

St. John's Visitor

January 2, 2007

Published weekly by St. John's UMC Church

Richtland at Newberry, Flkzn, SC 29801

Volume 7, Issue 1

STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE UPDATE

In October, the Church Council of St. John's approved the following mission statement for our church:

We grow in faith and number by sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ, through worship, nurture and service.

This statement was proposed by the Strategic Planning Committee after extensive review of the comments generated during the 35+ Cottage Meetings and after consultation with the Church Council. As we look to build operating plans around this statement, there will be several opportunities beginning in January to better understand our roles.

First, on **January 14th**, we will ask all adult Sunday School classes to meet in the Ebenezer Center to participate in a presentation of the Mission Statement and the key performance indicators that will guide our work in the future. Any member of the congregation is welcome to attend this session which will begin at 10:00 a.m. Next, the working committees of the church will be invited to attend a session from 8:30 a.m. until about 2:30 p.m. on **Saturday, January 27**, in the Ebenezer Center. This will be a working session, including a light lunch, to develop action plans for each committee/working group, both now and in the future, in support of the Mission Statement. This session is also open to any member of the congregation who wants to be involved in this important work. Finally, beginning on **January 28th** and continuing for the following four Sundays, George will address the key attributes of the Mission Statement in his sermons.

REMEMBER THAT on Saturday, January 20, 2007, from 8:30 am - 3:30 pm, St John's is hosting a seminar entitled *What Every Church Member Should Know About Poverty*. Doors will open at 8:00 am. The presenter is Rev. Bill Ehlig from Missouri Street Church of Christ in Baytown, TX, author of a book by the same name. Registration fee of \$25 includes refreshments, lunch and a copy of the book. Make checks payable to St. John's UMC and indicate *Poverty Seminar*. If your mission work brings you in contact with those living in poverty and you experience anger and frustration from trying to deal with the self-defeating lifestyles of those in poverty, you may find this seminar changes the way you think about people who live in poverty.

The Strategic Planning Committee appreciates the support we have received in developing the process to this point, and we look forward to working with the entire congregation to identify the best ways to meet God's expectations for our church.

Grace and Peace,

Tom Hallman, Chair
Strategic Planning Committee

Sunday, January 7
Baptism of Our Lord Sunday

"REMEMBER YOUR BAPTISM"

Scripture: **Isaiah 43: 1-7**

Luke 3:15-18, 21-22

Rev. Dr. George K. Howle

Meetings to Note

Thursday, January 4

9:15 am Women's Bible Study
7:00 pm Emmaus Reunion Mtg

Friday, January 5

9:15am Preschool Council

Sunday, January 7

8:15 am Coffee House
5:00 pm Prayer Shawl Ministry
6:00 pm Women's Emmaus Group
6:00 pm Bible Study-Men's & Womens's

Monday, January 8

8:15 am First Place
7:00 pm Pastor-Parish Relations Committee
7:00 pm Women's Bible Study

Tuesday, January 9

7:00 pm Board of Trustees
7:00 pm Education Committee

Wednesday, January 10

9:30 am Quilting Fellowship
10:00 am Prayer Shawl Group
4:00 pm Women's Bible Study
4:00 pm Grief Support Group
7:00 pm Covenant Prayer Group
7:00 pm Women's/Men's Bible Study

Serving January 7

- Crucifer** - Breann Staubs
- Acolytes** - Alan Kelly, Victoria Lockridge
- Altar Guild** - Pat Crawley, Fratie Hardigree, Selona Murph, Nancy Vernon
- Crib Rm (11:00 a.m.)** - Susan Vernon
- Toddlers** - Karen Buchanan
- 2-3 Yr Nursery** - Stephanie Shick
- 3-4 Yr Nursery** - Dawn Mahoney
- Children's Worship** - TBA
- Greeters 8:45** - Elizabeth Dill, Lee & René Boylston
- Greeters 11:00** - Bob/Eileen Stowell, Keith / Julie Polk, Mary Gardner, Shirley Powell
- Sunday AM Host (Jan 7)** - Frank Smith III
- Evening Hosts** Sunday (Jan 7) - Edward Yeh
- Monday - Charles McKeel
- Tuesday - Dennis Fish
- Wednesday - Mike Uhle
- Thursday - Keith Polk
- Friday - Brian Eberhard
- Saturday - L. S. McCormick

Attendance	2006	Previous Yr
8:45	161 (12/24)	No early service
	106 (12/31)	121 (1/1)
11:00	609 (12/24)	See single total
	446 (12/31)	343 (1/1)
Total	770 (12/24)	299 (Christmas)
	552 (12/31)	464 (1/1)
5 pm	436 (12/24)	464
11 pm	535 (12/24)	578
SS	242 (12/24)	None
	231 (12/31)	196 (1/1)

NEWS OF THE FAMILY

BAPTISM: *Receiving the Sacrament of Holy Baptism on Sunday, December 24, was Hadley Elizabeth Copeland, daughter of Chris and Darby Copeland and granddaughter of Jeff and Mary Lou Wallace.*

CONGRATULATIONS: *Judged "Best in Show" at the Aiken Artist Guild's Winter Show was an acrylic portrait entitled "Bosnian Woman" by Mary Alice Lockhart.*

CONDOLENCES: *Deepest sympathy is extended to the following persons in their recent losses of family members:*

Richard Thomason in the death of his mother, Sara Elizabeth Thomason, in Slidell, LA, on December 20.

Doris Bruorton in the death of her brother, Albert Lee Smith, in Columbia on December 26.

David Platt in the death of his mother, Mary Lois Platt, in Graniteville on December 29.

IN MEMORIAM

ESTHER HAY MOBLEY

December 21, 2006

IN MEMORIAM

EDWARD BOONE, JR.

December 21, 2006

IN MEMORIAM

CARL EDWARD LEE

December 28, 2006

IN MEMORIAM

VIRGINIA "GENA" WILSON LEE

December 28, 2006

The staff members of St. John's say a heartfelt thank you to all those in the congregation who remembered us in wonderful ways during the holiday season. We were truly overwhelmed with delicious things to eat and numerous other thoughtful remembrances. All of us are very grateful to each of you for thinking of us during this very busy time of year. We appreciate you!!!

The Police Athletic Association sends thanks to St. John's for their contribution. Through this program three football teams for ages 6-12 were formed giving many young players their first opportunity to play organized football. New uniforms, helmets and equipment as well as cheerleader equipment were provided so these young persons did not feel different from other teams in the County Football League. In January a Basketball League will be implemented and, in the spring, preparations begin for a baseball season. Contributions make a difference in our future community...one child at a time.

Retiring mid-December from St. John's staff was **Ellen Miller** who led the financial department for the last 6½ years. The Pastor Parish Committee plans to recognize her at the 11:00 am worship next Sunday, January 7. Should you care to contribute to her gift, please have it in the office by Friday, January 5.

Sunday service is broadcast over WKSX 92.7 at 12 pm one week delayed.

Financials for week ending December 16, 2006

Budgetary needs for the week	\$ 53,100
Budgetary funds rec'd this week	\$ 43,400
Budget needs to date	\$1,248,950
Budget funds rec'd to date	\$1,404,607
St John's loan amt w/Security Fed	\$2,478,708.32

St. John's Youth News



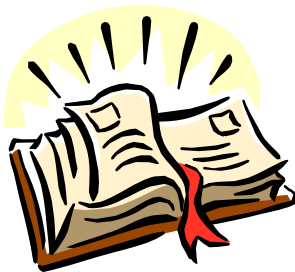
Those who are going on the ski trip should meet in the parking lot on Friday at noon.

Those who have opted NOT to go on the ski trip are invited to an informal meeting next Sunday, January 7, with Amy and Drew in the Youth Room at 6 pm.



BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN

Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World, a study for ladies, will be offered at three different classes beginning next week. Judy Jernigan (648-9859) is facilitator for the *Monday evening* group beginning January 8 at 7 pm and also the *Wednesday evening* group beginning January 10 at 7 pm. Frances Osteen is the contact for those interested in *Wednesday afternoon* beginning January 10 at 4 pm.



Women's Sunday evening Bible study will be using *Believing God* by Beth Moore beginning January 14 and concluding March 18. This is a 10 week study with a workbook [No charge for workbook if attending this Bible study.] Meet each week from 6:00-7:30 in Rm 116. Child care provided. This study will focus on **Believing** God - who He is, what He says, etc. A dynamic and life-changing experience! Contact: Flo McElmurray (642-5763) or email: flomcelm@aol.com (please put Bible Study on the Subject line.)

First Place accountability and Bible study led by Terry Fleming will begin on Monday, January 8, at 8:15 am. To sign up or for further information please call Betsy Wilson-Mahoney, 270-1213.

JANUARY CIRCLE MEETINGS

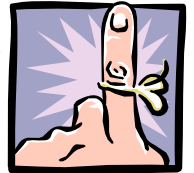
Tuesday, January 9

10:00 am #11 Resource Room - Church

7:30 pm # 1 Hazel Tatman
820 Calhoun St

* * * * *

REMEMBER to notify the office if you change your address. The church must pay for each letter or newsletter that is returned. It can take a number of weeks for information to reach us which means the office pays for all the newsletters mailed in the interim.



FOOD FOR ACTS is being collected next Sunday.

Please place donations in the appropriately marked boxes. Food received on the first Sunday of each month is delivered to ACTS on Monday morning.



PLEASE NOTE that email addresses for staff members have changed. A complete listing is found on the last page of each newsletter. Remember to make these changes in your mailbox.



January

FELLOWSHIP SUPPERS resume January 10

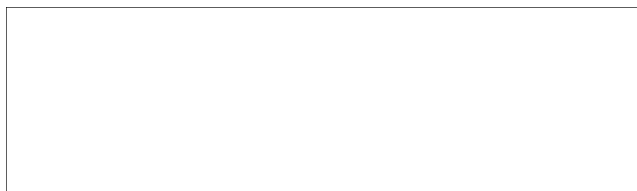
If you do not have a standing reservations please notify the office that you plan to come. Assistance in setting up, collecting money, serving and clean-up is always welcome! Please locate the sign-up calendar and put your name by the desired date.

St. John's Visitor

PERIODICALS POSTAGE PAID
AT AIKEN, SOUTH CAROLINA
USPS 673-640

ST. JOHN'S VISITOR
P O Box 809
Aiken, SC 29802-0809

POSTMASTER: Send change of address to
P O Box 809 Aiken, SC 29802-0809



Serving you...

Ext

22 GEORGE K. HOWLE
29 TERRY FLEMING
23 HARRY W. SAMPSON
26 CATHERINE STAPLETON NANCE
25 NANCY FAIRGRIEVE
CARLA F. FLEMING
27 NEIL FLOWERS
34 ANNE L. HAWKINS
21 PAULA C. SAWYER
30 MICHELLE I. PEARSON
33 MARY KOSKY
35 MIMI WILAND
JAN GILBERT
31 GERALD F. THOMPSON
WILLIE M. GREEN
ENSLEY O. ADAMS
ROBERT WOODS
YVONNE DUBLIN

Senior Minister
Director of Congregational Care
Director of Staff and Planning
Director of Music Ministries
Financial Services
Organist
Facilities Manager
Assistant to Ministers
Church Secretary
Director, Preschool/MDO Ministries
Coordinator of Volunteers
Coordinator of Volunteers
Missions Coordinator
Custodian Coordinator
Custodian
Custodian
Custodian
Custodian

george.howle@stjohns-umc.org
terry.fleming@stjohns-umc.org
harry.sampson@stjohns-umc.org
catherine.stapleton@stjohns-umc.org
nancy.fairgrieve@stjohns-umc.org
tfisme@gforcecable.com
neil.flowers@stjohns-umc.org
anne.hawkins@stjohns-umc.org
paula.sawyer@stjohns-umc.org
michelle.pearson@stjohns-umc.org
mary.kosky@stjohns-umc.org
mimi.wiland@stjohns-umc.org
janjacg@earthlink.net
gerald.thompson@stjohns-umc.org

Church Office: 648.6891
Church FAX: 648.7197
Preschool: 648.4745
Web Site: www.stjohns-umc.org

St. John's Visitor is published weekly except the last week of the year by
St. John's United Methodist Church, 104 Newberry St NW, Aiken, SC 29801-3918.