

The Messenger January 2017



MISSION Statement

New Mission Statement Approved

At the congregational meeting on December 18, the Session presented a revised Mission Statement for guiding the ministry of Westwood. It was unanimously approved by the congregation.

It states:

**WESTWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IS
A FELLOWSHIP OF BELIEVERS EXISTING
TO SHARE THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS
CHRIST BY MINISTERING TO OUR
MEMBERS, FRIENDS, COMMUNITY AND
THE WORLD.**

As we move forward in the New Year, we will conscientiously focus on this ministry. Let's pray for one another as we pull together to do God's will with our lives.



New Officers Elected

On Sunday, December 18, 2016 a congregational meeting was held to elect officers (Elders and Deacons). Elders, Bob Long and Steve Anglin were elected for the class of 2019. Reva Johnson was elected to fill the position vacated by Vivian Worthington (2018) when she moved recently to Columbus. Deacons elected for the class of 2019 were: Marion Flynn, Loretta Otto and Cindy Anglin. Karen Woods was elected to the class of 2018. A service of Ordination and Installation is planned for Sunday, January 15 during worship. Pray for each of our officers as they seek to serve our Lord and the ministry of Westwood.



Annual Congregational Meeting

January 22, 2017

*Happy
New
Year!*



**FINANCE
REPORT**



Westwood Financial Report - 2016

November:	<u>Receipts</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Balance</u>
Current Funds	7,067.06	7,309.40	-242.34
Per Capita	0.00	0.00	0.00
Benevolence	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total	7,067.06	7,309.40	-242.34

Year-To-Date:

Current Funds	80,602.02	84,541.83	-3,939.81
Per Capita	810.00	100.00	710.00
Benevolence	1,146.48	1,161.48	-15.00
Total	82,558.50	85,803.31	-3,244.81

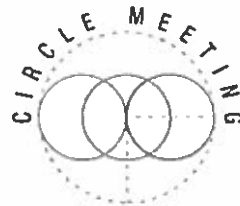
Attendance for November:

6th	--44
13th	--51
20th	--47
27th	--31
Total	173

*More detailed financial reports
are available upon request
from Steve Anglin
or the church office.*

**Thank You for Your
Donations**

Thank you for your donations to the Christmas Joy Offering. \$100.00 was collected to assist retired church workers with extraordinary expenses and help our Racial Ethnic Leaders with their education expense. Many will be helped because of your generosity.



Ruth Esther Circle
meets Tuesday,
January 17 at 10 am. Your
hostess is Andrea Estridge and
Loretta Otto is study leader.



Newsletter Deadline
for February is
January 18th.



Deacons – January 4 – 2 pm
Administration – January 15 – after worship
Spiritual Growth/Outreach – Jan 16 – 6 pm
Session – January 16 – 7 pm



The Friday Bible Study
will meet on Friday,
January 6 at 10:00 am.
Everyone is invited to
attend.

Thank You From the Godfreys

We have so much to be thankful for. One of the greatest gifts to us is you. Thank you for the gift of money for Christmas. It came at an opportune time for us. We are also thankful for all your support and prayers as Carol continues to battle with getting her blood pressure under control. We believe that she is steadily improving but is not out of the woods yet.

We are also thankful for your care and concern at the death of Carol's sunt Maude Buschman on December 20, 2016. Your messages have meant more than you will ever know.

Personally, I am thankful for all that you have done during this past Advent/Christmas season to care for those who are less fortunate in our community. You are making a difference in people's lives. That is one reason we are here.

I am also thankful to continue partnering with you as we embark in the new year. May God bless us all.

Sincerely,

Carol and Norman

CURRENT ✓ NEEDS

We have received two requests:

- 1. Serve City is in need of blankets. Gently used are fine.**
- 2. Butler County Educational Service Center is in need of "women's winter coats".**

If you can help with either of these needs, there is a box to put them in in the hallway.

Thank you.

Rev. Godfrey



Notes
From the Pastor

“Prayer for the New Year”

Several years ago, Reverend Gradye Parsons served as the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). In 2009 he shared the following prayer:

Lord, go with us as we travel once again into a new year. It stands before us like an untraveled road, full of promise and adventure. Give us the confidence to know You will be there, whether we travel far or wander on the scenic route.

We acknowledge that we are burdened with the scars and scrapes of the past year. Let them not hinder us from new opportunities to see stars and gifts that point us to a new reality.

Help us to remember the many times in days past when we were full of despair—how You never left our side, but sent Your Spirit to quicken our hearts with hope and courage.

We will spend this new year with many people—some will be easy to love and others will be hard to like. Remind us that our witness for You should be that we see all people as Your children and relate to them as sisters and brothers in Christ.

Strengthen our hands to do the work of bringing Your justice and mercy to this world. Open our ears to the cries of the homeless, the hungry, the sick, and victims of war. Show us new opportunities to serve You with hammers, pots, medicine, and our own presence.

Give us the voice to be a ready witness to the good news of Your son Jesus Christ. Break through our polite shyness and help us to share how much Your gift of faith means to us. Let our eyes sparkle with the joy of Your salvation.

Lord, grant us new vistas of faith. Give us a heart that experiences a mountaintop vision in the midst of our daily work. Show us the Christ in the other and help us to hear the wisdom of those on this pilgrimage with us.

In all things we give You thanks and praise.

Amen.

My hope is that this prayer will be an inspiration to all of us as we seek to commit ourselves afresh and anew to our calling as God's people. The only way we can accomplish great things for God is to allow God to go with us. May we choose to do just that.

It's exciting to think about what God might have in store for us in 2017.

Your Pastor,
Norman



Thank you to our Coffee Hour hosts and hostesses. Special thanks to the December volunteers:

Marlene Sloneker, Reva Johnson, Marilyn Compton, Deacons

Thank you to the following who were Ushers for the month of December:

Marlene Sloneker, Bob Estridge, Andrea Estridge, Summer Estridge

Thank you to the following Sunday School volunteers for the month of December:

Sandra Warren, Andrea Estridge, Catherine Gibson, Marlene Sloneker

Thank you to all of our Kitchen Clean-up people. Special thanks to Marilyn Compton for the month of December.

Thank you to Bob Estridge for preparing communion for December and to Doug Platt, Carol Godfrey, Loretta Otto, Marlene Sloneker and Andrea Estridge for serving communion.

Thank you to the following volunteers who worked at the Community Meal Center on Friday,

December 16th: Bob Estridge, Loretta Otto, Marlene Sloneker.
Donations: Helen Belcher, Andrea & Bob Estridge, Estil & Bonita Gay,
Doug & Betty Gambrell, Jack & Barb Mainous, Loretta Otto,
Marlene Sloneker, Margie Sutton, Sandra Warren.

A special thank you to Mrs. Catherine Gibson for the always beautiful arrangements of flowers she prepares for worship. Thank you Catherine for sharing your special gift.

Thank you to the Ruth Esther Circle for sharing their baked goods with the congregation, friends and staff of the church. God bless you all.

Prayer Concerns

Shut-Ins:

Ruth Mollett
Martha Humphrey

Cancer/Radiation Treatment:

Bob Wadleigh (Marlene's cousin)
Doug Platt
Kasey Hacker (Doug Platt) – stomach/IN
Charles (Martha H) - stage 4
Randy Hollenbaugh - stomach

Miscellaneous concerns:

Faith Long (Bob Long's mother) - comfort
Jack Mainous – dialysis
Don Pottenger – dialysis
Summer Estridge – pain in back
Phyllis West (Doug Platt) – brain tumor
Tucker Gambrell – spina bifida
Bob Long – healing from hand surgery
Carol Godfrey – blood pressure
Family of Maude Buschman (Carol's Aunt)
Family of Emery Ross (Reva's brother)
Lark Anspach - health

In Nursing Home/Assisted Living:

The Woodlands: George Michaels
The Knolls: Ellen Lowery
Maple Knolls: Mae Shane (Loretta)
Berkeley Square: Betty Sloneker

National & International Concerns:

Our country, Natural disasters, violence
Unity
Our armed forces worldwide
Persecuted Christians
Missionaries across the world
Peace in our world

Local Concerns:

Our church
Cities of Hamilton & Fairfield
Serve City/One Way Farm
Haven House
Churches in community
Community Meal Center

Congregational Prayer:

We are continuing a series of prayers for our sister churches in the Maimi Presbytery. This month we are remembering the First Presbyterian Church in Fairborn, OH and their pastor Rev. Karen Cassedy.





Deacon's Corner

The Deacons thank the congregation for their support in making a very successful Christmas Project this year. It's a joy to see the happiness of these families when they pick up their gifts. In this small way the church lets them know we care and wish them a Merry Christmas.

The Christmas project needs and One Way Farm donations will resume for the month of February. As always, Serve City needs non-perishable items. These items can be placed in the baskets in the hall under the coat rack. The Deacons thank you for your generous contributions.



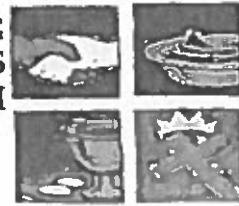
- 16 Jim Simensen
- Emily Anspach
- 25 Ruth Mollett
- 27 Jack Mainous

Church Directory

UPDATE



**SERVING
THIS
MONTH**



Ushers: Doug Platt, Steve Anglin

Worship Leaders:

- 1 Doug Gambrell
- 8 Bill Mountsier
- 15 Dick Flynn
- 22 Steve Anglin
- 29 Bob Long

Sunday School:

- 1 Sandra Warren
- 8 Andrea Estridge
- 15 Catherine Gibson
- 22 Marlene Sloneker
- 29 Sandra Warren

Coffee Hour:

- 1 Marion & Dick Flynn
- 8 Spiritual Growth
- 15 Bonnie Santel & Lela Wilson
- 22 Cathy Sutton
- 29 Donut Day

Kitchen Duty: Catherine Gibson

Communion Preparation:

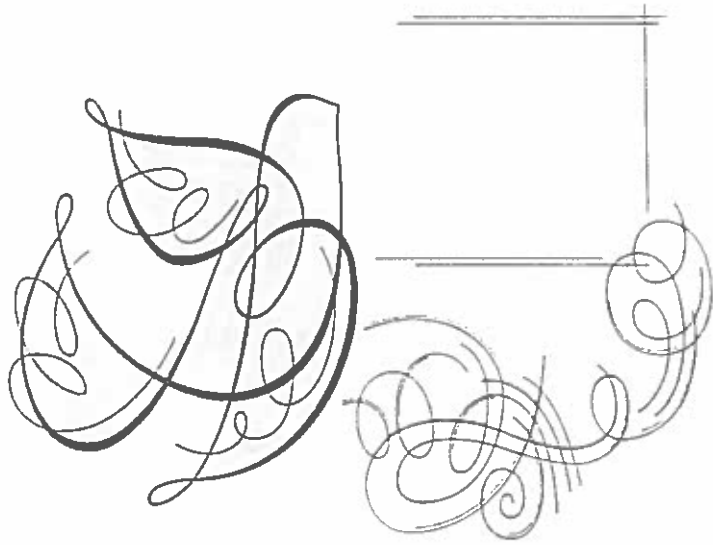
Doug Platt & Reva Johnson

Communion Servers:

Doug Platt, Dale Alvey
& Andrea Estridge

New Address

Reva Johnson
1220 Stephanie Drive #5
Hamilton, OH 45013



Begin the Year with God

“Take Time to...”

As you move into 2016, may the following poem, “Take Time to...”, by Rev. Wesley Taylor, inspire you to focus on the things that renew your soul:

- ◆ Take time to LAUGH, it is the music of the soul.
- ◆ Take time to THINK, it is the source of power.
- ◆ Take time to PLAY, it is the source of perpetual youth.
- ◆ Take time to READ, it is the foundation of wisdom.
- ◆ Take time to PRAY, it is the greatest power on earth.
- ◆ Take time to LOVE AND BE LOVED, it is a God-given privilege.
- ◆ Take time to be FRIENDLY, it is the road to happiness.
- ◆ Take time for GOD, it is the way to life.
- ◆ Take time to SMILE, and you will be blessed.
- ◆ Take time to ENCOURAGE, and you will receive encouragement.
- ◆ Take time to WORSHIP, it is the very heart of successful living.

*A new heart I will give you, and
a new spirit I will put within you.*

Ezekiel 36:26



January 2017



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 New Year's Day!!!	2	3	4 10:30 am Prayer Group 2:00 pm Deacons	5 7 pm Choir	6 10 am Bible Study 7 pm AA meeting	7
8 10:45 am Worship/Comm	9 7 pm Transformation Committee	10	11 10:30 am Prayer Group	12 7 pm Choir	13	14
15 10:45 am Worship Admin Com after worship Ordination & Installation Service	16 M L King Day 6 pm Sp. Gr/Outreach 7 pm Session	17 10 am Ruth Esther Circle	18 10:30 am Prayer Group Newsletter Deadline	19 7 pm Choir	20	21
22 10:45 am Worship	23	24	25 10:30 am Prayer Group	26 7 pm Choir	27	28
29 Annual Congregational Meeting	30	31	1	2	3	4
10:45 am Worship						

Contact Angela Scenters at 513-868-6011 to make changes to calendar.

Westwood Presbyterian Church
1068 Stahlheber Road
Hamilton, OH 45013
Address Service Requested

<Label>

CALL ON HIS NAME

