

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

**Do Not Delay**  
**Dated Material**

**JULY**



## **St. John's Evangelical Church Newsletter**

July 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](http://www.stjohnskenton.org)  
Email: [stjohnskenton@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnskenton@gmail.com)

**Celebrate Freedom—July 4**  
**Hardin County Fairgrounds**



Celebrate Freedom will be held at the Hardin County Fairgrounds on Wednesday, July 4 from 4-10 PM. It will begin with the parade and end with fireworks at 10 PM. Events include: Grandstand concerts, kid's zone, kids pedal pull, Evel Knievel's motorcycle, Antique tractor display, honoring military and veterans, car show, and Touch-A-Truck, For more information, you can visit the website: [www.celebratefreedomhardinco.com](http://www.celebratefreedomhardinco.com).

# ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL CHURCH

211 East Carrol Street  
Kenton, OH 43326

REV. DR. RANDALL J. F ORESTER, PASTOR & TEACHER

Phone: 419-673-7278 (o)

Phone: 724-290-3651 (c)

E-mail: PastorRandall@stjohnskenton.org

JULY 2018

## THE PASTOR'S PAGE

With the 4th of July soon upon us, we will see Old Glory, the Stars and Stripes, proudly displayed in all sorts of manners. It will wave majestically throughout our land from flagpoles at homes, businesses, and civic locations. It will decorate clothing, memorabilia, plates, and napkins. It will be found on the lapel of candidates and others in demonstration of their political values. As a Christian, how are we to respond to the calls and pressures of citizenry?

Some of you may read that question and ask, "Why would you even raise that question?"

The answer is clear." Well, it is clear, but depending upon whom you ask. Some Christians strictly avoid politics and any semblance of national pride, and it's not just the Amish who do this. Such Christians take very seriously Jesus' words in the gospel of John: "My Kingdom is not of this world" [John 18:36].

There are others who wrap their faith in the flag, so that it is hard to tell where saluting flag ends and the worship of God begins. I've even heard it said that one can only be a good Christian by belonging to this or that political party, and I've heard it said about several different parties.

In response to such syncretism, Derek Webb wrote the song *A King and A Kingdom* in which he sings:

My first allegiance is not to a flag, a country, or a man  
My first allegiance is not to democracy or blood  
It's to a king & a kingdom

As Christians, our first loyalty is to the King of kings before any president or other elected official. Our citizenry belongs in the kingdom of God before what is printed in our passport, so we want to make sure that we are following Christ and obeying His Word (the Holy Bible) first and foremost. We should never compromise our faith to "toe

the party line" or "vote for the lesser of two evils" in the name of compromise. Our first love is the Lord above any other.

That doesn't mean we should be apolitical or worse apathetic. We should be good citizens of the land. Even if we see ourselves as exiles in this world, we need to be productive with our time here. In **Jeremiah 29**, when the people of God were living in exile in Babylon, the people were told to build homes there, prepare to live in that foreign land for a long time, and to "seek the welfare

of the city to where I have sent you into exile," says the Lord in verse 7. He says it "for in its welfare you will find your welfare" in the remainder of that verse.

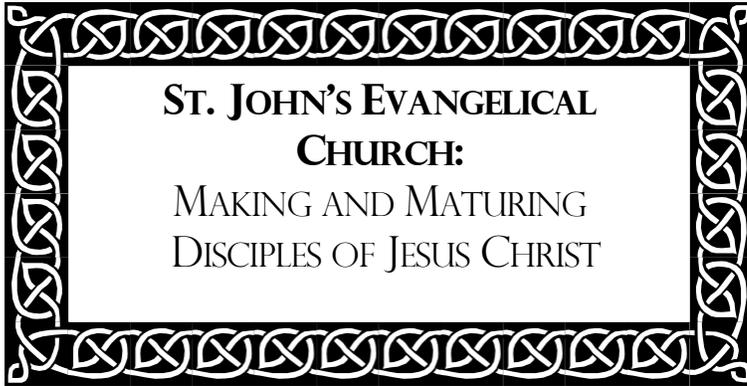
We are called into our homeland to bless it. This is one of the reasons our vocations are so important. We understand them to be God-given. As Christians, we helped to build the common good in

the civic arena because that is our calling. As a church, we are called to engage our community and to bring grace upon others. That is why we provide dinner for the kids who gather here on Wednesday night and at Bible School—we share common grace with them as we eat at the table, and then we share the particular grace of Christ and His Word that nourishes our souls.

Likewise, Christians are called to care about the common good of society as well as its spiritual good. In **Romans 13:1**, Paul instructs, "Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by

**JESUS SAID**  
**MY KINGDOM**  
**IS NOT OF**  
**THIS WORLD.**

**John 18:36**



## King and a Kingdom

by Derek Webb  
from the album Mockingbird

God." Peter says something similar in his first epistle 2:13-17. In both cases, these Apostles are calling upon God's people to be good citizens. That does not mean blindly following those in power as we can never corrupt or compromise our calling in Christ, but it does not mean to stand idly by, deny your opportunity to vote, or to be a perpetual critic of power and politics.

As Christians, we need to be Spirit-led as we engage our culture. That means being a part of the process politically by running for office, being informed and voting responsibly, and making sure that there is a Christian perspective heard in regard to policy and plans. We need to demonstrate a willingness to serve and volunteer for the greater good.

Being a good citizen can mean being a good employee or employer. Being a good citizen means creating art that stirs souls and speaks to the common good. Being a good citizen means saluting the flag while knowing there is a greater kingdom to which our loyalty belongs. Being a good citizen means making yourself available to serve in our Armed Forces and respecting those who have put on the uniform. Being a good citizen means that we "honor the emperor" [I Peter 2:17] while acknowledging that the holder of that office may not always be acting in a Christian manner.

As good citizens, let us demonstrate our faith in all things while also being civil and kind and making room for all that freedom may ring in every heart. That is good for our country, and it is good to prepare us to fully receive the kingdom of Christ.

In Christ's powerful name,

*Pastor Randall*

Who's your brother, who's your sister  
You just walked passed him  
I think you missed her  
As we're all migrating to the place where our father lives  
'Cause we married in to a family of immigrants

My first allegiance is not to a flag, a country, or a man  
My first allegiance is not to democracy or blood  
It's to a king & a kingdom

There are two great lies that I've heard:  
"the day you eat of the fruit of that tree, you will not surely die"  
And that Jesus Christ was a white, middle-class republican  
And if you wanna be saved you have to learn to be like Him

But nothing unifies like a common enemy  
And we've got one, sure as hell  
But he may be living in your house  
He may be raising up your kids  
He may be sleeping with your wife  
Oh no, he may not look like you think



## Summer Preaching Series

There's still time to submit suggestions for the summer series. Here's what on the docket for now.

01 July

Scripture: Romans 13:1-7  
Luke 20:19-26

Sermon: Give Honor and Respect  
Given topic: Honor, integrity, and honesty segueing into military and the Bible

08 July

Scripture: Isaiah 43:1-2  
John 14:1-7

Sermon: A Place for You

Topic: Where do we go when we die?  
What happens to us until Christ's return?

15 July

Scripture: Daniel 6:1-24  
Sermon: Be a Daniel

Topic: Being a Daniel. How do we live a godly life in a secular world?  
See also: Daniel 1:6-7; 1:8-16

22 July

Pastor's Vacation

Guest Speaker: Becky Blocksom

29 July

Scripture: Isaiah 49:5-7  
John 10:7-18

Sermon: Holy Catholic Church?

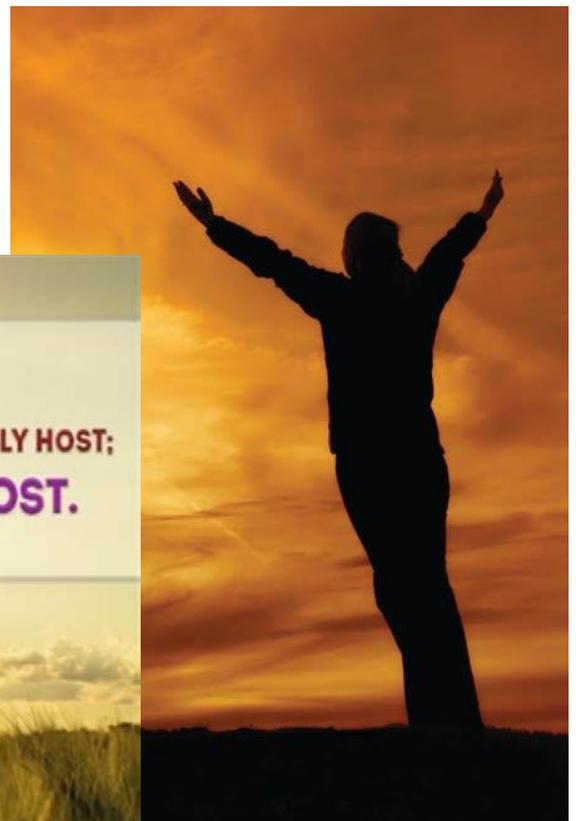
Topic: Why do we affirm that we are part of the holy catholic church in the Apostles' Creed when we are not Catholic?

05 August

Scripture: Judges 6:11-27  
Mark 4:35-41

Sermon: Grain Into Wine

Topic: How do we live courageous lives?  
What does that look like?



**PRAISE GOD, FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW;**  
**PRAISE HIM, ALL CREATURES HERE BELOW;**  
**PRAISE HIM ABOVE, YE HEAV'NLY HOST;**  
**PRAISE FATHER, SON, AND HOLY GHOST.**  
**AMEN.**



**Samson's Story—No Moral Needed**

Session	Scripture	Lesson
3 7/11	<b>Judges 14:1-9</b>	A First Love
4 7/25	<b>Judges 14:10-20</b>	The Impossible Riddle
5 8/01	<b>Judges 15:1-8</b>	Love Lost
6 8/08	<b>Judges 15:9-20</b>	An Unclean Weapon
7 8/15	<b>Judges 16:1-22</b>	Samson and Delilah
8 8/22	<b>Judges 16:23-31</b>	A Final Deed
9 8/29	<b>Hebrews 11:1-3; 32-40</b>	



Commended Through Faith

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



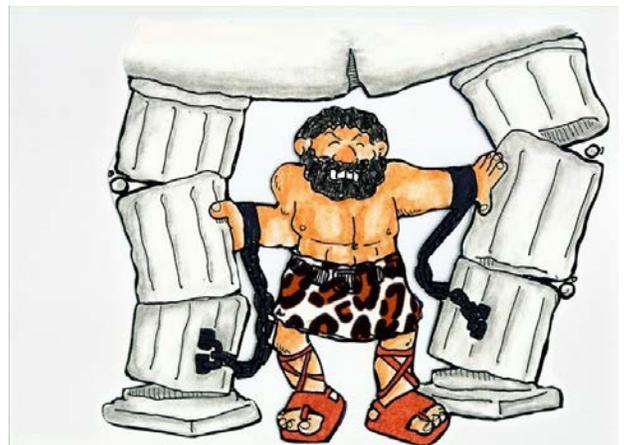
Samson's story is a story for our age. He is a fractured and fallen hero. He's lusty and passionate and often cares about himself above everyone else even though there is a call on his life from God. He's destined to do great things but his lack of faith prevents him from living out that calling. Like-



wise, God calls His Church and believers to have the abundant life

(**John 10:10**) but conceit and worldly thinking keeps God's blessings from abundantly flowing in the church today, which leaves believers frustrated.

Like Samson and the Israelites of the time, the Church and believers are being called upon again to repent and believe and to return to our first love (**Revelation 2:4**). Samson is a painful reminder—especially as we see the tragic end of his life—of what could be, opportunity lost, and blessings squandered. May we take the lessons to heart and live rightly and truly in this age as we walk humbly with our Lord.



## Adult Christian Education

As of now, our Adult Education is at a bit of a standstill. Thankfully, our Golden Buckeye Sunday School Class is still meeting. Hannah and Donna continue to teach. Some of our Life Groups are reaching their end. I am thankful for their leaders and the work they have done. It is natural for Life Groups to have a life cycle, which means there is a beginning and an end.

Moving forward, we will continue to share in the bulletin and elsewhere when various groups meet. I would like to see other options during the Sunday School hour. Additionally, there is a hope that the church would begin to offer Small Groups that would meet for a 6-8 week period and be offered in the fall and spring.

These groups could take on a lot of forms. To do this well, we need a leader. I have asked a couple of people, but so far the right person has not come forward. Could that be you? Would you be one to work with that person? If so, please let me know, so I can move that forward.

Until then, I'd like to know who would be willing to lead in the fall. For the first time in this format, I'd suggest studying **The Ragamuffin Gospel** by Brennan Manning. I suggest this because it is one of my favorite books and it changed me profoundly as I prepared for ordained ministry. I found it by accident, and it was not on any seminary reading list though it should have been. Everyone who reads it will find passages to love and others to hate. You will be uplifted and perplexed. If you take it to heart, it will drive you to your knees in prayer crying out for mercy while it will cause you to leap and dance and praise a God who freely gives us grace.

Then, in the Spring, we could hopefully find some people who will work with me to develop the 27 May sermon **A Spirit-Filled Life** into a course. After that, I hope to have leaders to guide and direct this ministry so that it could grow and vine in various directions.

As of now, these are just suggestions until we get a plan in place. Please pray for this ministry and how you may be a part of it and contact me soon at 724-290-3651 or [pastorrandall@stjohnskenton.org](mailto:pastorrandall@stjohnskenton.org).

Thanks and God bless!—Pastor Randall

## Sermon: A Spirit-Filled Life

Scripture: **Ephesians 5:15-21**

### Ten Marks of A Spirit-Filled Life

- 1 A Wise life in a Foolish culture (vv 15-17)
- 2 A Truthful life in a Pluralistic culture (v 17)
- 3 A Powerful life in a Weak culture (v 18)
- 4 A Joyful life in a Despairing culture (v 18)
- 5 A Spiritual life in a Materialistic culture (v 19)
- 6 A God-centered life in a Man-centered culture (v 19)
- 7 A Thankful life in a Discontented culture (v 20)
- 8 A Respectful life in a Rebellious culture (v 21)
- 9 A Humble life in a Boastful culture (v 21)
- 10 A Serving life in a Self-centered culture (v 21)



PASTOR 'S  
PAGE

### Conclusion

- A. A Spirit-filled life is a counter-cultural life.
- B. A Spirit-filled life is a practical life.
- C. A Spirit-filled life is a biblical life.
- D. A Spirit-filled life is an ongoing life.
- E. A Spirit-filled life is a believing life.
- F. A Spirit-filled life was Christ's life.



## 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.

July 6: Boy Scout Lake—Kenton

(Bring your own lunch & beverage)

July 20: Cranberry Resort—Huntsville



## Mission of the Month— Fairhaven Life Enrichment Fund

**Fairhaven Life Enrichment Fund, Upper Sandusky, OH:** Since 1916, Fairhaven Community has maintained a tradition of providing compassionate health care and senior living services in Upper Sandusky, Ohio.

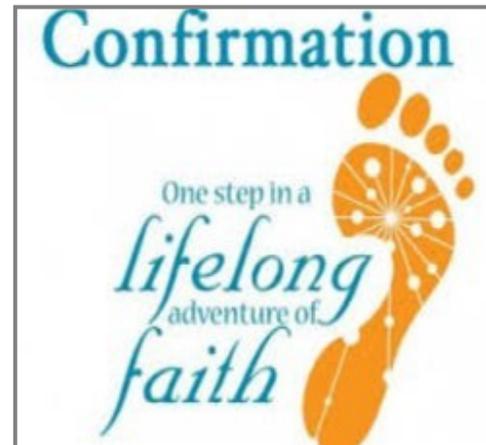
### Church Staff:

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

## Confirmation Class

We are looking to see who might be interested in confirmation class in the fall. Eligible participants must be grade 7 or higher in the fall. Confirmation will be held on Sundays during the Sunday School hour. If interested in participating, please leave your name in the church office.

Miranda Strous has volunteered to work with the Pastor to meet with the participants on Sunday mornings. If you would be able to be a helper or substitute or like additional information, please see Pastor Randall or contact the church office.



### Summary of Finances for May 2018

#### Income:

Envelopes	\$21,640.00
Loose offering and faith time	\$ 554.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$22,194.00</b>

#### Expenses:

Staff Expense	\$11,959.00
Administration Expense	\$ 415.00
Utilities & Maintenance (electric is \$1320.00)	\$ 2,208.00
WAM	\$ 16.00
Christian Ed	\$ 163.00
Video	\$ 77.00
Evangelism	\$ 86.00
Youth	\$ 0.00
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$ 14,924.00</b>
<b>BALANCE</b>	<b>\$7,270.00</b>



## July Kids & Youth

It's time for camp!!! In the next few weeks, we will be sending off our middle and high school students to camp. They worked hard over the last several months earning money to pay for their camp fees. Our middle school campers are going to Camp Cotubic in Bellefontaine and our high



school campers are going to Lakeside. Our high school counselors are Heather Erwin and Eric Gossard. We thank them for giving their week to go camp. We ask that you pray for each of our groups as they meet new friends and grow as Christians.

### Wednesday Night Volunteer dinner-

We thank everyone who attended recently. We had a wonderful dinner made by Barb McQuown. Many ideas were generated that can be used for our Fall programming. Again, thank to all who attended for their honesty and creative ideas.

We are planning on starting our Wednesday Night Kids Night on Wednesday, September 26, 2018 so mark your calendar!

### Vacation Bible School - The Me-Attitudes

It was another great week at VBS this year. We had lots of excited kids each night who learned simple Bible Stories from long ago. We had delicious dinners each night cooked by our super Kitchen group. Many thanks go to Natasha Dyer and Shannon Donnelly for working hard with our opening and closing each night.

We were able to raise over \$300 that will be split between Helping Hands of Hardin County and Cure International who helps children get medical treatment that they need.

Our helpers this year were:

Kay Schriber	Michele Sherman	Rae Mauer	Kevin Kapanka
JoAnn Erwin	Mark Sherman	Carol Wilcox	Pastor Randall
Monica Stephan	Trish Wilcox	LeVerne Weaver	Kathy Forester
Julie Pfeiffer	Alisha Kapanka	Mary Ralston	Tom Mauer
Heather Erwin	Hope Cauley	Kay Shirk	Richard Katterjohn
Patty Katterjohn	Cheryl Brooks	Kay Rush	Janet Jones
Bob Emlinger	Barbara Roof	Dylan Mouk	Natalie Horton
Augustin Forester	Angel Forester	Natasha Dyer	Shannon Donnelly
Nancy Weaver			

### Needs for this Fall

We need people to jump in and work with our kids. Many opportunities are available for you to be blessed each week when you work with the kids. Below is a list of what help is needed. Prayerfully consider if you want to be blessed in this way.

- Sunday Morning- Gr. 1-2 teacher
- Middle School Sunday School teacher
- High School Sunday School teacher
- Kids Worship leaders (once a month or more Frequently if you want)



### Wednesday Nights- Kitchen Help

- Group leaders- Story time & games for elementary age
- Discussion and Group leaders for middle school

**Bus drivers and riders-** We'd love to be able to bring the kids each week on Sundays in addition to Wednesdays but need people who can help in this area.



### Forest Court visits-

If anyone is interested in visiting Forest Court on a regular basis as we did last year, please tell Amy. Visits can be arranged, food can be prepared, games can be planned but we need one person who will take the lead while at Forest Court. This doesn't take up much of your time but you do get hugs and lots of smiles while visiting.

**St. John's Evangelical Church**  
**Church Council Meeting Notes**  
**Thursday, May 10, 2018**  
**7:00 PM**

Present: Carol Wilcox, Mark Sherman, Kristi Weaver, Jim Bidwell, Greg Martin, Kay Rush, Pastor Randall & Visitors: Kelsey and Cindy

The meeting was called to order by Carol Wilcox with Pastor Randall opening with prayer.

SPECIAL GUESTS – From the Health Department gave a presentation on opioid overdose

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT - Pastor Randall

**OFFICER'S REPORT**

Secretary's Report - Kristi Weaver

- April 12, 2018 Minutes – Motion and second to approve minutes as printed, council vote, motion carried.

**REPORTS**

1) Finance - Kristi Weaver/Kay Rush

- Summary of Finances – Last month had bus expense, this month on track, which is positive
- Review of expenses that have increased- Security has gone up in price, copier went up, elevator went up, working on the electric rate to see about getting a savings. Having Russ come in to look at the electric and telephone bill to help with it. Discussion if could shut off some of the units/raising temperatures to save and the pros/cons.
- AV Go Fund Me update – Kay is working on setting up an account for their use.
- Meeting May 22 at 6 pm

2) Christian Education - Amy Long

- Written report distributed for review prior to meeting.
- Last Wednesday night kids is done for the year
- Summer Camp is planned
- Graduation Sunday May 20<sup>th</sup>
- VBS is scheduled for June
- Thank you to everyone who gave for the Let's Make a Deal Night
- Will be scheduling summer events

3) Women's Ministry - Kay Rush

- Served 145 at the Soroptimist lunch
- OSU banquet in June
- All Church Social is June 26<sup>th</sup>

4) Worship, Arts & Music - Nancy Rickenbacher

- Written report passed out for review
- May consider a Community Sun Rise Service for Easter.

5) Personnel Committee– Kristina Van Buskirk

- New Position Update – Have had a few applicants, may re-work wording profile.

6) Pastoral Relations- Carol Wilcox

- Next Meeting - May 20, 2018 – bring any concerns to Carol Wilcox, Dave Beazley, Rudy Freer, or Nancy Rickenbacher

7) Trustees– Greg Martin/Jim Bidwell/Greg Liedel

A. Audio Visual & Building-Greg Martin

- Locks are changed
- Received a letter on the elevator on new regulations and inspections for the state - \$450 for them to come in and do the inspections.
- Discussion on the parking lot – old estimates from 2016 approximately \$25,000 – Have \$13,000 already set aside. Will work on creating a plan to repair it with Trustees and Finance.
- Discussion on the Quality Mechanic Maintenance agreement.
- Lawn Mowing - discussion

B. Bus - Greg Liedel

- Had the inspection, and found out we have to fix the turn signal. Have few other minor things to fix like a new decal, and then will re-inspect. Have to have it done by May 31<sup>st</sup>.
- Greg planning on creating a maintenance folder to keep the bus records.

C. Farm—Jim Bidwell

- Got a letter from the Agricultural Office about name change.

8) Missions, Evangelism—Heather Erwin/Mark Sherman

- Thanks to everyone for the day of service – Have given most of the beds away already.
- Found out from Kay that there is more money to make more beds, may set something up this summer.
- Planning the pool event again, but need to set a date.
- Committee is potentially meeting June 11<sup>th</sup>
- Will plan a Fall Project
- Working on the Mission List at the next committee meeting
- Someone has approached Committee about planning a mission trip for the future.

9) Pastor's Report—Pastor Randall

- Written report distributed prior to meeting for review.
- Thank you for letting him attend the continuing education.
- Spent some at time at the National Conference a few weeks ago.
- Will need to set council retreat date for fall.
- Miranda has volunteered to lead confirmation class, and Pastor Randall will be support. Will probably look for others to help as substitutes and support.

OLD BUSINESS:

- By Law changes – discussion.
- Mother's Day – May 13
- Graduation Sunday - May 20 – 2 graduates

NEW BUSINESS:

- Payne Chapel Church Facility/Event Request – September 30 @ 3:00 PM – Gospel Concert – Would like St. John's to host location due to size of concert (sanctuary). Featuring: Bowling Green Voices of BG Gospel Choir. Will include other groups as well. Should last no longer than 2 hours. They have invited Rodney Rogers to attend as President of BG. Still in planning stages but they would like to feed the Voices of BG Group afterwards (probably at least 50 people), so would need use of fellowship hall as well. They have not discussed food yet as to ask St. John's women or bring food in. Any questions, Sara Brown is the contact – Carol to call to discuss with Sara.
- Designation of Social funds- Same as last year
- Will be seeking volunteers for office & emergency needs – June 4-10 – Kathy is making a plan on people to cover.
- LOVE Inc – Golf - Motioned made and seconded to donate \$50 to the Heavenly Hole, Council Vote, Motion Carried.
- Celebrate Freedom – Mission committee decided on providing \$250 toward it. Pastor Randall will follow up on where to send the money.

Next Meeting: July 12, 2018 7:00 PM

LORD'S PRAYER

ADJOURNMENT



July 2018

This year in Kenton, we had a Memorial Day parade that resulted in a minor dust up as various groups bemoaned the lack of participation in the event. Back during WW II, our church published a newsletter that was sent to our members who were in the Services. C.R. Rubins and Paul Oaklief were co-editors and what I believe was their last letter (#31) was sent in September, 1945. This letter celebrates the end of the War with hope and advice. I hope you enjoy the following excerpts:

“Gratitude and Prayer of Thanksgiving marked the recent day in public and in private. The destruction of life and property has been ended; the building of life and nations begun. Some nations ...assume they can revert to the “good old days and ways”, but thinking nations realize that such action would only be a continuation of war; for it was those very condition in the “good old days” that brought on the trouble. ... for after all every human being is entitled to be recognized first as a PERSON and then as one who is seeking to enjoy the emoluments of this good earth to which he, like all his fellow men are rightfully entitled and then have the same sense of economic security for himself, family and home. There is no political, philosophical or government plan yet to be devised, which will bring about the desired end. Men everywhere will have learned if they can learn at all, that the Way of Life has been set forth in principles announced long ago by Jesus Christ. As long as we think or cause other to think that WE are wiser or have a better plan than He, so long will the earth see and have upheaval. MAN MUST BE TREATED AS MAN. He may need improvement, development and assistance, but all this and more MUST come through a knowledge and respect of God. Man will not respect his fellow man unless he respects God. ....Now as to OUR BOYS AND GIRLS IN SERVICE. .... Information now given indicates that most, if not all in Service, who have had 2 or more years’ service, will be sent home immediately In that event many of you will not receive this letter and you will be right here among us. That is what You and We WANT and that day cannot arrive to soon. Some of Our Boys who were in Europe and were slated for redeployment to the Pacific, arrived back here and then learned that their unit would not be sent overseas. So you fellows over in Europe now, just have a bit more patience and you will know that your are not going anywhere else but HOME. SWEET HOME.

Lloyd Molk, Ernest Borger, Donald Schneiderer came home from Europe; ....

Some of our Boys already are in the Far East, Frederick Bippus, DeWayne Ramage, DeVerne Hastings, Bus Siemon and maybe others and probably enroute Chas. Leoffert.

Great joy reigns in the Jackson family since definite word was received that MAJOR CALVIN JACKSON was liberated from P.O.W Camp Aisho near Tokyo on Sept.4, 1945. He was the first Hardin County man taken prisoner and remained such for the longest period of time, 3 ½ yrs. At the appropriate time Kenton as a community will honor ALL P.O.W. MEN; at a later date hold a COMMUNITY MEMORIAL SERVICE for all our County men who made the supreme sacrifice and then, still later have a real COMMUNITY GATHERING at which ALL THE MEN AND WOMEN who were in uniform during this war will be honored publicly as they so richly deserve. .... You fellows might hurry your return home by informing your C.O. that Rally Day will be held at our Church Sept. 30. At any rate, we do hope all of the overseas men get home for turkey and not later than Santa Claus. Best wishes to each and every one of you.”

As you can tell St. John’s and St. Peter’s were celebrating the end of the worlds most costly war with optimism and hope. Between the churches 106 were in service and 104 survived. Rubins and Oaklief were both men of insight. If only their advice had been heeded, the world would be at a much different place today. Let us resolve as we go through the year that not just Memorial Day but every day we give thanks for those in the past who have served God through Church, Community, Country and World.

Jerry Pfister, Historian

## Hymn Spotlight: America The Beautiful

After what I owe to God, nothing should be more dear or more sacred to me than the love and respect I owe to my country. -*Jacques Auguste de Thou*

### America The Beautiful

They wrote the words and music to “America the Beautiful,” but **Katharine Lee Bates** and church organist **Samuel Augustus Ward** never met.....they never even corresponded about the accidental collaboration that became one of the nation's sentimental anthems. Ward had originally written the music “MATERNA”, for the hymn “O Mother dear, Jerusalem” in 1882, though it was not first published in 1892. The music combined with this poem was first published in 1910 and titled America the Beautiful. Ward did not live to see this song become a piece of the national fabric.

Miss Bates', a single mother, had stressed the importance of education.....so her daughter went on to college (quite an accomplishment of the time) and then went on to be the head of the English Department at Wellesley College in Massachusetts (another great accomplishment for a young lady of that era). The poem was written as Miss Bates was on a train trip out west in 1893 – headed to a Colorado Springs College to teach summer classes – a very brave undertaking for a young, single lady of the times. Several of the sights on her trip inspired her, and they found their way into her poem, including the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago, the “White City” with its promise of the future contained within its gleaming white buildings, the wheat fields of America's heartland in Kansas, through which her train was riding on July 16, and the majestic view of the the Rocky Mountains as well as the Great Plains from high atop Pikes Peak.

Miss Bates originally named the poem “Pikes Peak.” She was known for being humble, and casually referred to the poem as “A the B.” She made only \$5 profit from its initial publication in the 1895 Fourth of July edition of *Congregationalist*, a weekly church publication. The lyrics were revised in 1904 – and final additions were made to the poem in 1913.

Each time we join together in singing the vividly descriptive lines of “America the Beautiful,” we are moved emotionally as we contemplate the wonders of our great nation. The scenic beauties, the courage of the early settlers, and the sacrifices of heroes in battle all stir us to avid appreciation of our country's heritage. But this national hymn does more than inspire us to praise our great nation. It also encourages us to pray for it. Each stanza is completed with an earnest plea for God's grace, God's healing, and His refining until we as a people achieve true brotherhood law-abiding control, and nobility.

The author felt deeply about the message of her patriotic hymn:

*“We must match the greatness of our country with the goodness of personal godly living. If only we could couple the daring of the Pilgrims with the moral teaching of Moses, we would have something in this country that no one could ever take from us.”*

A few interesting facts -

- Just as Bates had been inspired to write her poem, Ward, too, was inspired. The tune came to him while he was on a ferryboat trip from Coney Island back to his home in New York City after a leisurely summer day and he immediately wrote it down.

- The poem had been set to over 75 tunes before settling on MATERNA – one of the tunes used was “Auld Lang Syne”

This song is considered the “unofficial national anthem” of our country. It was one of the songs being considered as a US national anthem before the “Star Spangled Banner” was officially chosen.

As we consider this hymn we are reminded that America owes its birth to the living, vital, and dynamic faith in God that our founding fathers demonstrated. There is a real need today for a return to such a national dependence upon God as well as a renewed pride in our wonderful land. This song will be played at many parades this Fourth of July, and at other gatherings or in congregations during their worship service. Let's give thanks to God for the noble heritage and the many beauties of our great country He has entrusted to us. Raise your voice in praise to God and country.

*Info taken from Osbeck's Amazing Grace devotional, loc.gov, thoughtco.com, nypost.com, and chicagonow.com*



## Jesus on the 4th of July

We gather 'round to celebrate  
On Independence Day  
Pay homage to our country  
As the children run and play.

With barbecues and picnics  
And fireworks in the air  
The flag we own is proudly flown  
To show how much we care.

The stars and stripes spell freedom  
She waves upon the breeze  
While bursts of colors can be seen  
Above the towering trees.

This is all quite wonderful  
We revel in delight  
But God above in divine love  
Has brought this day to light.

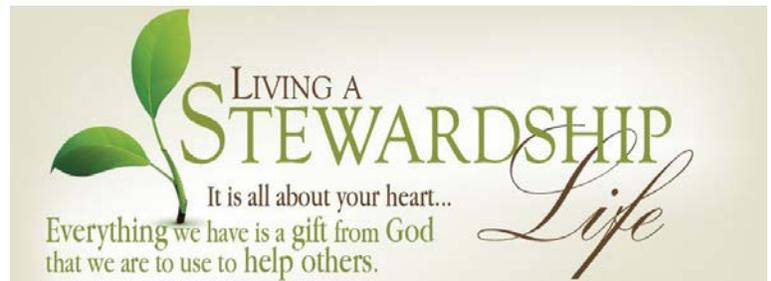
With just a stroke of liberty  
A touch of His great hand  
He gave democracy to us  
And helped this country stand.

The stripes upon our stately flag  
Were touched by His sweet grace  
Each star of white that shines so bright  
Reflects His loving face.

So as you turn to face the flag  
For battles that were fought  
Be filled with pride for those who died  
And freedoms that were bought.

But don't forget to thank the One  
That gives the bright display  
The reason why we paint the sky  
On Independence Day

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### Worship Attendance

May 27:	8:30 a.m.	45
	10:30 a.m.	93
June 3:	8:30 a.m.	53
	10:30 a.m.	91
June 10:	8:30 a.m.	55
	10:30 a.m.	77
June 17:	8:30 a.m.	57
	10:30 a.m.	69



### 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.

July 2: Jack Draper  
805 Vernon Street  
Kenton, OH 43326

July 2: Shirley Draper  
805 Vernon Street  
Kenton, OH 43326

July 12: Carole Spillman  
PO Box 143  
Kenton, OH 43326