



St. John's News

Celebrating Our Savior With Love & Joy at Home and in Community!



Women's Biblical Reflections

Join us as at 8 am on Sunday mornings in the Carriage House as we build community and grow in our faith. We will start a new book, *No Wonder They Call Him The Savior*, by Max Lucado on January 23.

Max Lucado will take us through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ; bringing to life Peter's denial, Pilate's hesitancy, and John's loyalty. Relive the events leading up to Jesus' crucifixion, from the foggy garden of Gethsemane to the incandescent room of the resurrection. *No Wonder They Call Him the Savior* leads you up the hill of mankind's highest hope and reminds you why he deserves to be called our Savior.

If you have questions please contact, Nancy Davis, 610-688-2283 or Ellen Moeller, ellmoe@aol.com.

"Blessed are you who are hungry, for you will be filled."

Luke 6:21

Supper At St. John's

Our next ten-week series of delicious home-cooked dinners followed by a choice of studies resumes on **Wed. January 19, starting at 6:00 pm.** We know how schedules vary, so come when you can. **Please email Betsy, rgmdevon@aol.com if you CAN NOT come for dinner.**

Study Choices Are: (Sign-up at coffee hour)

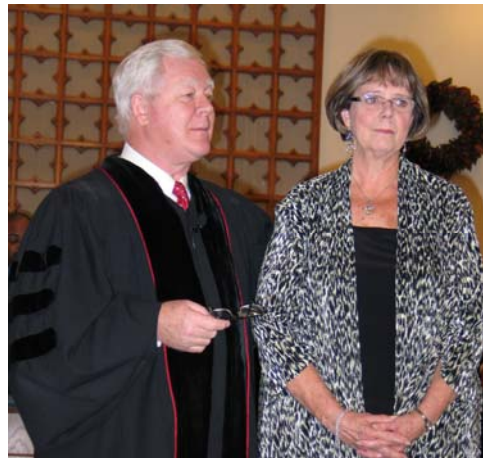
- 1) The Gospel of Mark, taught by Sum Thang. This is an especially valuable course for parents of Confirmation students, who will be studying Mark in their classes. One of the earliest written accounts of Jesus' ministry, this book is often called the Gospel of action.
- 2) Paul's Letter to the Romans, led by Charlie Krueger. Themes in this letter of Paul include: God's righteousness; the dilemma of humans in our losing battle against sin; God's magnificent and merciful solution in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. Our Sr. High Sunday School is also studying Romans.
- 3) A trilogy of offerings, facilitated by Nancy Davis: (a) *"In the Dust of the Rabbi,"* an examination on DVD of discipleship as demonstrated by Paul and others in answer to God's call (5 weeks); (b) a three-week study of *"Man's Search for Meaning"* by Viktor Frankl, who survived the horrors of Auschwitz with his life and his hope intact; (c) a two-week look at the Resurrection from lectures by N. T. Wright, prominent theologian, Bishop of Durham, England and formerly canon of Westminster Abbey.

Child care and activities will be provided during class times, please let Sum, 610-971-0670, tsum@stjohnsdevon.com know if you will need child care

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On Sunday November 7, Pat Churchill was recognized for her years of service to the children of St. John's. Pat helped in the two and three year old class for 42 years and also with Youth Club, (a weekly program for elementary age kids), as cook and table games leader for several years.

ST. JOHN'S THANKS YOU PAT!



What's for Lunch?

Inspiration, fellowship and a delicious meal with St. John's women and friends!

WHAT: Women's Annual Lenten Luncheon & Communion Service

WHEN: Wednesday, March 9, 2011
(Ash Wednesday), 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM

WHO: A guest speaker will lead us in worship & deliver the message (TBA)

WHERE: St. John's Fellowship Hall

WHY: A Great opportunity to share our faith and fellowship with one another

Need Childcare? Let us know and we will arrange it.

PLEASE RSVP to:

Ellen Moeller, Ellmoe@aol.com, 610-783-6301

Carla Chiefo, CRLCH@netscape.net, 610-687-2533

St. John's Women's Fellowship

Bring a friend!

Carriage Club

The first get-together of the Carriage Club was held on Monday, January 10, 2011 with 48 people in attendance. A delicious lunch of soup and sandwich was followed by an informative message by our Director of Christian Education, Sum Thang. All were eager to hear Sum's Story . . . how he left his native country of Burma as a teen, lived in England before coming to New Hampshire, and then made his way to the Philadelphia area where he continued his studies and was embraced by our church family. Thank you, Sum! We are continually blessed by your presence!

The next Carriage Club luncheon will be held on Monday, February 14th at noon. We will once again enjoy good food, great fellowship, and a special presentation by our own author, Beth Kephart. Beth has written twelve books and the latest to be published, *Dangerous Neighbors*, will be her focus. She will present images and stories from the Centennial Exposition of 1876, one of the most extraordinary exhibitions ever held in the USA. Please join us in Fellowship Hall as Beth shares the inspirations behind her centennial-era novel. You may sign up with Marie Cantafio (610-971-2187), Judy Mileto (610-687-6173) or call Rody in the church office, 610-688-5222.

A Dinner Filled with Love St. John's 'serves' Christmas day!

A very special time was had by all, with wonderful food, Christmas carols led by Jane Wilson, and plenty of time to enjoy one another. Of the 28 who attended seven including Mabel Purcel who runs REACT, were from the community. The balance were St. John's families. Victor, Jane, and Katherine Wilson were there to great everyone, and helped to kickoff the evening with carol singing before leaving to have their traditional leg of lamb Christmas Dinner. Betsy and I thoroughly enjoyed the evening and felt privileged to be able to be a part of the first St. John's Christmas Dinner. I hope, we as a church will continue to have Christmas Dinner. Mabel Purcel said to me as she left, "if St. John's will do this next year I assure you many more from the community will attend". Based on conversations with our members, I also believe that many St John's families will make this their Christmas Dinner. With an early commitment and sufficient notice to our congregation, along with a greater and more timely effort to engage the community, we can make Christmas Dinner at St. John's a welcoming and caring place for those who would normally be alone at Christmas. This was truly a gift of love for all!

~Bob Miller, Membership Enrichment Committee Member

Blanket the World with Love" . . .

This January, after all your holiday gifts have been exchanged, please consider one more gift . . . support our annual blanket drive donation to Church World Services.

"For a child shivering in the cold, a warm blanket can mean the difference between life and death."

You can buy a quality wool blanket for a family in need by donating just \$5.00! Please help St. John's achieve the "Blanket Honor Roll" given to congregations that donate at least one blanket for every two families in their membership.

"When your home has been washed away by torrential rains, or war has torn your world apart, your immediate wish for your children is a warm place to sleep. A Church World Service \$5 blanket is something to hold on to, along with the hope for brighter days ahead."

Visit the Blanket Drive table during coffee fellowship January 9, 16, and 23, or contribute through the offering plate using the envelopes in the weekly bulletin.

Thank you for your generosity!
Kathleen Weiss, Women's Fellowship

Spirits Lifted!

On November 7, St. John's Chancel Choir and musical guests presented John Rutter's "Feel The Spirit" and what a beautiful and inspirational presentation it was.

Diane Legnini, our Director of Music and the following musicians blessed us all!

Choral Members: Mark Ator, Max Birtcil, Jeff Estabrook, Daphne Hill, Lisa Howell, Nancy Kimmons, Frank Mercurio, Betsy Miller, Margot Moore, Julie Rockhold, Pam Schafer, Paul Steege, and Lisa Wildman

Instrumentalists: Larry Major - First Violin, Barbara Murray - Second Violin, Davis Barnett - Viola, Gael Abbasi - Cello, Christina Fish - Oboe/Cor Anglaise, Karen DiSanto - Clarinet, Ray Legnini - Bass Guitar, Ian Wolfe - Percussion

**Thank you for all
of your time and
dedication to such
a wonderful
performance and
to St. John's!**



Diane, our talented & devoted director!



ST. JOHN'S YOUTH

CE News

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 ☆ **2010 CHRISTMAS PAGEANT** ☆
 ☆ Thank you to all the parents, adult volunteers, ☆
 ☆ Debbie Railton and CE members and for their ☆
 ☆ selfless labors in making this year's Christmas ☆
 ☆ Eve Family Service (Pageant) a truly meaningful ☆
 ☆ one. Also, a HUGE thanks to all the children, ☆
 ☆ youth, and college students for their wonderful ☆
 ☆ contributions in this year's pageant! Our St. ☆
 ☆ John's church family deeply appreciates your ☆
 ☆ efforts to bring the nativity story to life! ☆
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MKL SERVICE DAY

On **Monday, January 17**, St. John's will once again volunteer for the Martin Luther King Service Day. Please arrived in our parking lot at 9:15 AM. This year we travel to center city Philadelphia and work to clean up a vacant lot, so the community may enjoy this free space. We will return to St. John's by around 1:00 pm. ***There are only ten volunteer spots available for this project.***

Youth must sign up via email to Sum

(tsum@stjohnsdevon.com) or on the CE Information board at church. First come, first served! Don't wait, sign up today!

ST. JOHN'S YOUTH WINTER EVENT

Don't miss out on fabulous fun on **Saturday, Jan. 22, 10 am - 3 pm!** All youth members and friends are invited to a day of Laser Tag, Miniature Golf, & pizza. Grand Slam, USA and BOWLING at Devon Lanes! Cost for the entire day is only \$15 per person.

email to Sum or on the CE Information board

Don't joke around . . . be serious and sign up for some FUN at our Youth Winter Event!

SAVE THE DATE FOR FAMILY FUN DAY

Families are invited to a special pizza lunch and bowling at Devon Lanes, Sunday, **February 27, 12 to 2:00 pm.** See Sum for more details.

Youth Christian Education Calendar	
Monday, January 17	MLK Service Day 9:15 AM
Wednesday, January 19	Confirmation Join us for dinner at 6 pm Class begins, 6:30 pm
Saturday, January 22	Grand Slam Event 10AM to 3PM
Tuesday, February 1st	Philabundance 5 PM
Sunday, February 27	12 noon - 2 PM Family Fun Pizza & Bowling
Sum's contact INFO: Tsum@stjohnsdevon.com 610-971-0670	

Are you up for a Philabundance Food Warehouse Service Opportunity?

FIRST TUESDAYS
February 1st & March 1st

RSVP REQUIRED!

Kathy Shaw cell: 610-308-9646
Kathryn_l._shaw@vanguard.com

(we want to ensure that we have enough drivers)
Meet at church @ 5:00 p.m.
Serve 6-8 PM

EVERYONE WELCOME!

Need to wear closed-toe shoes AND need to respond if you are coming!

Builders Competition

to benefit Delaware Valley housing needs

Greater Philadelphia Expo Center

100 Station Avenue, Oaks, PA

March 29-31, 2011

Local builders will compete in teams to showcase their skills and benefit the community. Funds raised and framed homes will support the ongoing work of local Habitat For Humanity affiliates.

This event is open to the public

Building starts at 8:00 AM

PLEASE JOIN US !

www.builderscompetition.org



Some of St. John's Volunteers in 2010 - Be sure and contact John McClintick if you want to get involved.

MARK
YOUR
CALENDARS
FOR
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BUILDER'S



St John's Builder's Team 2010

Our beloved Tom Johnson will be greatly missed this year and will be in our thoughts.



Libby and patient, Olgvine, earthquake victim, who has been there since January 2010.

**“... the poverty is just staggering,
but the people stole a bit of our hearts.”**

- Libby Dalrymple

Elizabeth and I spent a week in Haiti on a medical mission trip. My uncle, John Lovejoy Sr. has been traveling to Haiti with the CRUDEM Foundation (Center for Rural Development in Milot) for 25 years. He is an orthopedic surgeon and has offered his services to Haiti, at the Hospital Sacre Coeur in Milot, which is on the north shore of Haiti. When the 2010 earthquake occurred, he was on a plane pretty quickly and this time his son, John Jr., a pediatric orthopedic surgeon, joined him. Like his dad, the people of Haiti have touched my cousin. Coordinating with other physicians, there are now four orthopedic teams making annual visits to Milot, my uncle heads one group

and my cousin another. John called to ask me to join the team in December as a Physical therapist and asked if Elizabeth could come as a non-medical volunteer.

We flew into Cap Haitian and travelled about 30 minutes to the small town of Milot. We accompanied John and two other orthopedic surgeons as well as a couple of nurses, anesthesiologists and pediatricians. The orthopedic surgeons performed 20-25 surgeries during the week, many of the patients I then treated. The pediatricians worked in the cholera tents; tents originally set up to care for the earthquake victims. Elizabeth and I spent one morning helping there as well. Elizabeth also helped in the OR, helped me, and enjoyed her time playing with James Lee, an orphan who lived with the earthquake victims. (Elizabeth and James are pictured on the front page of the newsletter)

To give you a brief look into the hospital . . . it has two operating rooms and one delivery room. The OR's are well equipped with donations from various companies, but much of the equipment is only used when foreign doctors come for a week at a time. The hospital is understaffed and with the cholera outbreak even more so. Each room contains 8-10 beds with a family member or friend by the patient's side to help care for them, as there aren't enough nurses. Elizabeth and I spent much of the time in a separate building that housed the remaining earthquake victims . . . yes, just imagine, that was a year ago! I treated 3 patients who had been there since January of 2010!

To say that Haiti is poor is an understatement! The poverty is profound, clean water and food on the table are not guaranteed, the government is known for its corruption, the natural disasters (an earthquake and a recent hurricane) as well as the cholera outbreak have all taken their toll. It was hard not to think that things seemed hopeless . . . how will the cycle be broken? Yet, the people of Haiti, their spirit and their strong faith made it feel hopeful. We saw God in many of the people we encountered: Damus, a 25 year old college student from Port au Prince, injured in the earthquake, there since January without a friend or family member visiting; Olgvine, a young mother of two (a 10 and an 11 year old) from Port au Prince, also injured in the earthquake and hoping to finally be home for the holidays; James Lee, the three year old orphan who lived in the hospital with the other earthquake victims to take care of him; and the little girl we saw walking to school who bit her cherry lifesaver into four small pieces so that her friends could each have a piece. These are just a few who reminded us that *there is hope*, their smiles, their genuine appreciation for our help, James Lee's squeals of laughter when we arrived, the sharing of something as small as a lifesaver and at night across the street from our compound, the sounds of music and singing, a celebration coming from one of the local churches . . . not one night but every night!

We don't really know how much we helped and certainly, there were some difficult moments - when a small baby and three adults lost their lives to cholera and the frustration that there wasn't equipment available to help save those lives. But, we came away wanting to go back and help again. Coming home just in time for the Christmas season magnified the feeling that I always get this time of year and that is that we should all be so very thankful for our blessings, even those as mundane as food and clean water. We are grateful for the opportunity to go and try to make a difference in some small way. And maybe that is the only way to make a change, one small step at a time. It is easy to feel defeated and wonder if we can really do anything to help, but as my uncle said, it is better to give than to receive. Obviously, we aren't all meant to go to Haiti, but each of us can find some small way to make a difference even right here in Philadelphia.



*“From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded;
and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.” Luke 12:48*



*Blessings to all
This New Year!*

Trustees Report:

The Trustees thank the congregation for an inspiring response to the 2011 Stewardship Campaign and an extremely successful conclusion to the 2010 financial year. Your response to the Stewardship Campaign was especially gratifying. We presented an ambitious "dream" budget proposal, recognizing that we would likely need to make cuts before presenting the final budget. Thanks to your generous response in both new pledges and increases in existing pledges, we are very close to realizing our budget dreams. A few additional pledges continue to be submitted, and the final report on the Stewardship Campaign will be presented at the January Congregational Meeting and in the Annual Report. The level of giving at the end of 2010 far exceeded our most optimistic hopes, and we ended the year with a budget surplus of \$30,815! We deeply appreciate your faithful support of St. John's.

We have recently undertaken several projects to enhance our facility, one of which includes a new dishwasher in the Carriage House. In the Administration area, we have updated the technology available in the church office and the computer server has been replaced. The telephone system had also become very dated and was not capable of supporting many contemporary calling features, so it has also been replaced. An evaluation of whether it would be feasible to implement a Wi-Fi network in our buildings is underway as well.

submitted by Mark Ator

Deacon's

- ♥ A special Thank You to all who contributed to the Angel Tree Project and to REACT.
- ♥ Thank you to those families/individuals who helped decorate our sanctuary by purchasing a Poinsettia
- ♥ Call the church office (610-688-5222), if you need transportation to St. John's, or if you can provide transportation.
- ♥ Care giving: If you find yourself in need of a little TLC (Tender Loving Cooking!), because of health concerns or any difficult situation please call Barb McConnell.
- ♥ The beautiful sanctuary flowers are created by Cowen's Flowers in Wayne and billed directly to the sponsor. Sponsors may take the flowers after the service or the church will take them to someone to brighten their day. If you would like to sponsor flowers please sign-up on the flower calendar on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall or contact Judy Mileto, judym698@aol.com

Session News

In addition to routine business in November, December and January, Session considered and approved several important events and governance changes. Thanks to the efforts of strong committees, our Elders thought that the Session could function efficiently with fewer active Elders. Within the past ten years, the number was increased to four elders a year, so that our current Session has 12 Elders. We decided to reduce the number of Elders gradually, so the class of 2014 will elect three new Elders. Our Board will function with eleven Elders in the next year. We will continue to examine our needs and reconsider this issue late in 2011. We thank our competent committees for making this change possible.

Many ongoing and new programs provide opportunities for our congregation, and hearing about them and approving them is always a highlight of our meetings. Ongoing programs, including the Christmas pageant, Family Fun Days and Supper at St. John's continue to be well attended and appreciated. Two new programs began recently with great success. A Christmas dinner was held on Christmas Day for members of our church and community. Twenty-eight people turned out for this delicious and gracious meal. Many thanks to the Membership Enrichment Committee and especially Bob and Betsy Miller for planning and executing this event.

The Deacons initiated a Carriage Club luncheon for senior members of St. John's in January. The first event was a rousing success, with 48 people in attendance. Former member Elizabeth Stover returned to St. John's especially for the event. Elizabeth and her husband Preston had coordinated a previous version of the Carriage Club some years ago; it was among the pleasures of the day to welcome her back.

The Worship and Music Committee has made a change to our service of communion for 2011. Communion will now be served in the traditional method in March, June, September and December. At all other times, communion will be served by intinction.

Finally, Session is truly humbled and gratified by the congregation's response in pledges for 2011 and giving in 2010. We have the unique challenge of determining appropriate allocation of a significant surplus in giving for 2010, along with the pleasure of approving our "dream" budget for 2011. A Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 30 following worship, to present the final budget, slate officers for the class of 2014 and the Pastor's Terms of Call for 2011. We thank you all for your generosity and commit ourselves to be good stewards of your gifts. Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth Ator, Clerk of Session

LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYERS. . .

Lord, we lift these individual and their families, asking your healing grace to surround them with a peace which can only come from You. Bless them and the others among us, whose needs we may not know, but whose needs You know. Help us to minister with love and compassion to members of our extended St. John's family.



PRAYERS FOR GOD'S HEALING. . .

Janette and Lee Duke, for Janet's son David following surgery for a brain tumor

Lillian Keenan, recovering from a fall

Mike Ruhl, as he continues treatment

Gordon Wright, recovering from surgery

Margaret Yocum, in treatment for congestive heart failure

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

Kathy and Dave Culp and *Betty Clark*, mourn the death of Kathy and Betty's mother, Kay Pritchard

Dick and Chris Oliver, as they mourn the death of Chris' father

Putting into Print "Good News"

For the past 24 years we've been attending St. John's, it is with heartfelt gratitude to worship, serve, and grow in faith among so many loving and thoughtful people. As I step down as editor of our newsletter, I would like to say thank you to our wonderful newsletter volunteers and to all of those who make "news" happen here at St. John's, that covers about everybody! I can't tell you how much fun it is to have written, read, and put into print all the "happenings" of our church families. What a giving and loving group of people we have here at St. John's!

Thank you to Carol Netter, who was like my right hand "woman" with all the late night editing, etc. - what a friend! A special thank you to Rody for her all of her patience, as I did break almost every machine related to getting the newsletter out, not to mention Ben's vacuum. I now leave with a clear conscience!

The newsletter will now be done quarterly with a monthly calendar of events only going out on the off months. In 2011 you will receive a newsletter in April, June, September, and December. Elizabeth Ator is our new editor, so you are in capable hands! Remember to get the news in by the 15th!

In His Service, Earline Eck ☺



An Angel Walked Among Us!

When I saw this picture I felt it was perfect to include in honor of Kay! Her dedication to St. John's choir and her love of hymns and to St. John's was evident, not to mention her absolute trust in the Lord. Kay was an active choir member through her 99th birthday and prayed for so many through the years.

On Friday afternoon before her passing she was softly singing a few lines from a hymn. I know the choir was very dear to Kay, you were loved and ever so blessed!



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Upcoming Events

Wednesday, January 19	Supper at St. John's 6 pm through March 23
Wednesday, January 19	Confirmation at 6:30 pm
Monday, February 1	Philabundance at 5 pm
Monday, February 14	Carriage Club Luncheon 12PM

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

Reverend Howard Friend, Parish Associate: hfriend@prodigy.net

Sum Thang, Director of Children and Youth: Tsum@StJohnsDevon.com

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

Visit our website: www.StJohnsDevon.com

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

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Submit your articles or any news to **Elizabeth Ator, Edator@comcast.net**

DEADLINE: the 15th day of every month