World Communion Sunday--Oct. 1

Come to worship this Sunday, Oct. 1, at the 9 a.m. traditional service in the Sanctuary or the 11:15 a.m. contemporary service in the Community Life Building to hear God’s word, praise our Lord and Savior through music and liturgy, and be served Holy Communion. All are welcomed at the Lord’s table.

From 10 a.m.-10:15 a.m., greet fellow church members and guests in Fellowship Hall and enjoy refreshments. Sunday School classes meet from 10:15 to 11 a.m. (see schedule on Page 16)

Pumpkins To Arrive Sunday, Oct. 8; Volunteers Needed for Pumpkin Patch

The pumpkins are coming on Sunday, Oct. 8, for St. John’s Pumpkin Patch. The Children’s Ministry will need churchwide help (all ages needed) unloading pumpkins right after the 11:15 a.m. service concludes.

Please also sign up for Pumpkin Patch volunteer shifts to help with sales as not only the public shops for pumpkins but school groups visit the Pumpkin Patch to enjoy storytime and make their purchases.

Use Sign-Up Genius to schedule your volunteer time or contact Children’s Director Hanna Patton-Elliott at hanna.sjmethodist@gmail.com. Volunteers are crucial to the success of the Pumpkin Patch! Ask a friend to join you for a specific sales shift during the day or early evening!

The Pumpkin Patch would like to use wheelbarrows to sell small pumpkins during the Children’s Story Time this year. If you can loan your wheelbarrow during this month, thanks so much!

Rummage Sale Saturday, Oct. 7

Church members and friends can support the one-day-only Rummage Sale to be held Saturday, Oct. 7, from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. in the Scout Hut.

Be a volunteer and help organize and price items, be a shopper yourself, and/or donate rummage items to benefit St. John’s United Methodist Women and their mission projects.

Beginning Monday, Oct. 2, and continuing through Friday, Oct. 6, from 9 am-noon or from 4-7 p.m., UMW members will be in the Scout Hut to receive your donations. If you need an alternate time or if you need items picked up, call Louise Wagner at 991-4794.

A list of suggested items to donate is featured on Page 10.
In the July and August issues of Steeple Notes, I shared with you the importance of being connected with a faith-family and staying focused on God.

One of the purposes of the church is to help us refocus on our Lord. We may lose our focus on God from time to time when the world, our work, and our busy family activities pull us away from our spiritual family. We need to be in worship on a regular basis so we can be refreshed and renewed.

Another reason we need a church family is that it will help us face life’s problems. Life is tough. We weren’t made to face it on our own; God never meant us to go through life trying to handle it all by ourselves. So God has given us a family and fellowship, and has made us members of the Body of Christ.

Whenever we find ourselves discouraged, the antidote is to get around some encouraging people; people that will lift us up. That’s called fellowship.

“Jesus died for us so that we can live together with Him. So encourage each other and give each other strength.” (1Thess. 5:10-11)

Scripture teaches and reminds us that Christian life is not a solo act. There are no Lone Ranger Christians. We are to give strength to each other.

Just like the old illustration of a campfire. If we have a bunch of red-hot coals gathered together and then we take one of the coals out and put it over by itself, it grows cold and loses heat; it loses its fire. But if we take that coal and put it back with the other coals, it becomes hot again.

If we don’t spend time with other Christians on a regular basis, if we’re not part of a fellowship, then we grow cold spiritually and the fire and enthusiasm goes out of life. So we need each other to give each other support.

“You should be like one happy family full of sympathy, loving one another with tender hearts.” (1 Peter 3:8)

This may be more important today than ever because society is fragmented and divided; people don’t know their neighbors, people feel isolated; the sense of community has broken down.

Some of us may not have relatives living near us. Scripture tells us the church is to be an extended family. We are to be brothers and sisters and aunts and uncles to each other and we are to care for each other as a church family, as a family does.

“By helping each other with your troubles, you truly obey the law of Christ.” (Gal. 6:2)

There are many commands in the New Testament that we simply cannot obey unless we are a part of a local family of faith. As a Christian, we not only belong to God, but we belong to each other.

“That in Christ we who are many form one Body, and each member belongs to all the others.” (Romans 12:5)

We are truly and uniquely bound to one another through the love and grace of God bestowed upon us by Christ Jesus. We are family. Let us worship as family. Let us praise God as family. Let us serve God as family. Let us build up the family of God.

In His Love and Peace,
Pastor Mike
A Word From Pastor Harold

Have you ever wished that more folks were attending our worship services? I am sure you have. In fact, more than a few have expressed that wish to me since I have become a member of the staff. It is as if they want me to fix the problem. The truth is each of us has the power to fix the problem.

When a person expresses that wish to me, I want to ask in return, “How many guests did you bring with you this morning?”

You see, it is unusual for a person or family to simply drive up and turn into our parking lot on a Sunday morning if they have had no prior contact with any of our congregation. Almost every guest in worship, or any other event, comes because they are invited.

Years ago, I suggested to a congregation that we needed to become more evangelistic, find more opportunities to invite folks to our church. The response of the Church Board was, “We have been on this corner for over 100 years and our doors are always open, if anyone wants to come here, they can and will.”

Well, that might have been the case in the 1940’s and 50’s but it was not the case when we had that discussion and it is most definitely not the case now.

People need to be invited. And you will be surprised how many are just waiting to be invited. Inviting congregations are growing, the rest are dying. Which are we?

Ask someone, a friend, family member, neighbor, a coworker, or even a total stranger at the checkout counter to attend with you. It is the most loving thing you can do for them. After all, you are inviting them to experience the love of Jesus in their lives.

Cub Scout Pack 225 at St John’s UMC

Cub Scout Pack 225 was chartered by St. John’s UMC from 1999-2014. With the help of the local Boy Scout Council and St John’s, we are in the process of restarting this great program in our church. We will be reaching out to our neighboring school (Montclair Elementary School) to recruit students and parents. St. John’s families who wish to get information on how they can get their boys involved or who would like to become a leader in the Cub Pack, please contact our Scout Executive George Arciba at 361-816-3868 or at George.Arciba@scouting.org

It’s Coming November 5

The following amounts to benefit UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) have been sent to the Rio Texas Conference as follows:
UMCOR #901670.............$1,722.00
Hurricane Relief #2057.....$820.00

Thanks to all those at St. John’s (both members and guests) who were able to give special gifts above and beyond their regular giving to UMCOR supporting hurricane relief.

Wesley Community Center Plans Dance Fund Raiser

On Saturday, Oct. 14, a spirited ballroom dance competition is planned by the Wesley Community Center to benefit its programs.

The Omni Hotel Corpus Christi Ballroom is the site for the third annual “Dancing with Our Corpus Christi Stars” event, which starts at 6 p.m. with refreshments, followed by dinner, the dance competition, and awards ceremony.

Call 880-8300 for ticket sales and sponsorship information.

Wesley Community Center has served the needs of children and families in our community for 75 years. It is a Methodist church ministry that St. John’s has supported for many years.
St. John’s Disciples Deliver Plants to 134 New Neighbors

By Sue Hoyt

On September 16, 10 teams (21 volunteers plus Baby Halsey) delivered blooming penta plants and information about St. John’s to 134 new neighbors on a lovely Saturday morning. The committed disciples, pictured above, include (standing, l-r) John Fusselman, Diana Fusselman, Charles Teas, Gaylord Hoyt, Bill Herrmann, Willard Haskell, Darlene Duncan, Anita Harris, David Harris, Grant Haralson, Jean Shivers, Logan Robinson, and (front row, l-r) Teresa Smith, Baby Halsey Fusselman, DJ Adams, Robyn Cobb, Sylvia Ramsey, Mike Zammiello, Roseann Zammiello, Sue Hoyt, and Nora Muñoz. Danna Sharp was also a team member. Pastor Mike Morris led the group in prayer and was the photographer before he conducted a memorial service.

Six of the team members were participants for the first time. Here are reactions/comments from several of them: Nora Muñoz—Overall it was a wonderful experience and I can’t wait to do it again, especially around Christmas time. David and Anita Harris—David and I enjoyed doing the walk today and will be happy to do the walk again, so just let us know when you schedule it. It was a very well organized walk. Sylvia Ramsey—I enjoyed helping out today with the plant walk. Roseann Zammiello—It was a very warm feeling to be able to spread God’s word and a joy to see the reaction of the people; we’ll definitely do it again. Jean Shivers summed up the feelings of many team members: As always, it is a blessing for me to participate.

The fruits of the outreach were already exhibited by a couple of new neighbors attending worship Sunday.

In addition to a huge thank-you to the teams, sincere appreciation is expressed to Jack Johnson for organizing and mapping the addresses for this mission outreach. An added touch was directions from St. John’s to the first neighbor’s address. Thanks also to Sherri Turner of Turner’s Gardenland for always getting us nice plants at a very reasonable price.

The next Plant Walk will be held in several months—just before Advent. Won’t you volunteer to help build God’s Kingdom! This is truly The Great Commission in action.
AROUND THE CHURCH

Contemporary Worship News
(from Carol Patton)

Monthly Movie Madness starts this month—first Sunday of month, October 1, at 6 p.m. in the Community Life Building. The movie will be “God’s Not Dead.” Bring a snack for yourself and a donation to the Food Pantry.

Band—Contemporary worship is looking for back-up help for the Band—Keyboard, Media, Lights and Sound. Contact Scott Patton at 641-840-9912. Also, if anyone plays an instrument or would like to sing occasionally, please contact Scott or Keith Jones. Keith’s number is 361-549-0914.

Intercessory Prayer

Prayer is one of the spiritual disciplines of the United Methodist Church, and St. John’s is a Praying Church.

St. John’s UMC Prayer Circle meets every Thursday at 1:20 p.m. in Room 4 of the Admin. Bldg.

You are cordially invited to join these prayer warriors. All prayer cards submitted to the pastor or turned in during worship services are prayed over, not only by the church staff but also the Prayer Circle. Other intercessory prayer also is included.

If you would like to join this small group that meets every Thursday, please come!

Looking Ahead to Advent/Christmas Season

The Traditional Worship Committee furnished the following calendar as worship planning begins for Advent and Christmas.

Sunday, Nov. 19--Decorating for Advent--be watching for more information so that you can help other church members freshen up and hang wreaths, decorate the Chrismon tree, and accomplish other tasks needed.

Sunday, Nov. 26--First Sunday in Advent (This is the Sunday following Thanksgiving Day)

Sunday, Dec. 3--Second Sunday in Advent
Sunday, Dec. 10--Third Sunday in Advent
Sunday, Dec. 17--Fourth Sunday in Advent
Sunday, Dec. 24--Christmas Eve Worship Schedule:
  10 a.m., Sanctuary; 4 p.m., Community Life Building; 10 p.m., Candlelight Service (Sanctuary)
Sunday, Dec. 31--New Year’s Eve Combined Worship Service, 10 a.m., Community Life Bldg.

"CHRISMONS” Integral Part of Advent Season Decorations

Chrismon (CHRIST+MONograms) are tree ornaments that proclaim our Lord Jesus Christ using symbols. They are a popular form of decoration for our home and church trees. The Chrismon Tree originated at Lutheran Church of the Ascension in Danville, VA in 1957. (This church holds the copyright on the word Chrismon.) Chrismon designs are simple copies of symbols of Christianity from its earliest days.

The source of inspiration comes from the scriptures which are full of “Names of Christ” which are illustrations of his character and work and easily demonstrated in objects. Like parables, they are earthly symbols with heavenly meanings.

They were designed, carved and drawn by some of the earliest Christians and were found in many places – on jewelry and utensils, in catacombs, on doors and buildings. These symbols were used by early Christians to show their faith to the world. They are always made in gold and white to symbolize majesty and purity.

Every year, the Traditional Worship Committee retires some of the oldest Chrismons from the tree in the Sanctuary and gathers to make new ones. A Chrismon Workshop led by Pat Steinnocher and Judi Oestreich on September 20 was attended by Hollie Boehner, Melissa Brownlee, Evalynn Bunk, Donna Cory, Sue Hoyt, Peggy Laux, and Lynneve Shaver. If you were unable to attend but want to create a Chrismon or two for the 2017 season, please let Judi know.

Some of the symbols on this year’s tree will include the Angel, Alpha Cross, Anchor Cross, Bible, Butterfly, Camel, Celtic Cross, Chalice, Chi Rho, Cornerstone, Dogwood, Dove, Fish, Lamb, Manger, Omega Cross, Sea Shell, Sheep, Ten Commandments, Triangle & Trinitarian, and the Triquetra & Circle. Come help us place these handcrafted Chrismons on the tree in the Sanctuary following the 9 a.m. traditional worship service on Sunday, Nov. 19.
Prayer Requests

This list has not been totally updated since the storm. Please pray for those listed and others you know who are in need of prayers. If you want to add someone to the list or remove a name, please call the church office at 991-4342.

Grieving: Family of Chet Brookins, Family of Paulene Ritter, Family of Steve LeBleu
Hospital/Rehabilitation: Dr. Carlos Canales, Joy McNair, Mrs. Margaret E. Schwartz

On-Going Prayer Concerns

Hurricane Victims
Our Church
President Trump
US Military
World Leadership
Albert Balderas
Angela
Phillip Balderas
John Ballard
Richard Bejarano
Mary Ann Billings
Linda Black
Bonilla Family
Carole Breust
Christian Brown
Bonnie Brownlee
Melissa Brownlee
Tyler Brownlee
Nancy Capeheart
Gloria Caravantes
Marcia Caravantes
Jeff Caravantes
Carter Family
Andi Chamberlain
Eulene Coker
Josh W. Cox
Kathy, Robert, and Toni Cox
Johnny T. Davis
Karen Drinkwater
Patricia Durham
Emma
Chet Freeman
Tomas Garcia
Robert Garza
Martha George
Judith German
Suzanne Hannon
Charlene Hardy
Sue Hearn
Adan Herrera
Kathryn & Jim Heslep
Ed Hicks
Debra Hill
Jinnette Family
M. Jinnette
Jack Johnson
Juliet Jones
Wade Jones
Jerry Kane
Mimi Keen
Jenn Langsdale
Emily Lucio
John McDaniel
Judy McDonald
Bill & Joy McNair
Ben Milfelt
Elizabeth Munsey
Margo Nye
Michael Pace
Patti Page
Delma Pargas
Tiffany Patton
Trish Quintoes
Rosie Ramirez
Margie Ramsdell
Melissa Riley
Ronnie Robinson
Will Robinson
Jesse Saenz
Brittany Salinas
Ivan Shaver
Lyneve Shaver
Paul Shaver
Suzy Shepard
Juliette Singer
Dwight Lee Smith
Mrs. Robin Smith
Teresa Smith
Amanda Spencer
Adam Staiger
Bruce Stratton
Steven Suarez & Family
Wes Tunnell
Tammy Umberson
James Vaughn
Inez Villarreal
Anna Melba
Wallace
David Wallace
Rick Walton
Jo Anne Wilshusen
Keith Wilson

Calendar:
Church Teams

Traditional Worship Team: Tues., Oct. 3 @ 6:30 pm, Conference Room
Communications Team: Tues., Oct. 10 @ 11:45 am, Conference Room
Trustees: Thurs., Oct. 12 @ 6:30 pm, Conference Room
Kitchen Team: Mon., Oct. 16 @ 2 pm, Community Life Building/Kitchen
Outreach: Thurs., Oct. 19 @ 6:30 pm, Conference Room

Important November Meetings Set

CHURCH COUNCIL--St. John’s Church Council meeting, scheduled on Sept. 28, has been rescheduled to Monday evening, Nov. 13, said chair Cathi Garza. The meeting will follow St. John’s Charge Conference which will begin at 6 p.m. An agenda for the Nov. 13 Church Council meeting and request for reports will be sent by the chair to all members.

CHURCH CONFERENCE--St. John’s annual Charge Conference will be held on Monday evening, Nov. 13. Be watching for more information.

COASTAL BEND DISTRICT CHARGE CONFERENCE--Saturday, Nov. 18, at Grace UMC, 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. St. John’s and all other churches in our District will present required reports to the District Superintendent and worship together.
News from the Children’s Learning Center (CLC)

Director Adela Garcia reports that there were no major damages incurred at the Children’s Learning Center during Hurricane Harvey.

“While we were without power for a week, we were able to finally get back to our normal routine,” she said.

In other news, the CLC thanks Mrs. Louise Wagner for donating a beautiful desk to the center office. The CLC also is in the process of hiring a full-time Infant Support Teacher and a Lead Teacher for the 3-year-old class.

If you have any questions about the CLC or want to ask if there are any needs that you might help with, please call 991-4780 and speak to Adela.

Sign Up as a GRAND PAL and Be a Blessing To Our Children and Youth

St. John’s will soon resume the Grand Pals program introduced about two years ago.

“This is a wonderful ministry to help our children,” said Karen Morris, who will help coordinate the program that will include St. John’s children and youth ages 3 to 18.

The Grand Pals program matches adults with youngsters and gives church members (both men and women) an opportunity to communicate throughout the school year with one or more children and youth.

There are no meetings involved...just handwritten notes of encouragement mailed to the child’s home for their birthdays, special occasions, and holidays.

If your child would like to have a Grand Pal, or if any church member is interested in being a Grand Pal during this school year, please contact Karen at revmk@att.net or text or call Karen at 512-567-9631.

The Grand Pals program began when Pastor Pat Gideon was on staff. Last year church volunteer JoAnn Holland, a member of the Energizers, helped coordinate the program and recruited about a dozen Grand Pals.

“BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS” PLANNED SATURDAY, OCT. 21

It has been several years since St. John’s UMC held a “Blessing of the Animals” service, but the event returns on Saturday, Oct. 21, at 10 a.m. under the Bell Tower...much to the delight of several church members and pet owners who had suggested it.

Pastor Mike will preside and requests that all animals be on a leash or in a secure pen or carrier for safety purposes.

If pet owners are not able to bring the animal or favorite pet to the service, or if they want to have an endangered species remembered, they may bring a photograph which the pastor will bless.

The event is being recommended through the Traditional Worship Committee. Judi Oestreich, chair, notes that “the animals of God’s creation inhabit the skies, the earth, and the sea, and they share in the fortunes of human existence and have a part in human life.” She added that “God, who confers his gifts on all living things, has often used the service of animals or made them symbolic reminders of the gifts of salvation.”

Consider these scriptures: Animals were saved from the flood and afterwards made a part of the covenant with Noah (Genesis 9:9-10). The paschal lamb recalls the Passover sacrifice and the deliverance from the bondage of Egypt (Exodus 12:3-14). A giant fish saved Jonah (Jonah 2:1-11). Ravens brought bread to Elijah (1Kings 17:6). Animals were included in the repentance enjoined on humans (Jonah 3:7).

“We are all familiar with the timeless stories of the birth of the Christ child,” Judi added, “where sheep, donkey, and camels today depict our versions of the Advent season. Animals share in Christ’s redemption of all God’s creation.”
Food Pantry Sunday--Oct. 15

Food Pantry Sunday is Oct. 15, and you are invited to bring one or more of the items noted below:

- Packages of dried pinto beans
- Boxes of oatmeal
- Cans/Packages of soup

Convenient curbside drop-off is available at the church’s main entrance and also at the Parade Street entrance. Also please remember that your donations to the Food Pantry can be received any time during the month. Financial donations are always welcomed!

St. John’s Food Pantry is open on Wednesday and Thursday every week to assist individuals and families in need of canned goods and other non-perishable food items.

WELCOME NEW MEMBER!

Jason McCallister joined St. John’s UMC by profession of faith during the Aug. 13 contemporary worship service. Jason is single and is employed by WalMart. Welcome, Jason!

(Photos at left: Pastor Mike conducts service; below, friends stand with Jason as he is welcomed.)

Reminder:
If you want to discuss joining the church through profession of faith, baptism, transferring membership from another church, or renewal of vows, please contact Pastor Mike at the church, 991-4342.

CHILDREN’S MINISTRY

Children’s Sunday To Be Celebrated Oct. 8;
Check Out Sunday School

All children are invited to participate in the Children’s Sunday observance at St. John’s on Sunday, Oct. 8.

Don’t forget that children in preschool through Grade 5 are invited to attend Sunday School. “The Gospel According to Dr. Seuss” provides the current curriculum. Contact Hanna Patton-Elliott, Children’s Director, for details. If God is calling you to help with Children’s Ministries (special activities, teaching Sunday School, etc.), visit with Hanna or Pastor Mike.

The Nursery, located in the Community Life Building, serves infants through pre-school students with games, toys, and books. A light snack is also offered during the morning. Give Sharon Staiger a call if you have questions about St. John’s Nursery.

Looking at the Food Pantry numbers:

- Number of Households served: 177
- Individuals served in August and September: 497 (including 171 children and 326 adults)
An Update from Church Trustees

Church Trustees are dedicated church members who have a big responsibility for church upkeep and maintenance. Here’s an update provided by Bruce Hamende, chair, on projects that are in progress and projects that have been completed:

Projects in Progress:
Still cleaning up property after Hurricane Harvey
Trustees are looking into the replacement of one A/C system in the Sanctuary
Trustees are looking into the replacement of air handler in the CLC

Projects Completed:
Grease trap from new kitchen; cut into concrete to repair piping that enters/leaves the church
Light pole knocked down by trash contractor; Insurance paid to replace light; light replaced with LED; additionally replaced fixture on other rear parking lot pole. Updated time control device from time clock to dusk to dawn eye.
Cleaned up shelving in rear of Scout Hut (youth building).
Replaced (under warranty) surge suppressor devices on CLB.
Church van sold; no longer paying insurance.

--Bruce Hamende

District Lay Servant Training

Lay servants are encouraged to attend the next Lay Servant Training, to be held Friday evening, October 13, and Saturday, October 14. There will be a basic class “Leading and Learning” and an advanced class “Accountable Discipleship: Living in God’s Household.”

A Lay Servant Is: ✦ An Adult or Youth who is an active supportive member of a United Methodist Church; ✦ Eager to serve through the church; ✦ Well informed on the Scripture, and the doctrine, heritage, organization, and life of the United Methodist Church ✦ Committed to witnessing through church and community leadership, care-giving ministries, and spoken communication; and ✦ Willing to improve his/her skills for service.

Lay Servants Are Called To Proclaim the Gospel Through:
✦ Witness of the Spoken Word ✦ Vital Leadership Service
✦ Care-giving Ministry

You Are Ready to Become A Lay Servant If: ✦ You are ready to share your faith; ✦ You are willing to go wherever and whenever God calls you; ✦ Willing to commit your time and energy to service of your neighbor; ✦ Desire to share God’s love and grace.

Servant Training Classes will be held at Grace UMC (Friday 6:30 p.m.–8:30 p.m. & Saturday 9 a.m.–5 p.m.) 14521 Northwest Blvd. Corpus Christi, Texas 78410. The fee of $25 includes all materials and Saturday lunch. Classes are limited to 20. If you have questions, contact: Rev. Linda Morrow, Coastal Bend District Office, 852-8268.
UMW Annual District Meeting Held

The Coastal Bend District United Methodist Women’s 2017 Annual Meeting was held Sept. 16 at Kelsey Memorial UMC in Corpus Christi. About 60 were in attendance and St. John’s UMW President, Glenda Sanders, was highlighted in the program scriptural dramatization as Lydia in “The Conversion of Lydia” from Acts 16:11-15, 40.

In addition to a business meeting where the budget was approved and election of officers was held, a wonderful lunch was served by the Kelsey Memorial UMW. A worship service with Holy Communion was also held in the Sanctuary with the Rev. John Fletcher. Several favorite hymns and gathering songs were sung in both Spanish and English.

UMW UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday, Oct. 6: Church Women United, 9:45 a.m., YWCA, 4601 Corona.

Saturday, October 7 from 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM; Rummage Sale – Youth Building. Items can be brought to the Youth Building beginning Monday, Oct. 2-6, from 9 am -12 noon or from 4-7 pm. For alternative times or if you need items picked up, call Louise Wagner, 991-4794. Please no clothes or shoes!

Monday, Oct. 9, 1 pm, St. John’s UMW Leadership Team Meeting

Monday, Oct. 9, 7:00 pm, Naomi Quest – Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, Oct. 10, 9:45 am, Ruth Circle – Fellowship Hall

Friday-Saturday, Oct. 20-21: Rio-Texas Conference United Methodist Women; FUMC, Corpus Christi

Monday, Nov. 5 (NOTE change in date) UMW Joint Meeting, Eat Out, place to be announced.

UMW Rummage Sale Set
Saturday, Oct. 7; Can You Donate Items?

See story on Page 1.

Please...no clothes or shoes! (We do not have the space).

UMW is looking for CLEAN and in MINT CONDITION donations of things such as: HALLOWEEN COSTUMES, CLOCKS, SEASONAL DECORATIONS, PURSES, BOOKS, BICYCLES, COLLECTIBLES, WORKING ELECTRONICS, FURNITURE, GLASSWARE, ART WORK, JEWELRY, SPORTING GOODS, LARGE TOYS, PLANTS, GARDEN TOOLS, EXERCISE EQUIPMENT, KITCHEN ITEMS, QUILTS, MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS, SEWING SUPPLIES, ETC.!
UMW Tea Party, Silent Auction Raises $2,371.69

The UMW biennial tea held in the CLB in August by combined Naomi Quest and Ruth Circles had a highly favorable outcome in offering a fun time to fellowship and raise funds.

There were about 140 in attendance and a total of $2,371.69 was deposited from ticket sales, Love Offering and Silent Auction. These funds will be used on missions for at-risk women, youth and children here and globally.

Guest speaker Terry Schoenert of San Antonio, a past UMW conference president, gave an inspiring talk on “The Tapestry of a Woman’s Life.”

The children’s corner, hosted by D.J. Adams and Karen Morris, was a huge success. The 19 little girls, ages 7 to 11, made jewelry, decorated their own hats, and were featured in a “Get to Know Me” walk across the stage with Pastor Mike Morris as the emcee. They were a delight!

Of course, the humanitarian reasons for raising funds drew guests to the Silent Auction tables where 50 items, donated by about 20 generous folks, were on display.

Among the many items to bid on were handmade wall crosses of various colors and themes, wood turned items, various baskets of intriguing selections, statues, handmade cross wall clocks, assorted pottery, a selection of gift cards, and succulents in vintage containers.

Many, many thanks to the following Table Hostesses and Sponsors:

Leslie Albrecht, Robyn Cobb and Connie Hahn, Judi Edwards, Vanessa Hancock (Mirador), Chris Garcia and Nicki Fischer, Judi Oestreich, Carolyn Pence, Carole Salsberry, Glenda Sanders, Dana Sharp, Suzy Shepard and Louise Wagner, Teresa Smith, and Betty Thompson and Karen Morris.

The table hostesses used their personal sets of dishes, glassware, and tableware to create beautiful and unique tables.
LOOKING AHEAD...

CHURCH CALENDAR

In addition to regular worship services on Sundays and regularly scheduled meetings of various teams and committees, the following events are planned. Mark your calendar!

OCTOBER

Sunday, Oct. 1 -- Sunday Worship at 9 a.m. and 11:15 a.m.; Holy Communion/World Communion

Sunday, Oct. 1 -- Monthly Movie Madness, 6 p.m., CLB

Tuesday/Thursday throughout October: Sit and Fit classes at 2 p.m. Tuesdays, 10 a.m. Thursdays

Thursday, Oct. 5 -- Prayer Team, 1:20 p.m., Room 2 in the Admin. Bldg; (meets every Thursday)

Saturday, Oct. 7 -- United Methodist Women’s Rummage Sale (see story on page 1)

Sunday, Oct. 8 -- Sunday Worship at 9 a.m. and 11:15 a.m.; Children’s Sunday and Arrival of Pumpkins (see story on Page 1)

Sunday, Oct. 8 -- Thy Kingdom Come heavy metal service resumes, 7 p.m., Fellowship Hall

Sunday, Oct. 15 -- Worship Services at 9 a.m. and 11:15 a.m.; Laity Sunday observed

Saturday, Oct. 21--10 a.m., Blessing of the Animals, at the Bell Tower (see story on Page 7

Sunday, Oct. 22 -- Worship services at 9 a.m. and 11:15 a.m.; 12:30 p.m. Meeting of Parents of Youth, Youth Bldg.

Sunday, Oct. 29: Worship services at 9 a.m. and 11:15 a.m.

Check Out These Senior Adult Ministries

Chickenfoot--
Wednesday, Oct. 4, 1 p.m., Room 1, AB
Wednesday, Oct. 18, 1 p.m., Room 1, AB

Bridge--
Tuesday, Oct. 10, 1 p.m., Room 1, AB
Tuesday, Oct. 24, 1 p.m., Room 1, AB

Wednesday Bible Study--
Oct. 4, 10:45 a.m., Church Conference Room

Energizers Exercise Program: “Sit and Be Fit Class”

The Sit and Be Fit class, sponsored by the Energiziers and led by Karen Morris, will be held on Tuesdays at 2 p.m. and Thursdays at 10 a.m. in the Youth Building. Everyone is welcomed; the class is for all ages.

The exercises are all done while sitting in a chair. A 30-minute video will be included in each class. Bottled water will be available, and participants need not bring anything. Wearing comfortable clothing is recommended.

The exercises are low impact, designed to improve core strength, flexibility, balance, coordination, circulation, and reaction time.

LOOKING AHEAD:

St. John’s homebound ministry, Shepherd’s Way, is coordinated by Judi Edwards and involves reaching out to the church’s homebound members on special occasions or celebrations, including Halloween, Fall, Christmas, Valentine’s Day, and Easter. Contact Judi if you want to help. Special thanks to the CCI Class for making a generous cash donation to help with this ministry’s expenses.

It’s Coming November 5
Four Wednesday Night Bible Studies Offered

“Why This Jubilee?” Small Group Study Begins Oct. 18

Do you enjoy Christmas? Of course...we all do! But this season is about so much more...it’s about the coming of Christ and Advent.

This Wednesday night study group (with 24 reflections) will examine several well-known carols and Christmas songs in the light of God’s love.

Using James C. Howell’s book Why This Jubilee?, the group will explore the birth of Jesus and ponder the meaning of certain phrases from the songs as they relate to our daily lives. Sherrie Johnson and Lynn Bridges will serve as facilitators.

This study begins Oct. 18 and concludes Nov. 15; location to be announced. Gather at 6:30 p.m., with lesson from 7-8 p.m.

For questions or to sign up, call Sherrie Johnson at 991-4449 or Lynn Bridges at 994-0934.

Brown Bag Wednesdays

Brown Bag Wednesdays got under way at St. John’s earlier this week with church members and friends gathering in Fellowship Hall at 5:30 p.m. to enjoy fellowship and a meal, then moving to one of two Bible studies:

Christianity, Cult and Religions—taught by Pastor Mike Morris in Room 1, Administration Building. This study will help Christians know what they believe and why. The study explains the history, background, and beliefs of the most common world religions and cultic groups.

The Call: The Life and Message of the Apostle Paul—taught by pastor Harold Onwiler in the Conference Room. Pastor Harold will focus on Paul as he and his fellow missionaries turned the ancient world upside down by preaching a gospel of Christ’s life, death, and resurrection.

St. John’s Youth will also meet on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. for Bible Study in the youth building. Contact Mark Noworatzky for details.

“Goliath Must Fall: Winning the Battle Against Your Giants” Begins Oct. 11

Scott and Carol Patton will help examine the story of David and Goliath to reveal how to slay our giants of fear, anger, and anxiety. This Bible study will meet in Room 4, Administration Building.

The discussion will focus on “Goliath Must Fall: Winning the Battle Against Your Giants.”

You will be blessed beyond measure when you participate in a small-group study! Advantages? Meet and get to know fellow church members in a small setting. Study the Bible and related materials as they relate to the study topic. Grow in your faith!
MISSION TEAM HOSTED

St. John’s hosted a 10-member mission team from California—Bethel Global Response—who slept at the church and used the church showers before they set out each day to help Coastal Bend communities in need after Hurricane Harvey. Meals were furnished by church members.

What a blessing that this team traveled such a long distance to help South Texans in need and that St. John’s UMC was able to offer its facilities to make them comfortable.

ARE YOU ELIGIBLE?

Immediate Assistance Program Available

(This message was received at the church from the American Red Cross “Immediate Assistance Program.”)

Through the generosity of donors, the American Red Cross is providing emergency assistance in the amount of $400 to qualified households directly impacted by Hurricane Harvey. Assistance will be issued per household, and any subsequent applications will be denied. Registration for this program will be open through Tuesday, October 10, 2017.

Assistance is available for qualified households in the most impacted areas within these 39 counties: Aransas, Austin, Bastrop, Bee, Brazoria, Calhoun, Chambers, Colorado, Dewitt, Fayette, Fort Bend, Galveston, Goliad, Gonzales, Hardin, Harris, Jackson, Jasper, Jefferson, Karnes, Kleberg, Lavaca, Lee, Liberty, Matagorda, Montgomery, Newton, Nueces, Orange, Polk, Refugio, Sabine, San Jacinto, San Patricio, Tyler, Victoria, Walker, Waller, Wharton.

When you apply for the Hurricane Harvey Immediate Assistance Program, you will need to submit your name, address, phone number and other personal information. We will use this information to assess your eligibility and process your request. We may also use it to contact you about other American Red Cross services and opportunities to support the Red Cross mission. We will not share your financial information except with the vendors that are helping the Red Cross deliver the Hurricane Harvey Immediate Assistance Program to residents.

Emergency Response Team (ERT) Training Set Oct. 21 at Portland FUMC

The United Methodist Church helps train Emergency Response Teams (ERT) to help in disaster relief and offer assistance soon after the disaster strikes.

Training is set Saturday, Oct. 21 at Portland First United Methodist Church. (Another training date is Saturday, Oct. 14, at Victoria FUMC.) Time for both training sessions is 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

ERTs generally do clean-up work and those tasks required to stop further damage from being done (i.e., putting tarps on damaged roofs.) Teams also do minor repairs to help make homes habitable, but not extensive repairs or reconstruction (which is the job for Long Term Recovery).

Training registration is $30 per person for all training materials, lunch and snacks, t-shirt, background check, and ID badge. (Nobody will be denied training because they cannot afford registration.)

Please direct questions to Eugene Hileman at the Rio Texas Conference office: ahileman@riotexas.org.

If God is calling you to participate in this organized disaster relief opportunity, make plans to participate.
**Courtesy Team Members (Greeters) Needed at St. John’s Every Sunday**

By Pastor Harold Onwiler

Many of you are aware that I try to get out into the parking lot as people are arriving for the second service on Sunday mornings.

I make it a point to greet as many of the folks as I can and wish those who are leaving from the earlier service and Sunday school a blessed week. Some have asked why I do that.

Well, I do it because it makes a difference in the impression our church makes on both our regular attenders and especially on our guests. Many folks have expressed their appreciation of my being there and told me that they missed having me there while Roma and I were on vacation recently. The problem is, I cannot and ought not do this special ministry alone. We desperately need to get our Courtesy Teams/Greeters up and working.

St. John’s vision is to have at least three persons out in the parking lot prior to every service. These folks will be the first point of contact with our congregation as folks are arriving. They will extend a cheerful welcome to each person as they get out of their car. They might assist persons who need help getting from the parking lot to the sanctuary.

They also might walk with persons to help them find the nursery or other areas of the church campus (no pointing and confusing directions...actually walk with them to their destination). They might assist a mom by carrying a diaper bag or taking the hand of a small child so he/she will not run out in front of a moving car.

The members of the teams will be recognizable by the bright green t-shirts pictured above which can be worn to church or slipped on over a shirt or blouse just for the time they are on duty. Folks young and old can serve on these teams; this would be a great ministry for youth or young adults but more mature folks can do it too (after all, I am 80).

Special thanks to many of our members who have taken on roles as greeters over the years. I hope you will continue to serve.

If you would be willing to serve in this capacity, please give me a call or send me an email at harold.sjmethodist@gmail.com. Perhaps your family or a group of friends would like to form a team. That would be great. Please let me hear from you.

-- Pastor Harold

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**All Saints’ Sunday To Be Observed November 5**

A special observance held on the first Sunday of November is All Saints’ Sunday which remembers by name all church members who have died during the previous 12 months and joined that “great cloud of witnesses.” On Sunday, Nov. 5, during St. John’s worship services, several individuals will be remembered and honored with lighted candles on the altar. Be watching for more details and the names of those who will be honored.

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Steeple Notes  15  OCTOBER 2017
The United Methodist Men meet each Wednesday morning at 6:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall for fellowship, breakfast, and devotional. Everyone is cordially invited to participate.

Thanks for your support of the annual day-after-Labor Day “all you can eat” Pancake Supper held in the Community Life Building. Our UMM knows how to throw a party, and everyone who attended enjoyed the meal and fellowship. The photos below, furnished by Tim Brownlee, capture happy faces (and a photo of the meal plate!) in the Community Life Building.
FRIENDSHIP CLASS

Friendship Class continues to study Trevor Hudson’s challenging book, Questions God Asks Us. Hudson digs deep into the biblical tradition to provide contemporary spiritual guidance for challenging times.

“He offers practical ways for readers to find within themselves answers to God’s questions that are life-changing,” said Ron George, who is the study leader, “thus leading to ways of Christian spiritual practice and active engagement with the world that are fulfilling and lead to eternal life.”

The Friendship Class is a group of older-than-most folks at St. John’s UMC who meet at 10 a.m. in the Conference Room of the Administration Bldg. “We meet, chat, pray, and learn together, and all are welcome to join us,” Ron added.

COUPLES IN CHRIST

The Couples in Christ class is engaged in a 7-week study on the “crazy cycle.” The Bible commands husbands to love their wives and wives to respect their husbands, and when we are counter to this command we end up in a “crazy cycle.” This study is helping us to identify it and get us out of the cycle. It is a great class and we have a lively discussion and fellowship.

CCI CLASS

Come join the CCI Class for a 5-week study on the Old Testament book of Ruth. Chris Garcia will lead the study and discussion, which begins this Sunday and concludes in mid-November.

Special thanks to church member Bryan Thompson who shared his beautiful slides and commentary last Sunday titled “10 Days in Africa.” He and his wife Betty had an opportunity this past summer to travel to South Africa and visit several cities plus participate in safari outings.

The class meets at 10:15 a.m. Sundays in Rm. 1 in the Administration Building.

COLLEGE & CAREERS

Teacher Bo Estabrook invites all college students and others to participate in the College and Careers Class.

“Our college students are back and they look great and are full of energy,” he said. “We’ve had a good turnout, plus some visitors.”

Students are considering teaching lessons on a rotational basis.

The class, which meets in Room 3 of the Admin. Building, continues to study the parables of Jesus and the power of I AM, plus community concerns.

“Hearing God’s Word: A Women’s Retreat”
Planned at Three Rivers FUMC on Nov. 11

Three Rivers First United Methodist Church cordially invites other Methodist churches to share the following information with members:

“Hearing God’s Word: A Women’s Retreat,” featuring guest speaker Dawsie Wright Meek, will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Three Rivers FUMC on Saturday, Nov. 11. The event includes fellowship with other women from around the Coastal Bend District and beyond, plus fun, refreshments, lunch, worship, and the presenter.

The retreat is free, but space is limited. Register today at: secretary.trfumc@gmail.com or call 361-786-3217.

For more information, call Mary Ann at 210-289-1433 or Lin at 361-492-0452.

PLEASE SIGN UP TO FURNISH FELLOWSHIP SNACKS

Thanks in advance to church members who can furnish pastries, fruit, and other goodies for the Sunday morning fellowship at 10 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Your generous support is sincerely appreciated!

If you or your small group, Sunday School class, or a group of three or four friends are willing to sign up for a date or two in the coming weeks to furnish snacks, please call Robin Swope at the church office, 991-4342, and ask her what dates are open.
From Mark Noworatzky, Youth Director

Fall is finally here! That means cooler weather, long sleeves, and pumpkin flavored everything! I love this time of year and we have tons of exciting events coming up to welcome in the change of seasons. Here is what we all have to look forward to:

Sunday, Oct. 1: THE LEXINGTON
Time: 2:00-5:00 PM. Come board the Lexington with us and enjoy an afternoon learning a little more about our nation’s amazing history! Meet at the Youth Building and bring money for the concession stand (in case you get hungry).

Sunday, Oct. 8: PUMPKIN PATCH DELIVERY DAY
Time: 12 noon until done
Every year, St. John’s celebrates the fall with our annual Pumpkin Patch. This is a MAJOR undertaking and we truly need ALL HANDS ON DECK! We will be unloading a semi truck FULL of pumpkins. In all of my time at St. John’s, this is my favorite event seeing our members of all ages working together for a common goal. Lunch will be provided. You don’t want to miss this!

Sunday, Oct. 15: HOME-BOUND MISSION DAY
Time: TBA
Church member Scott Patton has been putting together a team to help our home-bound members with their damages after Hurricane Harvey. I will work out details with Scott and get those out to everyone as soon as possible. Make sure to come out and bring a friend!

Saturday, Oct. 21: Helping with the Blessing of the Animals service
10 a.m. under the Bell Tower. I still need to work out the details with Pastor Mike on all the ways we can help with this event. Please keep an eye out for more information.

Sunday, Oct. 22: PUMPKIN DECORATING AND FALL GAMES
Time: 4:00-7:00 PM. You know that it’s fall when you finally start decorating pumpkins and we have TONS to choose from in our pumpkin patch! Bring money to purchase one of our pumpkins and get ready for all the crazy fall games and food!
Dinner provided by Stefani Shomaker and Sam Waldrop

Saturday, Oct. 28: HAUNTED HOUSE NIGHT
Time: TBA
Are you afraid of the dark or things that go bump in the night? Do you know someone who might be? Bring them along to join in the screams, fun and laughter as we travel to one of our local haunted houses here in town. Cost and location will be announced soon.

Sunday, Oct. 29: NO YOUTH
Enjoy a little down time with the family!

SPECIAL THANKS
Thank you to all the youth and parents who were able to attend the Youth/Parent Meeting on September 10th. We will have our next meeting on Sunday, October 22nd at 12:30 PM in the Youth Building. All parents and youth are invited in order to provide ideas and volunteer for November and December activities.

Blessings, Mark
Your Book Donations for Library at Salvation Army Greatly Appreciated

Connie Hahn of the Seekers Class continues to coordinate an effort for class members and all interested church members to donate children’s books (suitable for all ages, preschool to high school) to build a library at the local Salvation Army. Currently about 30 kids are living at the Salvation Army shelter.

The books can be gently used or brand new. Please give all book donations (or a financial gift if you don’t want to shop for a book) to Connie or contact her at 774-3954 if you need a pickup from your office or home.

The Seekers Class hopes this will be an on-going project.

It’s Coming November 5

STATE OF THE CHURCH

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<th>AUGUST 2017</th>
<th>2017 YTD</th>
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(Total apportionments due: $89,800)

Thank you for your stewardship and financial support which ensures continuation of St. John’s ministries. Call Teresa Smith, Business Administrator, at 991-4342 if you want to know more about bank drafts or additional giving opportunities.
**SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Children:
Kindergarten – 2nd Grade: Upstairs
Fellowship Hall  3rd–5th Grades: Upstairs
Fellowship Hall

Youth Sunday School:
6th – 12th Grades: Youth Building

Adult Sunday School:
Bible Why’s, Library near Sanctuary
CCI, Admin. Bldg., Room 1
College & Careers, Admin. Bldg., Room 3
Couples in Christ, Admin. Bldg., Room 4
Friendship, Admin. Bldg., Conference Room
Seekers, Upstairs Fellowship Hall, Room 3
Word to word, Admin. Bldg., Room 2

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**It’s Coming November 5**

**CHURCH ATTENDANCE**

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<td>Brown Bag Fellowship</td>
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*Traditional  **Contemporary

**NOTE:** We miss you when you aren’t in worship or Sunday School. Let’s worship our Lord and Savior every week.
When you are absent because of illness or hospitalization, please let us know (or have a family member or friend call 991-4342) so our Prayer Team and pastors can lift your name up in prayer and/or schedule a visit if you would like.

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**St. John’s United Methodist Church**

Rev. Mike Morris, Senior Pastor
Rev. Dr. Harold Onwiler, Part-Time Associate Pastor
Kim Bryce, Traditional Music Director
Marcia Caravantes, Organist
Adela Garcia, Children’s Learning Center Director
Mark Noworatzky, Part-Time Youth Director
Hanna Patton-Elliott, Children’s Director
Ernie Pena, Custodian
Teresa Smith, Business Administrator
Sharon Staiger, Nursery Director
   Nursery Attendant: Tonya Delk
Robin Swope, Administrative Assistant
Austin Brownlee, Sunday/Weekend Custodian

**OFFICE HOURS:** 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Monday through Friday

**Food Pantry**, 9 a.m.-Noon, Wednesday and Thursday

**CHILDREN’S LEARNING CENTER**—361-991-4780

**CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION**
Church: 361-991-4342; FAX: 361-991-1840
E-mail Address: mike.sjmethodist@gmail.com
(Please note this is a new email address for church)
Website: www.sjmethodist.com

**SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE**
9:00 a.m.  Traditional Worship (Sanctuary)
10:00 a.m. Congregational Fellowship (Fellowship Hall)
10:15 a.m. Sunday School
11:15 a.m. Contemporary Worship (Community Life Bldg.)

**INFORMATION ABOUT STEEPLE NOTES**
Steeple Notes, a monthly publication of St. John’s United Methodist Church, is emailed to members and visitors as a PDF document and published on the church website. Printed copies are also available at the church. Deadline for the November 2017 Steeple Notes is Friday, Oct. 27.
Editor: Chris Garcia --991-2784, home; 244-4193, cell
Email: garciachris1714@gmail.com

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