

NEWS ...

FAREWELL DINNER FOR GARY AND LINDA

Forty-two people attended the farewell dinner for Gary and Linda Walling on Thursday evening, December 29 in fellowship hall. There was good food to share, laughter, tears, and memories of the years Gary has spent with us as our pastor. As we said at the dinner, we have been praying that Gary would find full time work and that prayer has been answered, even though it means that he has to leave Mentor Christian Church for his new pastorate in Wilson, North Carolina. His ministry here has blessed us and himself as well, and we sent him on his way with our prayers for a happy and successful pastorate, and with our assurances that he would always be a part of our church family.

OWM

(Ohio Women's Ministries)

Priscilla Circle: Will meet on
December 19th, at 1:00 pm.

HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE

We did it! Our goal was 1000 pounds of food by the New Year, and with the offering on Christmas Eve of \$100, we purchased additional cans and boxes of food. When this food collection started on November 1, we felt that 1000 pounds was going to be a difficult goal to attain. However, thanks to Gary's challenge and the outpouring of canned goods, etc. from our members, we proved to ourselves that we can do it. We will take the remaining food items to St. John Vianney's food pantry in the near future where we can be assured that hungry people will benefit. Praise the Lord!

CHOIR NEWS

The Christmas season has been an active time for our choir. On December 18 at a joint worship service with the Willoughby First Christian Church, the two church choirs combined to sing "O Holy Night" and "The Little Drummer Boy". On Christmas Eve, the Willoughby congregation joined us for a memorable service which included a combined bell choir as well as chancel choir. Thanks go to Marla Romig for directing the bell choir and Kerry Durkee for the chancel choir. Thanks also to the dedicated choir and bell choir members including Bill and Ruth Whiting, Bill Spangler, Irma Lewis, Marla Romig, Clint Spangler, Graham Spangler, Beth Romig, and accompanist Marilyn Segers for all their hard work. For them, it's a true labor of love.

THE ELDERS FUND

Thank you to all our generous members who contributed to the Elders Fund. We were able to help members who find themselves in difficult financial circumstances, and we're sure your generosity made a difference in their lives.

PASTORAL SEARCH

The pastoral search committee has begun the process of finding an interim or part time minister to lead our congregation for the foreseeable future. Committee members are: Bill Spangler chairman, Kerry Durkee, Sarah Cash and Bobbie Quick. Please keep these people in your prayers as they go about this important task. Our thanks to Bill Spangler who will fill the pulpit for the present time. We are so blessed to have a minister as part of our congregation, and we thank Bill for his willingness to lead us in the coming months.

Prayer Concerns

Members:

Jean Chaplin, Rick Shutt, Ruth Hinkle, Phil Quick for continued strength and healing.

Dora & Jim Knierim

Friends and Family:

Irma's son-in-law, Gordon Kaylor, had hip replacement surger. Irma's son, Will, is still recovering from his accident but is doing much better.

Let us Pray:

For God's Peace in the world.

For **Mentor Christian Church**, for the future of its congregation and its ministries.

For the needs of the homeless.

For the courage and strength of caregivers.

For the military and their families.

Special Prayers:

For the financial support of our ministry.

For all the people of natural disasters.

For those who lost loved ones in the war, and all our military.

For God's Peace to be present in the hearts of world leaders.



New Years Prayer

Dear Lord,

In the new year, we pray
that You will guide us each new day
in paths that are pleasing to You.

Lord, the new year gives us another chance
to rededicate our lives to You,

to study Your Word

so that we know right from wrong

and to act in accordance with Your commands.

Thank You for the sense of

direction, purpose and peace we get

from aligning our lives with Your Holy will.

We pray for the strength and the will to obey
You

each and every day of the new year,

and when we fail, we pray for Your mercy,

Your compassion, Your grace and Your love.

Help us in the new year to be Your faithful
servants.

In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

First Christian Church

4249 River Street

Willoughby

Meat Loaf Dinner

Saturday, January 14th at 5:00 p.m.

INCOME / EXPENSES

General Expense Fund

Income:	Dec-10	YTD
Contributions	3,032.40	41,612.65
Rent	30.00	3,018.00
Other	22.61	1,942.57
Total Income	3,085.01	46,573.22
Expenses:		
Building	120.62	1,416.59
Insurance	1,296.75	5,244.00
Worship	74.95	439.88
Office	131.09	1,876.30
Payroll	2,239.39	29,049.67
Utilities	282.77	4,576.01
Taxes	-	188.83
Other	-	106.87
Total Expenses	4,145.57	42,898.15
Net Income/Loss	(1,060.56)	3,675.07

The above shows our overall income and expenses for last month as well as the year 2011. As you can see we fell back last month after two months of profit; however, we ended the year in the black. All of our outreach monies have been sent in for the year and all of our outstanding bills have been paid.

Communion Meditation January 1, 2012

By Clint Spangler

Well, Mentor Christian Church had quite a year last year, didn't we? We had a lot of discussions about what to do with our building, and ultimately we made a decision. Whether it was the right or wrong decision, I don't know, but at least we made the decision, so now we can move into the year 2012 without having that matter occupy so much of our time and thoughts.

We also lost our minister, who has moved on to a full time position. I'm sorry to see him go, but I'm truly happy that he is back in full time ministry where he belongs. I'm also quite pleased that Mentor Christian Church was a part of his life and allowed him to reflect on what he was called to do, to the point that he was ready and willing to devote his career once again to God's calling.

So where do we go from here? Well, being here in worship is a good start for the new year. You know what else would be a good start?

A bike ride! On a tandem bike! With Jesus helping us pedal! No, better yet, with Jesus in the front seat and us in the back seat. With Jesus in front deciding where to go in the year 2012, when to slow down and when to speed up. We may be uncomfortable not being the ones making the decisions, but the ride will be far better. He knows how to get to delightful places, he's not afraid to tackle the steep hills or the winding descents, and when we are afraid that we are worn out and can't pedal anymore, or are going to crash, all we have to do is to look at who we are following and we know we will be ok.

So here is our start for 2012 - at this communion table, following Jesus from his birth in Bethlehem to his death on a cross.