

Heartbeat News



From the Pastor's Desk

Every year it's the same old story. I think we can all recite the story of Christmas by heart, or at least the little kid's pageant version of the story, complete with barn animals, and shepherds, and wise men, and a shiny star. You'd think you would get tired of the same story, but no, every year about this time I get excited and more than a little impatient. Not for Christmas to come, but in the hope that THIS YEAR I will finally slow down enough to truly celebrate Advent BEFORE Christmas. You see, the truth is for all of the importance of Christmas, it's Advent that I really love. That first Sunday of Advent is the start of the new church year. It means getting out a whole new set of commentaries for sermon writing, a whole new chance to start over with commitments to reading and prayer and other spiritual disciplines. And then Advent itself is four whole weeks of getting ready, of considering how Jesus changes my life and the world in which I live.

Christmas is great, but its Advent I love. Christmas is filled with commercialism and materialism and busy-ness. But Advent, advent begs us to slow down, to savor the anticipation of a new birth, of a re-telling of an ancient story of hope and love and beating the odds. Advent is one of the few seasons that commercialism hasn't touched (well, except for those little advent calendars....and who doesn't need a little chocolate now and then??). Advent reminds us that with God, amazing things can happen. There are the marvelous stories of a devout

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St. John UCC

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COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS FOR NOVEMBER

At its monthly meeting held on November 13th, the St. John Church Council:

- Set the Annual Congregational Meeting for February 1st, 2015
- Reviewed the proposed budget for 2015.
- Discussed proposed revisions to the church constitution.
- Discussed proposal from Maintenance committee to abandon water well.
- Discussed member comments regarding changes to worship service.

Present: Eric Hillstrom, Andy Boneski, Mary Johnson, Mike Szymik, Cherie Bersch, Judy Luckow, Marilyn Boettcher, Donna Tess, Sharon Reeder, Pastor Tetzlaff

Absent: None

Next Council meeting: December 11, 2014



(Continued from page 1)

priest and his wife finally blessed with a son when they thought they couldn't conceive...a son that grows up to like eating bugs and dressing strangely, but who heralds the coming of God's kingdom with a call to change our hearts and minds and lives. That a young teenage girl getting pregnant before marriage might be more than a little scandalous, but also an opportunity for the grace and love of God to shine. That a tiny little baby born to a poor working family might outsmart an evil king, be adored by wise people from faraway lands, be smuggled across the border to escape certain death, and grow up to change the world. Who doesn't fall in love with the peace, and love, and joy, and hope of God with stories like these...stories that beg to be re-told.

I hope that this year, you too, might get caught up in the excitement of waiting, of stories of hope and audacity, and love, and faith. Revel in the beauty of Advent hymns of hope and expectation (even if it means setting aside those Christmas hymns for a couple more weeks!) Join us each week in worship to gain a fresh perspective on an old, old, story. Let the Word of God come alive in your hearts and lives once more (or even for the very first time!).

With Great Expectations of Grace and Peace,

Pastor Tara



EDUCATIONAL & SMALL GROUP OPPORTUNITIES

Monday Morning Bible Study: Join us for a weekly Bible Study as we journey through the Gospel of Mark using the Interpretation Bible Studies program. Meets at Our Saviour's UCC from 11am-Noon each Monday. Cost of Book \$10.

Food, Film, and Faith: Simple meal while watching a movie, with discussion to follow. Meets at Our Saviour's UCC at 6pm on 3rd Wednesday of the month. Our next movie will be on Wed., **Dec. 17th.**

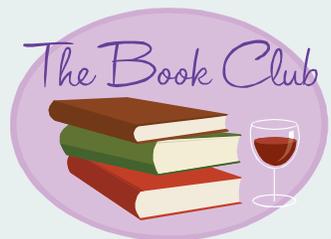
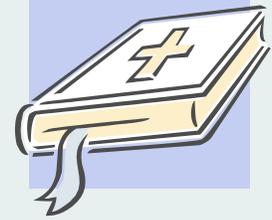
Fresh Looks at Old Stories: More of a traditional Bible study...will focus on passages that are often misunderstood, or that likely are read much differently as adults than how we read them as children. Our next meeting will take place on Wed., Jan. 28th at 6pm.

Starbucks Book Club: Discuss various books related to issues of faith. Different book each month, discussion guide will be available a month ahead of time. Meets at Starbucks on Mequon Rd. on 2nd Wednesday of the month. Our next meeting will take place Wed., **Dec. 10th**, at 6pm. December's book is Sabbath Keeping by Donna Schaper. Cost of the book is \$6, available in the lobby at St. John's.

Crafters Club: Whether you scrapbook, paint, draw, knit, etc you are welcome to bring whatever you are working on and join with other "crafters" for a day of fun. Drop in for an hour or stay for the day. Light lunch provided. Participants are asked to bring their own beverages and a snack to share. Meets one Saturday a month 10am-3pm, location rotates between St. John UCC and Our Saviour's UCC. Upcoming Date: **Dec. 6th**, at OSC. This would be a great opportunity to work on those Christmas cards!!!

UPCOMING CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

It's a no-fuss Christmas Pageant!!! Children and adults of all ages are invited to join in our telling of the Christmas story on Sunday, **Dec. 21st at 10:30am**. No special sign up or practice necessary, just show up and ask our "Stage Manager" for a costume!!!





Please consider signing up for Fellowship following church services in our Fellowship Hall (a clip board with the sign - up sheet is located near the kitchen). Join us after church. All member and friends are welcome. Any question contact Sharon Reeder at 262-251-5946.

One date is still available for members to sign – up for Fellowship: December 28th 2014.

Volunteers needed:
Volunteers will be needed to provide rides to church members who do not have transportation to - from church. Please contact the church office or Pastor Tara Tetzlaff if interested in volunteering at 262-251-0640.

Outreach Meetings: Any members wishing to join the committee are welcome. The next Outreach Committee meeting will be Sunday, Jan. 11th, at 9am We meet in the Fraederich Education room. Contact Caroline Romaine at 262-385-1327 for more information.

OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Ruby Tuesday Fundraiser was held on Oct 1st, Oct 8th, Oct 15th, and Oct 22nd. The profit from the fundraiser was \$258.38. Proceeds from the profit will be used for future Outreach events and 10% of the proceeds will be given to Mission Alive. Thank you to those who shared a meal with a friend, neighbor, or family member at Ruby Tuesday Restaurant. Thank you to Karen Becker for organizing the event. Our next Ruby Tuesday Fundraiser will be scheduled next May 2015.



Mark your calendars - *Up Coming Events:*



December - Christmas Caroling - December 7th, 2014 at 1:30pm

Join us for Christmas Caroling at Virginia Highlands Health and Rehabilitation Center W.173 N.10915 Bernies Way Germantown . We will be meeting following the service in the Fellowship Hall at 11:30am. Those who wish can join us at Cousin’s Subs on County Line Road and Pilgrim

Rd. for lunch on your own. We will then car pool to Virginia Highlands at 1:30pm to Christmas Carol. A sign – up sheet will be posted on the bulletin board on the landing toward the Fellowship Hall.

January 4th, 2015

Tree / decoration take down following the church service. A sign – up sheet will be posted. Please sign – up.



February 2015

College Care / Armed Forces Care Packages – more information to follow.

9th Annual Dart Ball Night - date to be announced in January Heartbeat newsletter



TASTEFULLY SIMPLE YOUTH FUNDRAISER

Sunday, **Jan. 18th**, at 2pm in the fellowship hall. To participate individuals must register and pay for their package by December 30th. Once payment is received, you

will receive a list for the remainder of supplies (meats, vegetable, etc.). You can order through the church office or by contacting Danielle directly at 414-698-3105 or at gourmetd@earthlink.net. The workshop will be to make the Cozy Dinners Menu (cost for Tastefully Simple package is \$77.20). Over the course of 1-2 hours you will assemble the meals and go home with 10 dinners that will each feed 4-6 adults. (Toss them in your freezer and you are all set). ***The list of meals are:***

Irish Stout Slow Cooker Pot Roast, Bacon Wrapped Pork Chops, Bayou Bourbon Beef Bowls, Asiago Alfredo Chicken Casserole, Slow Cookin' Ribs & Scalloped Onion Onion Potatoes, Creamy Asiago Chicken, Irish Stout Stroganoff, Slow Cooker Chicken a la King, Gorgonzola Crustless Quiche, Gorgonzola Stuffed Chicken.

CALL YOUR PASTOR!!!

Just a reminder that to protect your privacy federal HIPAA laws prevent doctors, hospitals, and nursing homes from contacting or sharing information with anyone (including your church or pastor!) when you are a patient. If you or a loved one is hospitalized or needs pastoral care PLEASE call the church office or Pastor Tara directly (or request the hospital to do so). If you don't call, we have no way of knowing of your situation. By informing us of these events, you are helping us to provide you with the spiritual care needed in these often difficult times. Business cards with Pastor Tara's contact information are available in the church lobby or can be obtained from the church office, a handy way for you to have the numbers you need in an emergency.

Recipe Corner



Sugar Gems by Joan Schaezel

1 cup shortening
1 cup vegetable oil
1 cup sugar
1 cup confectioners' sugar
2 eggs
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
4-1/2 cups all-purpose flour
1 teaspoon baking soda
1 teaspoon cream of tartar
1/2 teaspoon salt
Additional sugar or colored sugar

In a mixing bowl, cream shortening, oil and sugars. Add eggs, one at a time, beating well after each addition. Beat in vanilla. Combine the flour, baking soda, cream of tartar and salt; gradually add to the creamed mixture. Cover and refrigerate for 1 hour or until easy to handle. Roll into 1-inch balls; dip tops in sugar or colored sugar.* Place sugar side up 2 inches apart on ungreased baking sheets. Bake at 350 for 12-14 minutes or until edges begin to brown. Remove to wire racks to cool. Yield about 7 dozen. *(I don't roll the ball in the sugar. I flatten ball with glass which has been dipped in sugar)...ENJOY!!

WOMEN'S GUILD



Nine Thanksgiving Baskets for our shut ins were made at our November Meeting. Thanks to all for your donations for the baskets.

December Meeting will be our annual Christmas party on Wednesday **December 3**. Punch and fellowship at 6:00 pm and dinner at 6:30. See Judy Luckow for tickets, deadline for tickets is November 30. The menu is Broasted chicken with broasted potatoes, cole slaw, vegetables, rolls, dessert, coffee and milk. Tickets are \$12.00. We will playing Take Away Bingo. Bring a wrapped gift with at least a \$5.00 value.

Christmas Cookie Sale is Sunday **December 7** after church. \$7.00 a box. Donated cookies should be brought to church by noon on Saturday December 6. Please no cookies that need to refrigerated. Our next business meeting is January 7, 2015. We will be planning Women's Sunday in March. Hope to see you there!

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Poinsettia Sale: Help beautify our sanctuary for Christmas with poinsettias! The plants will be six inches and cost \$12.00. The sign-up sheet is posted on the landing. The deadline is December 14. Thank you!



CRAFT FAIR UPDATE

God blessed us with beautiful weather and strong attendance once again for the Craft Fair.

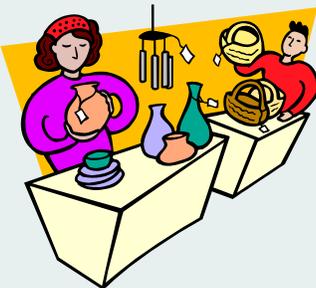
We had another good year. The adult raffle, bake sale and theme baskets continue to be popular areas. The committee wants to thank everyone who baked, cooked for the kitchen and made other donations, volunteered your time before, during and after the Fair.

We were pleased to provide the church council with a \$6,500 contribution to the general fund. This is something we couldn't do without YOU! We realize that the generous efforts of our church family are what make this large event such a success. We thank EACH of you!!

I also wanted to personally thank the Outreach Committee for the recognition on leading the Craft Fair. To continue the circle of Christian love and giving, I plan to use the gift certificate for food pantry item purchases.

God has really blessed us to have such caring members at St. John who work together to make this event a positive reflection of our church in the community. We're always looking for volunteers interested in helping plan the Fair. The planning committee will meet in February. Watch for more information then or let Merry Lison know that you are interested in joining. Next year will be the 30th year of the Fair and we welcome ideas to celebrate and recognize that in our activities.

Just a reminder to those of you who might still have the yards signs we use to advertise the Fair; don't forget to return them so we can update them and use them again next year.



CELEBRATIONS: BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

4 Alicia Toth	15 Lisa Graveen
6 Tom Toth	17 Chris Pickett
Tom Weber	21 Chelsea Johnson
8 Amanda Reeder	25 Judy Luckow
9 Jim Koedinger	27 Lillian Sutton
10 Kathy DeWall	28 Lisa Hillstrom
Joy Lehmann	Dawn Taylor
Carol Schwartz	

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

5th - Tom and Alicia Toth

UPCOMING EVENTS

DECEMBER

1st— 11am-Noon Bible Study—OSC

3rd—6pm Women's Guild Christmas Party

6th—10am-3pm Crafters Club—OSC

7th—Christmas Cookie Sale following service

1:15pm Christmas Caroling

8th—11am-Noon Bible Study—OSC

4pm St. Ben's

10th—6pm-Book Club at Starbucks

11th—7pm Council Mtg.

15th—11am-Noon Bible Study—OSC

17th—6pm Food Film & Fun—OSC

21st—Children's Christmas Pageant during service

Noon-3pm Confirmation Class

22nd—11am-Noon Bible Study—OSC

24th—CHRISTMAS EVE
5pm—Worship—St.

John's
7pm—Worship—

OSC

25th—CHRISTMAS DAY
9AM—Worship—

OSC



**MARK YOUR
CALENDARS**

ST. JOHN UCC

N104W14181 Donges Bay Rd.

Germantown, WI 53022

Our Mission is to Celebrate, Reach
Out, Enrich, and Welcome in the
name of Jesus Christ.

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE



God is still speaking,
**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**

WORSHIP SERVICES

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE: 5pm St. John's
7pm OSC

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE: 9am OSC

*Sunday Worship Service at Our Saviour's UCC—
8:30am*

*Sunday Worship Service at St. John's UCC—
10:30am*

Sunday School at 11:15-Noon at St. John's