

ST. JOHN'S

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



The Explorer

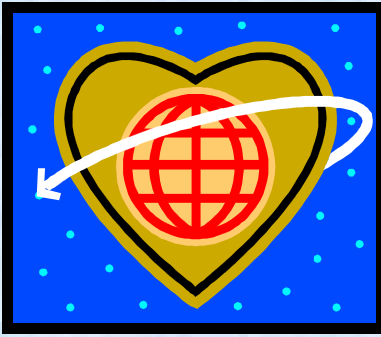
Volume 6, Issue 24

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

December 1, 2011

Twelve Days of Christmas!





*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
- 11:45 a.m. University Meal
- 5:30 p.m. United Methodist Youth

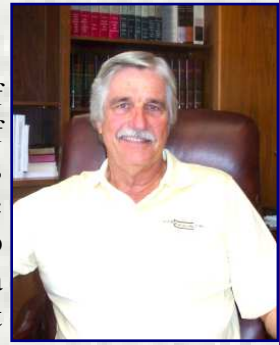
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Saint John's Staff

- 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: Andrew Kreckmann
- Organist: Clint Barrick
- Business Manager: Dennis Howard
- Facilities Supervisor: David Cranford
- Childcare Director: Trisha Castillo
- Admin. Asst./Editor: Mary Ruth Thurmond

PASTOR'S NOTE



I was reminded that especially during this season of coming of Christmas people need a word of encouragement. This is a time of greater demands and more activities. It makes it feel like a very hectic time and added stress. A sense of peace is hard to come by during this time of peace. This is also a time when losses are accentuated. Memories of past relationships and past Christmases can bring a heightened awareness of the loss. A sense of happiness and joy is hard to come by during this time of joy to the world.

AND SO MAY WE ENCOURAGE EACH OTHER
WITH EVERY CHANCE.

May we find a way to slow down and let the songs and sights and words of Christmas speak to our souls. May we pause and remember that "everything" is not all up to us. In the long run God is in charge. God will cause Christmas to happen. May we be in tune with the eternal peace which cannot be taken away.

May we share words of love and care that will bring joy. May we do deeds of love and care that will bring joy. May we give gifts that reflect love and care and bring joy. May this Christmas create new memories and relationships which bring joy. And may we hold our old memories close to our breast until the solemn joy of those events and people sinks deep into our souls.

Grace and Peace and Merry Christmas

Archie



Lectionary Scripture Readings

**December 4: Isaiah 40:1-11; Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13;
2 Peter 3:8-15a; Mark 1:1-8**

**December 18: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11; Psalm 126;
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28**

From the Editor: Thank you to David Cameron, VelvetLee Finckbone, Archie Echols, Donna Echols, Tess Jackson, Mary Saathoff, Robby Vestal, Leslie Cranford, Nancy Clopton, and Cecilee Echols. Many of my Thanksgiving thoughts were dedicated to the Merry Mailers and the Office Volunteers. THEY are the ones who make so much of what happens around here actually HAPPEN!

Next newsletter deadline: December 9.

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.

Looking Ahead



SORCA Neighborhood Association Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser

Friday, December 2, 6:00 p.m., Garden Room
Dine-in or take-out!

Soul Sisters Brunch

Saturday, December 3, 9:30 a.m., Garden Room
See page 6 for more!

Charge Conference

Monday, December 5, 6:00 p.m., Garden Room

United Methodist Women's Christmas Luncheon

Wednesday, December 7, 11:30 a.m.
See page 6 for details!

Cupcakes and Carols

Thursday, December 8, 8:00 p.m., Sanctuary
Proceeds benefit the Gay-Straight Alliance at TTU

Workday at the Food Bank

Saturday, December 10, 9:00 a.m., at the South
Plains Food Bank. Pre-registration required!

Lessons and Carols, December 11, 10:30 Worship

LSO HOLIDAY CHAMBER CONCERT

Tuesday, December 13, 7:30 p.m., Sanctuary
See back cover for further information!

**Christmas: the Good, the Bad, & the Ugly:
an Advent study for adults
by Richard B. Wilke**

**Four Sundays of Advent
November 27-December 18**

9:15-10:15 a.m.

Room 215

Facilitated by David Cameron



“What Are We Waiting For?”

Advent devotional booklets are now available for pick-up. They are located in the hallway between the sanctuary and the Garden Room. Due to limited booklets available, we ask that you take one per family.

A description of the booklet is as follows, “Advent gives a special meaning to all that we are waiting for: presents under a tree, Christmas cookies on a plate, festive gatherings of family and friends—and, of course, the celebration of the birth of Jesus. And we Christians are waiting for the return of Christ when God’s kingdom will be fully revealed. This booklet of reflection and prayer reminds us that the Lord is revealed to us every day, in the love we have for one another, in our hearts at prayer and in the words of Scripture.”

Game Day Parking:



A Winning Proposition for St. John's Youth

A place unassuming and mostly taken-for-granted has become a piece of a successful fundraiser for St. John's. The church's parking lot—and much hard work from several members—raised \$6,464 during the Texas Tech football season. The funds will support individual youth interests, such as summer camps at Ceta Canyon, youth trips or Spirit Wind choir tours.

For the three years prior to the 2011 season, the game day parking fundraiser was specifically for those St. John's youth and sponsors participating in Spirit Wind, the official youth choir of the Northwest Texas Conference. This year the funding experience was made available to all St. John's youth, with the proceeds earmarked for individual activities of those who worked the lot on game days. Spaces were sold for \$5 or \$10 throughout the season.

For larger-attended games, our neighbors at St. Paul's allowed us to use their lot as well. A contribution in the name of St. Paul's has been made to the Food Voucher Program as a gesture of gratitude.

Thanks to all who helped to make this fundraiser possible: the trustees, staff, youth sponsors, Spirit Wind supporters and administrators, youth and their families.

Welcome, Barney and Barbara Quillin!

Barney and Barbara joined St. John's on Sunday, November 20, 2011. They are long-time residents of Lubbock. Barbara works at our own Cokesbury Books and Church Supplies. Barney is self-employed and owns Duo Distributors, Inc. He sells specialty building products to construction companies. Barney enjoys golfing, and Barbara likes to watch sports, especially going to basketball games. She came to St. John's the first time to hear Ann Akin preach. Barbara liked the feel of the church: the fantastic music and the friendly people. Barney came with her the next time, and now we are so glad that they are officially part of us. Please take the opportunity to introduce yourself to our newest members the next time you see them!



Please help our church kitchen by collecting **Grundig Bonus Stickers from United Supermarkets** now through March 6, 2012. With enough bonus stickers, we can get small kitchen appliances for free. Bonus stickers can be placed in the manila envelope on the volunteer desk in the office.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT



Poinsettia Sale

Not only is advent a special time in our Church year, but it is also a beautiful time in our sanctuary. Adding to the beauty of the advent season are the poinsettias that we have in the sanctuary each year.

Order forms to purchase poinsettias are in the church bulletin. You can help with the beauty of our sanctuary this advent season in one of three ways: purchase a poinsettia in honor of someone for \$10, purchase a poinsettia in memory of someone for \$10, or donate to the poinsettia fund in any amount.

The listing of purchased poinsettias will be in the bulletin on Sunday, December 18, and your order needs to be in the church office by Monday, December 12. Donations to the poinsettia fund can be made up until Christmas. Purchased poinsettias will be available to be picked up after both Christmas Eve services.

Please vote for HOPE Community of Shalom

Help HOPE Community of Shalom to win \$10,000 in the Community Rewards program of City Bank. It could help repair our compressor so that we will have air conditioning in the education wing next summer or it could help us repair the stained glass windows in our sanctuary. The rules have changed this year, giving us a much better chance to win.

Through Friday, December 16, please go to www.citybankonline.com and choose HOPE Community of Shalom. You can vote once a day from each computer you use, whether at home or at work. It may also be possible to vote from a cell phone if it can access the web. Votes may come from anywhere, even outside the United States, so please ask everyone you know to help! It's not much effort and it could make such a big difference.

If you would like daily reminders, e-mail your request to hopeshalomlubbock@gmail.com and I will send you daily reminders.

Thanks for your help! Nancy Clopton
Executive Director, HOPE Community of Shalom

Animus: a Family Sunday School Class

(Photo is from the Animus Class's Send-off Party for the Cook Family earlier this year)



This class is filled with singles and couples, some with children. You can meet grad students, computer gurus, folks interested in the arts, self-employed persons, teachers, Tech faculty, and others all interested in "soul", "spirit", and "mind"--some of the meanings of "Animus."

We choose our study topics based on issues we're struggling with or interests we have. Past topics have included world religions, money, end-times theology, politics, prayer, movie discussions, and Methodism. Currently we are wrapping up a study of Marcus Borg's The Heart of Christianity.

We fellowship through social and service activities, sometimes with our children and sometimes with shared babysitting. We support each other and value our God-given differences in personality, ethnicity, sexual orientation, and gender. Please visit our class so that we might meet you!

Calling All Adult Sunday School Classes!

Highlight your class in the church paper! We invite each class to take a picture of itself and write an article containing the history, description and curriculum being studied at the time. Picture and article need to be given to Mary Ruth Thurmond in the church office by the deadline listed. The picture and article will be in the church paper the following week. If you have any questions, contact either Mary Ruth or David Cameron. Use this opportunity to highlight your class and invite others to join you!

Class	Paper Deadline
New Beginnings	December 9
Open Door	December 30
Shepherd	January 13
Sine Nomine	January 27
Koinonia	February 10

UMW December Events



United Methodist Women's Christmas Luncheon will be Wednesday, December 7, 11:30 a.m., at the home of Donna Echols, 5723 78th St. Please RSVP to Nell Matthews, 745-6017, Tooley Wilkinson, 799-1755, or the church office, 762-0123, by Monday, the 5th.

Scenes from the UMW Bake Sale



Thank you, St. John's!
Through your generosity, the UMW is able to meet its goals to support missions for women, children, and youth, here and abroad!



Soul Sisters

Brunch/Ornament Exchange Saturday, December 3, at 9:30 a.m., in the Garden Room. Please bring an ornament to exchange (under \$10) and also bring an ornament to tell about: antique, unusual, sentimental, decoration detail, etc. If you can, please bring hygiene items for the Food Voucher Program clients. Nursery available. Please RSVP to the church office (762-0123).

Church Librarian Checking In One Last Time

After years of faithfully caring for the church library, Donna Cash is retiring as St. John's librarian. From several boxes of books in the basement to the current beautiful setting and varied collection, Donna has been instrumental in growing the church's resources for Bible study, devotional reading, faith development, social awareness, and fiction for your pleasure reading. Today the library houses 1,151 books for all ages!



Using her experience as a school librarian, Donna has given the church her time, talents and gifts by culling, cataloging, processing, and reshelving book after book, week after week for the past 20 years! Each book is now entered into the computer making it user friendly for all desiring to take advantage of the resources.

Twenty years ago, James Preston, associate pastor at that time, asked Donna Cash and Jo Carr to go to the basement with him where he showed them boxes of books that had been collecting through the years and stored in the depths of the basement. After sharing his vision with them, Donna and Jo were inspired by the vision. They began establishing the library by asking Delaine Crawford and Ira Williams to build the shelves, the shelves that are still in use today.

The adult library was originally housed in the Sine Nomine Sunday School Class, Room 112. The children's library was separate, located upstairs in Room 220, and through the years developed by Nancy Krebbs and Linda Dragga. Six years ago in March the libraries were combined and moved to the current location with monies given by Damon Richards and preliminary design by Nola (continued next page)

IT TAKES A VILLAGE

New on the prayer list: Renee Hester, Robert Jones, Walter Mitchell, Libby and Bob Ford, and the family and friends of Marjorie Mallisee.

Trudy Putteet has moved to Heritage Oaks, 5301 University, Room 111. Her number is 790-3190. Visitors welcome!!!

From Larry Howard: Cole Turner is a 3-year-old with leukemia. His father, Jody, is looking for childcare as both he and his wife work. They would prefer someone who has kept a child with leukemia in the past. The doctors are saying Cole shouldn't go into daycare as his immune system is weaker. Jody's work number is 743-5791.

(**Church Librarian** from page 6) Richards. Charles Hastings moved the shelves, anchoring them to the wall, while Robby Vestal chose the furnishings, decorated the room, and donated the painting there. Jo Carr, Imogene and Gene Sorley, Elaine Howard, Mary Ruth Thurmond, Don Hicks and Bennie McDonald helped in the initial move by sorting through the books, pulling library cards from the card file, and boxing the books to be moved or donated to Friends of the Library.

Through all of these transitions Donna diligently oversaw the implementing and strengthening of the original vision for a church library. St. John's is truly indebted to Donna Cash.

The library depends upon donations of money and books, as well as books being placed in the library in memory or honor of loved ones. As members downsize their home libraries, books donated are evaluated against the Mission Statement: *The church library is a teaching tool, important to study for the individual, the class, and the congregation. The library supports the mission of the church as well as the growth of individual members' faith.* Books not used are donated to the Friends of the Library. Gifts of books, monies, or memorials, are accepted with the understanding that the Library Committee may use its discretion in the placement of these gifts.

The church library is available during office hours, Sundays, Wonderful Wednesdays and by request. Please check our resources using the following procedure: unlimited check-out with return as soon as you are finished. Donna has passed the vision on to our new church librarians, Nancy and Bruce Cammack. The church looks forward to utilizing the expertise they bring as current librarians with the City of Lubbock and Texas Tech.

Coming up at Youth!

This Sunday, December 4: 5:30 p.m., Snack supper will be provided by the Couch family in The Parking Lot; **6:00 p.m.,** UMY Huddle Time facilitated by Cecilee Echols; **7:00 p.m.,** Parents pick up youth.

Sunday, December 11: 5:30 p.m., Meet at church to go grab fast food and shop for Carl's Christmas; **7:00 p.m.,** Parents pick up youth at church

Sunday, December 18: 5:30 p.m., UMY Christmas party at the Goodwin's, 3222 21st St.; **7:00 p.m.,** Parents pick up youth.

NO more UMY until next year! Enjoy your Christmas holidays!! See you again on Sunday, January 8, 2012!!!

Church Calendar

Sunday, December 4, 2011

8:15 a.m. Communion Service
 9:15 a.m. Sunday School Hour
 10:30 a.m. Worship Service
 11:45 a.m. University meal
 5:20 p.m. United Methodist Youth

Monday, December 5, 2011

5:30 p.m. Literacy Lubbock
 6:00 p.m. Charge Conference
 7:30 p.m. Scouts
 8:00 p.m. Broad Highway AA

Tuesday, December 6, 2011

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

Wednesday, December 7, 2011

11:30 a.m. United Methodist Women's Christmas Luncheon
 6:00 p.m. Disciple I
 6:00 p.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry
 6:00 p.m. Chrismon Workshop
 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir meets early

Thursday, December 8, 2011

9:30 a.m. Quilters
 11:30 a.m. Fellowship Class Christmas Party

Saturday, December 10, 2011

9:00 a.m. Workday at the Food Bank

Sunday, December 11, 2011

8:15 a.m. Communion Service
 9:15 a.m. Sunday School Hour
 10:30 a.m. Lessons and Carols
 11:45 a.m. University Meal
 12:00 p.m. Choir Christmas Party
 5:30 p.m. UMY

Monday, December 12, 2011

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

Tuesday, December 13, 2011

8:45 a.m. Staff Meeting
 12:45 p.m. Sanctuary time for FV clients
 1:30 p.m. Tuesday Food Vouchers
 7:30 p.m. LSO Holiday Chamber Concert

Wednesday, December 14, 2011

6:00 p.m. Disciple I
 6:00 p.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry
 6:00 p.m. Chrismon Workshop
 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir rehearsal

Thursday, December 15, 2011

9:30 a.m. Quilters
 1:30 p.m. Merry Mailers
 5:30 p.m. Literacy Lubbock
 7:00 p.m. South Plains Astronomy Club



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



**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.

HOLIDAY CHAMBER
December 13 | 7:30 PM
St. John's United Methodist Church

The LSO Brass Quintet
with Christopher Betts, organ

Come join in the musical fun with
refreshments afterwards!
Bring something for the Tree of Warmth &
get in half price!

Adult \$20 | Student \$10
TICKETS: 806.762.1688 | lubbocksymphony.org