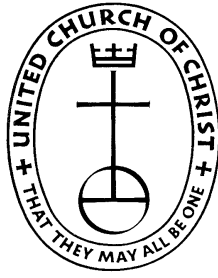


# *Forward in Faith*

*March 2010*



## **The Newsletter for**

### **St. John's United Church of Christ**

11100 Second Street, Mokena, Illinois 60448

(708) 479-5123

e-mail: [stjohnsmokena@att.net](mailto:stjohnsmokena@att.net)

Website: [stjohnsmokena.org](http://stjohnsmokena.org)

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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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## **Saving Lent**

"Lent," says the professor and author David Lose, "is in trouble." He goes on to point out that nobody looks forward to Lent. Nobody wonders how they will decorate their home for Lent, or rushes to get their Lenten cards out, or hums Lenten carols to themselves. People have favorite holidays. For many, Christmas has so many good family memories, and has such a good message, that it can't help but be their favorite. Some like the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. They plunk their lawn chairs out for the parade, and fire up the grill, and ooh and aah over fireworks at night. The 4<sup>th</sup> of July rekindles national pride, and we can wear flip flops. My dad's favorite has always been Thanksgiving. More low-key than Christmas, Thanksgiving gathers family to express gratitude for all good things that fill our lives. Easter will be on some people's list, but I don't know anyone for whom Lent is the favorite.

It could be because Lent is so dark and foreboding. It begins with ashes and ends with death. But Halloween is all about death and cemeteries and other scary things, and lots of people like Halloween. It could be that Lent falls at such a dreary time. Mid-February to the beginning of April isn't exactly the prime season here in the Chicago area. But if it were simply the weather, how come Christmas gets a free pass? And I don't think Lent is any more popular in Florida or Arizona than it is here. It may be that nobody has figured out how to cash in on Lent, people don't spend money on Lent like we do for Christmas or Halloween. It's focused more on fasting than shopping. Maybe a good marketing campaign could help save Lent.

Well I'm here to help. The first thing we need to do is change that depressing image that comes along with Lent. We'll go with something more hopeful. "Lent" is actually a positive word. It comes from the Anglo-Saxon word "lencten", referring to the lengthening of days in the spring. Lent is a time when we move from the dead of winter to the (relative) warmth of spring. That's positive. And some good things happen during Lent. Daylight savings begins and so we enjoy brighter afternoons. March Madness occurs each year during Lent. And spring training opens with all the possibilities of a winning season. It's during Lent that we fill out our brackets, talk about our teams acquisitions over the winter, and maybe get that fertilizer down on the lawn. Lent is full of hope.

And Lent is traditionally a time of preparation. People were baptized and welcomed into the early church at Easter after a time of learning about Jesus and the Christian faith. Lent may be the time to stop trying to make it on our own, and let God love us. Lent is also a time to discover or rediscover the words and actions of Jesus. It may be a time for revisiting those teachings that we learned when we were young, but never understood why they were important. It may be time to get to know the real Jesus who invites us to discipleship, and leave behind a faith that only calls us to be nice and be a good citizen. Lent is a time for discovery.

But there is still all that talk about fasting and repentance during Lent. That kind of stuff is still pretty unpopular. I mean, who repents any more? Everyone knows that if we acknowledge our culpability we will only open ourselves up to a lawsuit. A deeper look shows that the fasting and repentance are designed for cleansing both the body and spirit. And cleansing is popular these days. We use cleanser to scrub our counters and bathrooms, we cleanse our skin to keep a youthful appearance, we even cleanse our colons. We may even do spring cleaning. The spirit of Lent is one of emptying ourselves so that God can fill us. We humble ourselves in hopes that God will give us grace. Lent is a time for spring cleaning—our bodies and souls.

Maybe Lent just needs a slogan, like “Lent: the other holy season.” Maybe an acronym would help. “Let each now turn.” Maybe it will never catch on. Perhaps we don’t need a special season to be a people of hope. Maybe we can always be listening and discovering Jesus. Probably we will always have a need for repentance. Lent: not just before Easter.

Pastor Dave

\*\*\*\*\*



## Holy Week and Easter

Holy Week begins on March 28<sup>th</sup> with Palm Sunday, and continues with Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter morning services. This year we plan to follow some of the characters of the Holy Week drama as they experienced the events unfolding around them. I maintain that Easter will mean more to us if we enter into the Last Supper, the betrayal, trial, and crucifixion along with the disciples. Make plans to participate in those services during Holy Week.

March 28	Palm Sunday	Regular 8 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. services
April 1	Maundy Thursday	7:00 p.m. - Communion will be served
April 2	Good Friday Tenebrae	7:00 p.m. - Communion will be served
April 4	Easter Morning	6:30 a.m. Sunrise service led by our youth
		7:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. – Easter Breakfast served by youth in the CCC
		8 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. services with communion

We are in need of people who are willing to help with childcare on Easter Sunday morning. This is a time when we have numerous visitors to our services, and part of our hospitality is caring for children. Why not offer to watch kids at one of the services.

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## Easter Lilies and Tulips

To continue St. John’s tradition of decorating the altar for Easter with lilies and tulips, the church has arranged for lilies and tulips to be available for purchase.

We will take orders until March 21, 2010.  
The price for lilies is \$6.50 and tulips are \$6.00.

To order flowers, please use the form in the Sunday bulletins or contact the church office for an order form.

# Director of Children's Ministries Report

Karalyn Schroeder and Kerri Gorecki

## Attention All Kids (3 years old-8<sup>th</sup> grade)

We continue to have LOTS of fun on Wednesday nights. JAM Time meets each Wednesday night (with the exception of a few holidays). Come join us and bring a friend. Here is what is happening on Wednesday nights at St. John's...

5:30-6:00 choirs for all kids (preschool - jr. high)  
6:00-6:30 dinner (\$2 per person)  
6:30-8:00 classroom time and gym time (preschool - jr. high)

The kids are divided as follows during classroom time: preschool, kdg/1<sup>st</sup> grade, 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> grade, 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> grade, 6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> grade, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade confirmation class.

## Wednesday Night JAM Time Dinner Menu

February 24 - soft shell tacos  
March 3 - pizza  
March 10 - hot dogs/chili dogs  
March 17 - waffles/sausage  
March 24 - chicken nuggets/mac 'n' cheese  
March 31 - pizza

## Bunny Breakfast

Saturday, March 13<sup>th</sup>  
8:00a.m.-11:00a.m. in the CCC



St. John's will be hosting the Fourth Annual Easter Bunny Breakfast. Please join us for delicious food, kids' games, a visit from the Easter Bunny, and lots of fun! All proceeds will benefit the Hands and Feet Project (a children's village in Haiti supporting orphans).

Pancakes, sausage, hash browns, milk, juice, and coffee will be served.

Prices are as follows:

Adults	\$7
Kids ages 6-10	\$5
Kids ages 3-5	\$3
Kids 2 and under	Free

## All Church Family Swim Party

Friday, March 19<sup>th</sup>  
6:00-8:00 at Lincoln Way East  
\$5 per child or \$10 per family



\*All children 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult.

If you have any questions or would like to sign your family up, please see Dawn, Karalyn, or Kerri.

## Don't Forget to Mark Your Calendar!

**March 13, Saturday** - Easter Bunny Breakfast to benefit "Hands and Feet Project" in Haiti

**March 19, Friday** (6:30-8:30 p.m.) - All Church Family Swim Party at LW East

**April 7, Wednesday** - Easter Break (No JAM Time)

**May 19, Wednesday** - Last JAM Time for the year

**May 26, Wednesday** - Pump It Up Party (6:15-7:45 p.m.)

## Sunday Morning Childcare

Each Sunday morning during the 9:30a.m. service two classrooms are available for childcare. The Nursery is for children preschool age and younger and the Kids' Club is for children in kindergarten through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. We have a rotating list of volunteers that help out on Sunday mornings. We are always looking for more people to add to this list. If you are interested... contact Kerri, Karalyn, or call the church office. Below is the schedule for the upcoming weeks...

### March 7 - Nursery

Craig Young 630-605-0646  
Kirsten Young 630-605-0646

### March 7 - Kids' Club

Tim Hoblin 708-479-1167  
Kathy Lewandowski 708-479-7287

## Director of Older Youth Ministries Report

### March 14 - Nursery

Luann Seiler 708-479-6269

Meg Seiler 708-479-6269

### March 14 - Kids' Club

Jen Seiler 708-479-6269

Pam Schonwise 708-479-9500

### March 21 - Nursery

Hannah Gorecki 815-463-9849

Pam Mead 708-479-2902

### March 21 - Kids' Club

Amanda Mead 708-479-2902

Franklin Mead 708-479-2902

### March 28 - Nursery

Tara McKenna 815-463-8298

Debra Raimondi 815-469-6052

### March 28 - Kids' Club

Rita Burkett 815-462-1729

Stafford Hipp 815-464-1449

### April 4 - No Kid's Club (Easter Sunday)

### April 11 - Nursery

Cathy Prokop 708-326-4835

Donna Scanlin 708-479-5431

### April 11 - Kids' Club

Maura Ciszek 708-479-4767

Lisa Golden 708-479-1183

### April 18 - Nursery

Dawn Bush 708-479-1731

Alicia Funk 815-485-1045

### April 18 - Kids' Club

Ryan Kertson 815-485-4546

Marianne Voss 815-464-1488

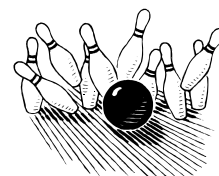


**CYF NEWS:** The next junior high dance sponsored by the high school youth will be held on Friday, March 5<sup>th</sup>. The dance will be from 6:30 p.m.—9:00 p.m. The high school youth will sell pizza, pop & water, mardi gras beads, and glow-in-the-dark necklaces. The cost for admittance into the dance will be \$5.00 per person with a school I.D. We are in great need of adult chaperones for these dances. Please help out by volunteering your time. If you are interested in chaperoning, please contact Dawn Funk @ 708-497-5804.

The annual CYF bake sale was held on Sunday, February 7<sup>th</sup>. Thank you so much to everyone who supported our bake sale. The CYF youth group members sincerely appreciate your support. A total of \$345 was made in donations.



Discussion regarding a bowl-a-thon happened within the last month. The youth decided to do a bowl-a-thon in the fall.



The 30 hour famine is scheduled for February 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. Donations are being accepted through Sunday, February 28<sup>th</sup>. We are hoping to take in more than last year. The goal for donations this year will be \$2,000. Please help us out by donating to this extremely worthy cause. You may contact any of the high school youth members from CYF or you may contact myself to make a donation. A small donation of \$30 will pay for the food and care of a child for one month.

Also during the 30 hour famine the youth will be heading out in the neighborhoods of Mokena to collect non-perishable food items that will be donated to the local food pantry. So, as we are running on an empty stomach.....we will be collecting food for the needy in our local areas as well as collecting donations for those hungry in other countries.

Sunday, March 7<sup>th</sup>, the high school youth will be going to the movies.

Sunday, March 21<sup>st</sup> the CYF members will be heading to a Chicago Wolves game at the Allstate Arena in Rosemont. The game starts at 3 p.m. and tickets are \$20 per person. Please let me know if you are interested in going.





On Easter Sunday, April 4<sup>th</sup>, the senior high youth will be presenting the Easter sunrise service at 6:30 a.m. The youth will be presenting a drama during the service.

Immediately following the service the youth will be hosting their annual Easter breakfast. The breakfast will be served from 7:30 a.m. until 9:00 a.m. The menu will be the same as in the past. It will include: stuffed French toast, egg casserole, sausage, coffeecake, fruit, hard boiled Easter eggs, cereal, juice, coffee and milk. The breakfast will be a free will donation. The high school youth members invite you to join them for a wonderful Easter sunrise service followed by a delicious breakfast to start your day of celebration of new life.

Other events being planned for the upcoming year include: paintball, movies in March, trip to the Indiana dunes in June, serving a meal at a food shelter in April, horseback riding in May, Joliet Jackhammers game in June, and much, much more!

“JUST 4 GIRLS” NEWS: During the next two months the “Just 4 Girls” group will be making fleece blankets that will be donated to Project Linus.

Some of the things planned for the “Just 4 Girls” group include: painting pottery, scrap booking, going to a play, and getting henna tattoos.

JUNIOR HIGH JAM TIME NEWS: On Sunday, January 24<sup>th</sup> the junior high JAM time went to see the movie, **TOOTH FAIRY** starring Dwayne Johnson. It was a very enjoyable movie and a great time was had by those that attended.

Friday, March 5<sup>th</sup> the CYF will be having a **junior high dance** in the CCC building. The dance will be from 6:30-9:00 p.m. and will be for all 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade youth. The cost will be \$5 per person. Pizza, pop, water, and glow necklaces will be available as well.



On Friday, March 19<sup>th</sup> the junior high JAM time youth members are invited to an **ALL CHURCH FAMILY SWIM EVENT** from 6-8 p.m. at Lincoln Way East High School in Frankfort. The cost for this event is \$5 per person or \$10 per family. This event is open to all ages and all church members. Any questions, please contact Dawn Funk, Kerri Gorecki or Karalyn Schroeder.



Respectfully Submitted,  
Dawn Funk

## GPS – The Journey Continues

All Aboard!! We are calling on everyone in the church to help us take off as we set our course for the next destination of our journey beginning on **Sunday, March 21<sup>st</sup> at 11:00**. We collected all of the ideas from the brainstorming session back in September, and then sorted through and prioritized the various activities at our luncheon meeting with the congregation in December. We took all of the input you gave us, tallied the results, and have formed seven new GPS teams that will be focused on planning and organizing various activities within the church. The seven new teams being formed are as follows:

- **After School Program** – A program to reach out to the community and provide a safe place at St. John’s for children to come for recreational activities and tutoring.
- **Community Care** – Develop outreach programs to care for the community such as homeless dinners, care casseroles, helping hands, military and college care packages, etc.
- **Multigenerational Intellectual Series** – Develop a series of talks or classes that provide information on various topics of interest to multiple age groups by bringing in outside speakers and/or utilizing the talents within our church.
- **Multigenerational Social Activities** – Create more opportunities for fellowship within the congregation that include multiple generations and promote more connection among our members.
- **Volunteer Member Care Program** – A program for lay members of the church to be trained to reach out and provide care for members in our congregation during times of need.
- **Reconnecting with Members** – Forming and maintaining relationships with both new and established members.
- **St. John’s Worship Experience** – Explore different possibilities to be included in worship services including styles, content, etc.

Each of these teams were chosen from the ideas that the congregation felt were the highest priorities to begin work on. Now it is up to you to make these ideas become a reality. To take the first step, we invite you to attend a lunch on **Sunday, March 21<sup>st</sup>** after the 9:30 service to learn about these seven teams and find a place where you can fit in. This will be the beginning of these seven teams’ journeys to lead St. John’s through the next part of our adventure. So even if you have not been able to take part in GPS so far, this is a perfect time for you to get on board! We hope to see everyone on **Sunday, March 21<sup>st</sup> at 11:00** for lunch, fellowship, and planning as we embark on the next part of our trip. Lunch and childcare will be provided. We ask that those interested in attending RSVP by calling the office at 708-479-5123 or sending an email to the office at [stjohnsmokena@att.net](mailto:stjohnsmokena@att.net).

## One Great Hour of Sharing

In his final moments with his disciples, the Good Shepherd asks Peter, "Do you love me?" "Yes," Peter replies. Then, "Feed my lambs," Jesus tells him. "Tend my sheep." Three times, Jesus passionately repeats his instruction, pressing his followers: If you love me, take care of the people I love. (John 21:15-19) The members of the family of God including those in parts of the world we may never visit, are God's flock, the sheep of God's pasture (Ezekiel 34:31). Yet, God's flock is often forcefully scattered as people are chased from their homes and livelihoods by brutal expressions of war, or as communities are blasted by natural disasters, or as societies and countries are ground down by unrelenting hunger, disease, and poverty.

On March 14<sup>th</sup>, we'll have an opportunity to offer our gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing, empowering the United Church of Christ to offer disaster relief and refugee aid, meeting basic needs in Christ's name throughout the world.

Through One Great Hour of Sharing:

- disaster victims quickly receive shelter, food, water, and medical supplies
- local communities develop secure sources of food and clean water
- minds and bodies grow stronger with new schools and medical clinics
- refugees receive housing and long-term help to construct new lives
- women and communities are empowered through micro-credit loans and community development opportunities.

In challenging times, we often wonder how much we can afford to sacrifice to help feed Jesus' beloved sheep, when our needs remain pressing. Perhaps only through prayer can we decide how to respond to Jesus' call to feed His Sheep. Remember the feeding of the 5,000; when Jesus asked the disciples to feed the hungry crowd, the disciples despaired (Mark 6:34-44). The five loaves and two fish seemed insignificant compared to the massive need. Yet when each gave sacrificially from what they had, through God's blessing, their gifts turned into a miracle of compassion for all. When we share our resources, we'll change lives — including our own.

You can find out more about the care that your contribution makes possible on the UCC website: <http://www.ucc.org/oghs/>

## TOWER HILL WORK CAMP EXPERIENCE



Mission Outreach is offering a 3 day work camp on April 8, 9, and 10<sup>th</sup> or April 9, 10, and 11<sup>th</sup> 2010 at Tower Hill in Sawyer, MI.

Each year this UCC camp needs to get ready for their summer activities by sprucing up the grounds and buildings. They are looking for volunteers to help out in April. If this is of interest to you, please join us for an informational meeting on Sunday, March 14<sup>th</sup> at 10:45 a.m.

Also check your Sunday bulletin for a survey to be returned to the office or check the mission bulletin board.

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**MOTHER/DAUGHTER BANQUET** -The Mother-Daughter Banquet will be held on Saturday, May 1<sup>st</sup> from 12:00 p.m. – 3 p.m. in the CCC. Cost will be the same as last year, \$10 adults, ages 4-12 \$5, and children 3 and under are Free. The theme is 'A Tea Party' so everyone is encouraged to dress up! (Cut off date is Friday, April 23rd).

The Mother-Daughter Banquet committee is looking for donations of ceramic tea pots and tea cups/with saucers. Anyone who has any tea pots and/or cups and saucers can drop them off in the church office. (These will not be returned). Thank you!



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## Women's Circle Annual Garage Sale



Women's Circle will again sponsor its Annual All-Church Garage Sale on May 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> at St. John's Christian Community Center.

Drop-off times are Monday, May 10<sup>th</sup> from 9 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 6 to 8 p.m.; Tuesday, May 11<sup>th</sup> from 9 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 6 to 8 p.m.; and Wednesday, May 12<sup>th</sup> from 9 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Please note that we do not accept clothing or large furniture. Thank you in advance for your donations. We can always use some help, so if you can donate a few hours to help price items or help in any way the days of the sale, we will appreciate it very much.



## Updating of Red Songbooks

The Music & Worship Committee has begun the process of updating the red songbooks. If there are songs you would like considered for inclusion, please submit the song titles to any member of Music and Worship, to Doris Carlin, or to the church office within the next month. Thank you.

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## Women's Circle

Women's Circle met in January. We served the potluck after the Annual Congregational Meeting on January 31<sup>st</sup>. Everyone present enjoyed the meal and fellowship. We will send Easter cards to the shut-ins. Our Annual All-Church Garage sale will be held on May 13, 14, and 15. We will be accepting donations on May 10, 11, and 12. All proceeds will be used for something for our church.

Helen Warning, secretary

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## Peg Brower Preschool Scholarship Fund

St. John's Board of Christian Education sponsors a preschool scholarship fund that is first available for members of St. John's UCC who have a child or children enrolled in the preschool program and express a need for financial assistance. If no members of St. John's are using the scholarship funds, the preschool director can make a request to the Board of Christian Education on behalf of a preschool family needing financial help.

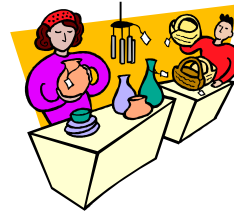
The fund was founded in April 2005 in memory of Peg Brower, a devoted Christian educator at St. John's. She taught with passion and creativity and she was a true leader that went the "extra mile" to help and teach the children of our congregation.

This year a member of St. John's is able to pay half of the tuition and the scholarship fund pays the rest. Recently a preschool family was offered help from the fund.

The Board of Christian Education supervises the administration of this fund. Members of St. John's can donate money specifying the preschool scholarship fund at any time. The Board also will sponsor fund raising activities to continue funding this very worthwhile mission.

## Preschool Craft Fair Fund Raiser

Our annual preschool fundraiser will be held on Saturday, March 6th from 10a.m.-1p.m. in the Christian Community Center of St. John's United Church of Christ. The community center is located next door to the church at 11100 Second Street in Mokena. We will be hosting approximately 20 vendors/crafters and be having a raffle featuring donations from our vendors as well as many local businesses.



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## THANK YOU

I would like to thank everyone for the cards, phone calls, and well wishes after my surgery. I would also like to thank Pastor Dave for his visits.

Best Regards,

Ron Cutshall

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## College & Military Care Packages

Beginning March 1<sup>st</sup> through March 21<sup>st</sup> we will be collecting items to be put in care packages for our college kids and those in the military. There is a bin outside the pastor's office if you would like to make a donation.

We are also asking if you have a child in college or the military to please notify the church office so that we can make sure we have the correct address.

Thank you.



# From the Church Records

## **BIRTHDAYS:**

Peg Mueller will be celebrating her 86<sup>th</sup> birthday on March 2<sup>nd</sup>. Her address is: 20145 Scott St., Mokena, IL 60448.

Alma Lauffer will be celebrating her 92<sup>nd</sup> birthday on March 4<sup>th</sup>. Her address is: 185 Fairfield Dr., New Lenox, IL 60451.

Margaret Cappel will be celebrating her 93<sup>rd</sup> birthday on March 6<sup>th</sup>. Her address is: 20038 Kohlwood Dr., Mokena, IL 60448.

Charles Holm will be celebrating his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday on March 19<sup>th</sup>. His address is: 15958 Waterfront Circle, Plainfield, IL 60544.

Michael Restus will be celebrating his 85<sup>th</sup> birthday on March 28<sup>th</sup>. His address is: 16743 Beverly Ave., Tinley Park, IL 60477.

## **ATTENDANCE:**



### **January 24, 2010**

8:00 a.m. - 34  
9:30 a.m. - 153

### **February 7, 2010**

8:00 a.m. - 36  
9:30 a.m. - 152

### **January 31, 2010**

9:30 a.m. - 176

### **February 14, 2010**

8:00 a.m. - 31  
9:30 a.m. - 138

### **February 21, 2010**

8:00 a.m. - 30  
9:30 a.m. - 152

## **BIRTHS:**

Adam Edward Antis was born on January 21, 2010. His parents are Richard and Cathy Antis. His big sisters are Morgan and Madison.



Aubrey Jade Burkhardt was born on February 3, 2010. Her parents are Jason and Christy Burkhardt. Her big brother is Dylan.

## **BAPTISMS:**

Michael Stephen Sallesse was baptized on February 21, 2010. His parents are Michael and Meghan Sallesse. His sponsors are Kelly Byrne and Steve Zier. His siblings are: Madyson, Morgan and Mackenzie.



## **DEATHS:**

Dorothy Restus passed away on February 17, 2010 at the age of 84.



## **FINANCE**

### **YTD FINANCIAL STATUS. January, 2010**

<u>Operating, Income (1)</u>	\$25,985.34
(1) Amount to match YTD budget	25,843

#### Operating Expenditures

Worship Ministry	2,031.31
Christian Education Ministry	2,028.01
Discipleship (not incl. Missions)	0.00
Office Operations	4,527.48
Building Operations	4,731.90
Pastoral, Administrative	<u>6,383.31</u>
TOTAL	\$19,702.01

<u>Gain/(loss) – this year</u>	6,283.33
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<u>Balance, previous year end</u>	-41,957.19
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<u>Present Operating Fund balance</u>	-35,673.86
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<u>Mission Income (2)</u>	2,517.50
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(2) Amount to match YTD Budget	2,275
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#### Mission Fund Expenditures

O.C.W.M. Basic Support	0.00
Local Mission and Direct Support	0.00
TOTAL	0.00

<u>IL Conference Capital Campaign(3)</u>	487.50
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(3) amount to match YTD budget	833.33
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<u>Building Fund/Project 150 Income</u>	3,323.50
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### **CCC Profit/Loss Statement – Year To Date 2010**

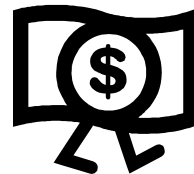
<u>Rental Income</u>	745
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#### **Expense:**

Custodian	184
Gas	835
Electricity	430
Water/Sewer	102
Maintenance	-----

Total	1,551
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Net	(806)
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St John's United Church of Christ  
Minutes from Council Meeting  
February 9, 2010

**Members present-** Steve Gignac, Terry Ciszek, Richard Cantwell, Abby Bicksler, DeAnna Kertson, Bernetta Pruim, Sheree Kinder, Brian Burkett, Chris Maluta, Pastor David Alfeld-Johnson

**Members absent-** none

Meeting called to order at 7:04 PM by President Steve Gignac. Pastor David Alfeld-Johnson prayed and suggested a new format for devotions based on the book **Leadership For Vital Congregations** by Anthony Robinson. Each council member will lead the discussion of a chapter. Books will be ordered for all council members.

**Officer's Reports-**

- Secretary's Report – January 14, 2010 meeting minutes reviewed. Motion was made by DeAnna Kertson and seconded by Brian Burkett to approve the minutes as written. Motion carried. January 31, 2010 minutes for the 148<sup>th</sup> Annual Congregational Meeting reviewed. Motion was made by Richard Cantwell and seconded by Abby Bicksler to approve the minutes as written. Motion carried. January 31, 2010 meeting minutes reviewed. Motion was made by DeAnna Kertson and seconded by Terry Ciszek to approve the minutes as written. Motion carried.
- Financial Reports- The Financial Secretary's report was reviewed and discussed. The numbers are encouraging. As of this meeting, the shift of giving from the building fund to the current fund has not been tabulated. Motion made by Richard Cantwell and seconded by Bernetta Pruim to approve the report as written. Motion carried. The Treasurer's report was reviewed and discussed.

DeAnna Kertson noted that the expense \$427.00 on the Music Ministry Resources line reflects the annual cost of the copyright agreement and that the increase on the Office Operations Lease/Equipment Maint. / Software line reflects the lease for the copier. Motion was made by Abby Bicksler and seconded by Richard Cantwell to approve the report as presented. Motion carried.

- Vice President's Report – Sunday church duties were discussed. Council members adjourned to the sanctuary for communion service training. Sign-up lists for weekly and communion duty were circulated. Board Representative assignments for 2010-2011 are as follows: Preschool – DeAnna Kertson, Board of Christian Education- Abby Bicksler, Personnel Board – Richard Cantwell and Steve Gignac, Facility Board – Brian Burkett, Cemetery Board – Chris Maluta, Music and Worship – Sheree Kinder, and Membership – Bernetta Pruim. Church Committee assignments for 2010-2011 are as follows: Stewardship – DeAnna Kertson and Terry Ciszek, Evangelism – Sheree Kinder, Mission Outreach – Terry Ciszek and Abby Bicksler, GPS Committee – DeAnna Kertson and Sheree Kinder, 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee – Chris Maluta.

The question was raised as to why some boards are elected and some not?

The goal for board and committee representatives is to either obtain a copy of the minutes of the meeting attended or type one up ourselves and get it to the church secretary no later than the third Sunday of the month. She will then get copies to all council members to review prior to council meetings.

**President's Report** – A pot-luck luncheon for all council members and recent past members will be held at Steve's house either February 21 or March 7. A Saturday morning, 8-12, council retreat is being planned to work on goals for the next 36 months.

## Staff Reports

- Pastor's Report – Written report was submitted regarding pastoral activities from Jan. 2010. A men's weekend in Wisconsin is being planned for March.
  - Discussion of a new Technology Steering Committee was held. This group will meet with all the boards and committees to see what is needed in the way of technological support. DeAnna Kertson made a motion to start a Technology Committee. It was seconded by Richard Cantwell. Motion carried. DeAnna Kertson, Richard Cantwell and Steve Gignac will be council representatives.
  - Discussion was held regarding Fellowship Hall. Jim Madorma donated some blue chairs, white boards and bulletin boards. Whose responsibility is it to accept and distribute these items? Is this the responsibility of the Facility board or do we need to create a committee of people interested in working with decorating, etc.?
  - Discussion was held on adding a \$263.00 rider with a \$250.00 deductible to the church insurance policy to cover the hand bells when they are taken off church property. The bells are valued at \$15,000.00 and our current insurance will pay \$5000.00 towards replacement, but only on church property. Motion to add a \$263.00 with a \$250.00 deductible to the church insurance policy to cover the hand bells when off church property was made by Abby Bicksler and seconded by DeAnna Kertson. Motion carried.
  - Pastor reported that all the staff now have their handbooks.
  - Discussion was held on whether there should be child care for the 8:00 service on Easter Sunday. Pastor expressed his thought that there should be, especially for visitors.

- Youth Ministries/CYF – Written reports submitted.

## Church Board Reports

- Preschool Board – DeAnna Kertson reported that the enrollment figures for the 2010-2011 school year are at about 80%. There is a craft fair planned for March 6, 2010.
- Board of Christian Education – Steve Gignac reported that there are many youth programs with good leadership.
- Personnel Board – no report
- Facility Board – no report
- Cemetery Board – no report
- Music and Worship – no report
- Membership – Bernetta Pruim discussed how the committee is expanding to work with Evangelism and Stewardship.

## Correspondence

Steve Gignac reported that a letter was received from Lloyd Brower requesting removal from the church rolls as he no longer lives in the area. Steve also reported that as a result of a church mailing to members who have not been active in many years, Bruce Ebert, Diane Ebert, Bryant Ebert, Paul Verbiar, and Annette Verbier have requested to be removed from the church rolls. Motion to remove these persons from the church rolls was made by Terry Ciszek and seconded by Bernetta Pruim. Motion carried. Danielle Murphy, a friend of Amanda Mead has requested to become a member of St John's. Motion to accept Danielle Murphy as a new member was made by Abby Bicksler and seconded by Terry Ciszek. Motion carried. Sheree Kinder asked whether council members could step up and greet new members in the chancel during the service. Discussion was held on this request.

## New Business-

- Illinois Conference Representation – The question of whether we need to elect representatives for the Illinois Conference was brought up at the annual meeting. Discussion was held about past groups who have gone including youth members. Steve Gignac will report at a later meeting.
- Council Goals and Priorities – Steve Gignac requested the council members collect new and old ideas to discuss at the upcoming retreat.

## Old Business –

- Old Bank Accounts – How many committees and groups have bank accounts with the church name on them? Should each committee be issued vouchers? Do we ask each group to submit a report each month? Discussion at a later meeting.

## Other Reports –

- Stewardship – Discussion was held about the pledges this year. There were about 100 pledges this year compared to 140 last year. Pledges are down \$20,000 for the general fund. About 25% of givers do not pledge.
- Evangelism – Sheree Kinder reported on the January meeting. There are lots of new ideas and the extra polo shirts are being given out to new members.
- Mission Outreach – No report
- GPS Committee – No report
- 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee – The committee members are: Willa Bormet, David Kropp, Holly Cravens, Eric Bush, Dana Boll and Hannah Gorecki. They have not met yet.
- Pictorial Directory Committee – The delay is due to the activity pages. Delivery is expected around March 1<sup>st</sup>.

## Popcorn-

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

Next Council meeting is March 9, 2010 at 7:00 PM.

Meeting was closed with a prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Christina Maluta  
Church Council Secretary

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Come One, Come All!!!!

# FIRST ANNUAL ALL- CHURCH FAMILY SWIM PARTY

When: Friday, March 19th

Where: Lincoln Way East High School  
Frankfort, IL

Time: 6:00p.m.—8:00p.m.

Cost: \$5.00 per person  
\$10.00 per family

Who: ALL CHURCH MEMBERS, THEIR  
FAMILIES AND FRIENDS

What to bring: swimsuits and towels

**QUESTIONS???** Contact Dawn Funk, Karalyn  
Schroeder, or Kerri Gorecki

