

ST. JOHN'S

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



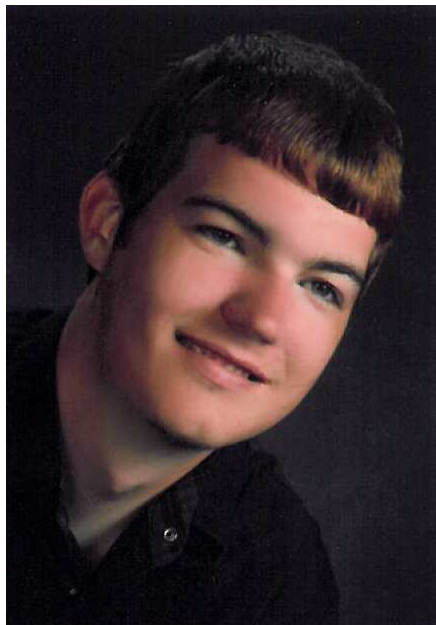
— *The Explorer* —

Volume 6, Issue 10

Website: <http://www.stjohnslubbock.org>

May 19, 2011

Congratulations, Class of 2011!



Jason Crites is graduating from Coronado High School on May 28th at 6 p.m. He plans to attend Full Sail University in Winter Park, Florida, in the fall to study recording art/sound technology. He received the University's top "Creative Minds" Scholarship.

"My favorite thing about St. Johns is the openness that everybody is accepted, they have open arms for every person. Another favorite thing is that I've basically grown up here around a family that isn't my biological family. I have felt welcome in the church."
—Jason Crites.

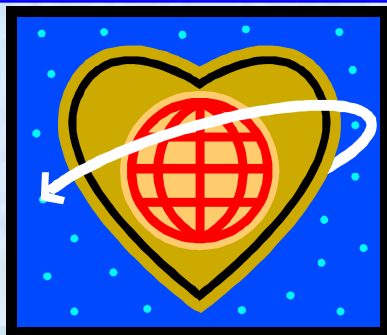
Jackson Kennedy is graduating with honors from Monterey High School and will be attending the Honors College at Texas Tech University. His major is pre-dental.

Jackson and Sally Kennedy visited about favorite memories of St. John's: "As a child he was an acolyte and fondly recalls going to Wonderful Wednesdays with Evan, Ronnie, Shelby, Jason and Hannah. He liked the many craft projects during VBS and the annual summer musical. Jackson looked forward to church camp at Ceta Canyon every year. The All-Church picnic at the Goodloe's continues to be one of his favorite St. John's activities. When I asked him about his six years in the youth program, he said he most enjoyed the time spent with all of his friends. The trip to Sager Brown, Louisiana, was especially meaningful. St. John's is also home to his Boy Scout troop. His Eagle Project of refurbishing the playground equipment was something that he enjoyed doing—giving back to a church that had given so much to him."



Shelby Elizabeth Nuckolls is graduating from Monterey High School. She will attend the Honors College at Texas Tech University in the fall. She hopes to attend nursing school and would someday like to work in the NICU.

Shelby's favorite memories of St. John's revolve around the summer musicals that she participated in while in elementary school.



*Open hearts,
Open arms,
Open minds*

*With open hearts, open arms and open minds,
we welcome you to St. John's United Methodist
Church and invite you to join our community
of faith, for a day, a week or a lifetime.*

**Weekly Sunday
Opportunities**

- 8:15 a.m. Holy Communion
- 9:00 a.m. Fellowship Time
- 9:15 a.m. Sunday School Hour
- 10:15 a.m. Fellowship Time
- 10:30 a.m. Worship Service
- 5:30 p.m. United Methodist Youth

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806-762-0123
fax: 806-762-0130

Email: openminds@stjohnslubbock.org
Web: www.stjohnslubbock.org

Saint John's Staff

- Senior Pastor: Archie Echols
- Associate Pastor: Daniel Echols
- Associate Pastor: Ann Akin
- Pastor Emeritus: Ted Dotts
- Minister of Christian Ed.: David Cameron
- Dir. of Music Ministries: Kathryn Zetterstrom
- Organist: Roy Wilson
- Business Manager: Dennis Howard
- Facilities Supervisor: Cedric Robins
- Childcare Director: Trisha Castillo
- Admin. Asst./Editor: Mary Ruth Thurmond

PASTOR'S NOTE



Change is taking place around St John's. First, Donna Lindley left our staff after many years of faithful service. As you may have heard, she will begin serving Kress United Methodist Church on July 1. And now this is Kathryn Zetterstrom's last Sunday with us, after 14 years on our staff. She is to be married this summer and will move to Dallas. Next Sunday, May 29, is Roy Wilson's last Sunday. He has chosen to retire due to some health issues, after years of playing our wonderful organ. Also, our new summer youth intern, Matt Bell, will join our staff this Sunday. This list of change does not include all of the lay people who are moving away (Brad, Devon, Keldon and Haley Cook, the seniors who are graduating, etc.) and the new members (and babies) who have joined. Nor does it include the many missions and ministries which are new to us.

Do we have a choice concerning change? It seems to me that the answer is "yes and no."

Physically we must change. We have no other choice. How sad if we all remained a small baby all of our lives. And the choice to resist change seems more and more limited as we start looking more like our parents. But we may have some choice in what that change may look like...by what we eat and how we exercise and how we address our illnesses.

Mentally we must change. Life and experiences cause us to grow in our understandings of how life works and what we know and don't know. It is almost impossible to "stay behind" and not move with history. But again, we have some choice in our mental growth as we choose schools and books and persons with which to share.

Emotionally we must change. The joys and sorrows of life continue to shape us. But again we may have a choice about our emotional growth by receiving care and counseling from others and constantly staying in touch with God's love for us.

Spiritually we must change. St. Paul says we must move from milk to meat. We do start out with grace, affirming our worth and hope through the undeniable love of God. But we must soon move to issues of justice and being called to be the body of Christ. Living in the overwhelming love of God will finally move us to being that love for the world.

So we are called to welcome change, as hard as it may be. In the midst of our sadness over the loss of members and staff that are dear to us, may we celebrate what the possibilities are for their new lives. (Donna getting to preach, Kathryn getting married, Roy having a chance to heal, etc.) And may we celebrate what the new opportunities are for us. Mary Ruth has come to be among us. The youth are anticipating Matt being here all summer. The music ministry of our church is nervously excited about where we go from here. May you welcome the changes that are coming in your life and keep your mind and eyes open to their possibilities.

Grace and peace

Archie

Lectionary Scripture Readings

- May 22: Acts 7:55-60; Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16; 1 Peter 2:2-10; John 14:1-14
- May 29: Acts 17:22-31; Psalm 66:8-20; 1 Peter 3:13-22; John 14:15-21

From the Editor: Thank you to Jason and Mary Crites, Jackson and Sally Kennedy, Shelby and Sarah Nuckolls, Archie Echols, Mary Jane Hurst, David Cameron, Craig Rutherford, Leslie Cranford, Debra and Monya Castle, Cindy Martin, VelvetLee Finckbone, and Daniel Echols for their contributions to the newsletter. Please let me know if you have any news for the Explorer. **Next newsletter deadline: May 27.** Later! mrt

If you know of any St. John's church members going into the hospital, please contact the church office at 762-0123 or openminds@stjohnslubbock.org.

If you have changed your phone #, home or e-mail address, call the church office.

News from SPRC

Mary Jane Hurst
SPRC Chair

Farewell Reception – Sunday, May 22

Immediately following the 10:30 service on Sunday, May 22, please plan to attend a farewell reception in the Garden Room for Kathryn Zetterstrom and for Roy Wilson.

As Kathryn explained in an *Explorer* column last month, May 22 will be her last Sunday at Saint John’s after 23 years with us. For 14 of those years, she has served as Director of Music Ministries. Kathryn will be getting married this summer and, along with Henrik and Espen, will be moving to Flower Mound, Texas. They will all be greatly missed.

As Roy explained in an *Explorer* column earlier this month, his Parkinson’s diagnosis necessitates his request to retire as of May 29, though he has graciously agreed to continue playing to the extent possible until a new organist is found. Roy has been playing the organ in church for more than 60 years, and has been with us at Saint John’s for the past 13 years. He will be greatly missed.

No reception could adequately express our love and our gratitude to Roy or to Kathryn for their talents, their dedication, and their ministry over many years at Saint John’s, but this reception will at least provide an opportunity for members of the congregation to honor and speak personally with Roy and with Kathryn.

Expressions of appreciation can be sent individually to Kathryn and to Roy. The circumstances of their departures are different, but we are united in extending our thanks and our best wishes to Kathryn, her fiancé, Jeff Kendall, Henrik, and Espen, and to Roy and his wife Jane Ann Wilson.

More Transition News from SPRC

On Sunday, May 22, we will welcome Matt Bell to Saint John’s for a summer internship as Youth Leader. Matt grew up in Meadow and has just completed his sophomore year at McMurry, where he is majoring in English. An RA in the residence halls, Matt has also been a leader in varsity athletics and in the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, among his many activities. He also recently traveled to China and to Haiti. Matt was selected for the youth position at Saint John’s after interviews with Saint John’s pastors, youth, youth sponsors, youth parents, and SPRC members.

Thanks for Your Support of Our Nursery Shower!

Thanks for your wonderful response and items purchased by the Children’s Council, the items on the gift registry at Target have been obtained for our church nursery!

We still need children’s DVDs (either new or used would be greatly appreciated).

Important News from the Missions Committee



May will be canned meat and soup month for our food collection for HOPE Shalom. If each household could bring at least one can, we can make an appreciable contribution. Thank you!

FYI: June will be peanut butter month!

Wednesday, June 1, from 5:45-6:15 p.m., we will hold a prayer vigil in our parking lot in protest of the death penalty.

Spirit Wind 2011 Summer Tour Housing

St. John’s is privileged to be hosting Spirit Wind, the North-west Texas Methodist Conference Youth Choir, for its summer tour performance, Friday, June 17, at 6:00 p.m. St. John’s youth participating in this year’s choir are **Madison Dickey, Chandler Dickey, Gini Woodard** and **Henrik Zetterstrom**. **Jay Sedberry** is this year’s tour administrator.

Spirit Wind lodging is congregation-based. There are about 35 people for whom we will need volunteer housing. The performers are high-school age and come from all over West Texas. Housing volunteers will pick up their choir members at the church after the concert, and return them early Saturday morning at a time to be announced.

If you have extra space in your house that you would share with some of these talented young people for one night, whether it’s two people or more, please contact Leslie Cranford at 791-2528 or call the office at 762-0123.



Happy June Birthdays! The Nurture and Care Committee has requested that we publish each month’s birthdays. If you are not listed, please call the church office and tell us your birthday. **(We promise that we won’t ask for the year!)**

- | | | | |
|---------|--------------------|---------|-------------------|
| June 1 | Jeffrey Hutson | June 14 | Vince Gonzales |
| June 4 | Shelby Nuckolls | | Ginny Riggs |
| June 6 | Espen Zetterstrom | | Allison Sessom |
| June 7 | Libby Caranfa | June 16 | Kaya Larsen |
| | Christopher Krebbs | June 17 | Sally Kennedy |
| June 8 | Leslie Cox | June 18 | Natalya Pappas |
| | Kensie Mason | June 23 | Isaac Echols |
| June 9 | Jackson Kennedy | June 26 | Benjamin Johnston |
| | Roger Saathoff | | Laura Johnston |
| June 12 | Rod Krebbs | June 28 | Micah Pappas |
| | | | David Robertson |

Statistics Concerning St. John's Neighborhood Gatherings

Neighborhood #6: Between Indiana and University, and 19th and 34th Streets. Host family: Mary and Darrell Vines. Number in attendance: 16. **Neighborhood #7:** Between Slide and Indiana, and 50th and 66th Streets. Host family: Martha and Jay Bagby. Number in attendance: 5. **Neighborhood #8:** South of 34th between Indiana and University, and west of Indiana between 50th and Loop 289. Host family: Nancy and Bruce Cammack. Number in attendance: 12. **Neighborhood #9:** South of Spur 327, west of Slide. Host family: Elaine and Larry Howard. Number in attendance: 16. **Neighborhood #10:** Between Slide and Indiana, and 66th and 82nd Streets. Host family: Cathy and Harvey Morton. Number in attendance: 11. **Neighborhood #11:** Between Slide and Indiana, south of 82nd Street. Host family: Sally and Jeff Kennedy. Number in attendance: 14

The following neighborhoods did not have a gathering this time: **Neighborhood #1:** North of 4th Street; **Neighborhood #2:** West of Slide between 4th Street and Spur 327. Host family: Wendy and Lance Dixon; **Neighborhood #3:** Between Slide and Indiana, south of 4th Street, north of Martha Sharp Freeway; **Neighborhood #4:** East of University between 4th and 50th Streets. Host family: Mary and Roy Turner; **Neighborhood #5:** Between Slide and Indiana, south of Marsha Sharp Freeway, north of 50th Street.

Responses to these questions: What brought you to St. John's? What keeps you at St. John's? Caring, welcoming, size; someone invited them, making them feel welcome and wanted, the Fisherman's Club (a group of men that made visits weekly); worship, music program, open minds, friendliness; University, reconciling position, female pastors, mission programs, fine music, children's chimes, legal clinic, Family Promise, food vouchers, social concerns emphasis, eager greeters, choir.

Concerns expressed during their visits: Hiring of new organist and choir director; appearance of grounds, variety in music while remaining true to traditional worship, follow-up on changing attendance patterns, signage inside church, applause during worship—when and what is acceptable.

Responses to how St. John's could better serve them and their family: Record music for distribution, develop a marketing program to tell people about SJUMC, staff person at the district office who would be responsible for logistics of church mission trips; more details for congregation concerning missions, more clearly define areas of need at St. John's and for care of homeless, mission summaries in worship services, provide "visitor bags" for new visitors, find support for Wonderful Wednesday planning, picnic in park for the neighborhood, involve University students in worship, focus on University students, analyze lack of cooperation between Wesley Foundation and St. John's, and more communications on campus.

Date for next St. John's Neighbors: Sunday, October 16.

Watch for more articles concerning these initial gatherings of St. John's Neighbors!

Opening for Sager Brown Volunteers in Mission Team

September 11-16, 2011

Work in the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) Depot sorting and packing supplies for shipment to persons in need because of natural or human-made disasters. UMCOR serves in 81 countries of the world.

Each year more than 3,000 volunteers go to Sager Brown to give of their time and talents, making this worldwide outreach possible.

Volunteers also needed to help with community projects, provide maintenance around the campus, or work in the sewing room making needed supplies.

Registration deadline: July 1

For more information contact David or Sarah Cameron.



Vacation Bible School

Shake it up Café is June 21-24, only four weeks away! Please contact VelvetLee Finckbone to help. Desperately needed: music leaders, a craft leader, preschool helpers, recreation leaders, a Discovery Time helper, shepherds, and youth volunteers. Please prayerfully consider volunteering for this important opportunity to serve God. We can't put on a successful VBS without the help of wonderful volunteers!!

You may also contribute towards our supplies and snacks. We are looking for items to create a café setting: realistic looking fake foods, such as fruits, breads, desserts, etc., that we might borrow, so if you have any ideas, please let us know. Finally, we need contact paper, and please save paper towel rolls for us, too. Registration forms will come out soon.



We hope to see all the children of St. John's attend VBS this year. Please invite your friends, neighbors, grandkids, nieces/nephews, coworkers, etc.!



Welcome to the Castle family!

Pictured left to right are Debra, Matt, Monya, Evan, Gavin, and Kyle Castle.

Debra is Matt's mom. She works part-time for Hallmark Cards. Debra enjoys gardening. She was looking for a new church home, and a friend who is a master gardener attends here. Debra is excited about the church garden. She finds St. John's to be warm and inviting, not just a university church, and she likes the traditional service.

Matt works at UMC, and Monya works for TTU. They enjoy playing with the kids, gardening, and yard work. Matt likes computers and golf. Monya enjoys cooking and photography. Kyle is interested in music, Gavin likes sports, and Evan is into trucks and trains. They were also looking for a church, and St. John's makes them feel accepted as they are; they don't have to be a certain way to be a part of the church. They find the people of St. John's friendly and good at remembering names.



Family Work Day at the St. John's Playground



**All-Church Discussion on Reconciling Ministries
Sunday, June 26, 1:00 p.m. in the Garden Room**

Grab some lunch after worship and join us on June 26 (childcare will be provided), as the Reconciling Ministries Committee continues our church-wide discussion on the possibilities for expanding our ministries with gay and lesbian persons in the Lubbock area. Most of you are aware that St. John's voted to become a Reconciling Congregation in 1998 after four years of study and discussion and prayer. Our resulting Statement of Reconciliation proclaims,

We affirm that through God's redeeming love for all, we are one in Christ. We respect the inherent and valuable contributions each member makes to the Body of Christ. We celebrate our diversity and recognize the sacred worth and dignity of all persons regardless of sexual orientation, gender, race, age, ethnicity, physical or mental capacity, education, or economic or marital status.

As we journey toward reconciliation, we proclaim this statement of welcome to all who have known the pain of exclusion and discrimination within the church. We welcome all persons to full participation in the life and ministries of St. John's United Methodist Church... "All this is from God, who reconciled us...through Christ and who gives us the ministry of reconciliation." [The full Statement can be found in the sanctuary pews or outside the church office. Our website also includes the statement within the reconciling journey booklet written by Bobby McMillan.]

This reconciling commitment stands in accord with St. John's long and faithful ministry to persons or groups that have been marginalized by the church and/or society. It has inspired St. John's to welcome PFLAG groups, to receive many gay and lesbian persons into membership, and to baptize their children.

We ask ourselves now to consider what else we are called to do, including the possibility of offering marriage ceremonies within the bounds of United Methodist Church law. Such ceremonies are being offered more each year from churches across the nation and world.

Some would say we have gotten a bit comfortable and "out of shape" in our reconciling theology and ministry. If that is true, then these discussions could serve us well to revive and strengthen our passion for welcoming and affirming all persons through Christ's love. Indeed, such ministry is challenging and requires courage and resilience.

This gathering is part of our ongoing discussions that began this spring at Wonderful Wednesdays.

- We also invite each Sunday School Class to have their own discussion, with representatives from the Reconciling Ministries Committee available to help facilitate.
- We will also offer another discussion meeting early this fall.

We want to be faithful to our Methodist "conferencing" tradition by *inviting everyone* to be a part of this important consideration. We hope you will join your voice with the wider body of St. John's voices to speak the powerful news of God's love for all.

Grace and Peace, Rev. Daniel Echols, Sharla Boyd,
and the Reconciling Ministries Committee

**The Wesley Foundation
at Texas Tech Presents:**



METHODIST MASTERS GOLF TOURNAMENT
In partnership with the Lubbock District of the Northwest Texas Conference, Saturday, July 9, 2011, 8:00 AM, at Shadow Hills Golf Course, Lubbock. For more information, please call 762-8749 or go to www.ttuwesley.org.

Pictorial Directory Update

113 families photographed
To date: 11 pictures submitted

Layout deadline: June 1
Coordinating layout: Cathy Morton and Cindy Martin

Projected arrival of directory: Mid-summer

Persons having picture made or submitting one will be notified to pick their directory up at the church office.

UMW May/June Events



The Dora Harris Circle meets
Wednesday, May 25, 9:30 a.m., in
Room 122. The program is "Peace"
and will be led by Ted Dotts.

The Dorothy Manning Circle meets Thursday, May
26, at 6:30 p.m., at Stella's, 4646 50th St.

The UMW will have a business meeting on
Wednesday, June 8, 9:30 a.m., in Room 122.

Soul Sisters Opportunities

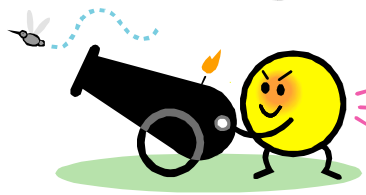
The "Thursday" small group is meeting on **Tuesday**, May 24, at 7:00 p.m., at the home of Donna Chandler, 5001 95th St. "Patience" is the program led by Mary Ruth Thurmond.

The Tuesday small group will meet May 31, at 7:00 p.m., at the home of Lynette Moore, 3905 75th St. The program will be "Forgiveness," facilitated by Leslie Cranford.



IT TAKES A VILLAGE

Only 11 mosquitoes left out of 400! We have already saved 3,800 lives in the Imagine No Malaria campaign!! Way to go, St. John's!!!



James R. Crites, science teacher at Frenship High School, was among six Lubbock County teachers selected to receive the Beaumont Foundation's 2011 Newton Excellence in Education Awards, which include a \$10,000 cash prize. The winners were recognized and presented with \$10,000 checks on May 11 at Texas Tech's Frazier Alumni Pavilion. The Newton Award is named after Frank and Nancy Newton. Frank Newton served as dean of the Texas Tech School of Law from 1985 until 2001 and became the president and chief executive officer of the Beaumont Foundation of America in 2002. Teachers eligible for the Newton Award are required to be full-time classroom teachers who instruct students at public or non-public schools in Lubbock County and have completed five years of teaching experience. Teachers are nominated by schools and individuals, and nominees are required to complete an application packet for consideration. The Excellence in Education awards are part of the Beaumont Foundation's ongoing commitment to support education and were created to celebrate and recognize superior contributions of teachers whose leadership and dedication inspire a spirit of learning in students, according to the foundation's website.

A note from **Jamie Sorley**: I am pleased to announce that I will graduate from the SMU Dedman School of Law, Saturday, May 14. Thank you to my St. John's family for your support and prayers during this adventure!

Here's to our own **Kate Floyd and her family**! Kate will marry Kyle Tau on May 21, in Decatur, Georgia. Her ordination is on June 14. Kate has been appointed to Grace United Methodist Church in Atlanta. (To read her thought-provoking essay on the assassination of Osama Bin Laden, see <http://www.holycovenantumc.org/may-4-reflection-how-will-we-respond/>)

Come see "The Music Man," Friday, May 20, at the Monterey High School Auditorium, at 7:00 p.m. Tickets are available at the door: \$5 for adults and \$3 for students. General admission. Starring (from St. John's youth): **Jackson Kennedy** as Harold Hill, **Shelby Nuckolls** as Marion the Librarian and **MacKenzie Nuckolls** as Amaryllis. All are welcome! Bring a friend!!

Don Hicks has been recognized by Covenant Hospital for his 25 years there as part of the nursing staff.

Coming Up at Youth!

Sunday, May 22

Senior and Junior Highs meeting at the Reeves' home to celebrate the promotion of the 6th and 9th graders

LOOKING AHEAD

May 29, No UMY – Memorial Day Weekend

Church Calendar

Sunday, May 22, 2011

- 8:15 a.m. Communion Service
- 9:15 a.m. Sunday School Hour
- 10:30 a.m. Worship Service
- 11:30 a.m. Reception for Kathryn, Roy, Matt, and Seniors
- 11:30 a.m. Children's Council
- 5:30 p.m. United Methodist Youth
- 6:00 p.m. Disciple IV Bible Study

Monday, May 23, 2011

- 5:30 p.m. Literacy Lubbock
- 7:30 p.m. Scouts

Tuesday, May 24, 2011

- 8:45 a.m. Staff Meeting
- 12:00 p.m. Interfaith Dialogue
- 12:45 p.m. Sanctuary Time for FV Clients
- 1:30 p.m. Food Voucher Program
- 5:30 p.m. Legal Clinic

Wednesday, May 25, 2011

- 9:30 a.m. UMW Dora Harris Circle
- 6:00 p.m. Disciple I Class
- 6:00 p.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry
- 6:00 p.m. Chrismon Workshop
- 6:15 p.m. Theology Group
- 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, May 26, 2011

- 9:30 a.m. Quilters
- 5:30 p.m. Finance Committee
- 6:30 p.m. UMW Dorothy Manning Circle, at Stella's Restaurant, 4646 50th St.

Sunday, May 29, 2011

- 8:15 a.m. Communion Service
- 9:15 a.m. Sunday School Hour
- 10:30 a.m. Worship Service
- 5:30 p.m. NO UMY

Monday, May 30, 2011

OFFICE CLOSED FOR MEMORIAL DAY

- 5:30 p.m. Literacy Lubbock
- 7:30 p.m. Scouts

Tuesday, May 31, 2011

- 8:45 a.m. Staff Meeting
- 12:45 p.m. Sanctuary Time for FV Clients
- 1:30 p.m. Food Voucher program

Wednesday, June 1, 2011

- 6:00 p.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry
- 6:00 p.m. Chrismon Workshop
- 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, June 2, 2011

- 7:30 a.m. United Methodist Men's Breakfast
- 9:30 a.m. Quilters



All-church Reception!



Please join us on Sunday, May 22, after the 10:30 a.m. worship service for an all-church reception. Come to reminisce and laugh with Kathryn Zetterstrom and Roy Wilson, give them your thanks, say goodbye, and wish them all the best. We also welcome Matt Bell, our summer youth intern, and we recognize and congratulate our graduating seniors, Shelby Nuckolls, Jackson Kennedy, and Jason Crites.

*St. John's United Methodist Church
Mission Statement*
*The mission of St. John's United Methodist Church is to worship and
serve God with open hearts, open arms, and open minds. To respond to this
calling, we will nurture each other in the Christian faith, we will work so
that all people can experience God's love, and we will examine critically
and respond prayerfully to the difficult issues that face us.*



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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THE EXPLORER

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