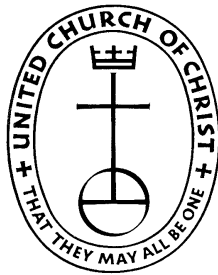


# *Forward in Faith July 2010*



## **The Newsletter for St. John's United Church of Christ**

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Rev. David Alfeld-Johnson, Pastor

Karalyn Schroeder & Kerri Gorecki, Co- Directors of Children's Ministries

Dawn Funk, Director of Older Youth Ministries

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## **Illinois Conference Annual Meeting**

“Spiritual blindness includes the inability to envision a future filled with hope... We may not be blind, but we could use a little more awareness of the wonders of God's grace and God's preferred future.”

These were some of the words from the Rev. Dr. Jorge Morales as he responded to questions at the annual meeting of the Illinois Conference of the United Church of Christ, held on Friday and Saturday, June 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. Rev. Morales was the called candidate for the position of conference minister. He spoke of the importance of discernment and prayer as we seek a vision and mission, but also that there comes a time to act. And that time has arrived for our conference as we seek to minister in these changing times. Later that morning we voted to call him to lead our conference.

In addition to that important task, we gathered to sing, and pray, and conduct business. Reports from the various working groups were received, a slate of candidates were elected to various positions, and updates on different initiatives at the conference and national level were given.

Our association minister and friend, Tom Norwalk, joined the other members of the Ministry Leadership Team in sharing the new ways that their resources are being deployed throughout the conference. We now are sharing Tom with the Western Conference (which means that he is on the road a lot each month—pray for safe travels for him).

In addition, we received an update on the Local Church Needs Assessment. Of the 60 or so churches that responded, we said that we needed help evaluating ministries and programs; recruiting, training, and managing volunteers; marketing; evangelism and outreach; and increasing our worship attendance. These are the things that are on the minds and hearts of our churches. These are the things we are asking our conference staff to help us with.

One of our challenges as a denomination and as a conference includes addressing the need for well-prepared ministers at a time when many churches are having difficulty affording a full-time pastor, and many pastors can't afford to work less than full-time, and many can't afford the cost of seminary. Over the next year we will be thinking and discussing what is required for a person to do pastoral work and what it means to be authorized to minister in our denomination.

We were introduced to a new look on the conference website. You can check it out at [ilucc.org](http://ilucc.org). We voted to be a global mission conference, which means that part of our covenant together is to be aware of, and to pray for, and support our various mission projects around the world.

In all, we weathered the Friday afternoon storm, the construction on the Chicago freeways, and long hours of sitting inside, to do the hard work of being a church united by our common call to serve Christ in our local communities. More information will be available on the conference website in coming days. Go online and check it out.

Pastor Dave

## Director of Children's Ministries Report

Karalyn Schroeder and Kerri Gorecki

### VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL (kids 3 years old - kids entering 8<sup>th</sup> grade)

St. John's biggest youth event of the year is quickly approaching! **Hero Headquarters** Vacation Bible School will be held July 18<sup>th</sup>-July 22<sup>nd</sup> (Sunday-Thursday) from 6:00-8:15 p.m. This year at VBS, kids will be introduced to some amazing Bible heroes and explore how they, too, can be heroes for God! Mark your calendars and keep this week open so you can come enjoy the excitement of VBS week!

See the enclosed flyer for more information. If you would like a registration form, you can pick one up on Sundays after worship or contact the church office and we can mail one to you. Any questions... call Kerri, Karalyn, or the church office.



#### HELP WANTED

We need lots of volunteers for Vacation Bible School. Whether you can help just one night or all five, please consider helping out this year. There is something for everyone to do. We will need teachers, group leaders, coin counters, greeters, kitchen helpers, and lots of help decorating prior to VBS week. Please let Karalyn or Kerri know if you can help out.



#### DON'T FORGET TO MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

July 18, Sunday through July 22, Thursday – VBS (6:00-8:15 p.m.)

#### STILL NEED MORE VOLUNTEERS

We are still looking for some more volunteers to help out with childcare during the 9:30 a.m. service on Sunday mornings during the summer. We had a great response to our plea for help, but we still need to fill a few more slots. Below is a list of the volunteers that we have lined up for the summer with the openings that are still available. If you can help out, please contact the church office to let them know which Sunday you can help out. We want to sincerely thank everyone who helps out with this much needed ministry of the church. Here is the childcare schedule for this summer...

June 27 - Nursery

Hannah Gorecki & Joel Gorecki

June 27 – Kids' Club

Kim Gignac & Steve Gignac

July 4 - Nursery

Dawn Bush

July 4 – Kids' Club

Abby Bicksler

July 11 - Nursery

Abbi Blake & Peyton Young

July 11 – Kids' Club

Brian Burkett & Kathy Lewandowski

July 18 – Nursery

Dawn Bush & Tara McKenna

July 18 – Kids' Club

Kim Gignac & Steve Gignac

July 25 – Nursery

Amanda Mead & Danielle Murphy

July 25 – Kids' Club

Donna Scanlin & Stafford Hipp

August 1 – Nursery

Pam Mead & Cathy Prokop

August 1 – Kids' Club

Abbi Blake & Kathy Lewandowski

August 8 – Nursery

Peyton Young & \_\_\_\_\_

August 8 – Kids' Club

Tara McKenna & Stafford Hipp

August 15 – Nursery

Amy Young & Sue Laue

August 15 – Kids' Club

Abby Bicksler & \_\_\_\_\_

August 22 – Nursery

Rita Burkett & Cathy Prokop

August 22 – Kids' Club

Pam Schonwise & Alicia Funk

August 29 – Nursery

Brian Burkett & Shelley Maves

August 29 – Kids' Club

Ashley Wright & Cindy Wright



## Director of Older Youth Ministries Report

**CYF NEWS:** The teens from the high school youth group participated in the Relay for Life walk this year on June 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>. The youth helped by raising money for cancer and by walking to show their support.

The annual HURRICANE PARTY followed by a lock-in at the CCC was held on Friday, June 4<sup>th</sup>. The incoming freshmen were invited as well as the other high school youth. The evening was filled with some very messy fun that was enjoyed by all. Some of these activities included eggs, redi-whip topping, flour, and water balloons. There were 20 participants at the HURRICANE PARTY.

Tuesday, July 6<sup>th</sup> the CYF members will head to Racing Rapids Water Park in Yorkville for the day to enjoy some sun and fun.



A night at the Jackhammers game is planned for Thursday, July 29<sup>th</sup>. The game starts at 7:10p.m. We will possibly take the train to the baseball game.



Also, a day at the Paintball Park is being planned.

Tuesday, August 17<sup>th</sup> the high school youth will go on a "good-bye to summer" picnic and hike.

**"JUST 4 GIRLS" NEWS:** nothing to report at this time.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Dawn Funk

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### Summer Worship Schedule



Beginning June 27<sup>th</sup>, we will continue our schedule of two worship services during the summer months. We will have our traditional worship service at 8:00 a.m. which will be held in the sanctuary. At 9:30 a.m. we will have our worship service in the Christian Community Center with Kids Club offered for those 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and younger. We will also have childcare under adult supervision for children under age 3 throughout the service.

## CHURCH DIRECTORIES



The Church pictorial directories have arrived!! If you had your picture taken, please stop by the church office Monday – Friday, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. to pick up your directory. Thank You.

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### **CONFIRMATION – SAVE THE DATE!**

If your child will be entering eighth grade this fall, he/she will be eligible to join the confirmation class. We will again require each student to ask a church member to be a mentor and attend classes and events with them. There will be an informational meeting on Wednesday, August 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the lounge for parents, students and mentors.



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### Relay For Life



Heartfelt thanks to all who supported St. John's 2010 Relay for Life. Whether you prayed for us, gave a donation, shopped at Berkots, dined out, participated in the Run Out Cancer Contest, provided a tent or canopy, purchased a luminaria, cheered us on, or walked with us, each contribution helped our team raise over \$5,600.00 this year. With your help, the Frankfort -Mokena Relay for Life raised over \$164,000.00 for the American Cancer Society. A special thanks to Bettylou Linke for her painstaking efforts to construct a survivor quilt, and to Cathy Prokop and Pam Mead for weeks of behind the scenes work in the office to help us prepare for this event. Sincere appreciation to each and every one of you who gave of their time, money, and support to make the 2010 Relay for Life such a successful event.

Jeff and Kathy Lewandowski

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### KICK -OFF SUNDAY



We are looking for ideas and help with planning our Kick Off Sunday event in September. Anyone interested, please contact Pastor Dave or the church office.

# Women's Circle



A HUGE thank-you to all of you who donated items for our Annual All-Church Garage Sale and also to those who helped in any way to make the sale a huge success!

We cleared \$3,318 from the sale. This money will be used for projects in our church, to be decided at our next meeting.

We couldn't have had this great sale without the help of our entire congregation!

In grateful appreciation,

Helen Warning, Secretary

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## 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Will County Back To School Fair

Last year over 4,700 children and their families attended the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Will County Back to School Fair coordinated by Daybreak. This is a major county wide effort that helps low-income families access needed services to begin the school year on a positive note, many of which may be our friends and neighbors.

This year St. John's UCC is being asked to supply a specific school item; GLUE STICKS.



We have placed a donation container outside the church office for your contribution. We will collect glue sticks until Sunday, July 18<sup>th</sup>. God Bless You.

Mission Outreach

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**SUNDAY, JULY 4<sup>th</sup>** - We will have one worship service at 8 a.m. in the sanctuary. The village will begin closing off roads for the parade and we want people to be able to get in and out (or stay and walk with our float in the parade).



## FINANCE

### YTD FINANCIAL STATUS, May, 2010

<u>Operating, Income (1)</u>	124,056.90
(1) Amount to match YTD budget	129,213.00

#### Operating Expenditures

Worship Ministry	7,636.70
Christian Education Ministry	11,362.90
Discipleship (not incl. Missions)	1,774.21
Office Operations	19,429.32
Building Operations	26,621.18
Pastoral, Administrative	<u>33,985.26</u>
TOTAL	\$100,809.57

Gain/(loss) – this year 23,247.33

Balance, previous year end -41,957.19

Present Operating Fund balance -18,709.86

Mission Income (2) 10,688.33

(2) Amount to match YTD Budget 11,375

#### Mission Fund Expenditures

O.C.W.M. Basic Support	5,666.00
Local Mission and Direct Support	2,216.00
TOTAL	7,882.00

IL Conference Capital Campaign(3) 2,039.00

(3) amount to match YTD budget 4,166.67

Building Fund/Project 150 Income 10,543.67

### CCC Profit/Loss Statement – Year To Date 2010

Rental Income 3,825

#### Expense:

Custodian	1,030
Gas	3,286
Electricity	1,900
Water/Sewer	482
Maintenance	800

Total 7,498

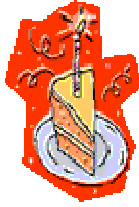
Net (3,673)



# From the Church Records

## **BIRTHDAYS:**

Alma Ingemansen will be celebrating her 81<sup>st</sup> birthday on July 29<sup>th</sup>. Her address is: 19924 Mokena St., Mokena, IL 60448.



## **ATTENDANCE:**



### **May 23, 2010**

8:00 a.m. - 54  
9:30 a.m. - 159

### **June 6, 2010**

8:00 a.m. - 36  
9:30 a.m. - 135

### **May 30, 2010**

9:30 a.m. - 31  
8:00 a.m. - 70

### **June 13, 2010**

8:00 a.m. - 25  
9:30 a.m. - 165

## **BIRTHS:**

Connor Andrew Maves was born on June 14, 2010. His parents are Andy and Shelley Maves. He has two big sisters, Alyssa and Breanna.



## **BAPTISMS:**

Zachariah Bai Ken Gorecki was baptized on June 13, 2010. His parents are Joel and Kerri Gorecki. His siblings are: Hannah, Abby, Miriam, Rachel, Sam, Esther, Caleb and Noah.



# Thank You

Thank you for all the well wishes (especially my wife) received regarding my health issues these past few weeks. Didn't mean to scare you dear! Our church family is a very warm and caring group that we could not live without. (I promise this had nothing to do with the slow White Sox start this year).

Jeff Lewandowski

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Dear St. John's,

Thank you again for sending the finals care package to me. My roommates and I really appreciated your consideration during that stressful time of the semester!

Kari Mackay

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Dear St. John's,

Thank you for the college care package. It's nice to know that you are thinking of me during finals.

Brendan Mackay

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Thank you so much for all the cards I received for my birthday. I appreciate each and every one.

Sincerely,  
Richard Erickson

---

A personal Thank You to everyone who worked so diligently at the Women's Circle's Garage Sale in May.

Due to the terrific amount of "treasures" we received, it was our most successful sale ever.

Thank you to all,  
Alma Ingemansen, Chairman

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To My Friends at St. John's;

"Thank You Much" for all the calls, gifts and so many special birthday cards. I really appreciate each and every one.

Vera Richardson

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A special thank you to Marc Schonwise and his son-in-law's, Jeff Cravens and Chris Obrecht, for the great job they did painting, replacing the baseboards, and repairing the floor in the CCC. It looks wonderful!

# St. John's United Church of Christ Minutes from Council Meeting

June 8, 2010

**Members present:** Steve Gignac, Richard Cantwell, Bernetta Pruim, Sheree Kinder, Chris Maluta, Abby Bicksler, De Anna Kertson and Pastor David Alfeld-Johnson

**Members absent:** Brian Burkett and Terry Ciszek

**Guests present:** Fred Danielewicz, committee member from Boy Scout Troop 40 and Tom Mitchell from the Board of Christian Education.

Meeting called to order at 7:04 p.m. by President Steve Gignac.

Fred Danielewicz from Boy Scout Troop 40 attended the early part of the meeting to help clarify the Church's responsibility as the Chartering Organization for Troop 40. Steve said that Eugene Simpkins is considering being the liaison between the church and the troop.

Pastor David Alfeld-Johnson prayed for our meeting and led a discussion about traits that predict on-going involvement in the church, in particular, traits that involve youth and their future in the church.

Tom Mitchell came to the meeting representing the Board of Christian Education. He presented discussion materials prepared by the Board of Christian Ed. about ways we plan to care for the young people of St. John's in the future. A discussion was held and a motion to formally approve the work of the Board of Christian Ed. was made by Dick Cantwell and seconded by Abby Bicksler. Motion passed unanimously.

## Officer's Reports-

- **Secretary's Report** –Minutes from the May 11, 2010 meeting were reviewed. Steve requested that they be corrected to state that a proposal from AA had in fact already been received by the council president, however it was not available for review at the council meeting and the issue was tabled until the proposal could be produced and reviewed. Motion made by DeAnna Kertson and seconded by Bernetta Pruim to approve the minutes as corrected.

Several requests have been made about

- **Financial Reports** – The Financial Secretary's report was reviewed and discussed. Motion made by Dick Cantwell and seconded by Abby Bicksler to approve the report as written. The Treasurer's written reports from April and May were presented and reviewed. Motion made by Bernetta Pruim and seconded by Sheree Kinder to approve the reports as written.
- **Vice President's Report** – Pastor David Alfeld-Johnson asked that a request to have one Church service at 8:00 a.m. on Sunday July 4<sup>th</sup> be approved. Motion made by Abby Bicksler and seconded by Dick Cantwell to approve this request was passed unanimously.
- **Council** duties at Sunday services were assigned through July 2010.
- **President's Report** – Steve reported that AA has been meeting in the Fellowship Hall on Saturday mornings. They do their own set up and clean up after the meeting. So far it is going well.

The facilities board will purchase a door alarm for the CCC. The east door was recently found a-jar again.

Steve reported that the All-Committee meeting held on June 1<sup>st</sup> was a success and there has been a lot of positive feedback. The next All Committee meeting will be on August 3, 2010.

**Pastor's report-** Pastor led a brief discussion about our church being listed the Yellow pages. It was decided that we do not need to be listed there.

Pastor reported that the police were called twice in the past month. The first time was during a wedding held on May 30, 2010 when one of the guests drank liquid dry erase board cleaner and the paramedics had to be called. The second time was on June 4, 2010 during a CYF lock-in when neighbors became concerned that lights were going on and off and music was playing at odd hours.

purchasing a freezer for the CCC kitchen. This would have to be a commercial freezer to meet Health Department regulations. Bernetta reported that the freezer in the old kitchen is meeting our needs at this time because it is only needed for JAM time on a regular basis. The purchase of a new freezer will be put off at this time.

### Church Board Reports:

**Pre-School Board** – DeAnna reported that the school had a very successful year and is now in the black. The board made a \$2,000.00 donation to the church. Diane Kissinger has resigned from the teaching staff and Jenny Blake has been hired.

**Board of Christian Education** – Abby submitted a written report. Discussion was held earlier in the meeting.

**Facility Board** – Brian submitted a written report.

**Personnel Board** – no meeting

**Cemetery Board** – no meeting

**Music and Worship** – written report submitted

**Membership** – no report submitted

**Correspondence** – no correspondence

**New Business** – no discussion at this meeting.

**Old Business** – no discussion at this meeting.

**Other Reports** –

- **Stewardship**- a written report was submitted. A Phone-A-Thon is being planned.
- **Evangelism** – Meeting minutes submitted.
- **Mission Outreach** – report submitted. Abby reported that they are currently working at Daybreak in Joliet and planning a mission trip to the Emmaus Home in October.

- **GPS Committee** – Sheree and DeAnna reported the committee is in the process of regrouping.
- **150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee** –next meeting will be on June 29, 2010.
- **Technology Committee** –Jeremy Kinder submitted a proposal for phasing out our current phone system and downgrading the computer network since we cannot get anyone to step up and take over them. Steve will discuss this with Jeremy.
- **Popcorn**- Council members were given an opportunity for an open forum to make comments or identify concerns.

Next Council meeting is August 10, 2010, at 7:00 p.m.

Meeting was closed with a prayer by Pastor David Alfeld-Johnson.

Motion made by DeAnna Kertson and seconded by Dick Cantwell to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 10:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christina Maluta  
Church Council Secretary





