

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

Good News



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

September 2009

Issue 9

St. John's United Methodist Church

Published monthly

1800 Cypress Gardens Blvd

Winter Haven, FL 33884

Pastoral

Note

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Methodist Way contains five core practices that are practical ways to describe what "making fully devoted disciples" really looks like. Dr. Jeff Stiggins of the Florida Conference Congregational Transformation Office gives our church a picture for each one of the five:

- Radical hospitality: for disciples to receive the offer of God's grace in Christ Jesus and in so doing not only to be reconciled to God, but also reconciled increasingly to people in their community of faith, and willing to extend God's gracious welcome beyond their congregation as agents of reconciliation to others.
- Passionate worship: for disciples to live in openness and obedience to God's presence and to offer back to God with gratitude every aspect of their lives as an act of worship. Regular worship: by this I mean not only weekly participation in corporate worship, but also daily personal practices of Scripture reading, meditation and prayer as people learn to live faithfully in God's presence.
- Intentional discipleship: for disciples to live lives increasingly transformed by the Holy Spirit and shaped by the example and teaching of Jesus Christ.
- Salty service: for disciples to become aware of their God-given blessings (strengths, talents, gifts, passions) and for these blessings to be invested in making a contribution to the Kingdom through serving others, both in the congregation (ministry) and beyond (mission).
- Extravagant generosity: for disciples to grow to trust God's sustaining "daily bread," and to live on less than they receive so that they can respond with generosity when the Spirit prompts to people's needs and God's causes.

I keep this in front of you, because it is so vital for the sake of the Church. Thank you for bearing with me as we implement the Salty Service Reporting on Sunday mornings. We will make course adjustments along the way, and as we get more clarification as to what can be included in salty service reporting.

Remember also, God believes in you.

May God's face shine upon you and give you peace.

Kent

Several bags of toiletries have been delivered to the Mission to be used by homeless and poor people in the downtown Winter Haven area. The Mission offers showers, washers and dryers and clean clothes and underwear to whomever has a need. They constantly must have their personal product items replaced, so please keep your donations coming in. Following is a list of all items requested by the Mission at this time; please bring any of these things to Room 105 and I will deliver them to the Mission, or feel free to visit the Mission yourself and observe the good work they are doing.

Thank you from all the ones who benefit from your generosity.

Hannah Phillips

Peanut Butter Update

Once again our special and sincere thanks for the many groceries donated in August. They amounted to 29 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.

Thank you again,
Peanut Butter Team

The Mission's Top Ten Wish List

- Prayers (w/out them nothing else matters)
- Financial Support
- Insect Repellent
- Mens Jeans (size 32 &34)
- Powdered Laundry Soap
- Socks and Undergarments
- Deodorant and Razors
- Sugar
- Gas Powered Lawn Equipment
- Gift Cards (Save a Lot, Publix, Sam's Club)

You may drop these items off at:

The Mission
180 E. Central Avenue
Winter Haven, FL 33880

"YOUR CHANGE WILL CHANGE A CHILD'S LIFE..."

Sincerest thanks to all who continue to bring their jars of coins for our ministry of feeding hungry children in the Democratic Republic of Congo. These monies are being distributed by the United Methodist Committee on Relief to three schools, purchasing meals and school supplies. Children's lives are being enhanced thanks to your generosity. We have collected 218.00 in July.

The pocket Change Team would like to hear from anyone with suggestions of other outreach, or missions to which they'd like to see the coins donated. We are open to your suggestions, please let us know.

Linda Moisa
Bob Cunningham
Hannah Phillips

It's Coming! It's Coming!
The blood mobile is coming
Join us as we give the gift of LIFE!
October 11th 9:00-1:00

FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE MEETING

The monthly meeting of Friendship Circle will be held Tuesday, September 8, 2009 at 7:30PM at St. John's in Room 108-109 in the Christian Life Center. Our program will be presented by Jane Wagner entitled "Music of the Bible". All women are cordially invited to attend. The following school supplies are needed by the teacher we sponsor. Please bring them to our September meeting, if you can.

- Pencils
- Three ring binder paper
- Colored Pencils
- Big boxes of Kleenex

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ADULTS

Acts of Praise: Meets in Christian Life Center Room 225. All ages of adults studying books of the Bible and how they relate to us today.

B.Y.K.O.T.A.: Meets in Christian Life Center Room 206. Senior adults using Adult Bible Studies from Cokesbury.

Covenant: Meets in Christian Life Center Room 203. All ages of adults, studying various books on the Christian faith.

Gospel: Meets in Christian Life Center Room 226. This class of senior adults meets from 9:45 -10:30 and is designed for those involved in worship services – using Adult Bible Studies from Cokesbury.

Logos: Meets in Christian Life Center Room 108-109. Senior adults using Life Ventures, a curriculum that seeks to equip, encourage, and minister to Bible students in their retirement years.

Seekers of the Cross: Meets in Christian Life Center Room 210. All ages of adults, studying various books on the Christian faith.

Sojourners: Meets from Jan. through March in Christian Life Center Room 110 - exploring a new topic each week.

Upper Room: Meets in Christian Life Center Room 205. Adults of all ages and backgrounds are invited into thoughtful review and discussion on various contemporary Christian topics and books of the Bible.

Short –Term Sunday Morning Opportunities!

Sept. 6: Come and hear about some salty service opportunities with Celebrate Recovery at 10:00 in the Recreation Lounge. You will meet Tom James and some of the redeemed that have found Christ's healing through this powerful ministry right here in Winter Haven!

Sept. 13-Nov. 1: Join Dr. Tim Jenney for "Basic Tools and Techniques for Bible Study" at 10:00 in Wesley Hall. Please bring a Bible, pen, and paper to take notes.

Sept. 13-Nov. 8: Crown Ministry in Room 204 from 10:00-12:00. This is a 10 week biblical financial study which will give you scriptural guidance as well as practical help in handling your finances. Call Larry/Janey Powell (324-5264) to register.

Ladies, save the date!! As part of our Women's Ministry Activities, we will be going to Picasso's Cup in Lakeland Friday, September 25 at 7 pm. Picasso's Cup is a paint your own pottery studio. The evening is bound to be an artful experience, even if you are artistically challenged! Plan to come and paint a mug, plate, etc. and enjoy some creative fun. As Pablo Picasso said, "Art washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life." Anyone interested in carpooling should meet in the church parking lot at 6 pm.

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

Night of Joy! September 11th & 12th. Friday September 11th—Chris Tomlin—POD-Newsboys-Kutless and others! Saturday September 12th—Mercy Me-FLYLEAF-Jars of Clay-Skillet-Grits and more!

All day admission to any two Disney Theme Parks PLUS two nights of NIGHT OF JOY is \$89.95.

All day admission to Disney's Hollywood Studios PLUS (1 night) NIGHT OF JOY is \$44.95.

Please indicate which package and what day you would like to attend Night of Joy when you sign up. **You must contact Mike Lambert by September 3rd or at the main office with a \$10 deposit.**

Those only looking to go on Night of Joy on Saturday night but not to the theme park, you can hang out with some of us at Downtown Disney! More information when you sign up! Great time to invite a friend!

Last day to sign up for NIGHT OF JOY will be by September 1st. DON'T DELAY! Sign up soon!

REALIFE BIBLE STUDY! Wednesday nights at 7:00pm to 8:00PM. The RealLife Bible study has been faithfully meeting for over two years now! As we wrap up Philippians this summer, we will be launching a new mid-week series at the start of the school year 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!

SEE YOU AT THE POLE September 23 2009

Be praying for our teenagers here in Winter Haven as they gather for this national event!

Every year, millions of teenagers in this nation come together around their school's flag pole at 7:00 AM on the third Wednesday of September. Last year, over two hundred teenagers gathered at four schools. We are praying for that number to double this year! Keep these kids in you're prayers as they stand for Jesus Christ on their campuses.

Worship

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.

You're Invited!

The ***FLORIDA WORSHIP CHOIR & ORCHESTRA*** will be featured in a worship concert at First Baptist Church in the Mall in Lakeland on Friday, September 18th at 7 PM.

Guest speaker will be Anne Graham Lotz (daughter of Billy Graham). Admission is free.

The ***FLORIDA WORSHIP CHOIR & ORCHESTRA*** is made up of approximately 350 men & women from across the state of Florida.

Two of our Celebration Singers, Bob Butcher and Tom Wood, sing tenor in the choir, and our Worship Arts Pastor, Pat Bennett, plays the French horn in the orchestra.

This will be an incredible evening of worship – you don't want to miss this wonderful, exciting event!

First Baptist Church Lakeland is located at:
1010 E Memorial Blvd
Lakeland, FL 33801-2020
(863) 682-0163

Mid Week Warriors will resume on September 16 at 6:00 PM.

Due to the meetings being cancelled, there are no minutes for the following Committees: Church Council, Pre-School Advisory Board, and Trustees.

St. John's UMC
SUMMARY of Finance (have not been approved)
August 18, 2009

Giving is up from last year even though the economy is down; all committees are staying within their budgets. The school's income is down for the summer and will pick up again when the summer is over and the public schools start back up. Looking towards 2010 for a Capitol Campaign to pay off debt on the Christian Life Center & Church.

St. John's UMC
SUMMARY of Mission Meeting
August

No minutes available at this time.

July Financials are available on the credenza in the narthex.

Aluminum cans
for Missions

Thank you to all St. John's members who have brought cans. It is a big help for our mission efforts. We continue to collect them and request your help. The container is by the "Asbury Kitchen" door. Please note that we can only take aluminum beverage cans- no foil or other types of cans. **PLEASE LEAVE TABS ON CANS.** There is a can crusher behind the door but we will be glad to receive them crushed or not crushed. 100% of money received from this project goes to missions. Any questions may be directed to Lois Rhodes at 318-0707.

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

We are collecting eye glasses for the Lion's Club. If anyone has any used ones they are not needing, please drop them off in the Christian Life Center in Room 105.

John 3:16-17

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

BODY RECALL RETURNS

Inactivity, not age, may be to blame for aches and pains you may have. Did you know many of the health problems associated with aging actually have nothing to do with growing older? Some of the twinges and aches we often chalk up to older age have more to do with physical inactivity than with the number of candles on your last birthday cake! That is why it's essential to your good health to exercise throughout your life. BODY RECALL is an excellent program through which you can improve your body. The program is for everyone: the overweight, arthritic, athlete, diabetic, whomever- -whether you've exercised recently or not. Most participants are over age 50.

Exercises are done sitting in a chair, standing and for those who are able, on the floor. This is a program that calls for each participant to monitor his/her own body and do the best he/she can do. Each class provides varied exercises and fellowship as well.

BODY RECALL classes meet three times a week-- Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 9:00-10:00am at St. John's. It is open to anyone in the community. Each session will be for 10 weeks, taught by certified BODY RECALL teacher Mary Jacq McCulloch for only \$30 for the 10 weeks. Call the church at 324-6347 to enroll. The first class will be October 5th. Wear loose clothing and good walking shoes. Payments will be accepted at the first class.

Tom Wells Memorial Golf Tournament

Please contact Scott Wells at 293-0563 or 207-3672 or email him Fsuprism@aol.com for further information.

Eaglebrook Golf Tournament

October 1st at 1:15PM

\$100.00 each man

\$325.00—4 men

\$425— whole sponsor with foursome

Money will be going towards the United Methodist Men and Florida Turf Grass Association.

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.

The Morning Circle will meet September 17th in the Christian Life Center in the Rec. Lounge at 9:30AM. All ladies are invited to join us. After refreshments a program "Singing God's Song" by Marion Roberts.

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.