

ST. JOHN'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



The Explorer

Volume 6, Issue 18

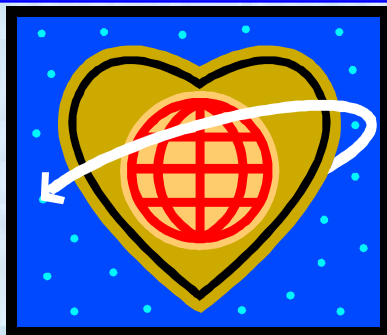
Website: <http://www.stjohnslubbock.org>

September 8, 2011

Rally Day 2011

Photographs from Larry Howard and Marilyn McMillan





**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
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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

PASTOR'S NOTE



St. John's offers many chances of one-on-one contacts for me with people who either come in off the street or who are part of the organized ministries which St. John's offers. In addition, there are opportunities for one-on-one connections with members and visitors on Sunday and throughout the week.

I often wonder what difference this makes in the huge makeup of the needs of the world. Eradicating malaria in Africa, tending to the results of hurricanes like Irene, dealing with the injustices of prejudices surrounding race and religion and sex and sexual orientation, finding a solution for the mass of homeless persons in all of our cities, guiding the values and future of our young people.... These are just a few of the larger-scale issues that confront our call to ministry by Christ. Do my one-on-one contacts really matter?

How significant are my individual contacts in the scope of these huge issues?

One thing I continue to remind myself. All of these "larger" issues in the end come down to tending to individual persons. Malaria causes death to some particular mother's child. Hurricanes bring destruction to a family's home and personal treasures. Prejudice causes bullying and abuse to someone's child every day. Each day some person's family member sleeps out in the cold/heat and rain. Today some girl is pregnant and faced with choices that are hard and often bring a loss of sense of worth and a challenging future for her and the child.

Let us remember that although there are systems that need to be healed and issues that need to be reconciled, God's love and care is for persons. May we realize that all of our one-on-one relationships are important and at the same time our work on the huge issues is a way of reaching out to some child of God.

Grace and Peace

Archie

Lectionary Scripture Readings

September 11: Exodus 14:19-31; Exodus 15:1b-11, 20-21;
Romans 14:1-12; Matthew 18:21-35

September 18: Exodus 16:2-15; Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45 or Psalm 78;
Philippians 1:21-30; Matthew 20:1-16

**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.**

From the Editor: Thank you to Larry Howard, Marilyn McMillan, Archie Echols, David Cameron, Daniel Echols, Donna Echols, Craig Rutherford, Deborah Bratcher, Andrew Kreckmann, Mary Jane Hurst, Pat Ellerman, Tess Jackson, and Cindy Martin for submitting items for the newsletter. Dear Merry Mailers, I'm running out of superlatives to describe just how wonderful you are! All submissions are welcome!

Next newsletter deadline: September 15.

Later! mrt

Looking Ahead



Volunteers in Mission to Sager Brown
September 10-17

**Fall Kickoff Luncheon
for ALL Texas Tech University
students, faculty and staff
(current and retired)**

Sunday, September 11, after worship

**League of Women Voters
Educational Forum**

Thursday, September 15, 5:30 p.m.

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 set up and bring **COOKIES**.
Please call Craig Rutherford at 317-0058.

Funday for Retirees

Wednesday, September 21, 9:00 a.m.

**Hiding, a documentary presented by
Liberty in North Korea**

Monday, September 26, 7:00 p.m.

All-church Picnic

Sunday, October 2, 5:00 p.m., at Roy and Sandy
Goodloe's home.

WONDERFUL WEDNESDAYS

The meal is served from 5:30-6:00 p.m. Cost: \$5.00.
Reservations are required. Please call 762-0123 by 4:30 p.m.,
Monday, register weekly on the worship registration pads, or
sign up for a standing reservation.

September 14: Baked spaghetti, tossed salad, fruit tray, garlic
bread, frosted banana cake

September 21: Chicken pot pie, fruity bacon salad, mixed
vegetables, cheese rolls, apple pie

Catering is provided by Celebration Catering.

Weekly opportunities

NEW Children's Bible study, Children's/Youth Handbells, Children's
Handchimes, Children's Choir

Chrismon Workshop, Prayer Shawl Ministry

Disciple Bible studies:

"Invitation to Psalms" is a ten-week study (**September 14-
November 16**), 6:00-7:30 p.m., led by Mary Ruth Thurmond; and
"Disciple I: Becoming disciples through Bible study" is a 34-
week overview of the Bible (**September 14-May 16**), 6:00-8:30 p.m.,
facilitated by Bill Todd and Rob Scott.
Pre-registration required for both.

Other classes this September

Communication in marriage and intimate partnerships,
facilitated by Jeanne Flora, **September 14, 21, and 28**.
Pre-registration appreciated.

Laughter series:

September 21: **Laughter prayer**, Dr. Maggie Rogers
September 28: **Laughter yoga**, Patricia Freier

Lots more coming soon!



Happy September 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!)**

Sept 1	Leslie Case	Sept 11	Greg Durbin	Sept 18	Eric Teaff	Sept 24	Brett Comiskey
Sept 7	Megan Comiskey		Kyle Gregory	Sept 20	Elaine Howard		Beth Gibson
Sept 9	Lillie Howard		Julia McClure		Renee Hester		Isaac Howard
Sept 10	Emily Chandler		Jack McPhaul	Sept 21	Matthew Plowman	Sept 25	Rita Pettigrew
	Roy Goodloe	Sept 13	Don Hicks	Sept 23	David Cranford	Sept 27	Dorothy Mitchell
	Bob Goodwin	Sept 14	Keaton Shinn		Julia Shannon	Sept 28	Mallory Hendrix
		Sept 17	India Comiskey				Patrick Malcolm



Chancel Choir Invitation for You 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!

NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

The Business Manager is responsible for day-to-day financial management of the church. The position is budgeted as part-time and reports to the Senior Pastor but also works with the Finance and Endowment Committees, the Trustees, and others. Essential duties include, for example, receiving, posting, and tracking all accounts receivable as well as receiving, posting, and making disbursements for all accounts payable; handling payroll; and managing records using a standard software package for churches. The Business Manager also works with other members of the staff to ensure smooth operations of all functions of the church office in support of the church's mission.

For more information, contact Pastor Archie Echols (a.echols@stjohnslubbock.org; 762-0123) or SPRC Chair Mary Jane Hurst (maryjane.hurst@gmail.com; 794-1367).

To apply, send a cover message with an attached resume (preferably as a PDF) to maryjane.hurst@gmail.com. Review of applications will begin in mid-September but will continue until the position is filled.



From the Missions Committee

Prayer vigils against the Death Penalty in September: Tuesday, September 13 (Steven Woods) at the United Church of Christ, 1701 E. 10th St. (on Martin Luther King). The rest will be here in the parking lot: Thursday, September 15 (Duane Buck); Tuesday, September 20 (Cleve Foster); and Wednesday, September 21 (Lawrence Brewer). Each is from 5:45-6:15 p.m.

An invitation from St. John's United Methodist Church and First Unitarian Universalist Church of Lubbock:

Join us on Monday, September 26, at 7:00 p.m., at St. John's, to learn about a modern-day Underground Railroad.

Representatives from LiNK (Liberty in North Korea), a non-profit organization, will introduce the screening of "Hiding," a 40-minute documentary about a group of North Korean refugees hiding in China today. "Hiding" exposes the struggles of these refugees as they escape through a 3,500-mile-long underground railroad.

While the world focuses on North Korea's security issue, hundreds of thousands of North Koreans continue to be enslaved in prison camps today. Up to 300,000 have also escaped to China, seeking food, medicine, work, or freedom from political and religious oppression. Among these, 70 to 90 percent of North Korean women are trafficked and sold into the sex trade, and more and more refugees are fleeing to Southeast Asia to escape imprisonment upon repatriation by China.

LiNK's representatives will explain how, through their networks, these refugees can be helped and given new lives.

The screening is open to the public and free of charge. An offering will be taken for LiNK's continuing work.

This event is sponsored by the United Methodist Women and the Missions Committee.

We will need housing for up to three representatives from LiNK. They will need a ride home with you but will be picked up from your home in the morning. Please call 762-0123 if you can help.

Thank you!

Happy 50th Anniversary, Bobby and Marilyn McMillan!



Sanctuary Time for our Food Voucher Clients

by Pat Ellerman

I have been trying to think about what could possibly be said regarding the Food Voucher Sanctuary program held each week at St John’s UMC, that probably hasn’t already been known by most folks in our church. I only volunteer one day a month, and so many others are giving their time each and every week to this program. I can only imagine how privileged they must feel to be available to give their time to such a worthwhile cause.

My assignment has been to help people get situated in the sanctuary, where they can participate in communion, and wait in a comfortable, cool place until the volunteers in the garden room are ready to help them receive their food vouchers.

Welcoming these people each month has been a humbling experience for me, because of gaining even more awareness of the lack of basic needs for so many in our community. It is as well, an enjoyable experience in having the opportunity to exchange greetings and visit as much as possible with them as they enter the sanctuary. These wonderful people are all different ages, come from many different backgrounds, and it is quite evident that they are in need of food for themselves or their families.

Times are difficult for so many, and I’m sure we all probably know of a family or individual who is in need of assistance. The Food Voucher Sanctuary program at our church is a great opportunity for us to become involved, and help people in need.

I love it!

★ ★

The Committee on Lay Leadership

★ ★

The Committee on Lay Leadership is one of the committees required by the Discipline of the United Methodist Church. It provides and recruits lay leadership for the church. It nominates our committee chairpersons and delegates to the Annual Conference for approval by our Charge Conference.

Darrell Vines is our lay leader. The lay leader is elected by the laity and is *ex officio* on all committees just like the senior pastor. Other committee members are: **Jan Isom, Sally Abbe, Jeff Kennedy, Wendy Dixon, Leslie Cranford, and Marilyn McMillan.**

Please remember to thank these wonderful individuals for their work on our behalf!

★ ★



Faces of Service

St. John's United Methodist Church:

Host Congregation

(from *Experiences at Family Promise of Lubbock*,
March 2011, vol. 1)

St. John's United Methodist Church's mission is "to worship and serve God with open hearts, open minds, and open arms." In 1998, St. John's UMC decided to live out that mission by becoming one of the first host congregations for Family Promise of Lubbock. Volunteers from St. John's have been involved with Family Promise of Lubbock since that time. Today, Jim Clopton, the Congregational Coordinator, works with a team of volunteers to offer hospitality to the guests of Family Promise once a quarter. St. John's describes the services of Family Promise as working to "...keep children from having to live on the streets; keep families together while the parents work and save money to be able to have a place of their own; temporarily provide a secure, home-like family environment for children and their parents to allow parents the opportunity to get jobs, save money, and find affordable housing for the family." We are humbled by the years of service and commitment of St. John's United Methodist Church.

UMW September Events



**United Methodist Women sponsor
Hygiene Products Drive in September!**

The St. John's hygiene closet needs hygiene products to replenish our supply! Be a friend to the needy... help someone feel good. Take a sack and fill it with these items (small sizes best): toilet paper, laundry soap, deodorant, shampoo, razors, bar soap, feminine hygiene items, toothbrushes and toothpaste, and combs. Please return filled sacks on Sundays in September. Thank you!

General meeting and sandwich luncheon

Wednesday, September 14, 9:30 a.m.

Dorothy Manning Circle,

Thursday, September 22, 6:30 p.m.,

at Rockfish Seafood Grill, 6253 Slide Rd.

Wednesday, September 28, 9:30 a.m.

Northwest Texas Conference

Annual Meeting

September 23-24, in Amarillo

Dora Harris Circle

Wednesday, September 28, 9:30 a.m.

Soul Sisters

**Pieces of our Lives Women's Retreat,
September 16-17,
Mercy Retreat Center, Slaton,
led by Sarah Mulkey**



Saturday-only pricing now available! Friday and Saturday: \$68 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. **Enjoy being away from the distractions of daily life. Join in: fun and games, music, meditation, group discussion and reflection, free time.**

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

Thursday, November 10: **Donna Chandler** speaks about feeding the poor and giving hope at 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.



Welcome University Students!

You're all invited each week to our University Group that meets each Sunday after worship. We enjoy a free meal and time for fellowship, discussion and programs about many topics related to faith and college and beyond. Come and be a part of this caring and inspirational group.

IT TAKES A VILLAGE

New on the prayer list: Chuck Lutrick, the family of Gerry Alexander, Jim Simpson and family, Iza Reynolds, the family of Bob Holwerda, and VelvetLee Finckbone and family.

Gerry Alexander died Friday, August 26, 2011. The service was Tuesday, August 30, at First United Methodist Church in Hobbs, New Mexico. **Jim Simpson's mother, Gladys Simpson**, died Friday, August 5, 2011. **VelvetLee Finckbone's grandfather, John Vassar**, died Tuesday, September 6, 2011, in Davis, California. Please keep **Ben Alexander**, Jim, and VelvetLee and their families in your thoughts and prayers.

From the Arts and Lectureship Committee: With our most sincere gratitude, the Arts and Lectureship Committee would like to thank the dozens of people who helped with the Vivaldi *The Four Seasons* concert on August 26: Harpsichord: **Joe Dawes, Kathryn Zetterstrom Kendall**; Ushers and parking directions: **Roy Goodloe, Sandy Goodloe, Brian Shannon, Ron Chandler, Donna Chandler, Bill Cantrell**; Reception: **Julia Shannon, Tracy Viator**; Dishwashers: **Craig Rutherford, Norma Rutherford, Joy Lawson, John DuBard, Mary Ruth Thurmond**; Church staff who have all the answers: **Archie Echols, Daniel Echols, John Dotts, Cedric Robins, Dennis Howard, Mary Ruth Thurmond**; and all the other unnamed people of St. John's who gathered dishes, directed visitors to restrooms, greeted strangers, and invited friends to the concert. MANY, MANY THANKS! Sincerely, Julie Couch, Leslie Cranford, Rebecca Hunt, Jeannine Shannon and Lisa Viator

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!

This Sunday, September 11, the youth will prepare the Pig on a Stick booth for the start of the fair. We will gather in the Garden Room at 5:30 p.m. to eat, then go fix up the fair booth.

Sunday, September 18, youth will serve at Fiesta Domingo, 4:30-6:30 p.m. Parents, drop off and pick up at HOPE Shalom, 2005 Ave. T.

Church Calendar

Volunteers in Mission to Sager Brown all week!

Sunday, September 11, 2011

- 8:15 a.m. Communion Service
- 9:15 a.m. Sunday School Hour
- 10:30 a.m. Worship Service
- 11:45 a.m. TTU Fall Luncheon
- 5:30 p.m. UMY

Monday, September 12, 2011

- 5:30 p.m. Literacy Lubbock
- 7:30 p.m. Scouts
- 8:00 p.m. Broad Highway AA

Tuesday, September 13, 2011

- 8:45 a.m. Staff Meeting
- 12:45 p.m. Sanctuary time for FV clients
- 1:30 p.m. Tuesday Food Vouchers
- 5:30 p.m. Trustees Meeting
- 5:30 p.m. Legal Clinic

Wednesday, September 14, 2011

- 9:30 a.m. UMW general meeting & lunch
- 5:30 p.m. Wonderful Wednesday
- 6:15 p.m. Theology Group
- 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir rehearsal

Thursday, September 15, 2011

- 9:30 a.m. Quilters
- 5:30 p.m. Literacy Lubbock
- 7:00 p.m. South Plains Astronomy Club

Friday, September 16, 2011

- 5:00 p.m. Pieces of our Lives Women's Retreat in Slaton (through Saturday)

Sunday, September 18, 2011

- 8:15 a.m. Communion Service
- 9:15 a.m. Sunday School Hour
- 10:30 a.m. Worship Service
- 11:45 a.m. Acolyte School
- 4:00 p.m. Fiesta Domingo
- 5:30 p.m. UMY

Monday, September 19, 2011

- 5:30 p.m. Literacy Lubbock
- 7:30 p.m. Scouts
- 8:00 p.m. Broad Highway AA

Tuesday, September 20, 2011

- 8:45 a.m. Staff Meeting
- 12:45 p.m. Sanctuary time for FV clients
- 1:30 p.m. Tuesday Food Vouchers
- 7:00 p.m. Worship Committee
- 7:00 p.m. PFLAG I, then II

Wednesday, September 21, 2011

- 9:00 a.m. Funday for Retirees
- 5:30 p.m. Wonderful Wednesday
- 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir rehearsal

Thursday, September 22, 2011

- 9:30 a.m. Quilters
- 1:30 p.m. Merry Mailers
- 5:30 p.m. Literacy Lubbock
- 6:00 p.m. Finance Committee
- 6:00 p.m. UMW Dorothy Manning Circle

Saturday, September 24, 2011

- TTU parking lot fundraiser

TTU Fall Kickoff Banquet

After worship, Sunday, September 11, we are having a luncheon for **ALL Texas Tech University students, faculty and staff, current and retired**, who are connected with St. John's. Come join us for some good food and connection time as we learn about each other's various roles at Tech and get geared up for the fall. Erin Hardin, Associate Professor in the Department of Psychology, will be our speaker. Spouses are invited, and we'll have separate activities and childcare for children. Cost is free! Hope to see you there!



*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.
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