



ST JOHN'S
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
N67 W28321 Sussex Road
P.O. Box 525
Merton, WI 53056-0525
Phone: 262-538-1912

The Chapel Bells

May 2009

My head is spinning as I consider all the things going on in St. John's, as well as church – related activities outside St. John's. By the time you receive this, you may have already missed the MD Road Cleanup and the SE Association Meeting of the United Church of Christ, both of which are on **April 25**.

May 9th is going to be a wonderful day, as we open our doors to the neighboring communities and invite them to visit our Open House, from 1-4 PM. There's still time to sign up to help out during this exciting event, such as simply being around to answer questions or show off part of the church. Sunday school will finish up on May 17th, when the children take over the worship service. The **25th of May** is a fun time in Merton, as we have a Memorial Day parade and St. John's sponsors a Brat Fry after the ceremony at Village Hall.

On **June 12-13** we'll sponsor a Rummage and Bake Sale beginning at 8 AM each day. It's a great opportunity to see lots of people you don't get to see often enough, and is another opportunity to get together with other church people. July hosts another MD Road Cleanup on the **25th**, and our Locally Famous Vacation Bible School will be from **July 27-30**.

Our very much appreciated Outdoor Movie Night will happen on **August 2**, at dusk. So many families have enjoyed this in the past, we're delighted to be able to host it again this year.

Although we hope to see many families in church all summer long, **Sept. 13th** marks Rally Day, the beginning of Sunday School. We are also planning our Outdoor Flea Market on **Sept. 19th**. We are planning on bringing back our famous AUCTION on **Oct. 10th**. We all anticipate lots of fun wrapped around our auction! Also, there is an MD Road Cleanup on **Oct. 24th**.

November finds us hosting our Spaghetti Dinner on the **14th**, and having Thanksgiving Eve Worship on the **25th**.

December is naturally filled with delights: the **6th** is our Advent Adventure; the **12th** is our locally famous Cookie Walk; the **13th** is the Sunday School Christmas Program; the **19th** is Breakfast with Santa; the **24th** is Christmas Eve Worship.

We all look forward to being with each of you all through the year!

Love,
Pastor Karen





May Birthdays:

5th Nicole Winkel

8th Katie Fricker

17th Elise Fischer

23rd Meaghan May

24th Sierra Zuege

27th Vienna Wieland

28th Josie Peck

(Please let the Office Staff know if we have forgotten anyone's Birthday!)



GREETERS

MAY 3

KETZLER

MAY 10

MICHALS

MAY 17

SCHLAFER

MAY 24

LAST

MAY 31

ZUMMALLEN



COFFEE & CONVERSATION hosts:

May 3

Heiden

May 10

open

May 17

open

May 24

open

May 31

open

Please check the list on the bulletin board for open dates to host Coffee and Conversation. This is a very important time for members and friends to connect. It is meaningful fellowship. Your treats can be as easy as cookies and something to drink. Church provides the coffee. If you have questions please contact Marge Martin.

Meetings and Events this Month:

- May 5 Bible Study Noon & 6:30pm
 - May 5 8th Grade Confirmation 4pm
 - May 6 7th Grade Confirmation 4pm
 - May 9 St. John's Open House 1-4pm
 - May 13 Sunday School Meeting 7pm
 - May 14 Women's Guild Noon
 - May 18 W.O.W Meeting 7pm
 - May 19 Bible Study Noon & 6:30pm
 - May 19 8th Grade Confirmation 4pm
 - May 20 7th Grade Confirmation 4pm
 - May 21 Church Council 7pm
 - May 25 Brat Fry Fundraiser
 - May 26 Bible Study Noon & 6:30pm
 - May 26 8th Grade Confirmation 4pm
 - May 27 NO 7th Grade Confirmation
 - May 27 8th Grade Confirmation at The Gathering 3:15-6pm
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We pride ourselves on being a welcoming church. In many ways we are, but sometimes we get so absorbed talking with our church friends on a Sunday morning that we might ignore others who are also arriving or standing around in the Narthex. So, as we gather before or after worship, let's remember to look around for an unfamiliar face and be sure we greet and welcome them!



If you would like to include information in the upcoming Chapel Bells, please submit to the church office, (there is a red folder next to the window) no later than **May 18, 2009**.

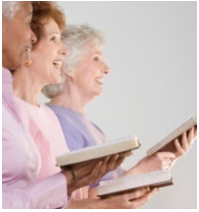
It is also possible to submit articles by email to: office@stjohnsmertonucc.com. Thank you!



Christian Education News May 2009

- ✓ April showers brings May flowers....so why is it snowing as I prepare this newsletter?
- ✓ Heifer Update ...we are closing-in our next goal, a llama. Thank you for your continued support of this mission project.
- ✓ Mother's Day....on May 10th our Sunday School students will be honoring the women of our church family with a small memento.
- ✓ Interested in Camp ?just a reminder that church camp is a wonderful way to spend a portion of your summer. Check-out the catalog in the church office....financial assistance is available.
- ✓ Open Housewe look forward to "showing-off" our new educational space at the Open House on Sat. May 9th from 1-4pm.
- ✓ First INDOOR Rummage Sale of the Season...mark your calendars for Friday, June 12th from 8am-4pm and Saturday, June 13th from 8am-12noon as our Sunday School stages a Rummage Sale. Please save your children's clothing, toys, knick knacks, furniture, linens, appliances, etc. for this big event. Start bringing-in your "stuff" after May 9th....we'll store it in the unfinished space down the west wing.
- ✓ Last Sunday School May 17th....the students will participate in our worship service at 9:30am and share a few of their memories of our 08-09 Sunday School year. Our Sunday School Program resumes on Sept. 13th.
- ✓ Vacation Bible School ...students ages 3-10 will enjoy VBS on July 27-30 from 9-11:30am.
- ✓ When you say W.O.W.you've said it all ! Thank you to the dedicated W.O.W. women for their generous donations toward classroom purchases.....we are loving our new environment.
- ✓ Unfinished space....two of our older classes have moved-in to a portion of the unfinished space in the west wing. We look forward to future classrooms, but are making ourselves "at home" in this area. Visit our classrooms and watch us settled-in....we're doing OK.
- ✓ Christian Education/Sunday School teachers meetingjoin us, as we meet monthly to discuss/plan/strategize/share/laugh/learn/etc. Next meeting, Wed. May 13th @ 7pm
- ✓ Interested in more information about Christian Education at St. John's ? Talk with Pastor Karen, 538-1912, or Kathy Lyles, 538-1679.

Kathy Lyles, Christian Education Coordinator



Women's Guild Report

Women's Guild met April 9th. Ginny Wetzel was our hostess. Thursday, May 14th is our salad luncheon. Each lady brings a salad to share with others. If this is something you might enjoy, why not join us for a great time of fellowship? We meet at noon and the lunch will be followed by a short meeting.

Other meetings for are: June 11, July 9, August 13, September 10, October 8, November 12 and December 10.

The beautiful clock in the Fellowship Hall has been donated in loving memory of our dearly departed member, Marcella Sande. The funds used by the Women's Guild were a memorial gift from the grandson of Marcella.

Any women who are interested in the welfare of our church and community are cordially invited to attend the monthly meetings and participate in the activities and fellowship of the Women's Guild of St. John's UCC, Merton.

The purpose of Guild is to cultivate the Spirit of Christ beginning with our own lives and extending to the congregation, our homes, the community and throughout God's World.

The mission commitment of the Guild is also evidenced in their support of the camp fund for the children of our congregation, support of Cedar Lake Community and others.

God Bless You!
Barb Last

*Joanne Knecht wishes to thank everyone for their well-wishes,
prayers, cards, flowers and gifts during her recovery.
It has meant a lot.*



Direct Deposit

Would it be more convenient to have your tithes and offerings paid directly from your bank to church?

If so, please see Debbie Schlafer about setting up automatic payment for you. It's easy!

ST. JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING, March 19, 2009

In attendance: Bob Merriman, Jim Sulzer, Isabel Brown, Kathy Heiden, Debbie Schlafer, Maggie Beaumont, Kathy Lyles, Mike Beaumont, Denise Gander.

The meeting was **called to order** at 7:05 pm by Jim Sulzer; Jim led with a prayer.

The **secretary's report** was read; moved by Isabel Brown, second by Debbie Schlafer to approve as amended with 2 corrections: C.E. pig goal should read \$120.00; correct spelling of Farnham; motion carried.

Treasurer's report discussed; motion by Bob Merriman, second by Debbie Schlafer, motion carried.

Pastor's report was read and discussed. As requested by the pastor we will have a 'vision' meeting with her Thursday, April 2, at 7:00 pm.

NEW BUSINESS:

Furnishing Committee report presented; motion made by Debbie Schlafer, second by Bob Merriman and amended to allocate \$3,000 .00 along with \$3,000.00 donated by W.O.W. for purchasing furnishings; report back to the council by April 16th with recommendations/selections; the council will have final approval of purchases. Motion passed. Motion by Bob Merriman, second by Debbie Schlafer to allocate \$2,000.00 in addition to W.O.W. donation of \$1,000.00 for Christian Ed. Furnishings; motion passed.

Allocation of offerings: motion by Debbie Schlafer, second by Isabel Brown to allocate Special Service offerings as follows: Ash Wednesday , Maundy Thursday and Good Friday offerings to Freidens Food Pantry; Lenten Service offerings to Hartland Food Pantry; Palm Sunday offering to Crossroads; Easter and Christmas Eve offerings to the church general operating budget; Thanksgiving Eve offering to the Sussex Food Pantry. Motion passed

General Synod: June 24-30 in Grand Rapids; motion by Debbie Schlafer second by Bob Merriman to pay ½ of the cost of youth tuition to attend General Synod from Camper Scholarship funds. Motion passed.

Building update given by Mike Beaumont; we can officially move into new building.

Christian Ed. Report given by Kathy Lyles; motion by Isabel Brown second by Kathy Heiden to use \$60.00 from Camper Scholarship funds to pay for 50% of the cost for 4 teachers to attend a U.C.C. Spring Training Seminar at Fort Atkinson on May 28th. Motion carried.

Easter Breakfast to be after Easter Service April 12th, at 8:00 am.

Sunday School Rummage Sale set for Friday and Saturday, June 12th and 13th in the unfinished section of the new building.

Report of ants in the ladies room; Kathy Heiden to check into it.

Outdoor movie night is scheduled for Sunday evening, August 2nd.

OLD BUSINESS:

Open house is Saturday May 9th; update given by Debbie Schlafer; sign up sheet coming; invitations given to church committees and groups to participate.

Motion by Debbie Schlafer second by Kathy Heiden to **adjourn**; motion carried.

Next meeting: Thursday, April 16, 2009 at 7:00 pm.