

St. John's United Methodist Church of Winter Haven, FL



Good News

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

January 2010

Issue 1

St. John's United Methodist Church

Published monthly

1800 Cypress Gardens Blvd

Winter Haven, FL 33884

Dear Friends,

It's A New Day!!!! Revelation 21:5 says, "He who was seated on the throne said, 'I am making everything new!' Then he said, 'Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.'" Jesus also said, "I am the Alpha" and "I am the Beginning." A new year can be a catalyst for a fresh start in life. New beginnings. Starting over. A new lease on life. A fresh start. Call it what you will, new starts should always begin with Jesus, for He makes everything new in one's life. January 10th will be the beginning of a three part sermon series called "It's A New Day." By the time this series is over I want the congregation to have dedicated their lives for the things of God in 2010. January 10th is about renewing your dedication to God as an act of obedience for His missional call upon your life. Renewal of baptism can be a beautiful witness to His call upon your life. This will be a renewal of baptism service where you can renew your baptism. January 17th is about discovering God's will. For many people the most challenging aspect of the Christian life is knowing what God's will is for their lives. Henry Blackabee, author of the Experiencing God study, says, "Asking what God's will is for your life is the wrong question." He suggests the right question to ask is, "What is God's will?" then join God in what He is doing. The series will wrap up on January 24th with the sermon, "Unleashing Your Spiritual Gifts." The slogan, "United we stand, divided we fall" is a biblical concept that applies directly to the church, for we are created to be in relationship with each other. The power of the church is not in a patriarch or matriarch, or who gives the most, or the pastor, or a board or committee. The real power of the church is in the Holy Spirit working through a unified body with a variety of spiritual gifts. You will have an opportunity to take a spiritual gifts inventory to discover your God given spiritual gifts.

January 24th will also be the "Taste of St. John's". If you are involved in a ministry, please set up a display in the CLC that will tell others about your ministry and being a community in mission. This will lead into January 31, our stewardship commitment Sunday. It is my prayer that you will participate by sharing your intentions for giving in 2010. This is more critical than ever before. At the end of December, I had one of the hardest conversations I have ever had to have with the staff. Folks, staffing and ministries may look very different this year. I don't know what it will look like. A lot will depend on the results of the people's intentional giving response. If a single person on staff right now were no longer here, it would create a huge vacuum. Barb, Claudia, Pat, Merry, Erica, Mike, Joe and Patty - including the teachers, are the most incredible staff I have ever worked with. I hear it over and over again, "It's the best staff ever!" (Note: Patty and teachers are under the Pre-school's budget). These people are dedicated to you and the church in fulfillment of their call from God to serve in ministry. They are very special to all of us. They, including Kent, need your prayers, love, and support more than ever. Not only would there be a huge vacuum if staffing looked different, some important ministries would no longer exist. I don't want this to happen, and I know you don't either. Right now is the time for you to fast and pray. A word from the Staff Parish Relations Committee is the promise to be diligent in prayer throughout all discussions and decisions. I am having prayer and discussions now with church leadership as to how we will progress in the future.

Why are we having this discussion? Is it because of the economy? Is giving down? Actually, giving was slightly up in 2009 over 2008. Are we spending more? Yes. Where? Ministry budgets? Ministries are operating on fumes as it is. I believe the biggest culprits for these discussions are out of our control. Rate increases. Did you know that the electric bill has doubled in the past 4 years. Doubled. This is not a result of more usage. In fact, the usage (kilowatts) is only slightly higher than it was in 2006. Rates have doubled, as I am sure you have witnessed in your own home. Since the hurricanes in 2004, insurance rates have increased dramatically. These two items alone have resulted in a \$90,000 increase in the past four years. That is a \$90,000 increase to what we already pay just for lights and insurance. Staggering. We're a big church with a big facility, and it takes a lot to operate. No one likes to talk about lights, water, insurance, janitorial, etc..... And when we give we want our giving to impact lives. I assure you, that every dollar you and I give impacts the Kingdom. We have a church, a base of operations which is part of our identity of being a Community In Mission. We need the church, and we need both laity and staff leadership.

May twenty-ten be a new beginning for St. John's United Methodist Church. May the church rise up and accomplish the call to make fully devoted disciples of Jesus Christ. May this New Year be a new beginning for you. May your life be filled with happiness and heartfelt joy all year long.

United in Christ,
Kent

Peanut Butter Update

Once again our special and sincere thanks for the many groceries donated in December. 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 January 3rd.

Thank you again,
Peanut Butter Team

BODY RECALL RESUMES

It is possible to enhance your body, mind and spirit through an exercise program called .BODY RECALL offered at St. John's United Methodist Church, 1800, Cypress Gardens Blvd. Winter Haven. The lament of many (and maybe of yours also) is "If I had known I was going to live this long, I would have taken better care of myself".

The good news is that it's never too late to begin a fitness and stress-reducing program to make a big difference in your quality of life RIGHT NOW. This is a safe, tested program of exercise and movement designed to reclaim the variety of movement and flexibility that makes living pleasurable and allows us to live independently as long as possible. The class meets 3 days a week, Tues, Wed, and Thurs; from 9 am to 10 am in the Christian Life Center of the church.

Sessions are led by certified teacher, Mary Jacq McCulloch, who is beginning the 14th year that the program has been offered here at St. Johns. The program was created by Physical Education professor, Dorothy Christman, at Berea college 35 yrs. ago.. Exercises are done sitting in a chair, standing and for those who are able, on the floor. Each student is his/her monitor to realize the progression of his/her abilities. This program is open to all men and women and the tuition for the 10 week session is still \$30.00. MAKE EXERCISE A PRIORITY IN YOUR LIFE! Any questions may be addressed to Mary Jacq. at 324-6748. Classes begin January 5,6,7, 2010 through March 9,10,11, 2010.

Morning circle will meet the 3rd Thursday Jan.21st 2010 at 9:30 A.M. in Christian Life Center, Rec. We are looking forward to a busy and fruitful New Year to do God's Work. See you all there.

SAVE THIS DATE The first get-together of S.A.M. will be held in the Rec. Lounge, on Thursday, January 11, at 11:30 a.m. Our first meeting will be a bag lunch (you provide). Dessert will be provided by us. The program will feature Haven Harmony and Sue Umstead playing the bells. A brief discussion will be held to evaluate the areas of interest those in attendance would like to see S.A.M. pursue. Please save the date and plan to attend. We welcome your attendance and input! The Rec. Lounge is located in the Christian Life Center (C.L.C.) and is right next to the kitchen entrance. Please invite a friend, neighbor, relative, etc. to be part of our group. We hope to see you on the 11th.

Prayer Shawl Ministry Gathering

- January 11, 2010 at 9:30 AM

We will be getting together on **January 11, 2010 at 9:30 AM** in the library to knit, crochet and pray. We will also discuss how to expand and enhance our system for distributing shawls. We are asking for anyone interested in delivering shawls to join with us. Those who are involved in a visitation ministry (i.e. communion, congregational care, altar flowers, homebound and hospital visitation) are invited to join us as we seek to partner with these ministries to distribute shawls.

The mission of the Prayer Shawl Ministry is to create prayer shawls and lap robes which are intended to become a physical expression of our prayers and a reminder of our love and God's blessings to individual recipients.

Thanks to all shawl makers for their faithfulness in creating beautiful shawls and lap robes. To date approximately 300 shawls/lap robes have been distributed through this ministry. The shawls and lap robes are made by volunteers who knit or crochet each garment with loving intention. The creation of each shawl or lap robe is a special act of love and each garment is prayed over throughout the process.

Prayer is the most critical part of this ministry, so if you can pray, we want you to be a partner with us, pray with us, and pray for us. We depend on our partners to inform us of where the needs exist; who needs to be physically wrapped in the love of God. One Sunday each month the shawls and lap robes will be in the sanctuary so that those who so desire may pray over them.

We would like to also thank those who have donated yarn, tissue paper and gift bags for use in this ministry. There is a continued need for these items.

We are always seeking those interested in joining this ministry as shawl makers or assisting us in distributing the shawls.

Individual requests for shawls or lap robes may be made for any reason: mourning, baptisms, hospitalization, special needs, illness, going off to college or the military, those going through stressful times. Both women and men are recipients of prayer shawls and lap robes. Request forms are located in the Narthex. We ask that you continue to hold this ministry in your prayers.

For more information contact:

Priscilla Badgely 318-8042
Joan Briggs 326-1737
Daryl Watkins 324-4608

WORKING WISLEY

Annual leadership training for the SC District 2009

WHO:

- Pastors, Lay Leaders, Chair and Co-Chair of SPR, Trustee's, Finance, Lay delegates and any other leaders in your faith communities.

WHAT:

- **NUTS AND BOLTS** of what you need to know about your areas of ministry. There will be breakout groups for specialized areas of ministry led by district and conference leadership
 - ◇ Reporting updates
 - ◇ Best practices
 - ◇ Time and money savers
 - ◇ Resources

WHERE:

- First Brandon UMC

WHEN:

- SATURDAY
- JANUARY 16TH
- 9AM-3PM

FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE ANNUAL FLEA MARKET SATURDAY, MARCH 6, 2010

7:30 A.M.—Noon in Christian Life Center

Please continue saving all your household "treasures" at your homes to donate to our Flea Market to be held this March. Proceeds will go to several community organizations in need of support.

Contact Kitty Walker 32-5523 if you have any questions. Thanks

An Altar Prayer Team is coming soon to St. John's. The purpose of the team is to help people who need someone to pray with and encourage them. Join us in prayer as the team prepares for this new ministry.

Your 2010 offering envelopes are now available they are located outside the Education office on the information table.

Save Cancelled Stamps!

Remember the Holidays are here and we have lots of extra mail and we will see lots of good cancelled stamps in our holiday mail, so cut them off the front of the envelope (don't tear) and leave about 1/2" of envelope around them. Remember we can't use "presorted" or "non profit" or Bulk Mail" stamps that come in business and charity request envelopes. Stamp collectors don't want them. The collection box is waiting for you on the table in Room 105 in the Christian Life Center. If everyone would help we would have a big box full to donate.

Thank You!

A big thank you to the following ladies who helped to stitch the new Chrismons for the sanctuary trees: Joan Briggs, Judy Butcher, Dorothy Crabill, Barbara Ellis, Ruthea Gault, Anita Jones, Linda Moisa, Linda Mulder, Marion Roberts, Betty Soble, and Janet Towart. I really appreciate all your time and hard work.

Sue

Chrismon Explanation

If you would like an explanation of the Chrismons on our Sanctuary trees, you may pick one up from the table in the hall.

Intentional Discipling Opportunities in January

Salty Service: Are you interested in being involved in salty service, but are still looking for a place to serve? Then, come to the Rec. Lounge (adjacent to the kitchen in the Christian Life Center) at 10:00 on Sunday, January 3. ***Phil Attinger of American Red Cross*** will explain this organization and the many ways in which you can serve.

Beloved Psalms For The 21st Century: The Book of Psalms is one of the great summits of spirituality. It contains prayers and hymns uttered out of every conceivable human situation. Join Dr. Dean Witten on Wednesdays (Jan. 6 - Feb. 24) at 4:00 in Room 108 for this study of selected psalms as we grow deeper in our walk with the Lord and learn to offer worthy praise.

2 Samuel - The Rise and Fall of David: David was an organized administrator, a strong warrior, a gentle musician, and a sinful human being. Join Merry Kendall for this study at one of these sites:

- ***Sundays*** (January 10 - March 28) at 10:00 am in the Rec. Lounge (adjacent to the Christian Life Center kitchen).
- ***Mondays*** (January 11 - March 29) at 9:00 am in the Lake Region Village Clubhouse.
- ***Thursdays*** (January 14 - April 1) at 4:00 pm in the Card Room at Lake Ashton's Health and Fitness Center).

Membership Class will be offered on Sunday, January 24 at 4:00 pm in the Overflow Room of the sanctuary. This class is open to all visitors and regular attenders. Join Pastor Kent to explore what it means to be a Christian, a Methodist, and a member of St. John's. Please call the church office at 324-6347 to register.

Women's Conference: Is There More to Life Than This? Join together with other women for passionate worship, fellowship, and a powerful message from Amy Brady (www.amybradyministries.com) on Saturday, January 30. Breakfast begins at 7:45, and the conference begins at 8:30. When the conference closes at 1:15, you may join us for an optional lunch at Ruby Tuesdays. Register via the church website - www.sjum.org or by picking up a registration form in the church office or from the table outside the Education Office. Childcare is available upon request.

COSTA RICA – 2010 - MISSION



HERE WE ARE AT THE START OF 2010. THE COSTA RICA MISSION TRIP IS SCHEDULED FOR TUESDAY, APRIL 6TH OR 7TH THRU FRIDAY 16TH OR 17TH. TO GET THE BEST AIRLINE FARES WE HAVE TO START EARLY. AIRLINES HAVE CUT BACK ON FLIGHTS WHICH MAKE IT IMPERATIVE THAT **IF YOU WANT TO BE PART OF OUR MISSION TEAM, WE NEED YOUR COMMITMENT AND A \$100.00 AIRFARE DEPOSIT BY JANUARY 20TH**. IF YOU HAVE AN INTEREST IN THIS SPECIAL MISSION OPPORTUNITY PLEASE CONTACT AL MINER 324-1960 ASAP. WE WILL HAVE AN INFORMATIONAL MEETING IN JANUARY TO REVIEW PLANS AND OTHER INFORMATION.

SAM IS COMING

Yes Sam is coming to Winter Haven and St. John's. You can't buy groceries there like at the other Sam's but you can mix and mingle with your church friends and perhaps gather new friends. SAM is Seniors Alive Ministries and there has been a lapse in this ministry for the past year or so and a group of us are attempting to revive this. We will have a container which we hope will get a lot of new and fresh idea's for future meetings. All of our meetings will be brown bag because at this time Sam is not in the church budget. A real fast remedy for this would be to stop at McDonalds and check the dollar menu. There will always be dessert and drinks at the meetings. January is covered but we will be looking for February desserts. We have also been asked to maintain the church sign out front weekly January is already covered but we will be looking for February. Here is a schedule for Seniors meetings for the next 3 months. I hope all of you CAN ATTEND AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING ALL OF YOU.

January 14th is strictly entertainment at this meeting, no speakers. We are very fortunate to have Sue Umstead with us and she will be solo on the hand bells. How she can do those bells so fast, but what is so amazing she never picks up the wrong bells even as fast as she is going. She herself would be worth the drive here but we have more. Recently I attended a concert at Lake Ashton and had the privilege of hearing Haven Harmony and I said to myself you have to have them at our first meeting. We confirmed this with the Haven Harmony Director, Joe Jones, and they will appear. You will recognize some of these as members of St. John's but this is a county group comprised of different faiths. We feel very blessed to have them here with us.

February 8th at noon—Author, Radio host and Attorney Joseph Phippen will speak on “Florida Law and how it pertains to seniors” Mr. Phippen is host of Florida law church airs at 8:00 AM on Gospel 90.3. Mr. Phippen will speak at Noon and we will brown bag at 11:30.

March 11th—We are pleased to have Sheriff Grady Judd along with Dr. Lee Spell (Lead Detention Counselor) and a graduate of the faith based program at the Bartow jail. They will speak at 12:30 and we will brown bag at 11:30 in order to move some equipment in that they will be using. This is a special event and the committee especially thanks Merry Kendall for arranging this. Thanks Merry.

We will make every effort to arrange a 3 month schedule so you can plan ahead to attend your Seniors' meetings. Look for us in the April newsletter. See ya in church.

**St. John's UMC
No Preschool Board Meeting for December**

**St. John's UMC
SUMMARY of Church Council
(have not received the minutes; will be published next month)**

**St. John's UMC
SUMMARY of Finance
November 30, 2009
Finance starting working on budget. Finance sent out statements.**

**St. John's UMC
SUMMARY of Mission
(have not received the minutes; will be published next month)**

**St. John's UMC
SUMMARY of Trustees
December 7, 2009 (not approved)
Narthex was painted and chair rail molding added during November. New florescent lighting was also added in front of the Church office. We have received 3 estimates for adding a fire alarm system in the Christian Life Center. Fire alarm system must be installed in 2011.**

Enjoy a night out of the kitchen and support
St. John's Pre-School



Spaghetti Dinner and Silent Auction

January 22nd 5:00-7:00 pm

Spaghetti, salad, bread, dessert

Eat-in or Carry-Out

Tickets \$7.00

(Kid's meal of Hot Dogs, chips & cookie available \$3)

Worship

Dr. Pat Bennett, Worship Arts Pastor
Phone 324-6347 ext. 226, email pat@sjum.org

Our Worship Ministry Purpose Statement

To enable the congregation of St. John's to experience and participate in meaningful
worship
as a community of believers and seekers.

SPECIAL EVENT!!!

The Annie Moses Band in Concert

Saturday, January 30, 2010

6 PM at St. John's

Admission - Free

(Love Offering will be taken)

CHILDREN'S

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Children of the City! We photographed and processed over 300 pictures of children with Santa. MidWeek Warriors will resume on Jan 13 from 6pm-7pm in Asbury Hall.

Are you a caregiver that needs respite? Do you know of a person with Alzheimer 's disease that would welcome a visitor? St. John's has a Visitation Team that is looking to expand their ministry in these areas. If we can meet such a need for you, please contact Merry Kendall at merry@sjum.org or 324-6347.

Reminder: Our Chapel is open for prayer whenever our building is open.

Kent Crow

Sr. Pastor kent@sjum.org

Merry Kendall

Christian Education Pastor merry@sjum.org

Dr. Pat Bennett

Worship Arts Pastor pat@sjum.org

Erica Miracle

Children's Pastor erica@sjum.org

Mike Lambert

Youth Pastor mike@sjum.org

Joe Jones

Organist/Piano/Bells joe@sjum.org

Barb Harris

Church Administrator barb@sjum.org

Claudia Willoughby

Finance Secretary claudia@sjum.org

Patty Boska

Preschool Director patty@sjum.org

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.

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