

ST. JOHN'S

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



— *The Explorer* —

Volume 6, Issue 13

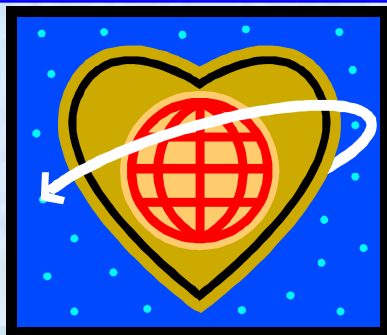
Website: <http://www.stjohnslubbock.org>

June 30, 2011

Vacation Bible School 2011

Shake it up!





**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
(Senior High)

1501 University Ave.
Lubbock, TX 79401
806-762-0123
fax: 806-762-0130

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

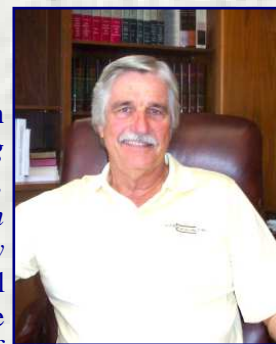
Saint John's Staff

Senior Pastor: Archie Echols
Associate Pastor: Daniel Echols
Associate Pastor: Ann Akin
Pastor Emeritus: Ted Dotts
Minister of Christian Ed.: David Cameron
Business Manager: Dennis Howard
Facilities Supervisor: Cedric Robins
Childcare Director: Trisha Castillo
Youth Summer Intern: Matt Bell
Admin. Asst./Editor: Mary Ruth Thurmond

**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.**

PASTOR'S NOTE



Worship is a critical part of a church's life. Although there is a much larger vision of the church: *making disciples, healing a hurting world, fighting for justice, teaching the youth and children, bringing reconciliation to those who are broken and rejected, feeding the hungry and housing the homeless*, worship becomes the central expression of faith and community. There may be some small churches which are very limited in what kind of ministry they are able to offer. However, every community which is called a "church" has some sort of expression of worship, if it does nothing else at all.

There are two questions of worship which have been bouncing around in my brain for a while. "Is worship for us or for God?" is the first question. The very title, "worship", implies that we are gathered to praise and adore God. The hymns, "Holy, Holy, Holy" and "O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing" and "How Great Thou Art," are all directed to God. Our prayers and petitions are directed to God. The offering is a symbol of our sacrifice to God. Certainly God is the central focus of what we do in worship. Let us not forget that we are in church to "worship" God. But... each person who leaves worship subtly asks, "What did I get out of this experience. Was I drawn closer to God? Was my soul fed? Do I feel a sense of love and forgiveness for which I hunger? Was I called to live out my faith in service to others? Did I experience a sense of community and acceptance? And so it seems to me that the answer is that worship is for God, we cannot ignore the effect such an experience has on us.

The second question is similar. "Is worship done for us or done by us?" It seems in looking at the Hebrew scriptures, worship was done by others on our behalf. We may have offered some prayers and brought the sacrifices, but it was the priests who offered them and recited holy liturgy. The tradition of the early established church seems to reflect this attitude. The scriptures were read by priests in a language the people did not know; the acts of worship were done by priests in a way that was mysterious and above people's comprehension; the holy areas of the church building were limited to only consecrated persons. And we carry on that tradition in our church... The choir and soloists sing for us, the pastor gives us a monologue/sermon, even the ushers tend to our needs of bulletin and seating and offerings. But... the Hebrew people also sang psalms. They became personal acts of adoration and penitence and emotion and submission. The reformers saw this and opened up the worship to all of us. And so we are not called to come and be entertained. We are called to participate and engage and worship with our voices and bodies and hearts and spirit.

And so I thank you for participating in worship in a special way during July. You have chosen the hymns. They are yours. More than 158 hymns were listed as favorites. Sixty-five of these were your first choice. I am so excited about these hymns being a part of our worship. We will use the piano and sing more than just three hymns. Come and sing and worship.

Grace and Peace

Archie

From the Editor:

Thank you to VelvetLee Finckbone, Archie Echols, Leilani Fillhard, Craig Rutherford, David Cameron, Gloria Hille, Donna Echols, Matt Bell, and Roy Goodloe for submitting items for this issue. Your contributions to the newsletter and suggestions to improve it are always welcome. Please let me know what you think of the recent and ongoing changes.

Next newsletter deadline: July 8.

Later! mrt

OLD MOTHER HUBBARD'S CUPBOARD

Thanks to the food drive launched by Vacation Bible School, your generosity, and the Golden K Kiwanis, St. John's emergency food pantry is looking much better! Golden K Kiwanis brought in 1,076 items for the food and hygiene pantries!! Unfortunately, the pantry is nowhere near full yet.

Summers are tough for needy families. The children are home and don't get free meals served at school. On just one day last week we gave out more than ten bags of pantry food. As faithful stewards of the pantry, we need it to be well-stocked all summer-long. Needed are canned foods (soup, stew, tuna, meat products, fruit), crackers, peanut butter, dry foods, such as spaghetti, noodles, etc., and the sauces to go with them, cereal, and any non-perishable food products. Overflow items will be shared with HOPE Shalom.



If you can help, please bring items to the church. Thank you for your faithfulness in providing for this ministry. Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." (Matthew 25:40)

Lectionary Scripture Readings

July 3: Genesis 24:34-38, 42-29, 58-67; Psalm 45:10-17 or Psalm 72; Romans 7:15-25a; Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

July 10: Genesis 25:19-34; Psalm 119:105-112 or Psalm 25; Romans 8:1-11; Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

Looking Ahead!

Funday for Retirees
Wednesday, July 20

All-Church Potluck
Sunday, July 31

Children's Musical: The Rockslinger and His Greatest Hit
Rehearsals, August 1-5
Dinner and Presentation, Friday, August 5

Roundup 2011
Commit Practice Revive
through a variety of workshops designed to enrich your spiritual journey and equip you for service in the church.

Saturday, August 6, 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.,
at First United Methodist Church, Lubbock.

Register on the website: www.nwtxroundup.org.
Registration cost: Until August 1 = \$30.
After August 1 = \$35.
Lunch included.
Childcare available.
Call FUMC Lubbock at 763-7252.

Important News from the Missions Committee

Fiesta Domingo

Fiesta Domingo is coming up on Sunday, July 3. We need servers at HOPE Shalom (20th St. and Ave. T) at 4:30 p.m. Please call Craig Rutherford at 317-0058 if you can help. We are serving hot dogs, potato salad, and chips.

Prayer Vigils

In July we will have two prayer vigils in protest of the death penalty. The first is Thursday, July 7, for Umberto Leal. The second is Wednesday, July 20, for Mark Stroman. The prayer vigils will be from 5:45-6:15 p.m., in the parking lot.

Check the Missions bulletin board in the southwest corner of the church for updates and more information!

Family Promise returns to St. John's the week of July 17-23

Please sign up on the board outside the sanctuary as soon as possible. Call Jim Clopton (392-2216) or Donna Chandler (928-9801) for more information.



Happy July 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!)**

July 2	Mary Ruth Thurmond	July 14	Katherine Dickey
July 3	Wendy Durbin		Nathan Ferris
	Paul Jones	July 15	Ethan Howard
July 5	Philip Ford		Courtney Ward
	Anya Pappas	July 16	Karlie Kennon
July 7	Rob Scott	July 18	Pansy Burtis
July 8	VelvetLee Finckbone		Madison Garrett
	Rebekah Hastings		Michael Goodloe
	Emily Sessom	July 19	Brooke Allison
	Michael Wofford		Greg Johnston
July 9	Jimmie Arnold	July 22	David Cameron
	Lydia Ferris		Anita Morgan
	Ashley Howard	July 24	Donna Echols
July 10	Sally Abbe	July 25	Sam Loper
	Tawnya Archer		Ian Row
July 13	Joe Hutson		Bill Woodard
		July 29	Kaitlin Krebs

Register for Summer Camps!

July 11-15, Vision (Grades 10-12)
 July 18-22, Crossroads (Grades 7-9)
 July 25-29, Whoz-We-R (Grades 4-5)

Camp fee: \$250, payable to Ceta Canyon. Remember camps are by the 2011 fall grade. David Cameron has forms in his office or you can register online at www.cetacanyon.org. When you register, please notify David so he can help arrange transportation to and from camp.

Acolytes Wanted!

Students entering Fourth or Fifth Grade this fall are invited to join Acolytes this summer. See Mrs. Hille for enrollment and making appointment for training. Students entering Third Grade this fall will be invited to join Acolytes in August.

Summer Rotation Sunday School Schedule

For children completing Kindergarten through Fourth Grade
 (Fifth Graders are meeting with Junior High for the summer.)

Love Your Enemies (June 12-July 17)

Main Idea: Jesus tells us to love and pray for our enemies. It is easy to love people who are nice to us and who love us. Jesus told us to do something harder, to love people who do not show love to us.

Bible Verse: "Treat others just as you want to be treated."
 Luke 6:31 (CEV)

Objectives: Children will have the opportunity to

- ◆ Explore what Christ said about loving enemies
- ◆ Consider nonviolent ways to stand against injustice
- ◆ Practice responding with forgiveness rather than revenge
- ◆ Consider the impact of praying for one's enemies

Peacemakers (July 24-August 28)

Main Idea: Throughout the Bible we read stories of people who tried to bring peace and justice to all of God's people. Their stories inspire us and help us learn how to be peacemakers today.

Bible Verses:
 "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God." Matthew 5:9
 "Let justice roll down like waters." Amos 5:34

Objectives: Children will have the opportunity to

- ◆ Explore how, even in Bible times, being a peacemaker often took courage and skill
- ◆ Learn that peacemaking is based in fairness, justice, equality, and love
- ◆ Make a commitment to being peacemakers in their own homes, schools, and communities

Literacy Lubbock

The following are some facts gathered from Literacy Texas.

1. 93 million American adults, or 45 percent of the adult population, have limited reading, writing and math skills.
2. An estimated 11 million adults in the USA are non-literate in English.
3. 3.8 million adults in Texas are without a high school diploma.
4. 85% of all juveniles who interface with the juvenile court system are functionally illiterate.
5. Illiteracy and crime are closely related.
6. Medication errors, many as the result of misread or misunderstood prescription labels, are the most common medication mistakes, causing up to 7,000 deaths each year.
7. **13 % of Lubbock County** is functionally illiterate.
8. Reading is absolutely fundamental. In our society, the inability to be fluent consigns children to failure in school and consigns adults to the lowest strata of job and life opportunities.
9. One in three adults cannot read this sentence.



You are the key to reducing these numbers. Literacy Lubbock has many opportunities for you to make a difference in Lubbock. Our agency, which is a partner with the United Way, needs volunteers to help in all aspects of our program:

1. Teach someone with learning challenges such as dyslexia, through our Barton Program. We provide training.
2. Teach GED or Accuplacer preparation classes: Math, Language, Science, Reading and Essay Writing
3. Teach English as a Second Language
4. Read to children (once a week) at a local library through our Tiny Tots program.

Literacy Lubbock's vision is to create a more literate community—one person at a time. How will YOU reach out? Will you be the ONE to reach out to a brother or sister? Contact Literacy Lubbock at 806-775-3636, and set an appointment to discuss ways you can become a part of making our community a better place to live.

Please help Literacy Lubbock change lives and improve futures through the immense empowerment of the survival skill of Literacy.

CONTACT:

Nyla Wesner
 Director of Volunteer Programs
 Literacy Lubbock
 1306 9th St.
 Lubbock, Texas 79401
 806-775-3636



Welcome to the Dixon family (and Scooby Doo, too)!

Lance, Kennedy, and Wendy (pictured from left to right) joined on Sunday, June 19, and Kennedy was baptized, too.

Wendy works for Novartis in pharmaceutical sales. Lance is getting his Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology at Texas Tech. He is working at the Probation Office right now.

Lance and Wendy's hobbies include softball, traveling, and playing games. Kennedy likes Scooby-Doo (who doesn't?) and playing dress-up.

Why did the Kennedys come to St. John's? Lance met George Comiskey, and Megan invited them to dinner. Then the Comiskeys invited them to come to church, so they did! And they have been coming ever since. (Good job, George and Megan!) We are glad the Dixons have become so active at St. John's.



VBS was not just fun and games, but it was FUN and there were lots of GAMES! Here's to all the volunteers who made it possible! Thank you!!!



This Cup of Blessing

by Betsey Heavner

From Romans 12 Newsletter, Issue #91
 "We who are many are one body in Christ."

Each Tuesday St. John's United Methodist Church in Lubbock, Texas, opens its doors an hour early and invites people, who come for food vouchers and legal aid, into the sanctuary for quiet prayer and Holy Communion. The sanctuary remains open for prayer and meditation as guests wait for their food voucher number to be called. Each month as many as four hundred people receive food for the soul as well as the body through this ministry.

It all started when the evangelism committee embraced the practice of radical hospitality and reexamined the existing ministries of the congregation. The church has a long established Tuesday program of serving the community through distributing food vouchers and providing legal aid. From the beginning of the ministry, the church determined that the food voucher and legal aid clients would be guests treated with respect; yet the evangelism committee realized that there was an opportunity to offer soul care as well.

The evangelism committee took the lead in organizing a new group of volunteers to offer this additional hospitality for the Tuesday program. The regular committed Tuesday volunteers continued their focus on processing requests for food vouchers and other forms of assistance.

The church has built relationships with many of the Tuesday guests, welcoming them by name and asking about family members. The economic downturn has resulted in an increase in the number of guests, and many bring children with them. Both the children and adults come with the anxiety of stretching resources to meet need. St. John's extends the hospitality of their nursery to offer childcare, allowing adult guests additional sanctuary time if they wish.

Romans 12 Newsletter, Issue #91. © 2011 GBOD. All rights reserved. Permission is granted to copy this newsletter for use in United Methodist congregations. This newsletter is provided as a service of the General Board of Discipleship and is funded through World Service apportionment giving by local United Methodist congregations. **Betsey Heavner is Director of Leadership for Congregational Renewal at the GBOD. She can be reached at bheavner@gbod.org.**

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 a.m., at Shadow Hills Golf Course, Lubbock. For more information, please call 762-8749 or go to www.ttuwesley.org.

UMW July Events

The United Methodist Women and the United Methodist Men will be teaming up to provide a meal for the Ronald McDonald House on Wednesday, July 6.

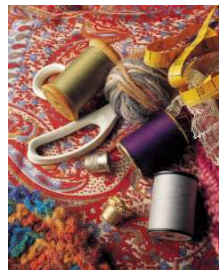


The School of Christian Mission is in Abilene, at McMurry University, from July 14-17.

The Dorothy Manning Circle meets Thursday, July 28, 6:30 p.m., Zio's Italian Kitchen, 4414 82nd St.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

We will be meeting away from the church this July. We are at Dorothy Mitchell's home on July 6, and at Renee Hester's on July 13. Call the church for more information (762-0123)! We teach knitting and crochet!!



Soul Sisters 2011 Schedule

Hi and a happy Summer to you!

This is a schedule for the upcoming events for the Soul Sister women's ministry at St. John's United Methodist Church. Please mark your calendar, invite others and join in this journey together.

Thursday, July 14: **Bunco game night** at D'Ann Dunn's home (6504 1st Street) with Sarah Nuckolls at 6:00 p.m.

Tuesday, August 16: **Movie night** (*The Help*). Supper at Donna Echols or TBA along with times.

Friday and Saturday, September 16-17: **Overnight retreat** at the Mercy Center, Slaton, Texas. Registration at 5:00 p.m., and dinner at 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, October 1: **Walk for the Cure**. Details TBA.

Thursday, November 10: **Donna Chandler** speaks on her project for feeding the poor and giving hope (South Plains Food Bank). Evening time TBA

Saturday, December 3: **Brunch/Ornament Exchange** (Ornaments under \$10). Also bring an ornament to tell about... antique, unusual, sentimental, decoration detail, etc.) 9:30 a.m.

Let me know if you have any questions.

In God's love,
 Donna Echols



IT TAKES A VILLAGE

Charles Hedges and Betty Gossett both died on Friday, June 10. Charles was buried on Saturday, June 11. A memorial service will be held at a later date. The memorial service for Betty will be held in Cox Chapel at Highland Park United Methodist Church in Dallas on September 30, at 2:00 p.m.

New on the prayer list: C.T. Olsen, Brystal Taubert, the Peters family, the family of Bart Thetford, Shannon Talley Crowder, Jim and Jason Buchanan, Marilyn McPhaul, Roy Turner, and Glenna Keesee.

Charlotte Davis lost her father this past week. Please keep her family in your thoughts and prayers.

A note from Family Promise: Dear Friends at St. John's United Methodist Church, Thank you for your gift. Your involvement and commitment with Family Promise of Lubbock creates a legacy by which people have a chance to change their circumstances. We are grateful for your support—financially, emotionally, and through your prayers. We know the Family Promise programs work. Last year, we witnessed an increase in the number of guests completing their stay with us achieving sustainable housing and maintaining jobs! These opportunities for their success would not occur without your support and love. I look forward to continuing to serve these families with you.—Kena Phillips

TENANT WANTED: Share private residence with disabled person. Complete master suite with studio/office space. Lots of closet space. Totally accessible. Nicely furnished or unfurnished. Access to shared kitchen/dining room/living area. Covered parking. Safe, close-knit neighborhood. No children or pets. Rent negotiable for individual or couple willing to share in assistance. Ideal for senior or disabled person needing 24-hour assistance. References, background check required. 806-790-3190.

Just in time for your local drought—Red yuccas for the taking! The strip of land in front of the church will be graded and leveled off at the end of August. Anyone wanting the yuccas (any or all of them) may come dig them up before then. They are excellent for xeriscaping or xerigardening.

Thinking of our former St. John's members giving first sermons this past Sunday: **Donna Lindley** at Kress, **Joyce Bromm** at Anson, and **Kate Floyd** at Grace UMC in Atlanta, Georgia.

Coming Up at Youth!

Friday, July 1, 4:30 p.m.: All-UMY serve at St. Benedict's

Sunday, July 3: NO Sr. High UMY (Independence Day)

Wednesday, July 6, 5:30 p.m.: Jr. High UMY Huddle Time

Saturday, July 9, 9:00 a.m.: All-UMY Habitat for Humanity Workday

Sunday, July 10, 5:30 p.m.: Sr. High UMY

Wednesday, July 13, 5:30 p.m.: Jr. High UMY Huddle Time

Friday, July 15, 5:30 p.m.: All-UMY activity (TBA)

Contact Matt by calling or texting (241-6430), e-mailing (bell.matthew@mcm.edu), or on Facebook!

Church Calendar

Sunday, July 3, 2011

- 8:15 a.m. Communion Service
- 9:15 a.m. Sunday School Hour
- 10:30 a.m. Worship Service
- 2:00 p.m. Fiesta Domingo at HOPE Shalom
- 5:30 p.m. NO Sr. High UMY
(Independence Day)

Monday, July 4, 2011

OFFICE CLOSED

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

Tuesday, July 5, 2011

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

Wednesday, July 6, 2011

- 5:30 p.m. United Methodist Women and Men serve at Ronald McDonald House
- 5:30 p.m. Jr. High UMY Huddle Time
- 6:00 p.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry
- 6:00 p.m. Chrismon Workshop

Thursday, July 7, 2011

- 9:30 a.m. Quilters
- 5:45 p.m. Prayer vigil (Umberto Leal)

Saturday, July 9, 2011

- 9:00 a.m. UMY Habitat for Humanity workday

Sunday, July 10, 2011

- 8:15 a.m. Communion Service
- 9:15 a.m. Sunday School Hour
- 10:30 a.m. Worship Service
- 5:30 p.m. United Methodist Youth (Sr. High)

Monday, July 11, 2011

- 5:30 p.m. Literacy Lubbock
- 6:00 p.m. LUNA general meeting
- 7:30 p.m. Scouts

Tuesday, July 12, 2011

- 8:45 a.m. Staff Meeting
- 12:45 p.m. Sanctuary Time for FV Clients
- 1:30 p.m. Food Voucher program
- 5:30 p.m. Legal Clinic
- 5:30 p.m. Trustees meeting

Wednesday, July 13, 2011

- 5:30 p.m. Jr. High UMY Huddle Time
- 6:00 p.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry
- 6:00 p.m. Chrismon Workshop
- 6:15 p.m. Theology Group

Thursday, July 14, 2011

UMW School of Missions at McMurry through Sunday

- 9:30 a.m. Quilters
- 1:30 p.m. Merry Mailers

Friday, July 15, 2011

- 5:30 p.m. All-UMY activity



Fiesta Domingo!

We are providing the Fiesta Domingo meal at HOPE Shalom this Sunday, July 3. We will cook at St. John's at 3:00 p.m. We still need servers at Asbury (20th St. and Ave. T) at 4:30 p.m. We are serving hotdogs, potato salad, and chips. Please call Craig Rutherford (317-0058) to help.

THIS SPACE AVAILABLE FOR SUBLIMINAL ADVERTISING



*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
1501 University Ave.
Lubbock, TX 79401
(806) 762-0123

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