



Sunday Worship, 8:30 a.m. & 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

Plan to attend

David's
United Church of Christ

Annual Meeting
of the congregation

Sunday, January 26, 2014

Following the 9:50 service

- Celebrate the accomplishments of the past year.
- Vote on budget for 2014.
- Share hopes, dreams, concerns.

From the Pastor's Desk...

This is the second time I'm sitting down to write a letter for the January Dateline. The first time, I wrote about the trip I was expecting to take to Africa, in mid-February, with colleagues from SONKA to visit our mission partner in Rubate, Kenya. You'll remember that Pastor Bill Youngkin and many throughout SONKA worked and raised funds to build and equip the medical clinic, now a fully operational hospital there near the Presbyterian Teachers' College in Rubate. And in 2012, we worked with SONKA to raise the necessary \$60,000 for a project to build a water system so that they would have fresh water at the hospital year round, both for general health and medical services. But now the trip has been postponed until late June, so I'll save that one for closer to the trip.

Needless to say, 2013 has been a very interesting year in the life of our congregation. On the one hand, we lost some lovely people to illness and death, and on the other we had a rush of babies ready for baptism, 8 children in all, and still more to come with a baptism on Christmas Eve and another scheduled for January. On the one hand, we lost our Associate Pastor, on the other we saw our congregation come together in Keeping the Promise campaign and freshen up our facilities with new carpet, paint, and many needed modifications to our sound systems, and the celebration of my own 30 year anniversary of ordination.

But mostly, it's been a time of slow, steady growth among our membership, and beyond. The other day, as a volunteer lay person and I were headed out to offer home communion to some of our shut-in members, she said that some of her family and friends had noted the warm and friendly spirit in the services of late. I replied, that it has felt that way to me as well.

In the days since then that comment has come back to me several times. It brought to mind a joke. A salesman is asked what is the secret to their success, how do they manage to move so much product? "Authenticity is the most important thing," he says. "Once you learn to fake that, you're in like flint."

Of course, that's completely wrong, isn't it? In a culture that thrives on publicity and promotion, which loves surface images and appears to care less about depth, we tend to think that everyone is pretending to be something they are not, or at least something more than they really are. But the truth be told, we can't fake authenticity, we can't pretend to be a loving and welcoming community of faith, if at our core we aren't, because people will see through us. Folk can smell the difference. They will feel that we're trying to take advantage, or put something over on them and they will resent us for trying too hard. Truth be told, you really only rarely get a second chance to make a first impression.

Martin Luther once said, "Sin boldly." Now, I don't think the father of the Protestant Reformation meant for us to lie, cheat and steal, and continue those reckless activities as if they had no consequences, I think he merely recognized that real, authentic living will at times find us exposed, mistakes will be made, we will err simply because we are human. I think Luther felt that we need to live fully and well, and therefore not worry too much when we are mistaken, when we have pushed too hard, spoken too quickly, taken a risk and it has back-fired. Luther wanted his friends and followers to live full lives that were graceful and kind, loving and generous. He was more interested in passion than piety, he wanted us to extend ourselves with boldness, not hide in some kind of religious faith that is dominated by rules and regulations, lists of do's and don'ts, folk afraid to reach out for fear of being found guilty by association.

I think Luther got his idea directly from the teachings and actions of Jesus in the Gospels. The way we often tell the story, Jesus' ideas and actions – healing, feeding, liberating, creating community – went over pretty well until near the end of his ministry, when the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem and the Romans began to take notice, which led pretty quickly to his arrest and crucifixion. But if we turn to Mark, the earliest of the written Gospels, Jesus no sooner gathers a following in Chapter One – having healed a man with an unclean spirit and many more in the house of Simon and around Galilee, including a leper and a paralytic who had to be lowered through the ceiling because the crowd in and around the house was so dense that they couldn't get close to Jesus – than he gets accused of blasphemy in verse 7 of Chapter Two.

Now, the Gospels are written by Jewish Christians, and it's an important tenet of their faith that Jesus never broke the Law of Moses, found in the Torah (the first five books of the Old Testament). But at every turn, the scribes and Pharisees of Jesus' day took exception to the people he was hanging out with, they saw him in the company of lepers, outcasts, and folk they had labeled as "sinners" because they were known to be tax collectors or prostitutes, and they judged him just as they had judged these "others." They accused him of not "keeping the Sabbath," the fourth commandment, because he showed compassion and healed on a Saturday, and his disciples didn't follow all the cleanliness rituals that the Pharisees favored. Jesus lived boldly, loved boldly, acted in ways that gave the appearance of sin to those who eagerly sat in judgment.

So, Luther writes, "Sin boldly." Like Luther, you and I are no Jesus. Jesus, according to the texts, lived in such a way that embraced all people, and yet "knew not sin." Luther, who appeared to drink a bit too much and had issues with anger, was not without sin. Neither am I, and let me go out on a limb and suggest that neither are you. Like Luther, and the rest of humanity, we all of us carry the scars of our failures and disappointments, our flaws and mistakes, sometimes it is these

marks that makes us distinctly and decidedly who we are. The letter of the Romans says “all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God,” so we commonly say that “To err is human, to forgive is divine.”

As folk who strive to live faithfully, honestly, walking in the footsteps of Jesus, we are not called to live perfect lives. Even if it was possible to live a perfect human life – which some say Jesus did – we know some would still manage to find fault. But let’s be honest and admit that, for us, for all of us, that goal is humanly impossible. There’s some comfort in knowing that, in admitting that up front, that there’s room inside God’s love for our mistakes and missteps.

None of us are going to be “perfect” Christians all the time. I’m not a “perfect” pastor and preacher, obviously, and David’s Church is a wonderful place, in my humble opinion, but it is not a “perfect” church. But, gratefully, that’s not what we’re asked to be. Whenever I meet someone who’s so disenchanted with the church they attend that they are ready to give up on Christianity altogether, I try to remind them that if they ever left to find a “perfect church,” it would no longer be perfect when they joined.

Churches are made up of people, many of whom, like their pastors, are striving and struggling to live honest, loving and meaningful lives amid challenging conditions and times. I don’t think we’ll ever be able to point to a person or a congregation and say, see them, that’s exactly what a Christian person/church should look like. It is my deep conviction that we are not called to be “perfect,” but we are called to be authentic, to be on a journey to live out of our best true selves, to be healed of the hurts of the past and set free for lives of love and peacemaking into the coming days.

I make mistakes all the time, some more embarrassing than others, but that’s life, to live is to mess up a bit. Hopefully, I’m growing as a person, as a pastor and preacher, and getting better at messing up less. But that also means, I’m getting better at admitting my mistakes, and asking forgiveness when and where it is required. I’m not perfect, so there’s no point in pretending I am... there’s nothing authentic in learning to fake that.

And as a congregation, as Church leaders, we will from time to time make mistakes, we will bump heads, we will disagree about the next path we should take, which decision is the most faithful and will bear the most fruit. We’re not perfect, so there’s no point in pretending we are. What’s important is not that we all agree, but how we treat each other when we disagree. Can we admit we’re wrong when we are, can we ask and give forgiveness when it is required, can we live out an authentic expression of faith that is open and affirming to all God’s children and one another?

When that person said to me, “there’s been a warm spirit” in our services of late, that’s what came to mind. We are a congregation of Christians that is learning to live and love boldly, to roll with the punches, and not get too sidetracked by fighting over turf or arguing about politics and policy, or storming off to our fighting corners. We’re learning to solve our problems, deal creatively with difference, to resolve the problems that come when human beings are involved, and because we’re doing our best to be considerate and caring, we’re seeing growth, folk experience this congregation as one they’d like to be a part of.

As we go into 2014, let us give thanks for all that we came through this last year, whether it was good or bad, it was a chance to learn, adapt and grow. Let us be gracious with one another, and when we encounter a fresh face, a new visitor, some one who is less familiar with the way we do things around here, let us be welcoming and kind. It may require us to step out of our comfort zones, to meet new folk and make room for them in our pew, making sure they’re welcomed at coffee hour, and in time on one of our Boards and Ministries, working on our project, bringing fresh perspectives and insights into our time honored traditions.

Happy New Year, one and all! Let us watch together to see what God is bringing to pass for us and in us. Let us do our best to let love rule, to live authentically, and remember to be gracious with each other and ourselves.

Your pastor & friend,

Brian Q. Newcomb

Thank You!

Pastor Brian, Tim, Lyn, Jenny, Anne and Chris want to express their sincere thanks for your gifts to us this holiday season. For all the homemade cookies and popcorn treats & nuts, gift cards, the cash gifts through the Love Offering, and all the many wonderful signs of your affection and support, we are profoundly humbled and grateful. Thank you, thank you, thank you all.

**Budget Informational Meeting immediately following second
service on January 12th, in Fellowship Hall**

Important Tax Notice

To ensure the deductibility of your church contributions, please do not file your 2013 income tax return until you have received a written acknowledgment of your contributions from the church. Some of your contributions may not be tax-deductible if you file your tax return before receiving a written acknowledgement of your contributions from the church.

“Unhanging” of the Greens!

It was such a joyous occasion to make our church home ready for the Advent/Christmas season and wonderful to see so many people arranging greens, decorating trees, hanging lights and climbing ladders to hang wreaths!

Please join us on Sunday, January 5, 2014 following the 9:50 worship in the Narthex as we reverse the process and “Unhang” the Greens! We’ll need people to help brigade the empty boxes from the attic to the Narthex, undecorate the trees, pack boxes, climb ladders, and brigade everything back to the attic where it will be safely stored till next December. With many hands of all ages and great fellowship as we work together, our church home should be returned to normal in just a few hours! Following the “Unhanging” we’ll share lunch together in Fellowship Hall. Hope you’ll plan to join us!

“Painting the Stars—Science, Religion and an Evolving Faith” DVD Study/Dialogue Will Resume after the New Year

“Painting the Stars—Science, Religion and an Evolving Faith” is a new seven session DVD curriculum offered by the same people who gave us “Living the Questions.” The basic format for each 1-1½ hour session includes conversation around the readings (handed out in advance), a 20-minute video presentation featuring along side LTQ favorites like J.S. Spong, Matthew Fox, and Barbara Rossing, the likes of Bruce Sanguin, Michael Dowd and Rachel Held Evans, followed guided discussion, and dialogue led by Pastor Brian.

We meet on Monday nights, from 7 – 8:30 pm in the conference room. If you would like to join us, contact *Chris* in the Church Office for the downloadable written materials.

Jan. 13 – “An Evolving Faith”

Jan. 20 – “Evolutionary Christianity”

Jan. 27 – “Imagining a Future”

Feb. 3 – “An Evolving Spirituality: Mysticism”



Giving Tree Thanks

David’s Church family,

On behalf of the Jones/Lee family, I would like to thank everyone who helped make the 19th year of the Joyce Lee Giving Tree the best yet. I know firsthand that the staff at Head Start was more than appreciative. I also know all the families who benefited from your generosity will be grateful on Christmas morning as well.

My mom was a huge believer in being bigger than just yourself. By her example, our family would like to continue that idea throughout the year, not just during the holidays. We have established the Joyce Lee Giving Tree fund, with the hopes of supporting projects we know Mom would be proud of, especially those that involve children and families. If you are willing to help support us with carrying on with her beliefs, you can make any donation to the fund, at any time.

Our intent is that, through David’s, we can continue to honor a woman who, in her own subtle and modest ways, certainly lived a life that was bigger than just herself.

With much love and thanks,

Anne Jones

Holiday In-Gathering of Food

Thank you to all that donated food, money, and time to the Thanksgiving and Christmas food baskets. With your help, we were able to feed 40 families for Thanksgiving and 52 families for Christmas. We received many blessings, hugs, and smiles in return.

Chris Wood



New Member Information

If you would like to come into membership with this congregation at this time, we invite you to call or email *Rev. Newcomb*. If we have enough interest, we will hold an orientation meeting in the church conference room following worship on Sunday, January 19. We will be taking in new members on Sunday, January 26.

Warm Wishes

In December, Warm Wishes donated 278 hats and 278 scarves, made by Janette Richardson, to Shoes 4 The Shoeless. They responded with a kind note and pictures of some of their recipients:

Nedral,

We gave away the last of the hats today. What a December. Today it was so freezing cold and wet. I wish you could have seen how cold and wet the kids were. They waited in the dark, in the snow, for the bus. Most had shoes full of holes. Hardly any had socks on. Many did not have coats, hats or gloves either.

What a delight to help them. Never in a million years could I express how much your hats mean to these kids. So many of them are un-loved.

The school nurse cried when we came, and cried when we left. She said she only hoped the kids could feel cared for even for a minute.

The things we take for granted.... I could write a book.

We were at the poorest, most miserable school in the city. Sandy, Westwood is Jonathans favorite.

If God really gives crowns in heaven, yours will be in the shape of homemade hats.

Kris Horlacher, RN
Executive Director



BYOG, BYOB, and BYOS!

Attention all Gamers! From 7-10 p.m. on January 10 come to The Schillers for Game Night. Bring your own favorite games, bring your own beverage, and bring your own snack to share, and be prepared to have fun playing board games or card games like euchre, double pinochle, or canasta.

Altar Flowers

Altar flowers (\$20 per vase) are available for the upcoming year. You may order flower arrangements for the altar to honor or remember a special someone in your life or to celebrate a special occasion.

Your message will be printed in the Sunday bulletin. Call the church office, 434-2131, to order.

Mark Your Calendars for Pike Lake!

It seems early to be thinking of hiking, wildflower seeking, picnics, dancing, wiffleball and volleyball games, but pull out that new 2014 calendar and mark May 16-18, 2014 as the date for Pike Lake.

If you are a regular to this spring event, you'll want to make sure you hold that date open or if you already have another event for that weekend, please contact Kevin and Debbie McCoy (299-9218) so we can fill your cabin! Several cabins are available right now so if you're interested in attending this year, please give us a call immediately. If you enjoy tent camping, you can always join in the fun by setting up in the campground!

Remember this is a very special year – when the Lake will be drained as they repair the spillway so we'll be planning some special activities to compensate for the lack of water!

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

Keenagers

"Stepping" into the New Year, we will meet on January 8 for a yummy meal, yet to be decided, but concluding with Jean Blum's marvelous, mouth watering apple dumplings. Do you need another reason? Our speaker, Kris Horlacher, from Shoes for the Shoeless and one of our mission partners, will tell her story of how this program began and where it is going. Hope to see you there. Happy New year everyone!

NALT (Not All Like That) Christians Project – January 12 – Round 3

Many of you may have seen YouTube videos in the "It gets Better" Campaign conceived by Dan Savage in an attempt to encourage LGBT youth to hang in and not become one of the statistics of the highly inflated suicide rates for LGBT teens. Inspired by Savage's campaign, John Shore and Truth Wins Out have teamed up to create the NALT (Not All Like That) Christians Project, which will feature a series of videos by Christians proclaiming their belief in full LGBT equality. David's will be creating a video for submission and all members and friends of David's are invited to participate. For those of you who did not get to participate yet, we will be doing another round. We'll gather in the Youth Room, next to the Christian Ed office downstairs, following the 9:50 service on January 12 to create vignettes of just about a sentence each for a video that's 1-3 minutes in length total. Participants are encouraged to create small signs saying why you support equality, such as "Because God loves my gay aunt" or "Life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness" or "Micah 6:8" or "Extravagant Welcome" or whatever personal reason you have. Families and friends are encouraged to participate together, with a single group spokesperson. You can find more info about the project at: <http://notalllikethat.org/>. This is a great opportunity for us to show the kind of extravagant welcome we offer here at David's.



Harmony Creek & David's Pair Up To Offer Our Whole Lives (OWL)

From the Harmony Creek Website –

Parents of Kids in Kindergarten-1st grade AND 4th-5th grade!!

The Spiritual Formation Team, in conjunction with staff from David's UCC church, will offer sessions of Our Whole Lives for students in K-1 and 4-5! Our Whole Lives (OWL) is a comprehensive, kindergarten through adult sexuality education curriculum series.

Important components of OWL:

- Provides youth with accurate information on sexual health, human development, sexual behavior, relationships, and personal skills in the supportive setting of their faith community.
- Offers comprehensive sexuality education, which is about much more than just anatomy and health. It is about values, respect, emotions and justice.
- Helps parents fulfill their role as the primary educators of their children on issues of sexuality and helps create a partnership between the family and the church through parent orientation and parent education programs.
- Helps children and youth develop and articulate their values and to make responsible, healthy decisions based on those values.
- Teaches that we are responsible to and accountable to God, others and ourselves.

OWL leaders are trained and use a developmentally appropriate curriculum developed by the United Church of Christ that addresses the specific needs of each age group.

Our Whole Lives sessions will be held on Monday evenings at Harmony Creek Church (Rooms 31 & 33) from 6:30-7:30 PM on the following dates: Jan. 13, Jan 27, Feb 3, Feb 10, Feb 24, March 3, March 10, and March 17. A mandatory parent meeting will be held on January 6, 2014 at 6:30 PM in Room 31.

To register, click here - <http://www.harmonycreekchurch.org/p03/ministries/spiritual-formation/owl-registration/>.



David's Church
47th Annual Spaghetti Dinner
Saturday, February 22, 2014
5:00 – 8:00 p.m.

12 Steps to a Compassionate Life

Center for Spiritual Living Greater Dayton is hosting a year-long discussion of Karen Armstrong's wonderful book, "12 Steps to a Compassionate Life." This is an open invitation to anyone from your congregation who may wish to delve more deeply into compassionate living. We will meet one Thursday per month (unless another day is decided upon by those who wish to attend) beginning January 9, at 6:30 p.m. It will last 1-1/2 to 2 hours.

We are looking forward to it being a fun, bridge-building, enlightening conversation!

Rev. CC Coltrain

Center for Spiritual Living Greater Dayton ♦ 4100 Benfield Drive, Kettering ♦ 298-1376 ♦ www.csugd.org

January Birthdays

- 3 Judy Jones
Brian Newcomb
- 4 Tina Donovan
Brian Schlise
- 6 Susan Newcomb
Rebecca Deitz
- 8 Jill Chabut
Jeni Pence
- 9 Will Roess
Leighton Heiner
- 10 Tim Walker
- 11 Samantha Smith
- 12 Kathy Randall
Jenny Creel
Abigail Vest
- 14 Julie Pickrel
- 15 Florene Forrester
- 16 Janet Olt
- 17 Patrice Schottelkotte
Lesley Neufeld
Rebecca Rine
- 18 Rory McKenna



- 19 Lee Zimmerman
Judith Tripp
Louis Wright
Heather Greene
- 20 Traude Zettervall
Lila Minnich
- 21 Helen Brown
- 22 Howard Sizek
Jenny Walker
- 23 Bonnie McNabb
Robb Castele
- 24 Stormey Sheridan
- 25 Bob Chelle
Kirsten Sherk
Beth Hughes
Shaina Creel
- 26 Del Faulkner
Eli Pence
- 29 Kirby Randall
Amelia Bernard
- 30 Hal Gegel
Jacob Trost
- 31 Jim Hale

Baptisms

On November 24, 2013, *Evelyn Lily Thompson, Audrey Veronica Thompson, and Eliza Rosemary Thompson*, daughters of *Jennifer & Scott Thompson* were baptized by Rev. Dr. *Brian Q. Newcomb*.

On December 24, 2013, *Gianna Lee Dieruf*, daughter of *David & Christine Dieruf*, was baptized by Rev. Dr. *Brian Q. Newcomb*.

*MLK Memorial March and Rally
Monday, January 20, 2014
Join Pastor Brian and others as the March
heads to the Dayton Convention Center.
We will have more details as we get closer
to the date.*

Peanut Butter Needed!

Thank you, congregation, for helping with the Kettering Backpack Program. This ensures that needy students will not go hungry over any given weekend. A backpack is sent home with the kids each week filled with several food items. The 18-ounce peanut butter jar is inserted just once a month. You can place your peanut butter jars in the barrel in the Narthex.

-The Mission Board

Spiritual Parenting

- January 5 - Regular meeting in the Youth Room following second service.
- January 12 - No meeting - David's budget meeting.
- January 19 - Regular meeting in the Youth Room following second service.
- January 26 - No meeting so you can participate in David's annual congregational meeting.

<u>SUNDAY</u> 	<u>MONDAY</u> 	<u>TUESDAY</u> 	<u>WEDNESDAY</u> 1 OFFICE CLOSED <i>New Year's Day</i>	<u>THURSDAY</u> 2 11:00 AM-1:00 PM Knitters 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	<u>FRIDAY</u> 3 8:00 PM-Midnight SIGNS Movie Night	<u>SATURDAY</u> 4
5 8:30 & 9:50 AM Worship Gateway 11:15 AM Second Hour/Unhanging of the Greens 7:00 PM Book Study/SIGNS	6 9:30 AM Warm Wishes 10:30 AM Staff Mtg. 6:00 PM Yoga	7 10:00 AM Quilting 7:00 & 7:30 PM Board Meetings 7:00 PM Yoga	8 11:30 AM Keenagers 6:00 PM Yoga 6:30 PM Deacons	9 11:00 AM-1:00 PM Knitters 5:00 PM Worship Staff Meeting 6:00 PM Adult Bells 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	10 7:00 -10:00 PM Game Night at The Schiller's	11 8:00 AM Trustee Meeting
12 8:30 & 9:50 AM Worship with Communion BAPTISM SUNDAY 11:15 AM Second Hour/ Budget Mtg 7:00 PM Book Study/SIGNS	13 9:30 AM Warm Wishes 10:30 AM Staff Mtg. 12:00 PM Adult Ed Mtg. 6:00 PM Yoga 6:00 PM CE Board Meeting 7:00 Painting the Stars	14 10:00 AM Quilting 7:00 PM Yoga	15 6:00 PM Yoga DATELINE DEADLINE	16 11:00 AM-1:00 PM Knitters 5:00 PM Worship Staff Meeting 6:00 PM Adult Bells 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	17	18 8:00 AM Men's Breakfast @ Bob Evans
19 8:30 & 9:50 AM Worship Food & Clothing Outreach 11:15 AM Second Hour/New Member Orientation 7:00 PM Book Study	20 OFFICE CLOSED 7:00 Painting the Stars <i>MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY</i>	21 10:00 AM Quilting 7:00 PM Yoga 7:00 PM Council Mtg.	22 6:00 PM Yoga	23 11:00 AM-1:00 PM Knitters 5:00 PM Worship Staff Meeting 6:00 PM Adult Bells 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	24	25
26 8:30 & 9:50 AM Worship NEW MEMBER RECEPTION ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION 7:00 PM Book Study/SIGNS	27 10:30 AM Staff Mtg. 6:00 PM Yoga 7:00 Painting the Stars	28 10:00 AM Quilting 6:30 PM WHO Group 7:00 PM Yoga	29 6:00 PM Yoga	30 11:00 AM-1:00 PM Knitters 5:00 PM Worship Staff Meeting 6:00 PM Adult Bells 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	31	

JANUARY 2014