

For the Week of
December 25, 2011



THE LINK

Connecting Disciples to Kingdom Opportunities

Today

Merry Christmas!

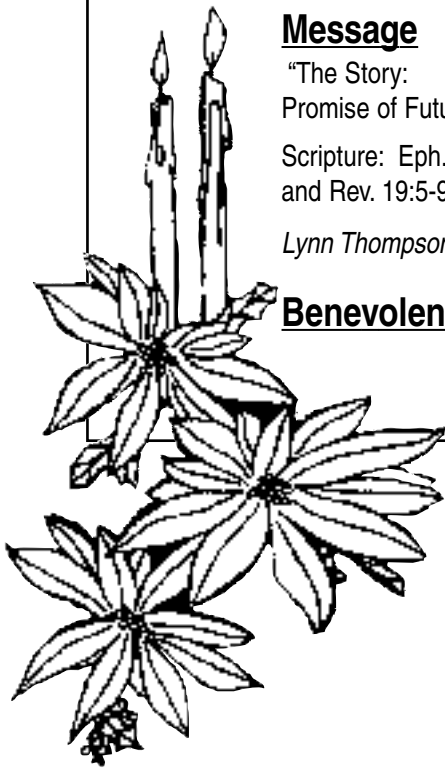
Message

"The Story:
Promise of Future Love"

Scripture: Eph. 5:27-30
and Rev. 19:5-9

Lynn Thompson Speaking

Benevolent Offering



All Sunday evening programs
will not meet tonight.

We encourage you to enjoy celebrating Christmas
with your family and friends this evening.

This Week at a Glance

Wednesday, Dec. 28th

P.O.W. — Prayer on Wednesday
7:00 p.m. in the Conference Room

Thursday, Dec. 29th

Awakening 24/7 College Class
St. John Open Gym Event at 7:00 p.m.
(See details inside The Link.)

Sunday, Jan. 1st

New Year's Day Combined Service at 10:00 a.m.

Message: "Authority Issues"

Scripture: 2 Timothy 3:16-17

Tyler Macke Speaking

(See details inside The Link.)

Communion



Congratulations!

We welcome Micah Gregory,
son of Greg & Becky Amstutz,
born on December 16, 2011.
Micah weighed 9 lbs. 2 oz.



Reaching out to the world with the Gospel of Christ



Focus for Prayer

This Week Please Remember Ron & Jacquie Touby Serving with "Priority Associates" in Mason, Ohio

Who We Are

Men and women in the business community are making decisions that will affect them for the rest of their lives. Within the marketplace, they have developed skills to make a living and bring home a paycheck. But where will they get the skills to learn how to live, to develop healthy relationships, to be men and women of integrity, and to be spiritually fulfilled?

Priority Associates is a network of business and creative professionals, seeking to balance our professional, personal and spiritual lives. Active now in 20 cities across the country, Priority Associates is a resource for business men and women, providing opportunities to explore issues of success, personal leadership and significance in a variety of venues.

We are committed to developing leaders "from the inside out." We believe that as individual lives are changed, families, companies and cities will be transformed in a positive fashion.

Our vision is for working men and women to:

- Have a dynamic and fresh relationship with God.
• See how their faith really works day to day in the marketplace.
• See the relevance of the Bible to their lives and the challenges they face.
• Have an impact in the marketplace and community.

We are working together to develop ourselves into a new kind of business person who can lead in today's marketplace — one who is dynamic, mature and effective.

Priority Associates Cincinnati exists to help business and professional men and women find balance, focus and direction in the midst of constant change.

Life is full of challenges that affect us physically, emotionally, mentally and spiritually. Priority Associates serves as a resource from a biblical perspective in the following ways:

- Personal consulting
• Small group studies
• Conferences
• Professional development seminars

Prayer & Praise

- Jean Schumacher (Loss of Spouse)
• Barb, Ken and Ron Schumacher & Families (Loss of Father)
• Jerry Oberhaus
• Jana Huber & Family (Loss of Sister)
• Dave Walters & Family (Loss of Father)
• Terry Reichenbach & Family (Loss of Father)
• Marsha Gillogly

Extended Prayer Needs

- Kris DeBolt
• Donna Badertscher
• Peggy Bridenbaugh
• Steven Steele
• Princess Grismore

If there are any concerns or prayer requests, please contact the office.



New Missionary Letters

The missionary letters are located just outside the doors to the sanctuary.

John & Edra Mitchell Dennis & Cindy Wiens Bonnie Spallinger

Ministry Opportunity!

A girl who attends Rally Point has moved in with a Christian family in Lima. This particular family has a room for her in their basement; however, there needs to be some light construction done. The owner is quite qualified, but needs some help. The need is for 2 or 3 somewhat handy people to work, possibly two or three Saturdays, for about 4 hours each day.

If you can help or have questions, please contact Jared Diller at 419-234-8817 or Gregus Smith at 419-306-3228.

Update on Water/Sewer Project

Our Water/Sewer Project is nearing completion! If all goes well, the work will be completed in a couple of weeks. However, we still need approximately \$29,500 in donations to completely pay for the project. If we do not receive this amount needed by year-end, we will look at taking out a loan to pay it off. Your donations thus far are much appreciated and we ask that you prayerfully consider to continue to give to this project. Please make checks out to St. John Mennonite and specify in the memo line 'Water/Sewer'. Thank you.

Opportunities at St. John

College & Career Ministry



St. John Open Gym Event!

The "Awakening 24/7" College/Career Class would like to invite you to an event at the St. John gym **THIS Thursday evening, Dec. 29th, between 7:00 p.m. and 12:00 midnight.** There will be activities for all, games, basketball, volleyball, and much more. In addition there will be plenty of food and friendship available. Bring a friend....better yet, bring two!

UPCOMING EVENTS . . . *Mark Your Calendars!*

- **December 29th** St. John Open Gym Event
7:00 p.m.-12:00 midnight
- **February 18th/19th** Peek'n Peak Ski Trip to New York



New Year's Day Service
Sunday, January 1st, 2012 • 10:00-11:00 a.m.

"Authority Issues" - 2 Timothy 3:16-17

Combined Worship Service

*(No ABF/ Sunday School Hour or K.I.C.K.)
(Infant/Toddler Nursery Available)*

P.O.W.

PRAYER ON WEDNESDAY

Come and join us on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. as we lift up our prayers and praises to God. ALL are welcome to attend this important time together. Prayer On Wednesday (POW) meets in the Conference Room.

RADICAL CHALLENGE!

ONE YEAR TO A LIFE TURNED UPSIDE DOWN

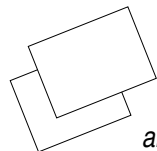
One year to a life turned upside down. During the coming year, we are going to be talking about a book called *Radical* by David Platt. The challenge this book offers is that we take radical steps toward how we follow Christ. One of those steps toward this radical following of Christ is to take action to read through the Bible in a year.

David Platt says, "We have settled far too long for 'Bible lite,' both as individual Christians and in the community of faith. We have adopted a Christianity consumed with little devotional thoughts from God for the day, supplemented by teaching in the church filled with entertaining stories and trite opinions on how to be a better person and live a better life in the twenty-first century. Meanwhile, we hold the matchless Word of God in our hands, and it demands a superior position in our lives, our families, our small groups, and our churches."

Take the challenge of reading through the Word in 2012. Pick up a plan on the Reception Desk in the lobby and get started. To accomplish, it will take a time commitment. The plan we are providing is a chronological plan. You may choose another plan, but start reading.

II Timothy 3:16 - All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.

Welcome Visitors!



A Heartfelt Welcome to visitors, please stop by the Welcome Center in the Fellowship Hall for a cup of coffee and a donut! We're glad you've joined us today as we worship God together and learn from His Word. We invite you to fill out an informational card, adding any requests for prayer you may have, and drop it in the offering plate. Come again when you can!

Opportunities at St. John

Financial Peace University



This seminar will be offered at St. John starting on January 10th, 2012. This will be a series of classes for all those who desire understanding and skill development of Biblical perspectives and principles of finances. The mission statement of Financial Peace University is to provide a "biblically based, common-sense education and empowerment which gives HOPE to everyone from the financially secure to the financially distressed". This is a 13-week course that will be held on Tuesday nights from 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. from January 10th through April 3rd. All individuals or couples are invited. The cost of the life-time membership for the seminar is \$95.00/individual or household. Scholarships are available for those in need. Look for the sign-up in the fellowship hall and sign-up by January 1st.

For more information, contact Jamie Harpst at (419) 434-0838 or email at jamie.harpst@gmail.com. You may also contact the church office at (419) 384-3680 or email at office@stjohnmennonite.org.

ABF Classes • Winter Quarter

24/7 (College)	M. Robb	The Book of James	MP Rm. 410
New Beginnings	Lynn/Liane Thompson	The Truth Project	MP Rm. 411
Cornerstones	T. Closson/J. Ridge	"Crazy Love" — Francis Chan	MP Rm. 412
Salt Shakers	D. Lee	The Gospel of John	FH Rm. 111
Koinonia	G. Harpst	The Book of II Peter	Northview
Seekers	S. Dean/A. Borgelt	Prayers of Paul	MP Rm. 501
Horizons	S. Schneck	Quarterly - Establishing a Faithful People	FH Rm. 109
Living Ambassadors	D. Biery	Quarterly - Establishing a Faithful People	MP Rm. 401
Home Builders	T. Jackson	Quarterly - Establishing a Faithful People	FH Rm. 110
Foundations	Dave/Julie Stratton	"The White Horse Inn" Discipleship in Contemporary Culture	MP Main

*Today in the town
of David a Savior
has been born
to you; he is the
Messiah, the Lord.*

Luke 2:11



Automated External Defibrillator (AED)

Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA) is a leading cause of death globally. Response time is critical for survival. The HeartSine Samaritan® PAD for adults was designed especially for use in public areas by providing a sophisticated defibrillator inside a lightweight and easy-to-operate system. Our unit is housed on the wall in the main office.

We are blessed to have been given a defibrillator by a generous donation within the church body. Thank you very much!

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your recent donation of grocery items for the men here at the Lima Rescue Mission. We appreciate your thoughtfulness. It will be a help as we reach out to the less fortunate men who come to us for help.

Sincerely,
Chuck Ferguson

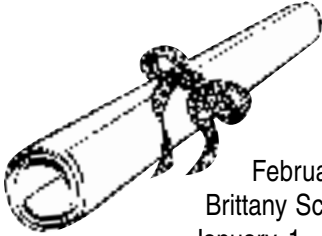


Lost & Found

Please check the "Lost & Found" table for any items you may be missing. The table is located by the North side entrance (behind where the Greeters stand). Any unclaimed items will be donated at the end of the year.

Due to the Christmas break, all Kids and Youth programs will not meet on Wednesday evenings for the next couple of weeks.

All Wednesday evening programs will resume on Jan. 4th.



Everence College Scholarships Available for 2012

If you or your parents have owned or used an Everence product or service for at least 12 months prior to February 28, 2012, you are eligible to apply for a college scholarship for the 2012-2013 school year. Brittany Schroeder of our congregation was one of the scholarship recipients last year. Applications are accepted from January 1 - February 28, 2012. Learn more at Everence.com. and type '2012 college scholarship' in the search field or contact Peggy Reichenbach, Everence advocate.

H A I T I 2 0 1 2

Attention Ladies of St. John

It's time to begin working on the feminine hygiene packs for the Haitian girls. Last year, 4,000 pads were sewn and distributed to these young ladies. This year our goal is 3,000+ pads! The distribution and hygiene classes for the young Haitian girls are the week of February 18-25, 2012.

*There are several ways in which you can participate in this project.
Each meeting time will be held in the Fellowship Hall.*

1. We have a sewing instruction kit with pattern, sample and directions. You supply the flannel and cotton batting and work on your own. Contact Pam Macke at mmacke@fairpoint.net or Bettina Schroeder at cbschr@hotmail.com for an instruction kit or stop by the church office and pick up a kit.

2. **NEXT Sunday, January 1, 2012**, from Noon to 5:00 p.m. Lunch provided. Sewing Day 1. This will be a sewing day for all who can come. You will need to bring your sewing machine with size 14 needle. There will be pads cut and ready to sew. For those who don't care to sew, there will be more cutting out of pads.

3. **Sunday, January 15, 2012**, Noon to 5:00 p.m. Lunch provided. Sewing Day 2! More of the same; bring your machine for sewing or cut out more pads.

4. **Monday, January 16, 2012**, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Lunch provided. Sewing Day 3! Come again with your sewing machine and sew for a couple hours or all day!

5. Cash donations will be accepted to purchase the following:

Hygiene Bags (400 to Purchase)

Ibuprofen

Bottles for Ibuprofen

Hefty Brand Freezer Bags (Need 400 of the 1 qt. size bags)

Cotton Flannel and Cotton Batting

Laminated Calendars

The back of the Northview building will store the completed pads and supplies for the hygiene bags. Any questions, contact Pam Macke, Bettina Schroeder, Joyce Smith or Therese Meyer.

November 2011 Financial Report

	November 2011			November 2010		
	Actual	Budget	Variance	Actual	Budget	Variance
Income	\$67,532	\$74,465	(\$6,933)	\$59,711	\$73,631	(\$13,920)
Expenses	\$69,574	\$74,465	(\$4,891)	\$158,115	\$73,631	\$84,484
Net	(\$2,042)		(\$2,042)	(\$98,404)		(\$98,404)

	November 2011 YTD			November 2010 YTD		
	Actual	Budget	Variance	Actual	Budget	Variance
Income	\$750,796	\$819,115	(\$68,319)	\$750,443	\$809,940	(\$59,497)
Expenses	\$760,719	\$819,115	(\$58,396)	\$775,179	\$809,940	(\$34,761)
Net	(\$9,923)		(\$9,923)	(\$24,736)		(\$24,736)

Notes:

- November income was \$67,532, which is \$6,933 under budget. November expenses were \$4,891 under budget at \$69,574. The result was a deficit of \$2,042.
- YTD income is \$68,319 under budget at \$750,796 while YTD expenses are \$58,396 under budget at \$760,719. The result is a deficit of \$9,923.
- In November, \$2,700 was donated for the water project bringing the total amount raised to \$190,615.

Submitted by Ed Basinger, Treasurer



Birthdays This Week!

- Dec. 25th Michaela Blank
- Dec. 26th Andrew Yoakam
Zachary Miller
- Dec. 27th Brian Hilty
Jessica Pneuman
Brianna Keeler
- Dec. 29th Gavin Kruse
- Dec. 30th Melissa Selhorst
- Dec. 31st Wayne Huber

Milestone Anniversaries Congratulations!

Dan & Chanda Smith
Dec. 28th • 15 years

End of Year Giving

All offerings received by or postmarked December 31st will be credited as a 2011 tax year donation.

Donations received or postmarked after December 31st will be credited as a 2012 donation. Please plan your end-of-year giving accordingly. Thank you.

The November Council Minutes are available in either of the brochure holders.



Cancellation Information

In case of inclement weather, please check our website at www.stjohnmennonite.org for announcements on cancellations. If you do not have internet access, you may call the church office at 419-384-3680. Decisions to cancel evening activities will be made independent of local school cancellations. A decision will be made after 12:00 p.m. and before 3:00 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PLEASE have your announcements to the office **BY WEDNESDAY** in order to have them included in the LINK. E-mail is the best and quickest way to communicate with the office. Our office E-mail address is: office@stjohnmennonite.org. You may also leave your announcement in the **TOP** basket on the bookcase outside the offices.

Thank you for being prompt.