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## 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,

*Please continue on page 2.*

## Look Inside

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 2 Birthdays & Anniversaries<br>Case for Eating Together | 5 Announcements                         |
| 3 Looking Back at 2014<br>Enrichment Class Schedule     | 6 Recommended<br>Reading<br>Prayer List |
| 4 Church Calendar                                       | 7 Outreach Opps                         |

## 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.



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## Birthdays & Anniversaries

### Birthdays:

- 5<sup>th</sup> – Mary Leland
- 6<sup>th</sup> – Jim Vickrey
- 6<sup>th</sup> – Tracy Wimberly
- 10<sup>th</sup> – Cheryl Gray
- 10<sup>th</sup> – Evan Hauptert
- 13<sup>th</sup> – Steve Henderson
- 22<sup>nd</sup> – Thomas Moore
- 28<sup>th</sup> – Bob Halderman
- 28<sup>th</sup> – Charlie Miller

### Anniversaries:

- 5<sup>th</sup> – Jim & Patty Fulwider

## The Case for Eating Together: Frequent Family Dinners

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

The #1 preventive for eating disorders among adolescent girls.

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

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

The #1 shaper of vocabulary in younger children.

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

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

# Community & Missions

*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 14<sup>th</sup> – January 18<sup>th</sup>  
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 Guide: \$8; Book (optional): \$15.

## Coming Up Next:

### The Greatest Sermon

**Taught by Pastor Jonathan Cornell  
January 25<sup>th</sup> – April 5<sup>th</sup>  
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 <b>NEW YEAR'S DAY</b> <b>Church Office Closed</b>	2 <b>Study at Modoc's</b> (noon)	3
4 <b>Enrichment class</b> (9am)  <b>Worship (10am) &amp; Fellowship Hour</b> (11am)	5	6 <b>YMCA's Learn with Me</b> (10am-noon)	7	8 <b>YMCA's Learn with Me</b> (10am-noon)  <b>Buildings &amp; Grounds</b> (7pm)	9 <b>Study at Modoc's</b> (noon)	10
11 <b>Enrichment class</b> (9am)  <b>Worship (10am) &amp; Fellowship Hour</b> (11am)	12	13 <b>YMCA's Learn with Me</b> (10am-noon)  <b>Romeo Men's Lunch</b> (12:30pm @ Ugalde's)  <b>Missions Team</b> (6:30pm)	14	15 <b>YMCA's Learn with Me</b> (10am-noon)	16 <b>Study at Modoc's</b> (noon)	17
18 <b>Enrichment class</b> (9am)  <b>Worship (10am) &amp; Fellowship Hour</b> (11am)	19	20 <b>YMCA's Learn with Me</b> (10am-noon)	21	22 <b>YMCA's Learn with Me</b> (10am-noon)	23 <b>Study at Modoc's</b> (noon)	24
25 <b>Enrichment class</b> (9am)  <b>Worship (10am) &amp; Fellowship Hour</b> (11am)  <b>Congregational Meeting</b> (after service)	26 <b>Helping Hands</b>	27 <b>Juliet Women's Breakfast</b> (8am @ Ugalde's)  <b>YMCA's Learn with Me</b> (10am-noon)	28	29 <b>YMCA's Learn with Me</b> (10am-noon)  <b>Session</b> (7pm)	30 <b>Study at Modoc's</b> (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 25<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Loose Offering | Access Youth Center**

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

#### **St. Olaf Choir Concert**

**Thursday, February 12<sup>th</sup>, 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 11<sup>th</sup>. 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 15<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> and February 4<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>. Please contact the church office with any pastoral concerns. Kari will be speaking on January 18<sup>th</sup> and Mark Fairchild on February 8<sup>th</sup>.

#### **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](http://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.”



Chester argues that meals are also deeply theological—an important part of Christian fellowship and mission. Chester notes, “The meals of Jesus represent something bigger.” Six chapters in *A Meal with Jesus* show how they enact grace, community, hope, mission, salvation, and promise.

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)

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

### Reflection:

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## Prayer List

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|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Jackie Hipskind          | Jack Francis                |
| Aldon Hopper             | Amy Turner                  |
| Family of Harold Walters | Oliver & Mary Jane Garrison |
| Family of Marvin Reinink | Hank Decker                 |
| Family of Jane Christy   | Bernice Grover              |
| Daniel Collins           | Mary Henderson              |
| Terry Tyner              | Lois Smith                  |
| Senator Jim Banks        | Nancy Chowning              |
| Debbie Phillips          | Lois Dickinson              |
| Alex Plummer             | Mildred Paullus             |
| Jim Hughes               | Elmer Myers                 |
| Ari Halderman            | Ron & Faith Rider           |
| Jack Crosby              | Kevin Gearhart              |
| Dick Reynolds            | Mary Leland                 |

- Dessie Sturgeon  
 Connie Squires  
 Helen Shanks

### Community:

- WPC
- 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](mailto: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

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

## 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

## 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 11<sup>th</sup>.

**Feeding the Orphans**

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

- Pencils
- 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**

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**Facebook:**

www.facebook.com/  
wabashpresbyterian

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



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**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**300 WEST WAYNE STREET**

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*Presented by the Music Series at First Presbyterian*



**Contact the church office by January 11<sup>th</sup>  
to order your tickets.**

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