

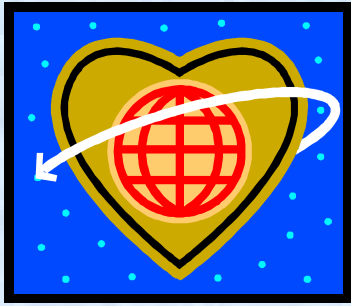


The Chrismon Tree: a St. John's tradition by Sally Kennedy

In 1957, Frances Kipps Spencer began creating decorations appropriate for her church Christmas tree at the Ascension Lutheran Church in Danville, Virginia. These decorations are called Chrismons, meaning monograms of Christ. Chrismons proclaim the name, the life and saving acts of Jesus the Christ. Others are explanations of God's constant presence in our ever-changing world. The symbols are interdenominational and celebrate the heritage of all Christians. Chrismons are white and gold and are placed on an evergreen tree representing eternal life. White lights represent the Light of the world. Chrismons are handmade and not to be bought or sold. Three years ago, Sarah Nuckolls began a Wednesday night group focused on the repair of the St. John's Chrismons. Made out of Styrofoam, wire and beads, the decorations needed a facelift.

Donna Echols had experience in Chrismons beaded on felt. With her encouragement, the repair group evolved into a beginners beading group. 2010 marked the first year for the new decorations. This year more than 50 new Chrismons have been added to the tree. The Chrismon group continues to meet during Wonderful Wednesdays and welcomes anyone wanting to learn to bead. The St. John's tree bears Chrismons made by: Sally Abbe, Sarah Cameron, Mary Crites, Donna Echols, Sally Kennedy, Cindy Martin, Marilyn McMillan, Sarah Nuckolls, MacKenzie Nuckolls, and Margie Robertson.





**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

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The openminds account is NOT working!

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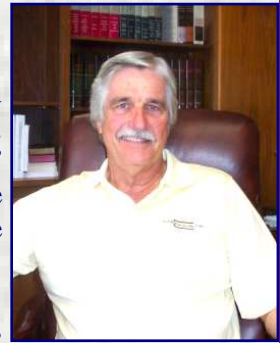
Saint John's Staff

- 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
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 m.thurmond@stjohnslubbock.org.**

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

PASTOR'S NOTE



Every time you buy a "brand new" car, as soon as you drive it off of the car lot it becomes "used." I suppose, like a new car, this new year is already "used." Resolutions have already been broken...old habits have taken over again...and some of the momentum to change has dwindled.

The reality is that the calendar cannot produce newness alone. Newness takes something from the inside as well as help from the outside. Breaking free from addictions is almost impossible to do without help. Dieting is best done with others there to support. The best chance to overcome alcohol abuse comes from joining others in the effort, such as A.A. But alcohol and drugs and smoking and eating are not the only things which can become addicting. Many other things have the power to control our lives. May we have the wisdom to cry, "Help."

Attitudes are also hard to change. Meanness and prejudice are best overcome when others help us to see ourselves and the world around us through new eyes. When we find ourselves hurting others, may we have the courage to cry, "Help."

Any good change that comes our way may best be seen as a gift. In Revelation God proclaims, "Behold, I make all things new." God's work in transforming persons is a gift. It is what Wesley would call grace. It comes from a conviction within but also a source of strength bigger than ours that comes from God. My prayer would be that this year we may experience the gift of newness of life for all of us. And then, may we partner with God and become instruments of the transforming grace of God for the world.

Grace and Peace

Archie

Lectionary Scripture Readings

**January 8: Genesis 1:1-5; Psalm 29;
Acts 19:1-7; Mark 1:4-11**

**January 15: 1 Samuel 3:1-10; Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18;
1 Corinthians 6:12-20; John 1:43-51**

From the Editor: Happy New Year! A big thank you to the Advent and Epiphany elves of the Worship Committee for making the church look and feel like Christmas! This issue's contributors include Sally Kennedy, Cindy Martin, Marilyn McMillan, Archie Echols, Craig Rutherford, Donna Echols, David Cameron, Charles Hastings, Deborah Bratcher, and Russell Griswold. Thanks to the Office Volunteers (Ginny Riggs, Sandy Goodloe, Donna Cash, Melba Rickman, Sue Sprouls, Sue Hudgins, Judy Henderson, and Leilani Fillhard) and the Substitutes (Diane Cole, Sandy Lewis, Janette Scott, and Margie Sorley), and the Merry Mailers (Beth Gibson, Tess Jackson, Don and Peggy Martin, Lucille Sedgwick, Tooley Wilkinson, and Mildred Wylie). They make every day a joy!

Next newsletter deadline: January 12.

Later! mrt



Looking Ahead

Fiesta Domingo
Sunday, January 8

We need one cook (3:00 p.m. at St. John's) and more servers (4:30 p.m. at HOPE Shalom)! Please call Craig Rutherford (317-0058) to sign up or for more information.

Trustees meeting

Tuesday, January 10, 5:30 p.m., Room 122

Soul Sisters Soup 'N' Socks

Saturday, January 14, 11:30 a.m., Garden Room

Interfaith Dialogue

Tuesday, January 17, 12:00 p.m., Room 122

Funday for Retirees

Wednesday, January 18,
9:00 a.m., Garden Room

Finance Committee

Thursday, January 19, 6:00 p.m., Room 122

Wonderful Wednesdays

Schedule for the Spring Semester

5:30-6:00 p.m. Meal; Cost: \$5.00

6:00-7:00/7:15 p.m. Classes

Menu for January 11: Baked spaghetti, tossed salad, fruit tray, garlic bread, and Italian cream cake.

Menu for January 18: Chicken pot pie, fruity bacon salad, mixed vegetable medley, rolls, and apple pie.

On-going Opportunities

Disciple I Bible study Chrismon Workshop Prayer Shawl Ministry
Children's Handchimes, Handbells, and Choir

Getting the Most for Your Money (Room 115)

January 11

Rachel Hardy
free-lance writer
Martha Bagby

January 18 and 25

A New Kind of Christianity (Room 122)

January 11-February 16

Daniel Echols and Lance Dixon

The Greatest Gift (Room 115)

February 1

Charley Wasson
Lubbock and Covenant Palliative Care

Caring for the Caregiver (Room 115)

February 8

Charley Wasson

Spend an Evening with some of Texas Tech's treasures (Room 115)

February 15

Bruce Cammack

Ash Wednesday Service, February 22

Start of Lenten Season

Dear St. John's,

Thank you! You are always so quick to fulfill the needs of the food pantry. We asked for bags and what did we get?

Lots and lots of BAGS!!!

Now the pantry really needs food staples: canned or dry nonperishable foods like meat, Spam, chicken, fish, milk, veggies, fruit, peanut butter, cereal, canned meals, pasta and sauces.

P.S. The people we help may not have eggs or oil for a cake mix or ground beef or chicken for tacos or Hamburger/Chicken Helper.



means

SAVE OUR (EMPTY) SHELVES!

HAPPY NEW YEAR

It is traditional to make resolutions at this time of year: change habits from bad to good improving health, finances, etc. What about your spiritual health? Now is the time to put God in your DayPlanner. * Set aside a daily slot for your quality time with God. * Pick up a prayer list from the chapel to see prayer requests from St. John's and from our Food Voucher clients. * Go online to devotional.upperroom.org or get a paper copy of *The Upper Room* from the display next to the sanctuary. * Check out Cokesbury's inventory of devotionals such as *Jesus Calling* by Sarah Young, *The Upper Room Disciplines: a book of daily devotions 2012*, *Reading through the Bible in One Year Made Easy*, and *Daily Guideposts 2012*. * There is an entire section of daily devotions for many interests. * Join a Bible study (Ted Dotts will be teaching a Lenten Bible study starting February 29). * Try the new Toastmasters group, "What Would Jesus Say?" (see below) * Find a worthy charity and volunteer. * There are many ministries here at St. John's which would love having you take part. * Stretch your mind at Interfaith Dialogue or in the Theology Group. * Visit someone who is homebound or in the hospital. * Feed the hungry.

Share your spiritual resolutions with someone. Your story might inspire them and give them confidence to succeed. B'hatzlacha!

WWJS Toastmasters (What Would Jesus Say?)

Llano Estacado and South Plains Toastmasters are forming a group of Christian Toastmasters in Lubbock! We are embarking on a new venture to create a Toastmasters club that will help the individual communicate Christ. The club is called WWJS Toastmasters.

Often, the average church member either does not know how to present his or her thoughts or lacks the confidence. Using the tried and true methods of the Toastmasters program, members develop the skills and confidence needed to effectively express themselves and their belief in Christ in any situation. By learning to formulate and convey ideas, members find themselves to be more persuasive and confident when speaking to groups or in one-on-one dealings with others.

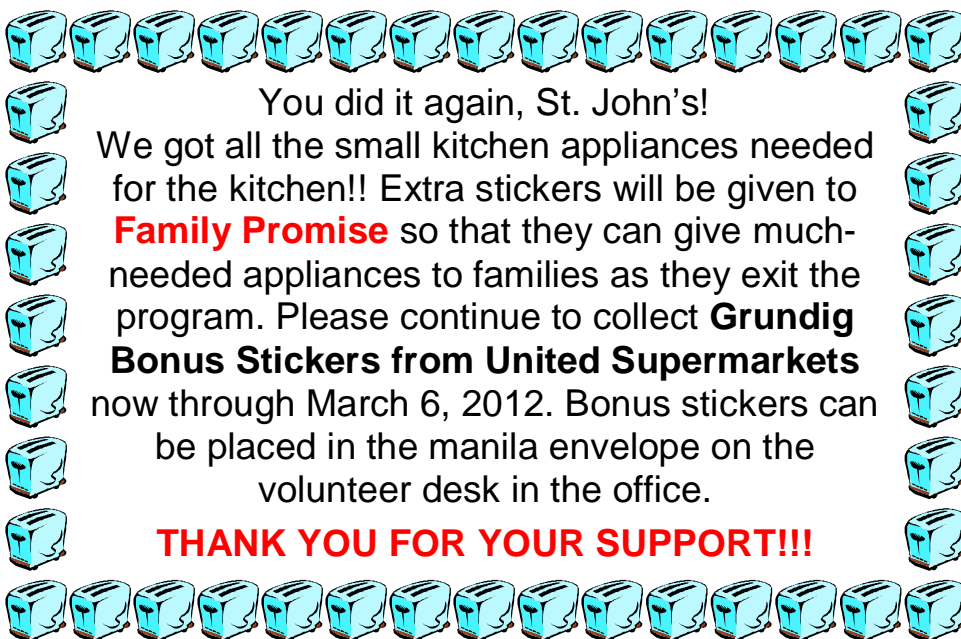
We speak in a friendly and supportive Christian environment, and the self-paced program allows members to build confidence in themselves and their words.

Constructive evaluation is the heart of the Toastmasters program. Each time a member speaks, an evaluator will point out strengths and suggest improvements.

Toastmasters training will teach your members to: Develop their leadership potential, listen better, give better presentations, offer constructive criticism, present ideas more effectively, and conduct Bible studies.

The crew behind the WWJS Toastmasters Club will host a demo meeting on Thursday, January 5, 2012, 6:30-7:30 p.m., at Mardel's in Lubbock (7020 Quaker Ave.). During the hour we will hold a complete, but abbreviated, Toastmasters meeting to demonstrate how the process works. Afterwards there will be time for questions and answers.

Please join us as we launch this new and exciting adventure in enhancing our ability to share our faith!



You did it again, St. John's!

We got all the small kitchen appliances needed for the kitchen!! Extra stickers will be given to **Family Promise** so that they can give much-needed appliances to families as they exit the program. Please continue to collect **Grundig Bonus Stickers from United Supermarkets** now through March 6, 2012. Bonus stickers can be placed in the manila envelope on the volunteer desk in the office.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!!!



OPEN DOOR CLASS

Pictured: (Back row, left to right): Imogene and Gene Sorley, Bill Warren, and Charles Hastings.
 Front row, left to right): Nell Matthews, Shirley Warren and Peggy Hastings.
 Missing are Basil Moss and Stan and Lucille Sedgwick.



In 1952, the door first opened to a tiny cubicle next to the sanctuary of the old St. John's building on Avenue X and 14th Street. A small group of young couples were caught up in the enthusiasm of their teacher. Basil and Polly Moss were among the early organizers. In time the group acquired four walls and a door, curtains and eventually air-conditioning. Tech professor Sam Lee and Rev. Charles Lutrick were among the early teachers.

For some years we have not had designated teachers. The group finds it most interesting to choose a study and read and discuss the topic together. Over the years the class has studied the scriptures, doctrinal topics and social issues. Often we challenge beliefs commonly held. We are supportive of each other when sensitive issues are discussed.

At one time the class of 30-40 filled what is now the University Class. Currently the class meets in Room 115. Of those on the roll in 1983, Bobbie Foster, Peggy and Charles Hastings, Basil Moss, Myra Pierson, Lucille and Stan Sedgwick, Imogene and Gene Sorley and Shirley and Bill Warren are still members of the class or are involved in groups within St. John's. Recently lost by death are Bill Pierson, Polly Moss and Olivia Horn. What began as young couples are now among the senior members of the congregation.

We invite persons of any age to join us for challenging studies and a caring fellowship.

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 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
Shepherd	January 13
Sine Nomine	January 27
Koinonia	February 10

Calling the Disciples

Date	Younger Elementary (K-1 st)	Middle Elementary (2 nd -3 rd)	Older Elementary (4 th -5 th)
January 8	Art	Games	Science
January 15	Science	Art	Games
January 22	Games	Science	Art
January 29	Story	Cooking	Computer
February 5	Computer	Story	Cooking
February 12	Cooking	Computer	Story

Main Idea: Long ago Jesus called people to be his disciples, to learn from him and to teach others. Jesus calls us today to witness to the good news that he brought and to share Jesus' story with others.

Bible Verse: And Jesus said to them, "Follow me and I will make you fish for people." And immediately they left their nets and followed him. Mark 1: 17 - 18. **Objectives:** * Discover the first disciples that Jesus called were ordinary fishermen; * Discover Jesus calls people today to follow and be disciples; * Experience ways we can follow Jesus; * Discover Jesus calls people who are less than perfect to be his disciples; * Experience the story of Jesus calling the first disciples; * Discover different ways of sharing Jesus' story with others.

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 Celebrate Soup 'N' Socks!

Saturday, January 14, 11:30 a.m., in the Garden Room. Please bring a pair of socks for the needy. Donna Echols will present a program about soups and stews in the Bible. Childcare will be provided. Start this year off right with your Soul Sisters!



Save these dates!

8 January	Fiesta Domingo
26 January	Prayer vigil (Rodrigo Hernandez)
1 February	Prayer vigil (Donald Newbury)
28 February	Prayer vigil (Anthony Bartee)
29 February	Prayer vigil (George Rivas)
3 March	Workday at the South Plains Food Bank
7 March	Prayer vigil (Keith Thurmond)
8 March	Prayer vigil (Beunka Adams)
18-25 March	Family Promise
28 March	Prayer vigil (Jesse Hernandez)
8 April	Fiesta Domingo
5 May	Workday at the South Plains Food Bank
17-24 June	Family Promise
1 July	Fiesta Domingo
16-23 September	Family Promise
14 October	Fiesta Domingo
16-23 December	Family Promise

St. John's celebrates **Fiesta Domingo** with HOPE Shalom by making and serving a meal for approximately 120 people. Nancy Clopton is the executive director of this fine ministry in the heart of Lubbock. To learn more, visit www.hopeshalom.org.

The People of Faith Against the Death Penalty hold **prayer vigils** when the state schedules an execution. They sing hymns and remember the victims and their families and friends, as well as the condemned prisoners and their loved ones, in prayer. Generally they meet at 5:45 p.m., in the church parking lot. Contact Craig Rutherford (317-0058) for more information on both Fiesta Domingo or the prayer vigils.

Workdays at the South Plains Food Bank are limited to the first 20 people who sign up. To participate in this productive (and fun) opportunity, please call David Cameron (762-0123).

Family Promise returns to St. John's four times a year. This program shelters and assists homeless families with children. Visit www.familypromiselubbock.org to learn more. Contact Jim Clopton (392-2216) to help.

IT TAKES A VILLAGE

New on the prayer list: Peggy Martin, Linda Hendrix, Guy and Laura Harris, Kathy and Glenna Keese, the family and friends of Julia Tabery, and Nadine Wink.

Julia Tabery died Sunday, December 18, 2011.

Obie Stalcup received the Award of Hippocrates, Physician of the Year, by vote of his fellow physicians. The award recognizes one individual who possesses the attributes of the compliant physician...the doctor's doctor. It is given to one physician each year by the Lubbock Crosby Garza County Medical Society whose members vote for fellow doctors and can be given only once to the same person. Guidelines are specific but members are also asked to weigh certain intangibles. This award honors a physician whose work is more important than self and is willing to submit without reservation to the disciplines of the job. It honors caring, generosity and personal attention to patients and is based on the rule that to be a good physician, one must first be a good and kind person. Congratulations, Obie!

Can YOU help?



"The place to improve the world is first in one's own heart and head and hands."

--Robert M. Pirsig

American writer and philosopher

Coming up at Youth!

This Sunday, January 8: Youth will help serve at Fiesta Domingo. There will be no snack supper, so please eat before you come. 5:10 p.m.: Parents drop off youth at in parking lot behind Asbury (20th St. and Ave. T). A youth sponsor will meet youth at the back door. 6:30 p.m., Parents pick up youth in back parking lot.

Next Sunday, January 15: TBA!

Church Calendar

Sunday, January 8, 2012

- 8:15 a.m. Communion worship
- 9:15 a.m. Sunday School hour
- 10:30 a.m. Worship service
- 11:30 a.m. Flower Ministry orientation
- 2:00 p.m. Arts and Lecture Committee
- 2:30 p.m. Fiesta Domingo
- 5:10 p.m. United Methodist Youth

Monday, January 9, 2012

- 6:00 p.m. LUNA board meeting
- 7:30 p.m. Boy Scouts
- 8:00 p.m. Broad Highway AA

Tuesday, January 10, 2012

- 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, January 11, 2012

- 9:30 a.m. United Methodist Women
- 5:30 p.m. Wonderful Wednesday meal
- 6:00 p.m. Wonderful Wednesday activities
- 6:15 p.m. Theology Group
- 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir rehearsal

Thursday, January 12, 2012

- 9:30 a.m. Quilters

Saturday, January 14, 2012

- 11:30 a.m. Soul Sisters Soup 'N' Socks

Sunday, January 15, 2012

- 8:15 a.m. Communion worship
- 9:15 a.m. Sunday School hour
- 10:30 a.m. Worship service
- 11:45 a.m. Acolyte School
- 5:30 p.m. United Methodist Youth

Monday, January 16, 2012

- OFFICE CLOSED, Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- 7:30 p.m. Boy Scouts
- 8:00 p.m. Broad Highway AA

Tuesday, January 17, 2012

- 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. Tuesday Food Vouchers
- 5:30 p.m. SPRC meeting
- 7:00 p.m. PFLAG

Wednesday, January 18, 2012

- 9:00 a.m. Funday for Retirees
- 5:30 p.m. Wonderful Wednesday meal
- 6:00 p.m. Wonderful Wednesday activities
- 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir rehearsal

Thursday, January 19, 2012

- 9:30 a.m. Quilters
- 1:30 p.m. Merry Mailers
- 5:30 p.m. Literacy Lubbock
- 6:00 p.m. Finance Committee
- 7:00 p.m. South Plains Astronomy Club

Friday, January 20, 2012

- 12:00 p.m. Medici Circle





¡Fiesta Domingo! Sunday, January 8

**We need one more cook
(2:30 p.m. at St. John's), and
more servers (4:30 p.m. at
HOPE Shalom, 2005 Ave. T)!**

**Please call Craig Rutherford
(317-0058) to sign up or
for more information.**

*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**



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(806) 762-0123

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