



The Witness

Circleville First Church

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December 2019

Issue 242

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Safety and security team

"I'm trying my best to keep my church family safe," said **Adam Senig** who in May 2019, began and heads up a new ministry in our church, a safety and security team.



So, what is this all about? "There are four teams: each week team members walk around the perimeter of the building (church) and Ferguson/Clark Hall. They make sure the windows and doors are secure then they do a

sweep of the building—the whole church, each nook and cranny. The team members just keep an eye out, like monitoring the halls, entrances, the children's rooms; using discretion if they see something suspicious," said Adam.

He said that he saw a need for change. Then added, "We didn't have a plan for safety or even medical. We didn't have an AED, just a first aid kit. Now we have an AED machine in the church as well as one in the Ferguson/Clark Hall."

"We've come a long way, but still have a long way to go. First, child protection was put into place and the nursery was moved downstairs not only for safety reasons but also because a larger space was needed," Adam stated. He would like to acquire more medical equipment like a bag valve mask used for CPR.

The four teams take a week each month. Team 1 is headed by **Adam Senig**; Team 2 is led by **Durk Peters** while **Kourtne Hildreth** heads up Team 3 and **David Delacio** is in charge of Team 4.

Adam declared, "I'm happy with the support of all the changes. I'm trying my best to keep my church family safe."

As with any ministry, help is needed. Adam said that he would

like to have six members to each team. You are probably wondering what are the qualifications to be a part of the safety and security team. Adam was asked that question and he responded, "We need people willing to serve. At this time there are no real qualifications, just willing to help but in the future, I would like to have some training in place." If you are interested in helping, please contact **Adam Senig**.

What's up with Bob Dollison?

Bob Dollison has fulfilled many roles at Circleville First Church including Bible studies, teaching and participating in plays, just to name a few. Recently, he added to his list of services to the church. For those who haven't heard, **Bob** has taken on custodial duties at Circleville First Church.

Who is **Bob Dollison**? Many know Bob and his wife, **Jean Dollison**. They have two children, **Kyle** and **Courtney** and three grandsons, **Ewen, Logan and Gavin**. Bob added, "To those who know me, I love jokes."

What led Bob to CFC? He stated, "My parents, **Bob** and **Violet Dollison**." How long has he been attending CFC? "Wow, since I was child. I loved Sunday School and still do," he shared.

What are some of Bob's hobbies and interests? "I like to golf. I like singing on the praise team," he added, "I like the friendships." What are his favorite books, stories or verses? Bob stated, "The Bible and a book titled *Pilgrim's Progress*. I like Psalm 90:12: "Teach us to number our days; that we may gain a heart of wisdom"."

submitted by **Sue Stonerock**

Jokes of the month



Bouncing out of her first day in church nursery school, a 3-year-old girl gleefully informed her mother, "We had juice and Billy Graham crackers!"

The church school's story and activity focused on Moses and the exodus from Egypt. When the children came upstairs, a 5-year-old girl excitedly greeted her mother, "Guess what? We made unleaded bread!"

Show me a twin birth and I will show you an infant replay.

During the recent rains, the water was so high that the township had to evaporate portions of the city south of the tracks.

A note from newlyweds John and Cynthia Rusk: "Thank you all for coming to our wedding. It was beautiful that you brought our happiness to a conclusion."

submitted by **Bobby Dollison**

Prayer Meetings on Saturday mornings at 8 am

Men's – Sanctuary
Women's - Room A

Second Chance Ministry

December 6

7 pm



Ladies' Christmas Fellowship

December 10 6:30 pm FC Hall

Speaker: Megan Byerly, Ugly Sweater Contest, Ornament Exchange and Refreshments

Sign up by December 8



Comfy corner creations

A warming and low-fat soup to take the chill off during the early dark evenings. Enjoy!

Lentil and Sausage Soup

- 2 - 14 oz. cans reduced-sodium chicken broth
- 1 1/2 cups of water
- 1 cup brown lentils, rinsed & drained
- 1 cup sliced celery
- 1 cup sliced carrots
- 1/2 cup chopped onion
- 1 teaspoon snipped fresh thyme or 1/2 teaspoon dried thyme, crushed
- 1/8 teaspoon ground red pepper
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 6 oz. cooked, smoked sausage links, quartered lengthwise & sliced



In a large saucepan combine chicken broth, water, lentils, celery, carrots, onion, fresh or dried thyme, red pepper and garlic. Bring to boiling; reduce heat. Simmer, covered, for 20 to 25 minutes or until vegetables and lentils are tender. Stir in thyme, if using, and sausage. Heat through.

source: New Better Homes and Gardens Cookbook
submitted by **Vicki Beavers**

The December bulletin board has been decorated by **Jeff Johnson's 6th, 7th & 8th grade boys' class**. Take a peek!!

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Please include your name, address and church name.

"The Witness" can be read on our church website!
circlevillefirstchurch.com

JOY (just older youth)



Our Thanksgiving/Christmas Dinner was held with 70 in attendance. There were several more signed up but due to health reasons or family issues was unable to attend. The meal was fantastic with the traditional foods—there was so much of everything. We played Mr. & Mrs. Wright game, so everyone received a gift. Everyone is getting good at the candy game. Of course, everyone received a door prize. **Pastor Jim Daft** had devotions, took prayer requests and prayer. Thank you to everyone who helped with the dinner—you know who you are. It really makes a difference with everyone helping in all area.



We will be going to **Clifton Mills** to see the Christmas lights on **December 7**. We will meet at the church at 2 pm with two vans and individual drivers. Sign-up sheets are on the back table. If the vans are full, please sign up, some have to cancel and we also try to get rides in individual vehicles. When you sign up, please include your phone number next to your name. This trip



is weather permitting, if we need to cancel, it will be easier to contact you. The cost is \$10 each. If I get your money ahead

of time, the cost is \$9. We will be eating at Young's Dairy Farm before going to Clifton Mills. There are shops at Young's Dairy and Clifton Mills. We will hold a meeting before the trip for more details. Please watch for more information in the church bulletin.

I would like to have some riders in the vans for **Stoutsville's Christmas Parade on December 14**. We will meet at the campgrounds at 5 pm with the parade at 5:30 pm. I will have candy for you to throw out. The weather was bad last year so the parade was not like usual. After the parade we have cookies, hot chocolate and coffee at the firehouse. Santa and pictures, a tree lighting ceremony and Santa will read *The Night Before Christmas* with the little ones around him. I will have a sign-up sheet for anyone interested.

In February, Jim and I told you that we would finish this year and then step down; someone else could take the reins. I have really prayed about this and the Lord has not released me of this ministry. We have talked and decided to hang in there a little longer. There will be some changes—no long trips. We will take some overnight and local trips. I plan on trips to a Columbus church to attend gospel concerts of well-known groups. No cost except a love offering. We will have a meal out and attend some concerts. You are such a wonderful group that we can't leave you. We have so much fun and fellowship; because of you, we will be staying on. We may be asking for your help with things.

You truly are a great group we couldn't stand to see us apart. Continue to pray for us as we continue in this ministry, doing the Lord's will.

Love and prayers,
Venita

Men's Prayer Breakfast

December 21
8 am
FC Hall



Thank you for serving: **Sean Baldwin, James Benner, Brandon Burroughs, Bob Byerly, Travis Cotton, Elijah Garrison, Trent Holbrook, Brittany Mozingo, Marcus Paul, Andrew Williams and Tanner Wilson**. Please pray for these serving our country and their families.



Pumpkin show awards

At the Circleville Pumpkin Show **Sydnee Steck** took second place for her glass terrarium; first place for a unicorn latch hook; second for a heart cross stitch; first for her family cross stitch; first for poinsettia ornaments; first place for an owl pillow; honorable mention for a Lego house; first place for a popsicle red barn with fencing and pumpkins; second for strawberry jam and first place for honey.

Kristie Steck placed third for a crocheted trivet; second for a crocheted hot pad; first for a hand quilted bedspread; third place for a crocheted washcloth; second for a snowman embroidery kitchen towel; first for a crocheted cupcake hat; she placed second for a peacock wreath; second for pesto and third for her strawberry jam.



Patsy Shaeffer took second place for her pumpkin jean jacket.

Congratulations!!



Children's Christmas Program
"Guess Who's Coming?"

December 8
10:45 am

Sunday school section

The Sunday School classes are working on the Christmas trees. The 3-4 foot trees are for the **Silent Auction** and will be ready on December 1. **Final bids must be in by December 8** at 7 pm. They have a lot of new ideas this year. It always amazes me with their great ideas.



We will be visiting the **nursing home and our shut-ins on December 1**. We will meet at the church at 2 pm. If you would like to join us, please let Venita know. This is a very rewarding time for everyone. We deliver trees, cookies and candy; we sing a couple of Christmas carols, have a word of prayer then go to the next one. It usually takes all afternoon. Our classes do a great job decorating the small trees.

Each class filled at least 1 or 2 shoeboxes, yet another rewarding time. The students fill out forms about themselves and add it to the boxes. Sometimes our students receive a reply from the recipient of the special box. We have been busy in our Sunday School.

Update on our *Christmas in July* Project: We received several items for each family member. All of the items have been wrapped. We are in the process of shipping the items so it arrives in time for Christmas. We are working on the cost of shipping. Thank you again for your help and donations.

The bulletin board for December has been decorated by **Jeff Johnson's 6th, 7th & 8th grade boys' class**.

We are still working on getting more involved and helping us with all the extra activities. Continue to pray that families to understand the importance of Sunday School, especially in today's world. Satan is attacking in all directions. We make time for so many things, we should make more time for God.

Venita Daft, Sunday School Superintendent



Choir Cantata
"Joy! Unspeakable Joy!"
December 22
10:45 am

Christmas Fellowship

December 22
6 pm FC Hall



Chili cook-off/cake auction

The annual Chili Cook-Off/Cake Auction will be **Saturday, January 25** at 6 pm in the Ferguson/Clark Hall.

We need crock pots of chili for the competition and cakes donated for the cake auction. The chili categories are mild, spicy, and specialty. Sign-up sheets will be on the back table for chili and cake donations beginning January 5.



Dinner is \$5. per person which includes chili, baked potato (if you want) and drink. All proceeds benefit the 2020 PNG Mission Trip. It's a fun evening so we hope to see you there.

If you have questions, see **Teresa Riffle**.

Verse of the month

"For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." Isaiah 9:6



submitted by **Mike Paul**

Watch the thermometer on the front wall of the church as it turns red and the church's debt of \$85,000 decreases

Operation Christmas Child



Thank you to everyone who took part in Operation Christmas Child. Thank you for giving towards the Shoebox Ministry. Some of you donated items, cash and your time. This year our church was able to send 416 shoeboxes. Thank you for your support in sharing Jesus to children all over the world.

submitted by **Darline Gose**

Don't forget! Stop by the missionary table and sign the cards for our missionaries. Even if you don't know them, sign them to uplift and encourage them.

Merry Christmas

It's Christmas time. A time we spend reviewing the birth of Jesus, caroling, shopping and gift exchanges. We think of decorating the tree, baking cookies and playing in the snow. It is a season for love, laughter, and loved ones. New memories are made each holiday season to enjoy for many years to come. Do you remember a Christmas that is more special than others?



Loretta Gibson states, "I remember Christmas with my family. My family now is my mom, my brother and myself. The others have passed on." **Donnie Barton** shared, "A special Christmas for me is my last Christmas with my wife, **Cindy Barton**." Two special memories come to mind for **Emmett Ferguson**, stating, "When I was young, I remember running down the stairs to find the brown bag with treats in it and I remember my first Christmas with my son **Emmett Michael**." A special memory for **Kristie Steck** was, "As a kid I remember getting a cabbage patch doll."



"A few years back," stated **Ryan Wilson**, "I went to the live nativity in Ringgold where camels, sheep

and other living animals were part of the nativity and then we enjoyed cookies in the church basement. Just thinking what it was like back then makes me connect more with the story in the Bible." **Joni Lowry** beamed as she stated, "They have all been special!" **Anita Senig** stepped back in time to remember special Christmases, "When my family, my aunts, uncles and cousins, gathered together around the table for dinner. Dad said family prayer before we opened gifts and blessed the home for that Christmas and for those to come, and for the future.

Christmas can hold special memories for you but remember you can also help make Christmas special for others. Whether you please someone with a present or enjoy time together with loved ones, lets create memories based on the love and kindness of Jesus for as you know...

He is the reason for the season



submitted by **Sue Stonerock**



Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service

8 pm

DECEMBER

- 12 - 1 **Sunday School deliver trees** 2 pm
Youth Group trip to Columbus Zoo
- 12 - 6 **Second Chance** 7 pm
- 12 - 7 **Children's Christmas Program Practice** 10 am - noon
JOY trip to Clifton Hills 2 pm
- 12 - 8 **Children's Christmas Program**
"Guess Who's Coming?" 10:45 am
Christmas Tree Silent Auction-bids in by 7 pm
- 12-10 **Ladies' Christmas Fellowship** 6:30 pm FC Hall
- 12 -21 **Men's Prayer Breakfast** 8 am FC Hall
- 12 - 22 **Choir Cantata "Joy! Unspeakable Joy!"** 10:45 am
Annual Christmas Fellowship 6 pm FC Hall
- 12 - 24 **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service** 8 pm
- 12 -25 **Happy Birthday, Jesus!!**
- 12 - 26 **Church Office**—closed
- 12 - 29 **Evening Service**-dismissed



12 -31 **New Year's Eve**

Swap shop

If you have an item to give away, to sell or an item you need OR if you can provide a service or need of a service, you can place an ad in the Swap Shop.

Give a brief description of the item or service, whether this is a free, for sale or a wanted and your name and phone number.

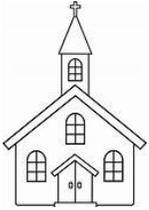
A pad of paper/pen is on the Welcome Center table write down your information; leave it in the box or you can call or text Kay Agin at 740/500-9836 or email her at aginkay@yahoo.com

Church Office---closed---December 26

Evening Service---dismissed---December 29

CFC...our brief history

With the establishment of the church south of town (Circleville) and on a farm road, it continued to thrive and grow.



The leaders of the denomination heard the good reports and moved the 1915 general council to our church. It was during this council that it was decided to hold all general meetings here and to look for land to start a denominational headquarters.

A committee of R.T. Anderson, E.A. Keaton, G.C. McKibban and O.L. Ferguson was appointed to see what they could find in a plot of land around the city of Circleville.

Some people think that the downtown fall business festival (Pumpkin Show) put the city of Circleville on the map. But it was the establishment of the denominational headquarters, holiness camp and college that attracted people from all over the world.

Who could imagine that our church was the start of something great??

submitted by **Carolyn Steele**

CFC Kids

Christmas is coming!

The children's ministry Christmas program will be December 8 at 10:45 am.

The Candy Cane Prayer

Dear God,
Thank you for sending Jesus, the greatest Christmas present ever given. Help us to remember that Jesus is the reason for the season every time we eat a candy cane. Every time we see the red stripes may we remember how much you suffered and bled because you loved us. And may we remember that because you died for us our sins can be made as white as the candy cane. Finally, may its shape remind us that you are our Good Shepherd who takes care of us. We love you Jesus, thank you for loving us.
Amen

Think Of Jesus Every Time You Eat A Candy Cane

submitted by **Kiera Yaniga**



Church bulletin bloopers

~ Bertha Belch, a missionary from Africa will be speaking tonight at Calvary Memorial Church in Racine. Come tonight and hear Bertha Belch all the way from Africa.

~ Announcement in the church bulletin for a National PRAYER & FASTING Conference: "The cost for attending the Fasting and Prayer conference includes meals."

~ Our youth basketball team is back in action Wednesday at 8 pm in the recreation hall. Come out and watch us kill Christ the King.

~ Miss Charlene Mason sang "I will not pass this way again" giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.

~ "Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Don't forget your husbands."

~ Next Sunday is the family hayride and bonfire at the Fowlers'. Bring your own hot dogs and guns. Friends are welcome! Everyone come for a fun time.

~ The peacemaking meeting scheduled for today has been cancelled due to a conflict.

~ The sermon this morning: "Jesus Walks on the Water." The sermon tonight: "Searching for Jesus"

~ Next Thursday there will be tryouts for the choir. They need all the help they can get.

~ Barbara remains in the hospital and needs blood donors for more transfusions. She is also having trouble sleeping and requests tapes of Pastor Jack's sermons.

~ Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our community.

~ Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.

submitted by **Jerry Parish**

"The Witness" staff wishes you a very

Merry Christmas