



Good News

The monthly newsletter of St. John's United Methodist Church

February 2010

Issue 2

St. John's United Methodist Church

Published monthly

1800 Cypress Gardens Blvd

Winter Haven, FL 33884

Dear Friends,

During that long cold spell last month I got stuck in the garage. I pushed the button to open the garage door and it would open about six inches then stop. It only does it when it's cold, and it has been doing it for years. I stand there watching the garage door....push button, up, stop, button, down, button, up, stop, button, down...up down up down up down... eventually it will catch and finally go up. Yes, the door has an "emergency" cord to open it, but the door won't stay open by itself and I can't hold the garage door up and pull the car out at the same time. Finally the day came when I could not get out. No matter what I did, the garage door opener would not open the door. I keep it clean, oiled, and greased. "Figures!" I said out loud. "Why not!" "Fine!" "I don't want to go out in the cold anyway!" Then I just started laughing. What a hoot. Here I am watching a door go up and down up and down about six inches and talking to myself. Did I mention I'm freezing my "you know what" off? I went in the house and looked it up on the computer. I Googled it. "Garage door won't open when it's cold" is what I typed. Do you know that I am not the only one stuck in a garage? 123,000 others have watched their garage doors go up and down in the cold. That's right. One hundred and twenty three thousand hits to my request. Do you know I discovered that the fix was right there all along? All these years I have fussed with that door in the cold, and it could have worked fine. The fix was as simple as turning an adjustment screw on the back of the garage door opener to give it more torque on the "up" side. Walla! "Take that!" I stood there with pride as I pushed the button and watched it go all the way up and all the way down – in the freezing cold no less. Success! I did it two or three more times to make sure. Yes!

The answer to my issue was there all the time. A small screw driver and a half turn on the adjustment screw fixed it. I can't help but think of how many times I have dealt with life in the same manner. Frustrated or confused over something and the answer was there all the time...in the Bible. God's Word clearly is the guide to live as a believer of Jesus – a fully devoted disciple. The Bible has the answers to life's most complex questions and issues. When a storm came upon the disciples while they were on the Sea of Galilee they were afraid, but Jesus was with them in the boat. He was there all the time, and He is with you all the time. You can be sure of that. When life stares you down like a garage door that won't open in the freezing cold, may you discover the answer right in front of you. May you find God's peace and assurance. And may the door of God's richest blessings be opened unto you.

United in Christ,
Kent

Peanut Butter Update

Once again, our special and sincere thanks for the many groceries donated in January. We collected 42 bags. Some will stay here on campus to be distributed to any persons who might come here needing a bag or two. The rest are divided between Project Love and Salvation Army, with a few bags going to individuals, some from our own church family. Please continue to be generous in your giving so that we can continue to feed hungry people in accordance with Jesus' words to feed his lambs. **We are in need of brown paper sacks;** if you have any, please drop them off in the church office. Next Peanut Butter Sunday is February 7th.

Thank you again,
Peanut Butter Team

Didn't Get What You Wanted For Christmas?
We have just what you need
The St Johns Cookbook is still available.
Pick one up in the church office or contact
Kim Williams at 291-0466 or Laura McBride at
325-8144.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

On Tuesday, February 18th at 10:00AM., United Methodist Women will hold a general meeting in the Christian Life Center. Daryl Watkins will present a program entitled "For the Love of God: John's Letters." It will focus on John's message of love as a theme for community and relationships and work together as women in mission. This is a joint meeting of all the St. John's Circles. Be sure to mark your calendar. See you there!

St. John's Youth are going back to Mountain T.O.P!!!

We are leaving for Mountain T.O.P. on Saturday, June 26th, and will return on Sunday, July 4th. We will be staying overnight with a host church on the way up and on the way home. There is a \$25.00 deposit needed for each camper. The actual cost per camper is \$325.00 per camper. We expect each camper to participate in fundraisers and will also be getting some help from the Missions committee. The expectation is that a camper will not pay more than \$100 out of pocket. Those going to Mountain TOP need to have completed the 7th grade, or be at least 13 years old. If you would like more information please contact, Angela Burton at 318-8352 or check out the Mountain T.O.P. website at <http://www.mountain-top.org/>

Ladies -

Are you looking for a Women's Group who doesn't talk about Salty Service but is dedicated to getting it done?

Women of Purpose is making the world of women and children in need a better place.

Come see what we are all about.

Meeting February 25th, 7:00 PM
in the Christian Life Center, Room 210.
Contact Kim Williams for more information
291-0466.

Friendship Circle will meet Tuesday, February 9th, 7:30 p.m. in Room 109, of the Christian Life Center. Members of the Circle are an active part of the many ministries here at St. John's. Women of all ages are invited to the Circle meetings and to be part of this fellowship. This month's meeting will focus on the Circle's Flea Market, to be held on Saturday, March 6, in the Christian Life Center. Please plan to attend Friendship Circle and see what you have been missing! Refreshments will be served.

THANK YOU

A sincere thank you is extended to the following people who have taken care of servicing the pew pockets during 2009: Diane Altstaetter, Bunny Baumgartner, Sally Bonkoski, Treva Bope, Lorraine Buonviri, Nancy Carver, Bob Cunningham, Jerry & Madelyn Currie, Mario Gonzalez, Yvonne Krugloski, Donna Lauritson, Cheryl Lewis, Lois Marks, Lori McElroy, Jean & Ron Mummert, Janey Powell, Delores Reimer, Betty Sawyer, Pat Shell, Corliss Smith, MaryLou Spearing, Ruth Watson, and Judy Woodard.

It's Coming! It's Coming!
The blood mobile is coming.

Remember to donate at our Blood Drive on
Sunday March 1st from 9 AM-1PM.

We would like to say a big THANK YOU to Angelic Flowers for donating the altar flower arrangements we when only have one or no one signed up.
Thanks!

Intentional Discipling

Women's bible study: Join Nancy Carver for "Jesus Did It Anyway" on Monday evenings (Feb. 1 – March 22) at 6:30 OR Tuesday mornings (Feb. 2 – March 23) at 10:15 in Room 108. In this book discussion, we will explore how Jesus and other Biblical figures lived their faith.

Would you like to read the whole bible in 2010? Go to www.esv.org/biblereadingplans. This website offers several options on reading through the whole bible in a year, and you may subscribe in a variety of formats.

What is salty service? Every United Methodist congregation is tracking weekly the number of persons who self-select that they have been salty servants the week before. If people are going to do this, they have to have a good idea what a salty servant is. A salty servant is someone who joins Jesus in service to persons outside their congregation for at least one hour during the previous week in one of four ways:

- Hands-on mercy ministry alleviating the suffering of others
- Justice ministry addressing systems that cause suffering
- Earth-care as a steward of God's creation
- Relationship building to ease the emotional or spiritual needs of others

Seniors Alive Ministry (SAM)

In January the first Senior meeting of the year was what we thought was a huge Success. We had 52 people in attendance and everyone seemed pleased to have the Seniors meeting back after a yearlong lapse. We gave away 8 different gifts via drawing, which Doris Nolin won the 50.00 bond and Indicated she wished to contribute it to the Haitian tragedy. You feel so blessed to hang out with a bunch of Christians and Doris set the standard for all of us Seniors to go by. We wish a speedy recovery to two of our Senior friends, Dick Howard and Dick Badgley both In Re-Hab and to Mary Jacq. whose was In the hospital and missed our meeting. Monday, Feb. 11th, Joseph Peppin, Author of Radio Host and attorney will be here to speak and answer our question on Florida Law as it pertains to us Seniors. Mr Peppin is the host of the Popular Radio Show "Ask The Lawyer" which airs on Fm 90.3 Saturday mornings at 8 am. Once again this will be brown bag preferred by majority of our group as was the location of the Church as opposed to off site. In March Sheriff Grady and Dr. Lee Spell will be here and more details will be in the March Newsletter. We are working on the April meeting and look for that in the March Newsletter. Hope to see ya'll In Feb. when we celebrate our second meeting and give away more gifts.

FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE ANNUAL FLEA MARKET–SATURDAY, MARCH 6TH, 2010 AT 7:30 AM–NOON IN CLC

Start saving all your household "treasures" to donate to our Flea Market. Proceeds will go to several community organizations in need of support. If you know of someone who would like to rent a table(s), the costs are as follows: Rectangular table \$15 each or two or more \$12 each; Round Table \$10 each; (Table rent due by Wednesday, March 3rd payable to Friendship Circle.). Delicious bakery items will also be available for purchase. Contact Kitty Walker at 326-5523 if you have items to donate or contact Priscilla Badgley at 318-8042 or Diana Strejc at 324-245- to rent tables.

Cancelled Stamps

Many thanks to all who have donated their cancelled stamps, and a special thanks to those who neatly cut them from the front of the envelopes. It was a big help!

Billing departments of newspapers or utility companies are great sources of stamps. If you know someone who works there, ask if they would be willing to save them from incoming payments. Every bit helps, and the "Nurses for Christ" really appreciate it.

INTENTIONAL GIVING 2010

It is my best intention to give: \$ _____ for my Church in 2010

PER week month quarter year

Sign: _____

Print: _____

Return confidential to: St. Johns UMC or e-mail to: Finance Office

Finance office claudia@sjum.org

1800 Cypress Gardens Blvd. include "Intentional Giving 2010"

Winter Haven, FL 33884 in subject box

Kent Crow Sr. Pastor	<u>kent@sjum.org</u>
Merry Kendall Christian Education Pastor	<u>merry@sjum.org</u>
Dr. Pat Bennett Worship Arts Pastor	<u>pat@sjum.org</u>
Erica Miracle Children's Pastor	<u>erica@sjum.org</u>
Mike Lambert Youth Pastor	<u>mike@sjum.org</u>
Joe Jones Organist/Piano/Bells	<u>joe@sjum.org</u>
Barb Harris Church Administrator	<u>barb@sjum.org</u>
Claudia Willoughby Finance Secretary	<u>claudia@sjum.org</u>
Patty Boska Preschool Director	<u>patty@sjum.org</u>

Come and Worship with us!

Sunday: 8:30 AM, 11:00 AM

- Children's Worship Service during 8:30 AM service!
- 9:45-9:55 Fellowship
- 10:00 AM - Sunday School for all ages!
- Professional Nursery Care is available for children 3 years and under during all services.
- Common Grounds Youth Ministry meets every Sunday Evening 5:30 - 8:00 PM. Open to all students in grades 6-12th.

Visit St. John's United Methodist Church on the web at **www.sjum.org**

Church Office Hours:

Monday - Thursday 8:00 AM- 5:00 PM

Friday 8:00 AM- 12:00 PM (noon)

Good News Deadline- If you or your ministry team would like to submit information for possible inclusion in the monthly Good News, please e-mail your completed article to Barb Harris at barb@sjum.org by the **15th** of each month.



**ST. JOHN'S UMC CHURCH COUNCIL
MINUTES
DECEMBER 8, 2009**

ATTENDEES

Joe Blascik, Chairman
Janice Blue, Recording Secretary
Richard Blue, Trustees
Patty Boska, Preschool
Andrea Crooms, Lay Person
Kent Crow, Sr. Pastor

Leaine Farris, Prayer Ministry
Merry Kendall, Education Pastor
Erica Miracle, Children's Pastor
Bill Skukowski, Narthex Committee
Claudia Willoughby, Finance
David Willoughby, Men's Ministries

CALL TO ORDER

Joe called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Leaine opened with prayer. Joe presented a devotion and the Council Covenant was read.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The motion to approve the October minutes was made by Richard and seconded by Andrea.

Motion carried.

REPORT

Joe encouraged the Council to keep the church in prayer for growth and to stay focused on established goals. Pray for Pastor Kent and the staff as they strive to continue vital ministries. Pray that our financial goals will be met as the Finance Committee works on the 2010 budget.

Old Business

Narthex –Bill Skukowski reported that the Narthex Committee met the end of October and work started thereafter to paint the Narthex and hall extension. He thanked Richard Blue for spearheading the project along with the other 25 or so volunteers. The Committee will meet again in January 2010 to assess what to do next and what we can afford to do such as framing and hanging the Matthew verse. Once the Committee reassesses the situation, a new prioritized list will be communicated to the congregation. Thus far, the funds have come from the beautification budget. Fundraising has been discussed. Labor has been on a volunteer basis. The chair rail and new lights were donated. Other donations are welcomed.

New Business

UMW leaders were installed today. Kitty Walker is the new President of UMW. The Hills, members of St. John's, provided approximately \$10,000 of toys for us to give away. So far, 7 families have been helped. The confirmation class helped to deliver the toys. A letter will be sent to the Hills thanking them for allowing us to participate in this ministry.

Joe advised the Council of the upcoming annual leadership training from 9a-3p on January 16, 2010 at First Methodist of Brandon.

MINISTRY REPORTS

Trustees – Richard reported that estimates for the fire alarm system range from \$16-\$18,000. Representatives from the 3 prospective suppliers will be invited to attend the January, February, and March Trustees meetings to review their proposals and answer questions. The Finance Committee has set up a line item to save up for this expected expense. Richard also reported that the pump for the sprinkler system is out. Solutions are being considered. Richard Hart has decided not to continue handling the 7 rental properties so we will be looking for someone else to take over this responsibility. A letter of appreciation will be sent to Richard for his service in this area.

Men's Ministries – David Willoughby reported that there is a men's meeting every Tuesday a.m. with Kent leading a Bible study. January 3 is the kick-off for Letters from Dad.

Children's Ministries – Erica reported that the Mid-week Warriors program ends this week. "One Starry Night" program will be presented Wednesday night with 23 participating. Praise Kids are working hard on the Adult Christmas program and the program for Christmas Eve. Children of the City is this weekend. St. John's will have the Santa booth which tells the story of Jesus. We will also be doing pictures with Santa.

Christian Education – Merry reported that the seniors ministry will be revived in January as Seniors Alive Ministry (SAM). Carl and Judy Dorton will be heading it up. The team is working hard on the Women's Conference which will be held on January 30, 2010. Tony Perry will be heading up a men's Bible study at Lake Aston starting in January.

Preschool – Patty Boska indicated that the preschool will be down for 2 weeks over the holidays but the daycare will be open. 87 children are currently enrolled and 2 new infants are expected in January. Looking to hire 3 new teachers – 3 are leaving. Gearing up in January for a fund raiser. It was noted that gift cards can be purchased through the www.sjum.org web site – 8% of the total goes to the preschool.

Prayer Ministry – Leaine reported 3 new ministries have been added to the prayer ministry, i.e., SAM; Joe Blascik, Lay Leader/Church Council (Al Miner, Prayer Captain); and June Rouseff, Preschool Board (Prayer Captain needed).

Finance – Claudia reported that finance is winding down for the year. A letter will be mailed with copies of statements showing pledges and remaining balances.

Merry questioned why apportionments are not being met. She feels that if we expect members to tithe, the church should also meet its tithe to the conference. Kent explained that with rising utility costs and cash flow problems due to unmet pledges, it is hard to meet this obligation. This shortfall will be addressed in the 2010 budget. A discussion took place regarding the financial problems.

Richard inquired about the energy audit. He would like a member of Trustees to be present. He also inquired about the Eloise church property. Kent said it will be transferred to St. John's within the next year.

Worship Arts – Bill reported that the Annie Moses Band concert may take place in the CLC. Approximately 700 chairs can be set up in the CLC.

Pastor's Moment – Kent thanked everyone for their service this year. He asked that everyone be especially hospitable during this busy holiday season. Greeters will be out front for special events as well.

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, January 26, 2009 @ 7 pm

ADJOURNMENT

Kent closed the meeting in prayer at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Janice S. Blue
Recording Secretary