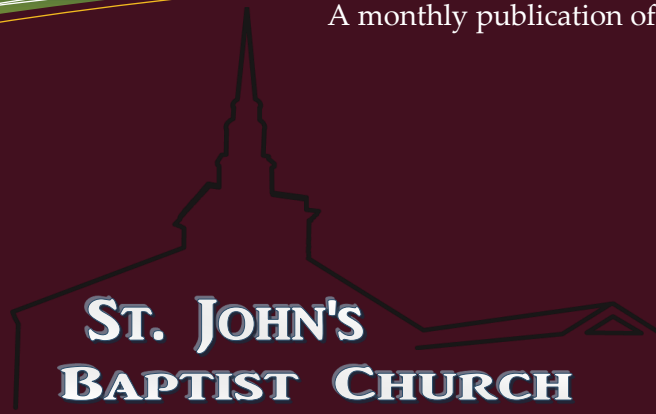


02

February
2018

Windows of St. John's

A monthly publication of St. John's Baptist Church



this issue

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WMU

Calendar

Youth and Children

Book Group

Widows Group

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From the Pastor ...

The St. John's mission statement reads: Sharing Christ, Discipling Believers, Loving the World. One of the clearest expressions of this statement will be our mission trip to Costa Rica this summer led by Kristen Duncan.

I am very excited about this endeavor. First because this involves St. John's members directly in missions on an international basis. Their world view will be expanded as they experience the reality of God's church in another cultural setting.

I am excited because of the win/win nature of being obedient to Christ. The people with whom our group ministers will be blessed, however, our group will be equally blessed. Anytime disciples act in obedience to fulfill the Great Commission, locally or internationally, they grow in their understanding of the Gospel and missions. People learn by doing far more than they do through academic courses. We could all enroll in a 3-hour seminary course on missions, but we would not learn as much about missions as actually doing missions.

I am excited because I believe the more our church involves itself in missions the more God will bless our church with the resources to do even more mission ministry. Why would God bless his church with resources if they were not using those resources for his intended purposes? I fully expect the excitement level and desire to strengthen our missions' efforts will be magnified by how this group will experience God this summer.

To date seven adults and four youth have registered their intent to go. There are still four open spots left. If you are interested in engaging Costa Ricans with the Gospel this summer, please contact Kristen. The cost for the trip is \$1,700; however, fundraisers will be conducted to help deter the cost.

Our group will participate in children's ministry, sports camps, and will deliver groceries to families among other ministries. Even if you can't go on the trip, you can participate by contributing \$25.00 to help buy food for a family. Our group will deliver those groceries and will take a picture of the family so you can see the to whom you ministered.

Please pray for this group and the opportunities they will have to share Christ, disciple believers and to love the world. Pray for God's Spirit to go before them and to prepare the hearts of all those they will meet.

Blessings,
Pastor Charlie

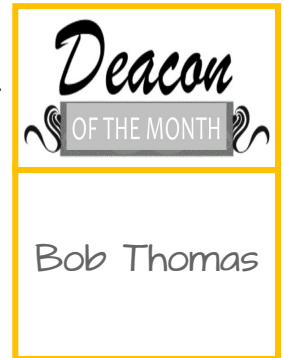
Deacons

Where do we Christians get our strength to serve our heavenly Father daily and in tough times? We can read in Psalm 28:7-8, "The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in Him, and He helps me. My heart leaps for joy, and with my song I praise Him. The Lord is the strength of His people, a fortress of salvation for His anointed one." Christians are under attack almost daily in the world we now live in, and we certainly need to pray daily for our Lord to strengthen us that we live to serve and honor Him as His children on this earth.

It can also be said that New Testament Deacons serve the Lord by conducting the caring ministry of the church—doing the benevolence work, visiting the sick, being alert to the spiritual needs of the congregation—for the purposes of freeing the pastoral staff to focus on prayer and the ministry of the Word, promoting unity within the church, and facilitating the spread of the gospel. The Deacons of St John's are committed to fulfilling these responsibilities and keeping our families in our thoughts and prayers. As we often request, we strongly encourage our family members to contact us as well, if you have needs or prayer requests that the Deacons can help with or can ask all church members to pray for God's healing power.

The Deacons also request you keep Pastor Charlie and Kristen in your daily prayers as they continue to serve us and our Lord through His direction and guidance.

Happy Valentine's Day to all St. John's families.
Bob Thomas
Deacon Chairman



Thank you. Thank you St. John's for making the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering a priority of your Christmas giving. We were so pleased to have reached our goal of \$3600 before the end of December. Because of your contributions and the contributions of Southern Baptist Churches throughout North America, International Missionaries and their ministries will be funded for another year. One half of the funding for International Missionaries comes from the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. So as you can see our stewardship is essential for our missionaries who sacrifice so much.

Because of the snow we had to cancel our January WMU meeting on the 9th. So we really are looking forward to getting together in February. We will be completing our plans for WMU Focus Sunday on the 18th of February. I am happy to have as our guest speaker that day Ms. Marisa Sanchez. She will be sharing information about her ministry with the migrant farm workers on the Eastern Shore. Our WMU and St. John's have been faithful contributors to that ministry for many years with little knowledge about the actual ministry. I look forward to welcoming her to our church that day. I hope that all ladies will come and be a part of the service. We will be marching in as a group and sitting on the first three pews on the right side and of course the choir. Please join the ladies in the choir if you will.

As we look at the plans for ongoing mission projects, I want to encourage our fellow church members to join us as we get a head start with our Operation Christmas Child Shoebox ministry. We are trying something different this year -- collecting different categories of gifts each month. For the month of February, we will be collecting the "Wow" gifts--stuffed animals, dolls, soccer balls (deflated and with a pump) or any gift that would just wow a child. Since February is the month of love, let's collect toys that children will just love. I'm getting excited thinking about it. We're being ambitious, we're hoping to double our collection this year. That means 400 boxes. I'm sure we can fill them, aren't you? Just think that means 400 children will know that people they don't know have sent their love through the gifts. Four hundred children can be introduced to Jesus' love. The collection container will be at our display table in the welcome center.

Come join us on the second Tuesday of each month for our time of prayer and planning our missions each month. Look forward to seeing you.

Boldly sharing Christ's Love,
Becki Thomas, WMU Director



We had a wonderful meeting in the Fellowship Hall in January. There were 27 in attendance. Three ladies came for the first time. We will be meeting at Olive Garden on Lynnhaven Parkway, February 18, please sign up in the Welcome Center. Looking forward to another good turnout.
Eleanor



The youth will be going to Centrifuge at North Greenville University on July 23rd-28th. This camp is for 6th grade through 12th graders. The total cost is \$293. A \$50 deposit is due no later than January 28th, however since this is late notice, if you cannot get the deposit in by that time, please see Kristen and we will work it out. We are hoping to do fundraisers to cover the rest of the cost.

The children (3rd-6th graders) will be going to Eagle Eyrie Conference Center on June 25th-29th for Centrikid camp. The total cost is \$347 and a \$50 deposit is due no later than February 11th. We are hoping to do fundraisers to cover the rest of the cost. We have enough female chaperones for this trip, but are in need of a male chaperone.

Also, anyone high school and older is welcome to join us on our Costa Rica Mission Trip July 7th-14th. We still have a few spots available. See Pastor Charlie's newsletter article for more details.

At the end of January, we had our first fundraiser of the year at Zoup! This is just the beginning of our fundraising as we seek to raise money for both camps and the Costa Rica Mission trip. Please be on the lookout for more fundraising information in the very near future.

The youth will have a Super Bowl Party at Amber Hatfield's house on February 4th starting at 6 pm and going until the end of the Super Bowl. Parents can pick up their youth at any point during the game or when the game is over. There will be a list of snacks/drinks that are needed out soon. Once that is out, everyone who is coming will be asked to sign up to bring something. Please see Kristen or Amber with any questions.

The youth will be providing lunch on February 11th to the Keenagers. There is a sign-up sheet in the welcome center. The menu will include hamburgers, chicken patties, French fries, milkshakes, and pies. This is not a fundraiser, but rather a lunch that the youth will provide. Please sign-up no later than February 7th, so we can make sure we have enough food. This will also be a great time for the youth to get to know some of the senior adults better and for the senior adults to get to know the youth better. Hope to see you there!

On February 17th, the children will have a video game and craft party at the church from 3-5pm. The church owns a Wii and Kristen will be bringing a Wii U. Children can choose to bring their own systems/games with them with everything marked as to who they belong to, so nobody accidentally grabs the wrong game or cords, etc.



The February family activity centers around LOVE! Take some time this month to sit around as a family and tell each other one thing you love about the other people in your family. Find an activity that you can all enjoy together or a movie that you can all watch as a family. Write a note to the other members of your family telling them how much you love them and some of the things you love most about them.



As I prepare for our January fellowship breakfast, along with practice for Men's Day Service, I cannot believe it has been 3 years since Bill Sawyer handed over the reins of this fine brotherhood. We have been involved in many projects since that time while always striving to meet the needs of the church and community through Christian fellowship. In the next few months as we plan our future course, we need to make sure we continue to meet our growing community needs. If you have never come out to a Men's breakfast, I encourage you to do so. We always like to see new faces with new ideas.

Our next breakfast will be Saturday, February 17. In addition, we are planning on another Easter morning breakfast for everyone on Sunday, April 1.

Dan Terry



The library, like other areas of the church felt a slow January with all the snow and blizzard weather. Hopefully we will be back on track from now on out. Don't forget your New Year's resolution to read more. Remember books are the windows of the world. Please stop in and check out a few.
Media Director
Eleanor Knight

The Book Group will be meeting February 23 in the library. The book we will be reviewing will be announced in the bulletin.

