



## Welcome Stephanie!

We are delighted to welcome Stephanie Eft, our new Director of Christian Education, to St. John's. Stephanie is a recent graduate of Eastern College with a Bachelor's degree in Youth Ministry and minors in Biblical Studies and Anthropology. While studying at Eastern Stephanie spent two years as working as co-director of the youth program at Trinity Presbyterian in Berwyn. Over the summers, she interned in youth ministry at her home church in Indiana, organizing and participating in mission trips to Puerto Rico and Montana.

Stephanie says she is "passionate about relational ministry and discipleship." She also has a passion for sports, especially the Ohio State Buckeyes. "I love using sports as a platform to make connections between people and life issues." She enjoys hiking and taking in natural beauty and appreciating the "common threads [God] has woven in all of us." Indoors, she likes playing board and strategy games and working in teams to do God's work. She says she believes service and outreach are pivotal to growth as a community.

Stephanie grew up in Fishers, Indiana, outside Indianapolis. She was active in her church youth group, growing in her faith especially after a meaningful experience in confirmation class. Her parents reside in Indiana, where her father is the director of a living history museum. Her younger sister is a student and varsity soccer player at Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana. In the summers, Stephanie and her sister parked cars at the museum during a symphony concert series!

**We will welcome Stephanie to St. John's with a special Ice Cream Social on  
Wednesday, September 3  
beginning at 7:00 pm and lasting until at least 8:30.  
Ice Cream and toppings will be provided by Handel's in Berwyn.  
Stop by for a minute, or stay a while and get to know Stephanie!**



## **Burger/Corn Roast & Joy Messengers Concert**

**Sunday September 14, 5:00 pm**

Please join the church family for the annual celebration to kick-off the start of St. John's program year. This year's feast will be held on Sunday, September 14, 5:00 pm. Cost is \$5/adult; \$2/child; \$15/family max. Set-up/Clean-up Crew and Grill Masters needed. Watch for sign-ups in fellowship hall, or contact Cammy Wagner (610-889-9747).

As a special treat, St. John's Joy Messengers will entertain us with their delightful music starting at 5:00 pm.

As an extra special treat, you will have the opportunity to meet and welcome our new Director of Christian Education, Stephanie Eft. She will make time to meet with the youth to outline her exciting ideas for the new program year.

*Plus—Fun BOUNCY activity for all youth!*  
**Invite your family and friends!**

## **Victor's Corner**



What we can be!

Last night I watched a fascinating segment on “60 Minutes” about NASA’s ramping up for a future manned Mars landing around 2030. One analogy stunned me. It’s the equivalent, said one scientist, of shooting a basketball from Philadelphia at a hoop in Los Angeles, without hitting the rim.

This struck me as the faith distance between the frustrated disciples who couldn’t heal an epileptic child between them (Luke 9:37-43), or Job’s smallness about his place in creation when confronted by God for complaining. We all stand so remote from Jesus’ power of faith and comprehension, even now, as though we’re on different planets. Like Job, the best we can do is stand in awe and wonder. That’s at least the beginning of worship.

In planning an immensely tricky manned Mars landing, we discover that we’re still in our infancy. The same is true of our faith journey. We still seem light years from accomplishing for ourselves and our culture what Jesus accomplished 2000 years ago, in terms of his relationship with God and his ability to tap into the power of God that is within us all. He promised, you may recall, that we would do far greater things than he accomplished. He also gave us time, asking only that we “come and see,” and try.

In the year ahead St. John’s continues to offer ways for us, spiritually and faith-fully, to take a few more faith steps together. The best thing is that these steps are all taken in fellowship and friendship with folks, like us, who have a long way to journey, and who cherish your and God’s companionship. Keep your eye on the calendar. God is faithful.

## **An Invitation to Serve Communion**

At our Confirmation service in June the Session invited our thirteen confirmands, in celebration of their new status as full “adult members,” to assist in serving communion. The Session would now like to extend this invitation to other members of St. John’s. If you would like to respond, and are willing to complete a 1 1/2 hour training session on the theology and significance of the Lord’s Supper (as did our confirmands), please indicate your interest to either Lee Holt or Sue Chudy, the elders in charge of Worship and Music. A date will then be determined for the training. Our thanks to those who have already expressed interest.

### **TEACHERS NEEDED!**

If you have any interest (or the beginning flickers of an interest) in teaching a Sunday School class, we want to encourage you to sign up and give it a shot! Don’t be shy... you will be helping to raise up a new generation of Christian youth and helping them build a strong connection to God’s word, and *we’ll help you to do it*. If you are interested, please contact Stephanie Eft (610-971-0670 or [stephanie.eft@stjohnsdevon.com](mailto:stephanie.eft@stjohnsdevon.com)) and we will get information to you. Thanks in advance for stepping out in serving God alongside our youth!

### **Food Pantry for REACT**

You can help minister to those in need right in our own community through donations to St. John’s Food Pantry for Valley Forge REACT. Please leave your contributions of non-perishable foods, canned or boxed, in Fellowship Hall. Bless you for your generosity.

### **Many Hands Lighten the Load!**

Won’t you please consider joining the team of St. John’s folks who transport your food donations to the REACT pantry? If you’d like to be a part of this ministry, please contact Paul Steege: 484-582-0657 or [paul.steege@villanova.edu](mailto:paul.steege@villanova.edu). Thank you for your help.

## **Supper at St. John's To Resume this Fall**

Beginning Wednesday, Sept 24, Supper at St. John's will offer two simultaneous 9 week classes. Just as we did in the spring, we will begin with a shared dinner from 6:00-6:45, and then go to our individual classes. Adults can choose between a class led by Victor, "Jesus Face to Face," or a Disciple Bible Study, "Invitation to Genesis," led by Nancy Davis. Children will again enjoy ALIVE! – an age appropriate program including crafts, stories and music. Child care will be provided for the youngest children.

Plan to join us for this exciting time of faith, fellowship and Christian education!

## **A Special Request:**

Do you have an old television that is looking for a new home? St. John's could use an additional TV (the bigger the better!) for use in our various educational programs involving videos. Please contact the church office if you would be able to make a donation.

## **You Could Be a Ding-a-Ling!**

Betsy Miller is looking for a few good ringers, both males and females, in all three Bell Choirs. You do not need to be able to read music to participate! We use a color-coding system to identify the notes each ringer will play. You must be able to count up to four, or occasionally six, however.

The Devon Chapel Bells, the adult group, meets on Thursday evenings from 6:30-7:45 pm and plays in worship once four to six weeks. The Rejoicing Ringers, our high school group, rehearses Sundays after church, and the middle school group, the Jingle Bells, rehearses Sunday afternoons.

All three groups enjoy a lot of fun and fellowship as well as some good music. Won't you join us? Please contact Betsy Miller if you are interested!

## **St. John's Walking Club**

At the recent Progressive Dinner, there were some enthusiastic conversations among people who walk with some regularity. It sounds like, at any given time, there may be St. John's folks walking for a variety of reasons. Would you like company?

Here's the idea: contact Brian Bouvier at [bbouvier@duanemorris.com](mailto:bbouvier@duanemorris.com) or 610-873-9856 and let him know what time and day you walk, and your preferred route. He'll compile the information and act as a "matchmaker", compiling a list of the data, and post it in Fellowship Hall and on the website. Maybe the results will interest you!

Hopefully, we can match up some folks and create a sort of walking club. With your interest, we could expand and enter walk-a-thons against hunger, for medical research and more!

## **Our New Hymnal Supplement**

We are thrilled to announce pew copies of our new hymnal supplement, Sing! A New Creation, have arrived. These supplements will bring to our worship numerous traditional hymns not found in our red hymnbook, and a host of widely prized contemporary worship songs, some of which will be familiar. In addition a great many hymns and sacred songs used and cherished in the wider church among many different traditions are included in this supplement. We secured a very favorable price (\$11 each). You are invited to purchase one or more copies, and to have them appropriately recorded on a dedicatory inscription plaque inside the cover. Please respond no later than October 1, using the green form available in the pew and on the ushers table at the back of the sanctuary. Checks may be made payable to St. John's, with "Hymnal Supplement" in the memo. Please contact Sue Chudy for more information regarding inscription plaque purchases: [chudys@comcast.net](mailto:chudys@comcast.net) or 610-240-9399. Sample for your review is available in the Kean Room. Please do not remove.



# Youth & CE News

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September 2008

Number 1

Hello St. John's Family!

I am so happy to be joining you all, and I am already experiencing MANY blessings just getting to know you. As you may have figured out by now, I am the new Christian Education Director here at St. John's, so you'll be seeing a lot of me around on Sundays and throughout the week! Let me help you to get to know me a little better... I grew up in Fishers, Indiana, just north of Indianapolis in a suburb somewhat like Devon, Berwyn, and Wayne. Growing up, I loved to spend time with my cousins, go hiking and camping, play ANY sport or game, spend time outside, and go to zoos and museums. I am a little bit of a history and learning buff, much thanks to my parents. My favorite sports are football and lacrosse. (I am a die-hard Ohio State fan... I was born in Columbus, Ohio and visit family there quite often... please don't hold it against me!!) I also loved going to camp with my school and church, and I spent a lot of time as a counselor for the camps I attended. I went to a big public high school and shocked the world when I decided to attend tiny Eastern University here in Wayne, but it was definitely the right choice for me! I got to major in youth ministry and found a mix of faith, reason, and justice that was a positive balance to my strictly academic high school background. I also played a year of varsity lacrosse for Eastern and then got to work as one of the co-youth directors for Trinity Presbyterian in Berwyn. I have one sister, Jacki, who is a 19-year-old sophomore playing soccer for Ball State University and studying wildlife biology. My parents, Roy and Kathy, can hardly wait to visit and meet you all! They are all very happy that I have found a church home and family out here.

PLEASE don't be shy to introduce yourselves to me or invite me out to meet you! I will be trying to call many of you in the next few weeks to say hello more personally, but feel free to call or email me as well! I would love to come over and meet you, your families, and hear a little bit more about what's going on in your lives. I also enjoy video games, board games, and cards quite a bit... so feel free to challenge me sometime! Also, send me your sports, drama, or activity schedules!! I love to come watch games, shows, and events... so if you invite me out, I'll find a time to be there and cheer you on. Thanks again and I look forward to seeing what God has in store for all of us and for St. John's!

Stephanie Eft

## Teacher Training

All teachers in our Sunday School program are invited to participate in teacher training on Wednesday, September 3 from 6:00-7:00pm. A light dinner will be served. Plan to stay afterward for our Ice Cream Social to welcome Stephanie!

## Ice Cream Social

Everyone is invited to get to know Stephanie at an Ice Cream Social on Wednesday, September 3 beginning at 7:00 pm and lasting until at least 8:30. Ice cream will be provided by Handel's in Berwyn.

## Save the Date!

- |                |   |
|----------------|---|
| Wed., Sept. 3  | 6:00 Teacher Meeting<br>7:00 Ice Cream Social   |
| Sun., Sept. 7  | First day of Sunday School<br>Communion Sunday  |
| Sun., Sept. 14 | 8:00 am<br>Women's Bib Reflections Resumes<br>5:00 Burger Corn Roast<br>Joy Messengers Concert<br>Youth meet with Stephanie |
| Wed., Sept. 24 | 6:00 Supper at St. John's begins  |

## A Time to Serve: Mission Trip 2008

The Mission trip was kicked off with a barbecue hosted by the Birmingham-Ticknor family on Friday night, June 20. Each family contributed to the dinner, and also had an opportunity to speak with the adult leaders and visit with team members and their families.

On June 21, twenty-eight individuals representing St. John's left for their annual mission trip. This year the "team get away" was at the beginning of the trip. Dick and Chris Oliver, graciously opened their home on Lake George, in Hague, New York, providing a wonderful way to bond before the team's work began in Rutland, Vermont. Fishing, kayaking, boating, volleyball and swimming were enjoyed by all. The meals were also delicious, including blueberry pancakes. A heartfelt thank you to the Olivers!

The purpose of the trip was soon acknowledged when the group arrived in Rutland around 2 PM on Sunday. St. John's was the first of the four churches to arrive. Participants were greeted by the Youth Works staff who helped them get settled in the Rutland Area Christian School, where they unloaded their sleeping bags and other belongings. Churches from Indiana, Ohio, and the Harrisburg area joined St. John's as they served the Rutland community. Work teams were formed and named after Ben and Jerry's ice cream flavors; Vermonty Python, Phish Food, Cherry Garcia, Cake Batter, etc. Our team was divided up into different groups and was joined by members of other churches. The work groups got started early and engaged in a variety of projects including clearing bike and hiking paths in Pine Hills Park, painting at a Community Center and a local manse, sorting and organizing donations for the local Salvation Army; working with individuals at The Meadows Nursing Home, packing and moving a person in need, and running a "Kids Club" (Vacation Bible School) for the community children. Each evening, after a packed day, everyone participated in a group activity. These activities were rock climbing, visiting a marble quarry, hiking, and finally a community cookout for members of the Rutland community. These cookouts will continue throughout the summer and provide a wonderful way to connect and minister to the community. On the final evening a foot-washing was held. This is always a very meaningful and touching service that allows us to wash the feet of others and pray for them, a very humbling experience as we serve others in love.

In Kathy Shaw's words, "our youth were awesome!" Other leaders commented on the willingness, maturity, and discipline that our youth exhibited. They came to serve and were blessed.



## Session Report June 2008

Session held its monthly stated meeting on the evening of June 9. We continued our series of devotions on parables in the gospels. In this meeting, Dr. Wilson led a discussion on the parable of the Unjust Steward or the Shrewd Manager found in Luke 16:1-9.

Sue Chudy and Lee Holt led a discussion on the initiatives and activities of the Worship and Music Committee. A host of ideas were discussed and actions taken. First, we had a wide-ranging discussion on the order of Service and whether it would be benefit from minor changes. One common theme that emerged was to move all of the non-worship components such as announcements and greeting up-front so that the worship portion of the service can be conducted uninterrupted. Session encouraged the committee to make changes as they see appropriate in consultation with Dr. Wilson and to begin to incorporate the changes during the summer months. Second, we discussed the possibility of people besides Elders serving communion as was done by the confirmands in June. We agreed that this would be most welcome provided people first receive proper training and instruction. Dr. Wilson will provide more detailed information on this separately. Third, we agreed to purchase a supplemental hymnal called *Sing! A New Creation*. This hymnal was reviewed by the Worship and Music committee in consultation with Diane Legnini and promises to lend a wonderful addition to our Sunday service. Memorial funds will be used to pay for the supplements but members of the congregation will be able to help defray the cost by subscribing to faceplates. Finally, Diane Legnini has started plans to establish a Youth Ensemble Program. The Ensemble will be incorporated into some of our worship services and perhaps at Supper at St. John's.

Following the discussion on Worship and Music, other committees provided brief updates on their respective areas. Of particular note, we extend our sincere and profound thanks to the Joy Messengers, Cammy Wagner, and her entire team for making the Strawberry Festival such a nice event. We also recognized all the work and hundreds of hours volunteered by our members to make the Horse Show Parking so successful. Session discussed moving the responsibility for organizing the Horse Show Parking outside of Christian Education next year. The event requires church-wide support and the organization for it might appropriately fall outside of the scope of a new CE Director. Even should the responsibility for organizing the event change next year, however, there would be no plans to change how the funds are used to support our youth program

## Trustees to Create an Investment Committee

The Board of Trustees has recently discussed the establishment of an Investment Committee to assist the Board with the management of Church funds. The Committee will consist of investment professionals who will periodically review the portfolio of Church funds and make investment recommendations to the Board. If you have any questions or comments, please contact Lisa Howell or Jeff Wagner.

### St. John's Presbyterian Church Second Quarter Financial Summary

Income	<u>Jan-June 2008</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Envelopes	206,826	222,483
Plate	4,533	8,000
Other Income*	<u>17,220</u>	<u>18,100</u>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>228,579</b>	<b>248,583</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Benevolence**	46,900	46,900
Personnel	136,650	134,490
Operations & Maintenance**	52,941	45,692
Christian Program	13,553	14,752
Contingency Expense	<u>0</u>	<u>250</u>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>250,044</b>	<b>242,084</b>

\*Other Income includes interest, prior year surplus designated as dependent health insurance, 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. \$5,000 has been placed in the Planned Maintenance account and \$500 in the Operating Reserve account for emergency use. Benevolence is paid out on a schedule designated by the Outreach Committee.

## *Lord, Hear our Prayers ...*

### *Prayers for Healing and Restoration ...*

... for **Bea Menig**, recovering from a fractured pelvis

... for **Agnes Ulrich**, recovering from surgery

... for **Larry Hardin** continuing to deal with complications of his long illness

... for **Betsy Miller, Rob Lord** and **Andrew Urbina**, all recovering from arthroscopic knee surgery

### *Prayers for God's peace ...*

... for **John and Barbara Alexander** as they mourn the death of  
Barbara's mother, Mimi

### *Prayers for Godspeed ...*

... for the **Christy family** as they settle in to their new home in California

... for **Caroline and Don Shauger** as they move to Bucks County



## **Women's Biblical Reflections**

The Women's Biblical Reflection group will meet for its fall session beginning September 14. We will be reading an article and then choosing a book.

## **ConKerr Cancer Update**

One of the outreach projects in which our youth have participated has been making pillowcases for ConKerr Cancer. In 2002, Ryan Kerr, then a student at Valley Forge Middle School and a member of Wayne Presbyterian Church, was diagnosed with a rare childhood cancer. His mother, Cindy Kerr, began making pillowcases to brighten up his hospital room and to put a smile on his face. He loved it and she began making pillowcases for other children with cancer at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.

Earlier this year, Ryan, by this time a senior at Conestoga High School, lost his battle with cancer. But the pillowcase project, now a not-for-profit called ConKerr Cancer – A Case For Smiles, has grown in amazing ways. In just two years, Cindy and thousands of volunteers have provided nearly 35,000 pillowcases to sick children in hospitals across North America and in South Africa. School groups, sewing circles, church groups and fabric stores have all pitched in and are making pillowcases for the kids. To learn more about the project, visit their new website [www.conkerrcancer.org](http://www.conkerrcancer.org)

## **Thank you Emily!**

Many, many thanks to Emily Chudy, who provided interim coverage for our Director of Christian Education position this summer between Erin's departure and Stephanie's arrival. Emily kept the ball rolling over the summer months, organizing files, preparing for fall activities and generally helping to ensure a smooth start for Stephanie. We wish Emily well as she begins her studies at Princeton Seminary this fall. Emily remains under our care as an Inquirer preparing for Ministry, so we look forward to frequent updates from her family and during her visits home.

## **Fall Sunday School Registration**

Registration for fall Sunday School will take place every Sunday through September 7 during coffee fellowship. Parents, please fill out a registration card at the Christian Education Table for each student participating in children and youth activities at St. John's. This will help us to best prepare for the upcoming Sunday School year. Thanks in advance for your cooperation.



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### **Treats from Home for our Marines!**

Over the next several weeks we will be encouraging you to lend your support as we collect items for “care” packages for Marine Lt. Arthur Karell, a family friend of Margie and Howard Scherer, currently serving in Afghanistan. He will distribute to the men and women in his unit. A collection box will be found in Fellowship Hall for any items you care to donate (see suggestions below). Thank you for your generosity.

#### **What You Can Contribute**

Cash donations to purchase the packing materials and postage; PowerBar protein bars; individual bags of peanuts or other nuts; sandwich crackers; cookies without chocolate; chewing gum, Twizzlers, Starburst (other non chocolate candies); containers of Purell (or similar product); pencils and tablets of paper (for Afghan children); packages of Brush Ups! (disposable toothbrush); your time to help package and mail! Please do not include anything that will melt.

We’re also encouraging families – adults and children – to write short notes to the marines expressing your appreciation for their service to our country.

#### **St. John’s Presbyterian Church**

The Reverend Dr. Victor M. Wilson, Pastor: [victor.wilson@stjohnsdevon.com](mailto:victor.wilson@stjohnsdevon.com)

Rody Gratton, Administrative Assistant: [rody.gratton@stjohnsdevon.com](mailto:rody.gratton@stjohnsdevon.com)

Stephanie Eft, Director of Christian Education: [stephanie.eft@stjohnsdevon.com](mailto:stephanie.eft@stjohnsdevon.com)

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

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

Newsletter team: Elizabeth Ator, Earline Eck, Betsy Friend, Carol Netter, Sue Parsons

**NEXT DEADLINE: September 15**