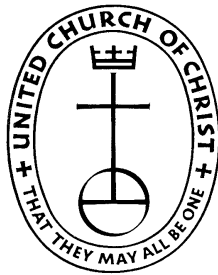


Forward in Faith June 2010



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

Summer Church

It's warming up, finally. For awhile there I thought that summer had come and gone in March and we were headed right back to winter. But God is faithful, and the seasons have faithfully changed once again, and it's warm again. Even though it means I have to mow the yard weekly, and that weeds threaten to take over the garden, I love the summer weather. I can ride my bike, grill on the patio, and drink my morning coffee on the screen porch. The combination of outdoor activity and bright color in the garden makes the world feel more alive in the summer.

That's not always true around churches. After the hectic schedules of May and early June, churches can seem pretty dead in the summer. Programs stop for the summer, people go away on vacation, folks would rather be outdoors than inside. And so we are not surprised when attendance drops. But God doesn't take a summer vacation from us or our world, and we don't have to stop being the church in the summer. Yes, our schedules change, and yes we may be scattered across the country or even the globe during the summer months, but we can remain connected to God and to each other, we can still witness to the importance of Christ in our lives, we can still serve the people of our community and world during the summer months. We can still be the church this summer. Here's a few ideas...

Get outdoors and appreciate God's creation. Many people speak about feeling closer to God when they are in nature. So take some time to appreciate the vastness, the beauty, the complexity, and the power of our created world in our garden, at sunset, in a thunderstorm, in the stars. And then respond to God with awe, and with thanksgiving, and with humility. Maybe respond with respect for the natural world, and a commitment to good stewardship. This summer could be a time to be more diligent with our recycling, to drive less and ride a bicycle, to run the air conditioner a little less. All of these are ways we can worship this summer.

Participate in Vacation Bible School. This is one of our ministries to the children of the whole community. It is our opportunity to love children in the name of Christ and to tell them the story of God's love. No matter who you are, there are opportunities for you to teach, to help with logistics, to greet and welcome families, to help with set-up and clean-up. Participating in an all-church ministry like VBS connects us to one another, reminds us of the stories in the Bible, and gives us a birds-eye view of things God is doing right here in our midst.

Gather with other people of faith. Church is technically just a gathering of people to affirm that we belong to God. We can do that in all kinds of ways this summer. One GPS group is planning several multi-generational activities so we can be together as a whole family. One of the strengths of a church is fostering relationships between generations so that we who are more "experienced" are given new life, and those who are newer at life gain from the wisdom of experience. Get together with the Good-timers, or with Friends and Fun, or on Facebook, or at the parade. Use the summer to deepen our relationships with one another.

And don't forget Sunday worship. Summer is a time to deepen our relationship with Christ. Make the effort to participate in worship, here or wherever you happen to be on a weekend. See what God is doing in other communities, and in other parts of the country. Experience worship in another setting because maybe that could enhance our worship here. I plan to depart from the lectionary and preach on different topics over the summer. If you wonder what the scriptures have to say about a particular topic, or if there is something you would like to hear addressed from the perspective of Christ, drop me a note or an email and I'll try to include it. Summer worship can be a time to grow in our faith.

Summer is upon us. Let's be the church in new and different ways during the summer—serving, worshipping, and celebrating inside and out.

Grace to you and peace,
Pastor Dave

Director of Children's Ministries Report

Karalyn Schroeder and Kerri Gorecki

JAM TIME

The school year has gone by so quickly! Our last JAM Time for the school year was on May 5th. And on May 12th, 36 kids from preschool-5th grade came to our end of the year party at Pump It Up. They had a great time!

We want to thank everyone that made JAM Time possible this year. We had so many wonderful volunteers that led choirs, taught in the classrooms, cooked and served dinner, and organized gym time. What a great year the kids had learning all about God's Word!



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

It's not too early to think about summer! St. John's biggest youth event of the year is quickly approaching. **Hero Headquarters** Vacation Bible School will be held July 18th-July 22nd (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!



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 Kerri or Karalyn 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 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. Below is the childcare schedule for this summer...

June 6 - Nursery

Kathy Lewandowski & Pam Mead

June 6 – Kids' Club

Ashley Wright & Cindy Wright

June 13 - Nursery

Abby Bicksler & Peyton Young

June 13 – Kids' Club

Holly Cravens & Pam Schonwise

June 20 - Nursery

Abbi Blake & Amy Young

June 20 – Kids' Club

Tim Hoblin & Tara McKenna

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 & Sue Laue

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 & _____

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 & _____

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 last **junior high dance** sponsored by the high school youth was held on Friday, April 23rd. The dance was from 6:30 p.m.—9:00 p.m. The high school youth sold pizza, pop & water, mardi gras beads, and glow-in-the-dark necklaces. The cost for admittance into the dance was \$5.00 per person with a school I.D. Unfortunately, this was not a very well attended dance. There were approximately 45 junior high students that attended. There was NO profit made from this dance. The DJ, Tim Scanlin, donated more than half his pay for the night. We greatly appreciate that Tim did that and we will make sure to make it up to him at the first dance we have next school year.

After the junior high dance the CYF held a **lock-in** at the CCC. All the high school youth group members were invited to this lock-in. The lock-in began immediately after the dance clean-up and concluded at 10 a.m. Each CYF member brought snacks and pop. There were 21 that stayed for the lock-in.

The high school youth group members have decided to form a teen team and participate in the Relay for Life walk this year on June 11th and 12th. We will be signing up and asking for donations as we walk to help raise money to fight cancer. If you are interested in making a donation to the **TEEN TEAM for Relay for Life**, please contact Dawn Funk @ 708-497-5804. Everyone is excited to be doing the walk.



On Saturday, May 8th the CYF had a road rally. There were three carloads of teenagers that participated in this digital photo road rally. The three teams set out with 15 envelopes of tasks that they were to do while taking a digital photo of each one for proof of completion of the task. The teams had great fun with the silly little tasks they had to do to earn points. Thank you to Jeremy Kinder and Bridgette Kavanagh for being drivers.



I am now planning the HURRICANE PARTY! It will be held in June this year. This will be the welcoming festival for the confirmation class as they will be invited to join the CYF youth group.

Other possible events being planned for the summer may include: a trip to Medieval Times, a picnic and hike at a park, Magic Water Waterpark, paintball, a day trip to the Indiana dunes in June, horseback riding, Joliet Jackhammers game in June, Hurricane party, and a trip to Michigan!

“JUST 4 GIRLS” NEWS: Due to conflicts with the high school girl schedules, the “Just 4 Girls” group will not be meeting until the fall. Stay tuned for new ideas and a whole new twist on the “Just 4 Girls” discussion group.

JUNIOR HIGH JAM TIME NEWS: Friday, April 23rd was the last **junior high dance of the school year** in the CCC building. The dance was from 6:30-9 p.m. and was for all 6th, 7th, and 8th grade youth. The cost was \$5 per person. Pizza, pop, water, and glow necklaces were available as well. All junior high students were welcome to participate and they were encouraged to bring friends.

Junior high JAM planned to go **bowling** on April 25th from 12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. at Thunder Bowl in Mokena. However, due to lack of interest it was cancelled. We will try again in the fall.



Wednesday, May 12th the junior high JAM had their **last meeting** for the year. There were 10 junior high youth that met at 191 South in Mokena for pizza and pop paired with some fellowship and fun as we wrapped up the year of Junior High JAM time. A great time was had by all.



Thank you to all of those who helped with the Junior High class throughout the year. These wonderful people include: Tom Mitchell, Pam Mead, Elizabeth Hipp, Deanna Kertson, and Terry Wuske. All your help was greatly appreciated. Thank you so much!

Respectfully Submitted,
Dawn Funk

From the Church Records

BIRTHDAYS:

Richard Erickson will be celebrating his 93rd birthday on June 11th. His address is: 208 East Ririe Pl., Flanagan, IL 61740.



Vera Richardson will be celebrating her 93rd birthday on June 12th. Her address is: 811 Cedar Circle, Manteno, IL 60950.

Robert Schultz will be celebrating his 90th birthday on June 24th. His address is: 10712 Silver Lakes Drive, Frankfort, IL 60423.



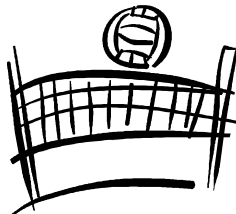
Graduates

On June 6th we will recognize those who are graduating from high school or college this year.

We don't want anyone's accomplishment to be overlooked. If someone in your family is graduating from high school or beyond, please let the office know and then plan to attend worship on June 6th so we can congratulate you.

ALL-CHURCH VOLLEYBALL and GAME NIGHT

Please join us on Sunday, June 27th from 6:30 p.m. till 8:30 p.m. over in the Christian Community Center for a night of fun and fellowship! We will be playing volleyball in the gym and will have Bingo/ board games to play in the hallway. There will also be water and dessert for all to share. We will be providing childcare for those too young to participate in the church nursery. We are also planning a trip to see the Joliet Jackhammers on Sunday August 22nd at 2:10 p.m. Watch for details for this event in the upcoming bulletins and next month's Forward. If you have any questions, please contact any member of the multi-generational social planning committee: Cathy Prokop, Ralph and Linda Ratskoff, Helen Warning, Dawn Funk, Pat Kraling and Dan and Pam Mead. We hope to see everyone for volleyball on June 27th!



ATTENDANCE:

April 25, 2010

8:00 a.m. - 40
9:30 a.m. - 127

May 9, 2010

8:00 a.m. - 41
9:30 a.m. - 172

May 2, 2010

9:30 a.m. - 41
8:00 a.m. - 142

May 16, 2010

8:00 a.m. - 48
9:30 a.m. - 123

BIRTHS:

Hailey Elizabeth Higgins was born on April 5, 2010. She is the daughter of Kristen Kulpa and Matthew Higgins.



BAPTISMS:

Jude Tomasz & Beckham Lester Christiansen received the sacrament of baptism on May 16, 2010. Their parents are Craig & Monika Christiansen. Jude's sponsors are Tom Kusmierz and Megan Paul. Beckham's sponsors are Paul Christiansen and Christina Adamczyk.



MEMORIALS:

A donation was made to the Memorial Fund in memory of Willette Polo and Edna Brown.



RELAY FOR LIFE - Please mark your calendars for several upcoming events for the Relay for Life:

Wednesday, May 26 (not May 25 as previously noted)
Nancy's Pizza fundraiser from

4:00 – 8:30 p.m. at Nancy's Restaurant in Mokena. All you can eat pizza, pop, and salad buffet. (Pasta is available for an additional \$1.00) Prices are \$9.95 for adults and \$6.95 for children. A portion of all proceeds will be donated to the American Cancer Society.



Saturday, June 5 - Oberweis Community Days - 10% - 30% of all sales at the Mokena store will be donated to the American Cancer Society (coupon needed).



Monday, June 7 and Tuesday, June 8 - Berkots benefit days- 5% of sales will be donated to the American Cancer Society (coupon needed).



Monday, June 7- El Cortez in Mokena - 10% of all sales will be donated to the American Cancer Society (coupon needed).



Friday, June 11 to Saturday, June 12 - Relay for Life at Lincoln-Way East High School in Frankfort.

Check the mission bulletin board or register on-line at relayforlifefrankfortmokena.com. Look for our team under St. John's and Friends.

Survivors are very special people! St. John's own Bettylou Linke has offered to make a quilt dedicated to any individuals, including family and friends, who have been afflicted with cancer. You are considered a survivor from the date of diagnosis. Please see Bettylou, Jeff, or Kathy after the service if you would like a name added to the quilt.

Please consider being a part of our St. John's Relay for Life Team, sponsoring one of the walkers, or taking part in one of our fundraisers for this very worthwhile cause.

Summer Worship Schedule



Beginning June 27th, 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 2nd grade and younger. We will also have childcare under adult supervision for children under age 3 throughout the service.



FINANCE

YTD FINANCIAL STATUS, April, 2010

<u>Operating, Income (1)</u>	94,005.06
(1) Amount to match YTD budget	103,371.00

Operating Expenditures

Worship Ministry	6,219.38
Christian Education Ministry	10,096.24
Discipleship (not incl. Missions)	1,558.75
Office Operations	15,594.52
Building Operations	22,377.84
Pastoral, Administrative	27,446.95
TOTAL	\$83,293.68

<u>Gain/(loss) – this year</u>	10,711.38
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<u>Balance, previous year end</u>	-41,957.19
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<u>Present Operating Fund balance</u>	-31,245.81
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<u>Mission Income (2)</u>	8,581.50
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(2) Amount to match YTD Budget	9,100
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Mission Fund Expenditures

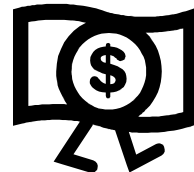
O.C.W.M. Basic Support	5,666.00
Local Mission and Direct Support	1,966.00
TOTAL	7,632.00

<u>IL Conference Capital Campaign(3)</u>	1,579.50
(3) amount to match YTD budget	3,333.33

<u>Building Fund/Project 150 Income</u>	8,317.50
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CCC Profit/Loss Statement – Year To Date 2010

<u>Rental Income</u>	2,725
<u>Expense:</u>	
Custodian	794
Gas	3,040
Electricity	1,536
Water/Sewer	385
Maintenance	300
Total	6,055
Net	(3,330)



Thank You

A special thank you to Jeff Cravens and Marc Schonwise for the great job they did painting the CCC. It looks wonderful!

A Preschool thank you from the T – TH a.m. class to Helen Warning for playing the piano for our Spring program.

Thank you to my church family for all of your prayers, cards, hugs, and kind words on the death of my Mom. Your love and support are helping me get through a difficult time in my life.

Chris Maluta

I would like to express my sincere thanks for the cards and best wishes for my birthday. Your thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated.

Love & Blessings,
Dave Zuidema

Thank you to One and All:

First of all a big thank you to Pastor Dave for his prayers and visits at the hospital and our home, while we are trying to gain our health back. Second and no less important- a BIG thank you to all of you for your prayers & cards with get well wishes.

Special thanks for those great meals you brought to our home. All the meals were like the Sunday's best meal. We will be staying home, while John gets his chemo treatments until mid October. We will miss you all. Violet has cellulitis and will be going for more tests to find the problem.

Love you all,

John & Violet Funk

PS: Thanks for the Anniversary cards (51 years)

Dear Friends at St. John's:

Thank you so much for the care package. It is so nice to be remembered when I am away at school. Thank you for your thoughtfulness!

Sincerely,

Katie Fagan

Dear St. John's Community:

Thank you for the care package! Finals are a pretty stressful time, so it's nice to have support. Hope you're all well back home.

Thanks Again,

Dan Fagan

St John's United Church of Christ Summary of Minutes from Council Meeting May 11, 2010

Members present- Steve Gignac, Terry Ciszek, Richard Cantwell, Bernetta Pruum, Sheree Kinder, Brian Burkett, Chris Maluta, and Pastor David Alfeld-Johnson

Members absent- Abby Bicksler and DeAnna Kertson

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Steve Gignac. Steve Gignac led devotions with a prayer and discussion of Chapter 5, Strength 5: Caring For Children and Youth, from **Beyond the Ordinary 10 Strengths of U.S. Congregations** by Woolever and Bruce.

Officer's Reports-

Secretary's Report –Minutes from the April 13, 2010 meeting were reviewed. Motion made by Richard Cantwell and seconded by Brian Burkett to approve the report as written.

Financial reports – The Financial Secretary's report was reviewed and discussed.

Motion made by Bernetta Pruum and seconded by Terry Ciszek to approve the report as written. The Treasurer's written report was submitted.

Vice President's report – discussion about the June 1, 2010 All Church Committee meeting. The meeting will start at 7:00 p.m. Boards where members are elected and all GPS groups will be exempt from the meeting.

President's report – Steve led a discussion about Boy Scout Troop 40. St. John's needs to find a church member who will be a permanent liaison to the troop. There are new rules regulating the chartering organization. Steve will ask for a representative from the troop to come to the June 8th Council meeting for further discussion. The Illinois Conference Annual Meeting will be June 18 & 19. Ron Cutshall will go as a delegate. Pastor Dave asked if there is a line item in the church budget to cover the costs of delegates. The church will pay the conference fee, not lodging.

Pastor's report- Pastor reported that 5 people are interested in membership: Paula Rogers, John Dinges, Nancy Sixbey and Francis and Jennifer Zeiger. The vote was unanimous to grant them membership. Pastor reported he'd received a call from a lawyer asking the particulars regarding leaving money to St. John's in a will. A discussion was held. If you want to leave the church money should it be designated? Do we want to encourage specific uses? Steve will check the constitution for by-laws, etc.

Church Board Reports:

Pre-school Board – no meeting.

Board of Christian Education – Abby submitted a written report. They are working on restructuring positions and we are waiting for their proposals.

Facility Board – Brian submitted a written report. Regarding the CCC door being left ajar: they want to see if it happens again. They are going to get an estimate for a remote alarm. Discussion was held and it is felt that a remote alarm is not needed; just one that will go off if the door is opened.

Personnel Board – no meeting.

Cemetery Board – no report submitted.

Music and Worship – no report submitted.

Membership – no report submitted.

Correspondence – no correspondence.

New Business – Thank you notes will resume at a later date.

A vote was taken whether we should move our accounts from Great Lakes Bank to Mokena State Bank. The vote was to keep Great Lakes Bank.

Fellowship Hall Ovens: It was decided that the next time the inspector comes to inspect the CCC kitchen, we will have him look at the Fellowship Hall kitchen and find out what is needed to make it meet inspection standards.

Old Business – Decorating Continuity – Discussion about who and how. Pastor brought up the fact that the new churches make their buildings look like stores and malls not like churches because many people feel uncomfortable in church. We will bring the discussion up at the group meeting.

AA has requested to use our facility. A proposal has been requested from them. Issue tabled until more information is received.

Other Reports –

Stewardship- Terry Cizek reported that he did a Moment of Light at church and that the Time and Talent sheets will be dedicated Sunday, May 16th.

Evangelism – Meeting minutes submitted. Sheree reported that they are still working on the membership guidelines. Is it strictly a membership question? Perhaps a group effort is needed from Evangelism, Stewardship and Membership.

Mission Outreach – report submitted.

GPS Committee – The multigenerational social group submitted a proposal. Council would like to see more specific details for the events they want to organize.

150th Anniversary Committee –meeting minutes submitted. A suggestion box has been placed in the Fellowship Hall for any ideas from the congregation.

Technology Committee – Richard Cantwell reported that new microphones are needed for the CCC. They will be funded by the Memorial Committee.

Popcorn- Council members were given an opportunity for an open forum to make comments or identify concerns.

Next Council meeting is June 8, 2010, at 7:00 p.m.

Meeting was closed with a prayer by Steve Gignac. Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christina Maluta
Church Council Secretary

