



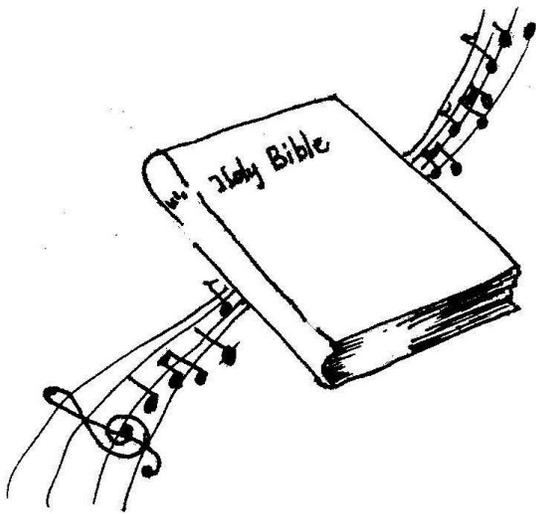
## SteepleTalk

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*Find out what's going on and what's coming up  
in the life and ministry at John Knox Presbyterian Church.*

Visit our Website

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### This Sunday's Worship

[Psalm 19](#)

[Hebrews 1:1-4](#)

"The Story and the Song"

Gordon Turnbull

Click [here](#) for bulletin

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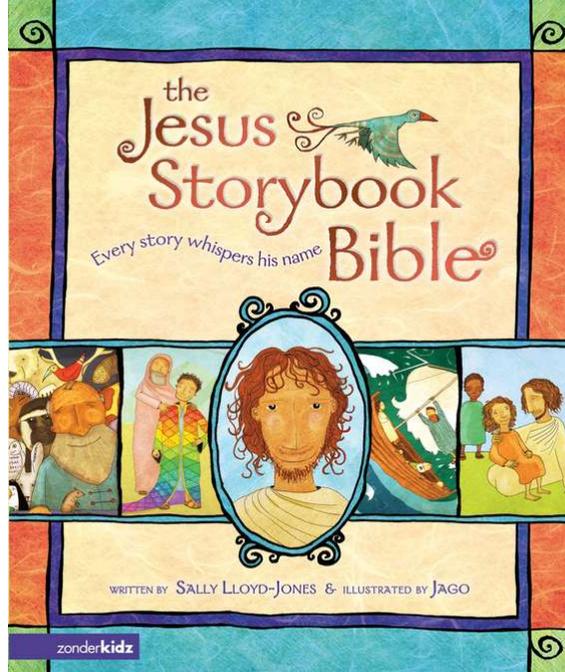
### I Love to Tell the Story

This week our church begins our yearlong Bible read-through. As a basis we are using The Jesus Storybook Bible, inviting our youngest members to join in the same life-giving experience as the rest of us. We hope that families will claim this opportunity of reading together, establishing the practice of Bible reading and faith discussion that can make each home the seedbed of faith in Jesus Christ.

While I am excited about this year's Bible read-through being accessible to all ages, I must confess that it is not only the youngest that I have in mind. My years of pastoral ministry have taught me how

vital it is for adults as well as children and youth to grow in our faith. Too many grownups believe that they have the essentials of Christian faith in hand and hence have nothing important to learn. In their minds, they have “graduated” from Christian learning! To see our faith this way reduces it to mere information and diminishes our discipleship to mere cognitive assent to Christian ideas.

I lament such a one-dimensional view of Christian life. Instead, I find that the claim of the gospel—that God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself—challenges me from every angle. A life that follows Jesus Christ reads each new situation in light of this promise of the gospel. When I read the news of the world or consider the challenges in our community, I must reckon how the gospel engages these realities. When I look within and survey the sketchy landscape of my own faulty living, I ponder how and why God would sacrifice so much to redeem me. Thoughtful Christian living never stops asking these questions, and so thoughtful Christians never stop learning from them.



Just as we don't stop living when we become adults, we don't stop learning and growing. Part of the excitement of growing in faith is discovering how the Word of God and the faith of the Church strengthen and equip us for living and thriving in even this complex and challenging world. All of us need and deserve the support, encouragement, and wisdom God imparts to us as we study God's Word and seek to follow our Lord, Jesus Christ.

And so we read the Bible again this year . . . following the story of God's sovereign, saving love from the very beginning to its victorious fulfillment. And we read these stories this year from a children's Bible storybook. I believe that disciples of all ages can learn from the disarmingly simple telling of these vibrant stories from scripture. Jesus himself said, "Unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 18:2). May God give each of us the trusting, eager faith of a child, making us receptive to learn "the old, old story of Jesus and his love."

Gordon Turnbull

This article is posted on our new blog, More From John Knox. Look for weekly thoughts from different leaders on our Bible story read-through this year. Check it out at [johnknoxpresblog.wordpress.com/](http://johnknoxpresblog.wordpress.com/).

## Wednesday Night Live This Week!

Fellowship Dinner begins at 5:45 PM. Programs for Children, Youth, and Adults will be held between 6:15-7:15. Please use the cards in the pew racks to make your dinner reservations. Dinner is free: suggested donation is \$6/adult and \$4/kids 12 & under. Menu for this week: chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, biscuits, salad bar, dessert.



## Children's Ministry News



Our new *Jesus Storybook Bible* study starts this Sunday, January 8! All ages will be reading the first story.

titled "The Story and the Song", which will introduce the children to the Old Testament and the beginning of our journey through the Bible. We hope that all of our families have received their own copies of the *Jesus Storybook Bible*, and will enjoy reading the stories together at home each week.

**Please refer to your Children's Ministry Newsletter for more details about these and other events for our children! Any questions, contact Susan Felton at [sfelton@johnknoxpres.org](mailto:sfelton@johnknoxpres.org).**

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## Youth News

### Upcoming Dates

All youth will meet this Sunday morning, January 8, for their regular Sunday School classes. We will begin our new study of the *Jesus Storybook Bible*. Junior and Senior Highs will also start back with their regular Sunday evening programs in the Youth Center: Junior Highs at 4:30, dinner for everyone at 5:30, and Senior Highs at 6:00.

All youth will meet for their regular WNL programs on Wednesday, January 11. Remember, we will enjoy dinner in the Fellowship Hall with our church family at 5:45, and then meet in the Youth Center from 6:15-7:15.



### Triune Mercy Center

Junior Highs will be serving dinner at Triune Mercy Center on Sunday, January 15. We will need some parents to help shop for and prepare the meal. Check your youth newsletter for more details.

### Youth and YAHS Luncheon

The youth will be sharing a meal with the Young at Hearts on Sunday, January 22 immediately following the 11:00 service. With the help of the Young at Hearts, we will be enjoying a meal of lasagna, salad and dessert. We will need some parents to help prepare the meal, and our youth will help serve. We hope all of our youth and YAHS can join us! Check your youth newsletter to see how you can help!

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## Sheets! Sheets! Sheets, please!

Old sheets, new sheets, big sheets, small sheets.....sheets you hate, sheets with no mates..... dorm-worn sheets, sheets that make your eyes pop out, sheets too dreary to show your friends, sheets that need too many mends.....

Your John Knox Quilters will RESCUE THEM ALL!!!!

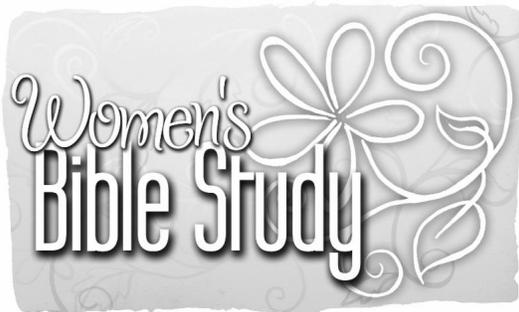
These useless sheets can find new life in GUATEMALA as bunk sheets for the dorms at the AGRICULTURE CENTER in COBAN.

PLEASE bring them to the room across from Gordon's office or call LaRue Wait @ 915-0607.



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## Attention, Ladies!



Ladies, are you looking for a Bible Study to help you go deeper in your faith this New Year? Please join us every and any Thursday from 10-11:30 in the Women In Christ Classroom. Looking for a place for prayer, confidential friendships and Bible Study...this is it! We are using the Jesus Storybook Bible. These rich Bible stories give us real life lessons...some really good...some not so! But all allow for great discussion for our own lives!. Our Thursday lesson is the same one for the next Sunday sermon. Being a few days ahead of the sermon gives us time to process and gain more from our worship experience. Contact Pat Hansen 517-7291 for info.

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## YAH-Youth January Event

The annual YAH-Youth lasagna luncheon will be held January 22 in the Fellowship Hall following the second service. This is a fun event giving the youth and seniors a chance to know each other better. Put this on your calendar and stay tuned for more details later.



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## Bad Weather Policy

The first and final word of this policy is to use your own discretion. Even if we are able to have services, your personal safety is the priority. If you cannot make it carefully to your car, or if the road conditions make you uncomfortable, please stay at home. The Property Committee will make every effort to ensure that our facilities are as safe as possible. Still, please use caution when walking on outdoor surfaces.



In general, if roads are passable and parking is available, we will hold services for those who can attend. If Sunday morning services need to be altered, a decision will normally be made by 8:00am. The message about changes will often be communicated through phone calls from our church officers. This word will also be available on our website ([www.johnknoxpres.org](http://www.johnknoxpres.org)) and conveyed through church email. The options available include: No Services, 11:00 Worship Only, Worship at 3:00pm. All of these presume that Sunday School classes are canceled as well. Many television and radio stations no longer carry specific church listings.



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## Mailbox

United Ministries thanks John Knox for the food donations and is asking us to continue with our food drive in 2017. Items are listed on a bulletin board in the outer Narthex beside the food baskets.

# THE WEEK AHEAD

## Monday, January 9

7:00 AM Men's Prayer Breakfast

## Tuesday, January 10

10:00 AM Quilters  
Sarah Cirde  
12:00 PM Monthly Men's Lunch  
1:30 Lydia Cirde  
6:30 PM Martha Cirde  
7:00 Volleyball  
Boy Scouts

## Wednesday, January 11

10:00 AM Ladies' Prayer Group  
10:30 Staff Meeting  
5:30 PM Stephen Ministry  
5:45 Wed. Night Supper  
6:15 Wed. Night Program  
Bell Choir Practice  
7:20 Chalice Choir Practice  
7:30 Chancel Choir Practice

## Thursday, January 12

10:00 AM Ladies' Bible Study  
6:30 PM Boy Scouts - roundtable

## Saturday, January 14

5:00 PM Chin Church Gathering

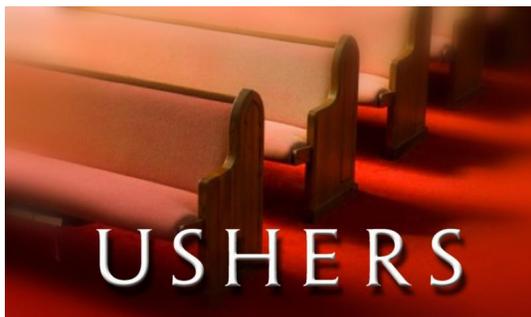
## Sunday, January 15

8:45 AM Worship in Chapel  
9:45 Sunday School  
11:00 Worship in Sanctuary  
12:15 PM CE Meeting  
1:30 Chin Church Worship  
3:15-6:00 Jr. Highs to Triune  
5:30-7:00 Sr. Highs in Youth Center  
3:00-8:30 Basketball practices

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

### January

5 - Cole Smith  
6 - Dot Childs  
7 - David Rogers, Sam Campbell  
8 - Emily Viehe  
9 - Lynne Granger-Walter  
10 - Jimmy Ferguson  
11 - Ed Biscoffberger, Jack Campbell



## January Ushers

**8:45 Worship**  
Amy Leidheiser

**11:00 Worship**  
Head Usher: Guy Cloer  
Leaders: Cecil Kelley, Kitty Olson

# By the Numbers

Attendance on January 1:  
8:45 - 37  
11:00 - 128

Weekly Expense Budget: \$17,827.00  
Weekly Offering Received: \$17,217.53  
Expense Budget YTD: \$17,827.00  
Offering Received YTD: \$37,217.53



Please email all submissions for Steepetalk to [mScott@johnknoxpres.org](mailto:mScott@johnknoxpres.org). For Thursday publication, information must be received by Tuesday at 12 PM.

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