

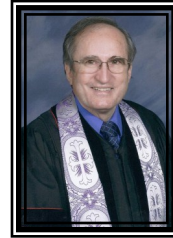


Good News

Issue 8

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

OCTOBER, 2011



As I See It . . . Rev. Dan Parrish

As we begin to feel the temperatures drop a few degrees, welcome the coolness of the early morning and watch for subtle changes like the beginning of football season, we soon see that we are beginning the season of Fall. Psalm 67 comes to mind for me as we also think about the blessing of harvest: Hear this psalm's powerful words.

May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face shine upon us, 2 that your ways may be known on earth, your salvation among all nations. 3 May the peoples praise you, O God; may all the peoples praise you. 4 May the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you rule the peoples justly and guide the nations of the earth. 5 May the peoples praise you, O God; may all the peoples praise you. 6 Then the land will yield its harvest, and God, our God, will bless us. 7 God will bless us, and all the ends of the earth will fear him. (NIV)

As I See It, we each need to reflect and answer for ourselves the message of this psalm. Do our lives truly reflect our praise of God for ourselves and those around us? Is our nation truly giving praise to God, or are we so busy trying to find solutions to our problems ourselves or through the means of our government that we have forgotten to turn first and foremost unto God?

As I See It, this psalm clearly reminds us that if we are willing to praise God as a nation and sing for joy unto the Lord almighty, and be fair in our judgment toward the world, then God will allow our land to yield its harvest and we will receive His blessing. I believe this is true not only for nations but also for individual congregations such as St. John's.

As our attention begins to turn toward budgets, pledges and the presentation of a proposed budget for our church for 2012, I want you to think about the people's lives being touched by these ministries and how each dollar is being used to bring a heavenly harvest for the Kingdom of God. I truly believe that as you see the lives touched by these various ministries, we will have no difficulty in underwriting our proposed budget for 2012.

For instance, some of the increases in the Trustee portion is to enable us to bring our old A/C units up to date. Many of them were installed in 1987 or earlier, and after 25 years of effective service – they are beginning to fail. Our youth ministry is showing wonderful signs of growth in attendance at Youth Bible study, ReaLife worship attendance and the re-launch of our Mid-Hi's program. We are launching ministries to reach out to those who find themselves single again

either due to the death of a spouse or through divorce. We are offering more worship opportunities, and working to expand our Sunday morning offerings as well.

As I See It, God is being praised and because we are being faithful to Him, I know we will be blessed in the coming year. In fact we are already beginning to see some of those blessings in our new handicapped accessible bathroom near the sanctuary, a new Wednesday night service, the ministry of the chancel choir, handbell choir and children's choir adding to our already excellent music ministry. The scriptures remind us frequently that "by their fruits you will know them" and I certainly see many signs of ripening fruit waiting the fullness of time to bring their harvest. Please begin praying now how you will give yourself in time, talent and service to the growing life of our congregation during the upcoming year.

Just a final reminder – each of you pledged this commitment to God when you joined the church. May we begin to be a true Psalm 97 congregation where the entire community of Winter Haven can say, "That's a church that is now truly giving their praise to God." See you at the Father's house on Sunday.

Pastor Dan

Mission Moments

What is Salty Service?

Jesus was clear that his followers are to be servants: “Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant...just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve” (Matthew 20:26-28). Service flows naturally and inescapably from the teachings and example of Jesus. “Let me tell you why you are here,” says Jesus. “You’re here to be salt-seasoning that brings out the God-flavors of this earth. If you lose your saltiness, how will people taste godliness?” (Matthew 5:13 The Message). The best measurement of a congregation’s effectiveness in discipling Salty Servants is: The average number of persons weekly in worship who say that they have joined Jesus in Salty Service to persons outside their congregation for at least one hour.

“Salty Service” is defined in terms of any of four elements:

- 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.



Each member of the church will weekly self-select whether they have met the criteria of “Salty Service.” Our goal is to encourage Salty Service by each member, not gaining absolutely accurate numbers. Many persons will self-select that they have been a Salty Servant this week who were involved in church-sponsored ministries. They may be part of a mission trip, be part of the congregation’s monthly volunteers at the “Mission” or “Angels Care” or teach a English as a second language class offered at the church. In our local congregation, it also includes those who volunteer at the “Warehouse”. Persons may also be involved in ministries that are not church sponsored. A person may choose on their own, for example, to tutor at a local school, to repair a toilet for an elderly neighbor, to work with the community Red Cross, to take part in a community taskforce planning an Earth Day event, to spend time intentionally cultivating a relationship with an unchurched person or to take part in a beach cleanup day.

The two key phrases for determining if your act is Salty Service are: 1) Is it a voluntary act (no payment or service credit are given for this action)? 2) Is this act for someone outside of our congregation? Did you help someone in the grocery store, take in the garbage for a neighbor, do something to assist your community organization? However, recycling your garbage is no longer considered an act of Salty Service. If you have questions, don’t hesitate to contact Pastor Dan or the church office.

LOCAL MISSION OPPORTUNITY

From October 23rd - 28th we are planning a Team effort to help repair St. John's Methodist Haitian Church in Boca Raton, Fl. this would be a joint effort with members of that church. The work is all inside and includes painting, ceiling tiles, floor tiles, window & door replacements and other work. There are pictures of the work on a poster board in the hallway of the CLC building. All people are welcome to be team members. Please contact Al & Marion Miner, if interested at 324-1960.

CUBA

The Florida Methodist Conference is asking St. John’s to reestablish a relationship with a Church in Cuba where we had a relationship for years. If this is something you would consider, please contact Pastor Dan or Al Miner for more details.

More Mission Opportunities

Wow! The Pocket Change Team is just so grateful that the coins continue to come in, along with a few bills which keeps this ministry to UMCOR going to the very, very needy and the desperate.

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.



The first year we sent our monies through UMCOR to the Democratic Republic of Congo for children's needs — food, medicine, school supplies, clothing, etc.

The second year and a half we have been sending through UMCOR to Haiti in the wake of the terrible earthquake. Again, the money has been directed to children's needs.

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. We will continue to send to this need until further notice.

Thank you again for your big hearts. You are loved and appreciated.

THE POCKET CHANGE TEAM



TOILETRIES

It is still warm here in Florida, so The Mission continues to need toiletry items due to higher 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

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 recipient's 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 13th to Room 105.

PEANUT BUTTER SUNDAY

Thanks to the faithful supporters of PB Sunday. We were able to fill 26 bags for the Aug. collection. These bags will be distributed 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



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 for serving 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.

MISSION PROJECT IN AUBURNDALE

Recently, several Mission Committee members were told of a situation and asked if they might possibly help resolve it. There is an older home that needs some repairs to make it livable. The man who owns the home has cancer and other health issues. We plan to help with some exterior problems, once the weather starts to cool down. More information will be forthcoming as the time nears. If you feel you could give some time, call Richard Blue or Al Miner and they will keep you posted on the project.

ATTENTION GOLFERS!!

Hope Presbyterian Church is hosting a 4-person Scramble Golf Tournament on October 15th, at Willowbrook Golf Course. A portion of the proceeds will go to Angels Care Center of Eloise mission project. If interested in participating, contact Larry Powell, 324-5264.



Dear Lord, help us to be ever mindful to give you the glory for all that has been and will be done – yesterday, today and tomorrow. Remind us that the call to generous giving to your church is from above. Keep us in tune with you as we carry out the plan to serve our church family, the community and beyond. **Amen**



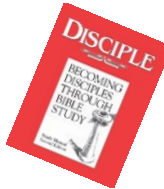
**From the book, “John Wesley – Holiness of Heart and Life”
by Charles Yrigoyen, Jr.**

Wesley gave advice in his sermon “The Use of Money” (1760). He made three suggestions. First, **“Gain all you can.”** There is nothing wrong with earning money; provided we make it by honest labor, without harming our minds or bodies through overwork, and as long as we do not exploit or hurt our neighbor by our gain. Christians must use the talents God gives to earn a living.

Second, **“Save all you can.”** Since everything in life comes from God, including the ability to make money, we must receive God’s blessings thankfully and act as good stewards of God’s gift. Wesley believed that God’s people should cut off every expense that is unnecessary and “serves only to indulge foolish desire.” We should spend nothing that does not please and glorify God.

Third, **“Give all you can.”** (Acts 20:35). This is the culmination of Wesley’s counsel. You must provide the essentials for yourself and your family. When these have been furnished, the surplus must be used to assist those in need, especially the poor in the church and in the rest of the world. Share what you have with those who are in need. Sharing with them is a concrete sign of giving all to God.

**Estate Planning Seminar
by Jim Traviss
October 30, 2011
Immediately following the
11:00 Worship Service
Lunch Provided, Reservations Required**



Disciple 1

Mondays – 7:00 p.m.

Disciple I is a 34 week study of the Bible. This small group journey involves a two hour session each week. The class is being led by Pastor Dan Parrish and Pastor Glenn Loy.

When The Game Is Over

It All Goes Back In The Box

Sundays – 4:00 p.m.

This one hour class is meeting for six weeks to discuss John Ortberg's book. Come join in anytime. The class is facilitated by Pastor Dan.



Exercise with Mary Jacq

New program!!! Since Mary Jacq, certified Body Recall teacher, can no longer teach 3 days/week, she will now have a 2 day class to keep all of us



well, toned and flexible. This new class, using techniques from Body Recall as well as other exercise programs, will

offer variety each session in order to keep the whole body working well. These classes will be offered Tuesday and Thursday from 9-10 a.m. beginning on Sept. 13 and continuing through Nov. 17. Plan to join us to keep your body in shape by actively exercising. It is more beneficial for your total fitness to not only exercise but also to socialize. These classes are open to men as well as women. As we progress through the year, there will be Bible Studies that follow on Tuesdays from 10:15 to 11:30.

Music for the 11:00 Service

It's not too late! Come join us in Chancel Choir! We rehearse on Tuesday evenings from 6:45 – 8:00 in the choir room. We want YOU! If you love to sing or have always wanted to learn how, come join us! We have fun — just ask our current members.!



Handbells also can still use some more ringers. We have enough people to cover 3 octaves (+) of bells. But, we have 5 octaves of bells. I'd like to see ALL 5 octaves being used, wouldn't you? What a marvelous sound and sight that would be! Come join us on Tuesday evenings from 5:30 – 6:30 in the Handbell Room (Room 224). I'll teach you how to ring, you can do it!

If you play an instrument, please let me know. I would like to use you in the 11:00 service.

God has given the gift of music to us, let's give it back to Him in praise and thanksgiving! Make a joyful noise unto the Lord! Contact Beth at beth@sjum.org if you have any interest.

Blessings,
Beth Jurovcik

Christmas is Coming!!

The Worship Ministry has already begun rehearsing for the Christmas Presentation, but...



it's not too late to join us and be a part of this great annual St. John's Event!

Come join us on Wednesdays at 7PM in the Music Room. You'll get your own folder of music and a CD of the music. Come enjoy Christmas with us!

Praize Kidz



Praize Kidz meet every Sunday at 5PM. Come and join Ms. Terry and the Praize Kidz for a great time of singing and worship!



UMCOR NEEDS YOUR HELP

It has been brought to our attention that UMCOR needs help with School Kits for children in the eastern part of the United States. This is due to weather problems during the course of 2011 in the eastern part of the country. The kits include the following:

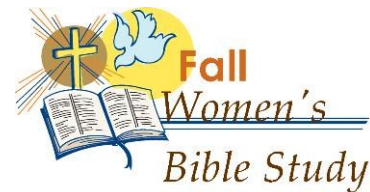
- blunt scissors (rounded tip)
- pads (or loose leaf packages) of 8 1/2" by 11" ruled paper
- 30 centimeter rulers (inches on opposite side)
- Hand held pencil sharpener
- Unsharpened pencils with erasers
- 2 1/2 inch eraser
- Boxes of 24 crayons (only 24 in the box)

If you can help with this project (items or a donation of money for mailing), please bring them to the Education Office at the church. We will be collecting them until the end of October. The UMW will be responsible for sorting and mailing them. We do not need to put them in cloth bags as in the past.

If you have any questions, please call Kitty Walker at 326-5523.

THANKS IN ADVANCE FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

FALL WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY



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



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN GENERAL MEETING

The General Meeting of United Methodist Women will be on **Tuesday, October 11, 2011, at 7:30 PM** in the CLC. The program will be given by Kathy Capostone, Executive Director of Cornerstone Family Ministries (formerly known to us as Tampa Day Care). She will share about her own journey of faith as well as the new direction being taken by Cornerstone Ministries.

Cornerstone Family Ministries is a mission project of United Methodist Women. The pledges we make to UMW go, in part, to support this ministry. Also, our Unit sends additional support.

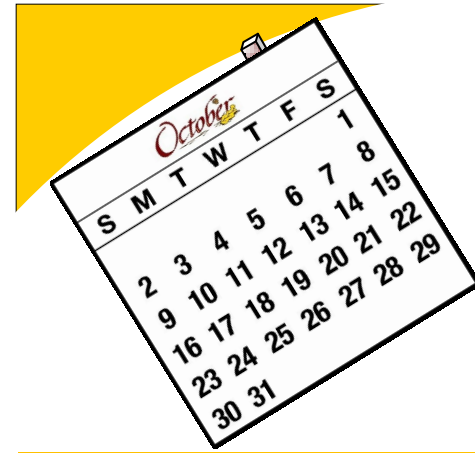
We encourage all women to attend. If you need a ride, please feel free to contact Kitty Walker at 326-5523.

SEE YOU THERE!



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 October 20th.





Weekly Calendar

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

<u>Sundays</u>		<u>Wednesdays</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
When the Game is Over	4:00 PM Rm. 205	Wednesday Night Warriors	6:00 PM Asbury Hall
Praize Kidz	5:00 PM Choir Room	Wonderful Wed. Worship	6:00 PM Chapel
ReaLife Church	6:30 PM Wesley Hall	Celebration Singers	7:00 PM Choir Room
		Realife Bible Study	7:00 PM Room 212
<u>Mondays</u>		<u>Thursdays</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	<u>Fridays</u>	
Disciple I	7:00 PM Room 205	Wearhouse	9 AM - NOON Thrift Store
<u>Tuesdays</u>		<u>Saturdays</u>	
UMM Bible Study/Breakfast	7:30 AM Best Western	Wearhouse	9 AM - 3 PM Thrift Store
Exercise with Mary Jacq	9:00 AM CLC Gym	12 Steps (Men & Women)	NOON Rec Lounge
Women's Bible Study	10:15 AM Rec Lounge		
Handbells	5:30 PM Room 224		
12 Steps (Men Only)	6:00 PM Rec Lounge		
Volleyball	6:00 PM CLC Gym		
Chancel Choir	6:45 PM Choir Room		



 **The Pumpkins are Coming! . . . Sat. October 8th at 9:00 a.m.** 

We can sure use help that day! Dress in your grubbiest, put on some gloves and let's make our lawn orange! We will be having a BBQ that day for all those who make it out! A fun time of fellowship, sweat and service! We will also be looking for volunteers to man the patch throughout the month of October, if you can help in this regard, check the times and dates provided the next couple of Sunday mornings in the CLC during the Hospitality time. Thanks for your help!

Pastor (coach) Mike

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.

RealLife 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

Come and Worship with Us!

Sundays

8:30 Contemporary Service

9:30 Hospitality

10:00 Sunday School

11:00 Traditional Service

Nursery will be provided

6:30 REALife

Good News Deadline

To place an article in the November newsletter please e-mail your article to home@sjum.org by October 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 • • • • •

New! Church Calendar on the web site, just click "Calendar"

Staff Directory

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