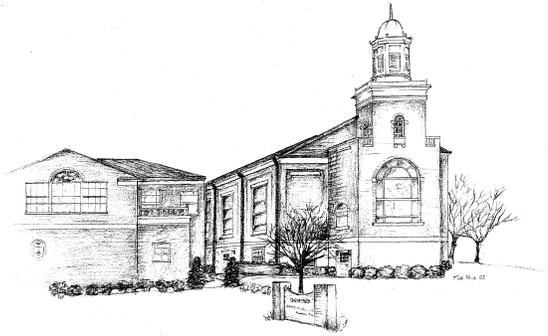


DAVID'S DATELINE
NOVEMBER 2014 Newsletter



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

Upcoming Events

November 1 - Holiday Bazaar

November 2-December 7 -In-Gathering of Food

November 2 - All Saint's Day/
Daylight Savings Time Ends

November 9 - Consecration Sunday/Veteran's
Recognition/Giving Tree Starts

November - 16 - Sunday School Bread Making

November 23 - Pilgrim Feast

November 24 - Interfaith Thanksgiving @ Christ UMC

November 27-28 - Office Closed for Thanksgiving

November 30 - First Sunday of Advent

Christmas Eve Services
5:00, 7:30 & 10:00 p.m.

From the Pastor's Desk...

Well, my friends, I've got to say that I did not see this coming. As I was planning for this Fall season, thinking of helping Pastor Michelle, our new associate, find her place, picking a book study, thinking about all the wonderful events that mark our calendar in this active season of the church, I never thought for a minute that I'd need to take sick leave and deal with kidney cancer. Not for a minute did I see this coming.

There were not a lot of obvious symptoms. Back in Kenya in July, I became profoundly winded when we were asked to climb a steep hill after visiting the place where the water for the system was drawn from the river. I would climb up twenty feet or so and have to stop again and again. I could not seem to catch my breath, but was that a symptom or was it just that I was out of shape?

I was still walking the dog at home, and had walked about four miles just a day or two earlier looking at farms on the off-road paths around Rubate, but mostly we were on flat land, not a steep incline.

Back at home, sometimes after work, I'd sit down on the couch and fall asleep before dinner, but hey, I'm getting older and I like to nap, right? But in August, about the time of our vacation trip to Maine, I got gout, and then I started noticing blood in my urine (sorry if that's indelicate, but if one of you notices something like that, I want you to get to your doctor, and not assume it's nothing). Surely something was up.

My Dr. sent me for a CT Scan and the tumor on my right kidney was obvious, surgery was indicated, and off we went. I think I may have been in shock the whole time as we progressed through the events to prepare for surgery. It all seemed to be happening so quickly, although we had down periods between visiting with Drs. and the scheduling of the surgery itself. I tried to stay busy and go about my normal duties. We learned that the newer robotic surgery could mean only one night in the hospital, and a relatively short recovery time of three or so weeks, which meant I wouldn't miss too much. That was the best case scenario, and I was down with that, let's get this over, get the cancer out, and I can get back to my family and to work.

Well, so much for best case scenarios and best laid plans. The surgery lasted about 8 hours, as the tumor had grown up inside a major vein, and proved a bit more complicated than expected. But it did appear that they got all of the cancer, that there was no spread of the cancer through the blood or the lymph nodes that they tested.

But, because of the trauma and severity of the surgery, my good kidney, the left one (the one I have left), was slow to pick up the slack after the right one was removed. So I laid in the hospital for ten days, watching my creatine level come down slowly, indicating that my remaining kidney was slowly but surely improving in function. We chatted about dialysis, but did not need it in the end.

Recent post-op visits have suggested that my recovery is going well, I'm on a blood thinner now, but I'm less bothered by the surgery pains as the healing process continues, and I'm able at this writing to work at my desk a few hours a day, and on Oct. 19 returned to the pulpit.

So, I'm easing my way back, but not yet up to full time. When folk see me at work, they can't resist telling me to go home to my sick bed... well, I know they are looking out for me, wanting what's best as I recover my health. But I want to assure you, that I will try very hard not to overwork myself. The truth is, if I stayed home for another few weeks with no activity I'd drive myself and my family crazy. I'm trying to use common sense, work a few hours each day, get back into the practice of study and preaching, returning to those duties that don't stress me too much, and then going home to rest when appropriate. So far, so good. Thank you for your kind thoughts and prayers.

The clearest lessons of this experience so far may all seem a little obvious, so bear with me. Folk have been saying how glad they are to see me, and the first response that has come to mind has been how grateful I am to be seen, to be alive and reasonably well here on planet earth. As I have come out of shock, and taken stock of my condition, it's very clear that removing that cancerous tumor has saved my life (again, don't hesitate to go to the doctor when you experience symptoms or new aches and pains, they may be signs of something far more dangerous). And I am so very grateful to be here, now, alive and recovering my health and strength a little more each day. We have lost so many loved ones and friends to cancer of one kind or another over the years that I can't take my health for granted any longer. I must express gratitude, and in that **choose to live**, as one author put it: **"more fully, more bravely and more beautifully,"** to the best of my ability.

But I'm grateful for many other things as well. I'm so grateful for Susan, Marian and John, who have been going through all this with me day by day. My older children Carly and Jacob have both made special trips to be with us, and my younger brother Doug came, knowing that my parents could not travel, and Susie's brother Michael came too, all expressions of their care, support and love for us.

I'm so grateful for all of your prayers and good wishes, the mountain of get well cards, the meals you prepared for my family, the generosity the congregation has shown to me and my family during this unexpected sick leave, the member who came and mowed my lawn, the extra cakes, flowers, treats and goodies that people dropped by; for each sign of your love and support, I thank you, thank you, thank you.

I'm grateful to Pastor Michelle, who learned of my illness on the first day of her work here at David's UCC. She pretty much had no choice up to step up, and she did just that, handling worship, visiting the sick & our shut-ins, taking over the Borg book study I'd planned. She has performed admirably, above and beyond the call of duty, and I'm thankful for her presence with our congregation, both in my absence and now for the years to come. And I continue to be so grateful to Chris & Anne who do such a great job of running the office, and managing the details that elude me even on the best of days. Even when I wasn't able to do much, they kept me in the loop, and I appreciate their amazing work even more than usual. And while I was way-layed for this month, the lay leaders of this congregation have again shown that they can make this church work with or without me, and it means so much to me how many of you have stepped up to do what needed to be done.

These kinds of experiences can test a person's faith. Certainly the trauma of surgery and the pain that follows, the meds that counteract it, and mental and physical stress of the situation can bring on a few "dark nights of the soul." In moments like that you strain to hold onto the meaning and purpose at the center of one's being, to see God's loving presence at work in one's life and the world, where so many suffer and struggle. In the three decades of ministry, I have no doubt visited with hundreds of people lying in hospital beds as I did for ten days. I have a new appreciation for the uncertainty, anxiety and challenge that come with grave illness, and I can only hope that leads to greater compassion and understanding in the years to come.

While I certainly don't have the answers to the big questions about disease and death, for as close as I came, I continue to trust in the God who made us, and made us for life and for love. I continue to be grateful for the community of support that held us up, the prayers of many that I've known over the years from all across the country, the expressions of love and care.

As things improve, as my health and strength return and things get back to normal, I hope to never take any of this for granted. For so many things in life, including the bright orange, red and yellow leaves outside my office window right now, for the friendships, and music, and art & theatre, for the work to fight injustice and to build community that is truly loving and inclusive, to being the person I am called to be and to call the church to follow Jesus ever more closely in word and thought and deed, for all this I am exceedingly grateful. Thanks be to God, and thanks to all of you.

Your Pastor and Friend,
Brian Q. Newcomb

Notes from Rev. Michelle

J. R. R. Tolkien said "The Greatest Adventure is what lies ahead." On September 2, I began my position as the Associate Pastor here at David's and it has definitely been an adventure so far.

October was a big month here at David's. Sunday October 5, was a truly memorable day here at the church. During the 9:50 service, I was officially installed as your Associate Pastor. As I stood up front that morning, I was filled with an overwhelming amount of peace and joy. This is truly where God has called me to be. I have no doubt in my mind that David's is right where I belong.

After my installation service, I was so grateful for the reception that was held after church. I want to thank everyone for making me feel so welcome here. This day ended on a high note. I was able to lead my very first pet blessing. It was a truly fabulous day on October 5.

On October 12, Confirmation began and I am proud to say we have 12 amazing kids going through Confirmation this year. I know this will be an amazing year of Confirmation and I am sure that the kids will also be teaching me a thing or two throughout the year. I was pleasantly surprised at the insightful dialogue that took place during our first class.

This year I plan on organizing many different events for the kids. I want Confirmation to take place both in the classroom and outside the church doors. I want the youth to experience worship in a variety of different religious settings. We will be attending a Catholic mass on Saturday November 8. A Jewish Synagogue, Apex Community Church, a Hindu Temple, a Muslim Mosque, Solid Rock Church, and a Buddhist Center are among the other places of worship that we will be attending.

In April, the Confirmation class will take part in a 30 Hour Famine which is sponsored by World Vision. By participating in the 30 Hour Famine, the kids will be part of something bigger than themselves. The 30 Hour Famine gives students a chance to help overcome hunger — by going without food so others don't have to. It's an unforgettable experience that will rock their world and make an incredible difference around the globe! Our Famine weekend will be April 25-26 and during the weekend there will be plenty of games and activities. We will begin fundraising for this special event in February.

I am excited to see what still lies ahead in my time at David's Church. I am confident that my time here at the church will be a great adventure. Thank you again for welcoming me with open arms and being so supportive and encouraging over the past month. How great to be a member of such a great church family.



David's Holiday Bazaar - Saturday, November 1 – 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Preview Day – Friday, October 31 – 6:00 -8:30 p.m.

David's family and friends are invited to be the first to see this year's Bazaar items on Friday, October 31 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. As in past years, you can enjoy supper and dessert as well as shop our unique handmade goods.

Join us on Saturday, November 1 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. for fine holiday shopping. We'll have a huge assortment of decorations including ornaments, decorated trees, stylish accessories, gourmet mixes, table decor, baked goods, and so much more. And don't miss out on the delicious lunch and dessert available!

All Saints Day – November 2

Sunday, November 2, is All Saints Day, when we will remember those who have gone to their rest in Christ in the last twelve months. We will have a moment of silence at the sounding of each name, as we pause to hold close the life of this beloved one, we will light a candle and toll a bell in their memory. On this Sunday, daylight savings time ends—we will turn our clocks back one hour, on Saturday night.

Daylight Savings Time Ends Sunday, November 2

Don't forget to set your clocks BACK one hour before you go to bed on Saturday, November 1.



Veterans List

In observance of Veterans' Day, David's Church will print the names of all its veterans in the bulletin November 9. If you know of a needed addition or correction to the list as printed last year, please contact the Church office (434-2131) by November 5.

Joyce Lee's Giving Tree



Joyce Lee started the Giving Tree 21 years ago with the help of the Mission Board. It was a cause very close to her heart, helping local, economically disadvantaged children, enrolled in the Federal pre-school Head Start program. These children come from families where the holidays are made a little brighter by the help we give.

Starting November 9, the Giving Tree will be set up in Fellowship Hall. The tree will be covered in children's names, ages birth to 10. On the tag, along with the name are race, age, gender, clothing size and two gift suggestions. Please choose a tag from the tree and sign your name on the list next to the tree. The list will be numbered to correspond with the tag numbers. We ask that the wrapped gifts be returned to the church by December 7 with the tag attached.

If you have questions call *Ellie & Anne Jones* at 643-3194.

Cutups Needed

Attention men and women – Can you use a pair of scissors? Are you available on Monday mornings? Want to have some fun with a nice group of people? Then this position could be for you. It is not necessary to commit to every Monday – very flexible schedule and hours. To learn more show up at Fellowship Hall between 9:30 a.m. and noon any Monday or call *Nedral Gockel* at 416-4164. The pay is not the best, but the rewards are priceless. – Warm Wishes Committee

STEWARDSHIP CONSECRATION SUNDAY - NOVEMBER 9 - 8:30 & 9:50 AM

Adult Education

The goals of the Second Hour Adult Education program are to further Christian education and faith development, to generate questions, and to provoke thinking. Join us as often as you can as we explore timely subjects hosted by knowledgeable speakers. Your comments and suggestions are always welcome. Most classes are held in the Adult Education Room (except where noted) and begin at 11:15 AM.

- November 2 - Dr. Mark Ensalaco, Director of Human Rights Research of the University of Dayton is directing a major project and will have a presentation on forced labor/human trafficking which track product produced by forced labor in company supply chains. The project is being carried out in partnership with Catholic Relief Services and the Brazilian National Bishop's Conference.
- November 9 - Hon. Dr. Scott Rosenberg, Professor of African History, and Honorary Consul for Kingdom of Lesotho, will discuss his recent service trip to Lesotho. He will also discuss the issue of "blood diamonds" which remains a serious human rights problem in the continent.
- November 16 – Pastor Brian will speak about his trip to Rubate and Kenya. Please join us in Fellowship Hall.

Children to Make Bread for Pilgrim Feast



During Sunday School on Sunday, November 16, the children will be making the bread that will be served at the Pilgrim Feast the following Sunday, November 23. Please dress your children in washable clothing, as the flour does fly on that day!

If you'd like to be part of the fun on this special day, please call *Debbie McCoy* at 299-9218.

Annual Pilgrim Feast

On Sunday, November 23, David's Church family is cordially invited to attend the Annual Pilgrim Feast, which features:

Chicken-Vegetable Noodle Soup
Seven Layer Salad
Homemade Bread
Pumpkin or Apple Pie
Coffee, Apple Juice, and Milk
and will be served by the Confirmation Class



As in the days of the first Thanksgiving when everyone brought something to the feast, we ask that you bring either an apple or pumpkin pie. You may sign up on the sheet in the Narthex, or call *Debbie McCoy* at 299-9218. A free will offering will be received.

Big Batch Buckeye Time

We'll be making the Buckeyes the week of November 19 (date has yet to be determined) from 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. We'll take orders ahead and at the Bazaar and on Sunday mornings so you'll have them fresh for Thanksgiving and Christmas.

We need lots of help! It's easy with food and fellowship included. No experience is needed in this project. Just come and stay as long as you can. Sign ups for helping and ordering your Buckeyes will be posted soon in the Narthex..

Don't miss out on getting your Buckeyes. They hold up well in the fridge or freezer. Orders will be available for pick on the day of buckeye making and at the Pilgrim Feast.

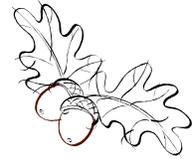
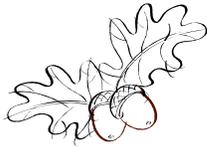
Holiday Food Basket In-Gathering

I was hungry & you gave me food; I was thirsty & you gave me something to drink; I was a stranger & you welcomed me.
--Matthew 25:35

In November, you are invited to bring an offering of food—food that will go into the Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets for area families in need. Last year we gave away 80 baskets between the two holidays, and we hope to do the same again this year. We ask that you bring the food to the hallway outside of the church office.

Items for the baskets include: boxed stuffing, mashed potatoes, and brownie mixes; canned green beans, corn, yams, cranberry sauce/jelly, gravy; disposable aluminum roasting pans; and contributions to purchase turkeys and hams.

We would like items for the Thanksgiving baskets no later than November 16, and for the Christmas baskets no later than December 7.



27th Annual
Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

Monday, November 24, 2014 - 7:30 p.m.

Christ United Methodist Church

3440 Shroyer Rd.

with

Church of St. Charles Borromeo, Temple Beth Or,
& David's United Church of Christ

Annual Reports Due

To all boards, organizations and staff members: Your annual reports are due in to the office by Tuesday, December 9, 2014.

Love Offering for the Pastors and Staff of David's Church

Each year the church says "Merry Christmas" to all members of our staff by offering them a Christmas check. If you would like to contribute, simply place your contribution in the "LOVE" envelope provided in the pews November 23, November 30, and December 7 and return it to the church office, or place it in the offering plate by December 7.



Hanging of the Greens
Sunday, December 7 - 9:50 AM



Come and worship with us as we decorate the sanctuary for the Advent Season.

Need Peanut Butter

Please remember the kids in the Kettering Backpack Program this winter as we go to the grocery, to buy a certain number each week. That will be your own personal goal to see how many weeks in a row you remember. Thanks to all of you who have been faithful contributors.

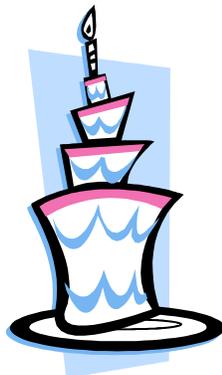
Mission Board

Up-coming Holiday Services

- Hanging of the Greens will begin on Saturday, December 6 when the Elders and all interested volunteers will gather to bring the decorations down from the attic and do much of the "hanging" in our sanctuary and around the church, then on Sunday, December 7 at the 9:50 service we will complete the process with explanations for our "greens" and prayers of blessing.
- Christmas Caroling to our Shut-Ins, after services on Sunday, December 7, with a lunch for all who plan to sing.
- Christmas Cantata at the 9:50 service on Sunday, December 14, and for the first time we're offering a second performance that very afternoon at 2:00 pm, still in our sanctuary, to attract some who've been unable to attend on a Sunday morning.
- Our Blue Christmas – Longest Night of the Year – service for those who struggle with the forced joy and frivolity of the season – will be offered on Friday evening, December 21 at 7:00 pm.
- Christmas Eve services 5:00 pm for intergenerational families and young children. 7:30 pm with the Chancel Choir, and a quieter service with communion at 10:00 pm.

November Birthdays

1 Howard Winfield
Jim Farinet
Jean Schulke
2 Alex Lewis
3 John Oda
4 Ruth Widman
Lyn Morton
Wesley Bernard
5 Kurt Olt
Pat Himmelberg
Audrey Thompson
6 Kathryn Randall
Jill Schaffner
9 Will Bishop
11 Claire Roess
12 Ford Gudgell
Paula Johnson
13 Darlene Murray
14 Dan Deitz
15 Warren Back
16 Fred Schiller
Hannah Storar



17 Kaitlin Pickrel
19 Louise Gaertner
Linda Smith
Rebecca Karason
21 Paul Dunlap
Andrew Vest
22 Ruth Nelson
Lois Alspach
Todd Faulkner
Sawyer Monk
23 John Barnett
24 Alan Schaeffer
25 Mike Morton
Brie White
26 Debra Monk
27 Robin Farinet
28 Betty Jones
29 Tom Beery
30 Allison Creel

Keeping The Promise II Update

After interviewing several architects, Ken Brightman of Brightman & Mitchell Architects, Inc. was selected by the KTP II Committee to provide a Master Plan/Feasibility Report for Sanctuary Accessibility and for The Grove. Ken and the KTP II Committee are currently in the process of carefully following the outline commissioned to the Committee by the Council. When the Plan/Report is complete, we are all looking forward to presenting it to the congregation for discussion and consideration of one or both projects.

We'll keep you informed when the Plan/Report is ready to reveal to you!



Death

Our sympathy to *Linda, Dan, Sarah, Anna, and Rebecca Deitz* in the loss of Linda's mother, *Dorothy Dadisman*, on September 30.

Pastor's Emergency Fund

Your donations to the Pastor's Emergency Fund will help those in need throughout the year. Due to the current economic conditions, there has been an increase in requests for distributions from the fund, both from individuals in the community and from members of David's congregation. If you would like to make a contribution to the fund, please mark your check "Pastor's Fund" and place it in the offering plate or mail it to the church office. Thank you for your support of those in need.

Save the Date: Christmas Caroling – December 7

- Go Caroling to David's Shut Ins
- Prepare Food for the caroler's lunch directly after church
- Bring homemade cookies to distribute to the shut-ins
- Sign-up is in the Narthex

This is a marvelous intergenerational holiday activity. After lunch groups will form to co caroling. Song sheets and routs are provided for visiting our shut-ins.

Sponsored by the Fellowship and Hospitality Board. Contact *Roselyn Faulkner* if you have questions.

<u>SUNDAY</u>	<u>MONDAY</u>	<u>TUESDAY</u>	<u>WEDNESDAY</u>	<u>THURSDAY</u>	<u>FRIDAY</u>	<u>SATURDAY</u>
2 8:30 & 9:50 AM Worship All Saints Sunday/ Holiday Food Gathering Gateway 11:15 AM Second Hour 7:00 PM Book Study/SIGNS <i>Daylight Savings Time Ends</i>	3 9:30 AM Warm Wishes 10:30 AM Staff Mtg. 7:00 PM <i>Convictions</i> Book Study	4 10:00 AM Quilting 7:00 & 7:30 PM Board Meetings	5 6:00 PM Yoga	6 11:00 AM-1:00 PM Knitters 5:00 PM Worship Staff Meeting 6:00 PM Adult Bells 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	7	8 8:00 AM Trustee Meeting
9 8:30 & 9:50 AM Worship with Communion Veteran's Recognition/ Consecration Sunday/ Holiday Food Gathering 11:15 AM Second Hour 3:00 PM Girl Scouts 7:00 PM Book Study /SIGNS	10 9:30 AM Warm Wishes 10:30 AM Staff Mtg. 6:00 PM Adult Education Meeting 6:00 PM Yoga 6:30 PM CE Meeting 7:00 PM <i>Convictions</i> Book Study	11 10:00 AM Quilting VETERAN'S DAY	12 6:00 PM Yoga 6:30 PM Deacons	13 11:00 AM-1:00 PM Knitters 5:00 PM Worship Staff Meeting 6:00 PM Adult Bells 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	14 7:00 PM Game Night at The Bender's DATELINE DEADLINE	15 8:00 AM Men's Breakfast @ Bob Evans 4:00 PM William Holland Memorial Service
16 8:30 & 9:50 AM Worship Bread Making/ Holiday Food Gathering Food & Clothing Outreach 11:15 AM Second Hour 7:00 PM Book Study/SIGNS	17 9:30 AM Warm Wishes 10:30 AM Staff Mtg. 6:00 PM Yoga 7:00 PM <i>Convictions</i> Book Study	18 10:00 AM Quilting 7:00 PM Council Mtg.	19 9:00 AM-3:00 PM Buckeye Making 6:00 PM Yoga	20 11:00 AM-1:00 PM Knitters 5:00 PM Worship Staff Meeting 6:00 PM Adult Bells 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	21	22
23 8:30 & 9:50 AM Worship Holiday Food Gathering 11:15 AM PILGRIM FEAST 7:00 PM Book Study/SIGNS	24 9:30 AM Warm Wishes 10:30 AM Staff Mtg. 6:00 PM Yoga 7:30 PM Interfaith Thanksgiving at Christ UMC	25 10:00 AM Quilting 5:30 PM WHO Group	26 6:00 PM Yoga	27  <div data-bbox="1249 1226 1711 1274" style="border: 1px solid black; text-align: center; padding: 2px;">OFFICE CLOSED</div>	28	29
30 8:30 & 9:50 AM Worship Holiday Food Gathering 11:15 AM Second Hour 7:00 PM Book Study/SIGNS	