

*St. John's Evangelical Church
211 E. Carrol Street
Kenton, Ohio 43326
(Non Profit Organization)*

**Do Not Delay
Dated Material**

June



St. John's Evangelical Church Newsletter June 2018

211 E. Carrol Street
Kenton, OH 43326
Church Phone: 419-673-7278
Pastor Randall cell: 724-290-3651
Church Office Hours: Monday—Friday (9 AM—1 PM)

Rev. Dr. Randall J. Forester, Senior Pastor
Website: www.stjohnskenton.org
Email: stjohnskenton@gmail.com

Church Social—June 26, 4-7 PM

Church Social

All Church Social is scheduled for Tuesday, June 26 from 4-7 PM. Menu includes: Sandwiches, noodles, salads, pies, cakes, and drinks. Free Will Offering. Carry Out Available. All proceeds this year will go to Recovery Courts of Hardin County.

Come out for a great night of food and fellowship!



A list of donations needed and how you can volunteer can be found towards the end of this newsletter. Thank you to everyone that makes this event happen!

ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL CHURCH

211 East Carrol Street
Kenton, OH 43326

REV. DR. RANDALL J. FORESTER, PASTOR & TEACHER

Phone: 419-673-7278 (o)

Phone: 724-290-3651 (c)

JUNE 2018

THE PASTOR'S PAGE

E-mail: PastorRandall@stjohnskenton.org

FIVE-TWO-ONE. Not 5-to-1, as in the time I was writing this. Simply, 5-2-1. Those numbers came to mind recently, and at least to me anyway, they were NOT a sign to play the lottery. Instead, I opened my Bible and read every occurrence of that combination—be it 5:21 or 52:1. That means, for some books I read two passages, but for others I read none as there are less than 5 chapters in those books.

Why the Holy Spirit prompted me to do this exercise, I honestly have no clue. Still, it opened my eyes and refreshed my soul. It was not driven by some desire of mine, some question in my heart, or some felt need. It felt as though God was saying, “Read...and listen.”

As the box to the right reveals, I heard a Jeremiah's longing in **Lamentations** for restoration. Hearing that, I prayed for God to restore our local congregation—to grow our church in numbers and in strength and to do so in His time. (Full disclosure: I prayed for it to happen soon, but I still patiently wait for it while diligently working for it.)

Alongside that waiting, I heard God calling to His people in **Isaiah 52:1**: “Awake, awake, put on your strength, O Zion; put on your beautiful garments, O Jerusalem, the holy city; for there shall no more come into you the uncircumcised and the unclean.” Here, the LORD is calling us to put on our “Sunday best.” He is calling us to dress in the holiness of Christ, for it is only in His imputed righteousness that we can come before the Father. It is a call to repentance—for God's people to humble themselves and allow the mercy and grace of the Father to wash over us. It's a reminder that judgment is coming, and that we need to prepare ourselves and call (evangelize) others to come to the Father through Christ as led by the Holy Spirit.

Then, I journeyed into the New Testament where I witnessed these themes being built upon by the Holy Spirit. In

Ephesians 5:21, I read the clause, “submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.” I had to look up the column to see that is calling true believers to “be filled with the Holy Spirit” (v 18). Truly filled, we are to go about amongst the family of God “addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,” (v 20) by “submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ” (v 21).

This last section made me think of Life Groups. At the bottom of the next page, you can read our church's vision statement: “Making and Maturing Disciples of Jesus Christ.” Here, the ultimate way to achieve that, we urge members to join a Life Group to receive ongoing discipleship.

Ideally, every member of our church would be engaged weekly in three distinct activities with the family of God here: worship at the church (connecting online when you cannot be here); some form of discipleship/Christian education; and some service/ministry with other members of the church.

As a church, we understand, that not everyone is ready to commit to an

ongoing Life Group. Currently, we have a Sunday School for adults that meets Sunday mornings and a summer Bible Study. We hope that these ministries whet people's appetites for further growth.

Still, that may not meet the needs we have among our adult members. This fall, we would like offer additional options. We are thinking of providing short-term studies (which could be topic based or reading through a

Restore Us To Yourself,
O Lord , That We May
Return; Renew Our Days
As Of Old

Lamentations 5-21

BibleWordings.com

**ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL
CHURCH:
MAKING AND MATURING
DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST**

for you to be engaged in the Adult Education Ministry here at St. John's. That ministry's goal is to see all adults within the sphere of our church engaged in spiritual growth with other Christians in the church. In an ideal setting, every member would be mentoring someone who is not as mature as them while being mentored by someone more mature than them—such a church would have an incredible momentum for ministry, evangelism, and growth!

**FOR HE MADE HIM
WHO KNEW NO SIN
TO BE SIN
FOR US,
THAT WE MIGHT BECOME THE
RIGHTEOUSNESS
OF GOD IN HIM.**

2 CORINTHIANS 5:21

© MYBIBLE.COM

Please pray about these things and respond as the Holy Spirit moves you. If you like, here's a few other five-two-one verses that may spur further conversation (or feel free to look up other ones!):

Psalm 52:1, 8-9

John 5:21

Romans 5:21

I Thessalonians 5:21

I look forward to seeing how the church progresses as her people are engaged in discipling and being disciplined. It's the method Jesus used, it has been successful through the ages, and it continues (and will continue) to be successful for the faithful in Christ until Jesus returns.

God bless you and all as we mature in Christ!

In Christ's powerful name,

Pastor Randall

book or something else entirely) with classes meeting in the Fall and the Spring for 6-8 weeks. Each class would be self-contained. Being involved in one in the Fall does not obligate you to a group in the Spring and participants are free to participate as they see fit each session.

Additionally, we are open to offering other options for adult Sunday School. If either of these avenues are to succeed, we need to know what people would like to study or what would cause them to join a class and when. Just like asking for summer sermon topics, the church leadership desires to hear from church members. Please submit topics, ideas, and what type of class you may like to join (again, no obligation) as soon as possible. (There will be a form available on the next page in the newsletter and upcoming bulletins.)

Also, if you feel called to teach, please contact Pastor Randall, and he will help to find a suitable place

**"TOMORROW I PLAN TO
WORK, WORK,
FROM EARLY UNTIL LATE.
- IN FACT -
I HAVE SO
MUCH TO DO
THAT I SHALL SPEND
THE FIRST THREE
HOURS IN PRAYER."**

MARTIN LUTHER

© MYBIBLE.COM

Summer Preaching Series

I would like to submit a suggestion for worship here at St. John's Evangelical Church.

Your suggestion may be a scripture, a topic, a question, a praise song or a hymn, something for our worship service, or anything that is on your heart.

Feel free to contact the pastor directly, leave a note in the offering plate or in the office, leave a voicemail or send an e-mail.

Here's my prayerful and humble submission for worship:

Adult Christian Education Suggestions

I want to help shape the discipling ministry of St. John's Evangelical Church! Please contact me about opportunities as they come available:

Name _____

Phone _____
(if you want notified by One Call)

E-mail _____
(if you want on the e-mail list)

I would additionally like to make the following suggestion(s) for topics or books for studies along with potential leaders from within the church or community:

Feel free to contact me about participating in the Discipleship Ministry at St. John's. I would like to (circle your answer(s)):

Teach

Be a Student

Serve on the organizing committee

I would be available to meet on the following days and times:



Summer Bible Study 2018

Samson's Story—No Moral Needed

Session
1 6/20
Start

Scripture
Judges 13:1-7

Lesson
A (Good?)



2 6/27
3 7/11
Love

For background, see: **Numbers 6:1-21**
Judges 13:8-25 The Spirit Stirs
Judges 14:1-9 A First

4 7/25
dle

Judges 14:10-20 The Impossible Rid-

5 8/01
Lost

Judges 15:1-8 Love

6 8/08
on

Judges 15:9-20 An Unclean Weap-

7 8/15
lah

Judges 16:1-22 Samson and Deli-

8 8/22
9 8/29

Judges 16:23-31 A Final Deed
Hebrews 11:1-3; 32-40

Commended Through Faith



Classes will take place Wednesday evenings in the Chapel at 7 PM.

This summer, our Bible Study will focus on the life of one of the judges of Israel, Samson. It's a story many people think they know, but we will examine what the Bible says. This year, there will be renewed interest in Samson as a popular movie about him will be coming out this year.



In the church, many encountered Samson through Sunday School or Bible School lessons, but his story—like much of the book of Judges—really is not for children—it is as they say on TV intended for a mature audience. Also, a lot of the lessons that are imparted to kids just are not there in the text. They may be implied, but the Bible does not share many teachings from Samson's life, especially in **Judges 14-16**, which we will discuss.



Please come and participate. See how this story instructs our faith, and what it says for us in the church today.



Kid's & Youth News

School is almost out and it's time for summer....

This year's Vacation Bible School will be based on the Beatitudes, which are eight blessings recounted by Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount. We will learn about these blessings and find ways that we can use those blessings in our own lives each day.

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are they who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.

Blessed are the pure of heart, for they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God.

Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

Our verse for the week is from Deuteronomy 6:18: **Do what is right and good in the Lord's sight, so that it may go well with you.**

We will be learning about forgiveness and obedience and how to make good choices in our lives.

VBS is Monday, June 11 to Friday, June 15 from 6-8:00 pm, which is just around the corner and lots of help is needed. Please see the bulletin board near the office to see what jobs still needs adult help.

We will have Sunday School for the younger kids all summer. Miss Hope loves to spend time with your children and wants to continue working with them each week. Please drop them off at 9:30 when you are not vacationing each Sunday.

Middle School and High School are currently studying the Book of Revelations. There has been some great conversations thus far as we learn about this book together. Our last class will be at the beginning of June when we finish our study of the Revelations. We will be taking the summer off. We will put that in the bulletin when our last Sunday is scheduled.



Congratulations to our graduates: Claire Long, Erin Unger and Dillon Rall

We wish you many blessings as you start a new chapter in your life.

Many thanks go to our Wednesday Night Volunteers. We will be getting together to discuss suggestions for next Fall. Look for your invitation in the mail soon.

St. John's Evangelical Church
Church Council Meeting Notes
Thursday, April 12, 2018
7:00 PM

Present: Carol Wilcox, Mark Sherman, Kristi Weaver, Nancy Rickenbacher, Jim Bidwell, Greg Martin, Heather Erwin, & Kristina Van Buskirk

The meeting was called to order by Carol Wilcox with Kristi Weaver opening with prayer.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT - Please write your ideas down as you think of them to complete the SWOT for the next meeting.

OFFICER'S REPORT

Secretary's Report - Kristi Weaver

- March 8, 2018 Minutes – Motion and second to approve minutes as printed, council vote, motion carried.

REPORTS

- 1) Finance - Kristi Weaver
 - Really liked the summary – The bus brakes were \$1,545. Greg Liedel to come up with a maintenance schedule. Discussion that we are under for the year. Discussion that we have a healthcare broker. A motion was made and seconded to accept the reports presented, council vote, motion carried.
- 2) Christian Education - Amy Long
 - Report passed out for review prior to meeting. No questions noted.
 - Discussion on bringing back the Christian Education Board.
- 3) Women's Ministry - Carol Wilcox
 - Carol attended the meeting.
- 4) Worship, Arts & Music - Nancy Rickenbacher
 - Will be setting up meeting now that Easter is over.
- 5) Personnel Committee– Kristina Van Buskirk
 - New Position Update – Have one application, will set up an interview.
 - Advertising on the Church Staffing site is \$300, so will wait for now.
- 6) Pastoral Relations- Carol Wilcox
 - Next Meeting: May 20, 2018
- 7) Trustees– Greg Martin/Jim Bidwell/Greg Liedel
 - A. Audio Visual & Building-Greg Martin
 - AV is setting up the Go Fund Me account
 - Going to get John Sieman to change the locks. It is going to cost less than planned. Greg talked to Kay and Kathy about it to find out who needs the keys. They are going to number the keys and keep track of them that way. The keys will not be able to be copied. Changing the office lock as well.
 - Drywall is replaced and painting is being worked on right now.
 - Discussion of making a list of maintenance for the church.
 - Discussion of lot across the street. Greg Martin to follow up with Jerry or Terry.
 - B. Bus - Greg Liedel
 - Brakes are fixed. Greg to come up with a maintenance schedule.
 - C. Farm - Jim Bidwell
 - We got the rent

- 8) Missions, Evangelism—Heather Erwin/Mark Sherman
 - Meeting on Tuesday at 5.
 - Having spaghetti and salad for the lunch on service day. Discussion of activities for the day. Mark to get Greg Martin a list of supplies needed to build the beds.
- 9) Pastors Report– Pastor Randall
 - Written Report distributed for review prior to meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

- By Law changes – Read and reviewed the section on the Trustees. Discussion to continue to review for next meeting.
- Mother’s Day - May 13
- Graduation Sunday – May 20
- Someone to mow – we have found someone to take over mowing.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Requested Removal/Transfer of membership – Motion made and seconded to accept request of removal of all those listed, Council Vote, motion carried.
 - * Ryan LaVergge – lives in Columbus area
 - * Craig & Marie Duff- out of area – transfer to First United Methodist Church, Van Wert
 - * Travis King – joined Kenton Nazarene
 - * Rylee Messenger – requests removal
- Project Dawn – Community Naloxone (Narcan) Kit Education & distribution – April 16, 2018 McGuffey – Discussion if anyone could attend.
- Kenton School Prom Advisor – asked to allow use of parking lot during prom.
- Celebrate Freedom – They are continuing to have it this year, for a shorter period of time, and sent a request for support. They are trying to raise money for fireworks, a kidzone, and entertainment. Discussion that there is no money budgeted. Decision of having the mission committee discuss at their meeting if they would want to support.

Next Meeting: May 10, 2018 7:00 PM

LORD’S PRAYER
ADJOURNMENT

Church Staff:

Senior Pastor: Rev. Dr. Randall J. Forester
 Children’s Ministry: Amy Long
 Financial Secretary: Kay Rush
 Church Secretary: Kathy Forester
 Custodian: Harry Long
 Chancel Choir Director: David Beazley
 Contemporary Worship Leader: Kendra Dilts
 Organists: Randall S. Rogers, Teresa Broseke and Linda Zeigler
 Children’s Choirs Director: Hope Cauley
 Bell Choir Director: Jane Baker
 Technical Support: Richard Katterjohn
 Historian: Gerald Pfister

<u>Summary of Finances for April 2018</u>	
<u>Income:</u>	
Envelopes	\$22,870.00
Loose offering and faith time	<u>\$ 891.00</u>
Total Income	\$23,761.00
<u>Expenses:</u>	
Staff Expense	\$13,597.00
Administration Expense	\$ 2,164.00
Utilities & Maintenance (electric is \$1501.00)	\$ 3,018.00
WAM	\$ 37.00
Christian Ed	\$ 175.00
Video	\$ 310.00
Evangelism	\$ 58.00
Youth	<u>\$ 0.00</u>
Total Expense	\$ 19,359.00
BALANCE	\$4,402.00

**Mission of the Month—
Crossroads Crisis Center—Lima OH
Now serving Hardin & Allen Counties**

Crossroads Crisis Center, Inc. is a non-profit 501(c)(3) agency whose mission is to enhance safety for survivors of domestic violence and their children by educating, advocating for, and empowering individuals. Through our leadership and expertise, they strive to become a community that does not tolerate domestic violence. They make every effort to provide effective programming while ensuring continuity of support as well as avoiding duplication of services.

Our programs include a safe confidential emergency shelter, 24/7 crisis hot line, crisis intervention, court advocacy, individualized safety planning, victim educational support groups, case management, advocacy information, and referrals, life skills program, non-residential services, community awareness, education and diverse community partnerships.

They believe in each individual's ability to make their own decisions and thus be empowered and self-determined. They strive to foster an environment of safety, support, and respect without regard to race, color, national or ethnic origin, religion, age, disability, sex, gender, sexual orientation, marital status, veteran status, or any other proscribed category set forth in federal or state regulations. Crossroads Crisis Center, is a United Way Partner Agency serving survivors of domestic violence and their children since 1980.



Friday With Friends

Friday With Friends is a wonderful group of widows, widowers, and single seniors who meet twice a month for a special time of food, fellowship, and fun. We meet the first and third Fridays of every month. Please join us if you are a widow, widower, or single senior adult. This is not exclusive to St. John's, so pass the word along to someone that you know who could be blessed by this special group. For more information, contact Ethel Koch at 419-674-6344.

Forthcoming outings will be as follows:

If out of town, meet at St. John's at 11 am to carpool.

June 1: Skinny's Tavern—Kenton

June 15: Acheson's Resort—Lakeview

July 6: Boy Scout Lake—Kenton

(Bring your own lunch & beverage)

July 20: Cranberry Resort—Huntsville

Use whatever gift you have received to serve others. 1 Peter 4:10



Worship Attendance

April 29:	8:30 a.m.	63
May 6:	8:30 a.m.	49
	10:30 a.m.	100
May 13:	8:30 a.m.	70
	10:30 a.m.	93
May 20:	8:30 a.m.	61
	10:30 a.m.	85



**Birthday Blessings
(over 80 yrs. Young)**

Happy Birthday!! Please contact the church office if a name was omitted from the list. Thank you so much.

June 29 Juanita Rader
14415 TR 265
Kenton, OH 43326



June 2018

Over the course of Christian history there have been many periods of Christian revival recorded. This subject has been studied by scholars over the years and many point to a cycle that may be just in its initial stages in the our country. Let's take a look at an earlier recorded "awakening".

A revival of religious fervor, 1744

"Introduction The Christian History" was a revivalist periodical founded by the Boston clergyman Thomas Prince in 1743 to report on the religious revivals sweeping across Europe and the United States. It was the first Christian periodical published in the United States but lasted only two years. The revivals of that period were ignited by Jonathan Edwards, whose theology sparked renewed enthusiasm and emphasized human depravity, divine omnipotence, and a personal relationship with God. This period is often referred to as the "First Great Awakening," although the term "Great Awakening" wasn't broadly used to describe the religious revivals that took place in the American colonies until the 1842 publication of Reverend Joseph Tracy's book of that title.

As Prince traveled from church to church in New England to preach, he recorded the reactions of the various congregations in his periodical.

This June 1744 issue of the journal comments on the evangelical spirit present in Connecticut. Excerpt June the 15th, *I rode out to Mr. Throop's a new Society in Norwich, and preach'd one Sermon for him, to a full Assembly. There seem'd to be a great listening to the Word; great Concern appear'd in the Countenances of many; a great Number were in Tears, and several cried out: Some fainted away, and one or two rag'd. After the Sermon was over I took Pains to find out the Spring of that Distress which appeared in many Instances, and I think, they gave Grounds to judge it was from Conviction of Sin; except those Instances that were distress'd with their out-rageous Passions.*

© 2013 The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History www.gilderlehrman.org

Do you notice the "fire and brimstone" tone emphasized during that period? In modern culture, do you think a revival would catch hold using this message? Have we as a culture fallen into the trap of downplaying the true cost of failure to obediently follow Christ? Just a few questions to consider as we deal with the state of our faith in modern times.

Jerry Pfister, Historian



Hymn Spotlight: There's Something About that Name – Bill and Gloria Gaither

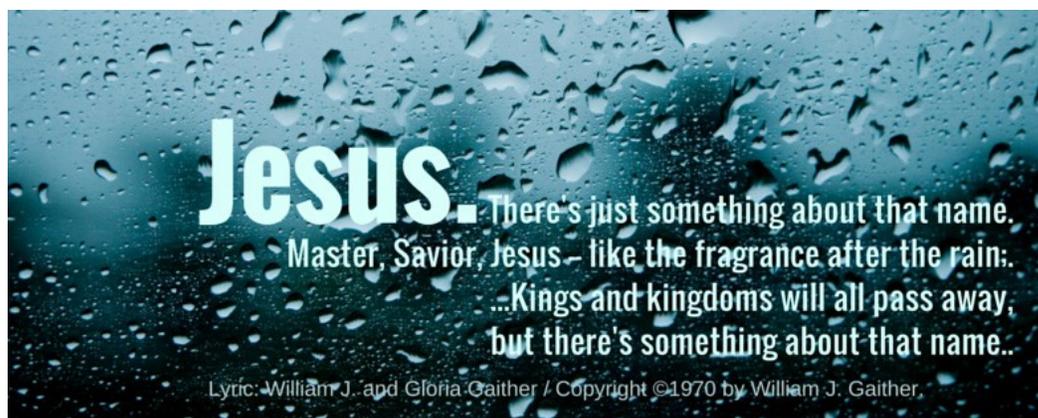


It has five letters. All of them, by themselves, are unexceptional. What's special about His name, then? Believers and non-believers alike have spoken it. Many people must think it's a good one, because they have named countless children with this 'Jesus' name. Even when praying, lots of believers declare 'in Jesus name' to add weight to their conversations with the Father. On the other hand, much of the world more casually throws His name around, too – an exclamation in a fit of frustration, perhaps. Why? "There's Something About that Name", Bill and Gloria Gaither declare, but they've left out the word 'special' that's implied in their statement. What was 'special' for them in 1970? Was it raindrops, of all things (see picture)?

Bill was 34 and Gloria was 28 years old in that year when 'Jesus' was on their minds. 'Healer', 'Comforter', 'Peace-Giver' are other names they could have put in their composition in 1970. The Gaithers had gone through a difficult, but yet enlightening chapter, with the loss of grandparents and the onset of their own parenthood and its responsibilities. They observed loved ones on either end of the age spectrum who felt the impact of His name. Their grandparents, though feeble and often mentally confused, still knew His name. And, as Bill's and Gloria's children experienced sickness, these composer-parents counted on 'Jesus' for wisdom and confidence to ease their anxiety. What they wrote communicates that something peaceful and refreshing came over them, something like what happens in the creation He made for them. Perhaps they felt His presence in the wake of a rainstorm one day, like an invigorating aroma that clears the mind, as their words indicate. Rain washes the pollution out of the atmosphere, and the creation senses the nourishment He provides. If you've ever watched someone's health falter in old age and the inevitable demise of the human body, you understand what it means to those people, both the dying and the surviving, as they emerge on the other side of that experience. Is it the anticipation of renewal that our grandparents' can see, when they utter 'Jesus'? Undoubtedly, it was the same objective these parents had for their sick children – renewal and its strength – when they said 'Jesus'.

Keep saying 'Jesus', is the message of the song the Gaithers wrote. Seven times, that's how much they have me say that name in this brief tune. Make it saturate the entire world. And, like moisture that evaporates back into the heavens, it eventually comes back down again, effecting a meteorological cycle we call weather. It cannot be stopped. I observe its repetitious nature, but is it seven or seventy-seven times, (a la Peter's discussion with Jesus about forgiveness - Matthew 18:21-22)? How many times has it rained in your life? Keep counting, and keep saying 'that name'.

"The Complete Book of Hymns – Inspiring Stories About 600 Hymns and Praise Songs", by William J. and Ardythe Perersen, published by Tyndale House in 2006, is the only source for this song story.





Volunteers and Donations Needed

It is time again to plan for the upcoming All Church Social. It is scheduled for Tuesday, June 26, 2018, with serving between 4:00 and 7:00 p.m. The social has been a success in the past several years only because of **YOUR** help. We again are asking for donations of foods and monies to help with this event. We also need as many helpers as possible on the day of the social to prepare and serve the food as well as set up for and **clean up after the social**. If you are able to help in any way, please let the church office know by returning the Volunteer postcard as soon as possible.

The following items are needed:

Cakes—6

*(2) Strawberry Angel Food Cake desserts, (2) German Chocolate Cakes,
(1) Carrot or Spice Cake, (1) Angel Food Cake, (1) Oreo Pudding Dessert*

Cherry Cheese Cakes—2 (9 x 13 size)

Home Made Pies *(all kinds)* - 45

Hamburger—30 lbs.

Decaf Coffee—1 Large can

CASH to purchase chicken and advertising.

- **Donated items need to be at the church by 12:00 Noon on Sunday, June 24th.**
- **Pies and Cakes need to be at the church by 12:00 Noon Tuesday, June 26th (day of social).**

(Complete and detach below volunteer/donation card)

I will donate the following for the Church Social:

I am willing to work *(please mark which apply & times available)*

_____ Prepare Food on Monday, June 25 starting at 1:00 PM

_____ Help Serve Food from 4:00 - 7:00 PM

_____ Clean-Up 5:30 PM - ?

Name

Phone Number