

# The Circuit Rider

December 2017 Volume 78, Number 12

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. - Philippians 4:13

## **FREE STORE STORIES**

#### by Craig Cowles, Interim Store Manager (<a href="mailto:ccowles@rrumc.org">ccowles@rrumc.org</a>)

Our Twice Blessed Free Store is definitely helping people meet Christ in the midst of their stories. Among the many stories we've witnessed over the past few weeks, these stand out:

- A young man got some work boots for a job he just earned which will enable him to reunite with his wife and young son in the near future.
- A grandmother received multiple backpacks for her grandchildren.
- A young refugee family from Puerto Rico received warm winter clothes and boots for their first winter in Cleveland.
- A small boy got his shoe tied by a sheriff with a smile and a high-five.



God is changing the hearts and lives of all who are in contact with TBFS!

Going into the holiday season, our numbers continue to be strong. We are serving almost 100 families each week at the

store and 10 of those families are new to TBFS each week. Our 9:30am worship before shopping on Saturdays is averaging almost 80 people. To help further our mission we always will need your donations.

Fall is here and winter is quickly approaching. Our families need warm items such as coats, boots, gloves, hats, scarves, and mittens! We also especially



need men's & kids' (age 6-16) seasonal clothes. Donations can be dropped off any time during office hours at RRUMC or on Saturdays and Mondays, 10:00am to 12:30pm at TBFS.

A quick look at upcoming events at Twice Blessed Free Store. Where can you get involved?

- □ Monday Sorting at TBFS: 10:00am-1:00pm; November 27, December 4, 11, and 18.
- □ Saturday TBFS Worship: 9:30am. Free Store open 10:00am-1:00pm; December 2, 9, 16 and 23.
- □ Saturday, Nov. 25: TBFS closed. No worship or Free Store shopping.
- □ **Tuesday, Nov. 28**: Dine & Dance Event at Nehemiah Mission, 6:30–8:30pm.
- □ Saturday, Dec. 30: Worship only at 9:30am. Free Store closed.

God is at the heart of all of the volunteers and donations needed to make this ministry a success. Thank you to all who have been willing to be His hands and feet at W.  $65^{th}$  and Bridge Avenue! Merry Christmas!

## HOLIDAY SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

## SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2017 — TWICE BLESSED FREE STORE

• 9:30am: Christmas Service at TBFS at W. 65<sup>th</sup> and Bridge in Cleveland - Kristen Buchs preaching.

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2017 — 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT — CHRISTMAS EVE

- 8:30am: Chapel Service Pastor Paul A. Bennett is preaching.
- 10:00am: Sanctuary/Harbor Service Pastor Paul A. Bennett is preaching.
- 3:00pm: Contemporary Candlelight Service in Beacon Hall Rev. Daniel F. Bogre is preaching.
- 8:oopm: Traditional Candlelight Service in the Sanctuary Chancel Choir; Rev. Daniel F. Bogre is preaching.
- **11:00pm: Traditional Candlelight Service in the Sanctuary** Chancel Choir; Fuller Sounds Handbell Choir; Rev. Daniel F. Bogre is preaching.

#### December 2017

#### **REFLECTIONS...** by Rev. Dan Bogre

Can you believe it? Advent is upon us. This year for me will be like every other year as I pray that I do not miss the birth of Jesus as I plan, preach, and teach about that very event. Everyone experiences this at one point or another throughout the Christmas season. We are so busy planning, cooking, shopping, and coming and going that we sometimes miss the

birth of Christ right in the midst of all of the hustle and bustle. How will you be intentional this Advent season so as to not miss the birth of Jesus that the multitude of the heavenly hosts sang about so long ago?

We will be studying Adam Hamilton's book, "Faithful: Christmas Through the Eyes of Joseph." Our Advent sermon series will walk hand in hand with the book. A few years ago, we studied Christmas through the eyes of Mary and it was tremendously well received. So little is known about Joseph throughout the Gospels, yet Adam Hamilton digs behind the scenes of what it must have been like for Joseph to navigate his world and the life that God had called him to as the father of God's one and only son.

It will be just one way that our church is working to be intentional about living out a HOLY Advent season. It does not bother me at all that the Christmas decorations come out earlier and earlier each year. I actually fire up all of the Christmas music on November 1 each year. Those decorations remind me of why they exist in the first place. I decorate, shop, see family, listen to the Christmas songs, and so many other things for one reason. Jesus Christ comes into the world, my world, to remind me that I am worth it. Those are the things that help keep Advent HOLY.

This Advent season I pray that all of the decorations, music, family, and food draw you closer to the one who was born in the manger for you. I pray that you find your way to that lonely stable this Christmas. I hope you find yourself kneeling at the side of the Christ child as he looks into your eyes. When you experience a HOLY Advent, you will know that Jesus was not just born for the world but that he was absolutely born to be in YOUR life. Enjoy the music. Celebrate with family. Have fun shopping. Come to church on Christmas Eve. May all of the moments of this season give you the most HOLY Advent that you have ever experienced. May God bless you and your family this Advent season. May you have a Merry Christmas and Blessed New Year.

#### NURSERY SCHOOL by Karen Freeh, Director

Merry Christmas from the Nursery School Staff and Families!

Thank you for all of the love and support from the church members during the decision-making process regarding the future of the Nursery School at RRUMC. We are pleased to be able to continue with our ministry at RRUMC and look forward to partnering more in the future!

The Nursery School will begin **registration** for the 2018-2019 school year for church members and current and returning families on **Tuesday, November 28**. All forms and program information can be found on our website <u>www.rrumns.org</u>.

Our **New Family Open House is on Thursday, November 30, from 6:00-7:00pm**. Registration forms may be turned in by new families at the open house. Please come and check out our program and meet our loving teachers.

Please help us spread the word to young families in the area that we are excited to be here to stay! Contact Karen Freeh, Nursery School Director, with any questions or to schedule a tour: 440.331.7676 ext. 230 or <u>rrumns@gmail.com</u>.



Our Teachers

## FAMILY HEALTH TREE

#### by Gayle Donahue, MSN, RN, Faith Community Nurse

We enter into Advent preparation with thoughts of hope, peace, joy, and love. The gift list has been created, parties scheduled, and menu planned. But is there one thing that would really make a difference this Christmas? How about the gift of presence and conversation? No, don't ban the cell phone and Facetime. They could actually be helpful for the project I am going to suggest. Consider launching your Family Health History Tree. If you are fortunate you may need to simply add information to your genealogy chart. Minimally, a health history tree will go back three generations and extend to cousins. Because of the wealth of knowledge developing from the genome project, do not restrict your record to cause of death, but do include onset of disease, environment, and lifestyle. The clues found in a family history can lead a health care provider to a new diagnosis, limit diagnostic testing, and even be that extra motivation to change a particular lifestyle behavior. Sound interesting? For additional information go to familyhistory.hhs.gov; or search family medical history. Or check out the Health Ministry bulletin board outside worship spaces during December. Future generations will thank you for this very special gift!

#### **Senior Living Tour**

Join us for a tour of Rose Senior Living on **Tuesday, December 5**. We will meet the Rose transportation van in the church parking lot at 11:00am. We will tour Rose, have a light lunch, see a presentation, and return to church by 1:30pm. The van will hold 14 passengers with two places for wheel chairs. We will use private vehicles if we have more than fourteen registered. Rose Senior Living is located at 33200 Health Campus Blvd., Avon. Please call the Church Office to reserve your spot by Monday morning, December 4.

#### YOUTH MINISTRY by Rachel Burns, Youth Director

Blankets & Burritos will be December 17, 6:30-8:00pm. This is a service project for all youth from the church and community and will also be our Christmas event! You are welcome to attend wearing your favorite Christmas outfit or pajamas to be entered into the prize drawing. Please bring 2.5 yard pieces of fleece and fabric scissors, if possible. Please also sign up to contribute to our burrito meal at www.rrumc.org. The blankets we make will be donated to Twice Blessed Free Store.

2018 Mission Trips. Mark your calendar, it's time to start planning for your summer mission trip! Registration is open at <u>www.rrumc.org</u>. The middle school (current grades 6-8) trip is June 14-17 to Athens County, OH; the high school (current grades 8-12) trip is July 1-7 to Wyoming County, WV. 8th graders may attend either or both trips.

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

#### by Quinn Bennett, Children's Director

#### Mission Possible - December 8, 6:00pm

Due to our successful relationship with MISSION: The City Mission, we have decided to expand our outreach to include additional local assistance



December 2017

12/27

organizations. This December, Mission Possible will be partnering with **Building Hope in the City** to provide Educational Resource Kits for the families they serve.



Building Hope in the City is a Christ-centered organization that helps individuals and families of Americans, immigrants, and building refugees here in Cleveland succeed while **HOPE** finding Jesus Christ. They are working toward in the city their goal of "restoring the city to God" by working with local churches to help with

housing, language, social needs, academic tutoring, and other assistance needs.

Many of the families they work with either do not understand that their children need educational supplies at home, or cannot afford those basic supplies. Our Resource Kits will fill a vital need for these children and their families.

Please consider donating any of the following items: 24 count crayons, 12 count colored pencils, erasers, scissors, large glue sticks, and hand held pencil sharpeners. Donations may be left outside room 210 (Quinn's office) or at the Church Office.

Thank you for all the support in our "City Mission" partnership and thank you in advance for your support of this worthy and necessary project.

If you have any questions, please contact Quinn Bennett at gbennett@rrumc.org or Kristen Wiggers at kawiggers@hotmail.com. Thank you in advance for your support!

## MILESTONES

#### Month Anniversaries

(50 or more years and those in 5 year increments)

12/01	Vivi Ann & David Bowditch	5 years
-		<b>e</b> 7
12/08	Kristen & Nathaniel Wiggers	10 years
12/19	Louise & Howard Hoehn	58 years
12/20	Jenny & Pat Hess	20 years
12/22	Linda & Charles Roberts	55 years
12/25	Elaine & John Miller	52 years

Courtney & George Benson 12/26 30 years

Pamela & James Pitcher 51 years

Birthdays (age 90 and above)

12/25 Jean Stell 92 years

#### Baptisms

Benjamin George Tenhover, son of Courtney & Andy Tenhover on October 15.

#### In Sympathy

Kristin Stobe and family, in the death of her father, Mike Coleman, on October 17.

Dave Owens and family, in the death of his wife, Wendy Owens, on October 22.

Roger Knipper and family, in the death of his brother, Roy W. Knipper, Jr., on October 24.

Daniel Bush and family, in the death of his mother, Roberta Bush, on October 31.

#### With Gratitude

Dear RRUM Church Family, Thank you for the beautiful arrangement of fall flowers you sent to Dave. It brightens everyone's day! We appreciate your kindness. *Gratefully*, Dave Glynn and family.

Dear Friends, I can't believe that it has been 4 months since I experienced an "and then moment" in my life. Rev. Dan has told us many times that this may happen. With God's Grace, the love of my family, church friends, the encouragement of Rev. Dan and Pastor Paul, and wonderful medical care, I recovered. Many thanks, with gratitude, Ilze Bekeny.

Thank you and the RRUMC for your generosity in sharing your space and all of the amazing assistance your team provided last Sunday. We were all touched by the above and beyond support! This was our first Dance-a-Thon and it was a HUGE success. We had around 250 people there to celebrate community and individuals of all abilities... and we were able to raise over \$16,000 to support our mission. The church's role in allowing us to host our event definitely contributed to this success. Again, thank you! Suzy Sylvester, GiGi's Playhouse Down Syndrome Achievement Center - Cleveland.

Dear Church Family, I am so grateful for everything my church family did for me after my fall and surgery; the prayers, cards, expressions of concern. It meant so much that you cared so much for me, I would not have made it through the recovery period without all the prayers. Charmaine Riccio

#### December 2017

## HANGING OF THE GREENS — MONDAY, NOVEMBER 27

We would enjoy having your help to decorate our church for Christmas on Monday, November 27, 9:00am-3:00pm. Hot coffee, warm hearts, new people, and Christmas carols

fill the day. Whatever time you can give will be appreciated. Many hands help make the job very easy and fun!

## **MISSION SUNDAY—DECEMBER 3**

On Sunday, December 3, the Mission/Outreach committee will host Mission Sunday. Several local charities will be present to share their mission goals and the work they do in assisting people in need. This is a wonderful opportunity for us to make donations to the visiting charities in the spirit of Christmas giving by writing a check to the church. This act of kindness would be a wonderful way to serve as a gift to a friend or family member. Cards decorated by our Sunday school children will be provided for you to inform the recipient that a donation was made on their behalf to a specific charity. If you have any questions, please contact Joyce Elliott at jelliott52@me.com or Linda Hadfield at Ihadfield99@yahoo.com.

## WARMING TREES — BEGINS DECEMBER 3

Help decorate our two warming trees this holiday season. One is located outside the Chapel and the other on the lower level near the cafe. Donate new hats, gloves/mittens, scarves, earmuffs, etc. for men, women, and children. You can start filling trees on **Sunday, December 3.** All items will be donated to organizations that RRUMC supports.

## **CPR/AED TRAINING — DECEMBER 6**

CPR/AED training is Wednesday, December 6, 6:15-8:15pm, in the café. Kevin Bednarski will be our instructor for a maximum of 12 participants. This will be a Basic Heartsaver training. There will be no fee unless you require a certification card. Reservations through the Church Office.

## TOY SUNDAY — DECEMBER 10

Our annual Toy Sunday is December 10. As has been a tradition in our church, Christmas gifts for disadvantaged children will be collected for distribution to several local charities including our own Twice Blessed Free Store. Please bring toys for children, ages infant to teen, unwrapped so that they can be matched to recipients. Amy Ruebsteck, ajrueb1993@gmail.com, is coordinating this event.

## **CONSECRATION SUNDAY REPORT**

#### by Rev. Dr. Bill Kimball

Thank you all for attending our Consecration Sunday worship and brunch celebration. Because of your commitments and generosity, our preliminary results showed an increase of 12% over last year! We also had a record number of estimates of giving cards completed, which included 35 new individuals or families planning to add over \$52,000 from previous years. The total of all of the estimate of giving cards came out to \$924,055. The morning was celebrated with another record attendance at brunch with 382. THANK YOU! And thank you to our generous anonymous members who provided for the brunch so there was no cost to the church.

## GIFTS OF MUSIC CONCERT SERIES

by Barbara Bibbee



OLYMPIC BRASS "Silver Bells" Friday, December 1 7:30 pm

Continuing a Christmas tradition, the *Olympic Brass* returns to our series for their

9th "Silver Bells" holiday concert. This ever-popular ensemble, including RRUMC's own Amanda Bekeny, will combine their talents with organist Jeff Acker in a festive concert you don't want to miss. It's a treat for the entire family. So please save the date and invite your friends! Additional info may be found at RRUMC literature displays or on the website www.rrumc.org.

## ALGART HYMN SING by Bob Secrist

Come sing the wonderful old hymns of the Methodist Church like Blessed Assurance, In the Garden, The Old Rugged Cross and Holy, Holy, Holy in a sing along with the residents of Algart Home, a nursing care and assisted living facility on West 89th Street and Detroit Road in Cleveland.



This isn't a choir. There is no performance or rehearsal. We are simply there to talk with, sing with and care for people who truly need our presence to brighten their day. If you come, it will brighten your day too! We are there the third Tuesday of every month, 2:00-3:00pm.

Contact Bob Secrist at 216.521.2365 for more information or simply arrive to sing with us. We need you and they need you. Please join us on December 19 for a special Christmas hymn sing!

## EXTRA 2018 CALENDARS?

If you receive extra 2018 calendars, share them with our friends at Brookside Center. Give them to Betty Jacques at the Chapel or Harbor services or leave them in the Church Office for her.



#### The Circuit Rider



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# CHRISTMAS REMEMBRANCES

## We offer opportunities for you to remember family and friends at Christmas.

Complete and mail or bring this form to the Church Office by Sunday, December 10, 2017. The remembrance list will be included in the Christmas Eve bulletins. Plants cost \$10 each.

#### CHRISTMAS REMEMBRANCE PRESENTED BY:

Name/s: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: Email:

**THE HONOR GARDEN** - Present a poinsettia for Christmas Eve services; either take it home after the last service or leave it for delivery.

I will contribute \_\_\_\_\_ poinsettias for \$10.00 per plant. I will pick up \_\_\_\_\_. I will leave for delivery\_\_\_\_\_.

In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_\_

THE MEMORY GARDEN - Present a poinsettia for Christmas Eve services; either take it home after the last service or leave it for delivery.

I will contribute \_\_\_\_\_ poinsettias for \$10.00 per plant. I will pick up \_\_\_\_\_. I will leave for delivery\_\_\_\_\_.

In Memory of:

THE MEMORY GIFT - Donate money in the amount of the poinsettia or any additional amount in memory of a loved one. Gift of Memory at Christmas is used for the Church Flower Fund.

I contribute **\$** as a memorial for the Church Flower Fund.

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

## If you have any questions call the Church Office at 440.331.7676.



#### Poinsettia Delivery

Please contact Sue & Jim Evans at 440.333.7743 if you are able to help deliver poinsettias on Tuesday, Dec. 26th. Meet them at the church at 9:00am.



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Be thrilled you attend a church that has an active and heartwarming VIP class! What's that? **Very Included People** is Sunday School for children with special needs. VIP celebrates completing its first year and is ready and set to grow! Who do you know who can share in the love shown to Bobby by Alek and Libby. Contact Quinn Bennett at <u>gbennett@rrumc.org</u> for more information.



#### **COMMUNITY MEAL** by Jason Kraft

Rocky River United Methodist Church will host the next Community Meal at Bethany United Church of Christ (3388 West 41st Street, Cleveland, Ohio 44109) on December 3, 3:30-6:00pm.



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Please consider donating food items,

paper products, and/or volunteering during the meal. Refer to the sign-up boards in the gathering area for more information.

Contact Jason Kraft at <u>kraft6607@roadrunner.com</u> or 440.476.0861 for more information. Thank You for your ongoing support and prayers with this outreach ministry!

## UPWARD BASKETBALL AND CHEERLEADING

#### by Jason Kraft and Rachel Burns

Come and support our upcoming Upward Basketball and Cheer season.

Volunteers are needed to officiate games and to lead half time devotions.

Contact Jason Kraft at 440.476.0861 or <u>upwardrrumc@yahoo.com</u> to volunteer.

## RIVER MEN by Steve Harry "Men of Christian Character"

Interested in learning about Christian men of character who changed the world? Then join with other River Men to hear about and discuss the impact of men such as DL Moody, Francis Asbury, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Billy Sunday, and many others!

We'll meet at 7:00pm in Room 209 on the 4th Tuesday of each month starting **January 23, 2018**. No homework or books needed. All men are invited! To sign up, contact Steve Harry at <u>StephenT.Harry@yahoo.com</u> or 440.668.3514.

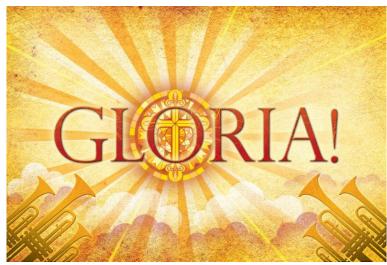
## WALK TO EMMAUS

Congratulations to **Dave Huller** on his recent completion of his Walk to Emmaus.

To learn more about this exciting spiritual journey talk to Dave when you see him. Or go to their website <u>www.emmaus.upperroom.org/about</u> and learn about this experience of Christian spiritual renewal and formation.



#### MUSIC by Braden Pontoli



Chancel Choir presents John Rutter's Gloria Sunday, December 17 10:00am in the Sanctuary

Join the RRUMC Chancel Choir in a service of majestic praise to our new King as we present John Rutter's Gloria. This cantata features a brass ensemble that will anoint your Advent Season. **THE CIRCUIT RIDER** is published monthly by Rocky River United Methodist Church, 19414 Detroit Road, Rocky River, OH 44112-1873. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to THE CIRCUIT RIDER, 19414 Detroit Road, Rocky River, OH 44116-1873.

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#### Ministry

Daniel F. Bogre, Senior Pastor Paul A. Bennett, Associate Pastor Robert B. Hibbard, Pastor Emeritus Christopher M. Burns, Harbor Worship Leader Sheri B. Swartz, Director of Church Ministries Rachel E. Burns, Director of Youth Ministries Rev. Dr. William J. Kimball, Endowment Ministries Quinn E. Bennett, Director of Children's Ministries Robyn E. Gauder, Service Engagement Coordinator Gayle E. Donahue, MSN, RN, Faith Community Nurse Craig W. Cowles, Interim Free Store Director **Mission Ministry** 

Rev. Paul Webster, Kanyama, Zambia Music Ministry

Braden J. Pontoli, Director of Music

Darius J. McBride, Children's/Youth Choir Director Carmen G. Massaro, and Lynn Young, Handbell Choirs Jeffrey A. Acker, Organist

> Deadline for January Circuit Rider: DECEMBER 4

#### **BOOK CLUB**

The Book Club meets the 3rd Thursday of the month at 10:00am in the Church Parlor. Please join us on December 21, to discuss the book, "Wonder" by R. J. Palacino. Questions? List of future books? Contact Bruce Biggin at



brbiggin@netscape.net\_or 216.221.5880. Always happy to see new faces, and regular attendance is not required.

**MISSION ZONE** Monthly Collection Items for Youth and Children's Free Store Donations:

- November: Toilet paper
- December: Soap, shampoo, conditioner
- □ January: Diapers/wipes

#### **UNITED METHODIST WOMEN**

**Lydia Potluck**. Lydia Circle will meet in room 209 on **December 14 at 11:30am** for a Christmas potluck. Please call Sally Smith at 440.356.5879 or MaryElin Halek at 440.773.6569 if you plan to attend.

**Ornament and Note Card Sale.** United Methodist Women have ornaments and note cards depicting our church for sale. Nine ornaments are left, costing \$10 each or 2 for \$15. A package of twelve note cards is available for \$3. Both items can be purchased in the Church Office, our preference is payment by checks made out to "RRUMW."

## IT'S ALL ABOUT THE STORY!

## SAVE THESE DATES...

(See the newsletter articles for details.) November 27—Hanging of the Greens November 28—Nursery School Registration begins November 30—Nursery School New Family Open House December 1—Olympic Brass December 3—Mission Sunday December 3—Warming Trees (filling begins) December 3—Community Meal December 3-Chili Cook-off December 5—Rose Senior Living Tour December 6—CPR/AED Training **December 8—Mission Possible** December 10—Toy Sunday December 10—Poinsettia Orders Due December 14—UMW Lydia Circle Potluck December 17—Chancel Choir Cantata December 17—Youth Blankets & Burritos December 19—Algart Hymn Sing December 21—Book Club December 23—TBFS Christmas Service December 24—Christmas Eve Services December 25—Merry Christmas!

DATED MATERIALS—PLEASE RUSH Mailed November 21, 2017

Address Labels

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