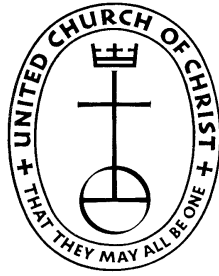


Forward in Faith

May 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

CHURCH

I was in three different churches a couple of weeks back, and perhaps the emphasis should be on the word, "different." On Saturday, we took the confirmation class to worship at Willow Creek Church in South Barrington. Willow Creek is the fourth largest church in America, and has a thoroughly contemporary feel. The music is electrified, and led by a team of young people on a stage. The sanctuary felt more like a concert hall than a church. And the rest of the building seemed like a convention center, with exhibits, a cafeteria, and an extra large parking lot. It was very different in scale than anything we had experienced here at home (over the last few weeks their church had packed 400,000 seed packs to send to Africa, utilizing some 14,500 volunteers).

On Sunday afternoon, I went with the members of the Mission Board over to Joliet UCC for a dinner thanking us for our support for their ministry. Pastor Rosa and Miguel and others have become friends of ours over the years, and Edith Ivie has become a close friend of theirs. We ate chicken, beans, and rice around the tables in the small church basement and occasionally struggled to communicate with the mostly Hispanic congregation there. Even so we felt the appreciation and connection with them as a sister church within our denomination.

In between, we celebrated two worship services here at St. John's. It was comforting to worship in a familiar sanctuary, and sing familiar hymns, with people I have come to know and love. When I come to worship here I pretty much know what to expect—some of you will come in a few minutes late, we'll share birthday and anniversary information during community time, and the kids will take over during the youth time. There is something comforting about the rituals that we use each week in our worship.

So a big church, a small church, and a middle-sized church. But what makes us church? White churches and a Hispanic church—but what do we have in common? A modern church and a traditional church, but do we worship the same God? It's easy to focus on the differences between churches, and to think that other ways of worshipping and being church are odd or strange. But underneath the surface characteristics, I noticed some important similarities.

First, each church was sharing the gospel of Jesus in a way that suited a particular population. In Joliet they served a mostly Hispanic population and so they spoke Spanish and served rice and beans. At Willow Creek they were concerned to share the gospel to people who don't think of church as a welcoming or comfortable place, so their church doesn't look much like what we think of as church. But each gathers together on the weekend, each uses music (albeit different kinds) to help us praise God, and each has some kind of message encouraging us to live as followers of Christ. We are not all that different from them.

And each of the churches I visited were concerned with the physical as well as spiritual needs of its members. In Joliet, we walked through a home that the church had fixed up so that a family had a place to live. At Willow Creek they were involved in a large-scale mission of justice and compassion and we heard their African associate speak about their ministry to people living with HIV in Malawi. At our church we were beginning our Relay for Life fund-raising, another was walking for MS, and a group had just come back from Tower Hill Camp. We all shared a concern for the well-being of our brothers and sisters in our world.

Maybe that's what it means to be church—getting together to love God and love our neighbor. It maybe doesn't matter so much whether we have a screen and modern music, or sing from our hymnal while accompanied by the organ. It maybe doesn't matter so much if we eat potato salad or rice and beans. It maybe doesn't matter if we are big or small. What matters is our love for God, and our love for the people of God's world.

Pastor Dave

Director of Children's Ministries Report

Karalyn Schroeder and Kerri Gorecki

ATTENTION ALL KIDS (3 years old-8th 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 up during classroom time: preschool, kdg/1st grade, 2nd/3rd grade, 4th/5th grade, 6th/7th grade, and 8th grade confirmation class.

ONLY TWO WEEKS OF JAM TIME UNTIL SUMMER BREAK (IMPORTANT DATE CHANGE)

Our last JAM Time for the school year will be on May 5th. It's amazing how quickly the year has gone by! Due to the church garage sale being in the CCC, we decided to end JAM Time a little earlier than we had originally planned. We will now be having our end of the school year party at Pump It Up on May 12th.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT JAM TIME DINNER MENU (PLEASE NOTE DINNER MENU CHANGES)

April 28 – French toast sticks and sausage
May 5 – pizza (last JAM Time for the school year)

JAM TIME PUMP IT UP PARTY

JAM Time kids (ages preschool-5th grade) are invited to Pump It Up on Wednesday, May 12th from 5:30 p.m.-7:00 p.m. for an end of the year party. The jumping will be followed with cake and juice. Our cost will again be \$5 per child (per our special pricing agreement with Pump It Up). We plan to charge \$2 for JAM Time kids and \$5 for guests.



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!

May 5, Wednesday – Last JAM Time for the school year

May 12, Wednesday - Pump It Up Party (5:30-7:00 p.m.)

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



SUNDAY MORNING CHILDCARE

Each Sunday morning during the 9:30 a.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 3rd 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...

May 2 – Nursery

Luann Seiler 708-479-6269
Meg Seiler 708-479-6269

May 2 – Kids' Club

Rita Burkett 815-462-1729
Jen Seiler 708-479-6269

May 9 – Nursery (Mother's Day)

Amanda Mead 708-479-2902
Franklin Mead 708-479-2902

May 9 – Kids' Club (Mother's Day)

Lisa Golden 708-479-1183
Stafford Hipp 815-464-1449

May 16 – Nursery

Tara McKenna 815-463-8298
Debra Raimondi 815-469-6052

May 16 – Kids' Club

Maura Ciszek 708-479-4767
Ryan Kertson 815-485-4546

May 23 – Nursery

Dawn Bush 708-479-1731
Donna Scanlin 708-479-5431

May 23 – Kids' Club

Alicia Funk 815-485-1045
Cathy Prokop 708-326-4835

Director of Older Youth Ministries Report

CYF NEWS: The **Easter sunrise service** was held at 6:30 a.m. on Easter. The youth did a very good job on the service. The sunrise drama meditation was titled, "Easter...The Mystery and The Promise". There were thirteen teens that participated in the service. There were 61 in attendance for this service.

Immediately following the service the youth hosted the annual **Easter breakfast**. The breakfast was served from 7:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. The menu included: stuffed french toast, egg casserole, sausage, coffeecake, fruit, cereal, juice, coffee and milk. The breakfast was a free will donation. A profit of \$137.04 was made and there were 80-85 served at the breakfast. The CYF would like to thank everyone that graciously contributed to the breakfast. We appreciate your donations and we are glad that you joined us. We also hope that you enjoyed the breakfast.

On Saturday, April 10th the Seiler girls (Jen and Meghan) invited the CYF members over for a **flashlight Easter egg hunt and bonfire**. They kindly served s'mores, nachos and cheese, and beverages. Thanks to the Seiler's for a wonderful night of friendship and fun.



On Sunday, April 11th nine of the CYF members went **bowling at Thunder Bowl** in Mokena. A wonderful time was had at the bowling alley. After bowling, some of the members then went to the Creamery for some delicious ice cream. What a great day!



After the last junior high dance on April 23rd the CYF had a **lock-in** at the CCC. All the high school youth group members were invited to this 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.



Other possible events being planned for the remainder of the school year may include: a trip to Medieval Times, 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 and the busyness of the season, 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:

On Wednesday, May 12th the junior high JAM will have their **last meeting** for the year.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dawn Funk

Strengthening The Church



Each year we look forward to signs of new life as Spring takes hold and moves towards Summer. With God’s strong sun to warm the earth, and a little nurture from us, gardens bloom and thrive. We can rejoice in their beauty, breathe in their fragrance, and know we have received a great gift.

It’s a lot like that in our church, isn’t it? Here we flourish in the warmth of God’s love and nurture of our life together. Here we find welcome, acceptance, grace and love. Gathered by God, we grow, and serve, and find food for our spirits. Here we discover a gift too great to be kept to ourselves. We want to spread the love.

Each year, we receive a special offering that helps the church’s love to grow and thrive. Called Strengthen the Church, this offering funds new congregations and renews existing ones. It supports programs for youth and young adults and nurtures current and future leaders. And it sends the God is Still Speaking Ministry’s message of extravagant welcome and inclusivity into our world.

We will receive this offering on May 23rd – the birthday of the church – Pentecost Sunday. I invite you to celebrate by giving to Strengthen the Church. Your generous gift today ensures a vibrant church tomorrow.

Spread the Love. Strengthen the Church. God is still speaking.

TESTIMONIAL SUNDAY

MAY 23, 2010



On Sunday, May 23rd at both the 8:00 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. services the confirmation class will be reading their testimonials. Some of the young people will read at the 8:00 a.m. service, and some will read their testimonials at the 9:30 a.m. service. Please consider joining us at both services as we welcome the confirmands as part of our congregation and hear their thoughts on who Jesus Christ is to them. This year we will be confirming our young people in the fall, on October 3rd.

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.

WOMEN’S CIRCLE



Women’s Circle met on April 20th. Plans were finalized for our Annual All-Church Garage Sale.

DROP-OFF DATES AND TIMES

Monday, May 10 – 9 a.m. to Noon and 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Tuesday, May 11 – 9 a.m. to Noon and 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Wednesday, May 12 – 9 a.m. to Noon

GARAGE SALE DATES AND TIMES

Thursday, May 13 – 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Friday, May 14 – 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Saturday, May 15 – 9 a.m. to Noon

Thank you so much for your donations. All proceeds from the sale are used for repairs or purchases for our church.

Respectfully submitted,
Helen Warning, Secretary

RELAY FOR LIFE



St. Johns is currently forming a team to participate in the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life, which will be held on June 11-12 at Lincoln-Way East High School.

Stay tuned for several upcoming fundraisers in May. Dates are being finalized for an evening at Nancy's Pizza with many raffle prizes from local area businesses, community days at Berkots, and coupon days at several local restaurants including Egg Cetera and El Cortez, where a percentage of your purchase will go to support the American Cancer Society.

Many thanks to all who have signed up for the Run Out Cancer contest! Only time will tell which baseball team will come in with the most runs. The results will be tallied each week, so keep rooting for your favorite team! It is all in fun and the real winner will be the American Cancer Society!

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. In addition, there are special events planned for the night of the Relay, including a survivor lap and catered dinner.

Any questions, please see Jeff or Kathy Lewandowski, call (708) 479-7287, or e-mail Jeff at jlew780@yahoo.com or Kathy at klew222@yahoo.com. You can also visit www.relayforlifefrankfortmokena.com, and look up the team name St. John's and Friends. Cancer touches the lives of so many - please consider making a donation to any of our team members or being part of St. John's team to help fight back.



From the Church Records

BIRTHDAYS:

Carol Schultz will be celebrating her 85th birthday on May 5th. Her address is: 10712 Silver Lakes Dr., Frankfort, IL 60423.



David Zuidema will be celebrating his 85th birthday on May 12th. His address is: 16060 S. Bell Road, Homer Glen, IL 60491.

ATTENDANCE:



March 28, 2010

8:00 a.m. - 48
9:30 a.m. - 152

April 11, 2010

8:00 a.m. - 29
9:30 a.m. - 105

April 4, 2010 Easter

6:30 a.m. - 61
9:30 a.m. - 92
8:00 a.m. - 255

April 18, 2010

8:00 a.m. - 48
9:30 a.m. - 128

BIRTHS:

Robert Donald Stanek, Jr. was born on March 15, 2010. His parents are Robert and Katherine Stanek.



BAPTISMS:

Adam Edward Antis was baptized on April 11, 2010. His parents are Richard and Cathy Antis. His sponsors are Edward Antis and Priscilla Coglianesse. His big sisters are Morgan and Madison.



MEMORIALS:

Donations were made to the Memorial Fund in memory of Dorothy Restus and Anne Burkhardt.



Thank You

We would like to express our sincere appreciation for all the prayers, thoughts, and cards we received after the passing of our grandmother. We had 92 wonderful years with her and she will surely be missed. It is nice to have such a wonderful church family who care so much for us.

Sincerely,

The Mead, Prokop and Peters families

I wanted to thank everyone for the care package I received this week. It means a lot to me especially during the stress of finals coming up soon. Thank you again.

Alana Lewandowski

Thank you to Kim Stillman for the donation from Pampered Chef to our spring fundraiser.

St. John's Christian Preschool

The Stewardship Team would like to say THANK YOU to Paige Cantwell for leading the Spiritual Gifts Workshop. It was a wonderful opportunity to learn more about the gifts we each were given. Thank you for walking us through such an enlightening process!

Garden Club

Your gift of a green thumb, love of dirt under your fingernails, eye for beauty of color and form or knowledge of plants are needed. Lets make the church grounds show we are planted in faith. Bonnie Carroll will coordinate St. John's Garden Club as soon as she retires in June. In the meantime, please contact Sande Randle at (815) 464- 5758 or lyndle48@ameritech.net if you are able to help nurture the church's various flower gardens.



FINANCE

YTD FINANCIAL STATUS, March, 2010

<u>Operating, Income (1)</u>	71,256.38
(1) Amount to match YTD budget	77,528

Operating Expenditures

Worship Ministry	4,646.30
Christian Education Ministry	7,286.30
Discipleship (not incl. Missions)	1,063.75
Office Operations	11,680.65
Building Operations	17,374.93
Pastoral, Administrative	26,219.56
TOTAL	\$68,271.49

<u>Gain/(loss) – this year</u>	2,984.89
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<u>Balance, previous year end</u>	-41,957.19
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<u>Present Operating Fund balance</u>	-38,972.30
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<u>Mission Income (2)</u>	6,800.00
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(2) Amount to match YTD Budget	6,825
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Mission Fund Expenditures

O.C.W.M. Basic Support	2,833.00
Local Mission and Direct Support	1,693.00
TOTAL	4,526.00

<u>IL Conference Capital Campaign(3)</u>	1,182.50
(3) amount to match YTD budget	2,500.00

<u>Building Fund/Project 150 Income</u>	6,772.00
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CCC Profit/Loss Statement – Year To Date 2010

<u>Rental Income</u>	2,055
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Expense:

Custodian	587
Gas	2,745
Electricity	1,198
Water/Sewer	288
Maintenance	300

Total	5,118
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Net	(3,063)
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2010 TIME & TALENT SHEETS

The Time & Talent Sheets have been sent out. We hope that you will spend some time reviewing the many opportunities available at St. John's and prayerfully consider where you might give of your time and share your talents. Please return your Time & Talent Sheets by mid-May.

Thank you,

The Stewardship Team

St John's United Church of Christ Minutes from Council Meeting APRIL 13, 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 p.m. by President Steve Gignac. Terry Ciszek led devotions with a prayer and discussion of growing spiritually.

Officer's Reports-

- **Secretary's Report** –Minutes from the March 9, 2010 meeting were reviewed. Corrections in the Facility Board report were made to reflect that the CCC furnaces will be cleaned at a cost of \$50.00 each for a total of \$300.00 and that the painting in the CCC will be done by Marc Schonwise's son-in-law. Motion was made by DeAnna Kertson and seconded by Bernetta Pruim to approve the report as corrected.
- **Financial reports** – The Financial Secretary's report was reviewed and discussed. Motion made by Richard Cantwell and seconded by Abby Bicksler to approve the report as written. The Treasurer's report was reviewed. Motion made by Bernetta Pruim and seconded by Terry Ciszek to approve the report as written.

- **Vice President's report** – A quarterly joint committee meeting will be held on May 4, 2010. The chairperson from each committee will be asked to attend. June 1, 2010 will be an all committee joint meeting. The joint meeting will last for 30 minutes and then each group will meet separately. GPS groups will not be included this time.

- **President's report** – Steve Gignac spoke about how we need to be better prepared to serve communion. Complaints were made about talking and confusion at the back of the sanctuary at Easter. Steve also reported that recently 2 doors in the CCC (the east door and the kitchen door that is used to get to the dumpster) were found propped open. Bill Haas discovered the openings while making his regular inspection. Discussion was held on whether these doors should be Emergency Exit Only.

UCC Meetings coming up: The Eastern Association meeting will be on May 2, 2010 at St. Peters UCC in Grant Park, Illinois. The Illinois Conference Annual meeting will be on June 18 & 19 at the University of Illinois in Chicago. These meetings will be mentioned in church for people who would like to go. The Local Church Needs Assessment and Staff reviews will be completed in the near future.

- **Pastor's Report** – A written report of pastoral duties from March 2010 was submitted. Pastor requested vacation for Memorial Day weekend.
- **Youth Ministries/CYF** – written reports submitted.

Church Board Reports

- **Preschool Board** – DeAnna Kertson reported that there are 3 positions on the Preschool Board opening up. Also the board will landscape the sign at the St. John's cemetery.
- **Board of Christian Education** – no report
- **Personnel Board** – meeting to be scheduled.
- **Facility Board** – no report

- **Cemetery Board** – no minutes from the March 14th meeting were submitted. The cemetery clean up was held on Saturday April 4, 2010.
- **Music and Worship** –no minutes were submitted.
- **Membership** – no report

Correspondence – no correspondence

Old Business – no old business this month.

New Business- A request has been made to have the ovens in the old church kitchen cleaned and made easier to light. This will be referred to the Facility Board. A request has been made to have our bank accounts changed from the Great Lakes Bank to the Mokena State Bank. This will be discussed further. No decision made at this time.

Other Reports –

- **Stewardship**- Terry Ciszek reported that the Time and Talent mailings have gone out and there will be a stewardship ‘Moment of Light’ at church.
- **Evangelism** – Sheree Kinder presented the Evangelism Committee’s proposed guidelines for people who wish to join our church. A discussion was held regarding whether or not all prospective members need a mentor or not. Pastor stated he would like to offer more informational meetings. Time to have them is the problem.
- **Mission Outreach** – no meeting
- **GPS Committee** – Sheree Kinder reported that the turnout for the March 21st meeting and luncheon was low. Groups are now forming.
- **150th Anniversary Committee** – Chris Maluta reported that a meeting was held on March 23, 2010 at which it was wondered whether there would be a budget to use or not. Discussion was that upon the committee coming up with specific ideas, money could probably be raised.

- **Technology Committee** – Richard Cantwell reported that Dawn Funk’s laptop computer needs to be replaced. Motion made by Richard and seconded by Brian Burkett to approve the use of \$600.00 from the office supply money to purchase a new laptop. Richard also reported that the committee has been looking into making the sound systems in the church and the CCC more compatible. This would cost about \$1,500.00.
- **Popcorn**- Council members were given an opportunity for an open forum to make comments or identify concerns.

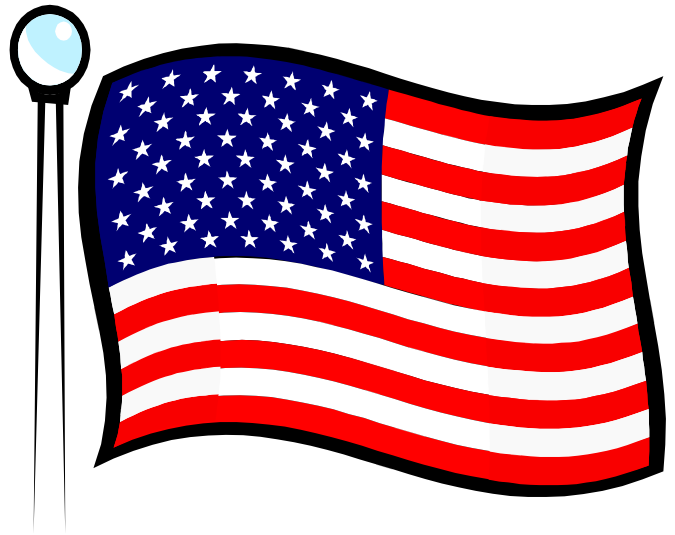
Next Council meeting is May 11, 2010, at 7:00 p.m.

Meeting was closed with a prayer by Terry Ciszek.

Meeting adjourned at 10:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christina Maluta
Church Council Secretary



Happy Memorial Day!