

# The Messenger

Champion Presbyterian Church  
Warren, Ohio  
330-847-9614



We invite you to worship and  
learn with us this week.

Seek -- Teach -- Reach

Volume No. 54

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Issue No. 3

## From Marvin Barney, Pastor

There is no question that life is moving faster than ever. 2011 is a blur in the rearview mirror of life. While technology was thought to be a time saver, in actuality it has not turned out that way. Obviously, it provides us with more information and we can access that information more quickly. But having more information simply means more is expected from us. After running so fast and for so long, it is easy to lose our edge. How can we be efficient and at the same time stay sharp?

Maybe two lumberjacks can give us a hint. The lumberjacks entered a contest to see which one of them could cut down more trees in a day. The younger of the two set out with great fury. He attacked each tree with a vengeance. **Boom, boom, boom!!!** He kept this pace up for long hours at a time. The older of the two began to chip away at the trunk of the tree he began with. His pace was steady but not frantic. After a while, he sat down and took a break. He then continued his methodical chopping. This was his practice all day.

At the end of the day, the winner was obvious. It was the older of the two who had clearly cut down more trees. He won in spite of the frenetic pace of the younger lumberjack. The younger man could not believe it. He knew he was stronger and in better shape. So he asked him, *"How could you have cut down more trees than I did? Every hour you sat down while I kept cutting. How could you cut down more trees while sitting so much?"* The older man responded, *"When I sat down, I sharpened my axe. Why didn't you sharpen yours?"* The young man said, *"I didn't have time. I was too busy cutting."*

**How sharp is your "axe?"** You may work really hard but how efficient are you? How do you go about "sharpening your axe?" I personally find I can only stay sharp by spending meaningful time with the Lord on a daily basis. Once I get away from Him, I become dull. Virtually every day, I read scripture at a pace that will read through the Bible within a year. I then spend time in prayer that provides a basis for my brief prayers that continue through the day. Jesus came to our world so that He can be close to us for all eternity. Eternity begins now. He has time for me and He has time for you. He reminds us of His priorities for our lives. He affirms us in who we are. He gives us hope in the midst of difficulties.

Hear this word from the Lord: *"Direct me in the path of your commands, for there I find delight. Turn my heart toward your statutes and not toward selfish gain. Turn my eyes away from worthless things; preserve my life according to your Word"* - **Psalm 119:35-37**. It is the Word of the Lord in the Bible that gives us vital instruction for living daily. It is in the Bible that we find **"delight."** Commit to building a deepening relationship with Jesus in 2012. Need some ideas? Give me a call or send me an e-mail. I would love to help you in this area of your life. You are wonderful people and I love being your pastor. I pray God will surround you with His Presence.

## From Cheri Smith, Associate Director Children's and Youth Ministries

It's hard to believe this winter is flying by as there are many activities through the church to keep us busy and active during the cold days. This is by far one of the best winters I've enjoyed despite what is going on with the weather outdoors. Wednesday night **Pioneer Clubs** are growing in numbers with new students each week. My focus is not on the number that show up but I rejoice that the Word is getting out in the community about us and that brings us one child closer to hearing the Gospel. Each week they are given the opportunity to hear how they can have a personal relationship with Christ.

When you step foot in this building, don't be alarmed by our appearances!! Even our leaders are caught up in the act. Every Wednesday has a theme. You might find us in our pajamas, wearing our clothes backwards, or sporting our school colors. We will even have an "Unhalloween Halloween Party." Why wear your costume only once!

The students will have an opportunity to show their families the work they have put toward earning their badges. February 15 is **Family-Badge Night**. Following the service, we will have a **Cookie Reception** in the Outreach Center. If anyone is willing to help supply us with cookies that night, we won't say no! Please come and give your support to our kids and get just a small glimpse of what God is doing through this program.

We are very excited to be going for the first time to an **All-Night Retreat** sponsored by Camp Burton at Berean Baptist Church in Mansfield. It will be a great time full of camp games and activities for our 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> graders on February 24 and 25. Save the date. This is something your kids won't want to miss.

Our **Hands for Him Drama Team** is doing a wonderful job and the kids are anxious to show you their first skit. The big debut will be Wednesday, February 15, and again on Sunday the 19<sup>th</sup>. A big **THANK YOU** to all those who baked and bought goodies at the **Bake Sale** to support our needs to start up this program. We couldn't have done it without your support.

The kids' **Worship Sunday Morning Group** is learning about offerings and giving to missions. In January, February, and March, our collections go to Angela Gianakos as the kids are learning how their pennies support the ministry she is involved with. This helps them as they know Angela and that we can have contact with her.

*"But you, O Lord, are a compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness"* - Psalm 86:15. Ask God for patience today and find refuge in the character of God. He is compassionate, loving, kind, and slow to anger. Demonstrate these qualities of God to your children.

**Thank you** for allowing us to continue to minister to your children. They really are a blessing to us here at CPC.

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS – FEBRUARY 5 THROUGH 11**

<b>DAY</b>	<b>HOUR</b>	<b>EVENT</b>	<b>MEETING PLACE</b>
<b>Sun - 5</b>	9:00	<b>Adult Sunday School Class</b>	<b>Conference Room</b>
	10:00	<b>Morning Worship Service</b>	<b>Sanctuary</b>
	11:30	<b><u>NEW MEMBERS' CLASS</u></b>	<b>Parlor</b>
	11:30	<b>Youth Drama Team</b>	<b>Teen Room</b>
	11:30	<b>Grades 3-5 Drama Team</b>	<b>Children's Office</b>
<b>Mon - 6</b>	5:30	<b>Faithful Followers Small Group</b>	<b>Social Hall</b>
	12:00	<b>SOC Lunch and Program</b>	<b>Social Hall</b>
<b>Tue - 7</b>	6:30	<b>Family Swim</b>	<b>Holt's, 1010 Ole Time Lane</b>
	8:00	<b><i>Promise Keepers</i> Men's Small Group</b>	<b>Wayside Restaurant</b>
	9:30	<b>Prayer Fellowship</b>	<b>Conference Room</b>
	12:00	<b>Red Cross Blood Drawing until 6:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Outreach Center</b>
<b>Wed - 8</b>	7:00	<b>Session Meeting</b>	<b>Parlor</b>
	1:30	<b>Pastor's Bible Study</b>	<b>Room 27</b>
	5:30	<b>Youth Band</b>	<b>Sanctuary</b>
	6:30	<b>Youth Group</b>	<b>Sanctuary</b>
	6:30	<b>Pioneer Clubs</b>	<b>Lower Level</b>
<b>Thu - 9</b>	7:45	<b>Chancel Choir Rehearsal</b>	<b>Choir Room</b>
	<b>9:00</b>	<b><u>Messenger information due in the church office</u></b>	
	10:30	<b>Ladies Aid Society and Sack Lunch</b>	<b>Social Hall</b>
	7:00	<b>Board of Deacons Meeting</b>	<b>Room 26</b>
<b>Fri - 10</b>	7:00	<b>Board of Trustees Meeting</b>	<b>Room 27</b>
	2:00	<b>Friday Girls</b>	<b>Vens home, 213 Stewart NW</b>
	8:00	<b>Middle School Overnighter - until 8:00 a.m. Saturday</b>	<b>Outreach Center</b>

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS – FEBRUARY 12 THROUGH 18**

<b>Sun - 12</b>	9:00	<b>Adult Sunday School</b>	<b>Conference Room</b>
	10:00	<b>Morning Worship Service</b>	<b>Sanctuary</b>
	11:30	<b><u>ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING</u></b>	<b>Sanctuary</b>
	12:30	<b><u>CONGREGATIONAL SOUP LUNCH</u></b>	<b>Outreach Center</b>
<b>Mon - 13</b>	5:30	<b>Faithful Followers Small Group</b>	<b>Social Hall</b>
	6:30	<b>Teen Titans Bible Study</b>	<b>Teen Room</b>
	7:00	<b>Personnel Committee</b>	<b>Conference Room</b>
	7:00	<b>Worship Committee</b>	<b>Room 27</b>
<b>Tue - 14</b>	8:00	<b><i>Promise Keepers</i> Men's Small Group</b>	<b>Wayside Restaurant</b>
	9:00	<b><i>Bread of Life</i> Small Group</b>	<b>Panera Bread</b>
	9:30	<b>Prayer Fellowship</b>	<b>Conference Room</b>
<b>Wed - 15</b>	1:30	<b>Pastor's Bible Study</b>	<b>Room 27</b>
	5:30	<b>Youth Band</b>	<b>Sanctuary</b>
	6:30	<b>Youth Group</b>	<b>Sanctuary</b>
	6:30	<b>Pioneer Clubs</b>	<b>Lower Level</b>
	7:45	<b>Chancel Choir Rehearsal</b>	<b>Choir Room</b>
<b>Thu - 16</b>	7:00	<b>Missions Committee</b>	<b>Room 27</b>
<b>Fri - 17</b>		<b><u>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED UNTIL 9:00 A.M. TUESDAY</u></b>	
<b>Sat - 18</b>	9:00	<b>Church Officer Orientation</b>	<b>Room 27</b>

Next Sunday, February 5, is “*Souper Bowl Sunday*” as well as Super Bowl Sunday in the sports world! We hope you will bring some cans of soup with dollar bills rubber-banded or tied around them to church with you. There is a table in the Narthex to put them on—also a soup can to put monetary donations in if you can’t bring cans of soup. They will be taken to the **Warren Family Mission** to help feed the needy.

**SOC** (Senior Outreach Citizens) will hold a **Covered Dish Lunch** and meeting at 12:00 noon on Monday, February 6, in the Social Hall. Beverages will be provided. The program will be by Laurie Cook of the AAA and her topic is “Sharing Tips on Safe Driving.” All senior citizens are invited to attend.

A **Prayer List** with the concerns of our church family on it is available on the Literature Table in the lobby where you can pick one up and pray for those concerns each day.

On **February 22**, there will be an **Ash Wednesday Service** for adults in the sanctuary at 7:00 p.m. This year, the children and youth will have their own service in the Outreach Center. Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend.

**Missionaries of the Month**



**Nate and Bethany Johnson** are new to our missionary family. Bethany is the granddaughter of **Jim and Lynn Faull**. They will be with us during worship on February 19 to share with us their upcoming ministry in Vienna, Austria. A **special offering will be taken for their ministry that morning and throughout February.**

**Unreached People Group  
The Aguaruna Indians of Peru**

**In and/or Out of Hospitals**  
Cleveland Clinic -- **Duane Franks**  
Trumbull Memorial -- **Virginia Huntley**

**Winifred Sheldon** has returned to her home from rehab at Champion Windsor House.

**Those in the Military**

**Korea:** Matt Lamer                      **Mississippi:** Chris Hatfield  
**Afghanistan:** Michael Scott              **Hawaii:** Michael Smith  
**Kentucky:** Jimmy Leigh III      **Florida:** Bryon McCausland

**Year-to-Date Income - \$22,081**  
**Year-to-Date Expenses - \$18,322**

You will find an envelope with the word **Per Capita** on it in your **2012 Offering Envelope Box**. The amount per member for 2012 is \$30 and this money goes to support the work of Eastminster Presbytery - \$20.12, Synod of the Covenant - \$3.25, and General Assembly - \$6.63. Please place that amount in the envelope to pay **for each member** of your family.

<p style="text-align:center"><b>SUNDAY WORSHIP</b></p> <p style="text-align:center"><b>Marvin Barney, Pastor</b></p> <p style="text-align:center">9:00 a.m. -- Sunday School 10:00 a.m. -- Worship Service 10:00 a.m. -- Children's Programming</p> <p style="text-align:center">~~~~~</p> <p style="text-align:center"><b>February 5, 2012</b></p> <p style="text-align:center"><i>"Dreams Fulfilled"</i> Genesis 45:1-15</p> <p style="text-align:center">11:30 a.m. -- New Members' Class - Parlor</p> <p style="text-align:center">~~~~~</p> <p style="text-align:center"><b>February 12, 2012</b></p> <p style="text-align:center"><i>"What Is Our Destination?"</i> John 17:1-19</p> <p style="text-align:center">11:30 a.m. -- Congregational Meeting 12:30 p.m. -- Congregational Soup Lunch</p>
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**The Ladies Aid Society** will hold its next meeting at 10:30 a.m. with a sack lunch at 12 noon on Thursday, February 9, in the Social Hall. **Kim and Robin Cranson**, missionaries with Cru, will be with the ladies that day to share about their ministry. Just bring a sack lunch.

On Sunday, February 19, at 6:30 p.m., you are invited to a showing of the movie **"Courageous"** in the Outreach Center. Rated PG-13, this is a free event for the entire community! Hot popcorn will be served. Nursery care will be provided for young children.

**Keep in Prayer Each Day:**  
**Angela Gianakos, our Missionary to Africa**

*We wish to thank our church family for the lovely anniversary cards you sent. It was so thoughtful of you.*  
**Love, John and Martha Barnhart**

**The Annual Congregational Meeting** will be held on Sunday, February 12, **following worship at 11:30 a.m.**, in the Sanctuary. **Reports** will be given and election of officers will be held. **A quorum** is necessary for the meeting to be official so all members should plan to attend. Child care will be provided during the meeting. This is an important date in the life of our church; please mark your calendar and plan to be here. **A catered Soup Lunch** will be held in the Outreach Center **immediately following the meeting**. No reservations are needed--a donation basket will be on the table to help defray lunch expenses.

**Those being placed in nomination for boards are:**

**Elders: 3-year term**

Gary Holt                      Judy Omweg  
Charlie Stingel              Debbie VanCure

**Deacons: 3-year term**

Jerry Anderson              Jim Durandetta  
Joanne Orr                      Jan Sudol

**Youth Deacons: 1-year-term**

Alex Atkinson              Morgan Oakman

**Deaconesses: 3-year term**

Andrea Fox                      Ginger Hardman  
Sandy Stevens              Nancy Taylor

**Trustees: 3-year term**

Danny Downing              Rob Knowlton  
Jim Omweg                      Bob Sexton

**2012 Nominating Committee**

**2012 Elders:**

Paul Metzendorf, Chair              Jerry Wilson

**2011 Elders:**

Connie Sexton              Jerry Anderson  
**Deacon Representative** - Mark Minton  
**Trustee Representative** - Kathi Downing

**At-Large Members**

Dick Glass                      Dave Russell              Joyce Vens

**At-Large Alternates**

Herb Bollenbacher              Vern Yoder

Our **2011 Annual Reports** will be available on the table next to the elevator in the Reception Area on Sunday, February 5. The booklet contains statistical and financial information of our church from last year. **Please take just one Annual Report for each family--and bring it to the meeting with you so there will be enough to go around.**

**New Church Officer Orientation**, for all those Elders, Deacons, Deaconesses, and Trustees elected at the Congregational Meeting, will be held from **9:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon on Saturday, February 18**, in Room 27. All officers are required to have training so please plan to be here. If you cannot attend that day, let the church office know and there will be a make-up date for you.

**Youth Sunday** will be on March 11. Save the date and plan on coming to worship as our students lead through music, prayer, testimonies, and drama. Our **Drama Group** is currently working on **"The Healer"** which is about healing in our lives that can only be found through Christ Jesus.

**A Fund-Raiser Luncheon** will follow the **Youth Sunday Service** with proceeds going towards **Steubenville 2012**. Haystacks are on the menu and it is sure to be a time of delicious food and wonderful fellowship. No tickets will be sold--donations will be accepted at the dinner.

On Tuesday, February 7, **The Red Cross Bloodmobile** will be in the Outreach Center from 12:00 noon until 6:00 p.m. Blood donors are always needed. Please give if you can.

**THE MESSENGER**  
Champion Presbyterian Church  
4997 Mahoning NW  
Warren OH 44483

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January 31, 2012

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**Time Sensitive Material!**  
**Please deliver by Saturday!**

*The Messenger* is published bi-weekly by Champion Presbyterian Church, a congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA). **Sunday School for all ages is at 9:00 a.m. each week. Worship is at 10:00 a.m.** Staff includes Rev. Marvin Barney, Pastor; Kelly Adams, Director of Youth and Children's Ministries; Cheri Smith, Associate Director of Children's and Youth Ministries; Marilyn Emery, Administrative Secretary and Editor of *The Messenger*; Kathie Trowbridge, Treasurer; Cheryl Knowlton, Facility Manager; Shirley Hofmeister, Director of Music; Daniel McKinnon, Organist/Keyboardist. The church is located at 4997 Mahoning N.W., Warren, Ohio 44483. Telephone number is 330-847-9614; FAX number is 330-847-9134; e-mail is champres@aol.com. Visit our **website** at [www.championpres.org](http://www.championpres.org). Office hours are 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. weekdays. **All visitors are welcome!**

*To our Church Family: A big **thank you** for all of your heartfelt prayers, well-wishes, and love towards our family concerning my Grandma. It is so awesome to know she is with God now and no longer suffering. Your prayers mean a lot. Thank you. Cheri and Alex Smith*

***Congratulations** to great-grandparents, **Bob and Donna Durst**, and grandparents, **Darlene and Ed Vasbinder**, on the birth of Wyatt Edward, to Adam and Elizabeth Vasbinder on January 19. He weighed in at 8 pounds, 1 ounce, and was 19½ inches long.*

**AARP TAX-AIDE OFFERS FREE TAX HELP!!** This program is for taxpayers with low and moderate incomes, with special attention to those age 60 and older. Champion's program is held at Otterbein United Methodist Church, 1128 State Road, each Tuesday, February 7 through April 10, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. No appointment is needed. Please take all pertinent information, forms, documentation, etc. with you when you go. For more information, call Geri Smith at 847-6661. There is a real need to support this program so that Champion doesn't get dropped from the schedule!

We invite you to our monthly **Saturday Morning Prayer Service** on February 4 at 8:00 a.m. in the Parlor. A time of guided prayer will be led by the Pastor and Elders. Prayer is our life and breath! Join us as we turn to our precious Lord in praise and petition.

**New Member Class:** Are you interested in joining with the membership of CPC? Our purpose in membership is to be faithful followers of Jesus Christ. This is an exciting journey of discovering more about our Living God and ourselves. **We will meet in the parlor following worship next Sunday, February 5.** We look forward to being with you. Not a good time for you? Call the church office to make other arrangements.

Our **2012 Confirmation Class**, for youth in Grade 9 and above, will begin on Sunday, February 19, and will conclude with a **Retreat** March 16-17 at Skyview Ranch in Millersburg. This will include time with the Elders in study, a 2-hour team-building session Saturday morning, and an afternoon of horseback riding as we celebrate the commitment the class is making as they become members of the church. **On March 18, the Confirmation Class will go before the Congregation and a Reception will follow in the Outreach Center.** Please call Kelly to confirm your youth will participate in the class so she can have materials available.

**The Church Office will close at 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 16, for the Presidents' Day Holiday Weekend and not reopen until Monday, February 20.**



