



DAVID'S DATELINE
FEBRUARY 2015 Newsletter

Sunday Worship, 8:30 & 9:50 a.m.
Church School, 9:50 a.m.

Church Office
Hours: Monday – Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Phone: 937-434-2131, Fax: 937-434-1913
www.davidsucc.org

Ministers of David's Church - All David's People
Senior Pastor Brian Q. Newcomb
Associate Pastor Michelle Wilkey

David's Church
48th Annual



Saturday, February 28, 2015
5:00-8:00 p.m.

(see inside for details)

From the Pastor's Desk...

As we are entering the month of February, I have to admit, I was coming up dry as the deadline for the Dateline was drawing near. The temptation, always present when inspiration isn't, is to go with something about Valentine's Day and love and the warmly romantic. But truth be told, I've come down with a nasty cold, and between sneezing and blowing my nose and the occasional coughing fit, I'm not feeling it. I love my dear wife... but even she is keeping her distance, wisely enough. I don't want anyone to get what I have, especially the folk gracious enough to share their lives and space with me.

But in the midst of this cold/flu thing, two unexpected events happened on the same day. On Wednesday, Jan. 21, my new grandson, Bennett Walker Quincy was born. And later in that same day, Marcus Borg, theologian, New Testament scholar, and prolific author, died. There you have it, the circle of life, all in one 24 hour period.

Of course, we knew we had a new grandson on the way, but the original due date was Feb. 13, so the announcement of his birth was a lovely surprise. Of course, Susie could have told you that he was due any moment. We had agreed to watch big brother Clayton for a few days back in April (right after Easter), so that our son Jacob and his wife Liz could have a few days on their own to camp in the Smokey Mountains... and, well, you do the math... it's been exactly nine months. You're welcome.

New life is always a marvel, birth is always a miracle. Even as I celebrate this new birth into our family, I'm aware of situations of loss and longing that others are living through. It makes all the more precious this new life that has come into our family. And I can't wait to get up there to Michigan and hold this child, welcome him physically into our world, and check on his big brother... make sure he knows we still care very much about him.

I'm not sure if this quote has been accurately attributed to Albert Einstein, but even if he never said it, I still find it to be true to my experience: "There are only two ways to live your life. One is as though nothing is a miracle. The other is as though everything is a miracle."

Which brings me to the passing of Marcus Borg, author of "Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time; The Historical Jesus & the Heart of Contemporary Faith" (published over 30 years ago), who together with members of the Jesus Seminar helped create an intellectual environment for a more reasonable and realistic expression of religious faith and spiritual experience. His books and teaching – which I was privileged to experience a few times in person, but got to know more extensively through his participation in video ministry through the "Living the Questions" series – made it safe for folk who had serious questions about the nature and meaning to be found in our sacred texts. He provided a path for those of us who had outgrown a more literal reading of the texts, he helped create a way of engaging the Scriptures that valued the critical resources and yet didn't abandon the faith in God revealed in the person of Christ that inspired so many of us.

In a world where some were holding onto a fundamental expression of faith that insisted that the whole of the Bible be taken literally and judging all who raised questions or carried doubt as unworthy, and, at the other extreme, many were leaving faith behind because they found such demands limiting and demeaning, Borg and company showed us a middle way, a progressive understanding that didn't toss out the baby with the bathwater. Over the years, Borg's books have provided a source of intellectual and spiritual encouragement for those of us who want to express our faith without abandoning reason and science. Without a doubt, he passed too soon, and he will be deeply missed.

At times like this, on top of my own experience with cancer last year, I'm reminded of the depth and importance of love and the value of taking the time always to express what is on our minds. As the philosopher once wrote: "Life is short, we do not have much time to gladden the hearts of those who travel the way with us so be quick to love, make haste to be kind" (Henri Amiel, 1868).

It seems to me, given the uncertainty and beauty of life, this is a great path forward. You could even write it on a valentine.

Your pastor and friend,
Brian Q. Newcomb

Notes from Rev. Michelle Wilkey

It is said that "the art of doing nothing is really something." I began the month of January with a week off. During the first week of January, I spent some quality time relaxing and doing nothing. After my week of vacation; I was able to come back to work feeling refreshed and fully energized and ready to take on 2015 which is already shaping up to be an exciting year at David's.

January was another great month at church. On Saturday January 17, the Confirmation class got to attend a worship service at Apex Community Church. They have been able to be exposed to three different worship settings. We started out the year with a Catholic Mass, then a Jewish Shabbat Service, and then Apex was a more contemporary worship setting. It is my desire to have the kids be exposed to a variety of religious experiences. In February, we plan on going to a Hindu Temple.

Monday January 19 was the day we celebrated the life of an extraordinary leader; Martin Luther King Jr. Martin Luther King Jr. said, "Darkness cannot drive out darkness, only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate, only love can do that." Love was behind our actions as we gathered together in downtown Dayton on January 19. I was able to attend the Martin Luther King Jr. March and Rally that morning. I was proud that some of the Confirmation kids participated in this important event. Through engaging in this activity, we were living out the words of Micah 6.8. "He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?"

This year I am excited to begin leading events that are geared toward young adults. "In the UCC, young adults are technically those people between the ages of 18 and 30. The reality is that a young adult could be female, male, a student, a professional, single, married, a parent, still living with a parent, Generation X or a Millennial, a seminarian, an ordained minister, someone who hasn't set foot in a church since high school and anything in between."

(http://www.ucc.org/young-adults_index) On Friday January 23, I kicked off my young adult outreach ministry. We had a fun night out on the town. We went to see the movie "Selma" and then went to dinner. This will be the first of many events that will be suited for young adults.

Anne Frank wrote in her diary; "No one has ever become poor by giving." On Sunday February 1, I will be giving of my time to serve at Gateway after church. I am proud to have a few of the Confirmation kids go with me as well. The Confirmation group will have a month of giving of their time in participating in meaningful activities. We will be visiting the Freedom Center in Cincinnati on Saturday February 14. Then on Saturday February 28, we will be helping out at the famous Spaghetti Dinner.

April 12 will be a special Sunday here at David's because it will be Youth Sunday. I am excited to have such a big group in Confirmation this year and I hope to have all 12 of the kids participate in this service. I would also like to extend an invitation to all the youth at David's to be a part of Youth Sunday. We are going to have an informational meeting about this service after church on Sunday February 8. All youth and parents are invited to attend this meeting.

Ash Wednesday will be on February 18 and I am eager to participate in this special service. This is the day that begins the special church season of Lent. During Lent, I will be leading a special Bullying Series for the children and youth. The program is called "Where All Can Safely Live" by Reconciling Works. We will be offering up a Bullying Lesson for all four weeks of the Lenten Series. Sadly, bullying is something that is effecting all ages and is a growing problem in schools today. The Bullying Series will provide a guide to understanding bullying and give everyone suggestions on how to talk about it and prevent it.

February is shaping up to be a fun-filled month here at David's and I'm looking forward to every minute of the fun and excitement. I know I say this quite a bit, but I believe it's worth repeating. I am so proud to be serving as your Associate Pastor and I am eager to see all that still lies ahead.

Ashes-To-Go At David's UCC On Ash Wednesday For The Fourth Year

February 18 from 7:30 – 8:30 am, Noon – 1 pm, and 5:00 – 6:00 pm

Ash Wednesday Service in the Sanctuary at 7:00 pm.



On Wednesday, February 18, Pastors Brian and Michelle will be out in the church's parking lot during rush hour drive times prepared to impose ashes for any persons who desire to begin the season of Lent in this time-honored tradition of Ash Wednesday. At 7:00 pm, in the sanctuary, there will a full service, imposition of Ashes, with the addition of hymns and special music from our Chancel Choir.

"We've not invented the idea of 'Ashes to Go,'" says Dr. Newcomb. "I had a number of UCC and Episcopal colleagues back in St. Louis, where I served previously, go out and offer ashes to passersby on the street corners. I was reminded of this by recent comments from Church historian and author Diana Butler Bass, and thought we ought to do something for those folk who want to begin the season of Lent in a

meaningful way, but perhaps their work and family lives don't allow them to stop everything for an hour to attend a full worship service."

Lent is, in the Christian tradition, a pre-Easter season of preparation that lasts 40 days (not counting Sundays), often marked by penitence and confession, fasting or other kinds of sacrifice, special times of prayerful reflection, and acts of service or generosity. Ash Wednesday is the beginning of Lent, a reminder to Christians that life is fragile. Traditionally, the ashes are imposed with the words "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." This reminder of one's mortality, an act of humble contrition, can be a helpful, even powerful reminder of God's goodness and grace and the promise of new life that Easter brings.

Evolution Sunday – February 1, a Time to Thank God for Good Science

For a few years now, Pastor Brian has used the second Sunday of February, the closest to the birthday of Charles Darwin (Feb. 12), to speak on the relationship between faith and science. However, this year he will switch to the first Sunday, February 1. With some Christians arguing that the Bible insists that the earth is only 6000 years old, and that “intelligent design” and the Genesis accounts be taught in schools as an alternative scientific theory, Dr. Newcomb wants to go on record with the common sense view that many modern mainline Christian thinkers have expressed, that we can believe in God and still accept the teachings of evolutionary science. He signed this Clergy Letter ages ago, and looks forward to preaching on Faith, the Bible and Science again this month.

The Clergy Letter - from American Christian clergy – An Open Letter Concerning Religion and Science

Within the community of Christian believers there are areas of dispute and disagreement, including the proper way to interpret Holy Scripture. While virtually all Christians take the Bible seriously and hold it to be authoritative in matters of faith and practice, the overwhelming majority do not read the Bible literally, as they would a science textbook. Many of the beloved stories found in the Bible – the Creation, Adam and Eve, Noah and the ark – convey timeless truths about God, human beings, and the proper relationship between Creator and creation expressed in the only form capable of transmitting these truths from generation to generation. Religious truth is of a different order from scientific truth. Its purpose is not to convey scientific information but to transform hearts.

We the undersigned, Christian clergy from many different traditions, believe that the timeless truths of the Bible and the discoveries of modern science may comfortably coexist. We believe that the theory of evolution is a foundational scientific truth, one that has stood up to rigorous scrutiny and upon which much of human knowledge and achievement rests. To reject this truth or to treat it as “one theory among others” is to deliberately embrace scientific ignorance and transmit such ignorance to our children. We believe that among God’s good gifts are human minds capable of critical thought and that the failure to fully employ this gift is a rejection of the will of our Creator. To argue that God’s loving plan of salvation for humanity precludes the full employment of the God-given faculty of reason is to attempt to limit God, an act of hubris. We urge school board members to preserve the integrity of the science curriculum by affirming the teaching of the theory of evolution as a core component of human knowledge. We ask that science remain science and that religion remain religion, two very different, but complementary, forms of truth. (http://www.theclergyletterproject.org/Christian_Clergy/ChrClergyLtr.htm)

Joyce Lee’s Giving Tree

Thank you to everyone who took a name, purchased gifts, wrapped them and made sure a child in the Dayton area had something to open this holiday season. Gifts were purchased for 76 local Head Start children. And with added donations, we were able to purchase \$500 of additional gifts, socks and underwear.

Every year, your willingness to help is always uplifting and your generosity is always astounding. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! - Anne, Ellie and Ian Jones

Adult Ed

Please join us in the Adult Ed Room after church at 11:15 a.m. Light refreshments prior to class. You are always welcome to join us!

- Feb 1: Heather Caskey, Nurse Practitioner specializing in Infectious Disease, will discuss several topics related to her field. Topics include flu, shingles, and she may go into detail to dispel any myths and clarify facts related to recent Ebola outbreak.
- Feb 8: Matthew Green has been working hard to develop the next generation of South African leaders through the Wright LEAD program. Wright LEAD focuses on community-based leadership with concentrations on music, poetry, visual art, entrepreneurship, and sports. The two-week program brings students from two Durban high schools together to create an experience that has impacted hundreds of lives over the past eight years.
- Feb 15: No Class – President’s Weekend
- Feb 22: Hunt Brown, Department of Earth & Environmental Sciences; and Special Assistant, Office of the President Wright State University, will talk about “Climate Change: Growing Concerns” - We will review recent scientific findings about climate change as well as its current and projected future impacts. We will also discuss ways to adapt to changes we have already set in motion and mitigate against making things worse.

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

February 18, 2015 - 7:00 p.m.

Proclamation of the Word and Imposition of Ashes

Deacon's Fundraising With Kroger Plus Card

The Deacons are teaming with the Kroger Community Rewards Program. To begin earning money for our church, each person needs to enroll online at krogercommunityrewards.com and sign up with their Kroger Plus card number and the David's church New Organization Number 78892. Register online or Diane Herbst and Shirley Johnson will register you after Sunday services in the Fellowship Hall when possible.

DIRECTIONS TO USE THE KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS PROGRAM:

- Simply register online at krogercommunityrewards.com
- Be sure to have your Kroger Plus card handy and register your card with your organization after you sign up.
- If a member does not yet have a Kroger Plus card, please let them know that they are available at the customer service desk at any Kroger.
- Click on Sign In/Register
- Most participants are new online customers, so they must click on SIGN UP TODAY in the 'New Customer?' box.
- Sign up for a Kroger Rewards Account by entering zip code, clicking on favorite store, entering your email address and creating a password, agreeing to the terms and conditions
- You will then get a message to check your email inbox and click on the link within the body of the email.
- Click on My Account and use your email address and password to proceed to the next step.
- Click on Edit Kroger Community Rewards information and input your Kroger Plus card number.
- Update or confirm your information.
- Enter NPO number (78892) or name of organization, select organization from list and click on confirm.
- To verify you are enrolled correctly, you will see your organization's name on the right side of your information page.
- REMEMBER, purchases will not count for your group until after your member(s) register their card(s).
- Do you use your phone number at the register? Call 800-576-4377, select option 4 to get your Kroger Plus card number.
- Members must swipe their registered Kroger Plus card or use the phone number that is related to their registered Kroger Plus card when shopping for each purchase to count.

Be A Part Of General Synod - Here's How You Can Volunteer

The Ohio Conference is busy preparing an EXTRAVAGANT WELCOME for more than 4000 delegates and visitors to General Synod, June! 6-30, 2015 right here at the Cleveland Convention Center. As part of the Local Arrangements Committee we anticipate the need for 450 enthusiastic volunteers. There are opportunities for everyone. Want to smile and greet? We need you! Want to pass communion? We need you! Want to take notes at meetings? We need you! Want to help with kids? We need you! WE NEED YOU!!!

The list and description of all opportunities is found online <http://www.ucc.org/synod/overviewTofTvolunteer.html>. We encourage you to take a moment to look over the volunteer opportunities and consider how you can best serve during this important event in the life of our church. Once you've made your choice, please click on this link: <https://www.volgistics.com/ex/portal.dll/ap?AP=217476303>.

See you all then. We are extremely grateful for your participation

Sincerely,

Sue & Derry Wimer

Co-Chairs, Local Arrangements Committee, General Synod 30

440-655-3732



Game Night

Attention all Gamers! From 7-10 p.m. on February 13 come to The Bayman's (2nd Floor Community Room at Trinity) for Game Night. Bring a snack, BYOB, your favorite games, and be prepared to have fun playing board games or card games like euchre, double pinochle, or canasta.

David's United Church of Christ Presents our 48th Annual SPAGHETTI DINNER



**Saturday, February 28, 2015
5:00 – 8:00 p.m.**

Tickets

Adults: \$8.00 in advance, \$10.00 at the door
Children (12 and under): \$4.00 in advance, \$5.00 at the door



Buy your tickets now so you won't miss out on this delicious dinner that has become a tradition at David's Church. See you at Spaghetti Dinner!!!

Tickets are available on Sunday mornings in Fellowship Hall or by calling the church office, 434-2131.

We need all kinds of volunteers! Contact *Donna or Louis Wright* at 415-1631 or wrightx496@sbcglobal.net to find out where you can help.



Mark Your Calendars!

Dinners for Eight

Have you missed Dinners for Eight?
Do you not know about Dinners for Eight?
Watch the sign up board in the narthex and Sunday Bulletins for information about monthly small group dinners coming in March, April and May.

Lenten Specials

March 4, 11, 18 and 25

Join us for dinner and classes Wednesdays during Lent.

There will be something for all ages. Information coming soon in your Sunday Bulletins and the March Dateline.

February Birthdays

- 1 Irene Hopkins
- 3 Rolf Lindner
Gary Hutchison
Glenn Wood
Cody Wright
- 4 Julie Wellbaum
- 6 Don Ashbrook
Chris Wellbaum
- 7 Sam Wellbaum
- 8 Jill Blum
- 10 Katie Gregg
- 13 Dagmar Michel
Jamie Mhaskar
- 15 Jim Widman
Amy Stamper
Jenni Thompson
- 16 Herbert Sizak



- 17 Betsy Keyes
Dave McElwee
- 18 Sean Miller
- 19 Cody Boothe
- 20 Nico Avila-John
Lucas Avila-John
Alan Avila-John
- 21 Thelma Leach
Jerry Beinlich
- 22 Steve Mason
- 23 Debra McKenzie
- 24 Bill Love
- 26 Maureen Trost
Malia Creel
- 27 Haylee Grilliott
- 28 Amy Hamm
- 29 Pat Johnson

Church Directory Change

Wendy & Andy Blumberg

David & Jessie

405 Stolle Dr.
Springboro, OH 45066
937-886-9154

Dennis Lee

565 Yankee Trace Dr.
Centerville, OH. 45458
937-886-5516

Rebecca Rine

CeeCee Stone & George Stone
2409 Sheelah Court
Kettering, OH 45420
937-776-3480

Member Deaths

Our sympathy to *Nancy Manuel* in the loss of her husband, **Bob Manuel**, on January 2, 2015.

Our sympathy to the friends and family of **Margaret Effinger** in her loss on January 5, 2015.



Grandparent Announcements

Alden Lee Weese was born on December 20, 2014 to Abby (Zimmerman) & Mark Weese. **Lola Christine Zimmer** was born on January 8, 2015 to *Emily (Zimmerman) & Rob Zimmer*. Proud grandparents are *Lee & Barb Zimmerman*. Proud great-grandmother is *Marge Heffner*.

Bennett Walker Quincy was born on January 21, 2015 to *Jacob & Liz Quincy*. Proud grandparents are *Brian & Susan Newcomb*. Proud uncle is *John Newcomb*. Proud great-grandmother is *Marian Jones*.

Mark Your Calendars for Pike Lake!

It seems early to be thinking of hiking, fishing, wildflower seeking, wiffleball and volleyball games, but pull out that new 2015 calendar and mark May 15-17, 2015 as the date for our 49th year at Pike Lake State Park. If you are a regular to this spring event, you'll want to make sure you hold the date open or if you already have another event for that weekend, please contact Kevin and Debbie McCoy (299-9218) so we can full your cabin! If you enjoy tent camping, you can always join in the fun by setting up in the campground!

If you'd like more information on Pike Lake, please give Kevin and Debbie a call. We'd be happy to share a synopsis of the weekend!

<u>SUNDAY</u>	<u>MONDAY</u>	<u>TUESDAY</u>	<u>WEDNESDAY</u>	<u>THURSDAY</u>	<u>FRIDAY</u>	<u>SATURDAY</u>
1 8:30 & 9:50 AM Worship EVOLUTION SUNDAY Gateway 11:15 AM Second Hour 7:00 PM Book Study/SIGNS	2 9:30 AM Warm Wishes 10:30 PM Staff Mtg. 6:00 PM Yoga 7:00 PM Gospel of Luke	3 10:00 AM Quilting 7:00 & 7:30 PM Board Meetings	4 6:00 PM Yoga	5 11:00 AM-1:00 PM Knitters 5:00 PM Worship Staff Meeting 6:00 PM Adult Bells 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	6	7 8:30 AM-12:30 PM Private Reception
8 8:30 & 9:50 AM Worship with Communion 11:15 AM Second Hour 7:00 PM Book Study/SIGNS	9 9:30 AM Warm Wishes 10:30 PM Staff Mtg. 6:00 PM Yoga 7:00 PM Gospel of Luke	10 10:00 AM Quilting	11 11:30 AM Keenagers 6:00 PM Yoga	12 11:00 AM-1:00 PM Knitters 5:00 PM Worship Staff Meeting 6:00 PM Adult Bells 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	13 1:00-4:00 PM Private Reception 7:00-10:00 PM Game Night at The Bayman's DATELINE DEADLINE	14 8:30 AM Trustee Meeting VALENTINE'S DAY
15 8:30 & 9:50 AM Worship Food & Clothing Outreach 11:15 AM Second Hour 7:00 PM Book Study/ SIGNS	16 6:00 PM Yoga 6:00 PM Adult Education Meeting 7:00 PM Gospel of Luke OFFICE CLOSED PRESIDENT'S DAY	17 10:00 AM Quilting 10:30 AM SONKA COP Meeting 7:00 PM Council Mtg.	18 7:30-8:30 AM Ashes- To-Go 12:00-1:00 PM Ashes- To-Go 6:00 PM Yoga 5:00-6:00 PM Ashes- To-Go 7:00 PM Ash Wednesday Service ASH WEDNESDAY	19 11:00 AM-1:00 PM Knitters 5:00 PM Worship Staff Meeting 6:00 PM Adult Bells 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	20	21 8:00 AM Men's Breakfast @ Bob Evans
22 8:30 & 9:50 AM Worship 11:15 AM Second Hour 7:00 PM Book Study/ SIGNS	23 9:30 AM Warm Wishes 10:30 PM Staff Mtg. 6:00 PM Yoga 7:00 PM Gospel of Luke	24 10:00 AM Quilting	25 6:00 PM Yoga	26 11:00 AM-1:00 PM Knitters 5:00 PM Worship Staff Meeting 6:00 PM Adult Bells 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	27	28 5:00-8:00 PM Spaghetti Dinner 

FEBRUARY 2015

DAVID'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST (937) 434-2131
WWW.DAVIDSUCC.ORG

