



St. John's United Church of Christ
500 West Main Street, Lansdale Pa. 19446

Enlightener

February, 2018 Vol. XXXVIII, No. 02

“... And the Greatest of These is LOVE”

I Corinthians 13, one of the most often quoted passages of Scripture, describes what true and lasting love looks like, then concludes with these words: “And now faith, hope and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.” In the first English translation of these verses, the Greek word we have translated as “love” is translated “charity.” Both love and charity are important words for us as people of faith and are clearly, to use one of my favorite phrases, inextricably interwoven. Love motivates us to give to others ~ to demonstrate charity ~ and charity at its best is an expression of our love for God and neighbor.

In recent months I have been overwhelmed and inspired by the love and charity you, the people of St. John's, have demonstrated. During the month of December alone, over \$2,000 in grocery store gift cards was given so that throughout the year we might be able to respond to those who come to the church seeking assistance with stretching paychecks and making ends meet. \$900 was given at the annual Christmas Tea to support the work of Vision and Mission Ministries in India as they seek to rescue young girls from the destructive cycle of prostitution. A generous response to the special Christmas offering enabled us to exceed our goal for Our Church's Wider Mission (supporting the work of the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference and the United Church of Christ across the nation), as well as to support retired clergy, the work of Bethany Children's Home, and Manna on Main St. Hundreds of gifts were presented on White Gift Sunday, resulting in happier holidays for folks at Living Water UCC in Philadelphia, Christian Network Outreach Church in Norristown, and Urban Promise in Camden. And, offering received at the annual Christmas breakfast, along with proceeds from soup and cookie sales, raffles, and special contributions have made it possible for us to proceed with installing much needed safety features for our elevator.

In addition, St. John's Church Council members have made decisions to share monies from our GEM Fund (Going the Extra Mile) to support the work of Agape National Academy of Music in Liberia (headed by Samson Tarpeh), to provide assistance to a “daughter” of St. John's now pursuing her Doctor of Ministry degree at Lancaster Seminary, to support our local fire company, and to contribute toward an endowment for Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) at Phoebe Ministries.

For your love and charity, which is nothing short of awesome, I give thanks every single day! May we continue to demonstrate this spirit of generosity in all that we do as we seek to BE THE CHURCH and as we seek to be God's people in a world that desperately needs God's love.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rev. Shue" with a stylized flourish underneath.



Church School	Sundays	9:00 AM
Worship	Sundays	8:00 & 10:15 AM

“After Worship” refers to the 10:15 AM service.

EVENTS		
2/4	Installation of Church Council, AED Offering	10:15 AM
2/5	Council Orientation	7:00 PM
2/10	Women’s Retreat	9:30 AM
2/11	Manna Sunday Blanket Sunday Enlightener Deadline	
2/13	Men’s Breakfast	9:00 AM
2/14	Ash Wednesday Valentine’s Day Communion Dinner, Communion, Ashes	Noon 6:30 PM
2/18	First Sunday in Lent	
2/19	Presidents’ Day	
2/20	Worship at MANNA	7:15 PM
2/21	Communion Lenten Study	Noon 7:30 PM
2/25	Second Sunday in Lent, Soup Sale	
2/28	Communion Lenten Study	Noon 7:30 PM

REHEARSALS		
Chancel Choir	Thursdays	7:30 PM
United Ringers	Thursdays	6:15 PM

CHILDREN’S CHOIR/UNITED VOICES		
Children’s Choir: Assembly Hall	Wednesdays	6:30–7:30 PM
United Voices: Music Room	Wednesdays	5:30–6:30 PM

MEETINGS		
AA	Tuesdays Fridays	7:30 PM 8:30 PM
Azul Dance	2/12 & 26	1:00–3:00 PM
Boards and Council Meetings	2/12	7:00 & 8:00 PM
Brownies and Girl Scouts	2/5 & 19 Tuesdays	6:30 PM 7:00 PM
Chess Club	Fridays	6:00 PM
NAMI	2/6	7:00 PM
Prayer Group	2/26	7:00 PM
Prayer Shawl	2/5	6:30 PM
Prayer Walk	2/8 & 22	7:00 AM
Quilters	Tuesdays	1:30 PM
St. John’s Stampers	2/8	1:00 PM
The Art of Living	Saturdays	10:00 AM
Yoga	Thursdays	7:00 PM

**ARTICLES DUE FOR MARCH ISSUE
DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 11**

Leaders: Please provide articles for these coming events for the next *Enlightener* issue:

- ◇ Artist Series
- ◇ One Great Hour of Sharing
- ◇ Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday
- ◇ Prayer Vigil

All submissions must include name and phone number and be typed or printed. Submissions can be placed in the *Enlightener* bin in the Church Office (bottom bin), or emailed to erickinsey46@gmail.com. Please call Eric Kinsey at 215.513.2237 with questions.

The *Enlightener* is published monthly except for July and August by St. John’s United Church of Christ, 500 West Main Street, Lansdale, Pennsylvania 19446.
Eric Kinsey, Editor: erickinsey46@gmail.com



Chancel Flower Ministry

Thank you for being a part of this important ministry. Many lives have been touched by your efforts. Flowers should be delivered after the 10:15 AM church service or on Monday. Feel free to deliver the flowers to whomever you want—

anyone who is celebrating a birthday or an anniversary, people who are ill, people who are in the hospital, people who need a little extra care. The people you deliver to do not need to be members of St. John's. They can be your friends, loved ones, and neighbors. The flower ministry is part of our outreach.

The flower room is through the door on the left side of the chancel—the side where the pastor preaches. All the supplies you will need are in this room: plastic vases, St. John's address directory, and cards.

Please take the flowers out of the brass vases and put them into the plastic floral containers located on the shelves in the flower room. Return the liners back into the gold vases. Please include a card for each bouquet. There will be a copy of these instructions in the flower room. If you are out of town on your assigned Sunday, please switch with someone else. Again, many thanks for being a part of St. John's flower ministry. Please leave the plastic liners in the gold vases, they belong to the florist.

Lisa

2018

February 4	Sarah Baker & Bob Keim
11	Phil & Wendy Hunt
18	Susan Popjoy
25	Audrey Hahn

What should I do to protect myself from flu this season?

You can take everyday preventive actions:



If you or your child gets sick with flulike illness, it is recommended that you (or your child) stay home for at least 24 hours after the fever is gone except to get medical care or for other necessities.

The fever should be gone without the use of a fever-reducing medicine.

While sick, limit contact with others as much as possible to keep from infecting them.

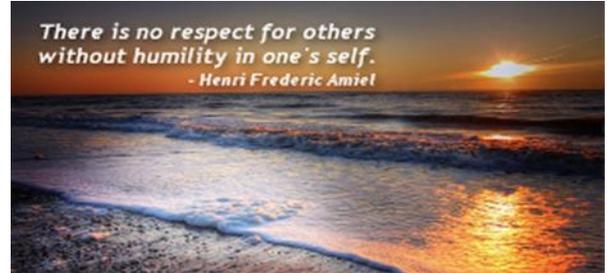
Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.

Wash your hands often with soap and water. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand rub.

Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth. Germs spread this way.

Clean and disinfect surfaces and objects that may be contaminated with germs like the flu.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the family and friends of Harold Badger, uncle of Susan Hendricks; Abbie Lampe's brother; and Dot Kelly, former director of the Lansdale Montessori School, who passed away recently.



February Nursery Schedule

Thank you for your willingness to care for the precious children of our congregation. If you are on the nursery schedule, please arrive at 10 AM. If you cannot serve on the Sunday you are scheduled, it is important to find a replacement. Please follow these guidelines:

- **FIRST:** Call someone else on the schedule to switch. Most scheduling difficulties can be handled this way.
- If you are unable to find someone, please call me at 215.527.6237.



- 2/4 Kelly Dwyer & Amy Faga
- 2/11 Jessica & Pamela Ace
- 2/18 Christine & Mike Albano
- 2/25 Amy Faga & Kelly Dwyer

Thanks again for serving!
Mary Billy, Nursery Coordinator

Educators Family Fun Ice Skating Opportunity

Are you looking for a fun way to spend a Sunday afternoon with your family? Then come on out for a few hours of ice skating! On Sunday, February 25, head over to Hatfield Ice at 350 County Line Rd in Colmar from 2:40pm-4:40pm. \$10 will get you a ticket to skate and a pair of skates to rent (it is only \$7 if you bring your own skates). Hope to see you there!

February is National Heart Month

Every February the Health Ministry takes a collection for the AED Fund. The AED is a portable device that delivers an electric shock to the heart, if needed. The AED is used in conjunction with rapid use of 911 and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR).

According to the American Heart Association, all three of these activities are vital to improving survival from cardiac arrest.

On Sunday, **February 4**, following church service, members of the Health Ministry Team will be holding a "heart" collection bucket to place your donation for the AED Fund.



Sixth Annual Christmas Breakfast and Raffle

We wish to thank everyone who came to the breakfast and gave \$650 to the free-will offering and \$541 to the raffle.

Your generosity is outstanding. The profits will go to help fund needed safety updates to the elevator. We can always count on the congregation when St. John's has a need. We also want to thank those who donated new and almost-new items, plus gift cards from the Washington House and Acme Markets. This totaled 90 prizes for the raffle.

It looked like everyone had a lot of fun and an opportunity for great fellowship, not to mention the outstanding food by our wonderful kitchen crew of Steve Bossert, Judy Johnston, Bill Kurz, Scott Vanderburg, and Bill Wallace. Many thanks to the raffle helpers, Aidan Gage, Robin and Gianna Huntsinger, Jenn Moyer, and Rosie Rush-King. Once again, thanks to all for another successful event. Don and Lyn Huntsinger, Co-chairs

Below you will find the church flower donation list for February 2018. Please review this list and contact the church office if you would like to remove, add, or update any information on the list.



Reminder ~ The requested donation for the church flower listing is \$25. Thank you!

February 4—In memory of Albert C. Munzinger's February 6th birthday from his daughter and grandson, Kay and Tony Fiala

In memory of Dick Yocum's February 9th birthday from his family

In memory of Bud Moyer from his wife, Ruth, and family

February 11—In memory of David T. Evans's birthday from his daughter, Jean, Bob Fritz, and Beth and Joe Ward

February 18—In memory of Jean's Parents, Mr. and Mrs. Mark Moyer, from Jean and Tom Beggs

In memory of George W. Knipe from his grandchildren, John Skibbe III and Wendy Hunt

February 25—In memory of David Krail's birthday on February 26th from Debbie Krail and family

In memory of Bob Summer's February 28th birthday from Joan and Dan Gallagher and family



Were You There?

Thirty Years Ago: A dinner theater sponsored by Wyncote Church Home included dinner at Perona Farms and a nostalgic look at Tin Pan Alley.

Twenty-five Years Ago: The United Church Board for Global Ministries sponsored a contest for sermons and essays on global themes to be considered for inclusion in a published book. The winner received a 2-week visit to a partner church in another part of the world.

Twenty Years Ago: I believe this inspirational story from the front page of the February 1988 *Enlightener* is worth reprinting in its entirety (Eric Kinsey, Editor).

Lessons from the Geese:

As each goose flaps its wings it creates an "uplift" for the birds that follow. By flying in a V formation, the whole flock adds greater flying range than if each flew alone. People who share a common direction and sense of community can get where they're going more quickly and easily as they are traveling on the thrust of one another. When a goose falls out of formation, it feels the drag and resistance of flying alone. It quickly moves back into formation to take advantage of the lifting power of the bird in front of it.

If we have as much sense as a goose we stay in formation with those headed where we want to go. We are willing to accept their help and give our help to others.

When the lead goose tires, it rotates back into the formation and another goose flies to the point position.

It pays to take turns doing the hard tasks and sharing leadership. As with geese, people are interdependent on each other's skills, capabilities, and unique gifts, talents, and resources.

Geese flying in formation honk to encourage those up front to keep up their speed.

We need to make sure our honking is encouraging. In groups where there is encouragement, productivity is much greater. The power of encouragement is the quality of honking we seek.

When a goose gets sick, wounded, or shot down, two geese drop out of formation and follow it down to help and protect it. They stay with it until it dies or is able to fly again. Then they launch out with another formation or catch up with the flock.

If we have as much sense as geese, we will stand by each other in difficult times as well as when we are strong.

~Generally attributed to Milton Olson

Fifteen Years Ago: The UCC Wider Church Ministries, as part of the Church World Service, supported an Afghanistan Education Campaign to provide 50,000 school kits to children in the Hazarjart region.

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Ten Years Ago: St. John's youth joined with other local UCC church groups in an awareness exercise—Thirty Hours of Famine—to illustrate what it means to be without food in this country with such rich abundance.

Five Years Ago: In her message on the front page of the February 2013 *Enlightener* Rev. Sue included this quote from *Downton Abbey*: “What would be the point of living if we didn't let life change us?” She goes on to say “As people of faith, when life changes us, we understand God to be at work in our lives.”

One Year Ago: UCC-sponsored conversations about race relations were offered on four different dates in three locations: Reading, Glenside, and Souderton.



What's Happening in Church Council?

Financial Report, Sandy and Bob Taylor,

Cotreasurers: As hoped, December was by any measure a good month. The ordinary income in December of \$59,802.53 was almost \$10,000 more than the income in the next highest month this year! It was \$15,941.23 more than our ordinary expenses of \$43,861.30. Our year-to-date deficit, which through November had been over \$31,000, was halved; we ended the year with a deficit of \$15,230.04. That deficit occurred even with the usage of some investment monies (\$76,059.00) as budgeted (and counted as “income”).

More good news! We entered December with our OCWM giving year-to-date \$2,330 below our committed rate. That meant that we needed December OCWM contributions of at least \$6,044 (almost 50% more than our prior best month this year). Our OCWM contributions in December totaled \$6,373.50, bringing the yearend total to \$44,898, versus our 2017 commitment of \$44,570.

Please feel free to share your questions or concerns with our co-treasurers, Sandy and Bob Taylor.

Staff Reports:

Rev. Sue Bertolette, Senior Pastor: Lenten Bible study will begin on Wednesday, February 21 at 7:30 PM in the Library and will feature the book *Midnight Jesus* by Jamie Blaine. Books are available from Rev. Sue for \$12 each. She is in conversation with Matt Baughman, a member of St. John's and a law enforcement officer, about meeting with a small group of St. John's leaders and staff to discuss preparedness in the event of an armed intruder or other crisis situation.

Rev. Addie Stong, Associate Pastor: not in attendance
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David Furniss, Minister of Music: The next Artist Series concert will be on March 4, featuring organist Clara Gerdes. Psalms for Organ and Choir will be presented on March 25. The final Artist Series concert, scheduled for April 29, will be *St. John's Mass*, conducted by Davis Giersch. All concerts begin at 4 PM.

Abbie Lampe, Minister of Music for Children and Youth: not in attendance

Lisa Delp, Office Administrator: Lisa reported that she worked with the Deacons in selecting a new flower vendor for a trial during January. The flowers have been well done at a price consistent with what we had previously been paying.

Old Business: Use of GEM funds for financial requests: \$1000 will be used for support of Sampson Tarpeh's Agape National Academy of Music in Liberia. \$1000 per year over a 3-year period will be used to help support Kim Stryjak in her three-year Doctor of Ministry program.

New Business: Marge Jewell presented the slate of incoming Council members:
Vice President—Pricilla Ponist
Deacons—Steve Bossert (2-year term), Jessica Rice/Matt Carson, (one 3-year-term member needed)
Educators—Patti Thomas, (one 3-year-term person, one 1-year-term person needed)
Elders—Al/Vickie Skulczyck, Deborah Dayton
Trustees—Brian Hutchinson, Ken Hales (1-year term), (one 3-year-term member needed)
The slate was approved unanimously.

Board of Trustees:

Projects Completed

Twenty-nine new tables have been paid for with funds from the Rummage Sale, Basket Raffle, etc. This shipment will complete the replacement of all old tables.

Projects in the Works

Parts to address the safety issues in the elevator have been ordered.

We are currently waiting for the parts to arrive for the second boiler. No. 1 boiler had a defective igniter; it will be replaced with a new igniter free of charge.

The floor is rotted under the cabinet in the Activity Room. The floor will be repaired and a cabinet built.

Board of Elders:

Welcome nominated Elders Deborah Dayton and Vickie and Al Skulczyck.

Outreach Team claimed seven outreach projects to plan and complete. Articles will be submitted to the Herald and *Enlightener* announcing the projects.

The Elders are planning for the Ash Wednesday, February 14, potluck dinner at 6:30 PM and for communion at the worship service at 7:30 PM.

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10:15 AM Worship Service Elder of the Morning		
Date	Elder	Special Activity
2/4	Sumiko Booraem	Installation of Church Council
2/11	Marcia Stacy	
2/18	Gayle & Bob George	First Sunday in Lent
2/25	Jo-Ann Sine	Second Sunday in Lent

Umbrella Ministry	
2/4/18	Jean Roshong
2/11/18	Mary Lynne Snyder
2/18/18	Nancy Roberts
2/25/18	Sally Jarinko

We are looking to get estimates for a handicap push pad door opener at the elevator entrance and the ramp entrance to be funded through the Memorial Fund.

Board of Deacons:

New Board Members

Bill, Mike, Alan, and Judy are finishing up their terms. Steve is staying on.

Jessica and Matt are new, plus hopefully one more person TBD.

New Business

Bill and Mike will put a hold on the Plains Mennonite Church pavilion for the picnic on June 10.

Member Appreciation Breakfast is April 15.

Attendance for December 2017					
Date	8:00 AM	10:15 AM	Total	Past Years	Average
12/3	67	174	241	2016	233
12/10	White Gift	282	282	2015	271
12/17	78	214	292	2014	295
12/24	9:30 AM	218	218	2013	243
12/31	9:30 AM	122	122	2012	291
	145	1010	1155	5-Year Average = 267	
Average/Week = 231					

Board of Educators: February 2018 Acolytes

2/4	Anna Evans & Darcy Reese
2/11	Andrew & Christopher DiPlacido
2/18	Mitchell O'Neill & Ray Stahler
2/25	Alexi & Luna Hutchinson

Christmas Eve 2017 5 PM	Christmas Eve 2017 11 PM	Christmas Day 2017	Christmas 2017 Total
210	231	45	486

Junior Church Schedule February 2018

Date	Name	Phone
2/4	Cindy Benedict	215.285.9038
2/11	Amy Hutchinson	215.896.1871
2/18	Desiree Wallace	215.285.6101
2/25	Jen Gilbert	215.350.9246

Past 5 Years	White Gift Sunday	Christmas Total*
2015	337	492
2014	327	560
2013	364	513
2012	335	531
2011	378	490
Average	349	518

*Christmas morning was not recorded for 2012.

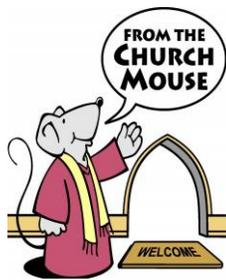


Total 2017 Attendance	8:00 AM	10:15 AM	Total
Total/Year	3015	8533	11,548
Average/Week	58	165	223

Past 5 Years	Total/Year	Average/Week
2016	11,684	230
2015	12,629	243
2014	13,172	254
2013	12,956	250
2012	13,518	260
Average	12,792	248

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This year's Lenten Study—which will take place on five Wednesday evenings during Lent, beginning February 21—will focus on Jamie Blaine's book *Midnight Jesus*, which has been described as a book "where struggle, faith and grace collide." It is full of beautifully told stories that will make you laugh and cry—stories of real people looking for hope in their darkest hours and trying to piece together their broken lives. Jamie Blaine writes from his vantage point as a person of faith who is also a licensed psychotherapist and crisis interventionist who has seen life and people at their worst and is still able to find hope and grace. Copies of the book will be available for purchase prior to February 21.



NEWS FROM THE PEWS

Having just walked the labyrinth in St. John's meditation garden, my mouse-sized teeth are chattering as I write to you this month! It is bitter cold outside, but it is toasty warm inside here at St. John's, and for that, this little church mouse is thankful.

As I put away my holiday decorations and began to think ahead on this winter day, I realized that Ash Wednesday, and the season we call Lent, begins on Valentine's Day, February 14th. While some folks will be focusing on hearts and chocolates on the 14th, we will be sharing a meal, participating in communion, and receiving ashes. At first glance, the two holidays—Ash Wednesday and Valentine's Day—don't seem to have much in common, but the more I thought about it, the more I realized that there is a connection. Love is the focus of Valentine's Day and, in many ways, love is the focus of Lent: that is, Jesus' love for us and all that he was willing to endure on our behalf. During Lent, some of us will choose to make sacrifices—to give up things—and others of us will choose to add things to our lives with the hope that doing so will draw us closer to God, but at the very heart of it all is a desire to experience God's love more deeply and demonstrate God's love more completely.

So join me at St. John's on Ash Wednesday/Valentine's Day as we find ways to show our love for God and for one another! And plan to join me on Wednesday evenings throughout Lent as Rev. Sue leads us in conversation about Jamie Blaine's book *Midnight Jesus* (see page 5 for more information). I guarantee you have never read a book like this before!

Between now and then, I will be looking for you in the pews as we celebrate the season called Epiphany—the season of the Church Year when we focus on epiphanies (AHA moments) in the life of Jesus and in our own lives. Remember, there isn't a bad seat in the house, and something good always happens when we come together to worship our God! AMOS

February Social Hosts

- 2/4 Ted Kasander
- 2/11 Judy & Alan Johnston
- 2/18 Charyl & Lester Suzuki
- 2/25 Susan & John Hendricks

If you have a conflict, please try to find a replacement from your complete list of social hosts.



Summary of Last Month And YTD Income And Expense	Dec 2017	Jan–Dec 2017
Ordinary Income/Expense		
Income		
Current Tithes/Offerings	48,528.79	368,644.19
Event Income/Fundraisers	1,271.00	5,648.76
Flowers	1,007.00	3,780.00
Investment Income	6,338.25	76,059.00
Rental Income	2,350.00	23,500.00
Use of Building Income	230.00	4,532.00
Youth Group	0.00	256.00
Miscellaneous Unrestricted Income	66.50	6,943.72
Interest Income, Savings Accounts	10.99	146.85
Total Income	59,802.53	489,510.52
Gross Income		
59,802.53 489,510.52		
Expense		
Salaries and Benefits	28,699.76	361,495.34
Elders Expenses	682.25	2,559.26
Deacons Expenses	1,448.54	8,041.11
Educators Expenses	0.00	3,368.81
Trustees/Building Expenses	1,808.25	16,782.30
Building Operation Expenses	5,495.34	53,798.19
Operating Expenses	4,281.39	53,881.70
Miscellaneous Expenses	1,445.77	4,813.85
Total Expense	43,861.30	504,740.56
Net Ordinary Income		
15,941.23 -15,230.04		
Other Income/Expense		
Other Income		
Artist Series Income—Special	1,690.00	8,629.00
Benevolence Offerings	13,026.50	67,627.05
Special Accounts	4,607.68	101,778.14
Alternative Gift Market, Miscellaneous	685.00	8,016.87
Soup/Cookies Sales	1,253.00	3,434.00
Rummage Sale	0.00	3,107.07
Petty Cash, additions to	0.00	45.00
Endowment Income	0.00	3,000.00
Immediate-Needs Income	250.00	5,250.00
Total Other Income	21,512.18	200,887.13
Other Expense		
Benevolence Disbursements	16,792.25	67,614.06
Special Fund Expenditures	600.00	553,902.60
Alternative Gift Market	7,566.87	7,783.67
Soup Sale Expenditures	0.00	709.00
Rummage Sale Expenditures	0.00	2,287.99
Artist Series Fund Expenditures	0.00	11,898.67
Immediate-Needs Expense	0.00	11,600.00
Endowment Withdrawals & Transfers	1,781.97	54,433.76
Total Other Expense	26,741.09	710,229.75
Net Other Income		
-5,228.91 -509,342.62		
Net Income		
10,712.32 -524,572.66		

MISSIONS: AT HOME & ABROAD

Our Overseas Children

Letters have been received from Nickole Florence in the Philippines and Yashi Chhoten in the Tibetan Children's Village in India and are posted on the bulletin board.

Nickole Florence was involved in scriptwriting and directing for her school's Foundation Day. She enjoyed helping make it a success. Their group has been moved from space at Silliman University to a new facility. She ends her letter with "Thank you to all of you for the continuing support of my studies. I love you all and please take care always. God bless."

Yashi Chhoten writes, "Don't worry about me because I am learning my subject very well. Now I read in class 6 and next year I am in class 7. I am so happy in my school and home...so please take care of your health. I am caring (for) my health very smoothly."

The Sponsorship Secretary writes, "Yashi Chhoten is doing well and being able to enjoy all the good amenities which help them to become contributing members to our community in the future. Thanks a ton for helping our children to make their dream come true! Your support plays a pivotal role in Yashi's life."



**Blanket Sunday
February 11, 2018**

Thank you for your dedication to providing blankets for Church World Service. For many years we have helped provide CWS blankets to people throughout the world. Thanks to you, families in emergency shelters across the country have received blankets when they arrived. You have helped them stay warm in their time of need. Your donations have provided tools needed to rebuild homes after an earthquake. You have provided seeds for farmers to grow food to feed their families. Each year, you are supporting the critical relief and development work of CWS and giving a hand-up to people in need by enabling them to feel the warmth of compassion and hope.

Families arrive at emergency shelters during their darkest hours. Whether struggling in the face of grinding poverty or attempting to rebuild after devastation like a house fire, families are in search of warmth and comfort. CWS blankets are a tangible reminder that they are not alone. Children and their parents can rest more warmly because of your love. For your wonderful support of Blanket Sundays and on behalf of all the families you have helped, but may never meet—THANK YOU.

Look for your Blanket Sunday offering envelope attached to this issue of *The Enlightener*. Please bring your offering to church on **Sunday, February 11**.

With Glad and Generous Hearts

Any act of Kindness is never wasted. God knows your heart and sees it all. Some people may not accept your kindness, but give it anyway.

I am often amazed at the many times that people go out of their way to help other people in need. I am touched by the stories I hear about a person struggling with an illness and the many people who will come to help in a way that makes a difference. These people give to others in need with a glad spirit and a kind heart.

St. John's UCC is a generous congregation. Many members give of their time and money to minister to others in our community through MANNA on Main Street, sponsorship of children/youth ministries, and the many gifts given on White Gift Sunday. The St. John's Church community shares our many talents with others through the giving of time and money in ways that make a difference to others.

As we begin the season of Lent, we are glad for the many gifts that God has given us. We are also thankful for the gifts that we are able to give to the people around us through the sharing of our time, talents, and money. These gifts make a difference for others. Living with glad and generous hearts makes a huge difference in the lives of other people and the community around St. John's.

On behalf of the Stewardship Committee, I urge each of us to act on the many ways that we can continue giving our time, skills, and resources with a Glad and Generous Heart to the many ministries of St. John's.

Stephen Butz, member of the Stewardship Committee

ST. JOHN'S
Artist Series



CLARA GERDES
ORGANIST
WINNER OF THE 2017
MID-ATLANTIC REGIONAL
AGO COMPETITION

SUNDAY, MARCH 4, 4:00

PSALMS FOR ORGAN AND CHOIR ~ SUNDAY, MARCH 25, 4:00
SPRING CONCERT: ST. JOHN'S MASS ~ SUNDAY, APRIL 29, 4:00

AGO TUESDAY NOON ORGAN RECITALS EACH WEEK IN MAY

PATRONS OF ST. JOHN'S ARTIST SERIES ~ 2017-2018

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