



Snowflakes

Let it Snow

snow is glistening

### Wooden Spoons

I'm guessing that a piece of wood has been involved with our food preparation for a long time. As soon as fire was understood as being useful, wood was used for fuel. It was also available for holding food near the flame, preparing meals, and as an eating utensil. At some point, spoons were created.

Nowadays, plastic spoons are common and practical. I have yet to look at one and wonder what story it has to tell. Wooden spoons, on the other hand, seem to ask you to stop and look at them. Their past, all of their past, is important to what they have become. That is true for humans, too. The Christmas season is a good time to wonder about the past, the story it tells, and how it can lead us into that bright shiny New Year that will soon be upon us.

The wood grain of a carved wooden spoon speaks of good years and years the tree just survived. Sometimes small branches were sprouted, but stopped developing when better opportunity for growth appeared. Yet their mark remains. We shouldn't feel badly when we look at the events in our lives that have been redirected. We are all works in progress.

Perfection is nice, but you won't find it in a hand-carved spoon. This spoon reveals how wounds have been sealed off and dealt with successfully. They are a part of the past, and they may alter how the wood can be shaped. But, the stresses have helped to make the wood strong and useful. I know a lot of people like this. They have overcome and achieved in spite of difficult times. A perfect life has been lived only once, leaving us with wonderment about the birth and life of that baby over 2,000 years later.

Your carved spoon can be a part of preparations that keep you and yours healthy, bring back good memories, comfort a friend, give nourishment to those in need, get shared with family and friends, and \_\_, \_\_, and \_\_. Opportunities will come for you to fill in the blanks.

The good news is that it doesn't require perfection to operate it. It just needs someone with willing hands, seeking a purpose, to create times for being thankful. A new year is coming. Now is a good time to think about our blessings, and ways that we can pass them on to others.

Have a blessed Christmas and a wonderful New Year,

*Rex & Vicky*

Rex and Vicky

(Rex and Vicky are personal friends of Pastor Mark)



# The West Side Story

Vol. 47  
Number 2

**West Side Staff:**  
Mark E. Poindexter,  
Pastor  
Zach Lowman,  
Youth Director  
Kristen Schafer,  
Music Director  
Trish Barker,  
Office Manager  
Joe Diggs,  
Custodian



## SENIORS HAVE FUN TO STAY YOUNG

Join us for a Valentine's Luncheon  
Saturday, February 13 at Noon  
in the Fellowship Center

Cost is \$5.00

If you need a ride please call

Jimmy Jarvis @ 418-4752.

## PRAYER LIST

### **Church Members**

Justin & Debbie Friberg, Wilma Ingram, Barbara Powell, Frances Wells, Wanda Hackler, Mary Wyatt

### **Family & Friends**

Marcie Shea, Joan Newsome, Mike Seckler, Frances Martin, Blake Brown, Bud Hornick, Mother of Clara Cornish, Jean Thompson, Harvey Wheeler, Angela Powell, Frankie Hall, Daisha Melchor & family, Maggie Jensen, Eliana Nanni, Stuart & Amy Emerson, Steve, Renee, Twyla & Zoe Mitchell, Billie Warren, Mary Grace Thomas, Kathy & Curtis Nelson, Amber Critzer & Family, Shirley Jones, Katrina Hastings, Phil Barnes, Judy Kelly, Ruth Ann Gonzalves, Jordan Lahy

### SHUT INS

Ruth Blackman

## **Lectionary Readings**

- February 7** Exodus 34:29-35  
Psalm 99  
2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2  
Luke 9:28-36, 37-43a
- February 14** Deuteronomy 26:1-11  
Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16  
Romans 10:8b-13  
Luke 4:1-13
- February 21** Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18  
Psalm 27  
Philippians 3:17-4:1  
Luke 13:31-35
- February 28** Isaiah 55:1-9  
Psalm 63:1-8  
1 Corinthians 10:1-13  
Luke 13:1-9



## **Stewardship Giving for December 2015**

**Weekly Operating Expenses:  
\$ 4,054.00**

Beginning balance for Dec.:	\$	3,826.13
Received in Dec:		17,123.59
Expenditures in Dec:		14,997.60
ENDING BALANCE on DEC 31	\$	5,952.12

## **February Birthdays**



- 1st Jessica Terry
- 5th Robert Brown
- 8th Charles Kelly, III
- 11th Mary Cornwell  
John McClelland IV
- 12th Pam Gibbs
- 20th Betty McCrickard  
Alexa Stidham
- 23rd Frances Wells
- 25th Michele Poindexter
- 27th Janice Deweese
- 28th Carrie Kelly

## Oasis Social Ministry

Thursday, January 21  
10:00 AM

Please sign up on the bulletin board leading to  
the Fellowship Center.

## Lenten Bible Study

At Table  
with Jesus



John O. Gooch

“At Table with Jesus” is a Lenten Bible Study  
taught by Pastor Mark looking at the way  
Jesus used the table to express hospitality  
and a sense of welcome.

The study will occur Sunday evenings at 4:30  
from February 14 to March 20.

If you are interested please sign up on the list  
on the bulletin board by January 31<sup>st</sup>.



February 10  
7:00 PM

# Pastor Mark's Remarks

One of the ministries that I have heard a lot about, and that helped draw me to West Side, is Homeless Week. Our congregation partners with other area churches to provide warm shelter and food to the homeless during the winter months. Our week will be February 21-28. I am looking forward to being part of this important ministry outreach. To truly be body of Christ, I believe, these kind of ministries must always be a part of the church's life.

Recently, I watched a video on Facebook of a homeless man who sat down at a piano and played some of the most beautiful music you could imagine. The video went on to explain that he was a homeless American Veteran having served in the Marine Corps. After his time of service he was accepted into a prestigious music school, but some personal problems and a struggle with addiction had led him to the point where he was homeless. A musically talented American Vet, but homeless.

Over the course of my life, I have developed a deeper sense of compassion for those whose lives are more difficult than mine – the poor, the homeless, the mentally ill, those who struggle with addiction. I've learned that behind every person is a story about who they are as a person. My goal, as a follower of Jesus, is not to judge their story, but to listen. And then, in the name of Christ, to offer compassion and hope, which every life needs.

I look forward to offering that compassion and hope during homeless week.

Peace,

Pastor Mark



# Save the Date!



**March 6, 2016  
Lunch with the WCT**

## About the Disciples Mission Fund

Disciples Mission Fund is the common fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Disciples Mission Fund supports 72 ministries of wholeness as close as your local congregation and reaching around the globe. As a Global Mission church, we understand that equipping congregations for mission includes learning from, learning with and offering support to our partners beyond the borders of the United States and Canada.

### Water Crisis in Flint, Michigan - January 18, 2016



The city of Flint, Michigan switched its water source in 2014 as a cost-saving measure. The new source, the Flint River, had high levels of corrosive contaminants, which caused lead pipes to leach. The levels of lead in the tap water became dangerous across the city, and highly toxic in the most severely affected areas.

From the cross, Jesus said, "I am thirsty." Yet, in his suffering he received only a sponge of vinegar to relieve his thirst, as the soldiers responded with contempt. For a year the people of Flint, MI cried out "We are thirsty!" Yet, they received only contaminated water to drink.

In response to the cries of their community, Vermont Christian Church in Flint became a designated water distribution center. In further response to the crisis, the Michigan Region of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the Michigan Conference of the United Church of Christ have taken action, launching a cooperative initiative: The Gospel in Action-Flint. Through this partnership, Vermont Christian Church will be able to continue providing water, filters, and other needed items.

With the Federal Emergency Declaration announced on Jan. 16, additional government funds are available to the city of Flint and its residents, but this assistance will cover only approximately 75% of the costs. The need for a compassionate response, thus, remains.

Week of Compassion is committed to providing support to The Gospel in Action-Flint and will continue to do so through the coming months.

February						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 7:00 PM Ministry Action Team	3 10:00 AM DWF Lydia & Rebekah 11:00 AM Preschool Chapel	4 6:00 PM District VII Dinner	5	6
7 12:00 PM Community Care Team Lunch 4:30 PM Youth	8	9	10 7:00 PM Ash Wednesday Service 	11	12 9:30 AM FC Reserved (Preschool)	13 11:00 AM Senior Valentine Lunch (FC) 
14 12:00 PM Fundraiser Luncheon 4:30 PM Lenten Bible Study 4:30 PM Youth	15	16 7:00 PM Elders	17 11:00 AM Preschool Chapel	18 10:00 AM Oasis	19	20 8:00 AM DMF Breakfast
21 4:30 PM Lenten Bible Study 4:30 PM Youth WOC Special Offering	22	23	24 9:00 AM - 12:30 PM FC & Sanctuary (Music Club)	25	26	27
Homeless Week 21-27						
28 4:30 PM Lenten Bible Study 4:30 PM Youth WOC Special Offering	29	<b>EVERY SUNDAY:</b> <b>9:00 am Coffee Fellowship</b> <b>9:45 am Church School</b> <b>11:00 am Worship Hour</b> <b>4:30 pm Youth</b>				