



Pastor's Desk

What I Learned at Yale: An Intellectual Journey & Eating Chicken

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My first semester at Yale Divinity School was incredibly hard for me. The theological education was significantly different than anything I had ever studied. I was overwhelmed by all these ideas about God that I had never heard of before. At first, the Female Christ, the Historical Jesus, and the Historical-Critical Method of biblical interpretation seemed so foreign. I felt like my brain was going to explode by such ideas. By my third semester in seminary, I learned that my classes took me on an intellectual journey. Through reading my textbooks and listening to lectures, I was able to travel on a voyage and visit new theories. As I trekked down this enlightened path, I knew that I could always go back "home" to my own ideas, where I felt safe. However, I discovered that there were many beliefs that I picked up and adopted as my own, while others I left on the side of the road.

I also discovered that reading books about God (and listening to sermons) was like eating chicken. Yes, chicken! When you eat chicken, you do not eat the entire bird. No, you eat the meat, and you spit out the bones and all the inedible parts. The same is true about many books about God and religion. I took what was nourishing and helpful and rejected what was not. Regular meat eaters do not stop eating chicken because they cannot eat the whole bird. The same is true about reading a book. Just because I disagreed with the author on some parts of the book did not mean that I should stop reading it. I continued to look for the delicious gems of meat and when I found them; I was so glad that I had been patient.



On the Journey with You,
Pastor Cassandra

**St. John's
United Church of Christ**
409 North Wooster Avenue
Dover, OH 44622

Rev. Dr. Cassandra Granados
Senior Minister
Call for an appointment

Pastor Dotty Hartzell
Pastor of Visitation
Call for an appointment.

Sunday Morning Schedule:
9:00 AM Sunday School
10:00 AM Fellowship
10:30 AM Worship

Church Office
Office Hours:
Monday through Friday
8:30 AM - 4:00 PM

Telephone answers
24 hours a day.
(330) 364-4458
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Thankful for Thorns

Sandra had never felt this depressed. Actually, her life had been pretty easy and then in the fourth month of her second pregnancy, a minor auto accident changed everything. During this Thanksgiving week, she would have delivered a son. She grieved her loss. As if that weren't enough, her husband's company threatened a transfer. Then her sister, who lived out of state, called saying she couldn't come for the holiday this year. What's worse, Sandra's friend suggested that her grief was a God-given path to maturity. *Thanksgiving?* "Thankful for what?" she wondered. For a careless driver whose truck was hardly scratched when it rear-ended her? For an airbag that saved her life but took the life of her baby?

"Good afternoon. Can I help you," the flower shop clerk, Jenny, approached her. "Are you looking for something to convey gratitude this Thanksgiving?"

"Not exactly!" Sandra blurted. "In the last five months, everything that could go wrong has."

Jenny answered, "I have the perfect arrangement for you." Just then another customer walked in. Jenny excused herself and walked into a small work room and returned with a huge arrangement of long-stemmed thorny roses: stems but no flowers. The customer said, "You'd think after three years of getting the special, I wouldn't be so moved by its significance. Thank you."

Sandra looked perplexed, so Jenny tried to explain. "We all have times in our lives when it seems as if the flowers have been snipped off our roses. That's when we have to learn to be thankful for the thorns."

"I don't know if I can be thankful for the thorns in my life," said Sandra.

Jenny's answer made her stop and think. "Remember, Sandra, Jesus wore a crown of thorns so that we might know His love. Do not resent thorns. For the first time since the accident, Sandra loosened her grip on resentment and said, "I'll take twelve long-stemmed thorns please.

My God, I have thanked you a thousand times for my roses, but never once for my thorns.

Teach me the value of my thorns. Show me that I have climbed to You by the path of pain.

Show me that my tears have made my rainbow.

Amen.

A Thanksgiving Poem

by CJ Beaman

'Twas the night of Thanksgiving,
I just couldn't sleep.
I tried counting backwards,
I tried counting sheep.

The leftovers beckoned,
the dark meat and white,
But I fought the temptation
with all of my might.

Tossing and turning with anticipation,
The thought of a snack became infatuation.

So, I raced to the kitchen, flung open the door
and gazed at the fridge full of goodies galore.

I gobbled up turkey and buttered potatoes,
pickles and carrots, beans and tomatoes.

I felt myself swelling so plump and so round,
'til all of a sudden, I rose off the ground.

I crashed through the ceiling,
floating into the sky with a mouthful
of pudding and a handful of pie.

But I managed to yell as
I soared past the trees...
Happy eating to all...
pass the cranberries, please.

May your stuffing be tasty,
may your turkey be plump,
May your potatoes 'n gravy have nary a lump,

May your yams be delicious,
may your pies take the prize,
May your Thanksgiving dinner
stay off of your thighs.

Remember to share with those less fortunate,
and may your Thanksgiving be blessed!

 Happy
Thanksgiving

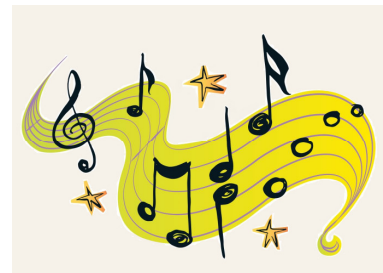
Submitted by
Pastor Dotty

GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN THAT JESUS CHRIST IS BORN



This is the theme of the 2023 Tuscarawas County's "Share- A- Christmas" project. Again, this year T-4-C will NOT be distributing clothing of any kind so, we at St. John's are counting on "**Sock-o-Clause**" to do the job. We will be collecting socks of all sizes and colors to hang outside on our "giving line." Please put the socks in individual plastic bags – one pair of socks per bag. This makes them so much easier to hang! If you could possibly have them into Sock-o-Clause's headquarters (Pastor Dotty's office) by **Tuesday December 12**, we can hang them out in plenty of time for Christmas.

If you have any questions about how you can help the Share-A-Christmas in any other way, please call the T-4-C office at 330-343-6012.



Holiday Craft Show and Bake Sale at Fourth & Faith

401 N Wooster Ave., Dover, OH

Saturday November 4, 2023

10am-3pm

St. John's UCC Fourth & Faith
Community Outreach Center

Set up is on *Friday*,

November 3, 2023 @ 10am.

There will be a food stand



Attention all BAKERS!



Your help is needed for our bake sale on **Saturday, November 4**. We need cookies, cakes, cupcakes, pies etc. whatever you would like to donate. Please drop off all donations at our Fourth & Faith building on **Friday, November 3 between 10am - 4pm**.

Thank you so much, we appreciate every single one of you for helping our Craft show and bake sale be successful!



Hand Bells

Hand bells practice has resumed on **Sunday nights at 7:00 pm**. Recalling all past ringers and inviting any new ringers to join us. Adults and children grade 6 and up are welcome. Some music knowledge is helpful, but not mandatory as the music will be numbered and color-coded. Practices are on Sunday evenings.

We only ask for a commitment month by month, so members can ring part-time or full-time.

Come try it out!!!

Any questions---call Nancy Smith at 330-364-2195.



St. John's Music Ministry



St. John's Chancel Choir will be participating in the Lessons and Carols service at St. Joseph Catholic Church on **December 10, 2023** beginning at 6:00pm (Prelude at 5:30 pm).

This community Advent service includes local church choirs that individually share their music as we anticipate and celebrate the birth of our Lord. We hope that you will be able to attend this meaningful and special Advent service.

Our St. John's Choir will soon be in rehearsal preparing for the Advent season. We are sending a very Special invitation to any man or woman that enjoys singing, to join us as we prepare for this special season. **Rehearsals are on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm.** Bring a spouse, a friend or both as we continue our own Music Ministry at St. John's.

HOPE TO SEE YOU SOON!

*"LET EVERYTHING THAT HATH BREATH,
PRAISE THE LORD" Psalm 150:6*

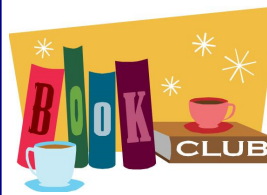
Update Military List



St. John's will publish our list of veterans on **Sunday, November 12**. If you would like to update or add a name to our list, contact the church office, no later than Monday, November 6, at 330-364-4458 or church.secretary@doverstjohns.org

Please include which branch of the military and the years that were served.

On the Road Again with the Bad Girls



The Bad Girls Book Club will be reading Views from the Hotseat by well-known former Dover High School teacher, Mike Gunther. Mike has written a series of essays that he has compiled into a book discussing the thinking man's guide to Tuscarawas County. Views from the Hotseat is this year's One Book, One Community selection so, as usual, we will be attending the community-wide program at Founder's Hall **at our local Kent State branch on November 6 at 7:00 pm**. Join us.

St. John's UCC Church Council Meeting October 10, 2023 at 7:30 pm

The meeting of St. John's United Church of Christ Church Council was called to order on October 10th, 2023 at 7:30 pm by President Dan Dummermuth. There were 14 Council members in attendance including Rev. Cassandra Granados. Rev. Cassandra lit the Christ candle and offered an opening prayer.

The September 2023 minutes were approved as submitted.

Treasurer Adam Herman reviewed the financial report. General Fund income for September 2023 was \$33,344. Expenses were \$26,870, resulting in a net gain of \$6,473 for the month. General Fund income year to date is \$211,307 and Expenses year to date is \$280,277 resulting in a shortfall year to date of \$68,969. We have transferred \$57,905 from investments in 2023 to cover General Expenses. M/S/C by Rob Gump and Dave Gingrich to approve the Treasurer's Report.

SENIOR MINISTER REPORT - Rev. Cassandra reported the following:

- 1) Her preaching approach will continue to be taught from the Revised Common Lectionary.
- 2) She attended the Finance Committee Budget Meeting on September 26th.
- 3) Rev. Cassandra's recommendation for the *Sunday School* was reading of Nadia Boltz-Weber's book *Pastrix: The Cranky, Beautiful Faith of a Sinner & Saint*. Sue Ferbrache is facilitating the class discussions. Here is the justification for this book:

When we get past Nadia's tattoos and her *salty expletives*, I believe this book will spark conversation about many different topics:

- ◇ The church being a place where people can bring their whole selves. Not having to check at the door one's personality or the parts of one's life that seem "unchristian." Not having to add to or take away from our story to be accepted (p. 54).
- ◇ Communities (secular or religious) will disappoint us. They will let us down or hurt our feelings. She talks about staying at church "to see how the grace of God can come in and fill the holes left by our community's failures" (p. 54-55).

- ◇ Church problems: having a church event that has failed (ch. 10) and working through the frustration of change (ch. 17).

- ◇ Understanding and welcoming people who are very different from you (ch. 9). Are churches welcoming and inclusive to all people? How and to what end? (ch. 18).

4) Met with Rev. Nayiri Karjian, our Association General Minister, on October 5th to discuss church ministry.

5) *Cooking Up Gratitude* "altar-scape"- to celebrate this season of gratitude, thanksgiving, and stewardship.

6) Continue to plan with the Elders for Advent and Christmas

7) Proposed special events to the Elders for their consideration, (i.e. Brunch Church and Blessing of the Animals).

Rev. Cassandra will be on vacation in November (6th-19th) and will be attending and Educational Conference for the Academy of Homiletics annual meeting (Study of Preaching) in Atlanta, November 27th-December 3rd.

PASTOR OF VISITATION REPORT- Pastor Dotty-No report

BOARD REPORTS

ELDERS REPORT- Jon McIlvaine reported the following:

1) October 29th will be Memorial Sunday.
2) Going forward, both traditional and pre-portioned communion methods will be used. Our traditional method of passing the elements will be used whenever possible, but our stock of prepackaged elements was replenished for when health concerns dictate their use.

3) November 12th will be our Veterans service. Pastor Dotty will be the lead on this service.

4) Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday this year. The Elders and Rev. Cassandra announced there will be the normal 10:30am service and an evening Christmas Eve service to be held at 4pm. Advertising will be in the Times Reporter, Bargain Hunter and will ask John Herzig to put the service time banner up near the corner of Slingsluff and Wooster Avenues.

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5) The Elders recommended going forward with the hiring of a Director of Christian Education. They will review the job description, post it, and move forward with the hiring process.

DEACONS REPORT- The ushers and communion servers for November have been secured.

TRUSTEES REPORT - Rob Gump and Chad McGlothlin reported five panels in front of the educational building have been replaced and painted. Thank you to Bob and Patty Feutz, Steve Frum and Rudy Tschantz for working on this project. They discussed the option of Action Now being our pest control company. It would be \$425 for the year with an up charge of \$25-\$100 for adding our Fourth & Faith building. Doug Peterman is checking with several people for competitive pricing for snow removal.

COMMITTEE/TASK FORCE REPORTS –

Finance Committee- Dave Gingrich reported the Finance Committee met on September 26th. Dave distributed a proposed budget to the Church Council. Council reviewed the entire proposal and M/S/C by Dave Gingrich and Adam Herman to present it to the membership for vote, during the Congregational Meeting after the church service on Sunday, November 19th.

Nominating Committee- Rob Gump announced a Nominating Committee meeting will be held at 7pm on October 24th.

CONGREGATIONAL SOLICITATIONS- None

OLD BUSINESS- None

NEW BUSINESS- None

UPCOMING EVENTS-

Bev Smith reported the following activities:

October 11th- Card Party, Fourth & Faith, 1pm

October 19th-Taco Thursday 5-6:30pm, Fourth & Faith.

November 4th- Craft Show and Bake Sale 10am-3pm, Fourth & Faith. There are 43 tables reserved. Be sure to donate goodies for the Bake Sale.

Vicki Ruefner reported for Heather Smith the following activities:

Trunk or Treat- October 23rd- 6-7:30pm- In collaboration with Dover First Moravian and Grace Lutheran the event will take place in our side parking lot. Candy donations are appreciated.

Advent Fest- December 3rd- after church. Bring a dish, hot dogs will be provided. There will be painting of the windows, crafts and great fellowship and fun.

Live Nativity-December 16 & 17th, 7pm, 7:30pm, 8pm and 8:30pm

ADJOURNMENT AND LORD’S PRAYER

Dan led the Council in the Lord’s Prayer, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:20pm.



Elder of the Month

In an effort to better meet the needs of the congregation, we will be printing the contact information for the Elder of the month. The purpose of doing this is to provide another contact person, in addition to Rev. Cassandra and Pastor Dotty, should you have a personal or family emergency.

Jon McIlvaine
100 Calico Dr.
Dover, OH 44622
330-204-2123

**September
Financial Report**

Actual Income \$ 33,344

Actual Expenses \$ 26,870

Average Worship
Attendance
84

Live Nativity



St. John's will once again be sharing with the community our Live Nativity performances both **Saturday, December 16** and **Sunday, December 17** at **7:00, 7:30, 8:00, and 8:30**. This beautiful musically narrated story of the birth of God's gift to the world has become a tradition and gift to the community from St. John's. Please stop by and share in the Christmas story as portrayed by the youth of St. John's.

Christmas Advent Festival



The entire church family, no matter your age, is invited to this year's Advent festival as we prepare for the celebration of Jesus's birth. We will be gathering for a covered dish lunch **on Sunday, December 3, in the Fellowship Center immediately after church**. After lunch, we will divide into groups for crafts and window painting. This is one of the many family events sponsored by the Board of Christian Education and everyone is in the family.

Hope to see you there!

Scarf Project



It's time again for the Tuscarawas County Scarf Project. On **Friday November 10**, we will be hanging scarves outside the church, free for the taking to anyone who needs a scarf to help keep them warm this winter. Please bring in any new hand-made or store-bought scarves to Pastor Dotty's office by **Wednesday November 8** and the Needles and Hookers will make sure they get on the line.

Thank you!

Dear Bev,

I'm a little late getting this card to you, but thank you so much for the "care" bag. I can use all of the items. Thank you for thinking of me.

Becky Mutschelknaus



Heritage Home Christmas Tour of Homes 2023

Exciting news - -
The sanctuary of St. John's will be a featured stop on the Christmas Tour of Homes this year.

Sunday, December 10th
from
12pm to 5pm

Pre-K Registration

preschool registration



Registration for the 2024-2025 school year for St. John's members will begin on **Monday, December 4, 2023** in the church office.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

Pre-K 5's - child must be 5 years old by January 1, 2024

Pre-K - child must be 4 years old by September 1, 2024

Wee Three - child must be 3 years old by Sept. 1, 2024 and potty trained

REGISTRATION FEE: **All Classes - \$50.00 (non-refundable)**

*MONTHLY TUITION and CLASS SCHEDULE:

Pre-K 5's \$ 185
Monday - Friday
9:00 - 11:45 am only

Pre-K 4's \$ 120
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday
8:45 - 11:30 am
1:00 - 3:45 pm

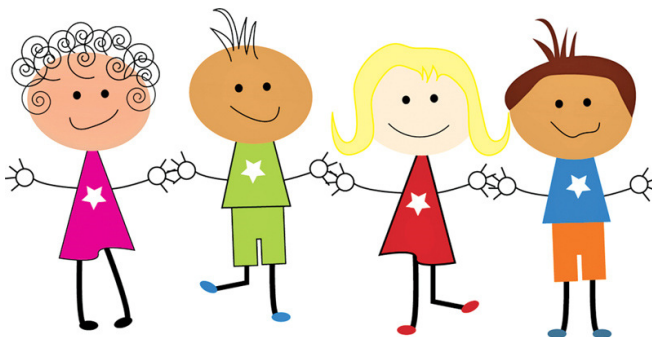


Wee Three \$ 85
Monday, Tuesday,
1:00 - 3:30 pm

Wee Three \$ 85
Thursday & Friday
9:00 - 11:30 am

Registration is open to the public on Monday, January 15, 2024 from 9 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the Pre-K rooms. Director & Teacher Amanda Jeffery; Teachers, Julie Van Fossen and Nichelle Edwards; Aides, Sharon Finnie, Kim Love, Melissa Deibel and Lillian Bucevac.

**All fees are subject to change.*





November Birthdays

- 1
Kaleigh McCutcheon
- 2
Jenny Geib
Leah Locke
Samuel Sickinger
Blake Warner
Mari Zurcher
- 3
Eric Brown
Maggie Murphy
Karen Stokey
- 4
Dalene Page
- 5
Chris Amistadi
Jami Morrison
Seth Schumacher
- 6
Keaton Hall
Scott Immel
Dan Kirtz
- 7
Freda Hucek
Kathleen Lahm
Mark Miller
- 8
Marjorie Auman
Christian France
George Telle
Francis Liptok
- 9
Pat Palmer
Amy Welch
- 10
Margery Burkhart
Deanna Geib
- 11
Mike Dotts
Todd Feller
Carol Huprich
Sawyer Thomson
- 12
Dave Gingrich
Ronald Tschudy
- 13
Alexis Altier

- 14
Matt Delekta
Kearstyn Greer
- 15
Maxton Brunner
Dana Cecil
- 16
Tyler Wherley
- 17
Dan Capozella
Katherine Graham
Adam Specht
- 18
Stormi Clinton
Christopher Ervin
Ryan Stutz
- 19
Scott Blind
Abby Daley
Cody Herzig
Miranda Immel
Jatin Kashyap
Reuben Keener
Nancy Rabinowitz
William Schriever
Barbara White
- 20
Mary Beth Edwards
William McIlvaine
Kaitlynn Rufener
John Schaar
Elliott Wallick
- 21
David Daley
Paul Kelsey
Lauren Mason
- 22
Mary Von Allman
- 23
Jill Capozella
Doug Messick
Jase Norris
- 24
Jeff Swegheimer
- 25
Kay Engelhard
Megan Murphy
- 26
Amy Graham
James Kilgore
Barbara Wade
- 28
Heather Burrier
Paula Sickinger
Michael Swinford

- 29
Brent Burrier
- 30
Robert Fox
Justin Lauber
Steven Miller
Kevin Stanke



November Anniversaries

- 1
Ann & Paul Bambeck
- 2
Cindy & Earl Feller
Stacie & Shane Jones
- 6
Carol & Fred Mizer
Ann & Corey Swinderman
- 7
Betty & Jim Wherley
- 8
Krista & Joel Steiner
- 11
Linda & Garry Miller
- 12
Pastor Tom & Patty Dunkle
- 16
Gloria & Dave McGrath
- 17
Nancy & Robert Becker
- 18
Heather & Brian Page
- 19
Jodi & Chuck Davis
- 23
Marilyn & Robert Brown
Stephanie & Dan Ledyard
- 24
Doug Jr. & Natalie Peterman
- 26
Kathryn & Ken West
- 27
Mary Beth & Michael Edwards
- 29
Jayne & Marion Armstrong

Family Members in Nursing Homes

Inn at Northwood
Norma Haglock

Park Village Asst. Living N.
Marjorie Auman
Jim Cotton



Church Office Closed

The church office will be closed:
**Thursday & Friday,
November 23 & 24**
in celebration of Thanksgiving!



Hospital News

Members and friends of the St. John's family hospitalized between September 15 - present include: there have been no reports of any members in the hospital.

HOSPITAL NOTE: We are no longer being notified by any of the area hospitals when our members are admitted due to policies involving patients' rights to privacy. Therefore, if you or a member of your family is admitted to a hospital and you would like the church to know and the minister to visit, you need to call or E-mail the church office with the information. Thanks for your help with this matter.

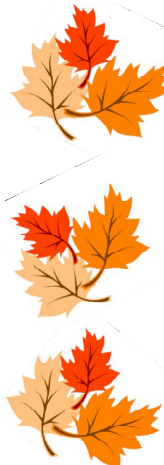
Daylight Saving Time Ends



Don't forget to turn your clocks back one hour on **Sunday, November 5.**

Carillon Deadline

The deadline to get information and articles into the next regular issue of the Carillon is **Monday, November 13, 2023.** Please mark your calendar! This will be for the December Carillon. We want to continue to keep each mailing loaded with information, dates, articles, etc. pertaining to the life of St. John's. **Remember ... you can now send your articles, thank you's, etc. by E-mail to: church.secretary@doverstjohns.org**



Card Party

At Fourth & Faith
**Wednesday,
November 8**

Card Party

1 pm - 4 pm \$10.00
includes food.

Please contact Bev Smith
at 330-343-2231
Benefits the
Cancer Care Bags.





NOVEMBER



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 7:00 St. John's Chorus Practice	2 10:00 Yoga @ Fourth & Faith	3 10:00 Fourth Faith Reserved/Set up for craft show & Drop off Baked goods today	4 10-3 Holiday Craft Show & Bake Sale @ Fourth & Faith
5 Daylight Saving Time Ends 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Fellowship 10:30 Worship/Communion 7:00 Bells Practice	6 2:00 Needles & Hookers 7:00 Bad Girls @ Founder's Hall KSU 7:00 Boy Scouts 7:00 Barbershop	7 2:00 Bible Study/ Conf. Rm 6:30 Cub Scouts/ Webelos	8 Scarves due today Dotty's Office 1:00 Card Party @ Fourth & Faith 7:00 St. John's Chorus Practice	9	10 Scarf Project 	11 VETERANS DAY <i>Honoring all who served</i> 12:00 Social Hall Reserved
12 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Fellowship 10:30 Worship Veterans Sunday 12:00 Veterans Appreciation @ Fourth & Faith 7:00 Bells Practice	13 Carillon Deadline 2:00 Needles & Hookers 7:00 Boy Scouts 7:00 Barbershop	14 9:00 Sanctuary Comm/Sanctuary 2:00 Bible Study/ Conf. Rm 6:30 Cub Scouts/ Webelos 6:30 Elders/Trustees 7:30 Council	15 7:00 St. John's Chorus Practice	16 	17	18 12:00 Fellowship Center Reserved
19 Annual Budget Mtg. 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Fellowship 10:30 Worship 7:00 Bells Practice	20 2:00 Needles & Hookers 7:00 Boy Scouts 7:00 Barbershop	21 2:00 Bible Study/ Conf. Rm 6:30 Cub Scouts/ Webelos	22 7:00 St. John's Chorus Practice	23 Church Building & Office Closed	24 Church Building & Office Closed	25
26 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Fellowship 10:30 Worship 7:00 Bells Practice	27 2:00 Needles & Hookers 7:00 Boy Scouts 7:00 Barbershop	28 9:00 Sanctuary Comm/Sanctuary 2:00 Bible Study/ Conf. Rm 6:30 Cub Scouts/ Webelos	29 7:00 St. John's Chorus Practice	30		