

**St. John's
United Church**

The Journal

September, 2011

In This Issue!

- Pastor's Perspective
- Homecoming Celebration
- Green Garden & Food Pantry
- Women's Guild
- Hope Circle
- Calendar
- St. John's Music
- Counters Needed
- Fund for Donna Havner

Pastor's Perspective

Hello Friends,

After three months away on sabbatical, it is good to be back! The whole experience was transforming. I learned two or three very important things that I plan to share with you as the year unfolds.

On Sunday, September 11th -- our HOMECOMING Sunday -- I will use photographs (via a slide show, of course) to share one of my "learnings" with you. A picture is worth a thousand words -- please come to worship with your glasses!

After worship, we will enjoy our Homecoming Picnic with food and special activities partially underwritten by the Lilly Foundation. The Foundation insists that we celebrate our congregation's commitment to renewal with food and fun! Please come prepared (and dressed) to eat and play after church.

Oh, and it would not be Homecoming Sunday without Sunday School start-up. I hope you will come to one of our adult education offerings (more details later...) and bring children, grandchildren, and their friends to Sunday School downstairs.

There is a chance, yes, a chance, that we might be able to cut the ribbon on our new kitchen and bathrooms on September 11. We have much to celebrate!

I am very grateful to Jessica, the Staff, and the Council and Deacons, all of whom walked the extra miles to make this sabbatical work for us. Blessed be this family of faith.

Peace to you all,

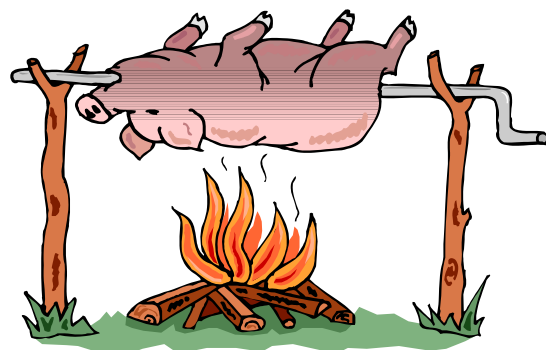
Katie

Homecoming Celebration, Sunday, September 11th!

Sunday School 9:15 am

Worship 10:30 am

Hog Roast 12:00 pm



Green Garden Picking

We had a huge turnout for picking in the garden on Sunday, August 28th! Let's keep that spirit moving! We will plan picking dates for the following Sundays...

- September 11
- September 25
- October 9
- October 23

...until the garden runs dry.

Hope Circle - September 13

Hope Circle will begin its second year of Bible study, fellowship, and food on Tuesday, September 13, at 7 p.m. We discovered halfway through our first year that we prefer meeting in the homes of our members rather than at the church, so Sheila Gardner will host this gathering at her home, 204 South 20th Street.

This year's Bible study is "Confessing the Beatitudes" written by Margaret Aymer, associate professor of New Testament and chair of Biblical Studies at the Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta, Georgia. She is an ordained minister of Word and Sacrament in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Members of the Presbyterian Women's Bible Study Committee

Wanted!!! Drivers!!!

To deliver donated bags of food to the food pantry on the following Tuesday mornings at 8:30 a.m.

- September 13
- October 11
- November 8
- December 13

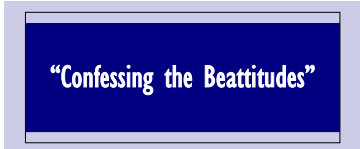
Less than 30 minutes of your time will mean SO much to those in our own community who are in need. PLEASE HELP!!!

Women's Guild - September 7th.

Women's Guild will meet on Wednesday, September 7, at 12 noon at Linda Gray's home, 330 Indian Boundary Road. Please bring a sack lunch. Dessert and beverages will be provided.

Our own Ann Howard, author of *A Miracle in Progress*, will share stories of life among volunteers and customers at Duneland Resale.

The mission items for Hilltop House this month are large pre-school size pencils, children's books, and stories on tapes or CDs.



requested that the study focus on connecting faith with daily life and that it address directly some of the most difficult issues facing the world today: the economy; hunger; poverty; Christian community; water issues; a woman's role in society, faith, and the public life; and justice and peace. They requested, as well, that the author provide the historical context of these scriptures. They wanted readers to learn more about what the Beatitudes meant to the original audience that would have heard Jesus

speaking them. Join us as we learn together what it means to speak the truth about who God is calling us to be—all as we learn how to confess the Beatitudes.

Pastor Katie will lead our study again this year. The cost of the study book is \$8.50 and is available in the church office or from Karen Grant. If you have any questions, please contact Karen at 510.5872 or kgrant34@gmail.com.

Council notes.....

The council met in regular session on Tuesday 8/16 and the elders would like to share some of our discussion with all of you.

The council has been diligent in addressing this year’s budget issues, and with the stewardship and generosity of our congregation, we are currently operating under a balanced budget – that is, the congregation is giving more than pledged and council is spending less than anticipated. At present, those 2 amounts are almost equal. For the record, the glory and praise belong to God. In the second half of the year, the council will continue to work to reduce expenses, and we encourage you to continue your generous support of our ministries.

Alan Sommers, representing the Building Committee, reported on the kitchen and restroom construction. The painting is complete and the cabinets almost installed. The project is still on schedule for completion before the September 11 start of Sunday School. Special thanks to Alan, Rob Klett, Chris Dines, Dean Hultman and Bob Misiuk for their “above and beyond” during construction. Once the kitchen and the basement bathrooms are completed, the focus will shift to the renovation of the east entrance and installation of a lift and bathrooms on ground on upper floors. The Building committee will be meeting soon to assess our remaining “on-hand” capital campaign funds, and propose how to proceed. Actual construction should start between November and March. Council encourages all to honor their capital campaign pledge. The more we give, the less we borrow.

The council is delighted to welcome Karen Read as an elder. Karen has agreed to lead the Children and Youth Ministry Committee. Karen, Brandon Long and the CYM Committee are well into their planning for this year’s Sunday School program. If you feel called to serve our children in any way – large or small – please see Karen. We also welcome Chuck Tuter as an at-large member of the Nominating Committee, and extend an “official” welcome to Eric Watt as deacon.

Thanks to Joel Strickland, Chuck Doane and John Wrigley for painting the west entrance doors and fresh lines on the west side parking area. Thanks to Mark Shelhart for installing the new sound system in the sanctuary. Thanks to the Deacons for their loving care of our members and friends. Thanks be to God!

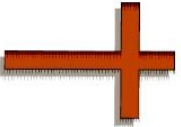




We ask that you stay involved in the life of this church and stay informed. Please pray for the lay leaders, the staff and the pastor. If you have any questions or concerns, seek out an elder.

Your brothers and sisters in Christ,
The Council of St John’s United Church

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Tom Clements	9/1	Wendy Marciniak	9/2
Joy Johnston	9/2	Kathy McMahan	9/4
Alan Sommers	9/5	Cindy Cohn	9/5
Joel Teeple	9/7	John Wrigley	9/7
Tia Mortensen	9/8	William Anderson	9/8
Janet Anderson	9/8	Trena Mortensen	9/8
Emerson Stobbe	9/9	Adelaide Young Brust	9/9
Elsie Scheetz	9/9	Susan DeWitt	9/10
Jan Plummer	9/11	Cameron O'Brien	9/15
Jeanette Dolk	9/18	Jan Needler	9/20
Caitlin Thompson	9/21	Kathy Lute	9/24
Kyra Tuter	9/27	Laura Stepanovich	9/27
Alexandra Dines	9/27	Chuck tuter	9/28
Karen Grant	9/30	Marko Stepanovich	9/30

SEPTEMBER 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						
4 Communion No Chancel choir 9:30am - Worship Service	5 Westchester Meals Office closed	 6 9:00 am - Good Steward 6:00pm - Worship Comm. 7:00pm - Prayer Shawl Knitting Group	7 Westchester Meals 12:00pm - Women's Guild 6:00 pm - Chime Choir 7:00 pm - The Gathering 7:00 pm - Boy Scouts	8 8:30am - Fellowship Bkfst@ Sunrise Restaurant 8:00pm - NA & Nar-Anon	9 Westchester Meals 8:00pm - Al-Anon & A.A.	10 
11 Homecoming Celebration No Chancel choir 9:15am - Sunday School 10:30am - Worship 12:00 pm - Homecoming Celebration-Hog Roast	12 Westchester Meals 9:00 am - Good Steward 7:00pm - Building Comm 7:00pm - Property Comm.	13 6:30pm - Finance Comm. 7:00pm - Circle of Hope Bible Study Home of Sheila Gardner	14 Westchester Meals 6:00 pm - Chime Choir 7:00 pm - The Gathering 7:00 pm - Boy Scouts	15 8:30am - Fellowship Bkfst@ Sunrise Restaurant 8:00pm - NA & Nar-Anon	16 Westchester Meals 8:00pm - Al-Anon & A.A.	17 
18 9:15 am - Chancel Choir 9:15am - Sunday School 10:30am - Worship 12:00 pm - Youth Group	19 Westchester Meals Journal Entry Deadline 6:30pm Mission Comm.	20  7:00pm - Council Meeting	21 Westchester Meals 6:00 pm - Chime Choir 7:00 pm - The Gathering 7:00 pm - Boy Scouts	22 8:30am - Fellowship Bkfst@ Sunrise Restaurant 8:00pm - NA & Nar-Anon	23 Westchester Meals 8:00pm - Al-Anon & A.A.	
25 9:15 am - Chancel Choir 9:15am - Sunday School 10:30am - Worship 4:00 pm - Youth Group@ Dunes	26 Westchester Meals	27 7:00pm - Deacon Meeting	28 Westchester Meals 6:00pm - Chime Choir 7:00pm - Choir MARS 7:30pm - Chancel Choir 7:00 pm - The Gathering	29 8:30am - Fellowship Bkfst@ Sunrise Restaurant 8:00pm - NA & Nar-Anon	30 Westchester Meals 8:00pm - Al-Anon & A.A.	



St. John's United church
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Phone: 219.926.1476

E-mail: office@sjuchurch.org

ST. JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH

United In Love

We're on the web!
Sjuchurch.org

Counters Needed

Could you count the offering one Sunday out of the month. If you are willing to help, contact Dan Johnston at danjohnston11@yahoo.com.

St. John's is a joined congregation of the United Church of Christ and the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

*Sunday School is at 9:15 am.
Sunday Worship service is at 10:30 am.
(Starting September 11th)*

Office hours are Monday through Friday 8:00 am to 12:00 pm.

*You can contact the office by phone or email.
(219) 926-1476
office@sjuchurch.org*

*If you are in need of pastoral care or have a confidential matter, you can contact Pastor Katie Lindberg.
(219) 926-6281*

The New (Music) Year Has Begun... Come Join Us!

Thanks to everyone who shared their musical gifts with us during the summer season! Our new "music year" for adults and senior high youth has begun. Chimes Choir (instrumental) rehearses on Wednesday evenings, 6-7 PM, and plays for worship once a month. The Chancel Choir (vocal) rehearses on Sunday mornings at 9:15 AM (and the last Wednesday evening of the month, 7:15- 8:30 PM); they sing weekly (with a few breaks) from September through Pentecost. If you have been thinking about joining a musical ensemble at St. John's, it's never too late! Please contact Cindy Shelhart at church, by calling [\(219\) 508-3558](tel:2195083558), or via email at harp@cynthiashelhart.com.

Fund Set Up for Donna Havner's Medical Expenses.

A donation fund has been established to help defray medical expenses for the Havner family.

Donna, a Chesterton Middle School secretary, is currently a patient at the University of Chicago, in the Neuro Intensive Care Unit, and has been fighting a serious illness for some time.

Any and all donations would be greatly appreciated and can be made at any Centier Bank location.

For information e-mail Tamie at: donationsfordonna@gmail.com