

"Blessed are you who are hungry, for you will be filled. Blessed are you who weep, for you will laugh." Luke 6:21,22

Come and "taste" that the Lord is Good

Supper at St. John's

For the whole family!

Every Wednesday

September 24 - November 19

Dinner at 6 pm

With classes beginning
at 6:40 pm and ending at 8 pm

In the twenty one years that I have attended St. John's I have attended various studies, seminars, classes, etc., but nothing has attracted so many as Supper at St. John's.

I have to say, when Kathy Johnson first approached me with the idea of the Alpha series last September, I listened and was willing to take the course with her and Judy Mileto last fall. Following the course in late November we dove in head first, with a dedicated team of individuals, and had faith that God would guide us as we decided to offer a 10 week family program in January. We initially were "hoping" at least 40-50 people would be interested in the program, so decided we could manage dinner with that many. I might add we also had no budget, since this program came up mid year. Well, when you put things in God's hands, through prayer and relying on faith that all will work out, amazing things do happen. One hundred and twenty people attended initially (we felt like the disciples when Jesus fed the five thousand). In early December the leadership and different groups from our church family volunteered to host a meal, not knowing they would be cooking for 120. A huge thank you to all those who cooked!! People came faithfully and lovingly, sharing their faith stories. Our hope that all would enjoy the fellowship and find comfort discussing their faith journey in a non judgmental and accepting environment seemed evident and hopefully all were "fed" spiritually as well.

Now, one year later we are continuing our Supper at St. John's program for the whole family and warmly welcome you:
Two adult classes:

- * Jesus, Face to Face invites you on an intimate walk with our Lord as you encounter the land and the people Jesus impacted. John and the other Gospels are the study text. This class is led by Victor, 610-688-5222
- * An Invitation to Genesis probes the meanings of the familiar and sometimes puzzling stories from the Bible's first book. This class is led by Nancy Davis, 610-688-2283

*children in Grades K-6: Elizabeth Ator has enthusiastically volunteered to facilitate this program
"Agents in Motion" by KidMo is an interactive worship, message and game program with a DVD including group discussion. Volunteers are needed, so please contact Stephanie or Elizabeth

*Youth (7-12 grades) Stephanie Eft our new Director of Christian Education will discuss options and get their input

*College + (PLUS) is also being offered and this group will choose a book to study.

Babysitting is available upon request.

For information and or questions please contact Stephanie, 610-971-0670 or Stephanie.eft@stjohnsdevon.com

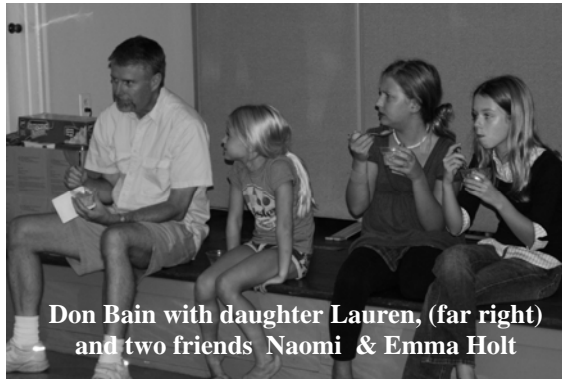
We ask that you contact Betsy Miller, rgmdevon@aol.com if you can't attend (it will help our dinner count) Thank you!

As we seek more meaning and understanding in life and look to our faith for direction may our relationships with one another deepen, as well as our relationship with Christ. We hope you can join us and be blessed! ♡ Earline Eck

Welcome Stephanie!



Bob Miller and Nancy Davis enjoying the event!



Don Bain with daughter Lauren, (far right) and two friends Naomi & Emma Holt



Stephanie chatting with Sue & Emily Chudy

ICE CREAM SOCIAL

On Wednesday, September 3, the Christian Education Committee hosted an Ice Cream Social to “meet and greet” Stephanie Eft, who recently became our new Christian Education Director.

About 85 adults and youth came to meet Stephanie and enjoyed creating super sundaes. Elizabeth Ator, organized this event with the help of Win Siegfried, the manager of Handel’s in Berwyn. Win was terrific and provided us with delicious ice cream and toppings.

A fun and fabulous time was had by all!



St. John’s Corn Roast Featured “The Joy Messengers”

Sunday, September 14 was “HOT” and not only the 90 degree plus temperature, but by the success in numbers attending, the wonderful “chefs” - cooking hotdogs, hamburgers and fresh corn, all the volunteers with various jobs, the bouncing inflatable, and lastly St. John’s own band, *The Joy Messengers*!

Everyone joined in the singing and some even danced! A special thank you to the *Joy Messengers* and to Becca Chudy, Laura Jean McClintock, Meggie Wolfe and Clara Steege, who helped with the Supper at St. John’s “Rap” on a minutes notice!

Cammy Wagner, organized another successful event with her energetic team of volunteers - many thanks! It was a huge success and everyone left with a happy spirit!

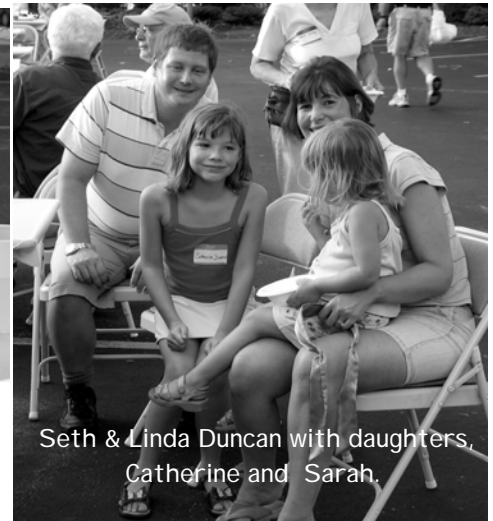
Membership Enrichment also had a hand in the success! Blessings to you!



The Joy Messengers’ Nancy Kimmons, Coralie Moorehead, Laruen Feldman, Lisa Howell, Betty Ferris (guest vocalist), John Senior
back row: Scott Moorehead, Brendan Bird on drums, and Ray Legnini



Oliver Feldman, (above) enjoys the dinner after playing in the moon bounce.



Seth & Linda Duncan with daughters, Catherine and Sarah.

Special Thank You to Kathy Baird

We have witnessed Kathy's thorough work throughout our church buildings, and want to thank Kathy for all the special "touches" she added to our church home. Kathy leaves our staff to take a full-time position locally and we wish her all God's blessings as she begins her new job. We will miss seeing her smiling face on a daily basis, but will continue to enjoy her lovely contribution to our choir on Sunday mornings!

Ben Powley, is happily able to return to St. John's in his former position as sexton. It will be a blessing to have him among us again! Ben's first day back will be Monday, September 29.

Corner for small Change



And He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of me." **Matthew 4:19**

Saint John's Hunger Project

In the face of domestic and international economic turmoil and increases in the prices of food and fuel, many people are facing existential crises. Sometimes this means that they are going hungry.

In fact, approximately 852 million people worldwide (1 in 8) go hungry or are chronically or acutely undernourished. You may say - 852 million is a huge number - and it's also far away - But it gets closer: at least 36.3 million people in the United States are food insecure because of lack of resources. And even closer: the REACT food pantry, which St. John's supports and which serves Tredyffrin-Easttown township, normally expects food generated in a spring food drive to last through October - this year had run out by July.

Provoked by these issues and stimulated in part by the fact that many people (certainly not all) received a Tax Rebate this year, a small group of St. John's members and friends met for brunch late this summer to discuss what they could do to address the problem of hunger - around the world and close to home.

The federal tax rebate was conceived as a means to stimulate the economy. We were called as patriotic citizens to spend it (implicitly on ourselves); for many of those who received this unanticipated windfall, this offered a chance to pay down debts or save a bit more—in other words, to provide real (and needed) financial support.

But this small group felt challenged to consider: might this be an opportunity to think about what we NEED, to think about the way in which we might work for the kingdom today.

Out of that small beginning, big things began to develop. Within two days, less than a dozen people covenanted a combined \$3200 to work against hunger. Inspired by this effort, the Outreach Committee decided to act as well.

Drawing on the portion of its annual outlays that remains unallocated, so as to flexibly respond to particular needs during the year, it also contributed \$3200 to this cause. In this environment, it seemed particularly appropriate to dedicate a portion of these funds to battling hunger, But, this effort can't be just about writing checks. It also needs to be about transforming ourselves and our place in the world. What can we do?

Earlier this fall, when St. John's members were asked to help drive food supplies for REACT - a remarkable response showed just how much energy and willingness to serve exist in our congregation. The hunger small group in conjunction with the Outreach Committee has compiled a number of opportunities for us to join together to volunteer in this battle against hunger.

Downstairs, there will be a table with information prepared by the small group I mentioned - information about volunteer opportunities. Why don't you join in: Help us serve food to the hungry; or come serve in a warehouse stocking food for distribution to the hungry; or spend some time gleaning fields to provide fresh food for the poor. There are volunteer options at a variety of times and locations to fit a range of schedules.

More information and sign-up sheets are available on the bulletin board near the door to the parking lot in fellowship hall. Come explore how your contributions can be multiplied as we join together to follow Jesus.

For more information, contact Outreach Chair Paul Steege, paul.steege@villanova.edu or 484.582.0657.



Youth News

*"Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them,
for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."* Matthew 19:14

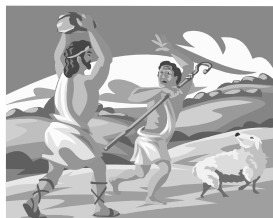
October 2008

This Month in Sunday School . . .

Sunday school began on Sunday, Sept. 7th for all ages. This year, we have started using the same curriculum for all ages. The Presbyterian church wrote the We Believe program we are now using, and they have provided age appropriate adaptations for each grade level grouping. All programs will be back on a traditional Sunday school model with the same teachers throughout the fall except for the 3rd and 4th grade age group, which will be on the We Believe WoRM (Workshop Rotational Model) with the same teacher rotation throughout the fall. We are hoping this will build consistency and foster positive relationships between the students and their Sunday school teachers. Another change this year is that all older youth (5-12th grade) will be attending the regular church service on Communion Sundays (the first Sunday of each month) with their teachers and families. We are working to familiarize them with and incorporate them into the adult church family as they prepare for and transition out of Confirmation. If you have any questions about Sunday school, or would like to teach in upcoming semesters, please email or call Stephanie! Thanks to all the wonderful teachers we have and for the great work you are doing!

Current topic:

**Jacob and Esau
The Old Testament**



*"Two nations are in your womb,
and two peoples from within you will be separated; one
people will be stronger than the other, and the older will
serve the younger."* Genesis 25:23

Christian Education Calendar

October 5	Youth fellowship
October 12	Youth fellowship
October 18	Hiking trip (TBD)
October 19	Mission Trip Dinner, 5:30 pm
November 1	Hershey Park in the Dark
November 16	Service event instead of youth fellowship meeting
November 30	No Sunday school or youth group (Thanksgiving)
December 5	Jr. High Lock-in!
December 21	Youth fellowship Christmas party

Jr. High Fellowship: 5-6pm
Sr. High Fellowship: 6:30-8pm

New Names for Youth Fellowship!

The youth are working with Stephanie to come up with new names for Jr. High and Sr. High youth fellowship. If you have any ideas or thoughts you'd like to share, please pass them along to Stephanie via email or a phone call! We will be picking a name in the upcoming weeks for each group. Make sure you get your input in, so we can represent the whole group and the church well!

Stephanie Eft, C.Ed. Director 610-971-0670 Stephanie.eft@stjohnsdevon.com

HELP US KEEP IN TOUCH

Please let the Newsletter staff know what your college students and grads are doing. Everyone likes to read about our St. John's kids! hctieck@aol.com

AND

If your college student or grad would like to receive the newsletter please email the address to hctieck@aol.com

AND

Don't forget to contact Amy Lord or Lisa Estabrook with names and addresses of our young members who are away at school, military service, or other undertakings. The Deacons will be sending Care Packages at the end of October.

Mission Dinner @ 5:30 pm Sunday, October 19

A fun evening, remembering the June mission trip to Vermont and the suspense of discovering "where in the world" will St. John's mission team go in 2009? Bring your family and friends!

All 2008 mission team members please bring a large cooked family size lasagna and all **team members arrive at 4:30 pm to set-up.**

**(Stouffers is great, but please check the cooking instructions carefully - it takes about 2 hrs. to cook and we need you to bring them fully cooked.) thanks!

Team members confirm with:

Kathy Shaw, Kathryn_l_shaw@vanguard.com



Becca Chudy, Laura Jean McClintock, Meggie Wolfe enjoy the *Joy Messengers* during the Corn Roast!

New Permission Forms

We have updated the medical consent/permission forms we have for youth events. We also now have a driver permission form that allows parents to give permission for their students to be driven to and from events by St. John's adults. We are asking that every student that comes to youth fellowship or events have both of these forms filled out and turned into the church. This way, we can know of any medical issues or allergies and have the proper contact info on file. Once you have filled out and turned in the forms, they will be good until the next program year. We already have several forms turned in... make sure you get yours before the next event! Thanks!

Hershey Park in the Dark Trip

On **Saturday, November 1**, we will be taking a trip with our Jr. and Sr. High students to Hershey park for some fun, rides, and fellowship! Hershey runs the park from 2-10 pm, and students will be able to explore, brave the roller coasters, and watch the shows while spending time with one another. There will be a contest for best costume... bring a change of clothes if you do not want to wear your costume through the park all day, although you will be allowed to keep it on around the park if you would like to. We will be meeting at the church at 11am to get ready and head out... we will be back at the church at 11pm on Saturday night. We are going to **need chaperones!** If you are interested and would be available to help drive or come along as a chaperone, please call or email Stephanie. Students . . . make sure you turn in your medical consents and driver permission forms and let Stephanie know by Sunday, October 26th if you are planning on joining us for this trip! Friends are welcome, but will also need to fill out those forms. If you need any extra copies, let us know . . . we can make a copy for you to pick up or email them to you. Join the fun!

****NOTE DATE CHANGE: In the first flyer handed out at the Burger Corn Roast, the date for this trip was listed as October 25th. We have changed the date to November 1st so that the trip is not the same day as Conestoga High School's Homecoming Dance.**



SESSION UPDATE

Session held its stated meeting on Monday evening, September 8. Since April, Session has begun each meeting with a devotion, discussion, and prayer based upon a parable. Jerre Lieberman led the devotion on the parable of the Good Samaritan.

We were pleased to welcome Stephanie Eft to our meeting. The Elders introduced themselves to Stephanie and welcomed her to the St. John's community.

Brian Bouvier presented the activities of the Membership Enrichment Committee and their plans for the future. Nancy Higgins, Carol Netter, Barb McConnell and Dick Oliver have joined Brian and Bob Miller on the Membership Enrichment Committee. Recent activities have included conducting an Inquirers Class, instituting a greeter's program, publicizing events in the local newspapers, helping to support Christian Life with the Strawberry Festival and Burger Corn Roast, and placing 250 telephone calls to members announcing the Good News of upcoming events. A special thanks was extended to the entire Membership Enrichment Committee for their efforts.

We then turned our attention to the worship service. Five members have expressed interest in receiving training to serve communion. Dr. Wilson intends to schedule this training shortly. With respect to communion, Session affirmed its desire for communion to be served by intinction and traditionally in a ratio of 2:1. Dr. Wilson noted that the choral introit be placed after greetings and announcements, in order to foster an uninterrupted period of worship.

Paul Steege reported on the Outreach Committee. The Session commended the Committee for the many initiatives they have taken and encouraged them to continue in their works. Paul was able to present some of those activities to the Congregation the following Sunday during the Minute for Mission.

Our next stated meeting is scheduled for October 13 when we will review Trustees' budget plans for 2009 and the Stewardship Campaign.

Submitted by Tom Higgins, Clerk of Session

Deacon's

- ♥ Altar Flowers: Dates for altar flowers can be reserved by signing up on the calendar in Fellowship Hall or by contacting Lisa Estabrook or Debbie Railton.
- ♥ Transportation: If you need transportation to Sunday Service or to any St. John's event, or if you can be a caregiver who provides transportation, please contact Ron Hinderer.
- ♥ Care giving: If you find yourself in need of a little TLC (Tender Loving Cooking!), because of health concerns or any difficult situation, please let Pam Schafer (or Rody, church office) know. If you would like to join the Deacons' Caregivers Network, contact Pam Schafer. If you would like a visit or know of someone who would like a visit, contact Virginia Holt.
- ♥ Bereavement: To comfort and assist you and your family during the loss of a loved one, the Deacons offer bereavement services such as prayer, visitation, meals, childcare, transportation, funeral or memorial service planning, and other services as needed. Contact Karen Moon for more information.
- ♥ CD's: If you would like a CD recording of Sunday services or know of someone who would like a CD recording (including young people away at college), contact Sue Parsons.
- ♥ Clothing Drive: Donations are now being accepted for the Deacons' fall clothing drive. Place donations (bagged and marked by age and contents) in the cloak room area of the Carriage House (behind the checked curtain). Deadline for donations: October 19.
- ♥ Deacons Bulletin Board: Welcome our Junior Deacon Christie McConnell who will be placing news items about our members on the Deacons Bulletin Board. Contact Christie with news of members of St. John's.
- ♥ Outreach to our College Students: Please contact Amy Lord or Lisa Estabrook with names and addresses of our young members who are away at school, military service, or other undertakings. We would like to send them Deacons' Care Packages.
- ♥ Deacons Special Offerings: Please contact Bob Risk.

We graciously count
on you
for your support and
help!



Music, a Gift of the Heart

Fall has so far been an exciting time of growth and change for our music program.

The Alleluia Choir has returned to our after-church rehearsal time, and has added several new members to the existing group. We will be presenting new anthems during October and November, and will soon be working on music for the Christmas Pageant. All children in grades K-2 are invited to attend our after-church fifteen minute rehearsals.

We have also started a Youth Ensemble, which combines singing along with instrumental pieces. We will be presenting anthems, as well as preludes and other service music. Right now we are busy working through some new vocal as well as instrumental pieces, and learning how to fit everything together. We have lost our high school members due to a conflict with the after church hand bell rehearsal time and since we are now mostly 6th through 8th graders, I would like to invite 5th graders to participate in the group. We rehearse Sundays at 11:15 a.m., after the Alleluia Choir Rehearsal.

Come share in the fun!

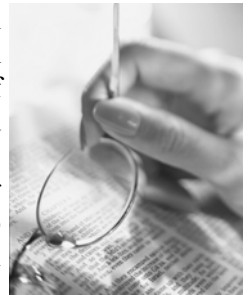
Diane Legnini, Director of Music

Women's Biblical Reflections

Please join us as at 8 am on Sunday mornings in the Carriage House as we build community and grow in our faith. Leadership is shared and we are currently discussing a work, of fiction, *The Shack*, by Wm. Paul Young on October 7 and 14. Please join us on a Sunday if you have read this compelling book. Beginning October 19 we will begin *Mere Christianity* by CS Lewis. If you have questions please call or chat with Ellen Moeller, Libby Dalrymple, Nancy Davis, Earline Eck, Betsy Friend, Monica Henkle, Debbie Railton, or Judy Wise.

INWARD JOURNEY

This Bible/devotional study meets in the Carriage House on Thursdays from 10 am to 11:30 am to read a myriad of devotional and spiritual books and materials. Please join us as we resume on Thursday, September 25. For over 14 years this group has continued to meet, so come explore your faith journey. Our devotional selection will be made at this first meeting, which is led by Victor.



LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYERS. . .

PRAYERS OF JOY . . .

Barbara and John Alexander, celebrate the birth of a new grandson, Luke Mitchell Connor King, born to daughter Kelly. *Virginia and Lee Holt*, celebrate the birth of grandson, Deacon James Golderer, born to Julie & Bill Golderer and brother Sebastian.

PRAYERS FOR GOD'S PEACE WHICH PASSES ALL UNDERSTANDING . . .

Steve and Lisa Scolari and children, mourning the death of Lisa's sister and Matthew and Christine's aunt.

PRAYERS FOR HEALING AND RESTORATION . . .

Adele Crawford, is recovering at home.

Larry Hardin, as he continues chemotherapy.

Bea Menig, moved to Park Lane at Bellingham

Cynthia Schumacker, as she recovers from surgery.

Agnes Ulrich, is recovering at home.

Victor Wilson, as he continues to recover from rotator cuff surgery.

Carol Yocum, recovering from gall bladder surgery



The St. John's Newsletter Team: Elizabeth Ator, layout; Earline Eck, editor/layout; Betsy Friend, writer/reporter; Carol Netter, writer/reporter; Sue Parsons, mailing chairperson.

Please have your ideas, articles or any news **in by October 10. Elizabeth Ator, (610-644-3634) will be preparing the November newsletter, please send all information to, EdAtor@comcast.net**



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UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesdays	6 pm Supper at St. John 's
Sunday, October 5	11:15 am Sunday School Teacher 's Meeting
Sunday, October 19	Sr. High Mission Trip Dinner
Sunday, October 26	11 am All Church Brunch

St. John's Presbyterian Church

The Reverend Dr. Victor M. Wilson, Pastor: Victor.Wilson@StJohnsDevon.com

Rody Gratton, Administrative Assistant: Rody.Gratton@StJohnsDevon.com

Stephanie Eft, Director of Christian Education: Stephanie.Eft@StJohnsDevon.com

Visit our website: www.StJohnsDevon.com

Contact any member of our newsletter team with questions, comments, suggestions and contributions!

NEXT DEADLINE: October 14, 2008