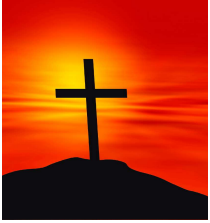


# The Messenger

## March 2014



# The Presbyterian Church Of Johnstown



## MINISTER'S MESSAGE

JUSTICE IS NOT "JUST US"

It is easy on any given day to look around and realize that there are justice issues in the world around us. From the homeless person pan handling at the intersections we drive through, to the myriad of problems that are highlighted on the evening news, to the international reality of modern day slavery in our world – it is apparent that something is broken and wrong. Many organizations and groups, both secular and Christian, have responded to these justice issues in an attempt to overcome them. Some are having success.

When we are confronted with the vastness of systemic problems in our world, it is often very easy to feel overwhelmed by them and not know where we can help. Most everyone who hears a story about a young girl, for example, forced into prostitution has a visceral response of anger about that situation and wants to do something to help that girl. But... we simply don't know where to start.

As Christians, however, we do have a starting point - one that is more obvious than you might think. In Luke 4 Jesus has gone into the desert to be tempted by Satan. When those temptations are over he then heads to the synagogues to teach. In the synagogue in his own hometown, Jesus is teaching and opens the scroll of the prophet Isaiah and proclaims, "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." (Luke 4:18-19, NIV) He then promptly declares that this prophecy is fulfilled in him.

The starting point for overcoming any of the justice issues in our world begins with... worship! Jesus, in the midst of the synagogue, the place of worship, declares that his mission is centered on the poor, the prisoners, the blind and the oppressed. In other words, Jesus declares that he is here to deal with justice issues, and he begins this mission with worship!

Ultimately - we are all called to deal with the issues of justice in our world, because every justice issue at its heart comes from the worship of something other than God - whether that's the security of amassing wealth or literal enslavement of other human beings. And furthermore, justice will always be connected to worship because both endeavor to do the same thing - to declare God as Lord over all things - including slavery - oppression - disease - poverty and so on. When we worship we point our hearts and minds in the right direction and posture ourselves to align with God's purposes as we receive his grace and love. It grounds us in the truth of the kingdom and empowers us to join with the proclamation Christ made about his mission in our lives and in this world.

It is obvious, I believe, that this is a vital thing for us to understand - especially when we are feeling stuck or helpless to do anything about the rampant injustices in our world. We must, first, always turn to worship. This has been proven over and over. When I think about William Wilberforce and his role in ending African slave trading... When I think of Dietrich Bonhoeffer and his desire to see the stop of the Nazi regime... or when I think of Martin Luther King, Jr. and his impact on the civil rights movement in America - I realize that their efforts and the amazing impact that they've had in our world were all grounded in knowing and acknowledging the true God who desires to see justice in our world.

Justice is never going to happen if it is just about us - it has to be about Him. It has to be about connecting with the heart of God and being empowered by his love and his grace and his mercy - it has to be about worship first so that we might have rightly ordered lives that reveal Him - the God of justice.

# A Note from the Clerk...



Isaiah 64:8 Yet, O Lord, you are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand.

Session met on February 10, 2014, with Pastor Kevin moderating and opening the meeting with prayer.

Scott Lockwood was elected Elder Commissioner to Presbytery. Scott and I attended the Presbytery meeting on February 18 at Broad Street Presbyterian Church. "The 230th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Scioto Valley was graciously hosted by the Broad St. Presbyterian Church. The afternoon began with uplifting worship followed by small group conversations on the work of the presbytery's new commissions: Congregational Life, Church Professionals, Nurture and Outreach, and Presbytery Operations. Highlights of the meeting included: the election of Shanice Akoto, from the Ramseyer PC, as the presbytery's Young Adult Advisory Delegate to the 221st General Assembly this summer, and the commissioning of the Reverend Michael and Rachel Ludwig and their children, Adeline and Simeon, as PC (USA) Mission Co-workers in a literacy training and evangelism program in the Republic of Niger". From the PSVonline Newsletter, February 18, 2014.

The next meeting of the Presbytery of Scioto Valley will be May 20, 3:30 pm at Newark Second Presbyterian Church.

Session voted to approve the Annual Statistical Report that is required by Presbytery each year. The Clerk's Annual Questionnaire and Presbytery Annual Reports were also submitted to Presbytery on February 12, 2014.

Norma Johnson has asked Session to find someone to take her place as the person who lines up the people who prepare the Communion elements and serve Communion. We thank her for her many years of serving in this area.

Two new Session Committees are being formed. The Communications Committee will include the website, signs and brochures. The Evangelism Committee will work to find more ways to introduce people to Christ. Chairpersons have not yet been chosen, but you can start thinking of ways you can help make these committees successful.

Based on the research provided by the Audio-Visual committee, Session voted unanimously to purchase a new projector.

Our next Session meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 4 at 7:00PM. The meeting was closed with prayer by Scott Lockwood.

Thanking God for all of you, Diane Frazier

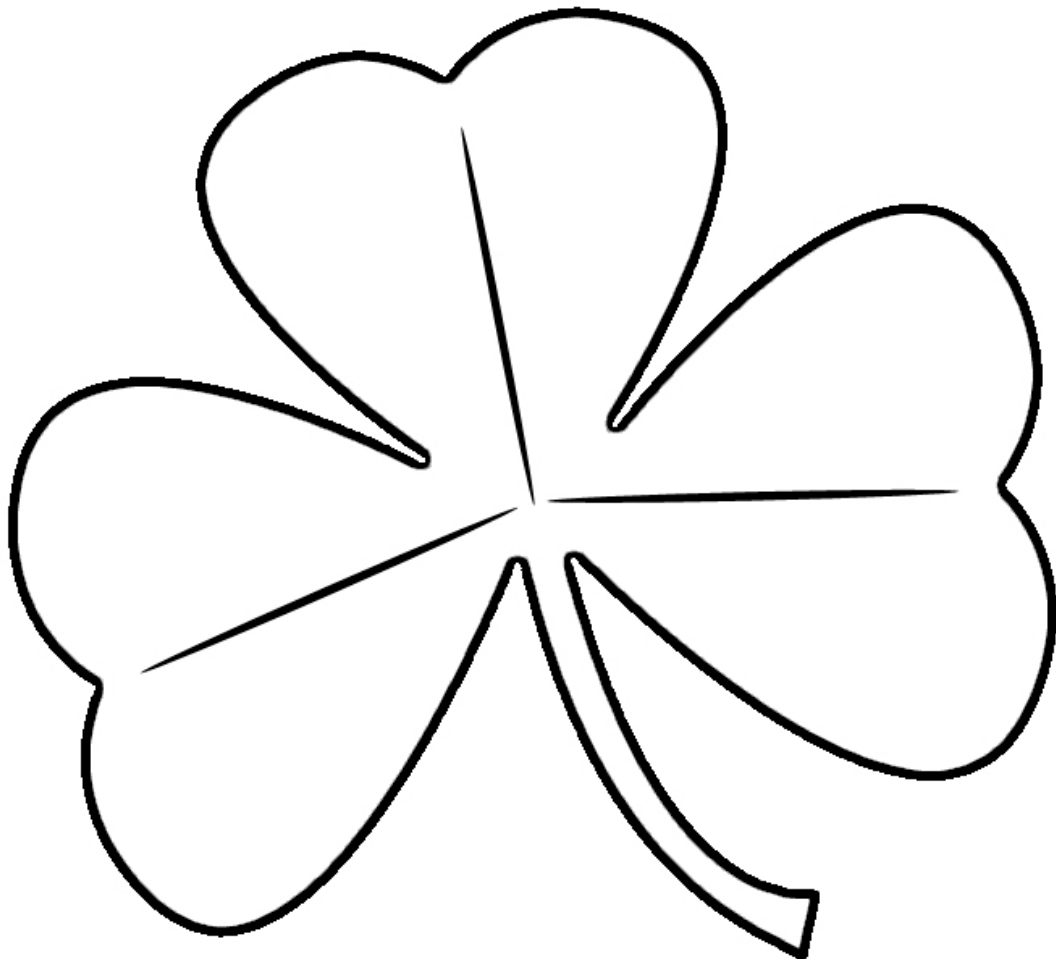
## Kids Page

Sunday School is held from 9:15-10:15 each Sunday morning for Pre-School through High School.

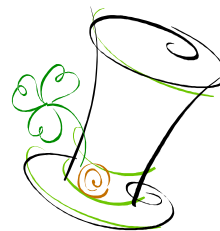
Junior Church is following the Children's Message and is for kids Pre-K through 4<sup>th</sup> grade.

Nursery is provided to children up to Kindergarten.

According to Irish legend, St. Patrick used the Shamrock's three leaves to teach about Christianity. It symbolized the Holy Trinity with each leaf representing the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. When a clover is found with the additional fourth leaf, that leaf represents *God's Grace*. Color the Shamrock and think about what it represents.



# March



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
<b>2</b> 8:30 Teen Bells/Choir 9:15am Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service 11:30am informational meeting on Women's Retreat 6:30pm Lenten Service	<b>3</b> 4pm Prayer Walk at the Bike Path *weather permitting	<b>4</b> 9am Bible Study 5:30 TOPS 7pm Session	<b>5</b> 5:15-6:45pm Joy Ringers & Jr. Choir 7:30 Adult Choir	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> 8:30 Teen Bells/Choir 9:15am Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service/Scout Sunday 5:30-7pm Youth Group @ the Derenbergers 6:30pm Lenten Service	<b>10</b> 4pm Prayer Walk at the Bike Path *weather permitting	<b>11</b> 9am Bible Study 5:30 TOPS	<b>12</b> 5:15-6:45pm Joy Ringers & Jr. Choir 7:30 Adult Choir	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> 8:30am Teen Bells/Choir 9:15am Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service 6:30pm Lenten Service	<b>17</b> 4pm Prayer Walk at the Bike Path *weather permitting 6:30 Pre-school Board Meeting	<b>18</b> 9am Bible Study 5:30 TOPS 7pm Church Committee Meetings	<b>19</b> 1pm Elizabeth Circle @Hot Spot 5:15-6:45pm Joy Ringers & Jr. Choir 7:30 Adult Choir	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> 8:30am Teen Bells/Choir 9:15am Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service 6:30pm Lenten Service	<b>24</b> 4pm Prayer Walk at the Bike Path *weather permitting 7pm Ladies Bible Study @ Hot Spot	<b>25</b> 9am Bible Study 5:30 TOPS	<b>26</b> 5:15-6:45pm Joy Ringers & Jr. Choir 7:30 Adult Choir	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> 8:30am Teen Bells/Choir 9:15am Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service 6:30pm Lenten	<b>31</b>					

# Volunteer Ministries for March

## FLOWERS:

March 2 Jim & Diane Frazier to the Glory of God.  
March 9 The Miller Family in honor of Peyton's Birthday.  
March 16 Chris & Karen Blair in honor of Noah and Sidney's birthdays.  
March 23 The Cartwright Family in memory of Thelma Shisler, the best Great Nana ever!  
March 30 OPEN

## ACOLYTES:

March 2 Sidney Blair  
March 9 Charlie Richards  
March 16 Sidney Blair  
March 23 Reagan Deeds  
March 30 Phoebe Richards

## NURSERY:

March 2 Laura Carver  
March 9 Jenny Cartwright  
March 16 Kent & Kate Carson  
March 23 Marci Parpart  
March 30 Amy Wagner

## GREETERS:

March 2 The Kisner Family  
March 9 Boy & Girl Scouts  
March 16 Jim & Pat Blair  
March 23 Jenny Cartwright and Chuck & Ruth Ann Booher  
March 30 Kevin & Rhonda Piper

## JUNIOR CHURCH:

March 2 Dani Cox  
March 9 Rhonda Piper  
March 16  
March 23 Marianne Derenberger  
March 30

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE:

March 2 Pastor Kevin  
March 9 Katie Miller  
March 16 Karen Mansell  
March 23 Madison Blair  
March 30

## WORSHIP LEADER:

March 2 Scott Lockwood  
March 9 teen leader  
March 16 Bob Pardee  
March 23 Lewie Main  
March 30 Jeremy Derenberger

# Birthdays and Anniversaries



1 Paul Dorsey  
Mike Schirtzinger

17 Cathy Neff  
Peyton Miller

2 Alice Main  
Aja Irwin  
Kaitlin Piper

18 Carolyn Friedberg  
Steve Wagner  
Sidney Blair  
Marci Parpart

4 Ann Moseley

20 Pat Blair  
Mary Ann McCartney

6 Riley McMahon

7 Liz Perkins

21 Reis Mason

8 David Dove

22 Margaret Jolley

10 Alyssa Childers

24 Pete & Kim Hill

11 Olivia Wittmer

25 Bob & Mary Ann McCartney  
Laurie Mooney

14 Jeff Childers

31 Jeremy Derenberger

16 Noah Wade Blair

# Our Church Groups

## Fellowship Committee

The Fellowship Committee meets in the choir room once a month, at 7pm. We would love to see you there. It is never too late to join this committee!!!

**Next meeting:** March 18<sup>th</sup>, 7:30pm



## ELIZABETH CIRCLE

This group meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month at the Hot Spot coffee house. The group has a short bible study and plenty of fellowship time. Come and see what we are all about!

**Next meeting will be March 19<sup>th</sup>**

## Tabitha Sewing Circle

**The circle will be on hiatus beginning December 10<sup>th</sup>.**



## Tuesday Morning Bible Study

Our Tuesday morning Bible study group meets at the church on Tuesday from 9am-10am. We welcome any new faces.



## Women's Association

The Women's Association is selling their cookbooks and brooms. The new price is \$5 for the cookbooks, and \$8 for the brooms. You can purchase these through Norma Johnson, or bring the money into the office during office hours.



## PRAYER CHAIN

Please send all prayer chain requests to Carolyn Friedberg.  
The email address is [JPCPrayerRequest@hotmail.com](mailto:JPCPrayerRequest@hotmail.com).





# Church Happenings

## Cookies for Kairos Prison Ministry



Elizabeth Circle is sponsoring a cookie bake to help Kevin's friend Jim Alavi. Jim is ministering to the prison in Marion through Kairos Prison Ministry. We are asking for 200 dozen cookies baked by our congregation. Cookies need to be chocolate chip or peanut butter with no icing or raisins, placed into zip-lock bags, 2 dozen per bag. Cookies are to be dropped off on Saturday, March 8<sup>th</sup> from 12-1 in our Fellowship Hall.

A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the Narthex.  
If you have questions you may contact Norma Johnson.

## Café Chocolat, Women's Retreat



Does thinking about chocolate bring a smile to your face?  
Think about this-hanging with friends while sipping on a hot beverage, nibbling on chocolate cake, chocolate chip cookies or brownies. Laughing, talking and relaxing together- it's a perfect women's gathering!

Join us at Café Chocolat.....

Save the date-

Friday, April 25<sup>th</sup> 6pm- Saturday April 26<sup>th</sup> 4pm...

Mohican State Park Lodge, 4700 Goon Road Perrysville, Ohio

\$30 registration fee due by March 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Price of hotel rooms will be determined by the number of women attending.

All meals included.

Questions???? See Karen Blair or Melanie Main.....

\*there will be an informational meeting in the fellowship hall  
March 2<sup>nd</sup> following the church service\*

## Youth Group

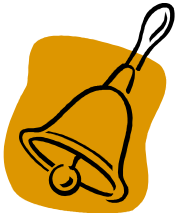
Middle School Meeting: Sunday, March 9<sup>th</sup> 5:30-7pm at the Derenberger's home

## **Thank You!!!**



The Middle School Sunday School Class would like to thank everyone for your donations during our lollipop sale. We thank All of You! We donated \$60 to the Johnstown-Northridge Food Pantry.

## **Calling all Bell Choir Alums!**



We are rededicating the bells and our new cases during the worship service on April 6. Our hope is to have a day of bell ringing featuring 4 different choirs: the current cast of Joy Ringers and Sounds of Celebration, an Adult Choir, and a choir composed entirely of former bell ringers. If you played in either bell choir during your school years, please join us for one more song! We would love to show the congregation the history of the bells in our church. Please let either Jane Muller or Melanie Main know by March 9 if you are interested. Practices will be scheduled for the last week of March.

## **Sunday Evening Lenten Services**

The season of Lent is a time for reflection. With that thought in mind, we are offering Sunday evening Lenten services. Beginning March 9, and continuing through Palm Sunday, we will have services presented by people from our congregation. The topics vary and are determined by the presenter. These services are intended to be brief, beginning with a musical prelude at 6:30pm, followed by the service at 7:00pm. The hope is that this meaningful time together will help us prepare our hearts for Easter.

The schedule is not yet finalized, so if you have something you'd like to share, please contact Melanie Main at [mmmain@hotmail.com](mailto:mmmain@hotmail.com) or 614-395-8059.

### **Food Pantry**

Thank you for the many food donations that we have had for Valentine's Day. I am not sure of the final count of articles we have had, but it is nearing 300. I would also like to ask all of you to say a prayer for Ruth Krumm. She was in an accident on her 92<sup>nd</sup> birthday and she is in Mt. Carmel West recovering. Things were not looking real good for her, but I dropped into the Food Pantry today and was told that she is doing better.



The Food Pantry needs canned vegetables and fruit, canned meat and small boxes of cereal or oatmeal.

Thank you for all of your donations.

Karen & George Dreisbach

### **News from Christian Education**

There will be NO youth Sunday school on March 23rd and 30th. This will allow our teachers to go on Spring break.



### **Please note a new time change!!**

Youth Sunday school start time has been changed to 9:30 am.

### **Our Ladies' Hot Spot Bible Study**

The Hot Spot Bible Study, for all women of our church and any friends in our community that would like to come, will meet on Monday, March 24 at 7:00 pm. Grab a coffee, latte', tea, cappuccino, or cold drink and come relax, share and study! There is nothing like women sharing a faith and fellowship. The power of women supporting one another is magical!

If you need a ride, please call Hazel Almendinger, Marilyn LeClair, Diane Frazier, or Barbara Derenburger. We would be happy to pick you up!

If you have not been there before, NOW is the perfect time to join!



# Prayer Chain Requests for February 2014

## [JPCPrayerRequest@hotmail.com](mailto:JPCPrayerRequest@hotmail.com)

### **CONTINUED PRAYERS**

- Our Governmental Leaders.
- David Lee, friend of Paxine Pardee, has asked for prayers for his congregation. Dave ministers to the Presbyterian Church in Nitro, WV. They continue to deal with the results of the chemical leak that has been in the news lately.

### **JOYS/THANKSGIVINGS/SUPPORT:**

- Catherine Downing, Karen Mansell's mother, had successful carotid artery surgery to remove a blockage on January 25.
- Mary Michels, Rhonda Deeds' sister, was being treated for lung cancer has improved greatly.
- Chad Mathias and Corey Richards, firefighter friends of David Blair, were injured in an accident involving a Fire Truck on Feb 10.
- Bonny and Joel Whidden, friends of Charles and Marilyn Parker in Florida, were T-boned by a large truck in December. They both had several injuries. They are home and getting back to normal.
- Don Schulze had a successful cornea transplant. The prior one was not.

### **CONTINUE PRAYERS FOR HEALING:**

- Melody Frazier Dickens was in a car accident and was seriously injured. She is greatly improved and is resuming day-to-day activities. She is receiving vision therapy. She has had surgeries to remove a metal plate in her skull, remove a filter that removes blood clots. She has passed her driving evaluations and hopefully once the surgeries are done and she's recovered from them, she will be able to go back to work.
- Ron Goodman (brother-in-law to Jane Muller) has the latter stages of Parkinson's disease.
- Mike Robison paralyzed from the waist down.
- Maxine Pardee, continued strength and healing of myasthenia gravis and extreme pain.
- Gene Shellenbarger, frail health.
- Rev. Edward Carlson, Maxine Pardee's son-in-law, now has a heart monitor. He has other serious medical issues.
- Thurman Lester, neighbor of Todd and Kathy Friedberg, was admitted to St. Ann's ICU for lung problems. He is now dealing with congestive heart disease.
- Pamela Howell, Kirk Friedberg's postal supervisor, was violently attacked while delivering packages January 14. She has not yet returned to work.
- Robert Alexander, firefighter friend of David Blair, is now out of the hospital and recuperating at home. There is no adequate diagnosis for the low oxygen levels.
- Terri Hoag recovering from triple by-pass heart surgery.
- Marilyn Kirby, Kirk Friedberg's mother-in-law, is in the hospital with a severe skin condition.
- Ruth Krumm, Johnstown Food Pantry administrator, was hospitalized after an auto accident.
- Charlie Hayes, friend of Kaye Cook, is home after suffering a stroke.
- Carrie Wheaten, who is in her mid-40's, is home after having a stroke at work. She still has residual effects in the movement on her left side and speech.
- Margie Wheaten is recuperating at a nursing facility.

## **CONTINUE PRAYERS FOR HEALING OF CANCER:**

- David Irwin's cancer is decreasing. His colon repair surgery went very well. He continues to work from home. He having extreme sensitivity to cold.
- Bob Maibach is staying at Heartland of Westerville.
- Colton Zigo, Northridge graduate. Has been injured in an auto accident. Was supposed to have had stem cell transplant which had to be cancelled. Cancer has progressed.
- Laura and Bruce Wright's daughter Tina is now starting a second round of chemo treatments. She has also been diagnosed with Lupus.
- Kathy, Roger & Carl -- Susie Speck's cousins
- Diane Crooks and Nancy Wiseman, friends of Suzy Sayer, have been diagnosed with ovarian cancer.
- Brian Fisher, friend of the Miller's and the Frazier's, has finished his colon cancer treatments and is awaiting results from additional tests.
- Paul Kiser former Johnstown High School teacher has been battling cancer for 7 years. Treatments are no longer affective.
- Victoria, New Albany high school student, has an inoperable brain tumor.
- Megan Johnson Cervi, daughter of Bill Johnson, is having treatment for two areas of melanoma cancer.
- Milt Jordan, cancer has returned.
- Bob Evans, friend of the Almendingers, has cancer and is undergoing experimental treatment just approved by the FDA.
- Mary Michels, Rhonda Deeds' sister, has been recently diagnosed with lung cancer and it has spread to other parts of her body.
- Jean Neff, former member, has liver and pancreatic cancer. Now in Hospice care.
- Ceisa Friedberg has uterine cancer.

## **THOSE SHUT IN OR CONFINED TO THEIR HOMES:**

- Roy H. Sarbaugh (Carol Hoff's father)
- Alice Neibarger
- Arthur Miller (Kathy Trimble's father) has dementia.
- Betty Ford, 65 S. Williams St., Apt 214, Johnstown 43031.
- Lawrence Bishop at Sharonbrooke Senior Living Center in Newark.
- Cecil and Maryann Grimes, brother and sister-in-law to Maxine Pardee, are having difficulty caring for each other. Maryann has a lung condition and Cecil has worsening Alzheimer's disease.

## **DEATHS**

- Gary Weaver, younger brother of Ken Weaver, died as a result of a stroke February 2.
- Mary K. Butt, aged 89, died Feb 2, 2014. She is Gregg Butt's grandmother, and Jeremy and David Butt's great grandmother.
- Dan Gierhart died February 5 while shoveling snow. He is Vicki's husband, father of Kerry and Ned.



Murder in Maui Mystery Dinner



Youth Group Sub Sale



# FOR YOUR INFORMATION

## Office hours & Contacts

Pastor Kevin will be in the office Monday through Thursday.

Marie's hours are Monday–Friday from 9am to Noon.

Our phone number is 967-7541

Pastor Kevin's email address is [pastorkevin@thejpc.org](mailto:pastorkevin@thejpc.org)

Our email is [johnstownpres@gmail.com](mailto:johnstownpres@gmail.com)

Prayer Chain email is [JPCPrayerRequest@hotmail.com](mailto:JPCPrayerRequest@hotmail.com)

[www.thejpc.org](http://www.thejpc.org)

We present to you many opportunities to get involved in the church life. There are sign-up sheets for ministry involvement that need volunteers in our foyer. Take a chance and sign up! You will be blessed. Here are the names to contact if you have any questions.

<b>Flowers for Worship:</b>	contact the Office
<b>Greeters:</b>	contact Karen Blair
<b>Acolytes:</b>	contact Marie Richards
<b>Ushers:</b>	contact John Alexander
<b>Nursery &amp; Jr. Church:</b>	contact Rhonda Piper
<b>Children's Message:</b>	contact Marianne Derenberger
<b>Special Music:</b>	contact Marilyn LeClair
<b>Property Maintenance:</b>	contact Lee Mansell
<b>Church Sign:</b>	contact Tami Ashbrook or Marie Richards
<b>Wedding Coordinator:</b>	contact Sally Uhde

## FLOWERS IN THE SANCTUARY



If you signed up to place flowers in our chancel for a special remembrance on Sunday mornings, please don't forget to put your \$17.00 donation for cut flowers, or \$25.00 for Planters in an envelope marked "Flowers" and place it in the offertory plate on that Sunday, or before. We appreciate the beauty of your generous donation and hope to know your tender "remembrances" and make them as special to our church family as they are to you. You may take the flowers home after the Sunday morning service.

## Finances

Monthly financial information may be picked up or viewed in the church office.

