

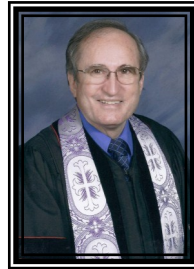


# Good News

Issue 9

St. John's United Methodist  
1800 Cypress Gardens Blvd  
Winter Haven, FL 33884

November, 2011



## As I See It . . . Rev. Dan Parrish

As I See It, November is that time of year where we focus on harvest and Thanksgiving with our church calendar. I believe there is a common thread that ties both of these together for all of us – and that theme is the blessing of God upon our lives and homes.

We read in the book of Deuteronomy a command in regard to this: Deuteronomy 16:13-15

**13 Celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles for seven days after you have gathered the produce of your threshing floor and your winepress. 14 Be joyful at your Feast — you, your sons and daughters, your men-servants and maidservants, and the Levites, the aliens, the fatherless and the widows who live in your towns.**

**15 For seven days celebrate the Feast to the LORD your God at the place the LORD will choose. For the LORD your God will bless you in all your harvest and in all the work of your hands, and your joy will be complete. (NIV)**

As I See It, our congregation at St. John's United Methodist has much to celebrate and for which to give thanks during this season of the year. I personally want to thank you for your response to enable us to finish the month of August in a positive manner after I made my plea to you. While we are still short for the year, we were able to pay all current bills at that time – for that I thank you.

I also want to thank you for the generous offering you provided for the Food Distribution at St. John's Eloise campus. Through your generous gifts of love, Angels Care was able to provide 30 lbs. of food staples to 200 families in the mid-October food distribution.

As we gather our budgets for 2012, I am asking you again to offer your thanks to God in your faithful response to our proposed budget which will be presented beginning at the church conference on November 13<sup>th</sup> at Dundee United Methodist at 2:00 p.m.

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However, as we begin to look at our proposed budget, I want you to hear the story of the ministries it will be providing for the coming year.

As I See It, this budget is a representation of our Feast to the Lord as described above in the reading from Deuteronomy. It represents young lives and a growing youth ministry to young people in our community. Our budget represents a growing ministry to children both in the area around St. John's and our 2<sup>nd</sup> campus in Eloise with afternoon programs and outreach being a center focus of our new Children's ministry director, Sumer Rohrs. Our budget represents new worship services and expanding choirs to share God's love with others. Our budget reflects major improvements to our aging facilities to make them inviting and a place to which we can all be proud to bring a friend or neighbor. Our budget reflects new areas of ministry in care for those within our church and those in our community through health fairs, blood pressure checks and offering inoculations for flu and pneumonia. Our budget reflects new means of reaching out to share an invitation for people in our surrounding

communities to come and experience the love of God offered in the various ministries of our congregation. Our budget involves mission ministries reaching out around the world to share the light of Christ's presence.

As I See It, our budget is a reflection of our response from God to put Him to the challenge and to see the bountiful blessings He will provide when we are faithful in responding to His call to tithe.

As I See It, we could not only underwrite the fullness of our budget, but also make a marked reduction to our mortgage with the money that comes from our over-subscribing the 2012 budget. The finance committee and leaders of our congregation have worked hard in preparing this proposed budget. It represents a reduction of \$33,000 from our 2011 budget while enabling all areas to fulfill their vision for effective ministry in 2012. Claudia reported to me that our church had 300 plus giving units in 2011. If each of them would continue their giving commitment with no additional increase we can underwrite our proposed budget for 2012. If each gave an additional \$500 for this coming year, we could also reduce our mortgage indebtedness by making a principle payment of \$150,000 or 1/3. Thus, in 3 years we could have our mortgage completely

paid off while still supporting our budget 100%. Wouldn't that be something for which to give God thanksgiving? I'm already praising God – because I know that this is a realistic goal for our congregation that would free us to even greater opportunities by freeing up \$40,000 a year for us to use for sharing God's love in new ministries in our congregation and our community.

As I See It, the final part of this Thanksgiving article puts the response fully back in your own life. Are you willing to fulfill God's vision for the people of St. John's United Methodist? Will you offer God your first fruit offerings so that this vision becomes a living reality? Your opportunity to offer your answer will come on January 22<sup>nd</sup> when each of you makes your covenant response to God on our commitment Sunday. My prayer is that that will be a true day of Thanksgiving as we share the Good News of our commitment and affirm that our budget is no longer proposed but is now fully underwritten to God's glory. Remember, it is all His in the first place.

See you at God's storehouse this Sunday.

Yours in Christ's service,

Pastor Dan



We are in need of volunteers to help support our Wearhouse with a gift of their time in receiving, sorting and handling the many donations that come to us.

If God is speaking to you to serve a single day or several, please stop by the Wearhouse or call Jean Stoner at 324-3301 for further details. Thanks for helping us to help others in many ways.

For example, in July, we donated furniture, linens, and blankets to the Diaz family at a time when they couldn't provide for themselves. The staff at the Wearhouse even donated money for Luiz, Jr. for summer camp.

We received a nice thank you note on behalf of the Diaz family from Eloisa De La Garza , Senior Care pastor of the Freedom Church of Winter Haven.

**OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD**

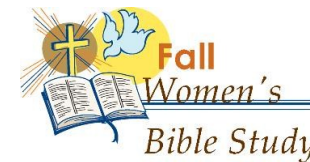
Operation Christmas Child brings joy and hope to children in desperate situations around the world. They are given a gift-filled shoe box and Gospel booklets in their own language. Just pack an empty shoe box (or plastic case, as these can be used over and over by the recipients and their families). Please include a check for \$7 to Samaritan's Purse to cover shipping. Shoe boxes should be placed on the altar on Sunday, November 13th. Pastor Dan has challenged us to fill 200 boxes!



Mark your calendars for November 18 - 20 for a special Renewal Weekend for St. John's and the commu-



nity with Rev. and Mrs. Roger Watts. Roger is a regular speaker for conference events, United Methodist Men's Weekends and, with his wife Judy, Couple's Weekends. Worship will be on Friday and Saturday at 7 p.m. We will gather for a breakfast and Bible study on Saturday at 8:30 a.m. The breakfast of biscuits & gravy, hash browns, coffee & juice will be served from 8:30 – 9:30 for \$5 by United Methodist Men. As a special treat, Sheriff Grady Judd will be speaking to those in attendance before the Bible Study to be led by Rev. Watts. Additionally, Roger will lead our services on Sunday morning, November 20th as he brings his sermon series to a conclusion. Bring your friends, relatives and neighbors to be blessed by these special worship experiences!



All women are invited to be a special part of the Fall Women's Bible Study which started on October 10th and 11th, and continues through November 14th and 15th. We will be looking at "Peace" in the scriptures and in our lives. We meet on Mondays at 6:30 pm or Tuesdays at 10:15 am in the Rec Lounge in the CLC. The class is led by Janey Powell. There is no book to buy, but please bring your Bible. Come share this special time together as we search the scriptures to discover "Is Peace Possible?" Call Janey at 324-5264 if you have questions.

**MORNING CIRCLE**

The Morning Circle meets every third Thursday of each Month at 9:30 a.m. in the Rec Lounge in the CLC . The next meeting will be on November 17th.

## World Community Day 2011

### “Living Our Faith: Unlocking Action”

#### Sponsored by CHURCH WOMEN UNITED

This annual celebration, World Community Day (WCD),



unites the local faith community each November, usually the first Friday or the following Saturday. This year's WCD relates the goals from Micah of justice and mercy to Jesus' demand that we

reexamine our own hypocrisy. Only then can action be unlocked.

Co-writers Joan Brown and Cathy Smith have written this service and selected some of the accompanying music. "We'll Pass Them On," our seventieth birthday theme song, will be sung in preparation for the gala event in Atlantic City from November 30 to December 3, 2011.

The logo depicts an explosion of actions bursting forth from an unlocked trunk. Past actions will inspire the women of today towards future action.

The offering taken at World Community Day will be sent to the national office of CWU for support of the movement. For further information about the World Community Day celebration, contact:

Maggie Lewis-Scott 863-412-2648 or 324-9649

Program held November 4, 2011

Registration 9:30AM Program 10:00AM

at Hurst A.M.E. Church

875 Ave. O NE, Winter Haven FL 33880

Phone 863-293-6415



Church Women United is an ecumenical movement that brings together Protestant, Catholic, Orthodox, and other Christian women in the United States and Puerto Rico to:

- Work for a just, caring, and peaceful society
- Develop a visible, ecumenical community
- Use responsibly and creatively the resources God has entrusted to us: our intelligence, time, energy, and money
- Deepen our understanding of what it means to be Christian women of faith in today's world.

In 2008 Church Women United adopted a new

Quadrennial Priority:

#### **"BUILDING A WORLD FIT FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN"**

##### **The "Building Blocks" are:**

**HEALTH:** Promote the health and well-being of all people.

**ENVIRONMENTAL CARE:** Promote personal, communal, and governmental decisions that express care for all God's creation.

**PEACE:** Promote the ways that make for peace.

**ECONOMIC JUSTICE:** Promote the dignity, safety, and economic opportunities for all people.

If you share these goals and concerns, we invite you to join your local CWU unit. Contact the person named on the reverse side or call the National office for information (see below)

If you are unable to attend World Community Day, please be in prayer with our sisters on the day of the service.

To make a contribution to Church Women United, contact Maggie Lewis-Scott or mail your check payable to Church Women United at:

Church Women United

475 Riverside Drive, Suite 243,

New York, NY 10115

[www.churchwomen.org](http://www.churchwomen.org)

# SJUMC Opportunities



I hear bells. Do you? Handbells need a few more people to fill out all 5 octaves of bells. Come join us on Tuesday evenings from 5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. in the Handbell room (Rm. 224). Also, if you can't make the weekly commitment, but would like to ring bells, we need substitutes. If you have any interest in either of these opportunities, please e-mail me at [beth@sjum.org](mailto:beth@sjum.org).

Chancel Choir! Don't they sound great! We would love it if you would come and join us on Tuesday evenings from 6:45 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. in the choir room. The more the merrier! We are learning new music and rejuvenating the old classics. Come and worship with us during rehearsals and help to lead the 11:00 worship services. Feel free to "drop in" and give us a try or e-mail me if you would like more info at [beth@sjum.org](mailto:beth@sjum.org).



If you play an instrument and would like to share your gift with the 11:00 service, please let me know and I will get you scheduled to play for a future service.

In His Service,  
Beth Jurovcik  
Organist/Pianist/Chancel Choir and Handbell Director



The bloodmobile will be in our parking lot from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on November 13th. Please check to be sure you are allowed to donate as the need has gotten even greater with the restrictions on who may donate.

## Christmas is Coming!!

You are invited!  
to join the Celebration Singers & the Chancel Choir as we prepare for St. John's Annual Christmas Presentation on Sunday, December 11 at 6PM.



This is a great time to join .  
Special Christmas rehearsals are held  
Wednesdays at 7PM in the Music Room.

Each singer receives their own packet of music  
and a CD of the entire presentation!

Remember, the reason for the season is JESUS!



With great joy we announce the beginning of the first of three groups directed totally to 'Singles' ministries. Today we announce the beginning of the group aimed specifically at those who have experienced broken relationships such as divorce. Shortly we will announce the beginning of our Widow/Widower support group.

**"Are you in pain?"**

**Do you feel alone?**

**Come with us!"**

Have you experienced the pain, abandonment,  
and loneliness of a broken relationship?

Many others share that experience.

Would you like to be part of a caring,  
support, and fellowship group?

Such a group is beginning at  
St. John's United Methodist Church.

You are invited to join us Thursday, Nov 17<sup>th</sup>  
at 6:30 pm in the Christian Life Center

Nursery and refreshments are provided!

Mission Opportunities

Thank you SO MUCH for your love of children around the world, your generosity and your faithfulness. You know who you are. Give yourself a big smile of gratitude, that's what you are giving to hungry, sometimes starving children.



Some members of the congregation asked if we could begin to send the pocket change to needy children in our own country and suggested Alabama since the tornados have taken such a huge toll there, causing homelessness and loss of many services. UMCOR has agreed to transfer present monies to that area and will designate it to the children experiencing homelessness and poverty. Thank you again for your big hearts. You are loved and appreciated.

THE POCKET CHANGE TEAM



**TOILETRIES**

Even though the weather is beginning to cool, The Mission still needs toiletry items for shower and bathing needs. Please bring any toiletries to Room 105 and place in the red plastic tub. Soaps, Shampoos, Deodorants, Lotions, Toothpaste, Toothbrushes, Shaving Cream, Laundry Detergents, etc. All are needed on a daily basis. Any help you can provide will be VERY much appreciated.

HEARTFELT THANKS

**PEANUT BUTTER SUNDAY**

Thanks to the faithful supporters of PB Sunday. We also need paper bags to fill and distribute to individuals, the Salvation Army, The Mission, and Project Love. There are many hungry and needy families right here in Winter Haven, so the groceries are surely needed and well appreciated.

We keep a small food pantry in the old kitchen for anyone who might come to the church seeking emergency food. Please be advised, this pantry is available to our church members. If a neighbor, friend or relative has a need; or if one of our own church family has a need, please go to the old kitchen and fill a paper bag or two from the cupboard. It is a privilege to have received these abundant groceries from our congregation and an even greater privilege to give back to those who could use a little temporary assistance. God is the ultimate provider. What a gift that we at St. John's are a part of His work.

THE PEANUT BUTTER TEAM

**Recycling PAYS at St. John's**



We've found a way to help you supplement church finances and support the church, while at the same time helping to reduce the waste that ends up in landfills. eCycle group will reimburse us for the print cartridges and cell phones that we collect. Your help is vital in collecting them. The cartridges and cell phones can be brought to the church office. For more information contact Claudia Willoughby at 324-6347.

**Annual Thanksgiving Dinner**

Thurs., Nov. 24th



at 12:00 Noon

\$6.00 per person and a dish to share.

Turkey, Dressing, Mashed Potatoes, Cranberry/ Orange Relish, Apple/Cranberry Cobbler, and Beverage are provided. Bring a container to take home some left-overs.

Sign up at the Welcome Center in the Narthex by Sunday, Nov. 20th.



### Prayer Shawl Ministry

The Prayer Shawl Ministry continues to meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month in the Library. We welcome all to join us. In addition to prayer shawls and lap robes and prayer squares, our current projects include scarves for Special Olympics (specific colors), dark colored hats and scarves for men, colorful scarves and hats for women and children.

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month, shawls are placed on the altar so that the entire congregation might add their prayers for comfort and healing.

Baskets of Prayer Squares have been placed on the altar rail to be taken as you feel the need. Prayer squares are meant to be a reminder of God's ever present love. They are made in different sizes and are knitted or crocheted. As the squares are being crafted, prayers are included in the process. The prayer square can be folded and kept in a pocket or purse. They can be held while praying as a reminder that God loves you and others are praying for you.

Prayer squares are an easy beginning project for anyone who is interested in learning to knit or crochet. It is also an easy "take along" project for those who currently knit or crochet. There is yarn available in the Education Office for making prayer squares and there is always a need for more squares.

To request a prayer shawl, please fill out the request form which can be found in the Education Office and place the completed form in the Prayer Shawl Ministry mailbox.

Contact Daryl Watkins: 324-4608 or [darylwatkins52@msn.com](mailto:darylwatkins52@msn.com) for further information.



**Sat., Nov. 26<sup>th</sup>**

Calling all Men – Young and Old  
The Challenge is on!!

The cookie baking contest has returned as part of the "Hanging of the Greens" activities. So dig out that favorite recipe and start practicing.

Sign up at the welcome center in the Narthex or on the Care Card (Keyword: cookies)

Two categories: Under age 20 and 20<sup>+</sup>

Bring at least 2 ½ dozen cookies  
to the CLC by 9:30 am on Nov. 26<sup>th</sup>.



### Hanging of the Greens

**Sat., Nov. 26<sup>th</sup>**

Bring the family and come help decorate the church for the Christmas season.

9:30 – 11:00 am: Decorating classrooms, sanctuary, halls, office, etc. and the men's cookie bake-off.

11:00 am: Service in the sanctuary

Light lunch (soup, sandwich, and cookies) served in the CLC following the service.

Sign up at the welcome center in the Narthex or on the Care Card (Keyword: Hanging Greens lunch).



## October 2011 PRESCHOOL MOMENTS

The new school year has been in progress for two months now. What a year it is starting out to be! We have enrolled several students that have never been in a Christian School. What a joy it is to plant seeds of faith in these children. Every Friday they recite the bible verse they have learned for that week. The children are so proud of themselves.

The Preschool staff has changed a little. We have added two new teachers. If you walk down the hallway and see a tall, dark haired, *ponytailed*, gentleman don't be surprised. No, it isn't a father; it's our new teacher, Mr. Dan. He comes to us from the Polk County school system and is a native of Lake Wales, FL. He is one of our Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten, (VPK) teachers. Ms. Paige Nasr joins us from Hearts & Hands in Lakeland. She has 15+ years teaching experience. She joins with Mr. Dan in our VPK room. Our other faithful teachers remain: Ms. Cathy, Ms. Rena, Ms. Tina, Ms. Aisha, Ms. Patience, Ms. Elecia, Ms. Britiany, Ms. Jessica and Ms. Cheyenne. Ms. Jessica and Ms. Cheyenne are also tending Church Nursery.

The pumpkin patch has been a great source of fun for the preschoolers. Each class has taken a "field trip" to visit the patch and pick out their prize pumpkin. The classes are decorating them in their own special way. On October 31<sup>st</sup> the children will be dressing up and parading around the school, church and playground before their classroom party begins. Please come by and visit them.

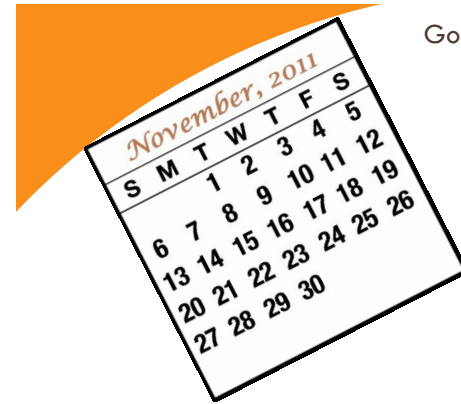
Plans are underway for the Holidays. Each classroom is working on an Operation Christmas Child box. We are teaching the children about the love of sharing with others. Each classroom will have a large box for donations of canned goods to share at Thanksgiving with families who are struggling under the current economic conditions. Many of our school families fall in this same category. The VPK class will be providing the entertainment for the United Methodist Women's Christmas Program in December.

Your Preschool Director, Patty Boska has been elected to the Early Coalition of Polk County, Executive Board as the Faith-Based Representative for Polk, Hardee and Highland counties. This is a humbling position — to be a voice for Jesus in the county's Early Education Programs.

Thank you for all your support and prayers,

Patty Boska

SJUMCS Director



# Weekly Calendar

Full Monthly Church Calendar can be accessed on the web site ([www.sjum.org](http://www.sjum.org)), just click "Calendar"

<u>Sunday</u>		<u>Wednesday</u>	
Contemporary Service	8:30 AM Sanctuary	Wearhouse	9 AM - NOON Thrift Store
Hospitality	9:45 AM CLC Gym	Testament Practice	3:30 PM Wesley Hall
Sunday School	10:00 AM	Intentional Dining	5:00 PM CLC Gym
Traditional Service	11:00 AM Sanctuary	Wee Praize	5:30 PM Asbury Hall
Praize Kidz	5:00 PM Choir Room	Wednesday Night Warriors	6:00 PM Asbury Hall
ReaLife Church	6:30 PM Wesley Hall	Wonderful Wed. Worship	6:00 PM Chapel
		Celebration Singers	7:00 PM Choir Room
		ReaLife Bible Study	7:00 PM Room 212
<u>Monday</u>		<u>Thursday</u>	
Bears	10:00 AM Library	Exercise with Mary Jacq	9:00 AM CLC Gym
Bridge	1:00 PM Rec Lounge	Tai Chi	6:30 PM CLC Gym
Women's Bible Study	6:30 PM Rec Lounge		
Disciple I	7:00 PM Room 205		
<u>Tuesday</u>		<u>Friday</u>	
UMM Bible Study/Breakfast	7:30 AM CLC Gym	Wearhouse	9 AM - NOON Thrift Store
Exercise with Mary Jacq	9:00 AM CLC Gym		
Women's Bible Study	10:15 AM Rec Lounge		
Handbells	5:30 PM Room 224	<u>Saturday</u>	
12 Steps (Men Only)	6:00 PM Rec Lounge	Wearhouse	9 AM - 3 PM Thrift Store
Volleyball	6:00 PM CLC Gym	12 Steps (Men & Women)	NOON Rec Lounge
Chancel Choir	6:45 PM Choir Room		

## Youth Activities

**REALife Sunday Service:** Join us for a time of fellowship, worship and a word from God! This is a contemporary service intended to encourage, equip, strengthen and empower all who join us! Everyone is welcome! Nursery provided. Hope to see you there Sunday nights at 6:30 PM!

**ReaLife High School and College Bible Study Fellowship:** Wednesday Nights at 7:00 in the 'Upper Room' Food, Fellowship and way too much fun.

**The Study:** "Who really has the last word?" The Book of Revelation – Led by Pastor (coach) Mike

**Staff Parish welcomes  
2 new staff members!**

**Sharon Garrett** is our new Office Administrator. She received a BA cum laude from the University of Texas at Austin, with graduate studies in history at the Julius Maximilian Universität in Würzburg, Germany. Going to Germany as an exchange student intent on getting her MA from the university, she loved Europe so much she ended up staying for thirteen years. Sharon's many years of experience and background in the corporate world were as an executive assistant. Her expertise on the computer is being put to good use as she brings order to our membership roles, on-line calendar, and files. She creates your Sunday Bulletin every week and has just begun responsibility for submissions to the Newsletter. Sharon is a great addition to our excellent staff and brings a welcoming and lively presence to St. John's.

**Sumer L. Rohrs** joins us as our Children's Pastor. Sumer was born in Ocala, FL and raised in a United Methodist Church where she contributed from an early age by playing the piano and singing. Sumer comes from a strong Christian family consisting of parents, Robert and Judy and brothers, Ethan and David. She attended college in Frostburg, Maryland; and studied Psychology with Concentrations in Family and Childhood Counseling, Marriage Counseling, Adolescent and Adulthood Development, and Drugs and Addictions Counseling. After graduation and upon taking a counseling position, Sumer immediately felt a calling to the church. She has a strong love for children and is a very active individual who loves running, biking, and camping. Sumer strives to be new and innovative and hopes to implement her vision for St. John's Children's Ministry as God guides her. We welcome Sumer with excitement and great anticipation!

**Come and Worship with Us!**

**Sundays**

(Nursery will be provided)

8:30 Contemporary Service

9:30 Hospitality

10:00 Sunday School

11:00 Traditional Service

6:30 REALife

**Wednesdays**

6:00 Wonderful Wed. Worship

**Good News Deadline**

To place an article in the December newsletter please e-mail your article to [home@sjum.org](mailto:home@sjum.org) by December 15th.

**Church Office Hours:**

Monday - Thursday  
8:00 AM- 5:00 PM  
Friday 8:00 AM- Noon  
863-324-6347

..... We're on the Web! [www.sjum.org](http://www.sjum.org) .....

**Staff Directory**

Ministers	All the Members of the Family of God	<a href="mailto:home@sjum.org">home@sjum.org</a>
Rev. Dr. Dan Parrish	Senior Pastor	<a href="mailto:dan@sjum.org">dan@sjum.org</a>
Dr. Pat Bennett	Worship Arts Pastor	<a href="mailto:pat@sjum.org">pat@sjum.org</a>
Patty Boska	Preschool Director	<a href="mailto:patty@sjum.org">patty@sjum.org</a>
Sharon Garrett	Office Administrator	<a href="mailto:home@sjum.org">home@sjum.org</a>
Dave Harner	Stewardship Education/Ministry Resourcing	<a href="mailto:dpharner@gmail.com">dpharner@gmail.com</a>
Beth Jurovcik	Organist/Pianist	<a href="mailto:beth@sjum.org">beth@sjum.org</a>
Mike Lambert	Youth Pastor	<a href="mailto:teaministries@aol.com">teaministries@aol.com</a>
Rev. Glenn Loy	Adult Discipleship Pastor	<a href="mailto:glenn@sjum.org">glenn@sjum.org</a>
Sumer Rohrs	Children's Pastor	<a href="mailto:sumer@sjum.org">sumer@sjum.org</a>
Claudia Willoughby	Financial/Office Administrator	<a href="mailto:claudia@sjum.org">claudia@sjum.org</a>