

THE NITTY GRITTY

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Council News</i>	1
<i>McDonald's Benefit Night</i>	1
<i>Valentine's Day</i>	2
<i>Mission Moment</i>	2

Events

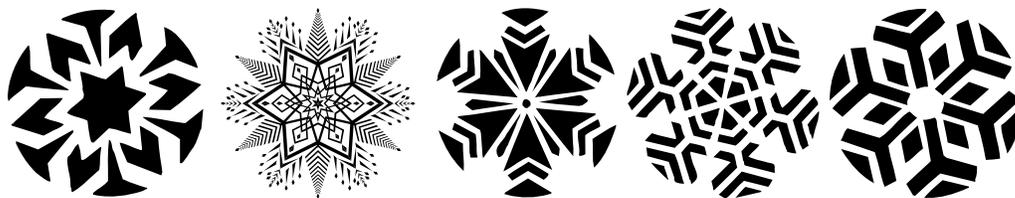
- Feb 13 —McDonald's Benefit Night, 4:00 –7:00 pm
- Feb 14—Valentine's Day—take your sweetheart to dinner
- Feb 15, Recycling Trailer, 9:00 am to noon
- Sunday Worship, Christ UMC, 9:30 am; Sunday School, 11:00 am
- Council meetings, 1st & 3rd Mondays, Village Hall, 7 pm
- Portage Lions, 2nd & 4th Mondays, Christ UMC, 7 pm
- Food Pantry, Saturdays, Christ UMC



VILLAGE COUNCIL NEWS

At a recent council meeting, Mayor Mark Wolford gave a "State of the Village" address. Items of interest include the various village funds' balances, all have positive balances, except the General Fund. This fund started 2013 \$74,602.59 in the negative and ended with only a negative balance of \$16,553.70. All other funds ended the year with a positive balance. It was reported that the park fund is positive with several donations and improvements being made as best can be.

Other items of note: Portage Village expanded to the south through the annexation of all the STONECO properties. Calls continue to be received from people to pay unpaid tickets. A new pump at the Portage Rd./County Home Rd pump station is to be installed soon. Mayor Wolford also reported that he has been elected to serve as Vice-Chair of the Central Joint Fire District Board.



MCDONALD'S BENEFIT NIGHT

The Portage Lions Club is having a McDonald's Benefit Night at the South Main Street McDonald's restaurant in Bowling Green, from 4:00-7:00 pm on Thursday, February 13, 2014. At least 10% of all the sales (both inside and drive-through) during that time period will go to the club to support our local community and sight related projects. As with all our fundraisers, 100% of the money we earn will be put towards projects.

Several of the Portage Lions will be there to welcome you, so please brave the weather and stop by to see us and help make our first fundraiser of 2014 to be a success.

Correction: Phone number for Honest E's is 419-490-8777. Phone published in a previous issue was incorrect.

Valentine's Day

Fun Facts

1. 141 million Valentine's Day cards are exchanged annually (not counting the ones exchanged by school children)
2. Over 50% of all Valentine's Day cards are purchased in the 6 days before Feb 14.
3. More 36 million heart-shaped boxes of chocolate are sold for Valentine's Day each year.
4. About 8 billion candy hearts will be produced this year, that's enough candy to stretch from Rome to Valentine, AZ 20 times and back again.
5. Worldwide, over 50 million roses are given each year.

*FOOD
PANTRY at
Christ UMC every
Saturday*

The Nitty Gritty is sponsored by the Portage Lions Club. Send comments and suggestions to portagelions@dacor.net.

VALENTINE'S DAY

The history of Valentine's Day—and the story of its patron saint—is shrouded in mystery. We do know that February has long been celebrated as a month of romance, and St. Valentine's day, as we know it today, comes from both Christian and ancient Roman tradition.

The Catholic Church recognizes at least three different saints named Valentine or Valentinus, all of whom were martyred. One legend suggests that Valentine may have been killed for attempting to help Christians escape Roman prisons. According to the story, an imprisoned Valentine actually sent the first "valentine" greeting himself after falling in love with a young girl. Before his death, it is alleged that he wrote her a letter signed "From your Valentine", an expression still in use today.



In the 5th century, Pope Gelasius declared February 14 St. Valentine's Day. It wasn't until much later that this day became associated with love. In the middle ages, it was commonly believed that birds mating season began on February 14, which added to the idea of romance.

Valentine's Day is also celebrated in Canada, Mexico, the United Kingdom, France and Australia. Americans probably began exchanging hand-made valentines in the early 1700s. In the 1840s, Esther Howland, known as the "Mother of the Valentine" began selling the first mass-produced valentines. She made them using real lace, ribbons and colorful pictures known as 'scrap'.

MISSION MOMENT

Another mission project that is supported at Christ United Methodist Church, through sponsorship of the United Methodist Women benefits Jackson Area Ministries, also known as JAM. JAM is based in Jackson, Ohio, and serves Appalachian Ohio communities. They have several projects going all year round, and offer opportunities for mission work camps building or repair homes.

Christ UMC supports their Garden Seed Ministry by collecting vegetable seeds. Any type of vegetable or herb seeds are accepted as well as cash donations. Cash is used to purchase tomato plants and seed potatoes. JAM has been able to expand this ministry within the last year by obtaining use of a greenhouse located on the grounds of the juvenile prison in Circleville. JAM volunteers and prison guards will supervise, with the inmates doing the work of planting and raising bedding plants, such as cabbage, peppers, and broccoli. These vegetables plants will be made available in the pantry gardens throughout the 19 counties supported by the Garden Seed Ministry of JAM.



Last year, JAM delivered 42,500 pounds of seed potatoes, purchased 41,472 tomato plants, and initiated 3,601 individual gardens.

Donations of vegetable seeds or cash will be gladly accepted and can be dropped off at the church. Last day to make a donation will be Sunday, April 6.