



The Messenger January 2018



A Prayer for the New Year

God of all time, Who makes all things new, we bring before You the year now ending. For life full and good, for opportunities recognized and taken, for love known and shared, we thank You.

*Where we have fallen short, forgive us.
When we worry over the past, free us.*

As we begin again and take our first few steps into the future, where nothing is safe or certain, except You, we ask for the courage of the wise men who simply went and followed a star. We ask for their wisdom, in choosing to pursue the deepest truth, not knowing where they would be led.

In the year to come, God of all time, be our help and company. Hold our hands as we journey onwards and may Your dream of shalom, where all will be at peace, be our guiding star. Amen.

Annual Congregational Meeting

January 21, 2018

New Officers Elected

On Sunday, December 17, 2017 a congregational meeting was held to elect officers (Elders and Deacons).

Elders, Lela Wilson and Andrea Estridge were elected for the class of 2020. Deacons elected for the class of 2020 were: Bob Estridge, Cathy Sutton. A service of Ordination and Installation is planned for Sunday, January 14 during worship. Pray for each of our officers as they seek to serve our Lord and the ministry of Westwood.



Newsletter Deadline
for February is
January 17th.



Ruth Esther Circle will
meet Tuesday,
January 3rd at 10:00 am.
Loretta Otto is hostess
and Reva Johnson is study
leader for lesson #8.



Friday Bible Study will
meet on January 5 at
10:00 am. All are
welcome.



- 16 Jim Simensen
- 24 Blake Hollenbaugh
- 25 Ruth Mollett



Congratulations to Emily Bohne
and Brad Shane who were married
on Sunday, December 10, 2017.
Brad and Emily are our newest
members (received by the Session
on November 27). They will reside
at 828 Ross Avenue here in
Hamilton. Pray for them as we
work together in the ministry of
Westwood and as they begin their
married life together.



Thank you to those who lit the
Advent Candles this year: Norman
and Carol Godfrey, Dale Alvey and
Dianne Hurst, Bob and Andrea
Estridge, Reva Johnson and
Marlene Sloneker.



Thank you to Steve Anglin
who taught our special advent
study, "The Journey" by Adam
Hamilton. Thanks Steve for
your commitment.



"A Special New Year"

As 2017 has ended and we are now looking into the New Year, our heads are a little foggy as we say good-bye to the old and move ahead. Hopefully we will spend some time contemplating the past year and thank God for the good that has taken place—the blessings that have been ours. We also grieve our losses and the changes that are taking place in our lives and in our world. It can be quite daunting. We also, as we look forward, are anxious about the present in our lives, the life of our church and the state of our world. Sometimes it feels as if the foundation is shaking.

This new year will be a strong test of our faith. Will we be able to truly believe that God is with us? That He has a plan for our lives and desires that we keep on keeping on "in His steps"? Will we look to Him as the "author and finisher" of our faith?

Remember, God is in charge. He will never "leave nor forsake us". Though we cannot see where we are going, we know He has guided us in the past—and we have no reason to believe He will not be there in the present and future.

Joyce Rupp is a member of the Servite (Servants of Mary) community. She is a spiritual retreat leader and an inspirational author. One of her writings titled, "Standing at the Gates of a New Year," has been helpful to me as I think about leaving the past year behind and move into 2018. She writes:

Sacred Mystery,
waiting on the threshold
his new year,
open the gates
beckon to me:

"Come! Come!
Be not wary of what awaits you
as you enter the unknown terrain,
be not doubtful of your ability
to grow from its joys and sorrows.

For I am with you,
I will be your Guide,
I will be your Protector,
You will never be alone."

Guardian of this new year,
I set aside my fears, worries, concerns,
I open my life to mystery, to beauty,
to hospitality, to questions,
to the endless opportunity
Of discovering you in my relationships,
and to all the silent wisps of wonder
that will draw me to your heart.

I welcome your unfailing Presence
and walk with hope into this new year.

May this be our prayer and desire as we anticipate all that God has in store for us in 2018, individually and as a church.

In Christ,
NORMAN



Per Capita for 2018

Several of you have asked about the amount of Per Capita that is paid for 2018. The total is \$35 per member. The **General Assembly**, the **Synod of the Covenant**, and **The Presbytery of the Miami Valley** will each receive a portion. If you would like to pay your portion for 2018, just make a check to the church and mark it Per Capita. If you have any questions, please feel free to talk with any member of the Session.



Deacons' Christmas Project

Happy New Year!

The deacons wish to thank you for your support for our Christmas families. Without your support this project would not be successful. The families were delighted when they came to pick up their gift cards, gifts and all the items you provided throughout the year. We will begin collecting more items in February.

Please do not forget the Serve City Barrel under the coat rack in the hallway. All non-perishable items will be appreciated.

SERVING THIS MONTH



Ushers: Dale Alvey
Estil Gay

Worship Leader:

7 Steve Anglin
14 Doug Gambrell
21 Bob Long
28 _____

Sunday School:

7 Andrea Estridge
14 Reva Johnson
21 Marlene Sloneker
28 Sandra Warren

Coffee Hour:

7 Marion & Dick Flynn
14 Spiritual Growth
21 Bonnie Santel & Lela Wilson
28 Cathy Sutton

Kitchen Duty:

Loretta Otto

Communion Preparation:

Reva Johnson

Communion Servers:

Steve Anglin, Reva Johnson,
Carol Godfrey, Marion Flynn



Westwood Financial Report - 2017

November:	Receipts	Expenses	Balance
Current Funds	6,593.62	6,115.69	477.93
Per Capita	70.00	0.00	70.00
Benevolence	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total	6,663.62	6,115.69	547.93

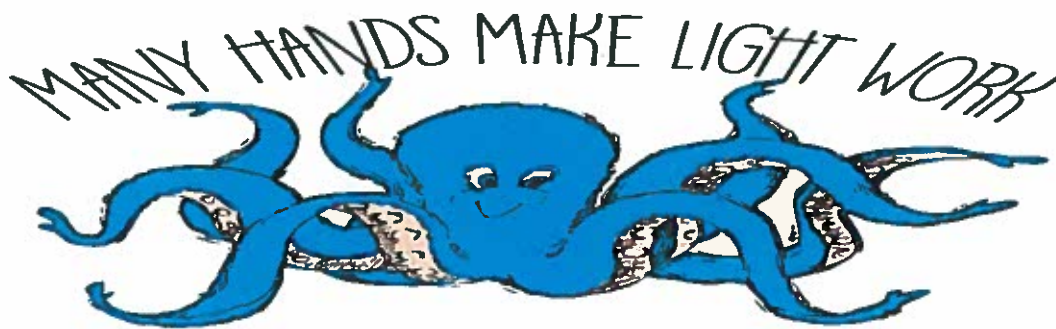
Year-To-Date:

Current Funds	75,396.58	83,374.38	-7,977.80
Per Capita	885.00	2,065.00	-1,180.00
Benevolence	1,250.00	1,250.00	0.00
Total	77,831.58	86,689.38	-9,157.80

Attendance for November:

5th	--36
12th	--34
19th	--46
26th	--28
Total	144

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



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, Reva Johnson.

Thank you to the following Sunday School volunteers for the month of
December:
Sandra Warren, Andrea Estridge, Reva Johnson, Marlene Sloneker.

Thank you to all of our Kitchen Clean-up people.
Special thanks to Marilyn Compton & Cathy Sutton.

Thank you to Reva Johnson and Bob Estridge for preparing communion for December.
Thank you to the following for serving communion:
Doug Gambrell, Carol Godfrey, Dale Alvey.

Thank you to the following volunteers who worked at the Community Meal Center on
Friday, December 15th: Bob Estridge.

Donations: Bob & Andrea Estridge, Bonita Gay, Loretta Otto, Jay & LeDale Hartlieb, Cathy
& Margie Sutton, The Smiths

A Special Thanks to Estil and Bonita Gay for continuing to post new
messages on the church sign.

Deacons – January 3 – 1 pm
Administration – January 14– after worship
Spiritual Gr/Outreach – January 15 – 6 pm
Session – January 15 – 7 pm





Prayer Concerns

Hospice:

Pete (Pam Long's brother)

Cancer/Radiation Treatment:

Miriam Kridner (Helen's sister) liver

Miscellaneous concerns:

Summer Estridge - health

Daryl Hetrick – serious heart condition

Ruth Mollett – cancer free

Dick Flynn – health

Jesus Pacheco (8 yr old) – lung cancer

Connie Hensley (Ruth's daughter) cancer free

In Nursing Home/Assisted Living:

The Knolls: Ellen Lowery

Maple Knolls: Mae Shane (Loretta)

The Woodlands: Dot Huntington (Marilyn)

National & International Concerns:

Our country, Natural disasters, violence, unity

Our armed forces worldwide

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:

As we continue to pray for our sister churches in the Miami Presbytery, this month we are remembering Central Presbyterian Church in Dayton, OH and their pastor Rev. Clifford Haddox.

Light in the Darkness

We who claim to be children of God live in a far too violent world. Terrorism, war, random killing and sins too horrible to describe appear all too frequently in the daily news. As Christians what can we do?

In another dark time, just before the outbreak of World War II, King George VI of England went on the radio to offer a Christmas message of encouragement for his people. As part of his remarks, he read a poem by Minnie Louise Haskins entitled "God Knows".

Here's a portion of the poem:

I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year,

"Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown."

And he replied, "Go into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God.

That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way!"

So I went forth, and finding the Hand of God, trod gladly into the night.

He led me towards the hills and the breaking of day in the East.

We may not always be able to dispel the threatening darkness, but we can walk through it with God for as long as it lasts. Let us remember these words from the popular hymn:

This is my Father's world.

O let me ne'er forget

that though the wrong seems oft so strong,

God is the ruler yet.

("This Is My Father's World"
by Maltbie D. Babcock)



January 2018



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 New Year's Day OFFICE CLOSED	2	3 10:00 AM Ruth Esther Circle 1:00 PM Deacons	4 10:00 AM CHOIR 7:00 PM Sorority	5 10:00 AM BIBLE STUDY 7:00 PM AA	6
7 10:45 AM WORSHIP Communion	8	9	10	11 10:00 AM CHOIR	12 10:00 AM BIBLE STUDY 7:00 PM AA	13
14 10:45 AM WORSHIP Admin Com. after worship Ordin. & Install.	15 8:00 PM SPIRITUAL GROWTH 7:00 PM SESSION Martin Luther King, Jr.	16	17 Newsletter Deadline	18 10:00 AM CHOIR	19 10:00 AM BIBLE STUDY 3:00 PM Community Meal Center 7:00 PM AA	20
21 10:45 AM WORSHIP Annual Congregational Meeting	22	23	24	25 10:00 AM CHOIR	26 10:00 AM BIBLE STUDY 7:00 PM AA	27
28 10:45 AM WORSHIP	29	30	31			

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

<Label>

CALL ON HIS NAME

