

ST. JOHN'S

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



The Explorer

Volume 6, Issue 17

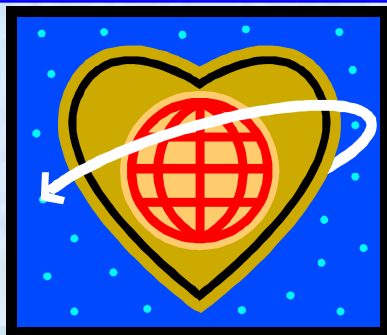
Website: <http://www.stjohnslubbock.org>

August 25, 2011

Highlights from *The Rock Slinger and his Greatest Hit*

Photographs from Dimitri Pappas





**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

1501 University Avenue
Lubbock, Texas 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
Dir. of Music Ministries: Andrew Kreckmann
Business Manager: Dennis Howard
Facilities Supervisor: Cedric Robins
Childcare Director: Trisha Castillo
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

Jubilee Weekend

The year of Jubilee was part of the life of the Hebrew people during the Old Testament times. The guidelines for it may be found in Leviticus. It was an official time of new beginnings and start-overs and happened every fifty years.

There were two major elements of the year of Jubilee. The first concerned land. All land that had been purchased or obtained from the original family of the twelve tribes had to be returned to the original owner. It was a way of keeping the future of the twelve tribes in tact. In essence, the land was never sold, only leased for fifty years then returned. It was a new beginning for the original family which may have had financial difficulties during the past.

The second concerned indentured servants or slaves. Every fifty years all slaves were to be set free, given a new chance on life. It was a way of reminding the Hebrew people that no one can have two masters. The slaves were set free to affirm that only God is the true master of persons.

What a great idea...Jubilee. A day of start-overs and new beginnings. With school starting and summer gone and Rally Day upon us, I would hope this weekend would be a Jubilee for folks at St. John's. Daniel and I have visited about the number of people who seem to be missing at St Johns...people we haven't seen in worship in some time.

There are many possible reasons. Perhaps I said or did something offensive ... perhaps someone or something at St. John's hurt you...or maybe your zeal for your faith has somehow grown weak...or maybe you simply have let your commitment to your church slide...or maybe it is just that the summer routine has taken you away. Whatever it has been, if you have been away for a while, please let this weekend be an opportunity for new beginnings. It is going to be a great Sunday. The celebration of the church's ministries—Richard Edwards, our District Superintendent will preach—Andrew Kreckmann, our new Music Director, is with us—Free hot dogs and hamburgers and homemade ice cream—Games for the children and fellowship for the rest of us.

Here is a great chance to start over and make a new commitment to your faith. A chance to put things back as they should be.

See you Sunday

Grace and Peace

Archie



Lectionary Scripture Readings

August 28: Exodus 3:1-15; Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45c;
Romans 12:9-21; Matthew 16:21-28

September 4: Exodus 12:1-14; Psalm 149 or Psalm 148;
Romans 13:8-14; Matthew 18:15-20

From the Editor: My thanks to Dimitri Pappas, Archie Echols, Jean Shannon, David Cameron, Donna Echols, Craig Rutherford, Andrew Kreckmann, Leslie Cranford, Dennis Howard, Donna Cash, Sally Kennedy, Tyson Lemasters, Marilyn McMillan and Cindy Martin for submitting items for the newsletter. The Merry Mailers are definitely the fastest in the West (and the best)! All submissions are welcome!

Next newsletter deadline: August 18.

Later! mrt

Looking Ahead!



The James G. Allen and Louise Hodges Memorial Arts and Lectureship Series presents Texas Tech University's Botticelli Quartet & Friends performing Vivaldi's *The Four Seasons* on Friday, August 26, at 7:30 p.m., in the sanctuary. FREE to the public!

Rally Day, Sunday, August 28

Wonderful Wednesdays begin September 7!
Meal at 5:30 p.m., Activities at 6:00 p.m.

Volunteers in Mission to Sager Brown
September 10-17

Pieces of our Life Women's Retreat
September 16-17

Fiesta Domingo

Sunday, September 18, 4:45 p.m.,
HOPE Shalom, 20th St. and Ave. T
Hamburger cook-out

Need volunteers to cook, set up, and bring cookies!
Please call Craig Rutherford at 317-0058.

Rally Day Introduces St. John's Fall Ministries

"Putting People into Partnership with God"

Guest Preacher: Rev. Richard Edwards
Lubbock District Superintendent

This Sunday, August 28

Be intentional about inviting guests to celebrate the day with us so they can learn about what St. John's does and who we are!

8:30 a.m. **Celebration of Holy Communion**

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

*Children promoted to new classes
(Youth were promoted first of the summer)

10:30 a.m. **Worship featuring Procession of
St. John's Ministries**

Presentation of Children's Benchmarks as...
*Three-year-olds are promoted into the 3-4 year-old Sunday School Class

*Kindergarteners are welcomed into full worship participation

*Third-graders receive their own Bibles from the church.

Special Balloon Decorations by Cody Williams

11:30 a.m. **Hamburger/Hot Dog Cookout
provided by the United Methodist Men**

All Church Ice Cream Social sponsored by
the Nurture and Care Committee

**Opportunity to visit with persons concerning
their Ministry Displays to sign up for fall
programs** (Choirs, Disciple, Wonderful
Wednesday, Acolytes, etc)

Following the meal **INFLATABLE BOUNCERS**
will be provided by the Children's Council—
Backyard

Volleyball and/or Basketball with
George Comiskey—Backyard
Bingo with David Robertson—Garden Room

Hosts for the celebration:
The Education Committee

**Make sure you introduce yourself to anyone
that you do not already know!!**

**St. John's will celebrate
your child's growth in the faith**
on Sunday morning, August 28,
during the late worship service.

Children going into the 3-year-old Sunday
School Class this fall will receive a book about
St. John's celebrating their promotion from the
nursery into Sunday School.

Kindergarteners will receive
activity worship bags celebrating
their being old enough to attend worship.

3rd graders will receive Bibles celebrating
their ability to read the Holy Scriptures.

**Hope you will plan to be in
attendance on this special Sunday!**



To those of you who
**ordered a church t-shirt
 from Matt,**
 they are in the Education Office.

We do not have his list, so we do not know to whom they belong. Please call (762-0123) or come by to pick up your shirt.

**Chancel Choir
 from Andrew Kreckmann**

Are you interested in singing in our Chancel Choir? If so, this is the time to join...or at least give it a shot! Feel free to join us for our next few Wednesday rehearsals (7:30-9:00). The best part is that there is no commitment. If you enjoy singing with us, feel free to continue for the rest of the year. If you are unable to continue, it's quite alright, and we hope you enjoyed the experience. Every level of vocal ability is welcome—please do not hesitate!



Here's to the SPRC!

The Staff Parish Relations Committee oversees the personnel of the church. It aids in hiring, liaises with staff members, gives annual evaluations of the ministerial staff, makes recommendations to the District Superintendent about appointments, and interviews and approves people as candidates for seminary.

When you have a chance, please thank this hard-working committee. It has had a lot on its plate lately with all of our personnel changes! Committee members are: **Mary Jane Hurst, chairperson, Darrell Vines, Jay Sedberry, Mary Bailey, Johnny Poff, Joy Lawson, Sally Abbe, Sally Kennedy, Jeff Watson, and Lance Dixon.**

Your Cure for Mid-week Doldrums!!

Wonderful Wednesdays kick off this fall with **Hats Off to You! Celebrating Your Many Hats!** September 7 is a night of getting better acquainted, celebrating birthdays and introducing the wonderful opportunities this fall! Decorate and wear a hat that tells all about you—your hobbies and interests, as well as your ministry and service through St. John's. Prizes given for the best hats! Children's choirs will start but all adult and youth classes will begin September 14.

Communications in Marriage and Intimate Partnerships
 Jeanne Flora, author and professor at New Mexico State University

Laughter Series

Laughter in the Bible with Rev. Bob Ford, retired minister, Abilene
Laughter Prayer with Dr. Maggie Rogers, Methodist Children's Home
Laughter Yoga with Patricia Freier, Education Nurse Specialist and Certified Laughter Yoga Leader, Covenant Hospital

Invitation to the Psalms Bible Study
 Mary Ruth Thurmond, facilitator

Becoming Disciples through Bible Study
 Bill Todd and Rob Scott, facilitators

Prayer Shawl Ministry
 Ongoing ministry, Donna Chandler and Ginny Riggs, contacts

Chrismon Workshop
 Ongoing ministry, Sarah Nuckolls, contact

NEW! Children's Bible Study
 Martha Bagby, facilitator

Children's Handchime & Handbell Rehearsals
 Lisa Viator and Coleen Sedberry, directors

Movie Discussion
 Rebecca Hunt, discussion facilitator

Saints of the Church
 Rev. Bobby McMillan, chaplain, Joe Arrington Cancer Center

Simplifying Christmas
 Mary Vines, discussion facilitator

Hands-on Stained Glass Workshop

Grief
 Rev. Archie Echols, Senior Pastor

Celebrating Advent in the Home
 David Cameron, Minister of Christian Education

AIDS Awareness
 Vince Gonzales, discussion facilitator

Twelve Days of Christmas Workshop and Tasting Tea
 Sally Abbe and Cindy Martin, facilitators

Look for the brochure in your mail!

**5:30 p.m. Meal catered by Celebrations Catering
 (Cost: \$5.00 per person).**

6:00 p.m. Classes and Rehearsals



Benevolence Funds

What do they do? Who do they help? Where do they come from?



He said also to the man who had invited him, "When you give a dinner or a banquet, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your kinsmen or rich neighbors, lest they also invite you in return, and you be repaid. But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you. You will be repaid at the resurrection of the just." Luke 14:12-14 RSV



Every week, St. John's has a banquet. Not the sit-down-and-be-served kind of banquet. This is more of a come-and-be-welcomed banquet. Each Tuesday, St. John's United Methodist Church and St. Paul's on the Plains Episcopal Church welcome those in need, the "poor, the maimed, the lame and the blind" of whom Jesus spoke. Through the work of the Benevolence Committee, in conjunction with the South Plains Food Bank, and the support and care of this congregation, and many others who donate time and money, this banquet is prepared each week. It may not seem like a banquet to those who do not know need or hunger, but to those who do, it is a feast, not only for the stomach but also for the soul.



The Benevolence Committee oversees three areas of care: the food pantry, the hygiene pantry and the food voucher program. Each of these serves a vital function in our outreach into the community for which we have assumed responsibility.



The food pantry provides emergency short-term sustenance for those who are in immediate need. Providing quick relief in the form of non-perishable, easily prepared foods, this program is supported by the community as a whole and involves both individuals and other community organizations.



The hygiene pantry supplies basic personal hygiene items such as toothbrushes and toothpaste, soap, shampoo, and deodorant. Given on an as needed basis, this program is supported by the congregations of St. John's and St. Paul's with the help of other organizations.



The food voucher program is, perhaps, the most visible and well known of these programs. Each week, on Tuesday afternoon, the Benevolence Committee and its volunteers, welcome and minister to families and individuals seeking food for the body and, in some cases, food for the soul. The foundation of this program is the voucher which can be redeemed at the South Plains Food Bank for a medium food box. As an adjunct to this program, St. John's opens the sanctuary and offers an open table for the Sacraments for anyone who so desires to come. The care and concern of the volunteers who conduct the interview process is as much a part of the nurturing as the food that is offered.



Each week St. John's tends to approximately 80 families through the voucher program. To date in 2011, the benevolence program has dispensed 522 vouchers. This reflects 522 individuals and families that have been welcomed into our church, that have been cared for by our members, and that have been nurtured as part of our community.



However, this does not come without a cost. Each food voucher costs \$6.00. This program is supported entirely by donations. There are no funds from the operating budget of St. John's dedicated to this task. Unless the generosity and compassion of our congregation comes forward on a regular basis, this program grinds to a halt.



In addition to the above, on a case by case basis, St. John's provides help with bus passes, fuel, utility bills, rental assistance, and a limited amount of assistance with medical or prescription costs. Most of these requests are funded through either the poor fund or the general benevolence fund. A small portion of this money comes from the interest earned on a few endowed gifts. The majority of the funds are provided as gifts.



I urge you to remember these special programs of our church each week as you contemplate and pray about your giving. Please find room in your budget to dedicate a small portion of your giving each week to support this special connection we have into our community.

God bless you all,

Dennis Howard



Disciple Bible Studies this fall Just look at ALL the benefits!

Understand the Word

Take in the biblical story of God's relationship with humanity.

Develop Daily Habits

Habits of daily study and reflection will be formed and strengthened.

Discover Discipleship

Participants will help each other discover the gifts that each possess for ministries of service.

Find Family

Small groups become like family through fellowship, discussion, and sharing.

Grow in Confidence to Witness

Participants will gain the knowledge and confidence to make a personal witness of their faith.

Develop Leadership

Participants build skills for ministry and leadership in their church and community.

You can experience these benefits by taking either:

Invitation to Psalms Bible Study

A short-term, 10-week Disciple Study
Wednesday nights starting September 14
Facilitated by Mary Ruth Thurmond

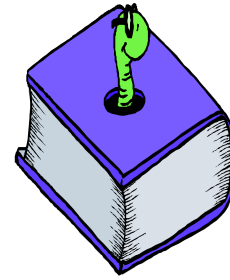
or

Becoming Disciples through Bible Study

34-week overview of the Bible
Wednesday nights starting September 14
Facilitated by Bill Todd and Rob Scott

Call the church office, 762-0123, to express your interest in taking either of these classes.

CHECK IT OUT!!!



If you aren't a regular church library user, this might be a good time to come in and CHECK IT OUT. We have a new little red cart that currently holds some new books. Feel free to check them out. Watch for the cart as it changes locations and features different books.

Ministries at St. John's

Committees: Arts and Lectureship, Benevolence, Communications, Education, Evangelism, Finance, Missions, Nurture and Care, Receptions, Reconciling Ministries, Staff Parish Relations (SPRC), Trustees, and Worship.

Other very important ministries: Acolytes, Bible studies, Boy Scouts, Children's Council, Family Life, Family Promise, Historian, Inter-ethnic Parish, Membership, Library, Music, United Methodist Youth (UMY), United Methodist Women (UMW), United Methodist Men (UMM), West Texas Organizing Strategy (WTOS), and Wonderful Wednesdays!

(If I left any out, then I apologize! Please let me know!!)
Check out these groups at Rally Day this Sunday!!

UMW August Events



The UMW Planning Session will be
Wednesday, August 31, 9:30 a.m.,
in Room 122.

Soul Sisters

Tuesday, August 30, 7:00 p.m., at
Charlotte Sessom's, 3007 81st St.:
Shelly Gonzales will lead the lesson on
"Character."

Thursday, September 8, 7:00 p.m., at
Donna Chandler's, 5001 95th St.:
Donna Echols will facilitate.



IT TAKES A VILLAGE

New on the prayer list: Jeff Watson and family, Trisha and Darrien Castillo, and Roger Saathoff.

Jeff Watson's mother, Bernice Watson died Sunday, August 21. Her service was 10 a.m., Thursday, August 25. Please keep Jeff and his family in your thoughts and prayers. **Welcome to Darrien Castillo!** Darrien arrived Sunday, August 21. He weighed 5 pounds, 15 ounces, and was 20 ½ inches long!! Congratulations, Trisha!!!

From Joel and Maria Walker: Maria wrote on Facebook that Joel has completed his internship at the Medical Center in Omaha, Nebraska, and thus his Masters of Divinity. "What a fast four years! Thanks to everyone who has supported us, laughed with us, cried with us, kept our children, loved us, prayed for us, employed us, and believed in us. Most of all, thanks for walking with us on this journey."

Thank you to the anonymous donors of the new kitchen towels!!!

Annual All-Church Picnic News! We have a new date, Sunday, October 2. It was scheduled for September 18, but the weather has been way too hot! Same place (at the Goodloe's home) and same time (5:00-8:00 p.m.). Change your calendars and come on out in October!

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.

Coming Up at Youth!

Starting this Sunday, August 28, the Junior and Senior High UMY will meet together each week, dividing as needed into two groups for special discussions or activities. The youth will gather in the Garden Room this week at 5:30 p.m. for the youth meal followed by games and a discussion related to starting back to school from 6:00-7:00 p.m. Parents, please pick up your youth at 7:00 p.m.

On September 4 we will not have UMY because of the Labor Day holiday weekend. We will resume on September 11 when the youth will get the Pig on a Stick booth ready for the start of the fair.

Church Calendar

Sunday, August 28, 2011

RALLY DAY

- 8:15 a.m. Communion Service
- 9:15 a.m. Sunday School Hour
- 10:30 a.m. Worship Service
- 11:45 a.m. All-church cook-out and Ice Cream Social
- 5:30 p.m. United Methodist Youth

Monday, August 29, 2011

- 7:30 p.m. Scouts
- 8:00 p.m. Broad Highway AA meeting

Tuesday, August 30, 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. Soul Sisters' small group

Wednesday, August 31, 2011

- 9:30 a.m. UMW planning session
- 6:00 p.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry
- 6:00 p.m. Chrismon Workshop
- 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, September 1, 2011

- 9:30 a.m. Quilters

Sunday, September 4, 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

Monday, September 5, 2011

LABOR DAY—OFFICE CLOSED

- 7:30 p.m. Scouts
- 8:00 p.m. Broad Highway AA meeting

Tuesday, September 6, 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. TTU Legal Clinic

Wednesday, September 7, 2011

Wonderful Wednesdays begin!

- 5:30 p.m. Wonderful Wednesday meal
- 6:00 p.m. Wonderful Wednesday activities
- 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, September 8, 2011

- 9:30 a.m. Quilters
- 1:30 p.m. Merry Mailers
- 7:00 p.m. Soul Sisters' small group

Saturday, September 10, 2011

VIM to Sager Brown



Pieces of our Life Women's Retreat

September 16-17, Mercy Retreat Center, Slaton,
Sponsored by Soul Sisters,
led by Sarah Mulkey

Need to find balance in your life?
Fellowship with amazing women?
Grow closer to God?

The experiences of a woman's life are a series of interlocking pieces that, in the end, brings wholeness, breadth of insight, layers of meaning, truth.—Lana Russell

Enjoy being away from the distractions of daily life. Join in: fun and games, music, meditation, group discussion and reflection, free time.



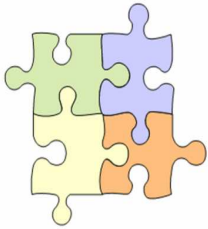
\$68 per person includes room and all meals

Send registration form and check payable to SJUMC to: Women's Retreat, St. John's UMC, 1501 University, Lubbock, TX 79401

For more information contact Donna Echols, godfatherdae@aol.com or 577-8372.

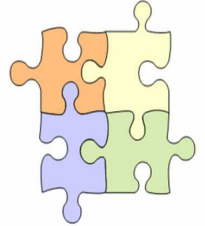
Please come and bring a friend!

Starting on Friday evening with check-in at 5:00 p.m. and finishing Saturday at 4:00 p.m.



In her former lives, Sarah has been English teacher, executive director of a children's museum, marriage and family therapist, director of medical center department of women's health and community initiatives, musician/songwriter, artist, writer, and workshop and seminar presenter.

Sarah will be using her varied experiences to help us make peace with the pieces of our lives



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.

St. John's United Methodist Church
Mission Statement



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

St. John's United Methodist Church
1501 University Ave.
Lubbock, TX 79401
(806) 762-0123

THE EXPLORER

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