

ST. JOHN'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



The Explorer

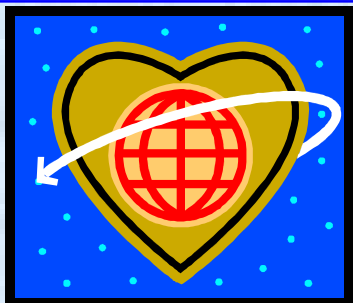
Volume 7, Issue 2

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

January 19, 2012

Kickin' up our heels at Wonderful Wednesdays





*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

1501 University Avenue,
Lubbock, Texas 79401
806-762-0123
fax: 806-762-0130

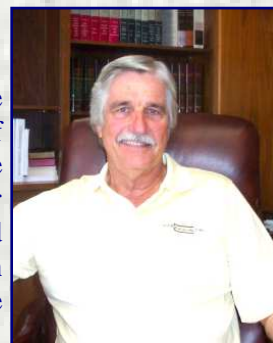
Email: openminds@stjohnslubbock.org

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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: Emily Johnson
- Facilities Supervisor: David Cranford
- Childcare Director: Trisha Castillo
- Admin. Asst./Editor: Mary Ruth Thurmond

PASTOR'S NOTE



One of the practices of a fruitful congregation which we undertook last year is "Risk-Taking Missions." One of the best examples of a risk-taker for the mission of the church was Martin Luther King, Jr. His effort to work for equality for black people in the United States was indeed risk-taking. He pushed people's comfort zones to broaden their definition of family and friend. He challenged the injustices that were commonplace throughout our nation. But all in all, his dream was one of peace and justice for all persons, a nation where blacks and whites together would live and work in harmony. He literally risked his life for this dream.

I cannot experience a "Martin Luther King Weekend" without being challenged to be more risky in my mission undertakings. May God inspire me to be more bold in my stand for the poor and misjudged of the world, not just through words but through systems-changing actions.

With that in mind, I am so grateful to be connected with the risk-taking mission of St. John's. Especially with St John's stance on the need for justice and welcoming of gays and lesbians. There appears to me to be an underlying fear and hostility among our nation, especially within the church. Without realizing it, it often comes across as meanness to people who would be our friends. And so I would dream with Martin Luther King that peace might prevail so that the intrinsic worth of all persons is celebrated and that all persons would be liberated from the fear and hostility which destroys us all.

My guess is that these words will not get me shot. But I do hope that they might make us feel somewhat uncomfortable and cause us to look more closely at the injustice and hatred that is so commonplace for so many of our brothers and sisters.

One of the elements of Martin Luther King's mission was a dependence upon God. His dream was one that would not happen without God's spirit moving among our nation. It was a dream that must be proclaimed and lived by people, but those people must have a deep trust that God is able to redeem the world. And so may God empower us all to stand with any who are misjudged and rejected. We do not need to ask God to be on our side, but rather struggle to understand how to be on God's side.

Grace and Peace
Archie

Lectionary Scripture Readings

**January 22: Jonah 3:1-5, 10; Psalm 62:5-12;
1 Corinthians 7:29-31; Mark 1:14-20**

**January 29: Deuteronomy 18:15-20; Psalm 111;
1 Corinthians 8:1-13; Mark 1:21-28**

**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.**

From the Editor: This issue's contributors include David Cameron, Archie Echols, Mary Vines, Deborah Bratcher, Lisa Viator, Dennis Howard, Mary Jane Hurst, Tess Jackson, Donna Echols, Craig Rutherford, Mary Vines, Tooley Wilkinson, Patty Crass, Donna Cash, Sandy Goodloe, and VelvetLee Finckbone. Thank you very much! Thanks also to the mystery usher/photographer!! Perpetual gratitude goes to the Office Volunteers, the Merry Mailers, and Leilani Fillhard for all the help!!!

Next newsletter deadline: January 27.

Later! mrt

Looking Ahead



SPRC meeting

Monday, January 23, 5:30 p.m., Room 122

Interfaith Dialogue

Tuesday, January 24, 12:00 p.m., Room 122
 "Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life"
 a review of a recent book by Karen Armstrong.

Nurture and Care Committee

Tuesday, January 24, 6:00 p.m., Room 122

UMW Dora Harris Circle

Wednesday, January 25, 9:30 a.m., Room 122

Prayer vigil for Rodrigo Hernandez

Thursday, January 26, 5:45 p.m.

UMW Dorothy Manning Circle

Thursday, January 26, 6:30 p.m.
 El Chico Restaurant, 4119 Marsha Sharp

All-church Potluck Dinner

Sunday, January 29, 11:45 a.m., Garden Room

Church Council

Monday, January 30, 5:30 p.m., Room 122

Prayer vigil for Donald Newbury

Wednesday, February 1, 5:45 p.m.

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 25: Potato chowder, autumn salad, fruit salad, breadsticks, assorted cookies.

Menu for February 1: Chicken enchilada casserole, layered Mexican salad, beans and rice, Mexican cornbread, sopapilla cheesecake.

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 25

Martha Bagby

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

Lenten Bible study

February 29, March 7, 21, and 28

Ted Dotts

Reconciling Workshop



St. John's will be hosting a workshop sponsored by the Reconciling Ministries Network on Saturday, February 4, 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Cost is \$10.

The workshop will provide a training opportunity for all Reconciling United Methodists interested in working toward full inclusion of all of God's children in the United Methodist Church.

Goals include building relationships with our Northwest Texas delegates to the 2012 General Conference and sharing our stories with them in a meaningful way.

For registration information, please contact Sharla Boyd at [806-535-0399](tel:806-535-0399) or via email sharla.boyd@ttu.edu



Welcome to Our Newest Members!



The **Simmons family** (left) joined St. John's on Sunday, January 15. Pictured from left to right are: **Dan, Sailor, Trenne, and Sawyer**. Dan is an attorney. Trenne is a stay-at-home mom and home-schools Sawyer and Sailor. They also have some vacation rental property here in town which they rent by the night. Sawyer loves music and has perfect pitch. Sailor enjoys horses and tumbling. They both like to read. Trenne practices yoga and meditates. Dan and Trenne both like hiking and the outdoors, musical theater, art and music. They joined St. John's because they really like the people who are open and welcoming and the philosophy of the church which lends itself to doing what Jesus would have done. They also love the music!



Patrick Malcolm (upper right) may be a familiar face from the Chancel Choir. He joined St. John's this past Sunday, January 22. Patrick works for CSD Relay (Communication Service for the Deaf). He enjoys reading, singing, cooking, and playing the piano. Patrick loves the acceptance he finds at St. John's and our "open hearts, open arms, open minds."

Oscar Rejino (left) also joined last Sunday. He is from Olton and works for a denim mill, American Cotton Growers in Levelland. Oscar enjoys reading, cooking, watching old movies, and spending time with his grandkids. Oscar says that he felt welcome at St. John's as soon as he walked in the door. He likes that people greet him by name, and he loves the fellowship and the warmth of the members.



Bentley Rhea (right) joined last Sunday too. He is unemployed as he had a stroke six years ago. The doctors gave him only a 20% chance of recovery and today he walks, drives, and everything! Bentley loves being with and around people. He loves being part of St. John's and really enjoys Wonderful Wednesdays. He wants to become more involved in the ministries here at St. John's. Bentley knew immediately when he came to St. John's that this was the place for him. He says that everyone is so friendly, and Ann and Daniel both welcomed him and made him feel right at home.



From the Business Managers Office:

As of today, this is no longer my office so this is the last of this sort of note that I will be writing. Many of you are already aware that my tenure as the Business Manager for St. John's is at an end. Last June I asked the SPRC to start searching for my replacement with an eye to "retiring" from this position at the end of May 2012. Fortunately, a fine replacement was found and I have spent the last month working with Emily Johnson.

I have been a member of St. John's for more than 30 years, yet the last six years have done more for my understanding and appreciation not only of our St. John's family, but also of the United Methodist Church as a whole. I have gained a much deeper insight into why Methodism is truly a Christ-centered church.

It is you, the members of St. John's, who deserve any credit for the job I managed to accomplish while serving in this capacity at St. John's. Your patience and understanding as well as your generosity has made this job easy. Thank you all for your gracious understanding as I sat in the office.

Please take a moment to stop in the office and meet my replacement. Emily is bright, energetic and will serve admirably. Make her feel at home.

God speed to you all.

Dennis



SHEPHERD CLASS

Seated: Renee Hester, Paulina Jacobo, Norman Bert, Mary Jane Hurst, Amy Kim, Harvey Morton.
Standing: Betty Dotts, Kara Stalcup Wischmeyer, Jason Wischmeyer, Nancy and Jim Clopton, Ron Chandler, Jan Isom, Donna Chandler, Robin Green, Ted Dotts, Dan Hurst, Jan Martin Davis, Cathy Morton, Jeannine and Brian Shannon.



The Shepherd Class is a welcoming and accepting group of people who would be happy to be joined or visited by anyone interested in thinking, talking, or simply listening. Sitting in a circle, we begin by going around the circle, with those present giving their names and, if they wish, briefly telling something they did, thought, or experienced in the past week. We then read aloud and discuss a passage of scripture; at present we take up one of the lectionary texts, though in the past we have worked our way through a particular book of the Bible, such as Daniel, or a particular topic, such as Jesus' parables. Ted Dotts is our teacher; or, if Ted is away, Norman Bert takes the helm. We enjoy hearing each other's insights as our gifted teachers lead us to deepen our understandings through questions and dialogue. At the end of the hour, which seems to be one of the shortest hours of the week, we go back around the

circle so that each person has an opportunity, if desired, to get in a last word. We accept and respect the various theological and personal backgrounds, perspectives, and interpretations that each person brings. We acknowledge ambiguity, and there is much we do not agree about or know, including what time we are supposed to start. Because Ted leaves early to preach at Carillon, we theoretically start and stop five or ten minutes before other classes, but in practice some people arrive late, while those who aren't greeting, ushering, or singing in the choir often keep talking well after Ted has left. Somehow, it all works out okay, and there's always room for more. Come visit us in the room across the hall from the nursery.

This photo was taken at our 2011 Christmas party hosted by Ted and Betty Dotts. We regret that several class members were unable to attend.

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
Sine Nomine	January 27
Koinonia	February 10

UMW January Events



The Dora Harris Circle will hold its first meeting of 2012 on Wednesday, January 25, at 9:30 a.m., in Room 122. The program is A Call to Prayer and Self-denial: "A Time for Change" led by Deborah Bratcher.

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

An Invitation to Fellowship, Mission, Study, and Witness

from Tess Jackson, UMW President

All women of St. John's are United Methodist Women! Groups of St. John's women meet regularly to study, witness, enjoy fellowship and support mission to women, children, and youth.

The women of UMW invite women of the church to visit these groups, join us for fellowship and learn about UMW mission.

Our programs are based on Methodist beliefs and social principles. Studies are from the Bible, current events, and global challenges. We enjoy speakers, much discussion and often follow up our programs with mission support at home and worldwide.

UMW fellowship is fortified with refreshments, coffee, and supportive conversation.

We are serious about mission support and have pledged \$4,000 in 2012. We also support St. John's ministries.

Meetings are: General meeting, 2nd Wednesday of each month, 9:30 a.m. in Room 122; Dora Harris Circle, 4th Wednesday of each month, 9:30 a.m. in Room 122; and Dorothy Manning Circle, 4th Thursday of each month, 6:30 p.m. at various restaurants. Upcoming programs include "Call to Prayer and Self-denial," an opportunity to support mission, and in February, a study on the "Challenge of Haiti."

Call Tess Jackson at 791-4667 for more information.

SAVE THE DATE!

The next James G. Allen and Louise Hodges Arts and Lectureship program will be **Friday, April 13, 7:30 p.m.** It will feature a speaker on Texas history and focus on Quanah Parker and the Comanches. As always, this event is **FREE** to the public.

Soul Sisters

Soup and Socks collected 200 pairs of socks for HOPE Shalom!

The Tuesday evening group will meet February 7, at 7:00 p.m., at Lynette Moore's home with Sally Kennedy sharing the program from The Book of Awakening by Mark Nepo.

The monthly Soul Sister total group meeting will be Saturday, February 11, at 9:30 a.m., in the Garden Room. We will have brunch and a program by Jatonne Echeverria and Donna Echols. There will be a love offering. Please RSVP and bring name tags and a friend! Nursery provided.

The Saturday morning group meets February 18, at 9:30 a.m., in Room 212 for a planning session. Nursery provided.

From the Missions Committee

Thanks to everyone who helped at Fiesta Domingo on January 8! The next great service opportunity will be at the South Plains Food Bank, Saturday, March 3, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.



Results from the Chili Cook-off

Winner of the Most Kid-friendly Chili was Cheryl Hall.

Janette Scott won for Spiciest Chili.

Craig Rutherford was honored for having the Most Creative Chili.

Dorey Schmidt got both Best Presentation and People's Choice Award for her chili with this year's mystery ingredient, pumpkin!



IT TAKES A VILLAGE

New on the prayer list: Carol Hoistad, Glenda Boverie, A. Mason, and the family and friends of Ben Alexander and Ruth Smith.

Ben Alexander died Saturday, January 7, 2012. **Ruth Smith** died Thursday, January 12, 2012.

Please go to www.memorialdesigners.net/obituaries/Julia-Tabery2 to see **Julia Tabery's** memorial.

Patty Crass says "Greetings and Happy New Year!" to all her friends here at St. John's.

Rob Scott was interviewed and pictured in the Lubbock Avalanche-Journal on Friday, January 13, 2012. The article discussed the South Plains Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalists and how to get certification.

Can YOU help?



Faith is taking the first step even when you don't see the whole staircase.

Martin Luther King, Jr.

Coming up at Youth!

This Sunday, January 22: 5:30 p.m.: Snack supper in Room 212. **6:00 p.m.,** Huddle time with sponsors. **7:00 p.m.,** Parents pick up youth.

Next Sunday, January 29: Snack supper. **6:00 p.m.,** Make your own t-shirt! **7:00 p.m.,** Parents pick up youth.

Spirit Wind Tryouts: Saturday, February 4, 2:00-4:00 p.m., in the Choir Basement. If you have any questions, contact Jay or Coleen Sedberry.

Church Calendar

Sunday, January 22, 2012

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

Monday, January 23, 2012

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

Tuesday, January 24, 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. Legal Clinic
- 6:00 p.m. Nurture and Care meeting

Wednesday, January 25, 2012

- 9:30 a.m. UMW Dora Harris Circle
- 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 26, 2012

- 9:30 a.m. Quilters
- 5:30 p.m. Finance Committee
- 5:30 p.m. Literacy Lubbock
- 6:30 p.m. UMW Dorothy Manning Circle at El Chico, 4119 Martha Sharp

Sunday, January 29, 2012

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

Monday, January 30, 2012

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

Tuesday, January 31, 2012

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

Wednesday, February 1, 2012

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

Thursday, February 2, 2012

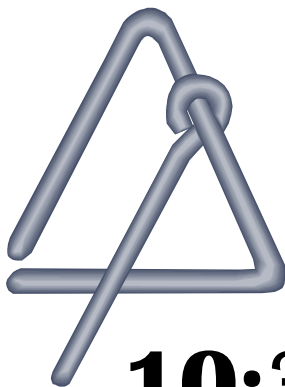
- 9:30 a.m. Quilters
- 1:30 p.m. Merry Mailers
- 5:30 p.m. Literacy Lubbock

Saturday, February 4, 2012

- 10:00 a.m. Reconciling Training
- 2:00 p.m. Spirit Wind tryouts



All-Church Potluck Dinner



Sunday, January 29
immediately after
10:30 a.m. worship service.
Meat and bread
will be provided.
Y'all come and get it!

*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

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