

E-Messenger

First Church of Christ

In the book *Finding Your Way*, Gary LaFerla tells an amazing story, gleaned from the records of the United States Naval Institute following the Second World War.

The USS Astoria engaged the Japanese during the battle for Savo Island before any other ships from the US naval fleet arrived. During the crucial night of the battle, August 8th, the Astoria scored several direct hits on a Japanese vessel but was itself badly damaged and sank the next day.

Here's how LaFerla tells the rest of the story:

About 0200 hours a young Midwesterner, Signalman 3rd Class Elgin Staples, was swept overboard by the blast when the **Astoria's number** one eight-inch gun

turret exploded. Wounded in both legs by shrapnel and semi-shock, he was kept afloat by a narrow life-belt that he managed to activate with a simple trigger mechanism.

At around 0600 hours, Staples was rescued by a passing destroyer and returned to the Astoria, whose captain was attempting to save the



cruiser by beaching her. The effort failed, and Staples, still wearing the same lifebelt, found himself back in the water. It was lunchtime. Picked up again, this time by the

USSS President Jackson (AP-37), he was one of 500 survivors of the battle who were evacuated to Noumea. On board the transport, Staples hugging that life-belt with gratitude, looked at that **small piece [...]** served him so well. It had been manufactured by Firestone Tire and Rubber Company of Akron, Ohio, and

bore a registration number.

Given home leave, Staples told his story and asked his mother, who worked for Firestone, about the purpose of the

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number on the belt. She replied that the company insisted on personal responsibility for the war effort, and that the number was unique and assigned to only one inspector. Staples remembered everything about the lifebelt, and quoted the number. There was a moment of stunned silence in the room and then his mother

Serving in January

Deaconesses:

MaKenzie Manges & Sherry Trubey

Elder Schedule:

1—Mark Rhodes
8—Jim McPeak
15—Dave Beerbower
22—Doug Haase
29—Jim McPeak

Nursery:

8—SS-Stacie Beerbower, 2nd—
Stacie Beerbower & Jessica Arend
15—SS—Angie & Eric Murphy;
2nd—Stacie Beerbower & Sharon
Blinzler
22—SS & 2nd—Kelly & Barry
VonDeylen
29—2nd—Sandi & Gary Oberlin

Children's Church:

8—Ryan Beerbower

15—Doug & Julie Haase

22—Ryan Beerbower

29— Kids w/Parents



Birthdays & Anniversaries



1 Kayson Buchanan
2 Sarah Snavelly
3 Linda Lewis
4 Bob Stam-
baugh
5 Diane Altman, Mark
Brandt
6 Joanne Allison
9 Ashley Knepper, Rich
Trubey
10 Ellie Roose
16 Taylor Dominique
17 Mike Robson
19 Jolie Arend

21 Shane Ramey, Gary
Roughton, Kelly VonDeylen
22 Pam Hartman
24 Luc Hesselschwardt, Ron-
nie Pinckley
28 August Beerbower
30 Darrell Kinnan, Marcus
Manges



25 Dick & Sharon Blinzler
(48)



Family News

SYMPATHY

The church family extends her sympathy to Braxton & Trisha Snavelly on the death of their daughter, Lily Grace. If you would like to send them a card, their address is 1787 Hillandale Ave., Columbus, OH 43202.



Attention Senior Saints:

We will do Lunch Bunch on 1/24 at 11:45 AM at Blueberry Hill. No transportation will be provided.

JANUARY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:30 Coffee & Doughnuts 10:15 Worship 	2	3 9:00 MOPS 10:00 Craft Group	4 9:30 Ladies Bible Study 5:45 Supper 6:00 MOPS 6:30 Club 225 6:30 Adult Bible Study	5	6	7
8 8:00 Worship 9:15 Sunday School 10:15 Worship	9 9:30 Senior Seekers	10	11 9:30 Ladies Bible Study 5:45 Supper 6:00 Ladies Bible Study 6:30 Club 225 6:30 Adult Bible Study	12	13	14
15 8:00 Worship 9:15 Sunday School 10:15 Worship	16 9:30 Senior Seekers	17 9:00 MOPS	18 9:30 Ladies Bible Study 5:45 Supper 6:00 MOPS 6:30 Club 225 6:30 Adult Bible Study	19	20	21
22 8:00 Worship 9:15 Sunday School 10:15 Worship	23 9:30 Senior Seekers	24 11:45 Lunch Bunch @ Blueberry Hill	25 9:30 Ladies Bible Study 5:45 Supper 6:00 Ladies Bible Study 6:30 Club 225 6:30 Adult Bible Study	26	27	28
29 8:00 Worship 9:15 Sunday School Sunday School Open House 10:15 Worship	30 9:30 Senior Seekers	31				



First Church of Christ

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Love All, Worship One,
Make Disciples

Bryanfcc.org



Connect with us!

Office Hours: Monday—
Thursday 8:00 AM-5:00
PM

Facts & Figures			
December 4			
Attendance SS	25	Worship	49/75
Offering			\$15,908.30
December 11			
Attendance SS	27	Worship	51/78
Offering			\$3,172.00
December 18			
Attendance SS	33	Worship	46/78
Offering			\$9,921.60
December 25			
Attendance SS	NC	Worship	87
Offering			\$301.86
Needed for Budget			\$5,091.46

Love All

Our Service Personnel:
Austin Brandeberry (GA),
Croyden Cardarelli
(Afghanistan), Lindsey Carter
(FL), Patrick Rendleman (GA),
Josh Severs (AL), Braxton Sing-
er (NC), Jordan Thornburg
(GA), Katie Sparks (PA), Wes-
ley Tressler (CO).

Cancer: Gwen Acker-
Dickinson, Nathan Bailey,
Marcia Baumgartner, Sue Bev-
er, Tim Bight, Brent, Jennie
Case, Andrew Dell, Adam
Farger, Carrie H., Sheila Hart-
nett, Jim Henson, Molly John-
ston, Kent, Chuck Lees, Ron
Lewis, Mark & Carrie, Chloe

Merrilet, Rexann McCrary,
Crystal Miller, Ruth Ordway,
Mary Pinckley, Anna Pitman,
Elaine Purdue, Sue Secoy, Ter-
ry Shinaberry, Annette Snavelly,
Lyle Snavelly, Amy Tobin, Lin-
da Walker, Kathy Walton,
Drew Wayman. *Other Con-
cerns:* Jennifer Mavis, Trevor
Bailey, Neighborhood, Arlene
Boyer, Danielle Strouse, Bren-
da Ridgway, Cindy Wolf, Zach
Swisher, Cheryl Towers, Gene
Nash, Kim Beek, Joshua Tay-
lor, Keely Strouse, Gene Craw-
ford, *children's ministry,* Dan-
ny Hull, Cindy Webber, Kevin
Ayre, Kathy Moog, Marsha

Fisher; Marty, John Fry, Jack-
son Wolph, Shawn Roose, Fran
Mavis, Nathan Ray, Gene
Johns, Nehemiah Haase, Ray-
mond Folk, Holly Sprow,
Shawn Gambler, Randy Fisher,
Braxton & Trish Snavelly, An-
nie Engel, Joanne Allison, Car-
son Strouse, Jason Gregg, Hen-
ry Kidd, Sherry Trubey; *Shut
Ins:* Fairlawn Haven: John
Altman; Fountain Park: Es-
ther Krill; Hillside: Charlene
Gambler; Home: Annie En-
gel, Ron & Linda Lewis, Mari-
lyn Lundy, Leona Puff, Edith
Wagner SKLD: Gloria
Wright.





spoke: "That was my personal code that I af-
fixed to every item I was responsible for ap-
proving. "6"

Destined to
Win,
Larry Snavelly



MOPS and MOPS
Next meet regularly. .
There are now Tues-
day (1st & 3rd Tues-
days) gatherings 9-11
AM at the church.

Wednesday night
gatherings (1st & 3rd Wednesdays)
are 6-7:30 PM. Childcare will be pro-
vided. Contact Stacie Beerbower or
Kim Snavelly for questions. Check out
their Facebook page @ MOPSoftbry-
anfcc. You may also contact them via
mopsoftbryanfcc@gmail.com.

