

The Voice

July / August 2012

The Pastor's Voice: "Blessed Past, Bold Future"

Dear Friends,

At the Penn Central Conference meeting in June, each congregation received a copy of the 50th anniversary history book. The title of the book is *Blessed Past, Bold Future*. I hope you will take time to read the book, which can be found on the table at the bottom of the sanctuary steps.

I like the title of the book because it helps us to celebrate the wonderful and blessed past, but also helps us to look at the powerful and bold future that God has in store for us. Therefore, I have decided to use this as my theme for these articles over the next few months.

In my brief reading of this book, I discovered some interesting facts that remind us that the church is in a very different place today than it was when the Conference was formed in 1963. For example, the average size of a congregation in 1963 was 268. The church was at the social center of everyone's lives. The attendance in Sunday School and worship was booming in those days. It was during this time that multiple church charges were dissolving in order for the congregations to have their own full-time pastor.

The scene in the church is very different today. The average membership of a congregation now is near 268. There are churches who must close their buildings because they no longer afford them or they must look at calling a part-time pastor.

I am sure this seems very depressing, but trust me when I say there is hope for the church's future! I think God has so much in store for the church. The problem is that we aren't always open to where God is leading us. The Rev. Ben Guess, a UCC executive, was the keynote speaker at the Conference meeting. He reminded us that churches are usually the oldest groups in the community. We truly have a blessed past, now we must be open to the bold future ahead of us.

Rev. Guess asked each of us to think about where God is at work in your community and how we can be involved. I present that same question to each member of St. John's. **Where is God at work in the Fredericksburg community and how can St. John's be involved?**

This question links so well with the workshop I attended by Rev. Dr. Laurene Bowers, our

Conference Associate Minister for Congregational Life & Vitality. She talked about the need for the church to be visible in the community. She suggested that we do things outside of our church building that are not church related. We must engage with our community! We must form relationships!

This is why we are doing the Tuesday night events that will lead up to National Night Out. This is why I think it is important to do a picnic on the lawn of the church! I think there is a need for fellowship and God is calling us to respond to that need!

Earlier in June I attended a lecture by Dr. Michael Kinnamon, a retired seminary professor and ecumenical church leader. One of the points he made was that the church is a gift from God. The church is more than what we do on Sunday morning. It is a gift from God for all of God's people. Dr. Kinnamon also said that the church is missionary and should be a witness to God's reign. In the blessed past we have done this. Let us continue to do this in the bold future!

I hope you will ponder these words over the next two months. I hope they will inspire you to engage in our ministry to this community. Join us at the various activities we will offer the community this summer. Invite your friends, neighbors, and strangers to join you! If we are to have a bold future, we need all of you to join us!

Blessings, *Pastor Chris*



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July Worship News

Worship Highlights for July

July 1 (5th Sunday after Pentecost): The St. John's Singers will provide the musical offering. We will celebrate communion at the altar.

July 8: (6th Sunday after Pentecost): We will celebrate the baptism of Lyla Stoltz (daughter of Jeremy and Alyssa Stoltz) and Noah Stoltz (son of Josh and Crystal Stoltz).

July 15 (7th Sunday after Pentecost): Our scripture lessons recall the ways that the grace of God and the love of Christ bring people together. How can we be united with others in the midst of our differences?

July 22 (8th Sunday after Pentecost): Regina Engler has arranged to have "The Ringleaders" (a local barbershop quartet) to provide the musical offering.

July 29 (9th Sunday after Pentecost): We will welcome Rachael Miller to the pulpit. Rachael is a 2010 graduate of Lancaster Theological Seminary and is beginning the search and call process in the UCC. She is currently employed at Philhaven. Rachael has been attending St. John's and is involved in the senior choir.

Scripture Readings for July

July 1

Psalm 130
2 Corinthians 8:7-15
Mark 5:21-43

July 8

Psalm 48
2 Corinthians 12:2-10
Mark 6:1-13

July 15

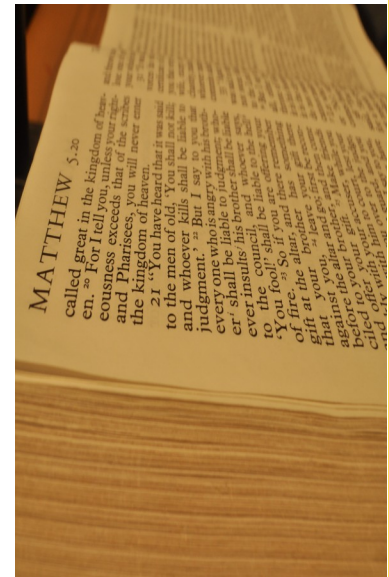
Psalm 24
Ephesians 1:3-14
Mark 6:14-29

July 22

2 Samuel 7:1-14a
Ephesians 2:11-22
Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

July 29

2 Samuel 11:1-15
Ephesians 3:14-21
John 6:1-21



Music and Worship Committee News

Members of the Music and Worship Committee will be attending the annual Sacred Choral Reading Session, sponsored by Loser's Music Store, on Sat. July 28. This year, the renowned composer and music director, Joel Raney, will be the guest director for the Session.

The Music and Worship Committee will meet on Mon., Aug. 6 at 7PM. Plans will be made for the **Aug. 26 Vesper Service at Memorial Lake** at this meeting. Mark your calendars for the service and picnic at Memorial Lake on Aug. 26 at 4:30PM.

August Worship News

Worship Highlights for August

August 5 (10th Sunday after Pentecost): We will welcome Pastor Herb Hibshman to the pulpit. Pastor Hibshman is a new member of St. John's and is the leader of our online spiritual group. He is the former pastor of St. Paul's UCC, Millbach and Tulpehocken UCC.

August 12 (11th Sunday after Pentecost): We will hold our annual outdoor worship and church picnic at Lions' Park. The service will begin at 11am with the picnic afterwards.

August 19 (12th Sunday after Pentecost): Seminary Tom Busted, who also served as our organist from 2006-09, will be our guest preacher while Pastor Chris is on vacation. Elliot Knapp, grandson of Terry & Ginny Knapp, will provide the musical offering.

August 26 (13th Sunday after Pentecost): This will be the third annual choir exchange with St. Paul's UCC, Summer Hill. Pastor Brad Walmer and Pastor Rankin will lead the services. Our choir will join the St. Paul's choir at their 8am service and then the St. Paul's choir will join us at 10:30am! Hopefully this year we won't experience any storms!!

Scripture Readings for August

August 5

2 Samuel 11:26-13a
Ephesians 4:1-16
John 6:24-35

August 12

Ephesians 4:25-5:2
John 6: 35, 41-51

August 19

I Kings 2:10-12; 3:3-14
Ephesians 5:15-20
John 6:51-58

August 26

Psalm 84
Ephesians 6:10-20
John 6:56-69



Choir News

Attention Sr. Choir Members: It's official, the Sr. Choir completed the 2011-12 Singing Season on our Music Day celebration, June 3. Enjoy your summer Wednesdays evenings free from Choir Practice. If anyone or a group of you are willing to provide the Musical Offering during the summer worship services, please contact Charlene Ziegler, 865-5965, for a list of the available dates.

LOOKING AHEAD: On Sunday, Aug. 26, is our Music Exchange Sunday with St. Paul's Summer Hill UCC. This will be the 3rd year for this choir event. As in previous years, we will sing with the St. Paul's choir at their 8:30 am worship service that day and then they will travel with us to Fredericksburg to sing at our 10:30 worship service. There are 2 rehearsals planned for these services the first is on **Wed. Aug 15 at 7PM** at St. Paul's Summer Hill and then on **Wed. Aug. 22 at 7PM** in Fredericksburg.

July Celebrations...

Happy Birthday to:

5 Earl Ziegler
6 Phil Eberhart
7 Steve Stoltz
8 Dalton Kapp
8 Sara Schott
9 Eleanor Yiengst

11 Tyler Marinkov
11 Bob Seltzer
15 Kevin Shilling
19 Bev Myers
20 Scott Kless
20 Beth Ann Griffiths

21 Joan Losiewicz
21 Denise Voshell
22 Priscilla Dearwechter
23 Rachael Quairola
25 Kellie Davis
26 Karen Kern

Happy Anniversary to:

4 Stefanie & Anthony Shutter
18 Pat & Earl Ziegler
21 DeLanae & Steve Shaffer

25 Jerry & Peggy Mohn
28 Brad & Becky Griffiths

Sunday Worship Volunteers, Thank You

July Readers

1-Anne Hambrick-Stowe
8-Julie Ditzler
15-Keith Gingrich
22-Kadie Walmer
29-Marc Griffiths

July Acolytes

1- Kayla Benfer
8- Dylan Walmer
15- Zach Seltzer
22- Rachael Quairola
29- Nick Benfer

June Attendance

3- 72
10-54
17- 69

July Bulletins

1-Open
8-Donnette Quairola
15-Pat & Earl Ziegler
22-Jerry & Peggy Mohn
29-Open

July Flowers

1-Gary & Alberta Gingrich
8-Donnette Quairola
15-Pat & Earl Ziegler
22-Jerry & Peggy Mohn
29-Open

July Coffee Hosts

1, 8, & 15: Joe & Julie Ditzler
22 & 29: Regina Engler

July Deacon

Terry Knapp

WORDS OF SYMPATHY

We want to express sympathy to the following members who lost loved ones recently:

Mickey Voshell & family on the loss of her mother, Lydia.

Scott Benfer & family on the loss of his grandmother, Beatrice.

Pat & Earl Ziegler and family on the loss of Pat's sister-in-law, Joan.

May God bless and comfort them in their time of mourning!

Coffee Hosts, Altar Flowers & Bulletin Sponsors Needed:

We are in need of volunteers for coffee hosts, altar flower and bulletin sponsors for the following dates:

Coffee hosts for the month of December;

Flower sponsors for July 29 & August 26;

Bulletin sponsors for July 1 & 29; August 5 & 12; October 7 & 14; December 2, 16, 23 & 30.

Sign up sheets are in the social hall.

August Celebrations...

Happy Birthday to:

1 Brayden Benito	7 Seth Shaffer	20 Louise Walmer
1 Ruth Lutz	8 Barb Miller	20 Pastor Chris Rankin
2 Ken Leibensperger	8 Betty Schriver	24 Charles Wike
3 Craig Mohn	10 Al Schriver	26 Alex Flanick
4 Brad Walmer	12 Brett Getz	27 Dan Wenger
4 Peggy Wike	13 John Oskam	29 Ira Rudy
6 Jeff Ditzler	15 Jerry Mohn	30 Denise Flanick
6 Morgan Hevel	15 Darlene Stoltz	

Happy Anniversary to:

18 Charlene & Randy Ziegler	27 Lisa & Rick Rudy
24 Denise & Rick Voshell	



Sunday Worship Volunteers, Thank You

August Lay Readers

5-Joe Ditzler
12-Regina Engler
19-Paul Smith
26-Herb Hibshman

August Acolytes

5-Andrew Eberhart
12-Outdoor Service
19-Noah Gingrich
26-Kayla Benfer

August Coffee Hosts

5 & 12 Joe & Julie Ditzler
19 & 26: Regina Engler

August Bulletins

5-Open
12-Open
19-Donnette Quairoli
26-Open

August Flowers

5-Steve Kubik
12-Outdoor Service
19-Donnette Quairoli
26-Open

August Deacon

Walter Bolles



Summer Musical Offerings: We are still looking for anyone who would like to share their talents (or those of others) for our Summer Musical Offerings. Available dates are July 8, 15 and 29; August 5; September 2 and 9. Contact Charlene Ziegler at 865-5965.

DIRECTORY CHANGE:

Tracy Hevel
189 Daub Ln. P.O. Box 386
Fredericksburg, PA 17026
644-3706

Consistory News by Robin Getz

It is difficult to report two months of news with this edition of the VOICE as our next two meetings will be held July 2nd and July 30th.

We continue to monitor the progress of the basement renovations counting down when we will again be able to utilize that space for education, meetings and the like. I believe we have done a very fine job of sharing the remaining space we have available and thank everyone for their efforts.

Several items that were brought to Consistory's attention during our last meeting was a need for help with the outside yard work. Mowing our lawn, weeding the flower beds and watering the flowers during this, our hottest part of the growing season. A signup sheet is available and I would ask all who are able and willing to consider helping us, add your name. We recognize and agree it is a large responsibility for one person to commit to, so the multiple giving of your time and talent will be much appreciated. We will also be adding a hose to make the watering job a little easier.

Since we are looking at July and August with this edition I would also ask our members (and readers) to submit a note, a card, a letter or an email and let us know what your concerns are. After all we are here not only to do God's work, but also to address your concerns as the members of our church. I am sure there are things you would like to see added or even eliminated here at St. John's. Even though God is still speaking, He isn't necessarily telling us everything so your input is crucial to the work we can accomplish on behalf of this church.

I again would like to offer my monthly reminder to you that Pastor Chris still has the prayer signup sheet posted on the bulletin board. It is for the purpose of members to offer prayer at the time we are meeting to give us the strength and wisdom to make the appropriate choices with the workings of St. John's. Trust me we would certainly appreciate all of the signatures we can get over the next few months.

Blessings to each of you who serve as our beacon of vision as we continue the work of the church!

FUNDRAISING NEWS.... Thank you to everyone who participated in our Friendly's FUNdraiser on June 14. We raised \$105. 87. Mark your calendars for a fundraiser at Texas Roadhouse in Palmyra on Thursday, **August. 9**. There will be more information in the Sunday bulletins. We also remind you to use your Dine & Donate card at Esther's on the fourth Sunday of the month!

GROUNDSKEEPER NEEDED: We are grateful to Joe Miller for his faithful service as our groundskeeper during the summer months over the past several years. Joe has trimmed the shrubs, mowed the grass and completed other odd jobs as they came along. Joe has decided to "retire" from this job. Therefore, we are in need of people to mow the lawn each week (if it is needed). There is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board in the social hall. If you have any questions, speak to Walter Bolles or Pastor

Thanks to everyone who supported the picnic after worship on June 3. We raised **\$415** for Tom Busteed's seminary education. Thanks to Bob Seltzer, Terry Knapp, and Scott Benfer who were the grill masters!! Thanks to Neal Grimes & Bob Seltzer for donating their grills. Thanks to Joe & Julie Ditzler and Jerry Mohn for helping to organize the event!

Thanks to everyone who planted the geraniums:

Neal & Jean Ann Grimes, Julie Ditzler, Herb & Sharon Hibshman, Larry, Louise, Dylan, and Regan Walmer, and Zachary & Rachel Baynard. Thank you especially to Anne Hambrick-Stowe for being the organizer!

From the Christian Education Corner by Angie Michael

July is a very busy month for us here at CE. But before we look ahead to the exciting events we have coming up, I want to thank Scott Benfer for organizing and leading the Team Building Youth and Adult event in June that was held here at the church. I also want to thank Joe Ditzler and his crew for fearlessly leading us in the ark build in the parking lot that kicked off our intergenerational Christian Connection Sundays.

July will see the return of the Sunday School Picnic, newly re-

christened the Christian Connection Picnic. This will serve to lead us into the following week when the Tuesday Evening Programs kick off, and these events in turn will lead up to the National Night Out in August that is being planned by the Evangelism Committee. The last three Tuesdays of July will be very exciting indeed as all the planning of both the Christian Education and the Congregational Life Committees comes to fruition. The picnic and the Tuesday events have separate articles,

and I refer you to those for all the details about these activities.

Looking ahead, CE is already hard at work planning for Rally Day, for Fall and Winter youth events, for the Christmas Program, and for the Children's Christian Connection Workshops for 2013. Lots of planning and lots of exciting things to look forward to, so stay tuned to this space and the church website for all the details on these events as they develop.

I also want to encourage individuals and committees to take a look on the bulletin board in the social hall where the Circle Time! and Children's Worship sign up sheets for July and August are posted. Please consider signing up for a Sunday for either one or both of these programs.

Potluck Picnic & Worship Service

Join us on the church lawn on Wednesday, **July 11**, from 6:00-7:00pm for the Christian Connection Potluck Picnic followed by a brief service from 7:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. This is open to everyone at St. John's and we hope you will invite your family and friends to join us! Look for a sign up sheet on the bulletin board! It's three things St. John's does well: Food, fun, and fellowship!

Circle Time Volunteers

The Christian Ed. Committee is looking for people to sign up to lead Circle Time on Sunday mornings. All you need to do is provide refreshments, a short devotion or a little game to start our morning. Look for the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board or speak with Angela Michael!



July & August Intergenerational Christian Connection Schedule

July 1, 15, 29: Heifer Project with Dena Eberhart

July 8 & 22: Worship banner workshop with Sharon Hibshman, Karen Light, and Robin Getz

August 5: Worship banner workshop with Sharon, Karen, and Robin

August 12: No Christian Connection due to Outdoor Service

August 19: Heifer Project with Dena

August 26: No Christian Connection due to the choir swap with St. Paul's UCC, Summer Hill

Penn Central Conference Report

Pastor Chris & Anne and Pastor Herb & Sharon Hibshman attended the annual Penn Central Conference meeting at Susquehanna University from June 8-10. This was the kick-off for the Conference's 50th anniversary in 2013. There will be celebrations throughout the Conference to celebrate this significant anniversary. Here are some highlights from the Conference meeting:

- Conferring the title of Conference Minister Emeritus to Rev. Dr. Lyle Weible, who served as our Conference Minister from 1985-2003.
- Honoring former staff members of the Conference.
- Recognition of churches and clergy celebrating significant anniversaries, including Rev. Dr. Alfred Bartholomew who has been ordained for 70 years.
- Heard from Rev. Ben Guess, Executive Minister of the UCC Local Church Ministries.
- Remembered Joe Fegan, Elby Myers, Ralph Rudy, Rev. Reynold Ziegler, and Keith Rankin during the necrology report.



Penn Central Conference
Celebrating 50 Years
1963-2013

- Inspiring workshops to help us celebrate our blessed past and look forward to a bold future.
- Each congregation received a copy of the Conference's history book. Ask Pastor Chris to see our copy.

Please ask Pastor Chris, Anne, Pastor Herb, or Sharon about their experience.

UCC Homes Auxiliary Final Report

We are sorry that we missed a few names from the list last month. We want to thank Neal Grimes, Peggy Mohn, Kathy Fegan, and Steve Kubik for contributing to the 2012 membership drive of the UCC Homes Auxiliary. St. John's raised a total of **\$103.00** for the auxiliary. Thank you so much for your support of this important ministry!

Mt. Gretna Events

The Summer at the Tabernacle has a busy schedule this summer. Here are some highlights: **July 15**-Hymn Sing at 7pm with Dr. Darrell Woomer (retired chaplain at LVC); **July 29**-Mass Choir (175 voices) at 7pm with Joel Raney as conductor; **August 4**- Handbell Festival at 7pm. **August 19**-Susquehanna Chorale Concert at 7pm; **August 26**-QuintEssentially Brass (brass quintet from Lancaster) at 7pm.

Look for more information on the bulletin board in the social hall!

Strengthen the Church Report

Thank you to everyone who contributed on May 20 & 27 to the Strengthen the Church offering, which is one of the mission offerings of the UCC. We received **\$415** for the denomination to use in revitalizing congregations, providing leadership training, and strengthening the work of the local churches!

Concert at St. Mark's UCC, Lebanon

The Berkshire Brass will be presenting a recital at St. Mark's UCC, Lebanon, on **SUNDAY AUGUST 5th** at 3:00 pm. This recital is being held in conjunction with the church's 125th anniversary celebration. Admission by ticket only (\$5.00)

The Berkshire Brass is a quintet comprised of five accomplished, professional musicians who have performed throughout the Berks County with numerous groups including the Reading Symphony Orchestra, the Ringgold Band, the Reading Pops and Reading Civic Opera, and Reading Choral Society. Their repertoire ranges in selections from classical to pop. They regularly perform in Berks County and the surrounding areas.

Words of Appreciation

A special thanks to Ginny Knapp, Jean Ann Grimes, and Aleta Babe for preparing a delicious breakfast for the men of the church on Father's Day. Thank you to Regina Engler for her delightful entertainment and to Robin Getz for her inspiring message to all of the fathers and men of the church. A big thank you to all of the women who helped to make the Father's Day breakfast a great success!

Blessings,

Gail Grimes

To the members of St. John's:

Thank you for all the prayers and sympathy cards we have received regarding the passing of my son-in-law Mark Moyer. It has been a difficult time for us over the past few months, but especially the past two weeks. It will continue to be difficult for our daughter and granddaughters for a long time. We take comfort that certain God inspired events have helped us prepare for his passing.

Walt Bolles

Dear Chris & St. John's,

Thank you for the devotional book for my graduation! I can't believe college is over, but I'm looking forward to this next chapter. I'm so thankful that I still feel a part of your church family even though we moved almost 18 years ago! I guess it helps that I am related to half the church! Thanks again and way to pull Weezie's surprise off! See you soon!

Kaitlin Fegan

Music Day Celebration: Thank You from Louise Walmer

At first, I was confused as to exactly what was happening. What a delightful surprise, once I figured things out. It is a rare occasion that I get fooled like that. I was speechless, and that doesn't often happen either.

I am deeply humbled and very grateful for all the work and "conniving" that must have taken place to plan the celebration and to pull off the surprise. I have never given much thought about number of years I've spent assisting and directing the music program for our church. I was shocked to know it has been over 35 yrs.

The Lord gives each of us gifts and expects us to use them to praise and serve Him. He gave me the love of music. And I love each and every one of you who has helped me and our music ministry. I really couldn't do what I do without the cooperation and commitment of the choir members and Music and Worship Committee.

So then ... to ALL, who contributed to the Music Day Celebration with your time, your well wishes, the gift certificate, the cakes, the flowers on the tables, and the picture of our church steeple: I want to take this opportunity to thank you sincerely. May all of you, as long as you are able, use your gifts and participate in the ministry and fellowship of St. John's.

CONGRATULATIONS

On June 3 we recognized graduates in our congregation. We wish God's blessings to all of the graduates from our congregation as they begin this new part of their journey:

Kaitlin Fegan graduated from Messiah College with a degree in Music Education. Kaitlin was recently hired to be a music teacher in Virginia (it is actually near Fredericksburg, Virginia).

Alex Flanick graduated from California University of Pennsylvania with a degree in Communication Disorders. In the fall, she will begin her Masters Degree in Speech Therapy and Learning Disorders at Edinboro University.

Jordan Seltzer graduated from Northern Lebanon High School. He will be attending Messiah College where he will major in Health & Physical Education and play on the baseball team.

Tyler & Brandon Emerich graduated from Northern Lebanon High School. They both will be attending Indiana University of Pennsylvania and major in Athletic Training. Tyler & Brandon are the nephews of Amy & Steve Zechman and grandsons of Roger & Jerilyn Mease.

Jonathan Oskam graduated from Northern Lebanon High School and will be attending HACC in the fall.

Jonathan McKinney graduated from Northern Lebanon High School and will be attending McDaniel College where he will be majoring in biology and playing on the school's baseball team. Jonathan is the grandson of Aleta Babe.

2012 Tuesday Evening Programs Sponsored by the Christian Education & Congregational Life Committees

July 17, 7:30-9:30 p.m.: Join us for a splash party at Bethel Township's Lions Pool, 124 Lions Drive, Fredericksburg, PA. Snacks will be provided! You bring the fun!

July 24, 6:00- 7:30p.m.: The puppets of Hoot & Holler Crossing come to St. John's! Local puppeteer and Matthews Public Library director, Mrs. Sheila Redcay, puts on a puppet show for all ages on the church lawn. 6:00 p.m.--Curtain rises for the show! 6:30 p.m.: Make a puppet to take along home! 7:00 p.m.: Join us for an ice cream party!

July 31, 6:00- 7:30 p.m.: The carnival comes again to the parking lot of St. John's! Oh, and did I mention there's a pizza party, too? Games! Food! Prizes!

All events are free, and all are welcome--don't forget to bring a friend!



NATIONAL NIGHT OUT-AUGUST 7

Did you know that this will be our 5th Annual National Night Out Community Party? We are planning another fun party for the Fredericksburg Community on **August 7 from 6-8pm**. We will once again be serving hot dogs (hopefully Bob Seltzer will be our grill master) and some other snacks. We are hoping to have music by Mickey Voshell. The Fredericksburg Fire Department will be on hand. This is always a fun time and so we hope you will join us. We also hope you will invite your friends to join us! Look for more information in the bulletins regarding the need for donations of food items! Speak to the pastor or a member of the Evangelism Committee if you have any questions!

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE COMMITTEE NEWS

By Ginny Knapp

The committee has been very busy planning activities for the coming months. Our next event will be Sunday, **August 12** with the Outdoor Worship Service at the Bethel Township Park. We are planning a pot-luck lunch (drinks will be provided). Guessing games and pool admittance will be included.

October 14 will be our Fall Frolic at the farm of Pat & Earl Ziegler. It's always a treat to have an outdoor event at this lovely time of the year.

Keep in mind Saturday, **February 23, 2013** when we have scheduled a comeback of our fun-filled Birthday Social parties. However, this can only be successful if you participate. We need volunteers to sign up for birthday tables. You will provide the food and decorations for your table. The sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board, so choose your month while the selections are open!

ST. JOHN'S FELLOWSHIP

By Ginny Knapp

Sixteen people attended the May meeting of the St. John's Fellowship. Gail Grimes conducted the business session.

Steph Warlow is planning another hike on Mt. Kilimanjaro and we voted to give her a donation of \$200 toward her expenses. The women's treasury voted to give the church their \$2,500 donation.

Jean Ann Grimes, Aleta Babe, and Ginny Knapp agreed to provide the food for the Father's Day breakfast. At the last minute, Robin Getz & Regina Engler offered their talents for the morning's entertainment.

We're taking a short vacation from meetings for the summer, but we are planning a picnic supper on Tuesday, **August 21**. Can we count on you to attend? We need your support to make this a meaningful group.

July 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 8:30am- Circle Time 9am-Christian Connection 10:30am – Wor-	2 6pm Elders Mtg. 7pm Consistory	3	4 No Bible Study 7pm AA	5	6	7
8 8:30am- Circle Time 9am-Christian Connection 10:30am- Worship	9	10	11 Noon- Bible Study 6pm-Potluck Picnic 7pm-Outdoor Svc. & AA Mtg.	12	13	14
15 8:30am- Circle Time 9am-Christian Connection 10:30am- Worship	16	17 7:30-9:30pm Splash Party @ Lions' Pool	18 Noon- Bible Study 7pm AA	19	20	21
22 8:30am- Circle Time 9am-Christian Connection 10:30am- Worship	23	24 6-7:30pm Puppet Show	25 Noon- Bible Study 7pm AA	26 Pastor Vacation	27 Pastor Vacation	28 Pastor Vacation
29 8:30am- Circle Time 9am-Christian Connection 10:30am Wor- ship/Rachel Mil- ler	30 6:15pm- Fundraising 7pm- Consistory Pastor Vacation	31 6-7:30pm Carnival Pastor Vacation				

Schedule of Events

- Wednesday, July 11 - 6:00 Bible Study, Potluck Picnic, 7:00 Outdoor Worship Service
- Tuesday, July 17 - Splash Party, Lions' Pool, 7:30-9:30
- Tuesday, July 24 - Puppet Show at St. John's, 6-7:30
- Tuesday, July 31 - Carnival at St. John's, 6-7:30

Pastor's Vacation Schedule:

Pastor Chris will be away from July 26-August 6. Rachael Miller will be leading worship on July 29. Pastor Hibshman will provide pastoral care during that time. You can reach him at 865-5390.

August 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Noon- Bible Study 7pm AA Pastor Vacation	2 Pastor Vacation	3 Pastor Vacation	4 Pastor Vacation
5 8:30am- Circle Time 9am-C.C. 10:30am- Communion- Herb Hibshman	6 Pastor Vacation 7pm-Music & Worship	7 6pm-8pm National Night Out	8 Noon- Bible Study 7pm AA	9 Texas Roadhouse Fundraiser	10	11
12 11am-Outdoor Service & Picnic @ Lions' Park	13	14	15 Noon- Bible Study 7pm AA	16 Pastor Vacation	17 Pastor Vacation	18 Pastor Vacation
19 8:30am- Circle Time 9am-C.C. 10:30am- Worship/Tom Busteed	20 Pastor Vacation	21 6pm Fellowship Picnic	22 Noon- Bible Study 7pm AA	23	24	25
26 No C.C. 10:30am Wor- ship/Choir Ex- change 4:30pm Vesper Svc.- Mem. Lake	27 7pm Consistory	28	29 Noon- Bible Study 7pm AA	30	31	

Schedule of Events

- August 7—National Night Out Festivities, 6-8 p.m.
- August 9—Fundraiser at Texas Roadhouse
- August 12—Outdoor Worship Service and Church Picnic, 11 a.m., Lions' Park
- August 21—St. John's Fellowship Picnic, 6 p.m.
- August 26—Worship and Choir Exchange with St. Paul's, Summerhill; Vesper Service at Memorial Lake, 4:30 p.m.

Pastor's Vacation Schedule:

Pastor Chris will be away from August 1-6 and then from August 16-20. Pastor Herb Hibshman will be leading worship on August 5 and Seminarian Tom Busteed will lead worship on August 19. Pastor Hibshman will help cover emergencies.

From Robin's Nest to Yours

By: Robin L. Getz

I hope each and every one of you is staying cool as we enter into the peak of summer. By now most of us probably have our vacations planned and are enjoying our summer season to its fullest. We can all remember the words to the "Crazy, Lazy, Hazy Days of Summer", but still remember to look out for those "dog days" as well.

So much has happened since my last message. We received four young members into our fold as they completed their confirmation. But with that end they have been challenged to a new beginning in deciding how they can be good and adventurous disciples of God's word and deeds in their own daily lives.

We have lost great people from within our little community that can never be replaced. Illness and injuries have occurred both with members of our church family and friends and family members who are wide spread both here and abroad who we always hold in our daily prayers. We have all gotten a little older and discovered yet another ache or pain that wasn't there the day before.

With this article I want to talk about faith. Not just my faith but everyone who has decided to grab a cup of coffee, or hot tea or even a refreshing cool drink just before you sat at your favorite reading spot and picked up this article.

Two significant things have happened for me that is partially the reason for my concentrating our efforts on our faith. First I have been a pretty regular participant of the adult Christian Connection time. I am learning as much from our "free lance" discussions as I am from the booklets we share. I am always and continually amazed at how I can read the gospel of Mark (and every other section of the Bible) today and discover something new, look at it in a different way and yes at times question whether or not I really understand God's word at all. For me (at least I think) I have a pretty logical mind. I need to be able to wrap my head around something, knock it around a bit, look at the long term consequences, determine the pros and cons and then base a decision on that bottom line. My biggest challenges are knowing what I was taught as a youngster that all things are right or wrong, black or white, without question and then seeing the evolving world that has so much more latitude than I recall as a youngster and again



having to re-evaluate my belief(s). I am constantly amazed at how life is repetitive in certain aspects concerning significant events in life. As an example, our Sunday morning lessons have been focusing on evil. We read about Jesus crossing the lake in a boat and how he was sleeping and this horrific storm occurred. Everyone else on the boat panicked and cried for help. Jesus awoke from his nap and calmed the wind and the waves. Our challenge was to imagine how those people felt to see such a sight. I immediately thought of Salem and the much known witch hunts and how the people of that era automatically identified a witch as someone who could do something they could not explain. Any similarities? With Jesus we get the impression that he was frustrated and perhaps angry that his words were no longer enough to make the people understand his message. This is also something that Joe Ditzler so eloquently elaborated on during his moving message on laity Sunday, which I will get back to in a moment.

The second significant event for me was signing up for the "spiritual discussion group". I hesitated because I am not as learned as many, and for my years as a church member and the many sermons I have heard over the years, I should not have as many questions as I do. This group has been a real challenge to me in a very positive way. We have not one but two participating Pastors and a seminary graduate who have raised some of the best questions you could ever imagine to make you really take a look at life, your surroundings, your beliefs and a gentle push to sometimes think outside of the box. The best is that you are never wrong with your response. And, something that you might point out or a question you might raise because you are unsure is a push to someone else to re-evaluate their position to something they were certain they knew before. Again, our faith fully exposed and fully challenged with things that are good, things that are bad and things that are just an oddity for now.

So back to Joe Ditzler... Following the laity service I congratulated him on a wonderful message that I found to be not only powerful but very meaningful. He hit many points on each of the scriptures for that day, but the portion of his message from the Gospel of Mark, 3rd chapter verses 20-35 were a powerful hit to my faith. How he spoke in parables and asked how Satan can cast out Satan? The irony was that some things that we had just spoken about earlier during Christian Connection time were part of his message, almost as if we had a glimpse prior to the service. We chatted a bit on the subject and Joe made a marvelous observation. His comment is one I have thought about since and one that we should all consider. He asked me what if God doesn't necessarily want to provide the resolution, but only to give us the tools to find resolution in our own way and time. The Bible doesn't always tell us we must go to the third aisle and the fifth shelf to find a can of tomato paste, because we all know that it won't always be exactly there as stores continue to change the outlay for marketing reasons. God promised us that he will show us the way. But he can only do that if we truly have the faith. We need to recognize its power and will and allow it to take us to all of the places God has set before us.

So think about what shelf in life you need to find for that last perfect ingredient. Do not be afraid to admit there might be more that you need to learn on this ongoing faith journey. It is a miraculous thing to know God's love and to understand that as long as we believe God will continue to grace us with his will. What a wonderful thing to be promised as we go along life's journey. Continue to be a good disciple in your daily life and share with others the strength that God has shown to you and that around you for God is good.

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Every Sunday
8:30am Circle Time
9:00am Christian Connection
10:30am Morning Worship

St. John's United Church of Christ is: A church of faith, heeding to God's call, through worship, evangelism, discipleship and fellowship. We are building on our church's history, while looking to our future. Our church is filled with messengers, who share the gift of God's love, with the community and beyond. We strive to be a church that reaches out to all with compassion, a vision of God's everlasting peace, and a witness of spiritual hope to our present and future generations. For all this and so much more, we pray in God's name.

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