



The ECHO

Newsletter from St. John's & Nursery School

September Issue

Sunday Services
10:00 a.m.
Nursery Care available

Sunday School
9:00 a.m.

St. John's: A Beacon of Hope - Unity in the Community

To better keep our diverse community informed of all the wonderful activities and exciting events, we offer this new, joint publication of the church and the Nursery School. We hope it inspires you to connect with others and to get involved as your time allows. We have events listed here, on our website and on our Facebook page. Of course, you can always call Debbie in our church office 732.264.1236 with any questions.

From the Pastor ...

"Let your light shine, so that others may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven."

Matthew 5:16

In an interview with *World* magazine some years ago, author and speaker Mike Bechtle questioned the church's use of what he calls "Spam Evangelism." "Spam," of course being the annoying online junk mail sales pitches that we all receive that clutter our online mail boxes. The hope of spammers is to get at least one response out of millions of emails. Meanwhile, of course, they have aggravated millions!

Bechtle believes that, in a similar way, when the gospel is shared outside of any meaningful, caring relationship, unbelievers often put up thicker emotional walls. We lose more than we gain – while convincing ourselves that's we've been faithful. Bechtle shares a personal story from his past to emphasize his point – he writes:

"A college classmate decided to walk down Central Avenue in Phoenix at lunchtime and ask women to kiss him. He wanted to see how many women he would have to ask before someone took him up on it. After being repeatedly cursed, ignored, and slapped a couple of times; the 98th woman gave him a kiss. Using the logic of spam evangelism, he might say, 'It was worth it, because I actually got someone to kiss me.' I wondered, though, about the other 97 women who might be more hardened than ever, more suspicious, and more wary of men approaching them on the street. In the same way, I think a lot of unbelievers have been hardened by aggressive, uncaring witnessing techniques."

Bechtel has a very valid point. Around the church, we often say (regarding living and sharing our faith) that: "At least we reached one soul today." Yeah, great. But what about the other 97 that we may have put off from Christ through our words and actions?

What kind of Christ are we offering? This is the question I would have us consider as we begin this new church year. And I would invite us to focus on this question in two ways:

First, to *think about those we may be hurting*. Simply put: Often, as we go about our days, we will be very loving and Christ-like to one person – most often the stranger or the passer-by; but then go and be rotten and very un-Christ-like to everyone else – most notably, those closest to us. Who, as Christians, are we pushing away from Jesus? And how do we need to change our ways?

And then, secondly: To resolve to *look to the needs of others* rather than to ourselves – what we think they ought to have. Truly sharing Christ isn't about forcing upon someone else our desires (to get our "kiss"); rather, it is looking to their needs and how Christ seeks to enter into that. Having this shape our actions.

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It is putting ourselves aside so that Jesus might show up. Are we willing to do this? It has been said that: "Contrary to popular belief, the world is not anti-Christian. Quite the opposite: If we truly believe in Christ, then we know that deep down in every human heart there is a desperate desire to know the saving love of the Son of God; and that all people merely need to experience Him not us."

As we begin this new church year: What kind of Christ will we offer?

"Do not let your good be spoken of as evil." Romans 14:16

In Christ, Rev. Clark Lynn Callender

ANNUAL FALL FESTIVAL & CRAFT FAIR

Saturday, October 18,
10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Join us again for this fun-filled family event featuring a DJ, Petting Zoo, Pumpkin and Face Painting, Live Music, Entertainment, Kids on the Go amusements, Bake Sale, Fire Truck, Kids Crafts, and more. Shop many New Merchandise Vendors and Assorted Crafters.

A nice lunch menu will be available and early birds can enjoy bagels and coffee. Homemade jams, pies, cookies will be available to purchase! Spread the word to your friends and neighbors. See you there!

Sunday Altar Flowers

You may place 1 or 2 floral displays on the altar for Sunday worship to recognize a birthday, anniversary or celebrate a baptism, wedding, a new member or any special occasion. Flowers may be placed "in honor of" or "in loving memory of" your loved ones. The flowers are a living symbol to beautify the worship service on behalf on the dedication.

Arrangements are \$25.00 each. Please call the church office 732-264-1236 or make a notation on your Sunday welcome slip.

Church Clean-Up Day

Saturday, October 4th 9:00 a.m.

Volunteers are need to help spruce up our Church.

Bring your garden tools and gloves!

**Blessing
of the
Animals**



Saturday, October 11th
11:00 a.m. – Noon
Front Parking Lot



All Are Welcome

Regardless of denomination or affiliation, all are to St. John's United Methodist Church. Feel free to attend services, bible study classes, and participate in many of its activities and ministries. For more information on these programs please contact our Church Office at 732-264-1236.

Adult Christian Education

Disciple Bible Study IV

32 weeks - starting Sept. 14th

Sundays at 11:30 a.m.

Under the Tree of Life

Short Bible Study- Invitation to Genesis

10 weeks – starting Sept. 16th

Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m.

Alpha & Marriage Course

10 weeks – starting Sept. 17th

Wednesdays at 7 p.m. Dinner

Children's Ministry

B.L.A.S.T. – Bible Learning &

Spiritual Training Mid-week

Program for 4th-6th Graders

Wednesdays 4:30 p.m.

Genesis – Mid-week program for

children in 2nd & 3rd Grades,

Wednesdays, 4:30 p.m.

Club C.O.O.L. – Mid-week Program

for children Kindergarten - 1st Grade

Wednesdays - 4:30 p.m.

All Children's Programs will be on

Wednesday, September 17th at

4:30 p.m.

Visit us at www.stjohnshazlet.org or

on facebook – St. John's United

Methodist Church or St. John's

Nursery School.



St. John's Nursery School

Over the summer, St. John's Nursery School went through a significant change in stewardship. Under the leadership of the Staff-Parish Relations Committee, a new administrative team has joined the Nursery School. Mrs. Elizabeth Valentin as Director and Mrs. Melanie Pfleger as Assistant Director were hired. Mrs. Valentin will be the senior administrator focusing on curriculum and instruction, while Mrs. Pfleger will focus upon the business administration. We are fortunate to employ two such able and experienced educators whose depth of knowledge in early childhood education is extraordinary.

The changes were not limited to the administration. There has also been a change in the governance of the school's ministry with the addition and realignment of the Nursery School Board's membership in accordance with UMC guidelines and state law. Taking over as Chairman is Dr. Jas. T. White, an educator with extensive leadership experience in both public education and private business. The other members of the Board are as follows: Mrs. Darlene Pontecorvo (Staff-Parish Representative), Mrs. Ann Scheller (Finance Committee Representative), Mr. Mike Doran (Trustee Representative), Mrs. Gail Bechtoldt (Church Council Representative), Mrs. Wendy Riley (At-large member), Mrs. Megan Gallagher (Parent Representative), and Rev. Clark Callender (Advisory Trustee for the Sponsor). The Nursery School Board looks forward to a very successful school year ahead continuing the tradition of deep devotion to the wellbeing of the children, their families, our staff, and the mission of the nursery school program as a vital Christian ministry.

St. John's Fish Bake Sept 26th 6:00 p.m.

Fish on Friday!!!! A sumptuous dinner of fruit cup, tasty fish (or chicken), baked potato, delicious cole slaw, beverage and delectable dessert is served and the fellowship is wonderful. All this food and friends (&trivia) for \$8.00! Several years ago, the Friday Night Men's Bible Study started the Fish Bakes once a month. Since then, it has become men, ladies and youth volunteers. Everyone works so well together and it's fun. The project has raised funds for kitchen refurbishing and repairs as well as installing new windows and purchasing tables. The goal is to continue updating the kitchen with new stoves and ovens, hot water heaters, flooring, commercial dishwasher and a fire suppression system. We can always use more volunteers!!! The set-up is Thursday evening putting up the tables and chairs and setting the tables for 200 people. Friday we have food preparers, prep cooks, cooks, waiters/waitresses, dishwashers and clean-up, breakdown of the tables and chairs. You can volunteer for 1-2 hours (or more) once a month for the good of St. John's. Please come and support the Fish Bake!



- 9/8 Nursery School Begins
Church Council, 7 p.m.
- 9/8 Bible Study, 7 p.m.
- 9/10 Alpha Celebration Dinner, 7 p.m.
- 9/13 UMW, 9 a.m. - All
- 9/14 New Member Class, 11 a.m.
DBS IV, 11:30 a.m.
- 9/15 Trustees
- 9/16 Christian Education, 7 p.m.
Bible Study, 7:30 p.m.
- 9/17 BLAST, 4:30 p.m.
Genesis, 4:30 p.m.
Club COOL, 4:30 p.m.
Alpha, 7 p.m.
- 9/18 Staff Parish, 7 p.m.
- 9/19 Coffee House, 7-9 p.m.
- 9/20 Men's Breakfast, 7:30 a.m.
PUTZ Restoration, 9:00 a.m.
- 9/26 Women of Faith, 7:30 p.m.
FISH BAKE, 6 p.m.

Don't Forget...

Gift Cards are available to purchase at Coffee Hour or the Church Office. For more information please call 732-264-1236. St. John's receives a percentage of all proceeds. A list of participating retailers can be found in the Narthex.

Outreach News!

Please support our Food Pantry who assists over 100 families each month. Items needed are peanut butter, jelly, tuna fish, spaghetti sauce, cereal, canned fruit, pancake mix and syrup. Please bring to the narthex on Sunday morning. Thank you for your continued support!

Upcoming Events!

Friday, Oct. 3rd - Chicken Pie Dinner - 6:00 p.m.

Sunday, October 19th CROP WALK END HUNGER! For more information or to be a sponsor go to redbankcropwalk@gmail.com.

Gift Cards are available to purchase at Coffee Hour or the Church Office. For more information please call 732-264-1236. St. John's receives 5% of all proceeds. A list of participating retailers can be found in the Narthex.

<u>VENDORS</u>	<u>DENOMINATION</u>
Applebees	\$25.00
Amazon	\$25.00
Autozone	\$25.00
Barnes & Noble	\$10.00
Bed, Bath & Beyond	\$25.00
Bertucci's	\$25.00
Boscov's	\$25.00
Boston market	\$10.00
Burger King	\$10.00
Chuck E. Cheese	\$25.00
Cinemark	\$25.00
Cinemark TKS	\$ 9.50
CVS	\$10.00
DressBarn	\$25.00
Gap/old Navy	\$25.00
Groupon	\$25.00
Home Depot	\$25.00
Ihop	\$25.00
itunes	\$15.00
Jo-Ann	\$25.00
Kohl's	\$25.00
Lowe's	\$25.00
Payless	\$20.00
Quik Chek	\$25.00
Red Robin	\$25.00
Restaurant.com	\$25.00
Sally Beauty	\$25.00
Starbucks	\$10.00
Stein Mart	\$25.00
Taco Bell	\$10.00
The Children's Place	\$25.00
Toys R Us	\$20.00
WaWa	\$25.00
Walgreens	\$25.00
Wendy's	\$10.00
Whole Foods	\$25.00

Shop-Rite, Stop & Shop, & Dunkin Donuts Gift Cards are always available!

Your Support is appreciated!

