

WELCOME VISITORS We're happy to have you visiting with us today and hope that you will come again. Please fill out a visitor's card and pass it to the right so that we'll have a record of your attendance.

SUNDAY POTLUCK—DECEMBER 18 We are having a potluck meal today after morning services. We would like to invite our visitors to stay and enjoy a time of fellowship with us.

GIVING AND GETTING~(Acts 20:35) During his farewell to the Ephesian elders, Paul encouraged them to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He Himself said, *'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'* This is a reference to a teaching of Jesus that Paul was aware of, but that was not recorded in the Gospel accounts. Although we don't have this reference in the Gospels, it is easy to see Jesus making this statement. We can understand the truth of this statement because of the nature of Jesus and the life He lived. Jesus was a man who did more giving than getting. He lived out his life with a view of serving others even and especially at His own expense.

His death on the cross for sins that He did not commit, and for those who did not deserve this love speaks volumes on the giving that Christ did. As I read the scriptures, I see that we as followers of Christ have been called to carry on the ministry and giving spirit of Christ. As we do this, we must keep in mind that we live in a society that values getting over giving. We can however, use this fact to our advantage. We can open the door to sharing the Gospel message through a life of giving.

As I look back on my life, I can see that I was often on the receiving end. Not that there is anything wrong with receiving help or blessing from others, but there is a call to give also. One of the things that I am doing now is seeking ways that I can give back to Jesus for His goodness to me over the years. I am trying hard to recognize opportunities to give to others of my possessions, time, and energy. Everyone who has been changed by the love of Christ has something to give to others. The thing about giving is that what makes the gift special to others is the willingness and the spirit of the giver.

There have been times in my life where people have given things to me of great value. There have also been times where people have given me things that the world would not highly value, but I valued highly because of the attitude of the giver. Guess what? We are rich in Christ and have much to give. Much to give each other as members of the body of Christ, much to give those who are in need of Christ and his message of hope and peace. Purpose in your heart this week to be a giver and not just a "getter." Giving not so that God will bless you, but because God has blessed you greatly! ...Nathan

IT IS MORE BLESSED TO GIVE THAN TO RECEIVE (Jesus)

HOLIDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE Sunday, December 25 and Sunday January 1 we will only be having worship from 11-12noon due to the holidays. There will be NO classes or evening services on both of those days.

WEDNESDAY EVENING SERVICE December 28 there will be a devotional in the auditorium in a similar format to the one we had at Thanksgiving. Everyone will meet in the auditorium and children will be dismissed after singing. Dave Derr and Bob Long will be coordinating the devotional; if you have questions see one of them.

NEW YEAR'S FELLOWSHIP The Wolfe's are organizing a New Year's Fellowship in the family life center December 31 from 6pm to midnight. **A sign-up sheet for those who plan on attending is posted on the bulletin board in the foyer. Information on what to bring is also posted.**

FRUIT BASKETS Baskets are ready and in the foyer. If you are a sponsor to a widow please see that your widow receives her basket. If you are a widow or widower in attendance today please pick up your basket.

THANK YOU If only we could describe with words the wonder and excitement in the eyes of so many little children. As if to say "you remembered me, thank you", that goes for each and every place we've visited. These words were spoken through both smiles and tears. As a result of your generosity over 50 children will have a brighter Christmas. Many thanks to those who have supported this program for so many decades and to the dedicated workers who make this most memorable Christmas experience possible. ~Jim Derickson Of course none of this would be possible without the diligent dedication of Jim and Kathy, many thanks to them!

God's Word says"*....Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.*" I Cor.15:58. What a marvelous Work for the Lord was given as we served the dinner and program to the Fountain Square Residents. We continue to pray that this "Work" will bring Godly Fruit...in His Time. Sincere and heartfelt thanks to each and everyone who contributed in the many, many ways it takes to pull this all together. What a blessing to see "*Good Gifts' From God*" come to everyone! Special thanks to the elders who gave from the general fund to meet the needs for the gift cards. You are appreciated! Sharon Towner

NEW ADDRESS Ben and Haley Gittus and family are now living at 3997 Wallingford Court, Genoa, OH, 43430. Phone numbers are the same.

OFFICE HOURS I will be in the office on Dec. 19, 20, & 21 and the following week on 27, 28, & 29. Turn bulletin info in early! Thanks, Paula

- Charline Drake—dealing with lung cancer, she is the mother of Lori Kohl & Candy Hardy.
- Michelle Vogt—sister of Mike Lunsford, her cancer has spread and she is not doing well. Please pray for comfort for her and for the family.

PLEASE PRAY FOR Anna Copass, R.C. McElwain, Ruth Ragland, Maggie Clouse, Norma Gonzalez, Johnnie Brown, Jim Thomas, Tony Ramos, Don & Marian Loertscher, Carmen Wright, Jim Hall, Mike Borysiak, Jason Grimes, and Bertha Wells.

BIBLE READING December 18 Hebrews 6-9; December 19, Hebrews 10-11; December 20, Hebrews 12-13; December 21, James 1-5; December 22, 1 Peter 1-4; December 23, 1 Peter 5 & 2 Peter 1-3; December 24, 1 John 1-5.

RECORDS DEC. 11, 2011			
9:00	106	N.E.	6
10:00	229		
6:00	112		
Wed.	65		
Contribution		\$5,090.32	
Missions			
Building Fund			
Total		<u>\$5,090.32</u>	
Weekly Budget		\$5,444.62	

SCHEDULE OF SERVICE	
Sun.	9:00 am Bible Study
	10:00 am Worship
	6:00 pm Worship
Wed.	7:00 pm Bible Study
Thurs.	11:30 am Bible Study