



St. John's News

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

Sum Thang ~ St. John's Director of Children & Youth



Sum as Joseph during VBS

St. John's welcomes Sum and Anna to our church family! It wasn't long ago (June) we were wishing them well and praying for that perfect job. . . praying works!

Sum is a preacher, a teacher, a guitar player. He is certain of his goals, curious about the world, hard working, calm and relaxed, and is a practical joker, so get ready!

Sum was St. John's Pastoral Intern for two years while finishing studies at seminary. In May he graduated with a

Master of Divinity from Palmer Theological Seminary. Sum also holds a Master of Education and a BA degree in Cross Cultural Communications from Eastern University.

Sum's love of people of all ages is obvious and it goes hand in hand with his dedication to serve God and God's people.

I asked Sum, "what made you decide you wanted the children and youth ministry position?"

He said, "The deep love of the people at St. John's, they care about their children and I had such a wonderful time at Vacation Bible School."

Sum's objective is to faithfully serve God and God's people, guiding all God's children in their faith journey, through teaching, discipleship, nurturing fellowships, and service. He loves St. John's and feels the people have a love for children, youth, young adults, families, and a high respect for grandmas and grandpas.

Through our support and encouraging our children and youth to become active members of St. John's, we can help Sum with his objectives!

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength." Mark 12:30

SUPPER AT ST. JOHN'S

You've been waiting! You've been wondering? Yes! Supper at St. John's will resume on Wednesday, September 22 at 6pm! Dinners will again be sumptuous and delicious and at 6:45 pm food of a different sort will nourish us spiritually and intellectually with two new courses.

Rev. Dr. Victor Wilson will continue his popular tradition of teaching a fall course. Exodus is

the study, recounting the pivotal events in the formation of Judaism (and, by extension, Christianity) and its then - unique concept of One God. A strong emphasis will be on the ten commandments, which provided a foundation for early community life and worship.

The other class will be based on Bruce Feiler's highly acclaimed book, *Abraham; a Journey to the Heart of Three Faiths*. Not only Jews and Christians, but Muslims also, claim Abraham as their patriarch. What are the varying interpretations of this early figure? What are our common understandings? The Rev. Dick Ollinger, an ordained Presbyterian minister and currently head of school at The Cornerstone Christian Academy in Philadelphia will facilitate discussions of this provocative book.

The Disciple group will continue and complete its 32 week course of study of the entire Bible! Bravo!

Our teens will also have a course of study (TBD), as well as younger children/youth, we encourage sign ups by the 19th if possible, so materials will be available. ***Children under 4 years old will be in the nursery, so please let us know as soon as possible so we can arrange for care.**

Registration for courses will be possible on-line (www.stjohnsdevon.com), by phone (610-688-5222), and at coffee hour September 12 and 19. The book *Abraham*, will be available at coffee hour on those Sundays, at no cost.

For more information please call Nancy Davis (610-688-2283) or Bob Miller (610-647-0807). Betsy (bless her) is organizing dinners again, so please contact her to help, rgmdevon@aol.com

The ten-week program continues through December 1 (not meeting Wednesday before Thanksgiving). See you soon!

Dear Generous Members of St. Johns,

In early October, we will reach out to every member and friend of our church with a package of information about our upcoming Stewardship Campaign. St. John's has many exciting things on the horizon with our new fall program starting up with our annual Burger Corn Roast, Sunday School, Supper at St. John's, the continuation of our Discipleship class and the excitement of Sum Thang, as our new Director of Children and Youth Ministries. We also continue to be a church involved in the community. Our commitment at St. John's of giving 25% of our budget to benevolence not only supports the surrounding community but also has a global focus.

As the pace of our lives in work, school, and play quickens with the coming of autumn, we ask that you take a moment to consider the words of the apostle Paul:

And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in His good works.

--- II Corinthians 9:8

We welcome you back from a restful summer season.

Sincerely,
The Stewardship Committee



Philabundance

Elsie Wagner, Lindsay Maynard, Emily Apathy, Pat Thomson, and Mark McConnell all enjoyed their trip to Philabundance this summer. Notice the "winter" jackets, they sorted big bins of peaches in a large refrigerator, checking which ones were good and which ones to toss (and I hear a little tossing actually took place?) Everyone needs to have some fun while serving!

Over 30 friends/families from St. John's have participated in the Philabundance service project this year, that is impressive! Come on out and join us the first Tuesday of every month.

A Morning of Stillness and Prayer



As the busy fall season arrives we can look to bring balance into our lives despite the seemingly overwhelming demands. A small group of St. John's women will meet on Saturday, September 25 from 9am until 12 pm in the lovely restful gardens of the Stonehaven center in nearby Radnor. We will meet at the church at 8:30 to drive over together.

A donation of \$10 is suggested and morning coffee will be served. We will have time for reflection on the theme of creating balance with the thoughts from the book about Brother Lawrence, *The Practice the Presence of God*. Brother Lawrence assures us that we can have a conversation with God, just pausing for a moment to adore Him in the depths of our hearts. Brother Lawrence, a monk was an example to all as he did the simplest of tasks. . . washing the monastery's dishes. Many came to be filled

with his graciousness. This time will be followed by a period of quiet in the garden and then a gathering as a group. Come join us on the 25th or on Sunday mornings at 8am in the carriage house. For more information see Debbie Railton, Ellen Moeller or Monica Henkel.

Fall Opportunities at St. John's

PHILABUNDANCE SERVICE

The Gift of Giving
Tuesday, September 7
Meet at St. John's promptly by 5 pm
Contact: Brian Bouvier, 610.873.9856
Kathy Shaw, 610.308.9646 cell

THE BURGER/CORN ROAST

A Special time for Fellowship
Join us, Sunday, September 19 at 5pm
The "Joy Messengers" will once again share their
love of music and fill us with joy!

YOUTH KICK-OFF SUNDAY

Sunday, September 19 following dinner
Youth and their parents in grades 6-12
Contact Sum, 610-971-0670

WOMEN'S BIBLICAL REFLECTION

8 am Sundays in the Carriage House
Join us as we build community and grow in faith
Contact: Betsy Friend, 610-647-4142

NEW CONGREGATION OFFICE

Working steadily over a period of five weeks this summer, *Elizabeth Ator* and *Betsy Miller*, with no small help from *Nancy Higgins* and *Matt Ator*, have transformed much of the non-worship space in the church building. All files and office supplies are now located in the newly dubbed "congregation office," next to the copier room and the Kean Room. This office also houses a volunteer computer, the folding machine, board and staff mailboxes, and a CD player and monitor for use during Supper at St. John's studies.

With our joint 1st and 2nd Grades Classroom and Handbell Choirs Room free from filing cabinets and music stands, they will be used to accommodate exclusively their intended purpose (notice the newly revealed blackboard and cork board in this classroom).

Through the extraordinary efforts of this team, our newly organized spaces are fresh and pleasant! Please thank each of these individuals for their labors, their creative reorganizing skills, and their selfless devotion to this church family.

ST. JOHN'S HANDBELL CHOIRS



In the back row of the church I sat as the bells began to ring,
I started to hum along, then my heart began to sing,
The melodies were joyous and the chords they were divine,
And as I looked around the room faces began to shine.
I closed my eyes and watched then, but listened with my heart.
I looked around the room again and saw someone wipe an eye,
I listened then in silence and heard a little sigh.
They say an angel gets its wings each time a bell may ring.
There must be a run on halos on a day our choir rings.
We ring for joy – we ring for glory – we ring to Those on high,
And if we ring it well enough, we may see an angel fly.
by *Shelia Brown*

New Ringers - come help those angels get their wings! Anyone interested in ringing in one of St. John's Hand bell Choirs - adult, senior high, or middle school - please come to a meeting on **Sunday, September 12 at 11:00** in the First Grade/Hand bell Room (upstairs, in the back classroom, on left as you leave the sanctuary). This is not a commitment, but will be instructional.

Rejoicing Ringers (Sr. High) will meet on **September 19 at 11:00 am**.

Jingle Bells (Middle School) will meet on **Sunday, October 3** – time to be determined.

The Devon Chapel Bells (Adult choir) will meet on **Thursday, September 9 at 6:30 pm**.

Please call Hand bell Choir Director, Betsy Miller, 610-647-0807 with any questions.

Youth Fellowship Kick-Off! Sunday, September 19th Following Burger Corn Roast

Come join us for some food and fun as we kick off the 2010-11 Youth Fellowship year. Youth and their parents in grades 6-12 are encouraged to attend a meeting in the Carriage House after dinner. Sum, will greet everyone and share his vision for our St. John's children and youth.

Youth Christian Education Calendar

Sunday, September 12	Sunday School Begins
Sunday, September 19@ 5pm	Burger/Corn roast parent/youth meet
Saturday, September 25	7-12 grade event
Sunday, October 24	Tentative date Mission dinner



EGYPT - Joseph's Journey ... from prison to palace

Chris Clark, our intern from Eastern University with the direction and support of Debbie Railton, a CE Elder, did a fantastic job coordinating Vacation Bible School this summer. Seventeen children attended and learned about Joseph's amazing story. Our service project this summer, through World Vision, was to put together two small blankets that will go to Africa to help children. We had a wonderful group and a fun and spirit filled five days.

Thank you to our volunteers: Linda Duncan, music; Sum was Joseph and had a wise lesson each evening; Sue Parsons and Elizabeth Ator were team leaders; Jess

Field and Ben Floyd lead games; Amy Lord, Earline Eck, Jen Neely, and Shirley Hughes helped with crafts; Abby and Bradley Lord, Ben Floyd, Elsie Wagner, and Jill Hughes were our terrific teen helpers; **and lastly a "BIG" thank you to our dinner team**, Ellen Moeller, Tom Littlefield, Cammy Wagner, and Sue Johnson prepared meals nightly with a barbeque for participants and families the last evening.

On **Sunday, September 12**, during worship, Linda will direct the **VBS** group as they **sing** a couple of songs, so get ready to be entertained!



St. John's is again fortunate to have Chris and Jess, our Eastern college interns, returning this year. They have not only gotten to know our youth, but in August at St. John's Vacation Bible School they both actively participated and our younger kids got to know them and loved their energy and support! If you have the opportunity and see them, take a moment and introduce yourself, they are awesome!



MISSION . . . ACCOMPLISHED!



Bill and Judy Graham hosted the mission team on their way to Maine.

If I was asked to describe the 2010 Mission Trip to Calais, Maine in one word, I wouldn't be able to. Although, I'm sure that all of us would agree it may have been one of the longest car rides any of us has ever experienced. The week that we spent together was fun, hilarious, beautiful, tiring, extraordinary, fulfilling, tearful, successful, awesome, and enlightening. The list could go on and on. We started the week with a sleepover at the Graham's cabin which sits on this huge lake. We went swimming, kayaking, played football and card games, and roasted marshmallows. A lot of us even got to drive their boat. Mr. Graham also proved to us that

hot pink hot dogs really do exist. **After an awesome stay at the Graham's house**, (thank you Grahams) we headed to the Second Baptist Church in Calais where we were stationed for the week. We were joined by five other churches from Virginia, New Jersey, Florida, and Missouri. All of us were split into work groups and were told what we would be doing during the week. Some were painting at the local high school, some ran Kids Club, others visited the elderly, and the rest helped out at a day camp. Over the course of the week, we grew closer and closer. So many jokes were made it's hard to remember them all. While we were there, we did a scavenger hunt, went to an ice cream shop and got to go whale watching. But whether it was brightening a classroom at the high school with a fresh coat of paint or teaching little kids about the books in the Bible, we felt like we were making a little bit of a difference. The night before we left, they held a foot washing ceremony. There was music playing and each church formed their own circles. Everyone was so quiet and calm. I think we all reached a point where we realized that it was all coming to an end. Most of us were in tears by the end of it, but we were proud of ourselves. We went to Maine with a mission, to do what we could to improve the community of Calais . . . mission accomplished!

This year's St. John's Youth Mission trip led us to Calais, Maine, a small town on the U.S. / Canadian border. Our team was twenty-five strong, including nineteen youths and six adult leaders.

The mission program was under the direction of YouthWorks. During our stay, we helped run the summer Kidz Club, staffed a summer sports camp, tackled small work projects such as painting and yard clean-up, and visited seniors and retirees. YouthWorks has maintained an on-going presence in Calais for eight years. As a result it seemed wherever we went, people were aware of the Youth Works ministry and the services provided. It was certainly encouraging to be part of an on-going ministry and to be so appreciated by the local community.

In addition to the work projects, we had a week long series of devotions, personal prayer time, and group discussion centered on the theme from John 3:30 "Jesus must become greater; I must become less". We began each day with a time for personal reflection and meditation on a particular aspect of the week's theme. Later in the evening, the Youth Works team led a large group presentation on the day's theme which was followed by group discussion within our St. John's team. Daily themes included *More Courage and Less Fear*, *More Be and Less Do*, and *More There and Less Here*.

For any adult member who thinks the Mission trip is not for them, I would encourage them to reconsider. While this is a "Youth" mission trip, there are opportunities every year to participate as an adult leader. For example, none of the adult leaders on the Calais Mission Team had children on the trip and our leadership team included Dan Scott, a college age student who was a Youth participant only a few years ago. What's more, you do far more than chaperone as an outsider. Adult Leaders routinely report benefitting from the experience as much or more than the Youth. For me, the chance to get to know so many others from our church so much better, as well as to meet people from other churches, from YouthWorks and from the Calais community, all while serving the Lord and deepening my faith was a very uplifting experience. I am very thankful for St. John's affording me the chance to participate in this year's trip and welcome any questions or inquiries from other members about my experience. Tom Higgins

SESSION UPDATE

Session held monthly Stated Meetings in May, June and July, as well as called meetings on May 23 and August 1. Our devotions have focused on our goals as members of St. John's Session, spurred by Mike Wagner's May devotion, "Why are we here?" which asked everyone to give prayerful consideration to the main objectives for his or her area of responsibility. Elizabeth Ator continued the theme in June, using the story of Mary and Martha to discuss the balance between spiritual and practical priorities. Debbie Railton shared passages and lessons that she found particularly valuable in various Bible studies, reminding us all of the value of participating in and developing small group activities.

In May and June, we had the pleasure of welcoming many new people into our membership. In May we received the largest class of confirmands in memory. They are **Brianna Bird, Emma Brumbaugh, Becca Chudy, Ben Floyd, Erick Frederick, Mark Frederick, Drake Friend, Stephen Goodwin, Elizabeth Hollinger, Daniel Hughes, Abby Lord, Caroline Strickler, Blake Thomson, Morgan Vockel, Elsie Wagner, Hayley Wallace, Meggie and Ian Wolfe.** New adult members **John Adams, Sharlene Cirillo and Joel Pearson** with their young son **Nick Pearson, Bruce and Nancy Phillips,** and **Mimi and Gordon Wright.** All adult members will be introduced to the congregation in worship when the new program year begins on September 12.

Business conducted in the past few months included the sad task of accepting Stephanie Eft's resignation as Director of Christian Education with a heartfelt thanks for her service at St. John's to our youth and to our Lord. We wish Stephanie all the blessings she so richly deserves as she begins her new ministry with St. Luke's UMC in Indianapolis. Steph wrote a lovely reflection on her time with St. John's in the biography St. Luke's posted on their website (<http://www.stlukesumc.com/about/staff/bio/stephanie-eft/>).

A search committee has been meeting throughout the summer to clearly define the job description and to fill the open position, to be called Director of Children and Youth Ministries. The committee includes Mike Ruhl (chair), Kathy Shaw, Debbie Railton, and Mike Wagner (CE Elders), Nancy Wolfe (Trustees), Linda Duncan (congregational member), and Victor Wilson, ex officio.

Session is most grateful to the congregation for their contributions to the Seminarian Scholarship Fund, which allowed us to support Thang Sum and Emily Chudy in their preparation for ordained ministry. A committee has been formed to investigate ways we can strengthen our ties to local seminaries and engage pastoral interns in the future to support church programs and to nurture aspiring ministers.

The Membership Enrichment committee also plans an exciting photo display of our members and friends. Be sure to smile for the camera when you see a roving photographer at church events!

Respectfully submitted, Elizabeth Ator

Deacon's

- ♥ Call the church office (610-688-5222) or call Jim Friday, 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.
- ♥ The beautiful sanctuary flowers are created by Cowen's Flowers in Wayne and billed directly to the sponsor at a cost of \$47.70. Sponsors may take the flowers after the service. If you would like to sponsor flowers please sign up on the flower calendar on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall or call Amy Lord, 610-293-1922.

Make Disciples

A few weeks ago, as part of his sermon, Howard Friend suggested that the Biblical theme of urgency, Jesus' mandate to "make disciples" and "share all he taught" with the fullest breadth of understanding of that Great Commission, must be taken with the highest seriousness.

Jesus insisted that we embody the gospel, living it out in every aspect of our lives, with relevance for individuals, relationships, communities, nations, governments, and economics.

Howard enthusiastically recommended a website: **FOURYEARSAGO** -- punch it up! And Howard would love to chat with you about it!



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. . .

Christina Fish underwent two serious surgeries to correct her jaw alignment. She's healing nicely.

Jim Friday was hospitalized for a serious blood infection, which returned after treatment, but thankfully is now gone.

David Markle, recovering from successful heart valve replacement surgery.

Mike Ruhl, receiving chemotherapy treatment for lung cancer.

Mike Wagner, rehabbing from carpal tunnel syndrome surgery

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

Kathy Johnson and family, as they mourn the sudden death of Tom.

Anne Marie Quinn and family, as they mourn the sudden death of her father

Agnes Ulrich, member of St. John's since 1956, died following a long decline.

The Peter Unger and Rick Unger families, mourn the death of their father Richard Unger.

Helen Munn Wilson is mourned by *Victor and Jane*, and their family.

PRAYERS OF JOY. . .

Congratulation to *Kay Pritchard* who celebrated her 99th birthday in August.

Congratulations to *Alec and Jane Schumacher*, their June wedding was lovely.



Tom and Kathy with her sisters Nancy and Judy at niece Sarah's wedding in NC on July 24th. The sisters were lined up for the cameras when Tom jumped in unexpectedly for this not-to-be-missed photo op (like, wait for me!). I think the twinkle in his eye and the backward baseball cap really shows how playful he could be!

Tom will be greatly missed among us at St. John's. His loving commitment of service to St. John's as a Sunday School Teacher, Adult Leader, Elder, Deacon, Trustee, and his love and dedication to his wife, Kathy and family will be lovingly remembered and help us all follow in his footsteps.

Helen Wilson, the mother of our Pastor, Victor, died in England on August 18th. She was 99 years old. Mrs. Wilson was the mother of three sons of which Victor was the youngest. A memorial service will be held, the week of August 30th to honor her long and active life.



St. Theresa's Prayer

May today there be peace within.

May you trust that you are exactly
where you are meant to be.

May you not forget the infinite possibilities
that are born of faith in yourself and others.

May you use the gifts that you have received,
and pass on the love that has been given to you.

May you be content with yourself just the way you are.

Let this knowledge settle into your bones, and allow
your soul the freedom to sing, dance, praise and love.

It is there for each and every one of us.



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Upcoming Events

Sunday, September 12	Sunday School Begins
Sunday, September 19	Burger Corn Roast
Wednesday, September 22	Super At St. John's Begins

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 Ministries: Sum.Thang@StJohnsDevon.com

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Visit our website: www.StJohnsDevon.com

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By October 15, for the November edition