your house. They will surely help keep you in the true Spirit of Christmas. Choose from over 40 relaxing Christmas fiction books to have available on the cold wintry days that are coming up. Adults: don't overlook the children's books. The child in you will enjoy children's Christmas books as much as children do. They are shorter and the pictures bring the story to life. If you need help finding something, please ask me. One of my favorite things is to help people find just the right book or movie. Louise Neubert, Librarian

Quilt Raffle

The Quilters will be raffling off a king sized quilt called "Colorado Log Cabin" at the Spaghetti Dinner on **December 2nd**. Get your tickets from one of the quilter ladies at \$1 each or 6 for \$5.00. Only a few are left! The proceeds will go to



Monday Morning Bible Study

The Monday Morning Bible Study is on break now but we will be back on January 9, 2012 with a preview/review showing DVD summaries of the scriptures from each of the first 6 weeks. You are welcome to attend this meeting whether or not you came before. At that time you can decide if you would like to join us for the study. These DVD presentations are both inspiring and entertaining. At the end of each meeting we viewed these DVD presentations for the coming week. It helped us in preparing for the next week's meeting.

We will resume our study on Mondays, January 16 thru February 20 with Lessons 7-12, take a break and begin again March 12 thru April 16 with Lessons 13-18. At that time we will set plans for the remaining 13 lessons. Louise Neubert, Coordinator

Christmas Cookies Sale

We will again be selling Christmas Cookies packaged in Christmas tins and trays at the **December 2nd** Spaghetti Dinner. The cookies are sold by the pound. Tins and trays are assorted and ready for serving. All proceeds from the December Bake Sale will go to the Cleveland Christian Home.



Please help bake lots of your favorite cookies and bring them to the church. We will be packaging the cookies on Thursday, December 1st. Besides, bakers, we need packers for that day. This make great gifts for others or for yourself. We are happy to take your order early also, this will help ensure that you receive your choice. If you can help or have questions or want to place an order early, please contact Iris Palmer at 330-296-9869.

Christian Men's Fellowship Meeting

Wednesday, December 7, 2011

Meet at 6:00pm

Presentation: 7:00pm

Speaker will be Merle Mollenkopf,
lightning strike survivor

Call Doug Smith (330-677-5457) or
sign up on the bulletin board in the
narthex if you plan to attend.



Our Prayer Concerns & Joys:

Healing: Members: Tom Bordonaro, Rick Unkefer, Frances Secaur, Sue Geopfert, Connie Mellott, Pat McKinney, Ruth Green, Carl Sellman.

Friends and family Terry Viets, Sam Combs, Marie Strickin and family, Olivia Seaborn, Bill Adelman, George Adelman, Don Straw, Maysn Friedman, Brandon Vaughn, Marie Noble, Sandra Wright, Ron Sexton

Special Prayers: Heather Redman and the USS Chafee as they prepare for a long deployment; the Search Committee and the Transition Team.

Joys: Congratulations to the Neri Family with an upcoming new baby. Ben, Linsay and Edward Viets made a safe trip back home. The birth of a new baby, John David Carney, into Dennis Wendling's family.



Come Home For Christmas Experience the Love and Grace of God

Second Advent Sunday: Dec. 4th (Peace)
Worship: 8:30am and 10:45am
Bible Study: 9:30am

Third Advent Sunday: Dec. 11th (Joy)
One Worship 10:45am
Children's Christmas Program

Fourth Advent Sunday: Dec. 18th (Love)
Worship 8:30am and 10:45am
Bible Study 9:30am

Christmas Eve Worship:
Fellowship Time: 6:00pm & 9:30pm
Communion & Candlelight
6:30pm & 10:00pm
Childcare provided

Christmas Day Worship: 10:00am only

New Year's Day Worship: 10:00am

Epiphany Sunday (January 8th)
Worship 8:30am & 10:45am



2011 Christmas Offering

Good News of Great Joy



“But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid; for see - I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people...’” Luke 2:10

Collectively, like an angel choir, we inspire the best in congregations; in gatherings of youth; in candidates for ministry; in mission to the world. 100% of this offering will stay in our Region as a collective witness to our shared faith.

Make your Special Day Christmas offering today. Your generous gift will sing God's praise. And the many ways it strengthens our regional ministries will lift Good News of Great Joy throughout the coming year.

We will be sharing more information at the December 4th and December 18th worships.

SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

We want to thank everyone who filled out the questionnaires the transition team had. All of the questions were on the church profile and your answers were compiled and used to fill it out which made our job easier.


We had a meeting November 17 with Bill Edwards from the Regional office. He gave us instructions and a stack of profiles. We have made contact with the candidates to see if they were available and interested. The next step is for us to go over all these profiles and then meet mid December to discuss them and narrow them down. Right after the first of the year we will set times with each one to make conferences calls and narrow the candidates down more. After that we will set up face to face meetings.

Please keep us in your prayers that we will find the minister that God has chosen for our church. Thanks from the Search Committee.



December Birthdays and Anniversaries

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| 1 Carl Sellman | 22 Jim & Becky Dunlap (1970), Al & Lois Simpson (1945) |
| 5 Carol White, Mike R. Nagy | 23 Mike & Jean Sossa (1989) |
| 11 Edward Viets | 24 Ira & Ida Kastner (1944) |
| 12 Janis Osborne, Floyd Wetmore | 25 Denny Eberhart, Tony Alexander |
| 12 Terry Neubert | 26 Mitchell Curtis |
| 13 Karen Smith | 27 Michelle Boring, Keegan Wright |
| 17 Brianna Merchant | 28 Dave & Sue Hurst (1968) |
| 21 Cheyenne Hardy, Eric Holloway | |

December Serving Schedule								
	Elders	Deacons Prep/Serve/ Clean	Worship Leader	Deacons- Serve	Record CD	Greeters	Door Welcomers	Attendance
DEC. 4 8:30am 10:45am	Chuck Tipton, Jean Sossa, Diana Secaur	Sherry Wilson, Jim Dunlap Sarah Neri	8:30 Suzanne Colpo 10:45 Jim Brothers	Amy Smith, Doug Smith, Katie Smith, Carol Dunlap	Bob Palmer	Jane and George Rose	The Smith Family	Iris Palmer
DEC. 11 10:45am Children's Program	Chuck Tipton, Jean Sossa	Bonnie Mozingo		Joan Wilson, Theresa Bennett, Marilyn Holloway, Bonnie Mozingo	Andrew Neri		Carolyn & Jim Brothers	Sarah Neri
DEC. 18 8:30am 10:45am	Michael Viets, Marty Viets, Chuck Tipton	Sherry Wilson, Jim Dunlap Nancy Berlan	8:30 Jim Dunlap 10:45 Louise Neubert	Karen Unkefer, Elaine Alex- ander, Nancy Berlan, Michelle Boring	Sarah Neri	Bob and Linda Beal	George and Jane Rose	Michelle Boring
DEC. 25 10:00am <i>MERRY</i> <i>CHRISTMAS</i> 	Dan Wilt, Michael Viets, Marty Viets		10:00am Marilyn Holloway			Louise Neubert	Harold and Irene Snowber- ger	



December 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Weekly Meetings: Tuesday 7-8:30pm AA (Bethany Hall) Thursday 10:00am-2:00pm Quilters 7-8:30pm AA (Room 2) 7—8:15pm Choir Practice Friday 8:00-9:30pm AA (Bethany Hall)				<i>1</i> Set up Spaghetti Dinner 2:00pm	<i>2</i> Spaghetti Dinner and Bake Sale 4:30-7:00pm	<i>3</i>
<i>4</i> Lord's Pantry Sunday Worship Com. 12:00pm	<i>5</i> LOGO NIGHT 10:00am to 7:00pm Trustee Mt. 7:00pm	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i> Christian Men's Fellowship 6:00pm/ 7:00pm	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i> Piano Recital 12-3pm Christmas Program Practice & Pizza 4:30pm
<i>11</i> Children's Christmas Program 10:45am worship only	<i>12</i> Elders Mt. 7:00pm	<i>13</i> Safer Futures using Room 1 for distribution	<i>14</i> Board Meeting 7:00pm	<i>15</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>17</i>
<i>18</i>	<i>19</i> Outreach Com. 7:00pm	<i>20</i> Sarah Circle 7:00pm	<i>21</i>	<i>22</i> Rental of Bethany Hall 4:00pm—?	<i>23</i>  Office closed	<i>24</i> Christmas Eve Worship 6:30pm & 10:00pm Fellowship at 6:00pm & 9:30pm
<i>25</i>  10:00am Worship only	<i>26</i> Office closed	Rev. Ralph will be on vacation from December 26th until January 9th.		<i>28</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>30</i> Office closed
						<i>31</i> New Year's Eve



2011
Cleveland Christian Home
~ Christmas Wish List ~

Gifts should be new!

Please do not wrap! All wrapped gifts will be opened. We welcome gifts in open gift bags.

Please leave price tags on items! This will help us accurately report your donation for tax purposes.

Gift Collection & Dedication on Sunday, Dec. 11th

Electronics

- ~ Batteries (D/C/AA/AAA/9v) ~ DVD Players
- ~ CD or MP3 Players with Headphones
- ~ DVD's (Rated G, PG, or PG-13)
- ~ Hand Held Electronic Games: Sports, Trivia, etc.
- ~ Small Appliances: Toasters, Small Microwaves, Electric Fans, Irons, Hair Dryers, Cordless Phones, Answering Machines, Space Heaters, Alarm Clock Radios, Coffeemakers, etc.

Clothing and Supplies

- ~ Clothing/ Shoes for Children & Teens, incl. school uniform items
- ~ Socks, Underwear, Boxer Shorts (no briefs)
- ~ Winter coats & Gloves – men & women sizes
- ~ Hooded Sweatshirts, children's
- ~ Winter boots – all sizes

Books

- ~ Series for young readers by R. L. Stine, J. K. Rowling, Lemony Snicket, C. S. Lewis, etc.
- ~ Journals and Activity Books, especially for teen Boys.

THANKSGIVING DISCRETIONARY OFFERING

If you missed giving to the Thanksgiving Special Offering, you can still give to the Discretionary Fund of the church. We can receive donations to help those in need in our community anytime—because there is always someone in need.

Deadline for Mid–December newsletter: December 2nd.
Mailing with January information.
Deadline for Mid- January: January 6th.

Games and Toys

- ~ Family Board Games for ages 8+: Yahtzee, Risk, Clue, Monopoly, Mancala, Life, Battleship, Scrabble, Chess, Checkers, Connect Four, etc.
- ~ Remote Control Cars & Hot Wheel Brand Cars
- ~ Snap-together models: Legos, Bionicals, boys 10+
- ~ For Toddlers: Leap Frog Learning Games & Memory Games
- ~ Barbie, Dora & Baby Dolls and Accessories
- ~ Art Supplies & Paper, Stickers
- ~ Footballs, Basketballs, Nerf Hoops & Pumps
- ~ Decks of Cards and Card Games: Uno, etc.
- ~ Bakugan, Yu-Gi-Oh! or Pokeman Toys & Cards
- ~ Action Figures: Spider-Man, Wrestling, Power Rangers, etc.

Holiday Items

- ~ Extra large Paper Gift Bags
- ~ Large Holiday Plastic Bags (39-gal. size)
- ~ Wrapping Paper & Scotch Tape

Gift Certificates

- ~ McDonald's (for field trips), Giant Eagle
- ~ Department Stores: Target, Wal-mart, K-Mart, Footlocker, American Eagle, Aeropostale



HELP NEEDED!

If you would be willing to serve in this special ministry to inventory, sort, wrap, and pack items, you must call Donna at Cleveland Christian Home at 216-476-0333. Let us at the church office know when you are going, and others might go also.

Remember Deadline is Sunday, December 11th!



BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

We will meet in the parlor on Monday, Jan. 3 to discuss The Zookeeper's Wife: A War Story by Diane Ackerman. If you are interested, just get a copy of the book and come. We would be happy to have you join us.

Betty, Louise and Vera

Writing From The Rev - December 2011

Back when I was growing up, during my elementary years, I had a favorite Christmas Carol. I liked it so much that I couldn't wait to hear it played on the radio stations. From Thanksgiving through Christmas I would scan the dial searching for it. In 1958 when it was first aired it reached #1 on the Billboard Music Chart. It was the last time a Christmas song would do that. Maybe it was one of your favorites as well, because it's still a classic today. I still hear it played from time to time during the holiday season.

Have you figured out the name to this song yet? I wanted to hear it so much that my Grandma bought the Christmas Album a few years later, so I could play it whenever I wanted. Like on a dreary, rainy, summer day.

So, what was this chart topping song of over 50 years ago? It was "The Chipmunk Song (Christmas Don't Be Late)" by Alvin and the Chipmunks. Okay, I will now admit that it pales in comparison to the true Christmas Carol classic's like "Silent Night", "What Child Is This", or "O Holy Night". At the same time, it far out ranks "Grandma Got Run Over By A Reindeer".

Actually, it was the theme and words that hit home for me back in those early years. Do you recall the words? I'll bet, for some of you, the words have been rolling around your head ever since I mentioned song.

It's a simple tune with simple and short lyrics:

***Christmas, Christmas time is near
Time for toys and time for cheer
We've been good, but we can't last
Hurry Christmas, hurry fast***

***Want a plane that loops the loop
Me, I want a hula hoop
We can hardly stand the wait
Please Christmas, don't be late.***

It's a song that speaks of an eager childlike anticipation about the arrival of Christmas. "Hurry Christmas, hurry fast!" "We can hardly stand to wait, please Christmas don't be late."

When was the last time you felt like that about the coming Christmas Season? When was the last time your anticipation outweighed your anxiety and frustration for a time of years that demands so much of your time and energy. The shopping for gifts, the decorating of home, the cooking and baking, sending Christmas cards, the parties, and the traveling, all rolled up in a few short weeks.

When was the last time you longed for the Messiah to come into your life? The Old Testament shares over and over again about the people of God longing and waiting for such a time. We sing about it during Advent with such hymns as "***O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear.***" or "***Come, O Long-expected Jesus, born to set your people free... dear desire of many a nation, joy of many a longing heart.***"

While some people say that they can't wait for Christmas to be over, what about you? What are you anticipating during this Holy Season of Advent and Christmas? Will you be caught up in the commercialism and busyness, or maybe this is the year that you strive to focus on the real purpose of these sacred days of preparation for receiving and celebrating the coming of Christ in the world, and into our lives.

May you be open to the leading of God's Spirit in reading the scriptures and other resources like our Advent Booklet, to be aware of those less fortunate than yourself, to seek out those who may be alone or just lonely.

If we truly share the Spirit of Christmas, then it won't be late, it will be just in time.

**FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)
335 WEST MAIN STREET
KENT, OHIO 44240-2416**



**Remember December 11th
One Worship at 10:45am.
*Children's Christmas Program***

Worship Times/Office Hours

Worship Times: 8:30am and 10:45am with Sunday School at 9:30am for adults and children.

Office Hours 8:30am to 1:30pm Monday through Thursday. The office is closed on Fridays.

email: kentfcc@firstchristiankent.org

CHURCH STAFF:

Interim Minister	Rev. Ralph S. Wearstler
Director of Christian Education	Jodi Stillisano
Church Secretary	Vicki Lynn Phillips
Organist	Cathy Steele
Chancel Choir Director	Patricia Wiley
Nursery Attendant	Sarah Redman
Early Accompanist	Donna Oberlin

Wiggle Worship

Dec. 4 – Carie Wright & Barb Gregory
Dec. 11 – *Christmas Program— 10:45am only*
Dec. 18—Aireane Curtis
Dec. 25– No Sunday School

Acolytes:

Dec. 4—Michael Bryan
Dec. 11- *Christmas Program*
Dec. 18—Robbie Eberhart
Dec. 25—Josh Bordonaro

Sermons and Scriptures

December 4: *Second Sunday of Advent*
“The Peace of God, On Earth”

Mark 4:35-41

December 11: *Third Sunday of Advent*
Children's Christmas Program

December 18: *Fourth Sunday of Advent*
“A Different Road From Bethlehem”

Luke 1:39-45

December 25: **One Worship at 10:00am**
“The Christmas Story Continues”

Luke 2:21-33

