
The ECHO

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Volume 69 Issue 2

FEBRUARY 2022

FEBRUARY 2022 CALENDAR

THURSDAY, February 3
11:30 Women's Fellowship
SUNDAY, February 6 SCOUT SUNDAY
10 am Worship & Sunday school
Hopper usher team
Confirmation class
MONDAY, February 7
ECHO articles due to the office
4:30 Dining at Pegg's
TUESDAY, February 8
6:30 Church Council Meeting
SUNDAY, February 13
10 am Worship & Sunday school
Weckback usher team
Confirmation class
YOUTH meeting after service
WEDNESDAY, February 16
7 pm Men's Fellowship
THURSDAY, February 17
5 pm Women's Book Study
SUNDAY, February 20
Learning Center Sunday
10 am Worship & Sunday school
Rob Bohle usher team
Confirmation class
MONDAY, February 21
4 pm Christian Education
THURSDAY, February 24
5 pm Women's Book Study
SUNDAY, February 27
10 am Worship & Sunday school
Wakeland usher team
Confirmation class

Ruth Ann Meyer has been hired by the church council to fill the part-time secretarial position at the church. She will begin February 1, 2022.

Office Hours for Pastor

Monday 10:00—3:00
Tuesday 10:00—3:00
Wednesday 10:00—3:00
Thursday 10:00—3:00
Friday—out of the office, but on call

If Pastor Scott is not in the office during these times, he is meeting with a family in need. He is always available and on call. Please call 314-397-1667.

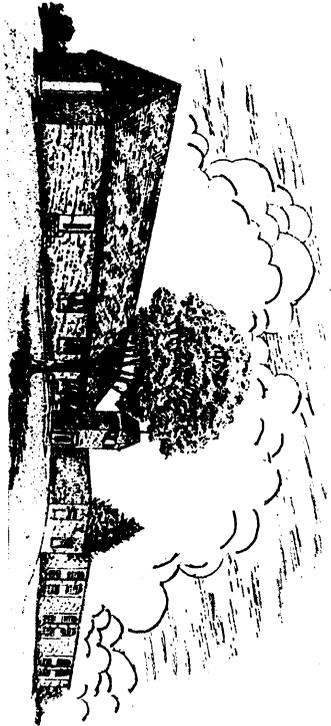
Secretarial Office Hours

Tuesday: 8:00—11:00
Wednesday: 8:00—2:00
Friday: 12:00—2:00

These hours may change from time to time due to personal scheduling. If there is no one in the office, please leave a message and someone will get back to you as soon as possible. Thank you.

ST. MARTIN'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
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FEBRUARY 2022



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I am so enthused that our Christian Education Committee has done a tremendous job of recruiting volunteers to teach Sunday School during the 10 a.m. worship hour. At our recent meeting, we organized and prepared all of the lessons for the month of February. We are going to celebrate LOVE for the entire month!

Our lessons will be:

February 6: The Greatest Commandment (Matthew 22:34-40). Children will learn that Jesus is actually fulfilling an Old Testament command found in Deuteronomy 6:4-9. This is an ancient prayer, which we will learn called the Shema. Children will make a prayer box called a 'Mezuzah'!

February 13: The Most Popular Passage in the Bible is probably John 3:16 which reminds us that "God so Loved the World that God sent us Jesus."

February 20: The Love Chapter which is 1 Corinthians 13. The apostle gives a detailed definition of what godly love is like as a gift of God's Holy Spirit. Children will make a "Love is" mobile to help them learn and remember what God's love is like.

February 27: There is only one place in the Bible that says God IS. 1 John 4:7 says God is LOVE! Children will play a fun game with dominos to illustrate the 'domino effect' of sharing acts of loving kindness.

I hope you can see how well prepared we are to welcome the children to Children's Church on Sunday mornings at 10 a.m. Please bring the kids and tell your friends!

Pastor Scott



St. Martin's Women's Fellowship's January 6 meeting was done via a conference call due to possible inclement weather and health concerns. The February 3rd meeting may also be a conference call, but that will be decided closer to the date.

Pastor Scott installed our officers for 2022. President, Sandy Roland, Vice President Tammy Birkenback, Secretary, Judy Davis and Treasurer, Belinda Doyle.

Because of possible weather and health concerns, it was decided by those present to cancel the cabin fever luncheon scheduled for January 20.

If you are unable to get to the church and would like a copy of The Upper Room, please contact Belinda Doyle at 636-274-4202 and we will make sure that you receive a copy.

All women of the church are welcome to join us. We meet on the first Thursday of each month at 11:30am. Please check with Tammy Birkenbach (636-357-8288) for information about our next meeting. In these pandemic times we strive to keep everyone safe, therefore our meetings can vary from in-person or conference call.

Submitted by Sandy Roland

THOUGHT FOR TODAY

I TRUST THAT GOD HAS A GOOD PLAN FOR MY FUTURE

Hebrews 11:1 Faith is confidence I what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.

One day I began to feel disturbed by thoughts of what my future might look like. I wondered if I had made a wrong choice, and I felt confused and overwhelmed with fear. I asked God to speak to me and help me, but I felt the same. I tried to recall a scripture verse that would help me, but I couldn't remember one. I began to lose hope. Later I saw a post on social media that contained the word uncertainty and a reference to Hebrews 11:1. I quickly turned to the verse and read it over and over. I learned that by embracing my uncertainty with faith, my fears lessened. I still question what my future will look like, and I worry about choices I have made regarding my career or education. But scriptures reminds me that faith will enable me to let go of my fear and trust God. Hebrews 11 reminds us that whenever we feel disturbed and stressed about the future or our choices, we can put our faith in God, who holds our future and wants the best for us. With this assurance we can embrace uncertainty with faith and encourage others to do the same.

Passage from the Upper Room

God is Patient

You always hear the usual stories of pennies on the sidewalk being good luck, gifts from angels, etc. This is the first time I've ever hear this twist on the story. Gives you something to think about.

Several years ago, a friend of mine and her husband were invited to spend the weekend at the husband's employer's home. My friend, Arlene, was nervous about the weekend. The boss was very wealthy, with a fine home on the waterway, and cars costing more than her house. The first day and evening went well, and Arlene was delighted to have this rare glimpse into how the very wealthy live. The husband's employer was quite generous as a host, and took them to the finest restaurants. Arlene knew she would never have the opportunity to indulge in this kind of extravagance again, so was enjoying herself immensely.

As the three of them were about to enter an exclusive restaurant that evening, the boss was walking slightly ahead of Arlene and her husband. He stopped suddenly, looking down on the pavement for a long, silent moment. Arlene wondered if she was supposed to pass him. There was nothing on the ground except a single darkened penny that someone had dropped, and a few cigarette butts. Still silent, the man reached down and picked up the penny. He held it up and smiled, then put it in his pocket as if he had found a great treasure. How absurd! What need did this man have for a single penny? Why would he even take the time to stop and pick it up?

Throughout dinner, the entire scene nagged at her. Finally, she could stand it no longer. She casually mentioned that her daughter once had a coin collection, and asked if the penny he had found had been of some value. A smile crept across the man's face as he reached into his pocket for the penny and held it out for her to see. She had seen many pennies before! What was the point of this?

"Look at it." He said. "Read what it says." She read the words "United States of America". "No, not that; read further." "In God we Trust!" "Yes!" "And?" "And if I trust in God, the name of God is holy, even on a coin. Whenever I find a coin, I see that inscription. It is written on every single United States coin, but we never seem to notice it! God drops a message right in front of me telling me to trust Him! Who am I to pass it by? When I see a coin, I pray, I stop to see if my trust IS in God at that moment. I pick the coin up as a response to God; that I do trust in Him. For a short time, at least, I cherish it as if it were gold. I think it is God's way of starting a conversation with me. Lucky for me, God is patient and pennies are plentiful!

When I was out shopping today, I found a penny on the sidewalk. I stopped and picked it up, and realized that I had been worrying and fretting in my mind about things I cannot change. I read the words, "In God We Trust," and had to laugh. Yes, God, I got the message.

It seems that I have been finding an inordinate number of pennies in the last few months, but then, pennies are plentiful! And God is patient.

Submitted by Jack Nobles

Women's Book Study

Women's book study will be again on Thursday, February 17th at 5:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. We will be reading the book "Grown Up Girlfriends". We will be discussing how to build relationships with other Christian women through respect and acceptance. Most of all we will be learning how to build relationships using Jesus and his disciples as our example.

If you would like more information, please call the church office or contact Ruth Ann Meyer (314-435-6082).

Please feel free to join us for study and fellowship as we build our relationships with each other.



LEARNING CENTER

The Learning Center is a big part of the outreach St. Martin's has to the community. Terah Comia and her staff always have the best interest of their children and families as a priority. Terah employs 8 teachers and staff. There are currently 70 children enrolled during the day, as well as before and after school care. At this time, there is a waiting list of families interested in the Learning Center.

Due to circumstances associated with COVID, the last few years have made it financially difficult for some families. There is a scholarship program available to help struggling families. If you would like to donate to the program, you can mark your offering for the scholarship program to be given to the Learning Center.



Please come and be a part of Men's Fellowship. The February meeting will be held on the 16th in the Conference Room at 7:00 pm.



In February, canned soups, chili, and crackers are requested donations. The Peace Pantry appreciates any and all donations throughout the year.



We are working on finalizing our plans for the summer's Mission Trip. We have decided to return to Bayou La Batre, Alabama. We will leave church on June 26 and arrive home on July 1. We are anxiously looking forward to being able to serve in this community again. Youth Works just released their theme for this year's mission trips;

For REAL-Love Authentically, Romans 12:9A.

“Don't just pretend to love others. Really love them.” *Romans 12:9a*

Real Talk: Sometimes we see examples of real, authentic love – the kind that we hear about throughout scripture – but often as we go through life, we don't see this fullness of love.

But the one who unconditionally loves us and gives us an example of real love is Jesus.

And we are endlessly invited to dwell in this love, bringing all of who we are to God. This love transforms us into people who authentically love others and see them as people who are dearly loved by God. This love changes us to be people who lay down our lives for each other. This love gives us meaning and calls us into a life of service.

As we serve communities together, you are invited to draw near to the God who transforms you with an authentic love.

For real.

We have also set our dates for Canoe Camp. We will be partnering with the Disciples of Christ church in Camdenton, MO. Canoe camp is set for July 10-14.

As the church watches and assess the current COVID situation they will let us know about church events as we get closer to Easter.

Youth Brags:

Anna Belle Wakeland was recently named Applebee's Farmington Athlete of the Month. Anna Belle averaged better than 17 points, 15 rebounds and 4 blocks per game during the Black & Red Classic Tournament in Herculaneum in Mid-December. With a monster performance of 26 points & 25 rebounds in the consolation game over Pacific. Anna Belle received a t-shirt and gift certificate to Applebee's in Farmington.

Let's not forget the youngest Wakeland, **Catherin**. As a freshman point guard Catherin has averaged 12 points, 6 rebounds, 4 assists and 4 steals a game to start her high school career.

Congratulations to **Josh Zeilman**. Josh was named as a recipient of a Bright Flight Scholarship. Bright Flight is a Missouri merit-based scholarship awarded to students who score 31 or higher on the ACT. The average ACT score is 20.6. This is quite an accomplishment. Well Done, Josh!!

Congratulations to **Jayden Green** for placing first at the AAU Ozark District Championship Wrestling Meet.

Luke Meier was voted to represent the Freshman Class as the 2022 Winter Formal Escort. Congratulations Luke! We can't wait to see Winter Formal Pictures.

Council Update

The Annual Meeting took place on January 16, 2022 in the sanctuary immediately following the service. Due to COVID concerns, the meeting was very brief. A budget was voted on and approved for 2022.

Jack Nobles, Jim Terry, Kathy Hopper, Gary Jones, Dianne Lowerre, Debby Utterback, Rich Koenig, and Kathy Hopper will serve on Church Council. There is still one council position that needs to be filled. They were installed on January 23rd during church.

Christian Education: Rachael Wakeland, Shawna Zeilman, Charlotte Meyer, Rayna Meyer, Tammy Birkenback and Amy May

Membership: Nancy Bohle, Linda Hansel, Tammy Birkenback, Gerry Jones, Ruth Ann Meyer, and Darlene Strupp
Cemetery Board: Jim Birkenback, Del Viehland, Tom Moder, Paul Branson, Steve Strupp

Scouting: Gene Gillman

Learning Center Board: Patrice Rosner
Camp Key: Terri Green, Donna Scanlon
Delegates: Rosalie Hahn, Tom Lowerre, Sandy Roland

Liaison: Judy Davis, Sandy Roland, Nancy Bohle, Jim Birkenbach, Belinda Doyle, Bryan Meyer

Audit: Bettie Haug

There are still positions to be filled for the audit committee and the nominating committee. If you are interested in serving on either of these committees, or joining the church council, please contact one of the council members.



LOOK WHO IS HAVING A BIRTHDAY

80 + years

Marcia Dickerson	2/9
Nancy Doss	2/10
Tom Davis	2/12
Neal Weber	2/16
Jeanette Sapper	2/21
Rosalie Hahn	2/27

LOOK WHO HAS AN ANNIVERSARY

25 + years

Andy & Vickey Williams	2/14	41 years
Bill & Nancy Doss	2/20	69 years
Keith & Sue Crowden	2/21	41 years
Carl & Marilyn Norton	2/22	64 years
David & Annette Bonacker	2/27	34 years



June Brooks Maindonald
Born January 16, 2022
Granddaughter of Elaine Brooks.