



# St. John's News

November/December 2010



*Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things freely given to us by God.*

**I Corinthians 2:12**

## The Journey . . .

The nativity stories tell of a steady stream of journeys inspired by one event and influenced by so many: Caesar, Caesar's provincial governors, King Herod the Great of Judea, royal figures from the far orient, a chief priest (Zechariah), a prophetess (Anna), and at the lowest end of the economic spectrum, the shepherds. And of course, Mary and Joseph traveling from Nazareth, 70 miles to the north. All must encounter this infant king or ultimately wrestle with the consequences of his coming - us too.

At the heart of the matter, we all journey for the same reason, just from different life directions. All seek peace of God. All hunger for a stabilizing benediction for our restless souls. Some come with an intellectual yearning, like wise men seeking meaning (the strange sign in the heavens). And that is good—but it is not enough. God is not a problem to be solved, but a loving presence to be embraced.

Some journey trying to make amends, and find far more than they bargained for. In Alan Paton's brilliant novel, *Cry, the Beloved Country*, an old South African pastor, Stephen Kumalo, goes to Johannesburg to find his son, Jonathan, but finds him in jail for killing a white lawyer, Arthur Jarvis, an advocate of black rights who had written a book about the urgency for justice in that hate filled country. Kumalo then goes to Jarvis's father, to apologize for his son's crime. Instead of refusing to see him, or berating him for Jonathan's actions, Jarvis receives him kindly. He has been reading the manuscript of his son's book and it has spoken to him of what must be done.

Learning that Kumalo's little congregation in the village of Ndotsheni needs a new house of worship, Jarvis vows to build it for them. He also promises to send great earthmoving equipment and build a dam for the village so that the people will have a year-round water supply.

The very rumor of what is to be done sends a shock wave through the populace of Ndotsheni. They will have water for irrigation. They can raise cattle. There will be food and milk for the children, so that the young will no longer drift off to the cities to find work. There will be laughter and singing and dancing again. Nothing has happened, writes Paton, yet it is as if it has. "Although nothing has come yet, something is already here." The birth of Christ raises such a great hope, and it points to a promise of what can be. There's no better message for our times.

Some journey to try and break attachments that have become too strong. Herod is still alive and well. The innocent are still slaughtered, the virtuous abused, the poor get poorer, and many super rich live in gilded palaces. At a Christmas party I had an interesting conversation with a corporate attorney. An intensely bright and able man in his fifties, yet one in whom the fire of youth and a zeal for the law seemed to have been smothered by a great wet blanket. Now his days were spent ferreting through contractual verbiage looking for leaks and fissures that might be capitalized upon to rip a hole in the other's dam. I sense he felt like one of Herod's reluctant advisors, called in to advise the CEO on how to demolish the opposition. But in that unease, I sensed a larger presence had a hold of him - one more enduring, more powerful finally than Herod. He was drawn to his church and seemed determined to stay for the duration of the journey.

Some journeys begin because the news seems almost too good (the shepherds) a welcome respite for the monotony of the poor. The same poor are still with us, clustering on city lots around makeshift fires fueled by torn down fencing, trying to stamp the interminable cold out of near frozen feet, slapping their arms in fruitless self-embrace, and drinking cheap wine, because it's the only thing that seems to kill the cold in the body and the soul.

This Christmas - let's promise ourselves to renew our journey, and make a difference. For Jesus' sake. A blessed season to you, and to those you are given to love, especially the strangers.

Your Pastor,

*Victor*



## Celebrate the Birth of Jesus!

St. John's Women's Fellowship invites you and your family to join them on Sunday, December 19th in the Carriage House following worship for a special celebration. We will celebrate with a birthday party for Jesus. Plan to enjoy coffee, cake, fellowship and some carol singing led by

our own Joy Messengers. This is a wonderful opportunity for all to celebrate the reason for the season!

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Sherwood Village Christmas Party December 16 at 3:00

The party last year brought tears of joy to everyone who attended from St. John's. We enjoyed listening to the children sing Christmas carols and Christian songs while ringing bells, and dancing. We loved it when the two year olds reached up their arms to be picked up and loved by us and amazed when 50 children before their meal said their prayer in unison. It was music to our ears! We handed out a stocking to each child, gave snacks and cake to each one and ended by handing out the presents from under the tree. You could feel God's warmth in the room.

**Pam Shafer created this wonderful event that we are now making a tradition.** Pam came up with this great idea after she went to Sherwood Village one year to drop off the gifts from Angel Tree. Pam wanted to create a special day for these children and she has done just that and more.

**If you are interested in helping plan the party or attending the party please call Amy Lord or Jim Netter.**

Sherwood Village is located in southwest Philadelphia and it provides a loving environment for children of parents who need financial assistance for child care. The school runs on a very small budget.

**Sherwood Village has a wish list, so if you would like to help please let us know.** A list follows and gently used items are great. We would be happy to take them down on December 16.

### Wish List

- High Chairs
- 2 wipe boards
- 1 desk computer
- 10 big wheels
- 2 small banquet tables- for school aged children in a classroom
- 10 folding chairs
- DVD/VCR combo
- Tent and pillow for a soft center
- 2 science cabinets
- My Baby Can Read system

Thank you for your continued support and love you give to St Johns. Amy Lord, Deacon



## Deck the Halls

Mark your calendar for the annual transformation of our beautiful church. *The "Hanging of the*

*Greens"* will take place Saturday, **December 4.** Look for more information in the bulletin!

## Advent Workshop

**Sunday, November 21, 4:00 – 6:00 pm**

Please join us as we prepare for the coming of our Lord this Advent season. The Advent Workshop will begin with a brief devotional activity, followed by creating Christmas crafts and making Advent wreaths for all ages.

Finger foods and desserts will compliment this special evening. Look for the craft samples at coffee hour beginning in early November and invite friends and neighbors to this fun evening as we open our hearts to God's precious gift to us, Jesus our Savior.

*"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."*

**Isaiah 9:6**

# Helen Munn Wilson (May 12, 1911 - August 18, 2010)

Pastor Victor Wilson's mother, was born and raised England, the second of six children. The responsibilities of adulthood came early to Helen when, at the age of 16, her father, a World War I veteran, died. It was at that time that she left school to enter the book binding business in which her father had worked. Five years later, she met George Henry Wilson on a blind date, a fortuitous occasion as it led to a 54-year marriage to which both Helen and George were deeply committed. They raised three sons of which Victor is the youngest.

The gift of good genes may have contributed to Helen living to within nine months of her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday, but her strength of mind was a comparable asset, evident in her refusal to allow the difficulties of life to deter her custom of working hard and fostering the welfare of a family she held very dear. Voice lessons as a young woman enhanced Helen's skill as a Contralto, and for twenty-five years, she worked at the Lancashire Police Constabulary after George returned home from a grueling stretch as a POW in the Second World War.

Helen honed her natural fortitude during five months of uncertainty when she did not know whether her husband was alive or dead, an attribute that she passed along to her children. If one of her sons faced a seemingly insurmountable impasse, she would encourage him to persevere in the knowledge that a productive outcome would emerge. At the same time, Helen was possessed of considerable good humor, and could temper moments of tension with a quick wit. She was amused by political satire, but one went too far if he criticized the Royal Family for which she bore the respect entrenched in the British culture of her day.

Both Helen and George's support of, and pride in Victor was unmistakable. Church-goers only on occasion, they began to attend church regularly after Victor entered Seminary. During a trip to the U.S., they both shared in daily devotionals with Victor and Jane, and Helen, though not an avid reader, dedicated time each day to reading Victor's doctoral dissertation. At Victor's suggestion, Helen, herself, wrote a 110-page autobiography, leaving her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren with invaluable insight into the character and times of the Munn and Wilson families.

The parishioners of St. John's did not know Helen, but we can see some of her characteristics in our Pastor and thereby know her to a degree, and be thankful for her influence. ~ written by *Beth McKay*

## *A Tribute to Pat Churchill's Loving Service*

At 13 years of age Pat and her family moved to Wayne, being an independent child, Pat discovered a bus stop close to her home that would take her to St. John's Presbyterian Church on Sundays. So off she went and flourished there through her high school years. Bev Briggs and Fred Else were early mentors to Pat and she would spend most of Sunday at church.

In 1968 Pat found her way back to the church she loved and brought her young son Alfred to the nursery, where she met Kay Pritchard. Pat started helping in the nursery soon after and has continued her loving service to St. John's babies and toddlers for the past 42 years. Pat raised both boys, Alfred and Steven, at St. John's and is now bringing her grandchildren, Olivia and Nathan.

Pat's fondest memories in the nursery were when Kate and Andy Johnson (twins) were babies and she was holding both babies and trying to feed them. Pat prided herself in knowing just how safe the children were in the sheltered little nursery until one day the Scotts' came to get Charlie and he wasn't there. Pat was in a panic and said it was the only time she actually lost one of her cherubs. Naturally Charlie wasn't far, he was up in the sanctuary, on a search, "looking for God, Pat said.

Pat not only served in the nursery/toddler room for 40 plus years, but she also helped Sue Hardin begin Youth Club, which was a program for elementary children and a huge success. She was the cook and cooked for 50-60 people on Wednesday nights. The "Reverse Dinner" was a favorite and happened because she had put so much chicken in the oven that it took longer than expected, so served dessert first and thus the famous, *Reverse Dinner*. The Progressive Dinner, which continues to be a favorite at St. John's was also started by Pat. As for her mentors today they are, Sue Hardin, "my rock" and of course Kay Pritchard with her wonderful faith and positive attitude!

On November 14, St. John's is honoring Pat Churchill for her dedicated years of service, so please join us, for this special day!

## Session News

Session had the pleasure of calling a meeting at the end of August to extend an offer of employment to Sum Thang as our new Director of Children's and Youth Ministry. Sum started his work at St. John's the next day and has already held several well-attended special and regular events for children and youth, with more in the works. We are thrilled to welcome Sum back to St. John's in this new role.

The September and October stated meetings began with inspirational devotionals. In September, Jerre Lieberman read the Parable of the Rich Fool and reminded us of the importance of working together in the church community rather than looking out for our own selfish interests. He pointed out that the Lord's Prayer never uses the first person singular; every pronoun is "we," "us," or "our." We were beautifully reminded of his message the following Sunday in Max Birtcil's moving rendition of *The Lord's Prayer* during the Offertory.

In October, Jim Little discussed the challenges of a being a faithful Christian in today's culture. His devotional is included in this month's newsletter.

It is always a pleasure to receive new members into our Fellowship, and September provided that opportunity. Session welcomed Frank and Joan Grande into our membership by Reaffirmation of Faith. Please take a moment to introduce yourself to Frank and Joan after worship or in coffee fellowship.

We are grateful to Bob Miller and Jim Little for coordinating a very well-attended Burger Corn Roast on September 19, as well as to the many helpers and participants who made the evening a success. Particular thanks are due to the members of the Joy Messengers and the Devon Brass for providing delightful musical entertainment for the evening.

Much of Session's conversation in September and October has been occupied by discussion of the proposed 2011 budget. The Elders are keenly sensitive to proposing budget increases in the current economic climate and yet see many reasons to feel hopeful about St. John's thriving congregation and potential for growth. In addition, we are grateful for the contribution we are able to make to the budget's income in 2011 thanks to the foresight of the Investment Committee. A portion of the dividend from the Wellington Fund investment will be returned to the operating budget as income in 2011. Our thanks to the Trustees and Treasurer Libby Dalrymple for their hard work on this budget. The proposed budget was mailed to the congregation in October, and the Trustees will offer a Budget Informational Meeting following worship on Sunday, November 7. Respectfully submitted, *Elizabeth Ator*, Clerk of Session

## NEWSLETTER TEAM NEEDS YOU!

Some of our team are ready to retire, so hopefully someone will volunteer. We are looking for someone able to format a newsletter, writers and a person to do organize the mailing. We are hoping to have a new group by January, so we can work together for one edition. **Please call Earline, 610-644-5418.**

## St. John's Memorial Garden

An order for Memorial plates will be placed in November. If anyone would like to order a bronze plate, in memory of a loved one, please contact Earline, 610-644-5418 or email, [htieck@aol.com](mailto:htieck@aol.com) and a form will be mailed to you. If you have a form please let me know if you have questions or would like to be included in the November order. It takes 2-3 months to receive the plates, so is quite a timely process.

A special thanks to all of our "lay-weeders" who helped with weeding this summer. : )

## Scholarship Opportunity

Westminster College is a coeducational liberal arts college, related to the Presbyterian Church. The campus is located 60 miles north of Pittsburgh and has about 1500 undergraduates. In celebration of its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Westminster established the *Young Presbyterian Scholars Program*. The college is now offering 150 scholarships of \$17,000 per year to outstanding PC(USA) students who are seeking a way to grow in faith and leadership during their college experience. To qualify, students must have a high school GPA of 3.5 or higher, membership in a PC(USA) church and nomination by their Pastor or church. Information is available on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall, or at [www.westminster.edu/yps](http://www.westminster.edu/yps).

## From Jim Little's October Session devotional:

Is our country moving away from God? A recent cover of USA Today asked, "How America Sees God." Author Cathy Lynn Grossman categorized our view of God in four convenient boxes: Authoritative (28%), Benevolent (22%), Critical (21%) and Distant (24%). According to this article, knowing your view of God can predict your views on morality, science, money, evil, war and natural disaster.

These surveys make me crazy; I believe their agenda is to complicate God. On top of that, in a full-page article, there is no mention of Jesus. Where are we going as a society?

Having a relationship with Jesus and trusting in God needs to be simple. As one of this year's confirmands said in her statement of faith, "Jesus gives me the *want* to be a better person!" That is my daily goal: to be a better person.

We complicate our lives with too much stuff, too many meetings, too many social events, too much youth sports, too many hours at work, too many bills. We simply lose focus and, sadly, we lose time. If the devil can't make you bad, he makes you busy.

I have been asking God to help me "wear my heart on my sleeve." Unfortunately, my desire to "fit in" finds me in the shadows when opportunity to step out presents itself. While I crave acceptance, I fear my inability to defend Jesus.

In a recent golf outing, a conversation turned to the problems with organized religion. I'd like to say I championed the value of a good church and the power of committing your life to Jesus Christ. I'd like to say that, but I can't. I smiled and said nothing. On my way home I prayed for my friends and for a valid argument to these comments. A few days later, my prayer was answered as I recalled that during Jesus' life, he was in a constant battle with the religious elite.

Next time this discussion comes up, I will agree with my friends, stating that when Jesus was alive he fought daily against the hypocrisy of the church and the religious elite. Jesus was offended by their outward appearance as men of God when he knew in their hearts they were caught up in their power and privilege. I will add, "Did you know it was the religious elite that sentenced Jesus to death because he threatened their power?" Evil existed 2000 years ago, just as it does today.

Praying and reading the Bible regularly helps raise my God senses. *"Dear Lord, please fill my heart with the Holy Spirit so he may remind me throughout the day to remain focused on you."*

When the wrong words come out of my mouth: *"Dear Lord, may the words from my lips and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, Lord, my rock and my redeemer."* (Psalm 19:14)

When anger brews, *I pray for calm.*

When pride sets in, I'm reminded: *"Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit but in humility. Consider others more important than you."* (Philippians 2:3)

To express my beliefs openly, I will need more strength. *"Trust in the Lord with all your heart. Do not lean on your own understanding; acknowledge him in all your ways and he will make straight your path."* (Proverbs 3:5)

In closing, two questions: As James McDonald, a minister on radio 560 AM asks, "If you want to know if you are growing as a Christian, ask yourself: **Are you growing in love?**"

Secondly: **Will you wear your faith on your sleeve today?**

## Phillies Fever Hits Home

This Fall as our Phillies battled for first place in their division, Pat Churchill called the office to say her son, Steven, wanted to donate 40 tickets to St. John's for the September 20 game. A group of very happy fans from St. John's cheered as the home team went on to a victory!

Pat shared with me that Steven purchased 200 tickets as part of a fundraising effort to enable his childhood friend, Hillary Dunlop Schmid, to throw the first ball and raise awareness of Spinal Muscular Atrophy. Hillary's little daughter, Zane, a twin, was found to have SMA at just a few months old and, sadly, died before her first birthday.

Many thanks to Steven for his generosity to St. John's, and his large heart for supporting this very worthy cause!



## CORNER OF small CHANGE

Join us on Tuesday, November 9 from 7:30 - 9pm as we read and discuss the compelling new book, *Radical: Taking Your Faith Back from the American Dream*. Author, David Platt invites you to encounter what Jesus actually said about being his disciple, and then obey what you have heard. He challenges you to consider with an open heart how we have manipulated a God-centered gospel to fit our human-centered preferences. He proposes a Radical response: live the gospel in ways that are true, filled with promise, and ultimately world changing. Contact Julie Steege, 484-582-0657 or Pam Schafer, 610-647-3227.

# CE News

## Sunday School Update

Thanks to all our wonderful Sunday school teachers, we were off to an awesome year! The WoRM teachers (3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grades) have completed their unit on Disciples and are moving on to a study of Abraham and Sarah. Our younger children and 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> graders are enjoying crafts, activities and songs using the *Rock Solid!* curriculum, while 7<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> graders are asking some challenging questions. The Senior Highs are working their way through Studies on the Go: ROMANS, curriculum.

Sunday school offering is collected each week in all classes. All the offerings will be donated to the Presbyterian Children Village, our 2010-11 Sunday school mission project recipient. Please join us as we hope to make the offering a meaningful experience for the children. Those who are enough might want to earn the money they donate by doing chores. If you give your children an allowance you might want to discuss donating percentage of their "income" to Sunday school offering. The students were excited about contributing to a worthy cause, and we hope to continue to encourage their giving heart.

Finally, a HUGE thanks to all our fabulous Sunday school teachers for faithfully nurturing our precious children in their walk with God. May God bless you teachers!

## Confirmation Mentors & Parents Informational Meeting

Once again, we have a large confirmation class this year, and mentors will play an important role in preparing our 8<sup>th</sup> graders to become members of the church. We need a variety of people to volunteer to meet regularly with their confirmands from January to June. Please come to a brief informational meeting on Sunday, December 5 after coffee hour fellowship to learn more about this special opportunity. **Join us Sunday, December 5th.**

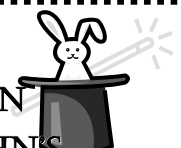
## Children's & Youth Calendar

Friday, November 5	Sr. High Lock-In
Friday, November 12	Children Comedy Magic Show
Friday, November 19	Jr. High Lock-In
Sunday, November 21	Advent Festival
Sunday, November 28	No Sunday School (Story Hour Only)
Sunday, December 5	Confirmation Mentors & Parents Informational Meeting
Sunday, December 12	Christmas Pageant Practice
Sunday, December 19	Jesus' Birthday Party
Sunday, December 24	Christmas Eve Family Service and Pageant
Sundays, December 26	No Sunday School or Youth Fellowship
Sunday, January 2	No Sunday School (Story Hour Only)
Wednesday, January 12	Confirmation begins



## Children's Ministry Update

**ABBY THE MAGICIAN  
IS COMING TO ST. JOHN'S**



## THE COMEDY MAGIC SHOW FOR KIDS!

All families with children 5<sup>th</sup> grade and younger are invited to a special Comedy Magic Show, with balloon sculpting included. A home cooked dinner for the whole family at 5:30 pm will be followed by this special presentation at 6:15 pm in Fellowship Hall. Cost is \$5 per person, maximum \$15 per family. Come bring a friend or two and join us!

The magic show is designed for young children, but all ages enjoy it, so **everyone is welcome!**

Mission Trip 2011- Blue Ridge Mountains, Taylorsville, North Carolina

June 26-July 1, 2010

At the Mission Dinner on October 24, the site of our 2011 Mission Trip was revealed. This summer, our Senior High youth and leaders will be spending a week in Taylorsville, NC to share the love of God through relational mission service and work projects.

Taylorsville, NC is part of Alexander County, bordered on the south by the Catawba River and Lake Hickory and on the north by the Brushy Mountains.

While agriculture provides much of the area's income, manufacturing companies - particularly furniture producers - employ the majority of workers in the region. The Alexander County population is estimated to be 35,727, with 1,799 making their home in Taylorsville. The number of available manufacturing jobs has been shrinking in recent years, and today the unemployment rate in Alexander County is 5.5 percent.

According to YouthWorks! Mission Organization, about 25 percent of Taylorsville residents live below the poverty line, including nearly 31 percent of those under age 18. We are truly excited about traveling to this peaceful and beautiful part of the country for an amazing ministry experience and an opportunity to impact many lives with the love of Christ.

St. John's youth mission team may serve in a variety of ways during their week in the Blue Ridge Mountains. Ministries that our youth mission team may participate in are Kids Club and Work Projects. Kids Club is a hands-on program led by our youth offering high-energy games, crafts, skits, songs and interactive lessons all designed to help kids learn about Jesus. Whether we're painting houses, performing minor home repair, cleaning up debris, volunteering in community gardens or other projects in the community, the projects students work on will serve as our way of blessing people in need.

Sign ups for the 2011 St. John's Mission Trip have already begun. Youth entering 9th grade in the fall of 2011 through high school seniors (graduating in 2010) are eligible. If you are interested in serving as the hands and feet of Jesus in the Blue Ridge Mountains, contact SUM at [Tsum@stjohnsdevon.com](mailto:Tsum@stjohnsdevon.com).

**Christmas Pageant  
December 24, 2010, 4 PM**



It's already time to start thinking about this year Christmas Pageant!

St. John's Christmas Eve Family Service and the Christmas Pageant will be held on December 24 at 4 pm.

We are hoping to include as many of our children and youth as possible. Parent and adult volunteers are much needed to help out with this event. Our only rehearsal will be held on Sunday, December 12 immediately following coffee hour fellowship. Please contact SUM with questions or for more information. Hope to see you all there!

**YOUTH LOCK-INS: FOOD, FUN, FAITH &  
FABULOUS FELLOWSHIP**

The fall lock-ins you've been waiting for are almost here!

**(The Sr. High) lock-in is Friday, November 5** from 8pm to 10am Saturday.

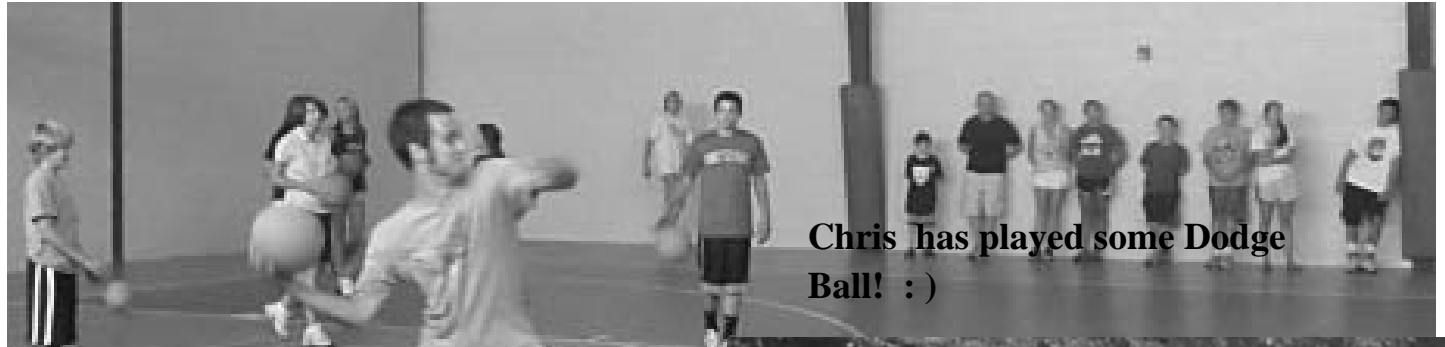
**(Middle school) will have their lock-in on Friday, November 19** during the same times. Call or email SUM with any questions. Remember, you must have a medical consent form on file (you can pick one up from SUM or from the church office). Friends are welcome, but they need the permission/consent form as well.

**Youth Ministry Update**

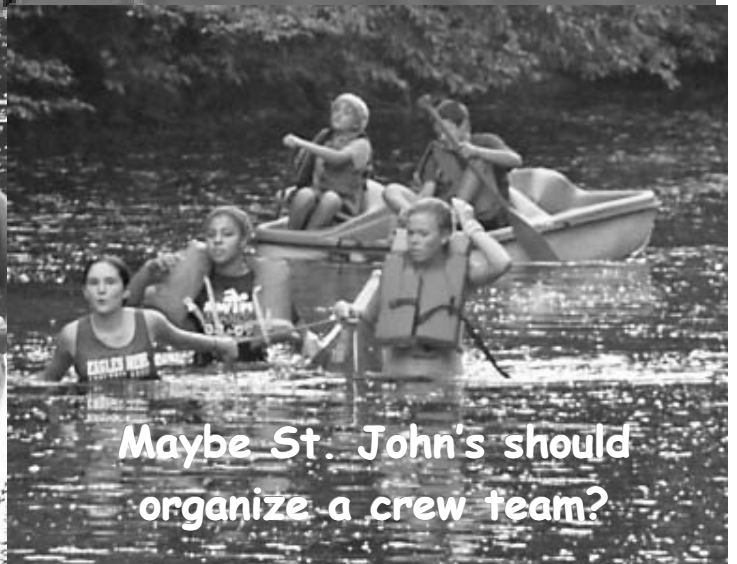
We are off to a great start this fall with regular youth fellowship meetings, youth fun explosion event at Camp Innabah, Hershey Park in the Dark, Sunday school and worship events, and our annual mission trip dinner! Keep posted for upcoming events...hope to see you Sunday nights!

## Youth "Fun Explosion" A Huge Success

Our St. John's youth and leaders had a wonderful time participating in faith and friendship building activities at Camp Innabah, Spring City, PA on Saturday, September 25. All the participants had opportunities to enjoy indoor and outdoor recreational activities throughout the day. The event was concluded with dinner in the pavilion and evening devotion around camp fire. We deeply appreciated all the parents and leaders who came to be with our youth at this faith and friendship building event.



Chris has played some Dodge Ball! :)



Maybe St. John's should organize a crew team?



Third Quarter Financial Summary

Income	Jan-Sept 2010	Budget
Envelopes	317,791	329,067
Plate	15,221	9,000
Other income*	<u>26,628</u>	<u>27,150</u>
Total Income	359,640	365,217
Expenses		
Benevolence**	71,175	71,175
Personnel	196,138	207,342
Operations & Maintenance**	68,116	76,344
Christian Program	11,406	11,940
Contingency/Presbytery	<u>7,342</u>	<u>7,467</u>
Total Expense	354,177	374,268

\*Other Income includes interest and dividends, prior year surplus, parking lot.

\*\*Benevolence, Planned Maintenance and Operating Reserve are accrued on a monthly basis. Planned Maintenance and Operating Reserve is not used unless needed for unexpected expenses on the church or manse. \$5,942 has been placed in the Planned Maintenance account and \$750 in the Operating Reserve account for emergency use. Benevolence is paid out on a schedule designated by the Outreach Committee.

St. John's Long Term Investment Fund

Invested in the Vanguard Wellington Fund

Third Quarter Summary

<u>Balance 6/30/10</u>	3 <sup>rd</sup> Qtr. <u>Dividend</u>	3 <sup>rd</sup> Qtr. Unrealized <u>Capital Gains</u>	<u>Balance 9/30/10</u>
\$254,924.49	\$1,986.98	\$19,760.87	\$276,672.34

## Trustees Update

The Trustees mourn the sudden and unexpected loss of our friend and colleague, Tom Johnson. His leadership and vision will be greatly missed. While no one can replace Tom, Becky Wagner has assumed the role of President of the Board and John McClintick has been elected as Vice President. Mark Ator has been appointed to fill the remainder of Tom's term and will focus on church properties.

The Trustees have been hard at work over the past several months making improvements to the St. John's property in order to enhance its beauty while also maintaining the structural integrity of the buildings and our safety. Last spring, Fellowship Hall and the McMillan Room of the Carriage House were painted, and needed repairs to the walls were made at that time. Also in late spring, the concrete ramp leading into Fellowship Hall was resurfaced, repairing damage that had occurred due to weathering and snow plowing. More recently, the driveway was seal coated and restriped. While less noticeable, important repairs to the flat roof of the church building and the air conditioning have also been accomplished. Extensive work on the 33 trees that grace our property was also performed in recent weeks. All of the trees were trimmed and dead wood pruned, and some trees that are in poor condition were removed.

Looking ahead, a large project that is in early stage of planning is redecoration of our sanctuary. While the full scope of the project remains to be established, aspects under consideration include replacement of the carpeting, painting, and improving the visual appearance of the altar area. The removal of the carpeting and refinishing of the hardwood floors in the chancel area is the first step in this process. The Trustees plan to complete the design phase of this project over the winter, with implementation to take place next summer at a time of year minimally disruptive to the life of the church.

The cost of these various projects has largely been covered by our Planned Maintenance Fund. St. John's has historically set aside funds for major facilities needs such as these, and we certainly appreciate the foresight of prior Trustees in budgeting for these eventualities. While budgetary restraints in recent years have limited contributions to this fund, we hope to restore it to full funding in the coming budget year in order to support future facilities needs.

During the torrential downpours of September 30 and October 1, a substantial amount of rain unfortunately found its way into the lower level of the church building. Thanks to the extremely hard work of **Becky and Mike Wagner**, with considerable help from **John McClintick** and **Ben Powley**, the clean-up was largely completed prior to church on Sunday morning. A thorough cleaning of the area and of the affected area rugs has been done, and replacement of a sump pump and modifications to a gutter are in progress in order to avoid further difficulties in the future. Many thanks to all who participated in the clean-up, with special gratitude to Becky and Mike!

Finally, the Trustees would like to thank all who participated in the Fall Service Day on October 31. We greatly appreciate the efforts of all who shared in the camaraderie of this event, donating an hour or two of their time to help keep our facility spotless. Particular thanks go out to **Rick Shinnors** and **Becky Wagner**, who coordinated the workday activities, and **Ken Dilloway**, who provided lunch for all of the workers. We'll look forward to having everyone join in for our next service day in April. ~ *Mark Ator*



**Coffee servers needed, please contact Shirley  
Hughes, 610-405-4487 or email, [gshsah@comcast.net](mailto:gshsah@comcast.net)**

**Everyone loves coffee fellowship, so check your  
calendar and sign up!**

## 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 . . .

*Rody Gratton*, who will be having shoulder surgery on November 11.

*Ginny McCamey*, mother of Ellie Lund, recovering from hip surgery.

*Mike Ruhl*, as he continues treatment.

*Charlie Scott*, recovering from elbow surgery.

*Judith Vogler*, mother of Judy Graham, recovering from lung surgery.

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

*Rita Heath and our St. John's family*, mourn her recent death of longtime friend Adele Craufurd.

*Jen and Don Neeley*, mourn the death of Don's father.

### PRAYERS OF JOY . . .

*Congratulations to John CT Alexander*, who retired from being the Voice of Franklin Field after 50 years!

*Congratulations to Hailey Eck*, daughter of Earline and Kermit Eck, on her engagement to Joey Hancock.



**Congratulation to Beth Kephart** who will be inducted into the Radnor High School Hall of Fame on Saturday, November 6. In addition to her many honors and awards, Beth has received national recognition for her young adult fiction. To celebrate her Hall of Fame induction, Radnor Library will host a reading on Tuesday, November 16 at 7:30 pm. Beth will read from her latest book, *Dangerous Neighbors*.

### Deacon's

- ♥ A special Thank You to all who contributed to the clothing drive
- ♥ Call the church office (610-688-5222) or call Terry Belzer, 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 let Barb McConnell know.
- ♥ Thanks from all the college students who received their care packages from the Deacons, you are awesome!

### SUPPER AT ST. JOHN'S

#### WINTER SESSION, BEGINS JANUARY 19

St. John's is just finishing it's Fall program and is now planning it's fourth Winter program. We are so encouraged by the consistant participation we have had for Supper's at St. John's.

A special thank you to our fall facilitators, Victor Wilson, Dick Ollinger, and Ellen Moeller, for their time and loving devotion. A thank you to Betsy Miller and crew too (all of the cooks and volunteers who helped with the delicious meals)!

One study we will offer again is The book of *Mark*, which is the same study the comfirmants will read, therefore the parents can study Mark as well, if they choose.

Please be looking for a complete list of courses in the bulletin for the Winter session of Supper's at St. John's. Beginning January 19 and continuing for ten weeks, ending March 23.



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**Upcoming Events**

**Friday, November 12**

**Magic Show at 5:30 pm**

**Sunday, November 21**

**Advent Workshop @ 4-6pm**

**Sunday, December 12**

**Pageant Practice following service**

**The Reverend Dr. Victor M. Wilson, Pastor: [Victor.Wilson@StJohnsDevon.com](mailto:Victor.Wilson@StJohnsDevon.com)**

**Reverend Howard Friend, Parish Associate: [hfriend@prodigy.net](mailto:hfriend@prodigy.net)**

**Sum Thang Director of Children and Youth: [Tsum@StJohnsDevon.com](mailto:Tsum@StJohnsDevon.com)**

**Rody Gratton, Administrative Assistant: [Rody.Gratton@StJohnsDevon.com](mailto:Rody.Gratton@StJohnsDevon.com)**

**Visit our website: [www.StJohnsDevon.com](http://www.StJohnsDevon.com)**

**Please contact any member of our newsletter team with suggestions and contributions.**

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**DEADLINE: the 15th day of the month**