

St. John's Visitor

January 20, 2009 Published weekly by St. John's UMC Church

Richland at Newberry, N.C. 29801 Volume 9, Issue 3

"Whom Shall We Send?"

As St. John's UMC gets ready to open our doors again for the second Global Impact Celebration, a recent article (*The Aiken Standard*, 1/12/2009, Staff Writer Suzanne R. Stoneab, abbreviated below) highlighted the journey made by St. John's members Frances and John Osteen, in December, 2008, to Kenya. Frances went on a fact-finding mission with a team from St. John's in April. This marks her second visit to the Life for Children Mission.

Local couple works with ministry in Kenya

The Osteens spent Dec. 4-16 in Kenya working with Life for Children Ministry, a missions group which supports children orphaned by HIV and AIDS. The Osteens assisted at a three-day, four-night Bible camp for children ages 6 to 18 in the towns of Kisumu, located in western Kenya on Lake Victoria, and Wachara, a tiny village about 75 miles south of Kisumu.

"In the States, Wachara wouldn't even have one stoplight," Frances said. "They live in subsistence-level poverty. There are no jobs; they don't have any belongings. The children are in school, Life for Children sees to that, but after school, they're scavenging for firewood and hauling water, or their families won't have any water or fires; that's their life."

"Life for Children and our church want these children to expand their world, understand that it's bigger than their little compound," said Frances. "We want them to understand that there is a point to education, that it can get them to a better life, because what they see is all they know."

She went to Kenya on a fact-finding mission with a team from St. John United Methodist Church in April, as the church was considering partnering with Life for Children. Upon her return, the couple began making plans for the December trip to work with the organization, which was founded by Wachara native Michael Ouma Agwanda. Agwanda now lives in Atlanta, Ga., and coordinates the mission ministry with his family in Kisumu. (NOTE: *Michael Agwanda will be here again this year for the GIC*)

The Osteens arrived in Kenya with three trunks full of craft supplies, cloth toiletry bags with soap and dental supplies provided by church members and local dentists, a region-free DVD player and DVDs in both English and the native tongue Luo, as well as Bibles in both English and Luo.

"Luo is also the name of the tribe. Obama's father is Luo, and they were very excited about Obama," said Frances. "We took two copies of the 'Jesus' movie, in English and in Luo, and their reaction to seeing it in Luo just floored the Kenyan workers. We made a DVD of our church's Contemporary Praise Band. to share."

"We filmed them singing and making music so our church can see what they do," said John. "The Children's Choir is learning to drum, and they specifically asked for pictures of them drumming so they can see how the Kenyans play."

The campers sent a pair of native drums home with the Osteens to present to the children's choir at St. John's.

One of the most popular activities was also the simplest, according to Frances.

"We took a photo printer along. They don't have pictures of themselves; so they loved getting their pictures printed."

January 25, 2009

"FAITH PROMISE"

Dr. Phil Granger

President & CEO of the Mission Society

Services at 8:30 and 11:00 - Sanctuary

Contemporary service at 9:02 - Gym

LIFE COMMITMENT SERVICE

Scripture: Jonah 3: 1 - 5, 10

Dr. George K. Howle

6:00 pm - Sanctuary

NEWS OF THE FAMILY

Meetings to Note

Wednesday, January 21

- 9:30 am Bible Study/Prayer Shawl
- 1:00 pm Missionary Registration
- 3:30 pm Grief Share
- 4:00 pm Missionary Orientation
- 5:00 pm GIC Kick-off Dinner
- 5:30 pm Chancel Choir
- 6:30 pm Children's Choirs
- 6:45 pm GIC Opening Celebration
- 6:55 pm Children's Missions Service
- 8:00 pm Missionaries at Displays

Thursday, January 22

- 9:00 am Pastors with missionaries
- 11:00 am 55-Plus Luncheon
- 5:30 pm Fun & Fellowship

Friday, January 23

- 11:00 am Missionary Interviews
- 6:00 pm Children's Missions Banquet
- 6:15 pm International Missions Banquet

Saturday, January 24

- Youth Event - off site
- 7:00 am Grace Kitchen
- 8:30 am Men's Breakfast
- 11:00 am Women's Luncheon/Shower
- 7:00 am Global Home Briefing

Sunday, January 25

- 8:30 am Faith Commitment Service
- 9:02 am Faith Commitment Service
- 11:00 am Faith Commitment Service
- 12:15 pm Debriefing Luncheon
- 5:00 pm Youth Missionary Sharing
- 6:00 pm Life Commitment Service

Serving This Week

- Crucifer** - Zach Madden
- Acolytes** - Benjamin Rawls, Collin Ray
- Altar Guild** - Judy Bilyeu, Pat Crawley, Fratie Hardigree, Nancy Vernon
- Crib Rm** (11am) - Deedee Vaughters
Grandparent - Sherry Williamson
- Toddlers** - Dana Massey
Grandparent - Helen Randall
- 2-3 Yr Nursery** - Meg Massie
- 3-4 Yr Nursery** - Carrie Killian
- Greeters 8:30** - Joe & Leah Lewis
Lee & René Boylston
- Greeters 11:00** - David & Sandra Jameson,
John & Joyce Bowman
Johanna Gibbs, Henriann Goddard
- Sunday AM Host (25)**
Michael Rollins
- Evening Hosts**
- Sunday (**Jan 25**) - Jim Wert
- Monday - Tom Brown
- Tuesday - Bob Kosky
- Wednesday - Marc Nadeau
- Thursday - Jeff Ray
- Friday - John Geiger
- Saturday - Bob Fogle

HOSPITALIZED: ARMC - Sara Charlton, Fred Penix, Jim Ross; **Recently discharged** - Phil Trombley



The Long and the Short of It!

Pictured here is one of the newest members of the Chancel Choir, Ruth Milks (mother of Nancy Tisdale), with Organist Mark Dickens.

Ruth joined the choir at 97, & celebrated her 98th birthday on January 15th. Lauren Norton, 16, is our youngest member, which proves music is rewarding at all ages! Happy Birthday, Ruth.

Photo by Bob Kosky

GETTING TO KNOW ST. JOHN'S series will be held February 8, 15 and 22 (Sundays) during the Sunday School hour. Contact Keith Stewart or Nancy Reed for additional details or to sign up.



Valentine's Luncheon sponsored by the Older Adult Council will be Thursday, February 12, at 11:30 am in Ward Hall. We invite all who may be alone this Valentine's to join us. Please RSVP to the church office, 648-6891.

GIC Kick Off Dinner

January 21 - 5:00 pm

- Italian seasoned chicken breasts
- Tomatoes w/mozzarella cheese
- Green beans
- Salad w/mandarin oranges
- Hummingbird cake squares

Fellowship Supper

January 28 - 5:00 pm

- Hot roast beef sandwiches
- Creamed potatoes and gravy
- Marinated cole slaw
- Brownies ala mode

Financials for week ending 1/17/09

Budgetary needs for two week	\$34,914.00
Budget funds rec'd last two wks	\$ 22,668.00
Budget funds rec'd to date	\$49,799.00
Actual expenses to date	\$58,563.00
St John's loan amt w/Security Fed	\$ 852,308.31

Faith Promise Report for week 1/17/09

2008 Faith Promise	\$233,252.48
Received last two weeks	\$445.00
Received YTD	\$140,308.14
Disbursements to date	\$92,944.34

Last Week's Attendance

8:30	130
9:02	153
11:00	334
Total	617
SS	330

Sunday, January 11



St. John's
youth ministry

SUNDAY NIGHT YOUTH GROUP
January 25, 2009

5 pm - Youth Room
GIC Youth Event: Missionary Sharing
6 pm - Sanctuary
Life Commitment Service

"Free income tax preparation with electronic filing is available at Weeks Recreation Center on Mondays & Tuesdays during February & March. Hours are 9-4. No appointments are necessary; taxpayers are served on a first come-first served basis. This service is provided by the Aiken Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) group and is available to all. Homebound members unable to come to Weeks Center may call Rick Benton, 649-6902 for special arrangements.



WHOM SHALL I SEND?

ST. JOHN'S GLOBAL IMPACT CELEBRATION
January 21-25, 2009

Missionary Prayer Focus: For safe travels, good health and smooth planning as the missionaries travel to Aiken for the GIC.

January donation for ACTS pasta/or sauce.

GO Global Outreach News

The **2009 Global Impact Celebration** begins January 21! You should have already received a GIC brochure in the mail (the brochure is also available on the St. John's web site). You should also have a GIC letter from George that includes a reservations card for events with meals. Please make plans to participate in this exciting celebration and return your reservation cards according to the directions.

Frances and John Osteen will make a video presentation summarizing their recent trip to Kenya on February 1 in Ward Hall from 10:00-10:45. You don't want to miss it.

Grace Kitchen's breakfast service has grown from 13 initially to 86 individuals recently. We offer Bibles to those to whom we are trying to minister. Our supply is almost out. Please open your heart by giving a Bible for Grace Kitchen.

ACTS reports a growing need for children's clothing & coats, from infant to size 16. Clothing for men & women are also needed. Donations can be dropped off at Hayne Avenue Monday through Friday from 9 AM to 4 PM.

CHILDREN'S CORNER

SUNDAY, JANUARY 25, 2009

GIC GUEST SPEAKERS
CHRIS & ASHLEY MANLEY FROM TIGERS GO

Memory Verse: Matthew 24:40

THE KING WILL REPLY, "I TELL YOU THE TRUTH, WHATEVER YOU DID FOR ONE OF THE LEAST OF THESE BROTHERS OF MINE, YOU DID FOR ME."

The **OARS** children will be collecting newspapers, please drop them off outside Michelle Brown's office. The children will be learning ways in which they can serve our Lord. One way is building houses - Thomas Osteen & Jimmy Rodgers will teach the Bible lesson, sharing stories of Salkehatchie and encouraging them to get involved. The children will be painting & decorating birdhouses. Finished birdhouses will be given to Salkehatchie, Habitat and Spread the Joy!



St. John's UMC O.A.R.S.
GIC 2009

2009 GIC Poster Winners: Ford Vaughters & Conner Buchanan.

LOOKING AHEAD

- January 18** - Day of Commitment to Christian Unity
- January 21-25** - Global Impact Celebration
- February 3-5** - Older Adult Retreat, Springmaid Beach
- February 6-8** - Sunday Night Youth Ski Trip
- February 7** - MDO & Preschool Registration
- February 12** - Valentine Lunch
- February 12** - Preschool Valentine Program
- February 25** - Ash Wednesday
- April 5** - Easter Egg Hunt
- April 4-9** - Mission Trip to New Orleans
- April 5** - Passion/Palm Sunday
- April 12** - Easter Day
- May 17** - Confirmation Sunday
- May 31** - Graduation Sunday
- May 31-June 3** - South Carolina Annual Conference
- June 8-12** - Vacation Bible School
- June 13-20** - Sand River Salkehatchie

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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

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

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



Serving you...

Ext

22 GEORGE K. HOWLE
29 KEITH STEWART
23 HARRY W. SAMPSON
26 CATHERINE STAPLETON NANCE
25 NANCY FAIRGRIEVE
27 GENE AIKEN
57 NANCY REED
34 ANNE L. HAWKINS
21 PAULA C. SAWYER
30 MICHELLE I. PEARSON
33 MARY KOSKY
61 MICHELLE BROWN
MARK DICKENS
60 MIDGE ROTHROCK
JIMI WHITESELL
31 GERALD F. THOMPSON
WILLIE M. GREEN
ENSLEY O. ADAMS
ROBERT WOODS
YVONNE DUBLIN

Minister
Nurture Pastor
Director of Staff and Planning
Director of Music Ministries
Financial Services
Director of Youth Ministries
Director, Adult & Senior Ministries
Assistant to Ministers
Church Secretary
Director, Preschool/MDO Ministries
Event Coordinator
Director, Children's Ministries
Organist
PR/Communications Coordinator
Asst Director, Youth Ministries
Custodian Coordinator
Custodian
Custodian
Custodian

george.howle@stjohns-umc.org
keith.stewart@stjohns-umc.org
harry.sampson@stjohns-umc.org
catherine.stapleton@stjohns-umc.org
nancy.fairgrieve@stjohns-umc.org
gene.aiken@stjohns-umc.org
nancy.reed@stjohns-umc.org
anne.hawkins@stjohns-umc.org
paula.sawyer@stjohns-umc.org
michelle.pearson@stjohns-umc.org
mary.kosky@stjohns-umc.org
michelle.brown@stjohns-umc.org

midge.rothrock@stjohns-umc.org
jimi.whitesell@stjohns-umc.org
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.