

# ST. JOHN'S

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



## *The Explorer*

Volume 6, Issue 25

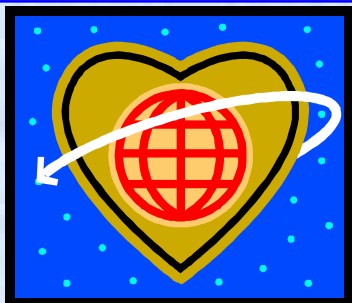
Website: <http://www.stjohnslubbock.org>

December 15, 2011



**Merry Christmas  
and Happy New Year  
from the clergy  
and staff of  
St. John's!**





*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:** [m.thurmond@stjohnslubbock.org](mailto:m.thurmond@stjohnslubbock.org)  
The openminds account is NOT working!

**Web:** [www.stjohnslubbock.org](http://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
- Organist: Clint Barrick
- Business Manager: Dennis Howard  
and Emily Johnson
- Facilities Supervisor: David Cranford
- 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](mailto:openminds@stjohnslubbock.org).**

**If you have changed your phone #, home or  
e-mail address, call the church office.**

**St. John's Welcomes Two New Staff Members**

SPRC is pleased to announce the hiring of Emily Johnson as the new Business Manager at St. John's. Emily has an accounting degree from Texas Tech and has previously worked as an accountant and business manager. She, her husband, and their children are active at First Baptist Church. We are grateful that Dennis Howard, who can retire now that Emily is on board, will be available for a transition period as Emily becomes acquainted with the United Methodist Church's software and processes.



SPRC is also pleased to announce that David Cranford will again assume the position of Facilities Manager at St. John's. David has been a member of St. John's for many years, and we appreciate his knowledge and understanding of the church's building and operations.

Please welcome Emily and David and thank them for their service to our congregation.

Mary Jane Hurst  
SPRC Chair



**Lectionary Scripture Readings**

**December 18: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16; Luke 1:47-55;  
Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1: 26-38**

**December 25: Isaiah 52:7-10; Psalm 98;  
Hebrews 1:1-4; John 1:1-14**

From the Editor: This is the LAST newsletter of 2011. Thank you to Archie Echols, Mary Jane Hurst, Leslie Cranford, David Cameron, Jim Clopton, Craig Rutherford, Monya Castle, Donna Echols, VelvetLee Finckbone, and Tess Jackson. This Christmas I am grateful for all of my St. John's family, especially the many elves who leave news items on my desk or in my e-mail and ALWAYS to the Merry Mailers, the Office Volunteers, and Leilani Fillhard. It is so easy to count my blessings around this place!!!

**Next newsletter deadline: December 30.**

Later! mrt

# Looking Ahead



**La Trinidad UMC Bake Sale**  
 Sunday, December 18, 9:00 a.m.

**Christmas Eve**  
**Saturday, December 24**  
**5:30 p.m.**

A service with young children in mind  
 Carols, Communion, and the Christmas story.  
 Nursery provided.

**10:45 p.m.**  
 Special music by the Chancel Choir,  
 Communion, and Midnight Lighting  
 of the Christ Candle.

**Family Promise returns to St. John's**  
**December 25-January 1!!!**  
 Call Jim Clopton (392-2216) to volunteer  
 or for more information!

**Christmas Day**  
**Sunday, December 25**  
 No Sunday School  
 10:30 a.m. Worship service only

**New Year' Day**  
**Sunday, January 1, 2012**  
 9:15 a.m., All-church brunch  
 No Sunday School  
 10:30 a.m. Worship service only

**Fiesta Domingo**  
 Sunday, January 8  
 We need cooks (3:00 p.m. at St. John's),  
 servers (4:30 p.m. at HOPE Shalom), and  
 COOKIES! Please call Craig Rutherford  
 (317-0058) to sign up or for more information.



Our Emergency Pantry needs  
**BAGS (paper or plastic)!**  
 As always, we also need  
**FOOD and HYGIENE** stuff,  
 but we really need **BAGS!**



**Wednesday**  
**January 4**  
**5:30 p.m.**

**Enter your favorite chili**

Prizes for: *People's Choice, Spiciest, Most Creative, Best Presentation, Most Kid-Friendly*

**Or just come and enjoy  
 the good food, line dancing  
 and fun**

Tickets  
**\$4.00**

*Those entering the cookoff receive two free tickets  
 Please contact David Cameron and let him know you are  
 entering the cookoff at:*

**762-0123 or [dcameron@stjohnslubbock.org](mailto:dcameron@stjohnslubbock.org)**



**Happy January 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!)**

- Jan 4 Gene Sorley  
Ben Terry
- Jan 5 Brandon Hastings
- Jan 13 Michael Jordan
- Jan 14 Ron Chandler
- Jan 16 John Klein
- Jan 17 Hayden Shinn
- Jan 20 Glenna Keesee
- Jan 22 Dwight Finckbone  
Jack Hays
- Jan 25 Betty Dotts
- Jan 26 Noah Rubio
- Jan 27 Art Addington
- Jan 29 Derek James
- Jan 31 Carl Graham

# Welcome to the Flora Family!

The Flora Family is not new to St. John's, but they joined St. John's on Sunday, December 11, 2011. Pictured from left to right are Don, Annika, Alexis, and Jeanne. The Floras come to Lubbock from California. Don is the women's volleyball coach at Texas Tech. Jeanne is an associate professor in the Department of Communication Studies at New Mexico State University in Las Cruces. Jeanne likes gardening, cooking, running, and tennis. Don enjoys golfing and watching all kinds of sports. They both like to travel. Annika is a volleyball player and Alexis plays tennis. Both girls enjoy the children's art classes on Wonderful Wednesdays. They feel as though St John's really lives its motto: "Open hearts, open arms, open minds." Jeanne says St. John's is welcoming and they have experienced warm, open hearts. They like thinking about theology and spirituality too, so the open minds part fits too. Please introduce yourself to this wonderful family as soon as possible!





 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** 



## Sweet Potato Fries in the Bag

As fast as the cases could be opened, volunteers were packaging frozen bags of sweet potato fries as part of the 5,000 food boxes the South Plains Food Bank will distribute area-wide this Christmas season.

This past Saturday morning, twenty-one St. John's volunteers of all ages were a part of the 188 assisting in the preparation of these boxes. It was just one of five Saturday mornings that volunteers have been busily assisting the Food Bank to get ready for the Christmas rush.

On our assigned morning, our church was represented by Sally and Meredith Abbe, Mary Bailey, Donna Cash, George, Dominique, India, and Brett Comiskey, Joy Lawson, John, Cheryl and Molly McCollum, Craig and Norma Rutherford, Janette Scott, Lucille Sedgwick, Margie and Jim Sorley, Roy and Mary Turner, and David Cameron.

In visiting with Barry Massey, Volunteer Coordinator at the Food Bank, we learned that due to cuts in government programs, the Food Bank will have a shortfall this year of about a million pounds of food. Therefore, they are depending heavily on local organizations and individuals to off-set some of this shortfall.

Plans are being negotiated for on-going quarterly Saturday morning workdays. All will tell you this past Saturday was a very worthwhile experience! Don't miss out the next time!



## New Beginnings: Diverse, Intriguing, and Inclusive

Pictured from left to right: Front row: Lisa Viator, Sarah Nuckolls, Leslie Cranford, Sally Kennedy, and Monya Castle. Back row: Donna Echols, Robby Vestal, Philip Ford, Natalie Bueno Vasquez, Jeff Watson, Leilani Fillhard, Nancy Cammack, Ann Akin, John DuBard, Margie Sorley, Debra Castle, Matthew Gallagher, and Matt Castle.



The New Beginnings Sunday School Class was established February 7, 2010, by Rev. Daniel Echols and Donna Echols. This adult class is open-minded, thought-provoking, eclectic, diverse, and includes a wide variety of theological perspectives. The class has intriguing discussions with depth that challenges the learner. The class includes many ages and is a faithful, committed group of seekers and searchers continuing on their faith journey. The class began by learning about John Wesley and some of his tenets of faith including holiness and perfection. The class has also studied about who is God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit? Other topics have included How the Bible Came to Be, The Sermon on the Mount, The Seven Deadly Sins, The Gifts of the Spirit, The Ten Commandments, and now an Advent study about people in the Christmas Story. The class meets upstairs in room 219.



### 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
Open Door	December 30
Shepherd	January 13
Sine Nomine	January 27
Koinonia	February 10

# UMW January Events



The United Methodist Women and the Dora Harris Circle will hold their first meetings of 2012 on Wednesday, January 11 and 25, respectively, at 9:30 a.m., in Room 122.

The Dorothy Manning Circle will meet Thursday, January 26, at 6:30 p.m., at El Chico's Restaurant, 4119 Marsha Sharp Freeway.



## Soul Sisters

Small groups will resume in January!  
Our event this month is "Soup and Socks."  
Details TBA.

## Soul Sisters

### Christmas Brunch and Ornament Exchange



*Doing what we do best:*



*Sharing ourselves with others...*



*telling our stories...*



*...and having way too much fun!*



# IT TAKES A VILLAGE

New on the prayer list: Julia Tabery, Susan Poff and family, Glenna Keese, Gabe Stokes, Joylynn Harris and her family, and the family and friends of Charlie Lusher.

Susan Poff's mother, **Juanelle Johnson**, died Tuesday, December 6, 2011.

**Dimitri Pappas** is one of thirteen to receive a Chancellor's Council Distinguished Teaching and Research Award on December 9. Dimitri is an associate professor in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry at Texas Tech. Previously serving as a senior scientist at Johnson Space Center, Pappas has earned national and international recognition for his work using new chemical methods to study and detect illnesses such as heart disease and cancer, and has been noted as one of the top bioanalytical chemists in the nation.

## Can YOU help?



**FAMILY PROMISE**  
Call Jim Clopton (392-2216)

**FLOWER DELIVERY**

**MINISTRY** Call David Cameron  
(762-0123)

**FIESTA DOMINGO** or  
**MUGS FOR FIRST-TIME VISITORS** Call Craig Rutherford  
(317-0058)

**Remember to recycle your magazines on our magazine rack!**

## Coming up at Youth!

**This Sunday, December 18:**

**10:00 a.m.**, Sunday School teachers will let you out early to come to the Garden Room and give Carl his Christmas gifts

**5:30 p.m.**, UMY Christmas party at the Goodwin's, 3222 21st St. Bring a white elephant gift to exchange (Don't spend money! Wrap and bring something crazy from home), decorate cookies, sing Christmas carols, and say goodbye to Charlotte and Bryan Sessom who will be retiring as youth sponsors and coordinators!!!!; **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 18, 2011

8:15 a.m. Communion Service  
9:00 a.m. La Trinidad Bake Sale  
9:15 a.m. Sunday School Hour  
10:30 a.m. Worship Service  
5:30 p.m. United Methodist Youth

### Monday, December 19, 2011

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

### Tuesday, December 20, 2011

8:45 a.m. Staff Meeting  
12:00 p.m. Interfaith Dialogue  
8:00 p.m. PFLAG 2

### Wednesday, December 21, 2011

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 22, 2011

9:30 a.m. Quilters  
6:00 p.m. Finance Committee

### OFFICE CLOSED

### Friday-Monday, December 23-26

### Saturday, December 24, 2011

5:30 p.m. Early Christmas Eve service  
10:45 p.m. Late Christmas Eve service

### Sunday, December 25, 2011

### WEEK OF FAMILY PROMISE

10:30 a.m. Worship Service

### Wednesday, December 28, 2011

NO CHANCEL CHOIR REHEARSAL

### Thursday, December 29, 2011

9:30 a.m. Quilters

### Sunday, January 1, 2012

9:15 a.m. All-church brunch  
10:30 a.m. Worship service

### Monday, January 2, 2012

### OFFICE CLOSED

### Tuesday, January 3, 2012

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

### Wednesday, January 4, 2012

5:30 p.m. Chili Cook-off  
6:00 p.m. Disciple I  
6:00 p.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry  
6:00 p.m. Chrismon Workshop  
NO CHANCEL CHOIR REHEARSAL

### Thursday, January 5, 2012

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



**We are getting some new mugs!**

**If you have a favorite Sunday morning mug, please take it home!**



*Christmas Eve Candlelight Services*

*5:30 p.m.*

*Family service with  
Carols, Holy Communion and the Christmas Story*

*10:45 p.m.*

*Service of Holy Communion, Midnight Lighting of the  
Christ Candle and Special Music by the Chancel Choir*

*Christmas Day*

*No Sunday School*

*10:30 a.m. Worship service only*

*New Year's Day*

*9:15 a.m. All-church brunch instead of Sunday School*

*10:30 a.m. Worship service only*

*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**

**THE EXPLORER**

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