

THE WITNESS

Circleville First Church

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December 2023

Issue 289

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Getting to know your church neighbor

"You know why? Cause Jesus loves you."

If you know our own **Phillip Shannon Taylor**, you know that he asks that question time and time again...



Phillip said that he has attended Circleville First Church for 1 ½ - 2 years and has resided here in Circleville for approximately the same amount of time. He said, "**Larry (Gillian)** invited me to come." Phillip said that he is the son of "a retired minister and has 3 wonderful sisters and a nice brother."

What is Phillip's favorite Bible verse? "John 3:16," he replied. He likes *Away in a Manger* and as well as lot of other songs. Jesus' disciples top his list of favorite biblical characters.

With a big smile, he chooses steak as his favorite food so it only makes sense that he enjoys eating at Longhorn Steakhouse. Blue is Phillip's favorite color and likes basketball and softball.

He tells that on December 19, Phillip will celebrate his 65th birthday. *Happy Birthday!!!* He likes Michael Jackson's music and Elvis' spiritual songs, especially *How Great Thou Art*.

So, Phillip, Jesus loves you and so does your church!!

*Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service
8 pm*



Christmas Cantata *Glory Touching Earth*

December 17

10:45 am

Andrew Byerly, Director

Church Christmas Fellowship

December 17

Ferguson/Clark Hall
6 pm



Carry-in dinner

Chicken, drinks and table service will be provided

If your last name begins A – L bring covered dishes

If your last name begins M - Z bring desserts

Children's Christmas Program

December 10

10:45 am

Kiera Yaniga, Director



Shoebox Ministries

Whether you donated items, contributed monetarily, took and returned filled shoeboxes or helped to sort and pack boxes, I would like to thank you for participating in this year's Shoebox Ministry. We were able to send 343 shoeboxes this year! Your support is greatly appreciated.



submitted by **Darline Gose-Withers**



Men's Prayer Meeting

Saturday mornings
8 am

Men's Prayer Breakfast

December 16

8 am FC Hall



Kitchen delights

This is a good substitute for people who can't eat turkey.

Chicken & Stuffing Casserole

2-3 chicken breasts, cooked and shredded
2 boxes of Stove top Stuffing (or 1 large bag of Pepperidge Farm Dressing -- use broth from cooked chicken)
2 cans of cream of chicken soup
8 oz. sour cream

Lightly grease 9x13 pan. Prepare stuffing according to directions on the package and put in casserole dish. Cover dressing evenly with chicken. Mix soup and sour cream together and add enough water to make gravy consistency. Pour over chicken.

Bake uncovered @ 325 degrees for 30 to 40 minutes or until bubbly.



submitted by **Nancy Johnson**

Sunday school section

HELP!!! The Sunday School Department is looking for **subs to help with Sunday School** for pre-school thru high school classes.

Also looking for a teacher to help teach and grow the minds of the **pre-school-kindergarten class.**

Please pray and if God is leading you, please contact me.

submitted by **Kim Buchanan**, Sunday School Superintendent



Chili Cook-Off/Dessert Auction

February 18

Penny March—December 3

Thank you for your service!

Sean Baldwin, Bob Byerly, Sgt. Travis Cotton, Addison Coy, Ryan Dean, Elijah Garrison, Zachary Haddox, Trent Holbrook, Brittany Mozingo, Jake Richards, Andrew Williams and Tanner Wilson are serving our country. Please pray for them and their families.



Thank you, Security Team!!



We have a **blessing box** at the side of the Ferguson/Clark Hall. You can help fill it with food to feed our community in need. Canned goods especially pop-top cans, snacks, personal items, individually wrapped plasticware, blankets can be placed in the box. Thank you for your support!

SURRENDER



Unable to get to evening Bible study?

Join Larry Keller on Wednesdays at 1 pm in the Ferguson/Clark Hall



CFC youth

At present, there are 18 youth that make up the Circleville First Church youth, led by **Lisa Burroughs**. Let's get to know some of them.



Bradley Neff is a senior at Logan Elm High School. His hobbies and interests include playing basketball and lifting weights, hanging with friends and family and mowing. What

Christian/inspirational music/songs does Bradley enjoy? "There are too many to pick from but I do like *Gratitude* by Brandon Lake". Bradley explained, "I have participated in Chrysalis Walk and this song is encouraging and has special meaning and that's where the song comes from for me." **Caleb Graul** is a Westfall graduate who enjoys shooting basketball outside. He enjoys listening to 104.9 The River. **Liv Dyke** and **Lex Dyke** are seniors at Circleville and they enjoy sports like volleyball and tennis. Liv enjoys the song *Praise*, while Lex likes the song *Lion*.

Westfall 9th grader **Lydia Colahan** enjoys playing basketball, soccer and track. She also likes to cook. Lydie enjoys the song *My Jesus* by Anne Wilson. **Ian Yaniga** attends Logan Elm and is in the 9th grade. He likes soccer and enjoys listening to Christian rap music. **Carly Atwood** is a 9th grader at Westfall. She enjoys playing sports and listening to Lecrae. Sixth grader **Allie Byerly** attends Circleville City Schools and enjoys gymnastics. She likes the song *Waymaker* and attended a Michael W. Smith concert. **Jack George** attends Logan Elm Schools and is in the 7th grade. He stated, "I like to fish and play soccer." When asked about music he enjoys, he added, "Nothing specific, but I enjoy the songs we sing at church."

Madison Blackford is a Teays Valley 11th grader and attends Fairfield Career Center, taking Animal Management Course. She likes working with animals, hanging with friends and spending time with her mom and brother. Madison enjoys all music. *Waymaker* is a song **Gabby Payne** enjoys listening to. She likes baking and art. She is an 8th grader at Circleville. **Nevaeh Wilbur** is in 6th grade at Circleville Schools. She stated, "I enjoy playing softball, basketball and volleyball and reading my Bible." Nevaeh likes country music by Morgan Wallen. Teays

Valley 7th grader **Carson Blackford** enjoys golf and country music. He likes the song *Fast Cars* by Luke Combs.

"My prayer for our church is that you get to know our youth. They are amazing young people who have hearts that are seeking after Jesus. They will one day be where you are so pray for them, lift them up, encourage them and be an example to them." (Lisa Burroughs, taken from the November 2023 issue of "The Witness").

submitted by **Sue Stonerock**

The Meaning of Christmas

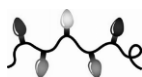
The Fun Fellowship Hall is decorated you will see,
With bows from the past and tinsel you will see.
The star so bright you will see on the tree,
Lead the shepherd and his flock to the most awesome sight to see.
Come see the nativity which you will admire,
please check out the wish list to fulfill
Youthful desires.
Please join us to see
The sweetest Giving Tree,
With candy cane treats for you to eat.



A Fun Fellowship Hall wish list to complete, a blow mold Nativity a donkey and 2 sheep. A shepherd and a camel, 3 wisemen too and don't forget Gabriel, the angel that knew.

submitted by **Kathy Blue**

The Circleville Pumpkin Show has come and gone, but **Debbie Thompson** and **Venita Daft** have ribbons to remind them of this year's show. Debbie entered items in the baked goods and flower contests. She took first place for her dahlia, second for her chestnuts, third for her whoopie pies and awards for her autumn foliage branch and fruited branch. Now Venita earned grand champion for her angel food cake, second for her pumpkin cake and third place for her nut cake. Congratulations Ladies!!



This is our story...

February 14, 1975 was a special time in our lives. **Pastor John Maxwell** with a friend from G.E. (General Electric), **Wendell Counten**, came to sit at our kitchen table to show us in God's Word how to get saved. What a difference that made in our lives. Tears were shed that night by me, Larry not so much.

We grew up in the little town of Williamsport, Ohio and were in the same neighborhood. We attended the Methodist Church. I had a long chain of perfect attendance pins. We graduated from Westfall High School in 1968 and married a year later. After our two children came along, we felt church was the next thing we should do for our family.



We started attending Faith Memorial Church in Lancaster, Ohio and were active there. I helped teach Sunday School in the kindergarten class. At times we had over 60 kids in Junior Church. Larry helped with the 5th grade boys' class, plus he went soul winning. He also drove a church bus.

In 1999 we decided to attend a church closer to home. So, we joined Circleville First Church. We felt at home in this friendly church. **Jim Davis** and **Joellen Byerly** were the first to show us kindness. **Bob Johnson** in his own quiet way, always greeted us and said, "goodbye."

Larry retired from General Electric after 34 years. He also coached junior high boys' basketball for 7 years at Amanda Clearcreek. He now spends time preparing and teaching Wednesday afternoon Bible study. His spare time is for golf, carving and volunteering at the hospital.

I was a volunteer EMT (Emergency Medical Technician) for a short time. I retired from child care after 22+ years and 40 years of teaching children's Sunday school. I enjoy crocheting in my spare time and keeping Larry in line. The hardest job I've ever had.

We enjoy family time with our daughter, **Andria** and son-in-law, **David Smith**. We also try to visit our son, **Matt** and daughter-in-law, **Vanessa** and grandkids in St. Louis. **Drew** is 16 and **Ali Sue** just turned 13. They both are in sports and we love to watch them play.

The Lord has truly blessed us!
Ruth & Larry Keller

On Friday of Pumpkin Show, the parking lot earned approximately \$1,000 for camp while on Saturday, \$2,000 was earned for our church. **Thank you to Rob and Amy for this opportunity.**

A list of CFC veterans was run in last month's newsletter. I would like to apologize to **Gregg Colahan, Phillip Evans and Larry Sayre** who was omitted from the article. I would also like to thank you for your service! -Kay Agin

Jokes of the month

So, this chicken said to me: "I can't find my eggs!"
I said: "You've probably mislaid them."



Don't put ducks in a cement mixer!
You'll get quacks in your pavement.



I accidentally swallowed
some Scrabble tiles...
My next trip to the
bathroom could spell
DISASTER

submitted by **Bobby Dollison**

I would like to apologize to **Larry Keller** for the omission of his name. Larry assisted **Sue Stonerock** in the Ministry & Prayer List in last month's newsletter. **Thank you, Larry & Sue!** --Kay Agin

Merry Christmas

Ministry/Prayer list

This is a list of CFC ministries. You can use this list as an ongoing prayer tool to assist you during your prayer time. Please keep all people, events and activities in prayer as planning and preparing are ongoing.

Nursery
Sunday School Department
J.O.Y. Ministries
T & T
Benevolence Committee
Aaron & Hur Prayer Closet
Men's Saturday morning prayer
Women's ECL
Adult and children Christmas and Easter Cantatas
E.D.G.E. (Evangelize, Disciple, Grow and Equip) Team
Christmas Card Boxes
Operation Christmas
Blessing Box
CFC Yard and Bake Sale
Penny March for Missions
Hog Roast/ Cruise-In
CFC Annual Car Show
Chili Cook-off and Cake Auction
Trunk or Treat
Nipgen Camp
Easter Prayer Vigil, Easter breakfast, Easter services
Summer Community Events Vacation Bible School & other activities
Personal Evangelism
CFC website
1 On 1 Discipleship
Praise and Worship Team
The Witness
Security Team, Audio/Video Teams, church grounds and inside decorating volunteers
Circleville Community Mission
CCCU Missionaries
Candy Bouquets
Tithe and Offerings
Dinner with Friends
Work Teams
Prayer Chain

submitted by **Sue Stonerock & Larry Keller**

Proverbs 23:26

Verse of the month



Behold, (the virgin) shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel, which being interpreted, is God with us. Matthew 1:23 KJV

submitted by **John Adams**

CFC nursery wants you!!

Can you rock a baby, give a toddler a snack or even watch them play? **We are looking for individuals willing to serve in our church nursery on Sunday mornings, Sunday evenings or Wednesday evenings.** Ages are newborn to 3 years.

Contact **Kourtne Hildreth at (740) 703-5182 or Joellen Byerly**

Candy bouquets ministry. The bouquets are located in the back of the church. They are \$10 each; proceeds go toward missions. Place payment in the envelopes and place in the collection boxes. There are also floral sticks and cards/stickers you can add to your bouquet for a gift card or greeting card. At Christmas time, some floral and pine bouquets will be available but will not include candy bars. They are also \$10. Thanks to all who have donated toward this ministry.

submitted by **Cathy Marck**

Wish list

The Ferguson/Clark Hall is in need of a blow molds: a donkey, 2 sheep, a camel, a shepherd, an angel and the three wisemen to match the current nativity set. Any blow mold piece on the wish list is truly appreciated.



submitted by **Kathy Blue**

Missions trip planned

This year's missions trip will be to **Belize**. The team will be leaving on July 13 and returning on July 19. Leading this team is **Sam Davidson**. Interested? **A meeting will be held on December 10 after the morning service.**



Baby dedication

Proverbs 22:6 states, "Train up a child in the way she should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it."

Recently, **Judah Lee Martindale**, son of **Pastor Jeremiah and Hannah** and little brother to **JJ** and **Elias Eugene Byerly**, son of **Andrew and Megan**, little brother to **Allie** and grandson of **Tom and Joellen Byerly** were dedicated to the Lord. Congratulations!!



submitted by Sue Stonerock

JOY (just older youth)

The JOY group, which consisted of about 40, gathered on November 18 for our Thanksgiving/Christmas dinner in the Ferguson Clark Hall. It was a very enjoyable evening with some delicious food, games and singing a couple Christmas carols. **Pastor Jim Daft** did the devotions. Winners of the first game was **Shawn Blue** and **Gene Teal**. Everyone won prizes by the end of the evening.

On **Sunday, December 10**, the JOY group will be attending the **Karen Peck & New River Concert** at West Broad Street Nazarene Church. The cost is a free-will offering. We will meet at 2:30 pm at our church. We will be eating at York Steakhouse before the concert. The cost of the meal depends on what you order. Each person will order and pay for their own meal.

We will be taking the church van. We may also need drivers, depending on the number that plan to go. The sign-up sheet is located at the Information Desk; the **deadline to sign-up is December 6**. See Venita for questions.

The JOY committee will be meeting in January to plan activities for the new year. Any ideas? Please let Venita or committee member know.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all!

Love and prayers,
Venita



CHRISTMAS IS THE CELEBRATION OF THE BIRTH OF JESUS, THE SAVIOUR OF MANKIND

12 – 3 Penny March

12 – 7 Ladies Ministry 6 pm

12 – 10 Children's Christmas Program 10:45 am

12 – 16 Men's Prayer Breakfast 8 am

12 – 17 Christmas Cantata-*Glory Touching Earth* 10:45 am
Church Christmas Fellowship (carry-in) 6 pm



12 – 24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 8 pm

12 – 25 Happy Birthday, Jesus!!

12 – 27 Afternoon & Evening Bible Studies—
dismissed

12 – 31 New Year's Eve
Communion Service 10:45 am
Evening Service--dismissed



CFC Kids

On **December 10** during the morning service, CFC Kids will present their Christmas program. The children are working hard and are excited to show everyone the real meaning of Christmas.

Secret Santa



At CFC Kids, we offer a chance for children to pick out Christmas gifts for their family members for free! This is a huge hit with the kids and a great way to share God's love.

We need your help for this to be a success. Gently used or new items may be donated at the back of the sanctuary. Ideas include small toys, candles, lotions, devotionals, small tools and mugs. Any item that a child could gift their parents or siblings would be greatly appreciated!

Donations are needed BEFORE the Sunday, December 17 morning service. The children will "shop" that morning for their family members. Cash donations may be placed in the offering box and marked accordingly on the envelope.

Any questions, please see **Kiera Yaniga**.

submitted by **Kiera Yaniga**

