

St. Johns Evangelical United Church of Christ  
11333 St. Johns Church Road  
St. Louis, MO 63123-7811

# THE MESSENGER

VOLUME 97, ISSUE 1

January 2011

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I want to call your attention to three important, consecutive Sundays in the month of January.

Sunday, January 9, in the church liturgical calendar is the Baptism of Christ Sunday. This is the occasion for not only remembering Christ's baptism in the scripture reading of the day, but for us to remember our baptism and our baptismal vows. Most of us were baptized as infants, but assumed our baptismal vows at the point of confirmation. It is appropriate that at the beginning of a new year we remember what it means to be baptized. The service of worship on January 9 will include a renewal of baptism ritual, which includes the sprinkling of the congregation with water. (Fear not, no rain coats or umbrellas will be required).

Sunday, January 16, the Conference Minister, The Rev. Jeff Whitman, will be preaching. The Conference Minister is making the rounds of preaching in every congregation of the Missouri Mid-South Conference, and Jan. 16 it is St. John's turn. We do not have bishops in the United Church of Christ, but the Conference Minister is as close as we come to that office. He is the Conference person who is working with our Pastoral Search Committee. Renee Cordes, member of St. Johns, works in the Missouri Mid-South Conference Office. It has been a very long time since the Conference Minister has been at St. Johns to preach, so you will not want to miss this occasion.

Sunday, January 23, is the Annual Meeting of the congregation following the second service of worship. It is reasonable to assume that 2011 will be the last year of the interim. It will not be "business as usual" at St. Johns in 2011 as we get closer to the calling and arrival of the next pastor. Your presence, thoughts, and leadership will help this congregation be ready for a new beginning with new pastoral leadership.

See you in church.  
Pastor Hale

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# COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S REPORT

*Thea Loehr*

I am very honored to have served as the President of the Church Council of St. Johns Evangelical U.C.C. the past two years.

It has been an experience I'll not soon forget, with all the ups and downs that came with this position.

To the many congregation members with whom I have had the chance to communicate (some extensively) via mail, in-person as well as those who have gotten to know my phone number by heart; I believe that without open and honest communication, we cannot grow as a church. I tried to do my best to listen to people and bring everyone's thoughts and feelings to the council.

I want to thank all the people who serve on commissions, committees and task forces to help focus our energy on the goals of the church. The council, made up of strong, reliable people, were always ready to do whatever was required to help.

Words alone do not seem sufficient to tell you THANK YOU. God bless you all. It is the faithful PEOPLE of St. Johns who make this a wonderful place to worship.

## 20+

November brought 20+ to the Hyltons' home for delicious appetizers at the "no" progressive dinner. After a couple hours we headed over to the Treppers' home for wonderful desserts and listening to some oldies but goodies enjoying Stacks of Wax. Thank you to the Hyltons and Treppers and to the Heaths and Schlathers for a fun evening!

December is very busy for us. On Saturday, December 4th we had our annual Breakfast with Santa. We had a new menu of egg casserole, muffins, fruit and doughnuts, milk, coffee and juice which we feel was a huge success. Thank you to everyone that came and enjoyed the morning with us. We also want to thank Santa and Mrs. Claus for flying in to see all of the children. Everyone had a great time as always. We also want to thank Judy Zielinski for making the delicious icing for the cookies that Jane Walter and Madison made. Ginny Woehrle has helped us every year and we couldn't do this without her. As you can see, it takes many hands to have this special morning and we are grateful!

On Saturday, December 11th we had our Christmas party at the Caldwells' beautiful home; thank you for a lovely evening.

Sunday, December 12 was our Cookie walk, but because of the bad weather, we decided to have it again on Sunday, December 19. Hopefully everyone was able to pick up their Christmas cookies at that time. Thank you all who baked and bought!



We all hope you had a Merry Christmas and wish a Happy New Year to you and your family.

*Donna Hylton, Secretary*

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# Women's Fellowship



The chill is in the air and winter is upon us. Some days are sunny and some days are blistery. Typical St. Louis weather.

Our Christmas meeting was filled with excellent food and jolly Christmas music provided by the Twilight Singers. We had a Merry, Merry Party.

On January 6, our next meeting, we will have the Weatherbird Artist from the Post-Dispatch as our speaker at 11:30 a.m. in the Dining Hall. Please plan to arrive at 11:15 a.m. This is an early start for our meeting. The hostesses are Charlotte Baumunk, Joyce Crets, Audrey Maixner and Bea Stoker.

We have a new Financial Secretary, Millie Jackson. The 2011 dues are \$7.00 and are payable at this time.

Women's Fellowship would like to offer their sympathy to the family of Betty Kieseletter. Betty was one of our newest members.

Let's all ring in the New Year. May you have Peace, Love and Joy in 2011.

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## Mary and Marthas

Hope all of you had happy holidays. We didn't have a meeting in December, but did deliver 21 boxes of Christmas gifts to Isaiah 58 ministries, thanks to Don Meier and Lynn Dearmont. There were lots of great gifts from the congregation, and one of the businesses that we gave cookies to (Heartland Emergency Services) was very generous in giving gifts.

I'm still looking for someone (or more) to take over the rummage sale or a section of it. Our group meets on the second Thursday of the month and we welcome new members.

*Caroline Rombach*

## Worship & Music Commission

The Worship & Music Commission would like to thank everyone for their support of the St. Johns Choir, as well as thanking the Choir and Music Director, Bob Fletcher, for their efforts throughout the year.

Pastor Hale and the Commission have already begun looking ahead and plan to offer the following special worship opportunities for 2011:

- January 2: Communion will be offered at 9:00 and 10:30 a.m.
- January 9: Christ's baptism will be celebrated with a congregational baptismal renewal
- January 16: Conference Minister Jeff Whitman will offer the sermon
- March 9: Ash Wednesday services at noon and 7:00 p.m.

***Mid-week Lenten services will be offered at 7:00 p.m.  
weekly through Wednesday, April 13***

W&M will again offer the Lenten Soup & Sandwich Suppers before each mid-week service, beginning on Ash Wednesday. As we have in the past, we will invite various groups to prepare desserts. Anyone who would like to assist with the preparation of these fellowship opportunities is welcome to join us.

- April 22: Good Friday services at noon and 7:00 p.m.
- April 24: Easter Services will be offered at 7:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. with Communion at each service
- May 1: No Communion will be offered on this first Sunday of the month
- May 15: Communion will be offered at both 9:00 and 10:30 a.m.  
The Rite of Confirmation will be celebrated at the 9:00 service
- June 5: No Communion will be offered on this first Sunday of the month
- June 12: Pentecost will be celebrated with Communion offered at 9:00 and 10:30 a.m.
- June 26: There will be only one service at 10:00 a.m. as the Choir closes out its season with a music Sunday.

The members of Worship & Music wish you each a safe, happy and blessed New Year.

***To Love is to serve,  
The Worship & Music Commission***

**HAPPY NEW YEAR**

## **DIRECTOR OF YOUTH and YOUNG ADULT MINISTRIES...**

*Debby Harnett*

### **MIDDLE/SENIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP**

Youth Web site: [www.stjohnsyouth.weebly.com](http://www.stjohnsyouth.weebly.com)

### **JANUARY**

The Youth Group meets each Sunday night from 6-7:30 p.m. (bring sack dinner) in the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor youth room. We will eat together, have a devotional and talk about issues that are important to our youth today.

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

- Sunday, January 30<sup>th</sup>—Youth usher at both services
- Saturday, February 5<sup>th</sup> - Pizza Making 8 – 12 noon
- Sunday, February 6<sup>th</sup> - Souper Bowl of Caring

### **MIDDLE/SENIOR HIGH SUNDAY SCHOOL**

We meet each Sunday morning at 9:00 in the youth room located on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor. Please check the sign on the wall going up to the classroom for dates we will not be meeting.

### **PIZZA SALES BEGIN IN JANUARY**

The youth group will begin selling Pizzas between services starting in January. The pizzas will be made on Saturday, February 5<sup>th</sup>. Pizzas MUST be picked up on Saturday morning February 5<sup>th</sup> between 10:30 and 12:00 noon. We do not have room at church to store them for a Sunday morning pick up.



### **SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY – February 6<sup>th</sup>**

The youth will once again be collecting money in SOUP Bowls to go to Feed My People. The BIG SOUP POTS will be located at both entrances. Please put a \$1 or more in the pot to help fight hunger.

## **DIRECTOR OF YOUTH and YOUNG ADULT MINISTRIES...**

(continued)

### **ADULTS**

A planning meeting to generate ideas for the over 18 group will be held on Thursday, January 6<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm in the Youth Room. This will be a chance to talk about the direction and formation of a group to meet the needs of our young people. All ideas and suggestions will be welcome. If you cannot make the meeting, please e-mail Debby with your thoughts so they can be shared!

### **Workcamp June 18 – 26, 2011 - Back Bay Mission, Biloxi, Miss.**

**[www.thebackbaymission.org](http://www.thebackbaymission.org)**

There is still room for anyone 14 and older to go on the trip. The focus of this workcamp is on disaster recovery work following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Current work includes insulation, drywall, painting, roofing, flooring and some demolition. Cost per person is \$150 – which includes everything except spending money. A 50% deposit is due at sign-up and final payment is due by February 6, 2011. See Debby to sign up. Limit of 10 people.



### **FAMILY MINISTRIES**

#### **2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday Group –**

January 8<sup>th</sup> February 12<sup>th</sup> March 12<sup>th</sup>

This group meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month at church to help support parents with children. There is a movie for the kids and a time for parents to talk and get to know each other with be the focus of our time together. We will gather at 6:00 so if you have not eaten, bring a quick dinner for your family; then we will put on a movie for the kids and talk about whatever issue is most pressing and/or fun at the time.

#### ***Want to keep informed of activities?***

Please fill out the family ministry forms located in the Narthex and on the table by the Sunday School classes. This way we can keep you current of all activities. To avoid confusion – all activities will go on as planned no matter how few the numbers so no one gets left out.

**FROM THE ...  
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMISSION**



**SUNDAY SCHOOL**

*Sunday School is available for children 3 years old through 5<sup>th</sup> grade during both services. The children are invited to attend worship and go forward during the Children's Message.*

<b>Date</b>	<b>9:00 Class</b>	<b>10:30 Class</b>
January 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Class	Class
January 9 <sup>th</sup>	Class	Class
January 16 <sup>th</sup>	Class	Class
January 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Class	Class
January 30 <sup>th</sup>	Class	Class

**SUNDAY SCHOOL MISSION PROJECT  
HEIFER PROJECT INTERNATIONAL**

The children have been collecting money each week as they teamed up with the Mission Commission to purchase a gift called "Joy to the World" (4 goats, 2 sheep, 2 llamas and 1 Heifer) for \$1,500. Currently we have collected \$800 toward our goal. Please watch our bulletin board at the bottom of the stairs by the Sunday school classes as we reach our goal. There will be cows on the tables in the Dining room if you would like to help us reach our goal!

**ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES**

Class resumes on Wednesday, January 5<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am and on Monday, January 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm. The classes will be studying the book of Acts.

***Thank You for All the Mittens and Hats***

The collection of mittens, gloves, scarves and hats has all gone to good homes.  
Thank you so much for your support.

**FROM THE ...  
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMISSION (continued)**

**NURSERY HELPER\$ NEEDED**

We need to have two people in our nursery each week to stay in line with our "Safe Church policy." As a helper you will not be asked to change diapers. The signup sheet is located on the door to the Nursery.

**10:30 \$UNDAY \$CHOOL HELPER\$ NEEDED**

Our 10:30 Sunday School is doing "Rotation Sunday School" and we are looking for an extra set of hands once a month. Call Debby if you can help.

Our story for January is Jesus Grew in Wisdom:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Area</b>	<b>Helper</b>
January 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Cooking	Judy Zielinski
January 9 <sup>th</sup>	Drama	Need Helper
January 16 <sup>th</sup>	Storytelling	Need Helper
January 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Art	Need Helper



**CHAIR\$ FOR \$UNDAY \$CHOOL**

Thank you to Women's Fellowship who has given us \$500 to begin the process of replacing broken chairs. Some of the new chairs have arrived so come down and see. We are inviting other members to assist us in reaching our goal of replacing 25 chairs! Each chair is about \$50. If you would like to donate – please mark on your check "chairs for Sunday School."

**Children's Christmas Program**

Despite the bad weather, the Children's Christmas program went on as planned and we had some great fill-ins to complete the cast who

could not get to church!

Thank you to all who helped make this a great experience!

# Horizons

Horizons thanks members and friends Charlotte Baumunk, Priscilla Hogan, Steve Huff, Joan Hucker, Sharon Kennon, Lois Lenz, Jo Litto and Darleen Rapp who helped prepare and provide the Community Christmas meal for the residents and staff of Lydia's House on December 15. The meal, which consisted of roast turkey, glazed ham and all the trimmings, was greatly appreciated. The new Community Meal schedule for 2011 only makes Horizons responsible for one meal. That meal will be during the summer months.

The organization will purchase a new electric stapler for the church office. The stapler is used to prepare the Sunday bulletins and other publications distributed to members of the congregation.

## Bible Study Resumes

The two Bible Study Groups will be studying the book—Acts of the Apostles. The Wednesday morning group will resume study on Wednesday, January 5, at 10:00. The Monday evening group will resume study on Monday, January 10, at 7:00. Each Study session lasts no longer than an hour and a quarter.



Thanks to everyone for their prayers and expressions of sympathy following the sudden death of our mother, Betty Kieseewetter. She enjoyed being a member of St. Johns and made many new friends in the brief time she was a member. Special thanks to Pastor Hale for the beautiful service and Debby Harness for taking time to listen to us share memories of mom.

***Joan Rangel & Carol Bruce***

**Next "Messenger" Articles  
Due January 11, 2011  
Reminder that you can "E-mail"  
articles to church at  
[donna@stjucc.org](mailto:donna@stjucc.org)  
or save the article to  
a disc and turn it  
in to the office!**

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Bob Bailey has purchased new rugs  
for St. Johns Church.  
Thank you Bob!



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**St. Johns Staff**

The Reverend Dr. A. Hale Schroer, Interim Pastor  
Debby Harness, Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministries

Bob Fletcher, Director of Music

Ralph Peck, Business Manager

Donna Bay, Office Manager

Bob Bailey, Custodian

Laurie Kraft – Wedding Coordinator

Jeff Rapp, Assistant Organist

Bob Killen, Sound Technician

Terry Rupp, Cemetery Superintendent

Marilyn Barton, C.E. Curriculum Director

JoAn Alspach, Librarian

