

September 2010

THE JOURNAL

Dear Friends,

In the late 90's I traveled to the San Francisco Theological Seminary to study the "Art of Spiritual Direction." Spiritual directors (sometimes called "spiritual guides" or "spiritual companions") spend time with those who wish to deepen their connection with God. They listen, offer support, and often give practical suggestions for ways to pray. One thing that truly distinguishes spiritual directors from secular counselors is a commitment to learning how to pray themselves and praying regularly.

I wanted to become a skilled spiritual director, but I was terrible when it came to prayer! I could not sit still and concentrate on communing with God. Not possible for me. My mind wandered, my body ached; sitting and praying felt like being in prison.

What was I doing wrong?

At the Seminary I quickly learned that I was not alone. We were introduced to Lauren Artress, an Episcopal Priest and Director of the Labyrinth Project. She too, had been frustrated in sitting-prayer. She searched out other ways to pray and discovered the Labyrinth, an ancient prayer tool used in many spiritual traditions. One "walks" the Labyrinth and prays through the walk itself. Dr. Artress experienced a great revival of her own prayer life through walking the Labyrinth. (You can learn more about her and the history of the Labyrinth by going to her website: www.veriditas.org)

In California I walked the Labyrinth everyday (sometimes many times a day.) The Labyrinth Walk opened up a whole new way for me to pray. No longer did I feel like a spiritual failure! Now I felt like a pilgrim.

In October we will host our first Lilly funded Labyrinth Walk Workshop here, at St. Johns. Our leader will be the Rev. Warren Lynn, a trained Spiritual Companion and Labyrinth Facilitator. He will teach the history of the



Labyrinth and share ways it can be used to help grow our spiritual lives. We will also have the opportunity to walk an indoor Labyrinth.

If you do not walk or enjoy walking, there are other ways to use a Labyrinth as a prayer tool. We will have a finger Labyrinth available and Labyrinths to draw and decorate. Our own Cindy Shelhart will play her harp for us as we walk, contemplate, and pray.

I hope you will avail yourself of this free workshop even if you are perfectly happy with sitting still and praying with your eyes closed! I think you will enjoy it, and that your connection with the Divine will be enriched in new ways.

The workshop begins on Friday October 22 at 6:30pm. We will reconvene on Saturday morning, October 23 at 9am, concluding with a light lunch. Rev. Lynn will be on hand Sunday morning to teach and preach for us.

All are welcome. Bring friends! This is a blessing to share.

love, Katie

Special Thank You Note...

Dear St. John's Friends

We wish to thank all of you for our great send off to Arizona. The cards, words and letters and the many gifts were greatly appreciated. We have now been in our Apartment for about three weeks and although it is very hot we have developed a routine to make it as comfortable as possible.

We certainly miss each of you but we have both UCC and Presbyterian Churches within minutes of our apartment and we have been attending both of them.

Again thanks again,

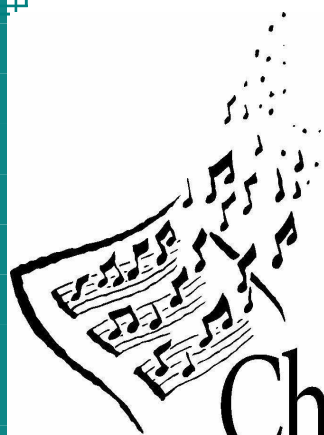
John and Roberta

**Note from the office: New address for John and Roberta Neel: 951 W. Orange Grove Road Apt 79-103 Tucson AZ 85704*



Call out to Mac users.

If you are a Mac user and would like to help with the visuals on Sunday morning, please contact Pastor Katie or Kathy Lute.



Choir Notes

Thanks to everyone who shared or will share their musical gifts with us during the summer season!

Meanwhile, our new "music year"

for adults and senior high youth

begins on Wednesday, September 1.

Chime Choir (instrumental) rehearses 6-7 PM;
both choirs meet for MARS social time at 7:00 PM;
& the Chancel Choir (vocal) rehearses 7:30-8:30 PM
(Other weeks, Chancel Choir starts at 7:15 PM.)

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, or via email at harp@cynthiashelhart.com.



Sunday School begins September 12th at 9:15 am

For our little ones,
3-4 years old:

Sunday School will remain in one
classroom with the same
co-teachers throughout the year.

For kids K-6 grade
our workshop rotation theme:
Psalms
Praising our Majestic Creator!

For our Youth
7th grade and older:

Youth Sunday School will be
taught by Youth Group
Leader, Brandon Long

September Birthdays

Joy Johnston 9/2
Wendy Marciniak 9/2
Bonnie Flatz 9/4
Kathy McMahan 9/4
Alan Sommers 9/5
Cindy Cohn 9/5
Joel Teeple 9/7
John Wrigley 9/7
Janet Anderson 9/8
Tia Mortensen 9/8
Trena Mortensen 9/8
William Anderson 9/8
Adelaide Young Brust 9/9
Elsie Scheetz 9/9
Emerson Stobbe 9/9
Nancy Kerr 9/9
Susan DeWitt 9/10
Jan Plummer 9/11
Cameron O'Brien 9/15
Jeanette Dolk 9/18
Jan Needler 9/20
Taylor Dore 9/20
Caitlin Thompson 9/21
Kayli Mitchell 9/23
Kathy Lute 9/24
Alexandra Dines 9/27
Kyra Tuter 9/27
Laura Stepanovich 9/27
Chuck Tuter 9/28
Karen Grant 9/30
Marko Stepanovich 9/30



We invite you to
"The Gathering"
every Thursday @ 7:00pm

In the Yoder Room

Join us as Katie leads
discussions that apply Scripture
to our every day lives.

Open to Adults:
All Ages and All Stages.



New...New...New...

A women's circle for Bible study, fellowship, and food will launch on **Tuesday, September 14, at 7 p.m. in the Yoder Room.**

At the first meeting we will decide whether the second Tuesday evening of the month is the best time for us to meet, whether we want to meet at the church or in homes, and what the name of our group will be.

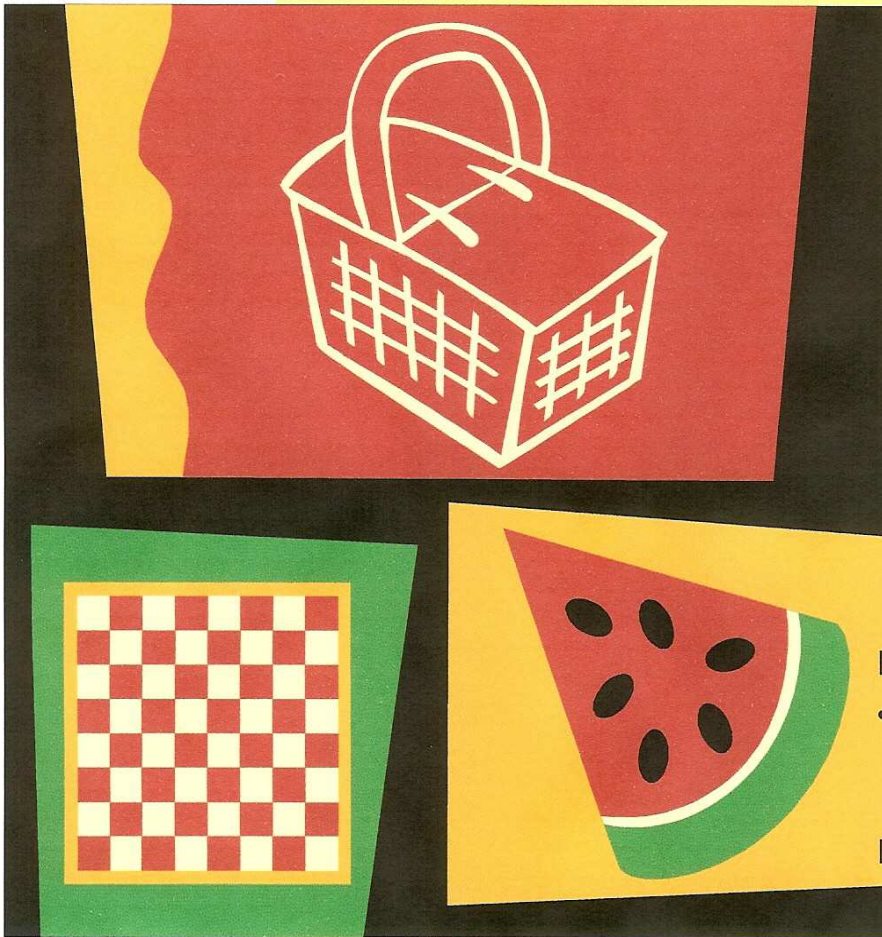
Are you one of the many who AVOID the last book of the Bible?

Does it seem too ominous, alarming or too difficult to understand.

This year explore the book of Revelation in a women's monthly study group. The 2010-11 Bible study by Presbyterian Women, *Journeys through Revelation: Apocalyptic Hope for Today*, helps work through the symbolism and mystery of John's writings to understand **its message of hope**. Revelation has spawned an enormous "prophecy industry" and been marketed as a timetable for the end of the world, the **good news** is that God comes to live on earth and **encourages us** in the midst of the crises of today. Pastor Katie will lead us on this 9-month journey.

Copies of the first lesson are available in the church office. If you have questions, please contact **Karen Grant, 510.5872 or kgrant34@gmail.com**, or **Pastor Katie, 926.1476 or katie.lindberg@yahoo.com**. **All women are invited**. Please feel free to invite a friend, neighbor, co-worker, or stranger to join us in this new adventure.

Church Picnic



Time: 12 noon

Date: Sunday,
September 12

Bring:

- Dish or dishes to share

Provided:

- Table service
- Beverages
- Hot dogs and buns
- **CHICKEN**

Contact persons: Maggie Hultman, 926.1988
Sheila Gardner, 921.1921
Karen Grant, 510.5872

St. John's United Church
225 West Lincoln
Chesterton, IN 46304

Mission News

The Porter County CROP Walk is planned for Sunday, October 03, 2010
More information and sign-up packets will be available in the next few weeks
and on the Mission Committee bulletin board.

Please note our next collection for the
Extending the Communion Table food pantry will be on
Sunday September 05

Bags distributed on:

- * August 29
- * September 26
- * October 31
- * November 28

Collection on:

- * September 05
- * October 03
- * November 07
- * December 05

There will be no Extending the Communion Table
collection in January, since we will be finishing up
our holiday baskets at the end of December.

Once again this year we will be doing an "Offering of Letters" to our
Congressional Representatives and Senators.
We will be asking Congress to protect and strengthen tax credits which help
low-income working families and assist them in being able to afford food.
We are currently planning to hold the Offering of Letters on
Sunday September 26, after worship service.

For more information on the Offering of Letters please visit
<http://www.offeringofletters.org>

September 2010

ST. JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH Mon. – Fri.
 Office Hours 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 a.m. www.stjohnchurch.org
 Phone: 219-926-1476 Email: office@stjchurch.org
 Pastor Katie Lindberg Email: katie.lindberg@yahoo.com Sarah Hughes, Office Admin.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 5 10:30 a.m. Worship Service Followed by Hospitality Time Extended Table Food Pantry Collection	6 Meals on Wheels  7:00 p.m. Property Comm.	 7 4:00 p.m. Children & Youth Ministries (CYM)  7:00 p.m. Prayer Shawl Knitting Group	1 Meals on Wheels  12:00 p.m. Women's Guild @ Linda Gray's home 6:00 p.m. Chime Choir 7:00 p.m. M.A.R.S 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir	2 8:30 a.m. Fellowship Brkfst @ Sunrise Family Restaurant 10:00 a.m. Personnel Comm. 7:00 p.m. The Gathering 8:00 p.m. NA & Nar-Anon	3 Pastor's Sabbath Meals on Wheels  8:00 p.m. Al-Anon & AA.	4 10:00 am – Noon Wabash Valley Presbytery Woman.
12 HOME COMING SUNDAY 8:00 a.m. Mission Comm. 9:15 a.m. Sunday School for all ages 10:30 a.m. Worship Service Followed by Church Picnic 6:00 p.m. Youth Group	13 Meal s on Wheels  7:00 p.m. Worship & Music Comm.	14 6:30 p.m. Finance Comm. 7:00 p.m. Women's Circle	15 Meals on Wheels  6:00 p.m. Chime Choir 7:15 p.m. Chancel Choir Reminder: Council reports are due.	16 8:30 a.m. Fellowship Brkfst @ Sunrise Family Restaurant 7:00 p.m. The Gathering 8:00 p.m. NA & Nar-Anon	17 Pastor's Sabbath Meals on Wheels  8:00 p.m. Al-Anon & AA. Presbytery Retreat @ Geneva Center	18 Presbytery Retreat @ Geneva Center
19 9:15 a.m. Sunday School for all ages 10:30 a.m. Worship Service Followed by Hospitality Time 6:00 p.m. Youth Group	20 Meals on Wheels  7:00 p.m. Council Mtg	 21 7:00 p.m. Council Mtg	22 Meals on Wheels  6:00 p.m. Chime Choir 7:15 p.m. Chancel Choir	23 8:30 a.m. Fellowship Brkfst @ Sunrise Family Restaurant 7:00 p.m. The Gathering 8:00 p.m. NA & Nar-Anon	24 Pastor's Sabbath Meals on Wheels  8:00 p.m. Al-Anon & AA.	25 
26 9:15 a.m. Sunday School for all ages 10:30 a.m. Worship Service Followed by Hospitality Time 2:00 p.m. LCCC Michigan City 6:00 p.m. Youth Group	27 Meals on Wheels 	28 7:00 p.m. Board of Deacons 	29 Meals on Wheels  12:00pm Dundland Clergy Group 6:00 p.m. Chime Choir 7:15 p.m. Chancel Choir	30 8:30 a.m. Fellowship Brkfst @ Sunrise Family Restaurant 7:00 p.m. The Gathering 8:00 p.m. NA & Nar-Anon	31 Pastor's Sabbath Meals on Wheels  8:00 p.m. Al-Anon & AA.	



St. John's UNITED Church

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United Church of Christ and
Presbyterian Church (USA)

225 West Lincoln Avenue
Chesterton, Indiana 46304
Phone: 219-926-1476
Email: office@sjuchurchchesterton.org

SUNDAYS AT ST. JOHN'S

**Sunday School all ages 9:15
a.m.**

Worship Service 10:30 a.m.
(child care provided)

OFFICE HOURS

8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Monday through Friday

The Guild Is Alive With The Change of the Seasons

Enjoy a Picnic on the Porch
Wednesday September 1, Noon



at Linda Gray's Home
with a beautiful
Pond View!

Her home is located off
Indian Boundary Rd.,
behind the
Gray Goose Inn.

Bring a Bag Lunch.
Drinks will be provided