

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

Do Not Delay
Dated Material

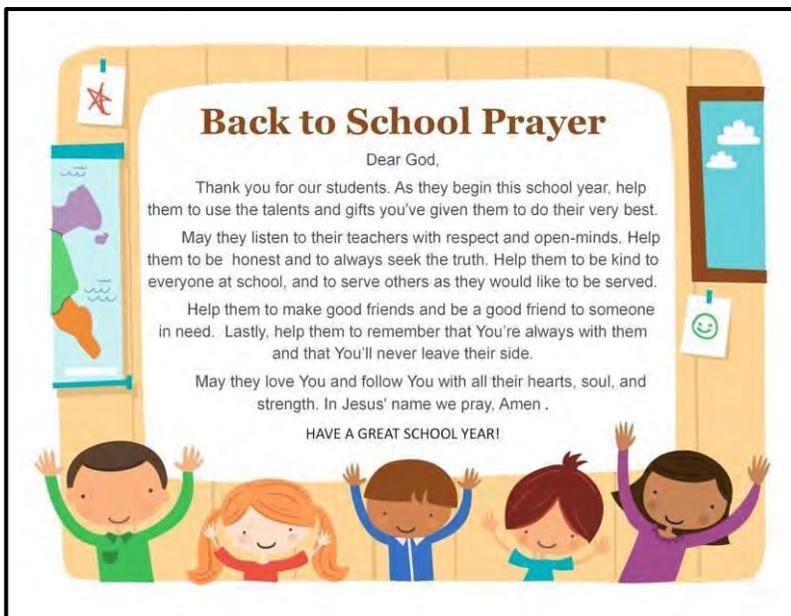


St. John's Evangelical Church Newsletter

August 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
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Blessing of the Backpacks— **August 12**

On Sunday, August 12, during both services, there will be a blessing of the backpacks for back to school. All students are to bring their backpacks to church that day.

**Blessing
of the
Backpacks!**



ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL CHURCH

211 East Carrol Street
Kenton, OH 43326

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AUGUST 2018

THE PASTOR'S PAGE

I am really impressed with the music ministry here at St. John's Evangelical Church. Both our services are blessed with such gifted individuals who come together to share their gifts to the glory of God and the edifying (building up) of His people. We have choirs comprised of kids and adults and one filled with bells. While we may not host the Cruise In as we have in years past, there is still a hope of hosting concerts in our sanctuary and fellowship hall throughout the year. Music is integral to who we are as a people of faith.

In recent months, Teresa Broseke has been including an article on a selected hymn in our monthly newsletter. She has done so to add some texture and depth to our understanding of what is sung in our sanctuary. Hopefully, these articles will impact your worship and praise. Teresa hopes these articles will aid people in their worship as they understand the history and thought that shaped the hymns that we sing.

This month's article is on the hymn *Be Thou My Vision*, which is a personal favorite of mine. This song has impacted my faith greatly so much so that it was part of my ordination service in 1995. I love this song as it is part of my Celtic roots—the tune reminds me of my homeland. The hymn's origins transport me back to the early days of the Christian faith in those lands and inspired early Christians there to maintain the course and the gospel of Jesus Christ was carried to the pagans there.

Most of all, the words of the hymn have inspired my faith. Those words are reminders that my faith rests in nothing less than God Himself. He and He alone will avail me in life. For that to happen, I need to keep my eyes fixed on God lest I turn to the left or to the right and stumble and fall. The Christian walk calls me to a life where the Lord and the Lord alone fills my vision, my thoughts, and my actions.

That reminds me of the story of the Israelites and the Golden Calf. Moses had gone up on the mount where he was to receive the Law from God. ALL the people were supposed to have join him but they were terrified (see **Exodus 20:18-21**).

And when Moses saw that the people had broken loose (for Aaron had let them break loose, to the derision of their enemies), then Moses stood in the gate of the camp and said, "Who is on the Lord's side? Come to me." And all the sons of Levi gathered around him.

—**Exodus 32:25-26**

Instead, they sent Moses to represent them before the Lord. The process took longer than they had expected, so the people turned to Aaron to make them gods to worship (**Exodus 32:1**).

Quite quickly, they took their eyes off of the Lord their God and fell into idolatry. They turned from the truth and settled for lies. They suffered from a case of spiritual amnesia. God had delivered them from oppression and a life of enslavement. God freed them from the grip of Pharaoh, one of the mightiest rulers on the planet.

God sustained them in the desert. After all that, they could not wait for a little bit of time while Moses received instructions from the Lord.

As the scripture says in **Exodus 32:25** (see the text box above), "the people broke loose." The people let go of what was truly important. What looked like freedom and a choice was spiritual enslavement as they traded their freedom in Yahweh for chains of bondage forged in hell.



That's why Moses called out in the next verse, "Who is on the Lord's side? Come to me." Besides that verse being part of another great hymn, it is a reminder to remain steadfast when others chase after the things of the world. Sometimes that temptation to forget God and His ways is so great. However, we are compelled by the Holy Spirit to remain faithful.

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

orded in all sorts of manners. Still, this hymn reverberates in the soul and the heart. The tune's name itself evokes an act of daring and defiance and faith by St. Patrick that has emboldened the faithful for generations to do the right thing no

I remember how much anxiety I battled as I prepared for ministry. All the questions that ran through my head. Who was I to serve the Living God? Was I ready? Was I prepared? How could I fulfill this high calling?

Amongst them all, clanging around my brainpan was the question, "Could I finish well?" I grew up at a time when many great and influential Christian lead-

*Be Thou my vision,
O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me,
save that Thou art.
Thou my best Thought,
by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping,
Thy presence my light.*

ers had succumb to moral failures and when many churches and Christian leaders downplayed the scriptures and the truth it contained. I wondered if I would be able to maintain my faith and my witness for the long haul of life and service.

To answer that question rightly, I would have to fix my eyes on Jesus and no where else if I wanted to complete the racecourse ordained for me (**Hebrews 12:1-2**). Christ alone would be my best thought. His presence would be the only light that guide me as He illuminated my path. He would be the fount of wisdom from which I could speak His truth. Keeping my eyes fixed on God would remind me of my true identity—I am a child of Almighty God who relates to me as my Heavenly Father.

This hymn has endured through the ages with its unique Celtic tune and equally unique turns of phrases. It presumably was originally arranged for monastic use, became a hymn, and has now been rec-

matter what the culture or the powers that be demand. God rewards great acts of faith when they are empowered and engendered by the Holy Spirit.

Disappointingly, our church's hymnal drops the third stanza that Teresa correctly (in my opinion) includes in her article. This too reminds me of my ordination. A dear pastor friend and mentor asked that we remove that stanza. It begins "Be Thou my battle Shield (or Breastplate), Sword for the fight." My dear friend thought this sounded too militaristic. However, the stanza continues, "Be Thou my Dignity, Thou my Delight." We are called to fight a spiritual fight not against flesh and blood but against spiritual forces and cosmic powers (**Ephesians 6:12**).

Every time I hear that hymn, I am transported to a time and place long before my being. Simultaneously, I am lifted into a spiritual realm—a plane where Christians war against demonic forces that seek to devour the innocent and the helpless and where we battle to win their souls. And yet, at the very same time, I am pulled into the real world of everyday life where we Christians are called to be salt and light (**Matthew 5:13-16**). At a certain level, thinking on these things seems too great a thing for a mortal mind, but then comes the faith that these lyrics speak to over and over again. When our eyes are cast upon the Lord are good, when He is our Vision, our Hope and our Delight, and when He alone is our Best Thought, Word, and Defense, we have no fear for we can succeed in all the realms of which this hymn speaks and we can achieve the monumental tasks of faith for the Lord is with us as our Guide and Fulfiller of all His promises. We have no where else to go but where He sends. We have no fear for when our eyes are cast upon the Lord, we find our perfect Faith and Rest.

In Christ's powerful name,

BE THOU MY WISDOM
AND THOU MY TRUE *word*
I EVER WITH THEE
AND THOU WITH ME LORD
thou MY GREAT FATHER
I THY TRUE SON
THOU IN ME DWELLING
AND I WITH THEE *one*
* * * * *

Pastor Randall

Summer Preaching Series

We are winding down the summer sermon series. Here's the scriptures and sermons for August and Labor Day. The scriptures that form the Call to Worship in the second service (when known) are included as they pertain to the message also.

05 August

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

Sermon: **Grain Into Wine**

Topic: Where is our confidence but in God?

What do we do when we are afraid to act?

12 August

Call to Worship **Psalm 9:9-11**

Scripture: **Psalm 57:1-5**
Mark 5:1-20

Sermon: **Doesn't Jesus Like Bacon?**

Topic: The curious story of Jesus, the demoniac, the herd of swine.

19 August

Scripture: **Job 38:1-11**
Luke 13:1-5

Sermon: **Why Such Suffering?**

Topic: How can a gracious God allow suffering?

We may touch on Moralistic therapeutic deism (MTD) that describes the faith of our age. It is a term that was first introduced in the book *Soul Searching: The Religious and Spiritual Lives of American Teenagers* (2005) by sociologists Christian Smith and Melinda Lundquist Denton.

26 August

Call to Worship **Psalm 27:7-9**

Scripture: **John 1:14-18**
Exodus 24:1-18

Sermon: **Renewal, Dinner, and Tablets**

Topic: Another curious scripture, but this one deals with people dining with God.

02 September

Call to Worship **Psalm 90:16-17**

Scripture: **Genesis 3:17-19**
Luke 14:1-6

Sermon: **Off to Work We Go**

Topic: God gives us vocations—work to do.

An old Quaker saying,

“Let your life speak.”

November 11—Veterans Day

Future note: This year, Veterans Day falls on a Sunday. Pastor Randall is looking for suggestions for the worship service and that day. This could be a unique opportunity to honor our veterans and invite people from our community to church that Sunday.

Please contact Pastor Randall with your ideas or, better yet, your willingness to organize the day and its events.

Possible ideas: Video room where veterans could record their stories; a Canteen (snack area) in the Fellowship Hall; patriotic hymns/readings in the worship service; or a time memorial wall. Please pray about this and offer your suggestions to the pastor.

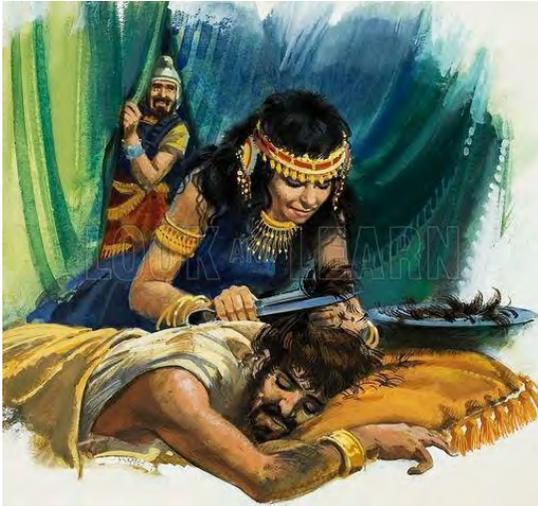
As always, our worship is to first and foremost glorify God.

Summer Bible Study 2018

Samson's Story—No Moral Needed

Session	Scripture	Lesson
5 8/01	Judges 15:1-8	Love Lost
6 8/08	Judges 15:9-20	An Unclean Weapon
7 8/15	Judges 16:1-22	Samson and Delilah
8 8/22	Judges 16:23-31	A Final Deed
9 8/29	Hebrews 11:1-3; 32-40	Commended Through Faith

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



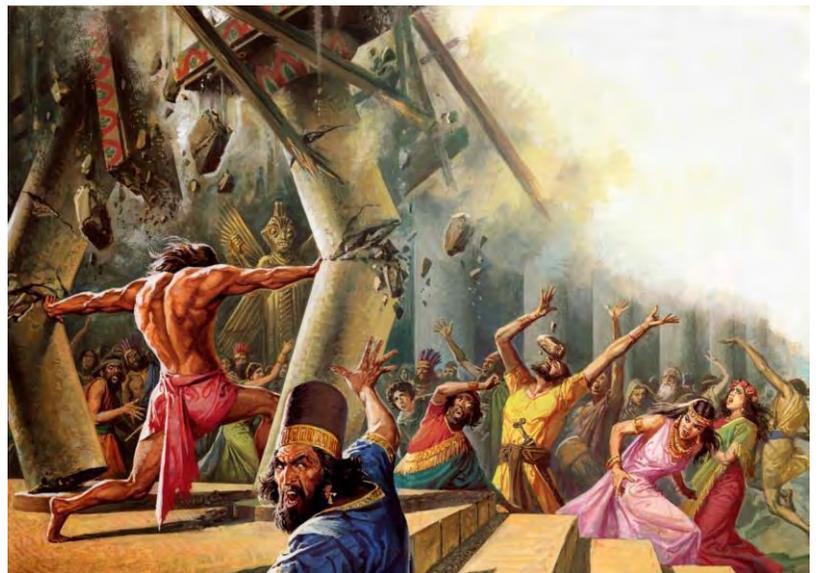
In August, our summer Bible study comes to a close. We will finish looking at the life of Samson as presented in the Bible. In the final session, we will dig into the last mention of Samson in scripture, which comes in the book of Hebrews. This study has been challenging at times, but it points to our times. People are going their own way even as Samson did. Yet, God is still merciful and calling people back. In His love, God grants good gifts event to those who

forsake Him as Samson did. Please come and look at Samson's life and consider how we can live rightly in this world today.

Sometimes the question is raised why Bible Study is not offered throughout the whole year. The simple answer is timing. We would need a time and day to host it. The pastor is open to leading a Bible Study whenever and wherever a group would like to meet. During our programmatic portion of the year, the pastor is dedicated to our Wednesday night programs and helping where he can.

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. For by it the people of old received their commendation.

—Hebrews 11:1-2





Special Congregational Meeting

A Special Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, August 5 after the second service. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss resurfacing the church parking lot and alley. Any questions, see Greg Martin or Jim Bidwell.



Upcoming Dates—Mark Your Calendars

- August 5—Special Congregational Meeting (12:30 PM)
- August 12—Blessing of the Backpacks at both services
- September 12—Suicide Walk (1:30-3:00 PM)
East parking lot
- September 29—Golden Buckeye Picnic (4 PM)
Erwin's home
- September 30—Song Fest including BG Gospel Choir
(3 PM) St. John's sanctuary
- September 26—Kid's Night begins
- November 15—Women's Celebration



Mission Trip Opportunity

Pastor Mark Bishop is organizing a trip to Appalachia possibly in October or November and would like to see if anyone is interested.

Appalachia Service Project is a Christian ministry, open to all people, that inspires hope and service through volunteer home repair and replacement in Central Appalachia. It has been serving people in Appalachia since its founding by Rev. Tex Evens in 1969. The goal is to make homes "warmer, safer, and drier." Fall projects of 2 to 5 days in September thru December are available in Kentucky, Tennessee, West Virginia and Virginia. NO experience or SKILLED needed. Please check out their website at www.asphome.org.

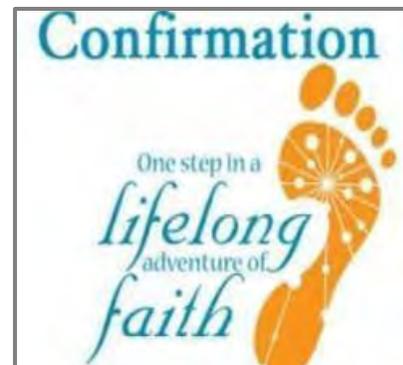
If interested, please contact the church office or Pastor Randall. Pastor Bishop can organize an informational meeting.



Confirmation Class

Confirmation Class will begin soon. 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.



Adult Education and Life Groups

We are in need of someone to help coordinate Adult Education or lead a short-term life group in the fall. The goal would be to offer more adult education opportunities and short-term life group, for example book studies. Please see the July newsletter article or Pastor Randall for more information.



God, You've Been Working

by Katy Kaufman

In the shadows of my memory,
I see You working behind the scenes.
Times when I might have battled alone,
You were there, keeping my heart in Your Word,
Defeating evil forces come to take me captive.

In the secret parts of my heart
I feel new strength growing.
Courage dissolves my fears
Hope that I thought had fled
Has come to life again.

In the normal routine of life,
I see adventures waiting to be had,
Friendships to build and hearts to love,
Opportunities to use,
And truths to discover.

You've been working all day
In the night while I slept,
You protected my soul
During the days I walked on Your path, You guided my
steps.

Thank You, God, for Your constant love will
trust You when I can't see clearly.

I will follow You when I don't
know where the path will lead.

Keep me close to Your heart.

I know You've been working all along.

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Jesus answered them, "My Father has been working until now, and I have been working."

John 5:17 NKJV

Summary of Finances for June 2018

Income:

Envelopes	\$20,565.00
Loose offering and faith time	\$ 578.00
Total Income	\$21,143.00

Expenses:

Staff Expense	\$14,409.00
Administration Expense	\$ 1,155.00
Utilities & Maintenance (electric is \$1437.00)	\$10,374.00
(Insurance: \$3895.00 – Maint agreement \$1845)	
WAM	\$ 16.00
Christian Ed	\$ 924.00
Video	\$ 251.00
Evangelism	\$ 66.00
Youth	\$ 0.00
Total Expense	\$ 27,195.00

BALANCE (\$6,052.00)

Church Staff:

Senior Pastor: Rev. Dr. Randall J. Forester
 Children's Ministry: Amy Long
 Youth Ministry: Michele Sherman
 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



We welcome Michele Sherman as our new Youth Leader!!!! Michele is always a super positive person who works really well with kids and adults- We can't wait to see what great ideas she has for the middle and high school kids. Congratulations Michele!!!!

Before we know it, we will be heading back to school. The kids are getting excited! We are getting excited for a new Sunday School year also. We will restart our Sunday School after the Hardin County Fair and our Wednesday Nights will start on September 26.

We NEED:

- 1 teacher for our 2nd graders - Sunday morning from 9:30-10:15 am

This is a small group of really fun kids who love to learn about Jesus.

- 2 people who will play games with kids on Wednesday nights from 5:30-7:00. Games and props are provided, you need to bring the energy.
- Table chaperones for Wednesday nights from 5:00-6:00 pm to eat with kids and talk with them about how their week is going. The kids love to tell you all about themselves!!
- Kitchen Help - We need adults who can run the dishwasher, cook and help in many other ways. They usually start around 4:00 pm each Wednesday



Our **Middle and High school youth** will be sharing their best memories of camp soon. Feel free to ask them about their experience and how their lives have changed since going to camp. Our thanks go to everyone who helped support our kids getting them to camp.

Don't forget to bring in your samples of shampoo and conditioner, toothpaste, soap, etc. that will be shared with Angels for the Elderly. Our Middle and High School kids will be putting those together into care packages and delivered.





August 2018

How many of you remember Lake Idlewild? Before motor cars became available, Kenton resident found Idlewild to be an easy buggy ride north of town. Why are we discussing an old recreation area in the Church archives article for August you ask? The answer is that it was “the place” for St. John’s to hold our summer “Rallies”.



Back in the days when you’ll notice a slightly more formal dress code pictured above, “Rallies” constituted a major role in Church life. Keep in mind that our Church’s roots back then reflected German custom. We still had brass bands and singing societies active in the Congregation.

From our records, I found that July and August were the most popular months to have a Rally prior to WW I. The crops were in the ground, schools were out and the weather was slightly kinder back then temperature wise.

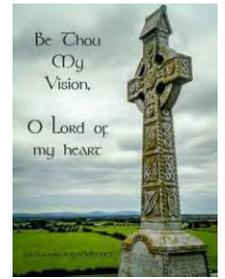
So, what exactly was a Rally back in those days? The short answer is it was a supervised fellowship event for Sunday School attendees. Keep in mind, our Sunday School enrollments were over 200 and these events required a serious amount of planning and Congregational support. The Sunday School Superintendent and his staff designed the programs for these all-day events. Typically, there was a formal invocation by the Pastor, a luncheon, games (separate for boys and girls of course), the band played and/or the singers sang in the late afternoon, followed by a prayer, dinner and recitations of scripture or poetry by students. The event was capped off by presentation of ribbons for the winners of the games and a benediction by the Pastor

When we think back on these times over one hundred years ago, it was a totally different world. There were no cars, cell phones, radio, TV, internet, or social media to interrupt a time of personal interactions. Today there are a few Church camps around that offer this kind of experience and those fortunate enough to go enjoy something very special. Have your children or grandchildren experienced anything like this? How do you think they would react?

Jerry Pfister, Historian

Hymn Spotlight: Be Thou My Vision

The true and complete story behind this hymn is hard to track down. Most information states it was written in 8th century Ireland, and I've found 3 different names of who possibly could have written the words. The story which comes up most often and my attention is this.....it is believed that St. Dallan lost his sight, which inspired the first line, "Be Thou our vision." Legend has it that he recovered his sight after writing a poem praising St. Columba. Through all the passage of time, and lack of clarity as to who wrote this, the hymn text from Ireland is still meaningful for us today with its expression of a yearning for the presence and leading of God in our lives.



The earnest prayer is enhanced by such quaint but tender phrases as "Lord of my heart, Thy presence my light, and heart of my heart." The text states that when we allow God to have first place in our lives, He becomes our treasure. And we no longer care for the pursuit of riches or man's praise.

The entire Irish poem was first translated into English in 1905 by Mary Bryne, In Dublin, Ireland. It is very long...too much to share here...but very beautiful and meaningful.

Several years later, Eleanor Hull, a writer of English history and literature, penned the prose into verse form and included it in her 1912 book of poems, *The Poem Book of the Gael*. Her work offered a metrical, poetic version of Byrne's work in twelve rhymed couplets that have been used by editors since to arrive at versions of the four-stanza hymn so widely treasured today. A five stanza version is shown below.

Around the same time as Ms. Hull's working with the text, Patrick W. Joyce was publishing the traditional tune SLANE (named for a hill near Tara where St. Patrick challenged druid priests in lighting the paschal fire.) Thus paired with the English text, the "Be Thou My Vision" sung today first appeared in the Irish Church Hymnal in 1919.

Be Thou my Vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art;
Thou my best Thought, by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise,
Thou mine Inheritance, now and always:
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart,
High King of Heaven, my Treasure Thou art.

Be Thou my Wisdom, and Thou my true Word;
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;
Thou my great Father, I Thy true son;
Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one.

High King of Heaven, my victory won,
May I reach Heaven's joys, O bright Heav'n's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my Vision, O Ruler of all.

Be Thou my battle Shield, Sword for the fight;
Be Thou my Dignity, Thou my Delight;
Thou my soul's Shelter, Thou my high Tow'r:
Raise Thou me heav'nward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.

The hymn is a prayer – a prayer that Christ will be our vision – our best thought – our presence – our light.

What would it mean if Christ were our vision? How would it change our lives?

It would mean simply this – that instead of seeing the world through the eyes of some advertising agency or a Hollywood movie or a television newscaster, we would see the world through Christ's eyes.

It would change our lives, because seeing the world through Christ's eyes would cause us to love as Christ loved. It would cause us to focus less on getting the things that we want and more on giving what we can to help others. It would cause us to care less about other people's opinions and more about the direction that God would have our lives to take.

In some ways it would complicate our lives, because we could no longer be as focused on the things that the world considers important – more money, bigger houses, more prestigious cars. But in other ways it would simplify our lives, because it would allow us to stop striving for ever-larger piles of things and would allow us to focus on spiritual values. People who have come to see the world through Christ's eyes tend to be centered – less troubled than most – strong with a strength that comes from God.

"Be Thou My Vision" - as we sing it, let's remember that it is a prayer. Let us make it our prayer.

Info gathered from sermonwriter.com and tanbible.com

Mission of the Month— Operation Sleep Tight

Operation Sleep Tight began after a St. John's Mission Team built beds for children who never had beds before in Belize. St. John's soon learned that this is not an isolated problem, as we have children in our very own community who are sleeping on floors and couches every night. So the church started raising money to build beds locally and have managed to supply beds to children throughout Hardin County by working together with local agencies to help those in need. Through your generous donations, we have been able to bless many families not only with beds and mattresses, but with the bedding also! If you are interested in helping in any way, please contact Mark Sherman or Heather Erwin.



Worship Attendance

July 1:	8:30 a.m.	58
	10:30 a.m.	66
July 8:	8:30 a.m.	57
	10:30 a.m.	82
July 15:	8:30 a.m.	53
	10:30 a.m.	89
July 22:	8:30 a.m.	56
	10:30 a.m.	71

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.

August 3: Eagles—Kenton

August 17: Crazy Lady—Forest

September 7: La Pizzeria—Indian Lake

September 21: Shotzy's—Upper Sandusky

October 5: Viva Maria—Ada

October 19: Royal Buffet—Kenton

November 2: Salsa's—Kenton

November 16: Skinny's—Kenton

December 7: Henry's—Kenton

December 21: Coonie's—LaRue



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.

August 17: Bill McNamee
105 Aleutian Circle
Kenton, OH 43326

August 28: Robert Height
115 Harding Avenue
Kenton, OH 43326