

January 2015

MPC Alive

The Presbyterian Church, 123 West Hill Street, Wabash, IN 46992-3049 www.wabashpresbyterian.com | office@wabashpresbyterian.com | 260-563-8881

PASTOR'S DESK

Turning Tables

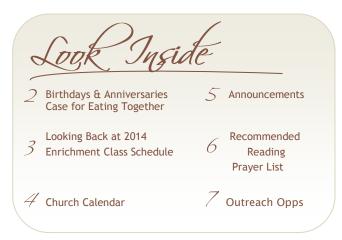
By Rev. Jonathan Cornell

"Oh, how the tables have turned." It's a phrase we hear when someone's position in the world takes a turn. I used to hear it as I sat at the kitchen table with my grandma, engrossed in a game of Battleship. She always managed to narrate *the turn* after sinking one of my battleships, as the momentum shifted in her favor.

The Oxford English Dictionary describes the phrase to mean a reversal of fortunes in your favor, so as to reverse one's position relative to someone else, especially turning a position of disadvantage into one of advantage.

We love to see this movement, *the turn*, especially when it means the good guy finally gets the upper hand. Rocky Balboa pulling himself up off the ropes for one last stand against Apollo Creed.

God's people were on the ropes, as well. After centuries of persecution and turmoil, they thought





Picture: © **Supper at Emmaus.** He Qi 2001. Vanderbilt Divinity School Library, Art in the Christian Tradition.

their day had come. Jesus was here, let the banquet begin! But their expectations were not met; their hopes were dashed. At the cross, God's people thought that it was over. That is, until Jesus showed up in the upper room with them promising the gift of the Holy Spirit. The Book of Acts then narrates a day in which the tables dramatically turned for Jesus' followers, when literally thousands were saved and joined this brand new movement called *The Church*.

But in order to understand this remarkable movement, we must look back to a simple table where, throughout his ministry, Jesus gathered people to introduce them to His Kingdom. Jesus turned the tables for the broken, discouraged, the sinful, from a place of exclusion and hurt to a place of embrace and healing. Not because they deserved it or earned it, but because they didn't and couldn't.

For the next 8 weeks, we will look together at how Jesus transforms lives by turning tables. In this series, we will look at Jesus' reversal of our understanding of hospitality, of privilege, and of place. In Luke's Gospel,

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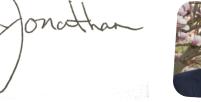
Turning Tables (con't)

Jesus turns the tables for those without religious credibility and says, "My table is for you." For those who believe they are deserving, he offers a cautionary tale.

Jesus radically redefines what our tables should look like, as well. His reversal of the table from a place of privilege and exclusion, to a place of hospitality and welcome gives us a picture of the kind of turn God has in mind for our community. It may even signify the move from strategic advantage to disadvantage.

The writer Henri Nouwen put it wonderfully when he said that the call to follow Christ is a call to "downward mobility."

How is Jesus' picture of "the Table" reflected in our homes? We will encourage one another through simple table experiences to reflect that radical embrace that Jesus offers. And what we will discover is that by turning the tables toward his Kingdom, our lives will overflow with the abundance from Jesus' table.



Pastor Jonathan Email: jonathan@wabashpresbyterian.com



Birthdays:

5th – Mary Leland

6th – Jim Vickrey

6th – Tracy Wimberly

10th – Cherryl Gray

10th – Evan Haupert

13th – Steve Henderson

22nd – Thomas Moore

28th – Bob Halderman

28th – Charlie Miller

Anniversaries:

5th – Jim & Patty Fulwider

The Case for Eating Together: Frequent Family Dinners

The #1 factor for parents raising kids that are drugfree, healthy, intelligent, kind human beings.

in younger children.

The #1 preventive for eating disorders among adolescent girls.

The #1 shaper of vocabulary

The #1 predictor among elementary children of academic success in high school.

One of the greatest predictors of kids not having problems with being overweight.

> The #1 variable associated with lower incidence of depressive and suicidal thoughts among 11- to 18year-olds.

Helps kids have fewer emotional and behavioral problems, greater emotional well-being, more trusting and helpful behaviors toward others, and higher life satisfaction.

Community & Missions

JOHN ORTBERG

Loving people with the heart of Christ in the heart of Wabash

Enrichment Classes

Short-term Classes on Long-term Matters

> Sundays, 9am Childcare available

Right Now: (You can still join us!)

Soul Keeping

Taught by Kari Lee Otto December 14th – January 18th Dickson Room (Ed. Building)

Learn how to take care of the most important part of you: your soul. What is the soul? What does it need? How does it impact the way you live? Study Gui

the way you live? Study Guide: \$8; Book (optional): \$15.



The Greatest Sermon

Taught by Pastor Jonathan Cornell January 25th – April 5th Fellowship Hall

Jesus' major address in Matthew is wonderfully explored in this course, bringing a new understanding of the



Beatitudes, the commandments, the goals, and the warnings which Jesus sets for all Christians. Dr. Dale Bruner successfully deals with the issue of the uniqueness of Christ as the savior who embraces all peoples.

Thank You!

Christmas Jubilee

The 2014 Christmas Jubilee was a huge success. The congregation donated over \$3,000, which along with some surplus funds from last year was used in serving 40 children. In addition to gifts for the children, each of our ten guest families received food gift cards for their Christmas meals. Moreover, more than 25 members of the congregation gave of their time and talents to ensure the success of the Jubilee.

Thanks to all who prayed for the Jubilee, donated money, and/or volunteered their time. It is amazing and gratifying to see a congregation demonstrate God's love by coming together to stage a Christmas benevolence project of this magnitude.

Looking Back at 2014

Over the past year, you have donated almost \$10,000 to these local organizations and ministry partners through our Loose Offerings and other designated gifts.

- 85 Hope
- Access Youth Center
- Arc
- CASA
- FISH (Friends in Service Here)
- Learn More Center
- Habitat for Humanity
- Hands of Hope
- Winchester Senior Center

- Helping Hands
- Meals on Wheels
- Presbyterian Preschool
- Thammavongsa Family
- Wabash Campus Life
- WAMA (Wabash Area Ministerial Association)
- White's Residential & Family Services

Many of you also volunteer with these organizations. Thank you for your involvement and commitment to serving our community. You are making a difference!



January Church Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 NEW YEAR'S DAY Church Office Closed	Study at Modoc's (noon)	3
4 Enrichment class (9am) Worship (10am) & Fellowship Hour (11am)	5	6 YMCA's Learn with Me (10am- noon)	7	8 YMCA's Learn with Me (10am-noon) Buildings & Grounds (7pm)	9 Study at Modoc's (noon)	10
11 Enrichment class (9am) Worship (10am) & Fellowship Hour (11am)	12	13 YMCA's Learn with Me (10am- noon) Romeo Men's Lunch (12:30pm @ Ugalde's) Missions Team (6:30pm)	14	15 YMCA's Learn with Me (10am-noon)	16 Study at Modoc's (noon)	17
18 Enrichment class (9am) Worship (10am) & Fellowship Hour (11am)	19	YMCA's Learn with Me (10am- noon)	21	22 YMCA's Learn with Me (10am-noon)	23 Study at Modoc's (noon)	24
25 Enrichment class (9am) Worship (10am) & Fellowship Hour (11am) Congregational Meeting (after service)	26 Helping Hands	Juliet Women's Breakfast (8am @ Ugalde's) YMCA's Learn with Me (10am- noon)	28	29 YMCA's Learn with Me (10am-noon) Session (7pm)	30 Study at Modoc's (noon)	31



Announcements & Upcoming Events

Let's Eat Together!

ROMEO Men's Lunch

After careful deliberation, the men of the ROMEO (Retired Old Men Eating Out) Club decided to continue eating out in 2015. This will be the Club's fifth year. The club meets on the second Tuesday of each month (except December) at Ugalde's Restaurant at 12:30pm. Club membership is open to all men of the church.

JULIET Women's Breakfast

The women have started a group to complement the men's ROMEO group: JULIET (Join Us Ladies in Eating Together). Please join us for breakfast the last Tuesday of each month, 8am at Ugalde's. No agenda; just talking, laughing, and getting to know one another!

Life Together Community Meals

Our Wednesday night Community Meals will start up again on February 25th.

Loose Offering | Access Youth Center

The Loose Offering that is collected on January 4th will be donated to our friends at the Access Youth Center.

St. Olaf Choir Concert

Thursday, February 12th, 7:30pm

Join Pastor Jonathan and Amy for dinner and a concert from Pastor's Alma Mater, St. Olaf College. Tickets are limited, so please sign up through the church office by January 11th. Cost: \$30 adults, \$15 students. Dinner will be at Biaggi's at Jefferson Point at 5:30pm. We will carpool from the church parking lot at 4:45pm.

Pastor Out of Office/Guest Speakers

Pastor Jonathan will be out of the office January 15th-18th and February 4th-11th. Please contact the church office with any pastoral concerns. Kari will be speaking on January 18th and Mark Fairchild on February 8th.

Financial Report

	<u>Nov</u>	<u>Total 2014</u>
Income:	\$39,536	\$291,210
Expenses:	<u>25,569</u>	<u>297,320</u>
Balance:	\$13,967	- \$6,110

God's tithe and our offering support the ministry programs and outreach ministry of our congregation. May your faith lead your giving.

Feed Our Community

You are always encouraged to bring canned/dry goods for the FISH food pantry and drop them off in any of the boxes throughout the church. This month, we are collecting macaroni & cheese and canned fruit.

SCRIP Gift Cards

Buy your gift cards from us at the normal price, and we receive a portion of the proceeds. It's that easy! To see a complete list of the cards available, go to shopwithscrip.com/Shop/Product/BrandCategoryList. Just be sure to order through the church office!







December Session Notes

- Amy Cornell has been approved as Parish Associate with WPC by the Presbytery.
- We are considering adding a Sunday school class for older elementary school children.
- Session is researching PCUSA's stance regarding Israel.
- The 2015 Budget has been accepted.
- Heating repairs to the church for a broken pipe cost about \$5,000. Heating repairs to the heating system of the education building expected to cost at least \$6,500.

Recommended Reading

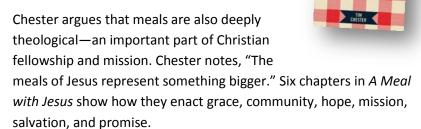
Soul Banquets | by John Koenig

A look at the ways that meals of various sorts can be more effectively integrated into parish activities, promoting the emergence of new gifts for ministry as well as increasing our gratitude for God's abundance and the works of justice and mercy that follow from our expressions of thanksgiving.



A Meal with Jesus | by Tim Chester

Meals have always been important across societies and cultures, a time for friends and families to come together. An important part of relationships, meals are vital to our social health. Author Tim Chester sums it up: "Food connects."



Moving from biblical times to the modern world, Chester applies biblical truth to challenge our contemporary understandings of hospitality. He urges sacrificial giving and loving around the table, helping readers consider how meals can be about serving others and sharing the grace of Christ.

Scripture Verse

Acts 2:42 (ESV)

Reflection:

And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

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Prayer List

Jackie Hipskind Aldon Hopper Family of Marvin Reinink Hank Decker Family of Jane Christy **Daniel Collins** Terry Tyner Senator Jim Banks **Debbie Phillips** Alex Plummer Jim Hughes Ari Halderman Jack Crosby Dick Reynolds

Jack Francis **Amy Turner** Family of Harold Walters Oliver & Mary Jane Garrison Bernice Grover Mary Henderson

Lois Smith Nancy Chowning Lois Dickinson Mildred Paullus Elmer Myers

Ron & Faith Rider

Kevin Gearhart Mary Leland

Dessie Sturgeon Connie Squires Helen Shanks

Community:

- W/PC
- Access Youth Center
- City of Wabash
- 85 Hope Medical Clinic
- Hands of Hope
- CASA
- Meals on Wheels

Have a prayer request?

If you have a prayer request, please email Kari Lee Otto at office@wabashpresbyterian.com. Please respect the privacy of others and share their concerns only with their permission. You can also email Kari if you'd like to receive the prayer list via email.

DIG DEEPER

Get Involved

WPC Helping Hands Team

Our Helping Hands Soup Kitchen team amassed over 150 hours of service in 2014. The year was a success thanks to the 18-or-so church members who served. We are looking forward to another astonishing year in 2015.

The Helping Hands Team is seeking new teammates to strengthen the group. If you discern that God is calling you serve Him here in Wabash, please consider joining the WPC Helping Hands team. The work there is not difficult: preparing food, serving food, and cleaning up. And one's time investment rarely exceeds more than a couple of hours per month.

Our Serving Dates in 2015:

January 26	July 20
February 23	August 24
March 23	September 14
April 20	October 26
May – not serving	November 16
June 22	December 14

To volunteer:

Please contact Jim Kaltenmark or a member of the mission committee.

Learn more:

You can learn more about the Helping Hands soup kitchen and store on Facebook:

HelpingHandsOfWabashCountyInc

Two great opportunities to reach out: one local, one global

Fill the Suitcase!

Help fill the suitcase with supplies for these ministries in Ghana that the Sparling family is involved with.

Simply drop supplies off at the church office or leave them in the Fellowship Hall (clearly marked for Ghana) by January 11th.

Feeding the Orphans

□ Pencils

Feeding the Orphans is starting a new school and is in need of the following supplies:

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	Pens
	Erasers
	Markers
	Colored pencils
	Crayons
	Pocket-sized pencil sharpeners
	Cash to buy notebooks (each student
	requires one per subject; we can get
	these in the market here)

City of Refuge

City of Refuge has a school and home for trafficked children and is in need of the following supplies:

7 manual crank pencil sharpeners
Sharpie markers
Dry erase markers (for teachers)
Children's and adult scissors
Staplers and staples
Calculators

Wabash Presbyterian Church

123 West Hill Street Wabash, IN 46992

Phone:

260-563-8881

Office Hours:

Mondays-Fridays 8:30am-12:30pm

Email:

office@wabashpresbyterian.com

Website:

www.wabashpresbyterian.com

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/ wabashpresbyterian

Loving people with the heart of Christ in the heart of Wabash





ANTON ARMSTRONG '78

THE ST. OLAF CHOIR

ANTON ARMSTRONG, CONDUCTOR

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 7:30 P.M. FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

300 WEST WAYNE STREET
FT. WAYNE, INDIANA

Presented by the Music Series at First Presbyterian



Contact the church office by January 11th to order your tickets.

ST · OLAF CHOIR

Wabash Presbyterian Church 123 West Hill Street Wabash, IN 46992

