

ST. JOHN'S

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



— *The Explorer* —

Volume 6, Issue 9

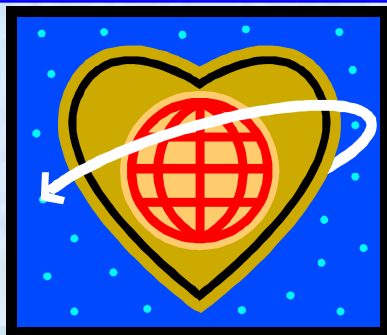
Website: <http://www.stjohnslubbock.org>

May 5, 2011

Easter Sunday—He is risen! He is risen indeed!

Photographs from VelvetLee Finckbone





*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
5:30 p.m. United Methodist Youth

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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



How does one respond to the death of Osama Bin Laden? There is a thread of hope that his death might trigger a decline in terror throughout the world. Also, maybe those of us who have been targeted by his organization may feel a little safer. And, perhaps much of the Muslim world will be happy, because he has caused so much of the world to misunderstand and mistrust Muslims. These are my prayers.

But I fear that they will not be fulfilled. I fear that an increase in terrorism will happen in reaction to his death. I fear that the hatred that fuels terrorism has not been addressed. I fear that the actions and attitudes that cause such a hatred have not been healed.

I do know that any rejoicing which I feel would come more from his capture than from his death. Revenge is not a healthy thing, nor is it Christlike. Seeking justice is a part of God's hope for the world, but wishing someone dead is the opposite of forgiveness. Here is a quote from Martin Luther King, Jr. which someone shared with me:

"I mourn the loss of thousands of precious lives, but will not rejoice in the death of one, not even an enemy."

I am sickened at the hatred and violence from us that has been accepted as normal. T-shirts which wish him sent to hell remind me of similar signs I have seen concerning hatred toward gays and lesbians. How healing it would be if in the midst of our rejoicing we could mourn with Osama Bin Laden's family and friends the loss of his life. It might seem out of character for Americans, but not for Christians. Surely there is no rejoicing from God over this loss of God's child.

Grace and Peace

Archie

Lectionary Scripture Readings

May 8: Acts 2:14a, 36-41; Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19;
1 Peter 1:17-23; Luke 24:13-35

May 15: Acts 2:42-47; Psalm 23; 1 Peter 2:19-25; John 10:1-10

From the Editor: May I always be so blessed.... There are so many wonderful people to thank for contributing to this newsletter. Thank you to VelvetLee Finckbone, Archie Echols, Dimitri Pappas, Brian Shannon, David Cameron, Emily Sharp, Roy Wilson, Leilani Fillhard, and the best Merry Mailers in the world! This doesn't happen without your help and input. Please let me know if you have anything to share in our next newsletter.

Next newsletter deadline: May 13.

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.**

...A Rose by Any Other Name...

You may have noticed something different in the Sunday bulletin as of late. Our bulletin now states that we are "Affiliated with the Reconciling Ministries Network" instead of "A Reconciling Congregation." You will see the same change on the church's website as well. This change was made to better align ourselves with the requirements of the United Methodist Church that congregations and conferences cannot identify themselves as anything but Methodist. For the past 12 years, St. Johns has operated outside of this guideline, even though the Reconciling Congregations have already renamed themselves the Reconciling Ministries Network to fall in step with UMC guidelines. Our adopted language is modeled after St. Mark's UMC in Atlanta, a recently joined member of the Reconciling Ministries Network. We are still a congregation that endeavors to keep an open mind and accept everyone into this church. It has been a challenging journey, and one that is far from finished. I want to stress that, in adopting this new language of how we identify ourselves, nothing about St. John's attitude or ministries has or will change.

Grace and Peace,

Dimitri Pappas
Chair of the Church Council

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!

Teacher Appreciation Dinner

Wednesday, May 11

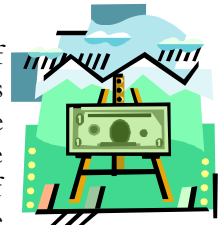
6:00 p.m.

Garden Room

Meal by My Lips Are Sealed

Guest Speaker: Holly Betenbough

Finance News



One of the recommendations that came out of the "Five Practices" initiative from last fall was to provide more information to the congregation about church finances during the year. Another was to resume the practice of providing quarterly giving statements. The statements for the first quarter of 2011 were sent out to members in the last few weeks. We hope this information will be helpful as you prayerfully consider your giving throughout the year. If you did not receive your statement, please contact the church office.

In the good news category, pledges were up considerably for this year compared with 2010. We are very grateful to members of the congregation who either pledged for the first time or took a "step up" in terms of increasing a pledge from the year before. We will still have budget challenges this year, nonetheless. At the April meeting we voted to recommend a budget that has a modest deficit (approximately \$18,400), and will require efforts and requests for additional giving to cover all of our shared giving responsibilities (formerly known as apportionments). But, the budget as proposed has a much smaller deficit than originally anticipated, and the final recommendations were made only after a careful analysis of the members' pledges. Also, the church faces higher utility costs this year, but has kept staff salaries at last year's levels. In addition, the proposed budget is consistent with actual giving (both pledged and non-pledged offerings) for the first quarter of the year. The Finance Committee will closely track both giving and expenses throughout the remainder of the year, and provide you with periodic updates.

UMCOR Responds to U.S. Spring Storms 2011

Tuscaloosa, Alabama, was devastatingly hit by a mile-wide, swirling tornado on April 27, 2011, after some 200 tornadoes had already plummeted through eight southern states just days before. News reports said the outbreak was considered the deadliest in U.S. history. It battered the south, leaving a swath of destruction that killed more than 300 people in six states, flattened homes and businesses, and caused billions of dollars of damage. Alabama was the hardest-hit state, with an estimated 213 deaths.



UMCOR has responded with 12 emergency grants to assist affected annual conferences with relief and recovery efforts. Six of the affected conferences requested immediate disaster preparedness training that includes spiritual and emotional care of survivors.

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You Can Help Storm Survivors

- ◆ Collect a special offering, as U.S. disaster funds are running very low.
- ◆ Assemble Cleaning Buckets to help people begin the overwhelming job of cleaning up.
- ◆ Give to Material Resources, Advance #901440, to purchase needed supplies.

HOW TO GIVE: Give to U.S. Spring Storms 2011, UMCOR Emergency Advance #3021326. Please write the Advance # and project name on the memo line of your check.

Homeless...In Black and White A Traveling Exhibit

Liz Parke Photography is featured in a new exhibit aimed at bringing a fresh awareness of Lubbock's homeless community and those who care for them. Featuring the clients and caregivers of St. Benedict's Chapel, black and white photographs are exhibited along with statements from caregivers pinpointing their motivations to help the homeless and poor.

St. Benedict's is an ecumenical, faith-based ministry which serves meals every day of the week, offers a Sunday worship service, and connects clients to community resources. Participating caregivers include St. Christopher's, St. Paul's, and St. Stephen's Episcopal churches, Monterey Church of Christ, First Christian Church, Second Baptist Church, the Cast Iron Grill and many faithful donors.

In 2010 - 2011, the traveling exhibit will be on display at the above venues. If your group is interested in hosting this exhibit, please contact Emily Sharp at 806-441-3279. Individual prints available through Liz Parke Photography. lizparkephotography.ifp3.com



Vacation Bible School

Shake it up Café is June 21-24, only nine weeks away! Please contact VelvetLee Finckbone to help. Desperately needed: music leaders, a craft leader, story-time leaders, pre-school 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!!

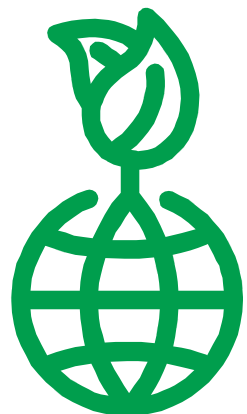
You may also contribute towards our supplies and snacks. We are looking for items to create a café setting: realistic looking fake foods, such as fruits, breads, desserts, etc., that we might borrow, so if you have any ideas, please let us know. Finally, we need contact paper, and please save paper towel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



GOING GREEN!

From the Missions Committee: Striving to be faithful stewards of all that God has entrusted to us, we have begun phasing out Styrofoam and plastic ware; therefore, there will be SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES on Wednesday nights and Potluck Sundays! Communicate your desire to serve to Craig Rutherford. The next opportunities are Wednesday, May 11, at 7:15 p.m., after the Teacher Appreciation Dinner, and Sunday, May 22, after the reception for the Seniors. Thanks!





Welcome, Paige Furgerson and Mitchel and Rick Sawyer!

Paige and Rick are engaged to be married on June 18! Paige is a second grade teacher at Roscoe Wilson, and Rick is the chemical manager at the TTU physical plant. They both enjoy renovating their new home, gardening, and reading. Paige likes to travel, too. Mitchel goes to Coronado and likes golf, video games, and watching movies, especially comedies. What they like best about St. John's is the openness and friendliness of the people. They have felt welcome since they walked in the door. They think that St. John's is a feel good place.

The Easter Brunch Bunch



Funday for Retirees, Wednesday, May 18

Ladies, wear your spring hats if you wish!

Every 3rd Wednesday of the month
9:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.



Great fellowship, food and rousing games of your choice! Open to anyone that would like to spend the morning with a great group of retirees!

Lunch: \$5.00 per person catered by My Lips Are Sealed.

Advance reservations requested for the meal so we know how to order.

Senior Recognition Day
May 22, 2011

Celebration Breakfast at the Abbe's Home, 4607 23rd St., 8:45 a.m.

Breakfast is for seniors and their adult family members.

Special Recognition at the 10:30 a.m. Worship Service.



Please plan to wear your cap and gown for the 10:30 worship service, and to be part of the closing processional.

Please let Sally Abbe know how many will attend breakfast and the service. Phone: 806-470-4602. E-mail: sabbe@mylubbock.us.



Reception honoring Kathryn Zetterstrom and Roy Wilson

Following the 10:30 a.m. worship service on Sunday, May 22, we will have a reception for Kathryn and Roy. Please plan to be here to give a great send-off to Kathryn, Henrik, and Espen, and to give Roy and Jane Ann your best wishes for a happy retirement!



United Methodist Men's Breakfast
Saturday, May 7, 9:30 a.m.

Lubbock Church Women United

celebrates Friendship Day, Friday, May 6, 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m., at First United Methodist Church, 1411 13th St.

The theme is "Living our friendship, passing on the key." Carolyn Sowell will speak on "Warm Pleasure—Special Treasure," about quilts that were quilted during the Civil War, in honor of the 150th anniversary of the Civil War.

Please use the 13th Street parking lot, south of the building, and enter through the door by the drive through to the Christian Life Center, Room 106-107.

Lunch is \$5 at 11:40. Bring your coins for the Fellowship of the Least Coin Offering.

UMW May Events

The General Meeting/Luncheon and the Dora Harris Circle meet Wednesday, May 11 and May 25, respectively, at 9:30 a.m. This month's program is "Making peace with Mother Earth" and will be led by Mary Vines.

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



Soul Sisters Opportunities

Thursday, May 5, 7:00 p.m.

Home of Donna Echols, 5723 78th St.
"Patience" led by Mary Ruth Thurmond

Saturday, May 7, 9:30 a.m., Garden Room
Spring Hats Off to You Brunch
All welcome!

Saturday, May 14, 9:30 a.m., Room 212
"Forgiveness" facilitated by Megan Comiskey
(Nursery available)

Tuesday, May 31, 7:00 p.m.
Home of Lynette Moore, 3905 75th St.
"Forgiveness" facilitated by Leslie Cranford

Bunco Night Coming Soon!

IT TAKES A VILLAGE

Dear St. John's Congregation:

As you may have heard, I have a definitive diagnosis of Parkinson's Disease, something I have suspected for a couple of years. My left side, particularly the left hand and left foot have not been "behaving" musically, and Dr. Ahmad Sabouni has made the diagnosis of left lateral rigidity, one of the diagnostic symptoms of Parkinson's. He does not expect this to improve; my playing has become inaccurate. The rigidity has begun to move to my right side now.



I have submitted my resignation as of May 29, 2011.

I have enjoyed my almost 13 years at St. John's; the choir and you, the congregation, have been a thrill to play for, and supportive of my musical gifts.

I know my physical problems will not get better and I want to resign while I am still appreciated. I know I will grieve over the loss of the wonderful St. John's Holtkamp organ, but I also know that people heal and go on living, and I expect that to happen with me also.

I am proud to have been related to a Reconciling Congregation, and I pray that the church will grow and mature in that endeavor.

Sincerely,

Roy Wilson

Coming Up at Youth!

Sunday, May 8, Mother's Day
Celebrate your Mom! No UMY this Sunday!!

LOOKING AHEAD

May 13, Junior High Lock-in to welcome the 6th graders.

Junior High will not meet on Sunday after lock-in.

May 15, Senior Highs go to Spanky's to celebrate graduating Seniors.

May 22, Senior and Junior Highs meeting at the Reeve's home to celebrate the promotion of the 6th and 9th Graders

May 29, No Youth – Memorial Day Weekend

Church Calendar

Sunday, May 8, 2011

- 8:15 a.m. Communion Service
- 9:15 a.m. Sunday School Hour
- 10:30 a.m. Worship Service
- 11:30 a.m. University Meal
- 5:30 p.m. United Methodist Youth
- 6:00 p.m. Disciple IV Bible Study

Monday, May 9, 2011

- 12:00 p.m. Education Committee
- 5:30 p.m. Literacy Lubbock
- 7:30 p.m. Scouts

Tuesday, May 10, 2011

- 8:45 a.m. Staff Meeting
- 12:45 p.m. Sanctuary Time for FV Clients
- 1:30 p.m. Food Voucher Program
- 2:00 p.m. Appointments for Pictorial Directory
- 5:30 p.m. Legal Clinic
- 5:30 p.m. Trustees Meeting

Wednesday, May 11, 2011

- 9:30 a.m. UMW General Meeting/Luncheon
- 2:00 p.m. Appointments for Pictorial Directory
- 6:00 p.m. Teacher Appreciation Banquet
- 6:00 p.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry
- 6:00 p.m. Chrismon Workshop
- 6:00 p.m. Disciple I Class
- 6:15 p.m. Theology Group
- 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, May 12, 2011

- 9:30 a.m. Quilters
- 2:00 p.m. Appointments for Pictorial Directory

Friday, May 13, 2011

- 2:00 p.m. Appointments for Pictorial Directory

Saturday, May 14, 2011

- 9:00 a.m. Appointments for Pictorial Directory

Sunday, May 15, 2011

- 8:15 a.m. Communion Service
- 9:15 a.m. Sunday School Hour
- 10:30 a.m. Worship Service
- 11:30 a.m. University Meal
- 5:30 p.m. United Methodist Youth
- 6:00 p.m. Disciple IV Bible Study

Monday, May 16, 2011

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

Tuesday, May 17, 2011

- 8:45 a.m. Staff Meeting
- 12:45 p.m. Sanctuary Time for FV Clients
- 1:30 p.m. Food Voucher program
- 7:00 p.m. PFLAG

Wednesday, May 18, 2011

- 9:00 a.m. Funday for Retirees
- 6:00 p.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry
- 6:00 p.m. Chrismon Workshop
- 6:00 p.m. Disciple I Class
- 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, May 19, 2011

- 9:30 a.m. Quilters
- 7:00 p.m. South Plains Astronomy Club

Pictorial Directory Time!



Call the church office for more information about our St. John's Pictorial Directory published by Olan Mills Church Directories.

Photography sessions are here at the church, Tuesday-Friday, May 10-13, from 2:00-9:20 p.m. and Saturday, May 14, from 9:30 a.m.-5:10 p.m.

Each family photographed will receive a free 8x10 color portrait and a free church pictorial directory.

It's your option whether or not you buy pictures.

Make our church directory complete with your family!!

*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

St. John's United Methodist Church
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(806) 762-0123

THE EXPLORER

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