

St. John's United Methodist Church of Winter Ha-

Good News

The monthly newsletter of St. John's United Methodist Church November 2009

Issue 11
Published monthly

St. John's United Methodist Church
1800 Cypress Gardens Blvd



Dear Friends,

God is good - all the time! We want to be a community in mission. All the time - God is good!

God is good - all the time! Two people gave me testimony of Salty Service to the homeless for the first time in their lives. Suddenly they saw with the eyes of Jesus that all people matter to God. All the time - God is good!

God is good - all the time! Young people are worshipping God in the original sanctuary, Wesley Hall, every Sunday Evening. Called "Real Life Church", people are being challenged to live a fully devoted disciple type of life. All the time - God is good!

God is good - all the time! The Lord brought one of our members through surgery with a great report. Now she is giving God praise for His strength and healing. He is the great physician. All the time - God is good!

God is good - all the time! Nineteen men went to the Leesburg United Methodist Men's retreat, and experienced genuine joy and revival. All the time - God is good!

God is good - all the time! Many of our members are experiencing God in a new way, and growing in a relationship with Jesus Christ. All the time - God is good!

God is good - all the time! A dedicated army of volunteers give tremendous support so that together we can function on a daily and weekly basis. All the time - God is good!

God is good - all the time! Energizing small groups are on the rise. A variety of groups including children, youth, adult, men, women, and specialized, are intentionally growing their faith. Every week more people are joining. All the time - God is good!

These are only a few of the many God moments that are happening in and through our church and church family. God is at work all around us, therefore, we choose to become involved in what He is already doing. Can you share with me your story or testimony? Send me an email at kent@sjum.org. Where do you see God working? God is good - all the time! (what's your story?) All the time - God is good!

United in Christ,
Kent

**FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE ANNUAL FLEA MARKET
SATURDAY, MARCH 6, 2010
7:30AM—NOON IN THE CHRISTIAN LIFE CENTER**

Please begin saving all your household "treasures" at your homes to donate to our Flea Market to be held early next year. Proceeds will go to several community organizations in need of support.

Contact Kitty Walker 326-5523 if you have any questions. Thanks.

The **Morning Circle** will meet Nov. 19th in the Christian Life Center, Rec. Lounge at 9:30am. **Pat Shell** will be presenting a program on **World Thank Offering**. Ladies **remember** to bring your offering containers you have been filling as you were thankful for **your many blessings** throughout the year. We always welcome new ladies. For more info or a ride call 291-3372.

Peanut Butter Update

Once again our special and sincere thanks for the many groceries donated in October. They amounted to 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 December 6th.

Thank you again,
Peanut Butter Team

FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE MEETING

The monthly meeting of Friendship Circle will be held Tuesday, November 10, 2009 at 7:30 p.m. in the Clubhouse at Lake Bess. The Clubhouse is located across the street from Myra Shelton's home. Our program will consist of our annual business meeting and hosted by Myra as well as Joyce Howard. Those interested in carpooling from church should meet between 7:00 and 7:10 pm. All women are cordially invited to attend.

Women's Fellowship Activity

Plan to join us at the Barn Antiques/Restaurant, in Lake Alfred, on Saturday, November 7. We plan to have lunch, browse the antiques, and visit the gift shops. The day promises to be fun and all women are invited to join us. We will meet at the Church at 10:30 a.m. to carpool, or you may meet us at the Barn. We plan to eat at 11:30 a.m., and will be ordering off the menu. If you have not signed up, and would like to attend, please call the office.

ELECTRONIC FUNDS TRANSFER

A new way to give!

An opportunity has risen to bring us into the electronic age of giving. With the advantages of today's technology we can make our privilege of tithing easier and more convenient with just a simple automatic transmission from your bank account to the Church.

This electronic service works just like paying everyday bills like your electric, phone, and water. You can set up to have your offering taken directly out of your bank account without writing or mailing a check. You can schedule your tithe to be taken out on a weekly or monthly basis and this can be changed at anytime. Electronic Funds Transfers is secure, so there is no fear of anyone getting your personal information.

Electronic Funds Transfer has been around for a long time, and the church is catching up with what many people do on a regular basis. Having the Electronic Funds Transfer service is a great way for you to give your tithe and offerings to God's exciting work through St. John's United Methodist Church on a regular basis.

Please contact Claudia Willoughby in the finance office at 863-324-6347 ext. 222, for more information and to get set up today.

PLANNED GIVING SEMINAR

Members of St. John's are invited to attend a Seminar to learn creative ways to give to our church while also benefiting you and your family on November 15, 4 P.M., in Room 109. Christian Burns, Vice President with the Florida United Methodist Foundation, will be the guest speaker. Come and hear how you can make a lasting gift to our church through your will, estate planning, or other planned gift. Please call the church office to confirm your reservation 324-6347.

Hosted by Stewardship Committee

THANKS and a friendly reminder. We do appreciate your continued support of our pop can ministry. All proceeds go to Eugena Barton for her ministry at Eloise. You do not need to remove the tabs. For your info, the collection sight is just outside the kitchen in the church proper. Please rinse the cans so as not to draw ants etc. Smashed cans would be appreciated but we will accept them either way. Once again thanks for your support of this needy ministry.

Ms. Ruthea rearranges the altar flowers every Monday morning for people who are ill or in need of encouragement. We are in need of baskets for the arrangements. Ruthea is asking for medium size baskets about 8 inch in diameter. For further information, you may contact the church office at 324-6347.

CHILD AND YOUTH PROTECTION POLICY ANNUAL TRAINING

DATE: November 14, 2009

TIME: 10AM-12PM

WHERE: Christian Life Center

RSVP BY: October 30, 2009

Daryl Forehand will be joining us in our training this year. He provides training for DCF and has worked with sheriff offices dealing with sexual predators. His experience will be valuable for each one of us as we are reminded of the dangers that lie in wait. He will share how to be proactive so we can continue to effectively minister to our families and not be caught off guard.

Since the United Methodist conference mandates our training requirements, this is mandatory for all approved volunteers who are working with children and youth. If you are unable to attend, please let the office know as soon as possible so we can make other arrangements.

Erica Miracle

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.*

Coming Worship Events at St. John's Christmas Presentation

Sunday, December 13, 6 PM

Featuring Celebration Singers, Worship Team, Testament, St. John's Ringers, Soloists, Praise
Kidz, and St. John's Preschool

Admission - Free!

(Love Offering will be taken)

St. John's Ringers Christmas Concert

Sunday, December 20, 6:30 PM

Admission - Free

(Love Offering will be taken)

The Annie Moses Band

Saturday, January 30, 2010 - 6 PM

Admission - Free

(Love Offering will be taken)

Sunday Morning Opportunities

Salty Service is service that stretches us to love in the name of Christ and to serve others in ways we might not do if simply left to our own desires. 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 mornings, Nov. 1, 8, and 15! Each presenter will explain the ministry and answer any of your questions.

- **Nov. 1:** Joe Blascik, our own Lay Leader, will present opportunities to serve in Kairos Prison Ministry.
- **Nov. 8:** Ginny Wolfe, Community Relations Coordinator, will present opportunities to serve at Cornerstone Hospice.
- **Nov. 15:** David Berry, Director of Operations, will present opportunities to serve at The Mission in downtown Winter Haven.

Due to the meetings being cancelled, there are no minutes for the following Committees: Missions

St. John's UMC
SUMMARY of Finance

September 28, 2009 (have not been approved)

We had an audit review. Kent made a recommendation that Claudia, Don, and Paula implement a plan to put in place the recommendations of the audit review. Committee discussed filing the form 990-T on rental property; this is in the process of being done. Finances are tight and we are struggling to make payroll; we show a negative for the year and still have insurance and apportionment due for 2009.

St. John's UMC
SUMMARY of Preschool Board Meeting (have not been approved)
October 6 , 2009

There are 78 students enrolled and 3 new teachers. Our teacher and aid ratio to students is right for what is required based on the different age groups. Patty reported that she had gotten word that our students are very well prepared when they move up to public school. Both Garden Grove Elementary and Jewett have reported that our children's test scores are excellent.

St. John's UMC
SUMMARY of Trustees

October 5, 2009 (have not been approved)

We have been given a two year extension by the Fire Marshall to get the work done for fire alarm system in the Christian Life Center. Fire extinguisher and exit signs have been fixed. Extension cords have been removed in the youth area and Wesley Hall. Mildew on the side wall of the Chapel was cleaned off by Jeff Voss and Dave Cromwell. October 10th tree limbs were cut outside the Pastor's study and in the school play yard.

September Financials are available on the credenza in the narthex.



Operation Christmas Child



Yes, it's time for shoeboxes!!! 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. Please take the time to pack an empty shoe box (or plastic case, as these can be used over and over by the recipients and their families). Be on the look out for brochures to attach to your shoe box. Shoe boxes must be turned in by Sunday, November 22nd to Room 105.

St. John's Sanctuary Organ Fund

The organ in St. John's sanctuary has begun to "snap, crackle, & pop" at random times when it is played. This three manual Allen Digital Computer organ was installed in Dec. 1975 when the sanctuary was completed. The cost was approximately \$ 25,000. A solution to this problem is difficult and expensive. The Allen Organ Technician recommends the organ be replaced.

With permission from the Finance Committee and Church Council, we have explored replacing this instrument. The recommended organ is an Allen Quantum Q325C, a three manual organ comparable to what we already have. The estimated cost of this instrument is \$ 80,000. We have received \$ 23,880 so far in donations towards this purchase. Perhaps you would like to give a gift as a memorial, or in honor of a loved one. No gift is too small! Please pray about this and respond accordingly.

YOUTH NEWS

REALIFE CHURCH—Wesley Hall—Sunday evening from 6:15—7:30PM.

High School, College, Young Adults & Young at Heart's. All are welcome to this come-as-you-are contemporary worship. Our outstanding youth worship team "Testament" will be leading praise, and then we will hear the good news of Jesus Christ through the Gospel of Matthew. It's a wonderful time of fellowship. Come join us!

College, High School and Middle Schoolers

REALIFE BIBLE STUDY! Wednesday nights at 7:30pm to 8:00PM. The RealLife Bible study has been faithfully meeting for over two years now! We started a new mid-week series called: "BEING INSPIRATIONAL in your CHRISTIAN WALK". I hope that all our high school and college people in town will guard this time on Wednesday night to fellowship, encourage and grow with each other. Be part of a team dedicated to making a difference.

Middle School Youth!

Sunday afternoon from 4:30pm—6:00 in the Christian Life Center! We are starting to get a little momentum with this new youth group time dedicated to middle school ministry! We are planning a paint ball adventure, miniature golf, mall hunts, bowling...and a bunch of other stuff!

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BEING A.....

Youth Ministry Volunteer? If you are wondering about what it would be like to be a part of a fast moving, energetic, fun and adventurous ministry, you might be being called to serve on our youth ministry team! If you feel God's calling in this dynamic ministry, contact Pastor Mike. WE HAVE A PLACE FOR YOU!

CONFIRMATION for 6th - 9th grade.

Sunday November 8th at 3:30 to 4:30 Meeting 1 (middle school youth group to follow)
Sunday November 15th at 3:30 to 4:30 Meeting 2 (middle school youth group to follow)
Sunday November 22nd (Confirmation Service Project) 1:00 PM - 5:30 PM (No Middle School)
Sunday December 6th at 3:30 to 4:30 Meeting 3 (middle school youth group to follow)
Friday December 18th - 20th (Confirmation Retreat) Lake Louisa State Park. more info soon!

St. John's United Methodist Church

Remember our Homebound and Nursing Home Members

Homebound:

Jack Holmberg (5-10) 4114 Sprucewood Street, Winter Haven, FL 33880	293-6194
Mary Freeland (8/5) (In NC with family) 1600 10 th Street SE Winter Haven, FL 33880	293-5116
Lee Sensabaugh(5/7) 145 Hidden Oaks Lane Winter Haven, FL 33884 (gated community-please call ahead for access code)	324-4197
Winnie Posell (4/27) 54 Stebbins Drive Winter Haven, FL 33884	324-2239
Anna Middaugh 536 Coleman Drive West Winter Haven, FL 33884	324-3003

Nursing Homes:

<u>Beneva Nursing Center</u> 743 S. Beneva Rd. Sarasota, FL 34232 Clara (3-21) Birdsong	941-316-0151
<u>Consulate Health Care Center</u> 1801 N. Lake Mariam Drive, Winter Haven, FL Cindy Brown	863-293-1989
<u>Dove Health Care</u> 730 North Scenic Hwy Lake Wales, FL Mildred Mott (7/13) Elvert Mott (1/30)	676-1512 Room 309 Room 315
<u>Hawthorne Inn</u> 625 Overlook Drive, Winter Haven, FL 33884 Ruth Nordmeyer (9/15) Glenn Weaver	324-2212
<u>Lake Howard Heights</u> 650 North Lake Howard Drive Winter Haven FL 33881 Jayma Burger Phila Kibby (5/29)	292-2072

Life Care Center

1510 Cypress Gardens Blvd, Winter Haven, FL 33884

318-8646

Lee Van Praag (2-26)

Room 519

Ruth Olson

Room 126B

Pat Gilder

Room 208

New Horizons

2100 State Road 540 West, Winter Haven, FL 33880

299-3651

Clara Foght

Palm Garden

1120 Cypress Gardens Blvd, Winter Haven, FL 33884

293-3100

Spring Haven

1225 Havendale Blvd, Winter Haven, FL 33881

293-0072

John (4/28) & Margaret Bruner (12/28)

Room 425

Dottie Wells

Room 509

Alterra Sterling House

6110 Cypress Garden Blvd, Winter Haven, FL 33884

318-8055

Harvey Carver

Room 130

Children of the City

The Angels are Coming

The Angel Tree will be located just outside the Chapel. These gifts are for children or the elderly in the Winter Haven area. Please choose an angel and help others in our community experience the true meaning of Christmas.

We will be holding a work day to get ready for Children of the City. This year St John's will be sponsoring the Santa booth. We have several sets to paint and various other projects for adults and kids to prepare for this wonderful opportunity to share the true story of Christmas: The birth of our Lord Jesus. If you are interested in helping with the preparations or the event itself please contact Erica Miracle 324-6347. The workday will be November 7 from 9am-11am.

Mark your calendar January 24, 2010 for the "A Taste of St. John's".

ST. JOHN'S UMC CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

AUGUST 26, 2009

ATTENDEES

Joe Blascik, Chairman

Pat Bennett, Worship Arts Pastor

Janice Blue, Recording Secretary

Richard Blue, Trustees

Kent Crow, Sr. Pastor

Mark Jackson, Staff Parrish

Merry Kendall, Education Pastor

Al Miner, Missions

Erica Miracle, Children's Pastor

Claudia Willoughby, Finance

CALL TO ORDER

Joe called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. He opened with prayer and devotion. The Council Covenant was read and signed by all members who had not previously signed it.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The motion to approve the March minutes as amended was made by Al and seconded by Merry. Motion carried.

REPORT

Pastor Kent updated the Council on church-wide strategies including intentional Discipling and extravagant generosity. The short term Sunday School Bible studies have averaged as many as 70 people. Approximately 57% of worship attendees are involved in Intentional Discipling.. Crown Ministries classes have had 41 graduates. Two new classes are starting in September. Pastor Kent also updated the Council on communications initiatives to inform, inspire and engage those in the community that we are trying to reach. Action steps include connecting with the United Methodist communications team in Nashville. A communication audit has been completed. Seventy (70) responses to the evaluation were received with an overall satisfaction rating with how SJUM is communicating with the membership.

The Council commended Pastor Kent for his leadership during the recent "town hall" meeting.

A discussion took place regarding the status of the Narthex improvements. The Council will ask Bill Skukowski to reconvene the Narthex Community to redefine the recommendations, eliminating those items that cannot be done at this time, and submit a new proposal at the September Church Council meeting.

Claudia updated the Council relative to the recent financial audit which will be reviewed at the next finance committee meeting. The finance committee will develop an implementation plan to address the audit items and submit it to the Church Council for review and approval.

Old Business

Pastor Kent advised the Council that the District will no longer support the Eloise ministry as a mission. If we believe there is viable ministry in the Eloise area, the District would deed the property to St. John's UMC. We assume liability. If at some time in the future we cease to do ministry in the Eloise area, we can sell the property. If St. John's does not want to take responsibility for the Eloise church, the District will make a determination as to what to do with the congregation and property. The Council was asked to pray about the situation and return to the September meeting prepared to list pros and cons so a decision can be reached in a timely manner.

New Business

A discussion took place regarding the need to replace the church organ. The current organ is 34 years old and is in need of costly repairs. A better alternative would be to replace the organ with 21st century technology which can be used in both the contemporary and traditional services. It is suggested that a letter go out to the congregation informing them of the need and asking for donations.

MOTION: Mark Jackson recommended that a letter go out to the congregation requesting donations to purchase a new organ with a contingency that all funds be raised prior to the purchase. The motion was seconded by Al Miner.

The motion carried.

Pastor Kent asked for approval to allow Bethlehem's Christian Families will be at St. John's selling olive wood items in the October/ November time frame. Proceeds are used to help Christian families in Jerusalem. 10% of their sales are tithed back to the church. The Council was in consensus to approve this activity.

MINISTRY REPORTS

Children's Ministries - Erica reported that the mid-week children's ministries will resume in September.

Christian Education - Merry reported that 75 women are participating in the jail ministry. She and Pat minister at The Mission twice each month. The women's Bible study there is not large in attendance but serves a definite need. Sunday School attendance has averaged about 100 during the summer. Salty Service opportunities have been positively received. Women's ministries - 2 fellowship opportunities are scheduled. The Women's Conference will be held January 30.

Staff Parish - Mark indicated that the next staff parish meeting will be Monday, September 28, 2009. He reiterated that the staff is the church's most valuable resource.

Missions - Al reported that a work team will go to Seminole County in October and that preliminary team is being formed to travel to Peru to assess mission opportunities there.

Worship Arts - Pat reported that the rear projector issues have been solved with the purchase of a 65" flat panel TV. The Patriotic program was well received. The choir has remained solid over the summer. The youth band Testament has done an excellent job of leading the Sunday night service. He mentioned Sharon and Tony as two new members of the Praise Team. There will be a free Worship Expo concert on September 18th at the First Baptist Church at the Mall. Pat will be playing in the orchestra and two choir members will be singing in the choir. Also, 3 members of our tech team will attend a conference the first weekend in October.

Finance - Claudia has nothing extra to report.

Trustees - Richard reported that new signs have been installed at the Wearhouse and the CLC. Two portable handicap signs are now available on the east side of the sanctuary. A team of volunteers retiled the kitchen and laundry rooms at the parsonage and will be retiling the hall bathroom in the near future. Trustees is considering laying crushed gravel in the areas across from the CLC to provide better parking. Richard Hart will address moving sprinkler pipes.

Pastor Kent asked for recommendations to fill open lay leadership positions. St. John's will be hosting a cluster charge conference in the near future. He also reported that the men's group is meeting for one hour on Tuesdays at 7:30 am at the Cypress Café for devotion and prayer. A men's Bible study will start on the first Wednesday in October. The Men's Retreat will be October 16-18. He also reported that the web site is being redesigned.

NEXT MEETING

The Church Council will meet on Tuesday, September 29, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Pat made the motion and Al seconded the motion to adjourn.

Motion carried.

Pastor Kent closed the meeting in prayer at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Janice S. Blue
Recording Secretary

**ST. JOHN'S UMC CHURCH COUNCIL
MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 29, 2009**

UNAPPROVED MINUTES

ATTENDEES

Joe Blascik, Chairman
Pat Bennett, Worship Arts Pastor
Janice Blue, Recording Secretary
Richard Blue, Trustees
Kent Crow, Sr. Pastor
Leaine Farris, Prayer Ministry

Carolyn Hayes, UMW
Merry Kendall, Education Pastor
Mike Lambert, Youth Ministry
Al Miner, Missions
Erica Miracle, Children's Pastor

CALL TO ORDER

Joe called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. He opened with prayer and devotion. The Council Covenant was read and signed by members who had not previously signed it.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The motion to approve the August minutes as amended was made by Al and seconded by Richard.

Motion carried.

REPORT

Old Business

Narthex – Richard has not received a prioritized list from Bill Skukowski as requested. Joe will invite Bill to the next Council meeting to review the Narthex proposal. Kent will encourage the Narthex Committee to meet prior to that meeting.

Organ status – Letters have been mailed to the membership. Approximately 25% of the needed funds have been received. Announcements will be made the next 3-4 Sundays.

Eloise Church – The Council discussed the pros and cons of taking responsibility for the Eloise church including viable ministry opportunities. Merry distributed a community-needs assessment for the Eloise community. The Eloise church is currently providing tutoring and ESOL classes. The Council believes there are viable ministry opportunities.

MOTION: The motion was made by Richard and seconded by Pat.

“The Council believes there is viable ministry still to be done in the Eloise area, therefore, St. John's accepts the District's offer to deed the Eloise property to St. John's UMC.”

Motion carried.

New Business

Joe advised the Council that a team is being formed to write financial procedures through the finance committee. He also reported that Council meeting minutes will not be made available until they have been approved. In the future, Council minutes will be emailed to Council members within 7 days after the meeting. Council members will be given 3 days to respond with corrections. The minutes will be reviewed and approved by consent at the next Council meeting.

MINISTRY REPORTS

Missions – Al reported that a team will go to Seminole or Volusia County the end of October. An exploratory team of 4-6 people will travel to Peru in early 2010 to assess mission opportunities there. A team will return to Costa Rica in April 2010. The missions committee is exploring additional local opportunities.

Prayer Ministry – Leaine reported that a prayer team meeting will be held in November for prayer captains and prayer partners. A prayer initiative will be started for the Davises in Peru.

Christian Education – Merry reported that the YTD average for the Sunday morning short-term studies is 22. She reported that there is some opposition to the faith-based initiatives in the jails and requested prayer. Joe indicated that the opposition extends to the state level as well. The Bible study at The Mission is going well – needs are being met. Bible study at Lake Ashton will resume this week.

Children's Ministry – The Fall programs have resumed. Terry Bennett has assumed the lead role for Praise Kids and this program is being expanded. Ghouls Night will be October 30 from 6-9 pm in Central Park and the Fall Fest will be October 31 at SJUM from 4-6 pm. We will also be participating again in the Children of the City program and the Child and Youth training on November 14. This training is mandatory for all children/youth workers.

Worship Arts – All worship arts ministries are going well. The choir is working on the Christmas music. Approximately 35-40 from SJUM attended the recent Florida Worship Choir concert in Lakeland. Three tech people will be attending a conference in Clearwater this weekend.

UMW – Carolyn reported that UMW programs have resumed after summer vacation. There will be a UMW meeting next month.

Youth – Mike reported that the Real Life church meetings on Sunday evenings are exciting and open to all. The youth will be overseeing the Pumpkin Patch and will be taking a trailer of pumpkins to Bok Tower for Octoberfest. The youth will be doing ministry in Volusia County over Easter break and will return to Mountain Top and Key West in the summer. A middle school group has been launched. Sunday School is going well.

Trustees – The Fire Marshall inspection revealed the need for a fire alarm system in the CLC. Trustees will file for an extension of this requirement while the situation is being assessed. The use of extension cords in the youth lounge and Wesley Hall is a violation. Alternate power sources are being reviewed.

Pastor Kent advised that the Bethlehem olive wood crafts will be on display for sale on November 15 in the CLC. A charge conference will be held at Beymer UMC on Saturday, October 10 at 3 pm. Lay leadership recommendations will be part of the process.

Average attendance YTD is 460 which is about the same as September 2008.

Radical Hospitality – 11 professions of faith. New members YTD – 26. Approximately 100 members will be removed from the roll at the charge conference.

Intentional Discipling – 56-57% of congregation are involved.

Salty Service – 15% of the congregation are doing ministry within the community.

World Communion Sunday will be October 4. There will be an opportunity to give to this ministry which is one of five special offerings of the United Methodist Church.

Pastor Kent has called a 9-1-1 freeze on spending across the board. Offerings are down and it's important to conserve energy and resources to make it thru this financial crisis.

Our vision statement--"to be a community in mission"— will be emphasized in the coming months. It should be included on all outgoing communications.

NEXT MEETING

A date was not established.

ADJOURNMENT

Merry closed the meeting in prayer at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Janice S. Blue
Recording Secretary

ST. JOHN'S UMC
CHARGE CONFERENCE
OCTOBER 10, 2009

St. John UMC's Charge Conference was held at Beymer UMC on Saturday, October 10, 2009 beginning at 4:00 p.m. Beymer's pastor, Meredith McMillan, presided and opened the charge conference in prayer.

Pastor Kent presented the Committee on Membership Audit Report, 3rd reading - 2008. Reading of the names was rescinded. Pastor Kent recommended that the 173 names presented be removed from the rolls of St. John's. Merry Kendall seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Pastor Kent presented the Committee on Membership Audit Report, 1st reading - 2009 and read each name. Over the next couple of years, contact will be attempted to try to re-engage these members.

Joe Blascik presented the Celebrating the Great Commission 2009 Report and the Living the Methodist Way 2009 Report.

Pastor Kent presented the Church Leadership and Committees for 2010, noting that there is a vacancy for 2011 on the Staff Parrish Relations Committee and recommended approval. Ralph Knott seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Pastor Kent presented Merry Kendall as a candidate for ordained ministry. He commended her ministry at St. John's and recommended approval of her as a certified candidate. Richard Blue seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Pastor Kent recommended approval of Jeannie Icenhour as a renewal candidate for lay speaker. Ralph Knott made the motion and Carolyn Knott seconded it. The motion carried.

Joe Blascik presented the Staff Parrish Relations Committee's recommendation to keep Pastor Kent's salary at the current level of \$71,500 with a \$2,500 continuing education budget and a housing exclusion of \$10,000. Pat Bennett seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Pastor Kent advised that there will be a Special Church Conference on Wednesday, October 28, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. to accept the former Eloise UMC property as a gift from the South Central District.

The Charge Conference adjourned in prayer at 4:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by

Janice Blue
Recording Secretary

CELEBRATING THE GREAT COMMISSION 2009 REPORT

Part One—Evangelism

Measurable Goal: No barren churches in 2009, i.e. every church will report professions of faith.

Twenty-eight (28) new members. Thirteen (13) have joined by Profession of Faith. (Since last Charge Conference 34 new members and 15 by Profession of Faith)

Part Two—Worship

Measurable Goal: 5% increase in average Worship attendance in every church.

YTD we have a 3% increase in average attendance over the same time period.

January—September 2008 446 average attendance

January—September 2009 460 average

(Since last Charge Conference there is a 6.5% increase in average attendance

Part Three—Outreach of Church and Community

Measurable Goal: 5% increase of the average Worship attendance involved in ministry to the community.

15% of the average attendance are involved in outreach ministries. Average of 72 people.

Cancelled Stamps Still Needed!

E-Mail is causing a drop in personal mail. So stamps are getting scarce. We need everybody to save the few you get. Cut them off the front of the envelope (don't tear) leaving about 1/2" of envelope around them. Remember, we can't use "pre-sorted", "non-profit", or "bulk mail" stamps that come on business or charity request envelopes.

Have you checked your desk or drawers for old cards and letters tucked away? We can use those stamps, too! Every stamp counts. The collection box is waiting for you on the table in Christian Life Center Room 105, so please bring them in!

Newsletter paper donated by the Youth fund.

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.

St. John's United Methodist Church

1800 Cypress Gardens Blvd.

Winter Haven, FL 33884

(863) 324-6347

Fax: (863) 324-9423

www.sjum.org

