

# Journeying Together

Shalom Mennonite Church

January 4, 2018

## WORSHIP

Our relationship with God

Reflecting on Dec. 31: As we read the stories of Simeon and Anna, we were encouraged to follow their example and listen for the Spirit's voice in our own lives. This may not be a loud proclamation, but rather an involuntary head nod; an intuitive response to God's gentle calling. But will we take the risk of listening for the spirit, for the possibility of God speaking to us? One way to do this is to practice the spiritual disciplines and listen for the Spirit's confirming cry within us.

This Sunday: Frank Kandel will preach a sermon entitled "Reflections on the Light," using Isaiah 60:1-6 and Ephesians 3:1-12 as the key texts.

Sunday, Jan. 14: we will celebrate the new pastoral teams and commissions that have been formed at Shalom, and we will begin our focus on the Spiritual Disciplines by reflecting on the discipline of simplicity.

## COMMUNITY LIFE

Relationships at Shalom

Prayer Request:

Thursday morning Robert Coleman and Frank Kandel met with the social worker from CICOA and were disappointed to learn that Robert is not eligible for the "waiver" that would enable him to move into an 'Assisted Living' facility. Robert still wants to find a different apartment before his lease is up on April 1st. Please pray for us. – Frank

Crompton Family Items:

One week ago, Candace and the girls had to leave behind everything because of an apartment fire. She is looking to move into another place as soon as she can get money

together. She has started a gofundme account on Facebook.

I also suggest we bring in household goods for Candace to choose what she can use. Please leave these items on the stage in the fellowship hall. (What she doesn't want will be taken to the Julian Center.) – Carol Bixler

This Sunday Fellowship Meal:

Fellowship meal will feature soups and salads with bread on the side. If you would like to bring along a dessert in addition to soup, salad, or bread, please feel free.

– Thanks, Fellowship Ministry

## Calendar

Sun. 9:30am Worship

11 am Sunday School

12 pm Soup, salad & bread fellowship meal

Jan. 10 7am Morning Breakfast Group

Jan. 13: 8:30am Eastside Creation Care

Jan. 18: 6:30pm Meal/Bible Study

Jan. 24 7am Morning Breakfast Group

Feb. 1: 6:30pm Meal/Bible Study

Feb. 4: Fellowship Meal

## DISCIPLING

Growing in our relationships

**Teachers Needed!**

We have an urgent need for children and youth teachers for next Sunday, January 14. Please see the sign-up sheet in the foyer or talk to Ruth Penner or Martha Yoder Maust.

Upcoming Classes:

This Sunday through March adults will have a choice of two classes:

1. Wilma Bailey will teach the book Catholic Economics: Alternatives to the Jungle by Angus Sibley. This class will meet in classroom #1 downstairs. If you choose this class, please pick up a

book in that classroom and read the first two chapters. The January 7 session will focus on chapter two, "The Excesses of Individualism."

2. Cheryl Martin will lead a study of Gospel texts as interpreted by Ted and Lee in "Fish Eyes" video. This class will meet in the back of the sanctuary.

## OUTREACH

Relationships beyond Shalom

Giving Corner:

Every two months or so a different project is promoted, roughly following this schedule:

- **Jan & Feb:** Blankets and comforters, international (new) and local (gently used)
- **Mar & Apr:** Health Kits (MCC)
- **May & June:** Second Helpings/Julian Center (local)
- **July & August:** School Kits (MCC)
- **Sept:** Local projects
- **Oct:** Infant Care Kits (MCC)
- **Nov:** Mittens and hats/extra food (Morning Star, Muncie)
- **Dec:** Refugee Kits/Relief Kits (MCC)

## ADMINISTRATION

Congregational support systems

## VISION AND ACCOUNTABILITY TEAM

Pastoral Team Affirmation:

I am please to announce that Sabrina Falls has been affirmed to serve on the temporary pastoral team. – Brad Sommer

### Milepost #292: **New Year's Resolutions**

Happy New Year! As we look forward to worshipping together for the first time in 2018 this Sunday, let's take a moment to review some of the major developments

that our church experienced in 2017 and the goals we have for 2018.

### 2017

1. We underwent transition. Gary Martin served as a transitional and then bridge pastor from May of 2016 through October of 2017. In 2017, we created a 3-year vision for our church (which was the guiding document for the goals below), we decided to embrace a new structure, and we said farewell to Gary on October 29.
2. We introduced a new structure. We began implementing the new structure in the last quarter of 2017, by forming new ministry teams and commissions and slowly transferring and transforming the work from previous teams into the new ones. The new structure is also designed to place less emphasis on planning teams and create more opportunities for individuals to serve in direct and concrete ways. Although some teams from the previous structure – such as the Worship and Fellowship Teams – are still doing much of the work at Shalom, the new commissions and teams have all been formed and met at least once.
3. We changed. In the past year, we said goodbye to several beloved Shalom participants, and we welcomed several new ones. Some of the newcomers joined us formally as members and have simply become a part of the Shalom family, including the four babies that were born this year. At present, there are approximately 100 people (including children) who regularly participate in the life of Shalom, with 60-70 attending on the average Sunday.
4. We participated in the reign of God. Even in the midst of transition and change, we were able to engage in God's work. We had a baby dedication, a baptism, and we blessed several people as they went out to serve as pastoral interns, doctors, and missionaries. We ate together during fellowships meals, Guess Who's Coming to Dinner, our Annual Retreat, our Fall

Festival, and our Thanksgiving and Christmas celebrations. We served the neighborhood through Thriving Thursdays, the Mara Church by blessing them in their new building, the Indianapolis community through ECCN and IndyCAN activism, the homeless through Family Promise, the Muncie community by helping with their annual event, and the world through the My Coins Count and CROPWalk fundraisers. And those are just a few of the highlights. In 2017, God worked through Shalom to touch many lives in ways that are known and unknown to us.

## 2018

As we look forward to the next year, a few goals stand out:

1. Continue to develop the new structure. The new commissions have been formed but are still getting their bearings, and it will take a few months for them to be fully operational. Furthermore, in order for the new structure to work properly, we need every member to be involved in ways that make use of their spiritual gifts.
2. Engage in spiritual gifts discernment. We encourage individuals to continue proposing ideas for new small groups after consulting with the Community Life Commission, and those who are participating in small groups to spend a portion of their time discerning spiritual gifts. Spiritual gifts discernment is the backbone of a healthy church culture.
3. Study the spiritual disciplines. The Discipling Commission has decided to make Spiritual Disciplines the theme of 2018. Using Richard Foster's book, *Celebration of Discipline*, as our guide, we will focus on one discipline per month in many of our sermons, mileposts, and Sunday school classes. We will start by reflecting on the discipline of simplicity in January.
4. Remain open to the Spirit. We trust that God will continue to work through our congregation through traditions from the past that we choose to continue, through new plans for ministry that are already

underway, and in ways that at this point we cannot anticipate or see. So let us remain open to the Spirit's work in and through us in 2018.

- Brian Bither

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Journeying Together is a weekly email newsletter of Shalom Mennonite Church: 6100 E 32nd St, 46226; (317) 549-0577 [shalommennonite.com](mailto:shalommennonite.com)

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