Tickets Available for UMW “Garden Party Tea” on August 12

By Glenda Sanders
UMW President

Please join us for a “Garden Party Tea” on Saturday, August 12, from 11 am to 1 pm in the Community Life Building at St. John’s UMC, 5300 S. Alameda. Tickets are $10 each and seating is limited. Please call me at 946-9508.

The event will feature brunch complete with tea sandwiches and desserts, entertainment, and plenty of time to visit! Guest speaker will be Terry Schoenert of San Antonio who is a past United Methodist Women Conference President. She will speak on “Tapestry of a Woman’s Life.”

There will be a Silent Auction at the event to raise money for missions. We are especially seeking Inspirational items, Themed Baskets, and Gift Certificates valued at $20 or more.

Story continues on Page 8

Come to Worship This Sunday and Share in Holy Communion

Plan to be in worship this Sunday for an inspiring sermon, music to make your heart rejoice, and participation in Holy Communion with fellow worshippers. All are welcome at the Lord’s table.

In the 9 a.m. traditional worship service, the Sanctuary Choir, directed by Kim Bryce, will be singing after a month-long summer break.

In the 11:15 a.m. contemporary worship, the praise band, with members Spencer Beard, Keith Jones, Dorothy Pallotti, and Pastor Mike Morris will be on stage to lead the music.

At 7 p.m. in Fellowship Hall, St. John’s Thy Kingdom Come heavy metal service, led by David Pallotti and James Bryce, will gather.

Come worship our Lord and Savior with praise and thanksgiving.

The church nursery is available for infants and young children.

Calling All Children! Final “Summer Fun Saturday” Set on August 19

Kids ages 4 to 12....don’t miss the final “Summer Fun Saturday” on Saturday, August 19, at St. John’s UMC. Activities are planned from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. by Children’s Director Hanna Patton-Elliott, and volunteers are being recruited.

If you can help with this special program (four rotations including outside play, Bible lesson, spiritual time, and arts and crafts) and lunch, please leave a message for Hanna at the church, 991-4342, or email her at hanna.sjmethodist@gmail.com.

Mary Katherine Ocker (standing at left) was one of several adult and youth volunteers helping with the July 22 program. See additional photos on Page 10.
Our Spiritual Family -- Part Two

In last month’s article, we learned the importance of being part of God’s family; that God doesn’t want the church to be something we go to. Rather, God wants the church to be a family we are a part of; a family that helps equip us for life. We also discovered that God has purposes for our lives, and that our Lord designated the church to be an instrument that helps us achieve God’s purposes.

So the first reason we need a church family is to help us focus on God. In our fast-paced daily lives, it can be easy to forget that God is with us all the time. Sometimes, maybe an entire day or longer, can go by without us realizing God’s presence and remembering our need to refocus. Do you ever find yourself focusing on the trivial things that aren’t really important? I do. Do you ever find yourself overlooking the important things of life? Again, I’m guilty.

But one of the purposes of the church is to help us refocus. God knew we would need this and thus instructs us to remember the Sabbath. This is worship. Anytime we focus on God, and express love to God, we are worshipping.

Matthew 22:37-38 says, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and soul and mind. This is the first and greatest commandment.” Why is this the greatest one? Why does God say above all other things that we should love Him first?

Because this is what we are made for. God knows everything about us, the good, bad and ugly, and God still loves us. God wants us to know Him, and the purpose of worship is to help us know and love God more and more. There is a lot to know and love so it takes a lifetime of worship.

Now one of the benefits of worship is that nothing reduces a problem in perspective like focusing on the greatness of God. Sometimes we can be overwhelmed by a problem, but when we come in, sit down, and worship God in community we can think, “God’s in control. With God’s help I can handle this because I trust God.” But wait, “Can’t I worship by myself?” Of course we can, but when we worship alongside our family of faith we will most often experience a greater sense of God’s Holy Spirit.

God desires our worship. So what should worship look like? These words come to mind when I think of worship: celebration, inspiration and preparation. We celebrate because it’s a happy thing to know the Lord. Let us be glad to go into the house of the Lord.” Worship should be filled with celebration for we serve a risen Savior.

Worship should also inspire. Sometimes when we come to church we may be suffering from the “4F’s” -- Fear, Failure, Frustration and Fatigue. We need to be refreshed by uplifting songs, prayers, and messages that we can apply to our daily lives to grow in our faith.

Last but not least, in order to truly show God proper respect, we need to prepare ourselves for worship. We need to put aside the things of this world and focus on what God has in store for us. We need to remember that God loves us, that there is hope, and that we can make it with God’s help.

And I pray we know that we need each other; that we are not perfect, and that with God’s grace we are united as the Body of Christ. I look forward to seeing you around campus and worshipping with you each Sunday.

In His Love, Pastor Mike

P.S. Bring a friend with you. Let’s fill the seats for the Spirit.
Let’s Consider Getting Involved in a Small Group!

By Pastor Harold Onwiler
Part-Time Associate Pastor

Fall is coming, let’s get involved in a small group. I love September–it is a time of renewal and new beginnings. Cooler weather is not so far away, school starts with new classes and new teachers, it is football time in Texas, and households adopt new routines.

And I especially look forward to September in the life of the church. Vacations are over and worship and Sunday school attendance pick up and new activities for children and youth are kicked off.

Let’s consider getting involved in a small group this fall. Such groups nourish our social and spiritual life as well as strengthen our ties with the church.

I have developed a list of studies that I am recommending for small groups to consider. Most are around six sessions long but some are shorter and others, like Disciple and Christian Believer, are significantly longer. You can pick one that fits your needs. That list is available in the church office. If several groups happen to choose the same study, I would be willing to lead a small group made up of the group leaders to help them prepare to lead their own groups.

Perhaps a study group is not your cup of tea right now but you would like to become engaged with some folks for fellowship. Why not form a Table for Eight group and plan to have a meal together once a week or once a month. If you are interested in such a group and don’t have enough folks to fill out the eight, let me know and I will try to help you get a group formed.

Churches that have a lot of folks involved in small groups tend to be healthier churches and their members tend to be more involved in the total life of the church. Give me a call.

August 20 Reception Planned for New District Superintendent, Rev. Lopez

An Installation Service and Reception is planned Sunday, Aug. 20, at 4 p.m. at First United Methodist Church, Corpus Christi, 900 S. Shoreline, to welcome The Rev. Dr. Robert Lopez to his new position as Coastal Bend District Superintendent. Dr. Lopez is succeeding the Rev. Eradio Valverde, Jr., who retired earlier this summer.

Bishop Robert Schnase of the Rio Texas Conference will conduct the installation. He also is scheduled to preach at both the 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. worship services in the FUMC Sanctuary.

To support Rev. Lopez’s expanded responsibilities, Bishop Schnase also announced the appointment of Rev. Dr. Karen Boehk as the new Assistant to the District Superintendent for the Coastal Bend and El Valle Districts. Rev. Boehk began her ministry at St. John’s UMC.
Photos from Around the Church....

(Top left photo and clockwise) Kathryn and Chris Andrews sing a duet; Hanna Patton-Elliott visits with the Young Disciples; the contemporary worship service’s Praise Band plays a song; Pastor Mike serves Holy Communion; and guest pianist Greg Graf, new director of Choral Music at Del Mar College, keeps the music flowing in Kim Bryce’s absence.

Update from the CLC...

The Children’s Learning Center (CLC) at St. John’s announced plans to hold teacher training and a prep day this week, thus closing the school Wednesday-Friday, August 2-4. The school will reopen on Monday, August 7.

In addition, CLC Director Adela Garcia said that new flooring would be installed in rooms 8 and 9. These activities are all related to getting the facility and staff ready for the new school year which begins August 28.

Enrollment for the new school year is underway, and interested parents/families can contact the CLC by calling (361) 991-4780.
Foundation Receives Generous Gift for Existing Trube-Bossert Fund

Before she passed away on December 30, 2016, longtime member Caroline Trube provided a gift to the church she loved that will continue to benefit church ministries and needs for years to come. St. John’s Foundation received a gift of $19,772.44 which will be placed in the Trube-Bossert Fund established by Caroline several years ago in memory of her husband and her sister.

Caroline, who was 95 at the time of her death, was active in United Methodist Women, Sunday School, Energizers, Bible Studies, and worship. She had most recently served as secretary for UMW. Her passions in life included her love for her family, pets, close friends, and St. John’s UMC which she and her husband Alfred G. “Bud” Trube joined after moving to Corpus Christi in 1965.

Caroline raised three sons and was a devoted wife of 54 years to Bud who served in the US Navy for 28 years and was active in church work and mission projects. Caroline started a second career in 1971 with Lichtenstein’s (later Frost Brothers) in women’s wear sales and retired in 1982.

“Caroline was such a special woman and was dearly loved by her church family,” said Darlene Duncan, Foundation chair. “St. John’s is grateful for her generous gift.”

Prayer Requests

Please pray for those listed on St. John’s UMC prayer list. If you want to add someone to the list or remove a name, please call the church office at 991-4342.

Grieving: Family and Friends of Helen Alvizo; Family of Alexis “Lesie” Aaron; Family of Charles Dugger; Family of Cynthia Lundquist

Hospital/Rehab: Jacqueline Jacobi, Mrs. Margaret E. Schwartz, Lyneve Shaver, Robert Skidmore

On-Going Prayer Concerns

Our Church Carter Family
President Trump
US Military Robert Garza
World Leadership Stephanie Gordon
Baby Aluna Faye Haggerty
Angela Charlene Hardy
Angela Todd Hatcher
Angela Sue Hearn
Angela Adan Herrera
Angela Ed Hicks
Angela Debra Hill
Angela Odilia Hinojosa
Angela Debbie Hoekel
Angela Jinnette Family
Angela M. Jinnette
Angela Jack Johnson
Angela David Jones
Angela Juliet Jones
Angela Wade Jones
Angela Jerry Kane
Angela Other
Angela Mimi Keen
Angela Judidiah Kirkpatrick
Angela Zelma Loter
Angela JD & Jenny Lucio
Angela Marlene Macklin
Angela Marco Martinez, Jr.
Angela Yolanda Herrera
Angela Martinez
Angela Ben Milfelt
Angela Bill Numbers
Angela Larry Oliver
Angela Raymond Ortiz
Angela Martin Pace
Angela Michael Pace
Angela Trish Quintoes
Angela Rosie Ramirez
Angela Margie Ramsdell
Angela Harold Riley
Angela Pastor Rick
Angela Rodriguez
Angela Thomas Rowell’s
Angela Family
Angela Jesse Saenz
Angela Kathy Sams
Angela Melinda Savage
Angela Ivan Shaver
Angela Paul Shaver
Angela Suzy Shepard
Angela Juliette Singer
Angela Summer Singleton
Angela Charles F. Smith
Angela Mrs. Robin Smith
Angela Lee Smith
Angela Teresa Smith
Angela Amanda Spencer
Angela Adam Staiger
Angela Jacob Strain
Angela Jim Strain
Angela Bruce Stratton
Angela Steven Suarez & Family
Angela Wes Tunnell
Angela Tammy Umberson
Angela Valdez Family
Angela Inez Villarreal
Angela David Wallace
Angela Keith Wilson

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Angela Ben Milfelt
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Angela Raymond Ortiz
Angela Martin Pace
Angela Michael Pace
Angela Trish Quintoes
Angela Rosie Ramirez
Angela Margie Ramsdell
Angela Harold Riley
Angela Pastor Rick
Angela Rodriguez
Angela Thomas Rowell’s
Angela Family
Angela Jesse Saenz
Angela Kathy Sams
Angela Melinda Savage
Angela Ivan Shaver
Angela Paul Shaver
Angela Suzy Shepard
Angela Juliette Singer
Angela Summer Singleton
Angela Charles F. Smith
Angela Mrs. Robin Smith
Angela Lee Smith
Angela Teresa Smith
Angela Amanda Spencer
Angela Adam Staiger
Angela Jacob Strain
Angela Jim Strain
Angela Bruce Stratton
Angela Steven Suarez & Family
Angela Wes Tunnell
Angela Tammy Umberson
Angela Valdez Family
Angela Inez Villarreal
Angela David Wallace
Angela Keith Wilson
Update on UMW’s July Event—“MAKE A DIFFERENCE”

A big thanks to all the members of our local UMW Naomi Quest and Ruth Circles and their friends in the congregation of St John’s UMC.

In less than four hours on a Sunday morning during church services and Sunday School classes, you helped raise over a thousand dollars! These funds will be used to help empower and improve the lives of women, youth, and children in the United States and around the world.

A successful bake sale is when you have lots of goodies to choose from. There was an assortment of homemade cakes, pies, cookies, brownies, cookie bars, Bon Bon’s, sweet/quick breads, muffins, German Cobbler, and even Firecrackers. For those without a sweet tooth, the sale offered a variety of other things to choose from including crafts, Protestant prayer beads, assorted jewelry, and beautiful house plants.

The Sunday Fellowship Hour was hosted by UMW during the event with free coffee, juice & finger foods.

The UMW took this opportunity to educate on climate justice and saving our planet by using Fair Sourced Coffee served in biodegradable cups. Other items such as juice cups, plates, napkins and bowls were also disposable, sustainable, and compostable. They were made from plant fiber as well as sugar or corn based resins. These eco-friendly products were all made in America.

Special Thanks to Naomi Quest and Ruth Circle & Friends for helping UMW raise more than $1,000 for mission!

Church and Community Announcements

EMMAUS DATABASE: If you have been on a Walk to Emmaus, Cursillo, Chrysalis, or some similar spiritual walk, please contact Carol Keener at 215-6099 and ask her to add your name to the database she is creating. St. John’s would like to have a complete listing.

ARE YOU REGISTERED TO VOTE? One of the great privileges of living in the United States includes the right to vote in all local, state, and national elections. If you are a local resident and would like to register to vote (it’s free) for the first time or make changes in name or address to your voter registration card, please contact Lay Leader Chris Garcia at garciachris1714@gmail.com. Chris is a deputized voter registrar with the League of Women Voters-Corpus Christi and can get you registered in less than five minutes! She will even deliver your voter registration application to the Nueces Courthouse for you.

ACOLYTES: St. John’s UMC appreciates all the children and youth who serve as acolytes during worship. They carry in the pastor’s Bible, the brass crucifer, and the flame to light the altar candles, assist with Communion, and distribute the offertory plates to the ushers. If you have a youngster who is interested, call Sandra Bransford or Hollie Boehmer to receive more information.
New Neighbor Plant Walk Planned Saturday, Sept. 16; Will You Help?

By Sue Hoyt (suehoyt@aol.com)

A New Neighbor Plant Walk, the second one this year, is planned for Saturday, Sept. 16. There are 135 new neighbors to visit and to invite to St. John’s. Can we count on you to help? The teams will gather in the church parking lot at 10 a.m. to receive their plants, materials to leave at each house, and instructions. Teams will be finished with this ministry project by 12 noon.

We need **20 disciples to make up 10 teams** of two each. That will give each team between 13-15 houses to visit, depending on how the addresses break down into routes. Detailed maps will be furnished to the teams.

This is a wonderful Mission Opportunity to help build the Body of Christ at St. John’s UMC. Please consider being a part of this opportunity to engage in *The Great Commission*.

Please let me know at 361-991-7785 if you are interested in participating.

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**MEMORIAL GIFTS**

Gifts given in memory, in celebration of, or in honor of family members, friends, and ministries are placed in St. John’s UMC Memorial Fund. Current funds include Building, Choir, Scholarship, Youth, Bereavement, Worship, and Undesignated for general church needs. Your gift, in any amount, is sincerely appreciated. Be sure to designate which fund should receive your gift. Gifts may be given anonymously.

In loving memory of Pat Jalufka, an undesignated gift from Linda and Francis Gandy.

In loving memory of Myrtle Mae Bryce, mother of Kim Bryce, a gift to the Choir Fund from Gaylord and Sue Hoyt.

In loving memory of Helen Alvizo, a gift to the Choir Fund from Chris Garcia.

Also in loving memory of Helen Alvizo, a gift to the Building Fund from Gaylord and Sue Hoyt and a gift to the Bereavement Fund from Tyler and Melissa Brownlee.

In loving memory of Helen Alvizo and in gratitude to St. John’s UMC as her church home, a gift to St. John’s Music Ministry and the Choir Fund from Helen’s brother, Joe Alviso of Casa Grande, AZ.

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Do You Sing? Play a Musical Instrument? Let the Contemporary Worship Team Know!

The Contemporary Worship Team is working hard to re-energize and rejuvenate the 11:15 a.m. worship service. We have had Spencer Beard and Keith Jones leading the singing, and last week Skeeter Wolf was on stage as a singer.

If you feel called to sing with the band, sing a solo during the worship service, or play a musical instrument, please contact us.

Sharing your talent is something we all appreciate!

Scott Patton (641-840-9912) or Carol Keener (361-215-6099) are awaiting your phone calls!

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**AUGUST BIRTHDAYS**

1. Don Chapman, Hanna Patton-Elliott
2. Ashley Adams
3. Marianne Robert, John Shaffer, Juliana Shaffer
4. Aidyn Barrera, John Crumpler
5. Oneida Alegria
6. Servando Cantu, Nikki Nisbet
7. Sandra Bransford, Mary Falwell, Suannne Smith
8. Katie Beard, Brian M. Garcia, Frank Fregoso, Mia Vento
9. Lane Zamora
10. Haley Haaker
11. Caitlin Martin
12. Tyler Brownlee, Elizabeth Munsey
13. Caitlin Valverde
14. Mary Beth Ferrell, David Harris, Barbara Stirling
15. Abel Arevalo, Janie Glasson, Jack Pace
16. Anna Neese
17. John Strain
18. Levi Delk
19. James Bryce, Judy Southworth
20. Daniel B. Funk, Mallory Smith, Justin Michaelsen
21. Lyneve Shaver
22. Sandy Rodriguez
23. Inez Arevalo, Susan Hoyt, Dennis Helms, Micah Hernandez
24. Nathaniel Garcia, Rilla Roots, Jordan Mayfield, Doreen Harrell, Avery Shank, Mike Hubner
25. Joyce Daugherty, Doyle Tippit, Matthew Steehler

If you are missing from the August list or note any error in the listing, please call the church office, 991-4342.
ABOUT OUR SPEAKER on Aug. 12

Terry Schoenert served as president of the Southwest Texas Conference for 5 years to move the conference and Rio Grande Conference into unification of the Rio Texas UMW. On both the conference and district level, Terry served as Secretary of Communications and Secretary of Program Resources.

She served twice as Dean and Assistant Dean of the School of Christian Mission, and also is the UMW historian.

She has held many leadership positions in both UMW units and at her local church. In addition, Terry worked for the Southwest Texas Conference in the communications office for 11 years.

Terry loves to cook and do crafts, and she especially enjoys being “Grandma.”

“Garden Tea Party”
(story continued from Page 1)

Childcare for ages 3 and younger is available with advance reservation to UMW by Aug. 7. Please plan to bring any special food needs or infant formulas.

-- TO DECORATE A TABLE or BUY TICKETS, contact Glenda Sanders at 361-946-9508 or sanders.glenda@att.net

-- TO DONATE TO SILENT AUCTION, contact Judi Oestreich at 361-993-4030 or judi1022@sbcglobal.net. The suggested value for Auction items is $25.

--TO DONATE SANDWICHES, DESSERTS or MAKE SCONES, contact Nancy Busby at 361-877-8278 or young4e4@gmail.com; Louise Wagner at 991-4794 or wgnrle@aol.com; or Karen Van Kirk at 991-2276.

UMW CALENDAR

Saturday, AUG 12
Garden Tea & Silent Auction  11 am, Community Life Building. Tickets $10 - Contact Glenda Sanders 946-9508 or sanders.glenda@att.net

Sunday, SEPT 10
LEADERSHIP TEAM MTG, 3:30 pm, Fellowship Hall; Nominations Committee Report; Set 2018 Dates & Budget & Pledge

Monday, SEPT 11
NAOMI QUEST
7:00 pm, Fellowship Hall. Program: “UMW Reading Program” by Karen Van Kirk. Hostesses: Judi Oestreich & Marjorie Codney

Tuesday, SEPT 12
RUTH CIRCLE
9:45 am, Fellowship Hall. This month’s program is “Communities in Action Against Human Trafficking.” Hostesses: Louise Wagner & Judi Edwards

Saturday, SEPT. 16
Coastal Bend District Annual Meeting, 9:00 am -2pm, Kelsey Memorial UMC. District Pledge for 2018 to be announced.

NEW DATE FOR RUMMAGE SALE...
Saturday, October 7: UMW Rummage Sale, in the Scout Hut (Youth Building). Start saving & pricing your items; please no clothes and no shoes.

ASSISTANCE NEEDED FOR A SPECIAL DISTRICT EVENT ON SEPTEMBER 21

Suzy Shepard, St. John’s UMW Vice President, is coordinating lunch for a meeting of the Coastal Bend District Pastors and Professionals, to be held at St. John’s UMC on Thursday, September 21, 2017.

For more information or if you can donate food items or help set up, serve, and clean up, please contact Suzy at 361-549-4336.
**CHICKENFOOT**

** A fun-loving group of church members and friends meets in Room 1 of the Administration Building to play ChickenFoot. Some play...and some just watch.

This month's dates are:

- Wednesday, August 9, at 1 p.m.
- Wednesday, August 23, at 1 p.m.

If you love to play Bridge or if you have always wanted to learn, join the Senior Adult Ministries' group on the two dates below from 1-4 p.m. in Room 1 of the Administration Building.

- Tuesday, Aug. 1, 1 p.m.
- Tuesday, Aug. 15, 1 p.m.
- Tuesday, Aug. 29, 1 p.m.

Church member Judi Edwards has 50 years of experience and would love to teach you how to play. If you are interested, please fill out the interest card located in the foyers of the CLB and Sanctuary and drop it in the “Bridge Box.” For more info, call Judi at 210-878-5566.

**CHURCH CALENDAR**

In addition to regular worship services on Sundays and meetings of various teams and committees, the following events have been scheduled:

**AUGUST**

- Saturday, Aug. 12--United Methodist Women's Garden Tea and Silent Auction, 11 a.m., CLB.
- Saturday, Aug. 19--Last of three “Summer Fun Saturdays” at the church for children ages 4-12; volunteers are needed.
- Sunday, Aug. 20--Blessing of the Backpacks; all students and educators are invited to bring their backpacks to church for a special blessing.

**SEPTEMBER**

- Monday, Sept. 4--Labor Day; church office closed
- Tuesday, Sept. 5--United Methodist Men’s annual Pancake Supper, 5-7 p.m., CLB
- Saturday, Sept. 16--Neighborhood Plant Walk, 10 a.m.

**OCTOBER**

- Saturday, Oct. 7 (new date)--United Methodist Women’s Rummage Sale; please plan to donate items to this sale, which will raise money for missions. No clothes or shoes.

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**Note:** Chronic Disease Support Group (CDIPS) Not Meeting in August

Chronic Disease, Illness, Pain Support Group (CDIPS), a self-help group formed last spring at St. John’s UMC, will resume meeting in the Fall. Judi Edwards, program leader, will announce a date to resume the class after the summer. She can be reached at 210-878-5566 or by email at: judiluvgram@usa.com.

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Memorial Service Held July 31 for Helen Alviso

Pastors Mike Morris and Harold Onwiler conducted a memorial service on July 31 for church member Helen Alviso, who died July 26. Longtime friend Leslie Albrecht sang “Ave Maria” at the service, accompanied by Kim Bryce on the piano. Family members also participated in the service.

Special thanks to the Bereavement Team for coordinating the reception.

Helen sang in the Sanctuary Choir and regularly attended Wednesday Bible Study group, Sunday School, and Energizers as her health permitted. She had many close friends at St. John’s and will be deeply missed.
July 22
Summer Fun Saturday

These photos capture the faces of volunteers and helpers at the July 22 Summer Fun Saturday. See story on Page 1 about the final program on August 19.

Food Pantry Addresses Great Need

The number of those in our community who need help with basic groceries remains high, reports Melissa Brownlee and Willard Haskell. The two church members greet families and individuals each Wednesday and Thursday morning from 9 a.m.-noon in the church office to respond to Food Pantry requests.

Thanks to YOUR generosity and Christian servanthood, the St. John’s Food Pantry program remains strong. (See related story on Page 12 about the August 13 Food Pantry Sunday.)

In June, 75 households were assisted. That number included a total of 245 individuals (95 kids and 66 elderly). Those who are served are very appreciative of St. John’s ministry.

Please donate food items to the pantry whenever you can. Cash gifts marked for the pantry are also gratefully received.
Welcome to the Dog Days of Summer!
Stay indoors.
Stay positive.
And STAY COOL!

St. John’s United Methodist Men meet for breakfast, spiritual devotionals, and brotherhood. We focus on missions and service. Breakfast is served at 6:30 am in the Fellowship Hall every Wednesday morning. We welcome you to join us. Call John Ballard for information (361-834-1743).

One of our largest Mission Projects is our Card Ministry, manned by our very own John Edwards. Thank you, John, for your creative hard work. We take requests and send cards for every occasion, be it celebrations or expressions of caring. You can submit a card request to any UMM member, go to sjmethodist.com and select Outreach Card Ministry, or call the church office at 991-4342.

Reminder: UMM’S Annual Labor Day Pancake Supper coming soon!
Mark your calendar for Tuesday, September 5. We will serve from 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm in the Community Life Building. Please join us with your family and friends for a wonderful night of fellowship. Hope to see you there! Tickets will be for sale in advance from any UMM member...or at the door: $15 for a family; $5 for individual; $3 for child.

SAVE THE DATE!

ANNUAL LABOR DAY PANCAKE SUPPER...
Tuesday, Sept. 5!

UMM is an avid supporter of Operation Supply Our Students. The Coastal Bend is teeming with needy children. Operation SOS began in July and continues through August 15.

Please join UMM in helping with school supplies. Let’s show that we care. This gift boosts self-esteem for children and gives them an equal pathway to learning. It also supports our teachers.

Operation SOS assists 36 Coastal Bend School Districts and helps more than 55,000 children with basic school supplies. 100% of the donations go toward the purchase of the supplies.

There are several ways to donate this year:

- HEB – Tear Tabs at checkout
- Text with your cell phone – SOS 91999
- UNITED WAY OF THE COASTAL BEND – 4659 Everhart Rd, 78411

If you need more information, go to KRISTV.com or www.uwcb.org. Thank you and may GOD provide you many Blessings!

2017 UMM Officers:
- President: John Ballard
- Vice President: Tim Brownlee
- Secretary: John Edwards
- Treasurer: Darron Bergstrom
Word to word Class

We are finding the Minor Prophets of the Old Testament have greater courage than most! Hosea, at God’s direction, marries a prostitute. How well will that go? When God has a hand in it, bad turns to good and the story keeps our attention. We study in-depth to find out just who this God is that we love and follow. The stories in the Old Testament find us wondering if just maybe those same stories replay in today’s world.

Would you like to learn more about God and who He is? Would you like to fill that void in your life that you’re feeling? Are you satisfied, all too often, with the world you’ve made around yourself? Look around! There is so much yet to be learned about your spiritual life. Study the one Book with all the answers. Grab that chance to study with a fun group. Come study with us in Rm. 2 of the Administration Building. We offer free coffee during all studies! -- Sherrie Johnson

CCI Class

The CCI Class, which meets in Room 1 of the Admin. Building, will enjoy a three-week series of lessons taught by Judi Edwards beginning on Sunday, Aug. 13. She will use “The Gospel According to Dr. Seuss.”

A new study taught by Chris Garcia will begin after Labor Day. -- Chris Garcia

Seekers

The Seekers Class is continuing the study titled “Thriving in Babylon.” -- Cathi Garza

Bible Why’s

The Bible Why’s Class is studying the workbook titled “Are We Living in the Last Times?” It is God’s timeline of prophecy beginning in Genesis and ending in the book of Revelation. -- Debbie and Mark Anderson

College & Careers

August is here and school is close to beginning again. Over the summertime, some of the students have been taking classes as well as resting their minds. Many of them go home to visit or take on a summer job to earn some extra money. A number of them still come to church when they can. Mr. Bo has been visiting different Sunday School classes to not only see old friends but also pick up good ideas that can be used in the College and Careers class.

Help Stock Our Food Pantry!
Bring Items Sunday, August 13

St. John’s Food Pantry welcomes your generous support, both in canned goods and nonperishable foods as well as financial gifts in any amount. Please consider donating the following items to help keep our pantry stocked to help children and families get ready for “back to school” activities.

* Boxes of Cereal (any size), i.e. Cheerios, Raisin Bran, Cornflakes, Rice Crispies
* Cans of fruit (please no peaches this month!)  
* Packages of Ramen Noodle Soup (chicken or beef flavor)
* Packages of wide egg noodles

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!
Greetings everyone:

Many thanks to all the parents and youth that were able to attend the Parents’ Meetings and help me with all the planning these upcoming months. I truly could not have done this without you!

Here are the upcoming events for the youth during the months of August and September. All Sunday night events will be from 4-7 p.m.:

- **August 6th**: SWIM NIGHT
  Come bring a friend and join us for a fun night of swimming! (Location TBA)
  Dinner provided by Leslie Albrecht.

- **August 13th**: AQUARIUM MISSION EVENT
  All hands on deck! We will be volunteering at the Aquarium to help with random jobs that need our help!
  Dinner will be at Whataburger so please bring money for food.

- **August 19th**: YOUTH CAR WASH FUND RAISER
  I’m working on getting this approved so we can have money in the youth budget for the remainder of the year.
  Currently, we’re all out. More information to come once I have approval...

- **August 20th**: GAME NIGHT
  Bring your favorite card or board game and don’t forget to bring a friend!
  Dinner provided by Tonya Delk.

- **August 27th**: MOVIE NIGHT
  Come relax the night before school starts with a great movie and some popcorn!
  Dinner provided by Sandra Bransford.

- **August 2nd and 9th**: Last Poolside Bible Studies of the summer, so don’t miss out!
  Michelle’s house from 6-8:30 PM.
  Dinners provided by Leslie (2nd) and Tonya (9th).

- **August 16th and 23rd**: Wednesday Night Dinner and Bible Study at the youth building from 5:30-7:30 PM.
  Dinners provided by Hollie (16th) and Mark (23rd).

- **September 3rd**: NO YOUTH
  This is Labor Day weekend. Enjoy your weekend with your family and friends!

- **September 10th**: LABYRINTH NIGHT
  Come take a walk with us as Leslie guides us through a heart-felt labyrinth experience.
  Dinner provided by Leslie Albrecht.

- **September 15th**: ALL YOUTH LOCK-IN
  We’re kicking off Back to School with an all youth Lock-In! There will be games, food, movies and more! Bring your pillow and sleeping bag just in case.

- **September 17th**: ST. LUKE’S JOIN UP
  Everyone get ready as we join up with St. Luke’s for fun, food and fellowship!
  Dinner provided by St. Luke’s.

- **September 24th**: HUMANE SOCIETY
  Let’s all go and take care of the dogs and cats that need good homes.
  Please bring money for dinner.

As always, let me know if you have any questions or would like to help in any way. Our next Parents’ Meeting will be September 10th at 12:30 in the youth building.

Blessings,
Mark Noworatzky
325-518-5039

Youth members are all smiles with Youth Director Mark and his daughter at the Fifth Sunday churchwide supper July 30.
Can You Support Book Donations to Salvation Army?

Connie Hahn of the Seekers Class is coordinating 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 Salvation Army. Currently about 30 kids are living there. 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 for pick up. The Seekers hope this will be an on-going project.

Fifth Sunday Supper Draws Great Food and Spirited Crowd

Lots of new members and their families, including the Marlows and Fusselmans featured at right plus veteran members, were on hand for the Fifth Sunday churchwide supper on July 30 in the Community Life Building. The Fellowship Committee hosted the event. Those participating brought ham, fried chicken, meatloaf, grilled chicken, veggies, casseroles, salads, and desserts...and not much was left when the crowd of 67 wrapped up the evening. The table centerpieces included a gift bag and school supplies which were to be delivered to a child needing them or to a school that would identify a needy student.

Members of these church committees/teams are reminded about the following meetings planned during August. If YOU aren’t active on a team but want to be, please contact Pastor Mike Morris at the church, 991-4342.

Traditional Worship - Tues, August 1, 6:30 pm - Conference Room
Communications Team - Tues, August 8, 11:45 am - Conference Room
Stewardship Meeting: Tue, August 8, 1:30 pm
Trustees - Thurs, August 10, 6:30 pm - Conference Room
Finance - Mon, August 14, 6:30 pm - Conference Room
Outreach - Thurs, August 17, 6:30 pm - Conference Room
Kitchen Team - Mon, August 21, 2 pm - CLB
PPRC - Tues, August 22, 6:30 pm - Conference Room
**Save the Date for Lay Servant Training**

Members of St. John’s laity are encouraged to consider participating in the Fall classes offered by the Coastal Bend District’s Lay Servant Training team. Here’s the information, which is also available in a brochure in the church office. Lay members who have already taken the Basic Course are invited to consider this fall’s Advanced Course.

When: Friday evening/Saturday, Sept. 15-16, 2017
Advanced Course:
“Accountable Discipleship--Living in God’s Household”
Basic Course: “Leading and Learning”
Cost: $25 (includes book)

Who is a Lay Servant? An adult or youth who is an active and supportive member of the UMC; eager to serve through the church; well informed on the Scripture as well as the doctrine, heritage, organization, and life of the church; committed to witnessing through church and community leadership, care-giving ministries, and spoken communications; and willing to improve his or her skills for service.

The training will be held at Grace UMC, 14521 Northwest Blvd (FM 624), on Friday evening, Sept. 15, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. and Saturday from 9 am-5 p.m. Call St. John’s Lay Leader Chris Garcia,. 991-2784, for details. Several St. John’s members have previously taken Basic and Advanced courses.

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**STATE OF THE CHURCH**

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>JUNE 2017</th>
<th>2017 YTD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Budgeted Receipts</strong></td>
<td>$ 57,970.83</td>
<td>$ 347,824.98</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Pledges Made</strong></td>
<td>$ 39,065.83</td>
<td>$ 234,394.98</td>
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<td><strong>Pledges Paid</strong></td>
<td>$ 28,996.35</td>
<td>$ 214,011.78</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Pledges + or (-)</strong></td>
<td>($10,069.48)</td>
<td>($20,383.20)</td>
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<td><strong>Gifts Received</strong></td>
<td>$ 43,867.47</td>
<td>$ 286,245.53</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Apportionments Paid</strong></td>
<td>$ 6,363.92</td>
<td>$ 11,358.52</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Total apportionments due: $89,800)</td>
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Thank you for your stewardship and financial support which ensures St. John’s ministries. Please don’t let “summer slump” impact your giving-- continue your financial gifts even if you are out of town. Call Teresa Smith, Business Administrator, at 991-4342 if you want to know more about bank drafts or additional giving opportunities.

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**CHURCH ATTENDANCE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>JULY 2017</th>
<th>JULY 2016</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>9 a.m.</strong></td>
<td>102</td>
<td>52</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>11:15 a.m.</strong></td>
<td>88</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sunday School</strong></td>
<td>98</td>
<td>95</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Visitors</strong></td>
<td>15</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Thy Kingdom Come/monthly</strong></td>
<td>15</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FAM Night (on summer break)</strong></td>
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* Traditional  ** Contemporary

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**Snacks Needed for Fellowship Time**

A special thanks to all church members and friends who have furnished pastries, fruit, and other goodies for the Sunday morning fellowship at 10 a.m. in 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 for the congregational fellowship, please call Robin Swope at the church office, 991-4342, and ask her what dates are open.

Store-bought donut holes, muffins, pastries, or brownie bites are popular (Sam’s Club) as well as homemade cookies, coffee cakes, and pies, fresh fruit, and pigs in a blanket.
St. John’s Is a Praying Church

Prayer is one of the spiritual disciplines of the United Methodist 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 every worship service 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!