

St. John's Visitor

February 3, 2009 Published weekly by St. John's UM Church

Richland at Newberry, Richm., SC 29801 Volume 9, Issue 5

St. John's Strategic Planning for 2009 and Beyond

On January 4th, a gathering of leaders of our church was convened to develop both near term and long term plans for St. John's. Invitees included Church Council members, Program Staff, UMM/UMW, Youth leadership, and the Strategic Planning Committee.

Another plenary session is planned for late Summer, 2009, in advance of the budget setting cycle, so that action plans and needed funding support will be compatible.

The objective of our planning is to establish a direction, goals and action plans for the church overall, as well as enabling individual working groups to define their own 2009 goals. In 2007 and 2008, similar planning sessions were held. When developing a strategic plan, we must keep in mind the larger purpose for which God has called the church. A strategic plan is a living, dynamic document. Strategic planning becomes a process that is ongoing and never-ending, changing as the needs in your environment change and as God directs. When St. John's has a clear plan and takes appropriate action, we get "traction" to take us from where we are to where we need to be in the future.

Just as a successful journey requires a map, or a GPS, we need to have an idea as to how we'll reach the desired destination. And, we need to determine the best measurable indicators, to assure we are reaching our goals.

We have to constantly be sure of the answers to these questions:

- Are we doing the right things?
- Are we doing the right things right?
- Do we have a shared vision?
- Are we working well together so as not to overstress precious resources?
- Are we taking the time to develop action plans?
- Do we have the necessary competence?
- Will the things we are spending time on lead us to where we hope to be?

Your help in developing and implementing these plans is critical for St. John's to fully meet its potential as a great church. Watch for articles on specific goals and objectives of Committees in future issues of *The Visitor*.

Life Commitment Follow-Up Luncheon
Sunday, February 8 after 11:00 a.m. service
Make your reservation and come!!

Here is your opportunity to learn more about short term mission trips that are being planned, how to get "plugged in" to local mission ministry opportunities, how to join a mission prayer team and how you can play a vital role in next year's GIC.

February 8, 2009
Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

"JESUS, EVERYONE IS LOOKING FOR YOU!"
Scripture: Mark 1: 35 - 38
Rev. Dr. George K. Howle

Services at 8:30 and 11:00 in the sanctuary.
Contemporary service at 9:02 in the gym.

Meetings to Note

Thursday, February 5

- 9:15am Bible Study
- 7:00pm Overeaters Anonymous
- 7:00pm Congregational Care

Friday, February 6

- 10:30am Ringspiration Handbell rehearsal

Saturday, February 7

- 8:00am Grace Kitchen
- 8:00am Preschool & MDO registration

Sunday, February 8

- 8:15am Coffee House
- 9:45am *Getting to Know St. John's* series
- 12:00noon GIC Follow-up Luncheon
- 5:00pm Youth Choir
- 5:30pm *Fireproof Marriage* Bible Study
- 6:00pm Women's Bible Study

No Sunday Night Youth - Ski Trip Weekend

Monday, February 9

- 8:00am First Place
- 10:00am Women's Bible Study
- 10:00am Exercise Class
- 7:00pm Women's Bible Study
- 7:00pm Pastor Parish Committee

Tuesday, February 10

- 12:30pm Women's Bible Study
- 7:00pm Board of Trustees
- 7:00pm GOLT
- 7:00pm Men's Bible Study
- 7:00pm Joyful Sounds Handbells

Wednesday, February 11

- 9:30am Prayer Shawl/Quilting
- 9:30am Bible Study
- 3:30pm Grief Share
- 5:00pm Fellowship Supper
- 5:45pm Children's Choirs
- 6:45pm Chancel Choir
- 7:00pm Covenant Prayer Group
- 7:00pm Men's & Women's Bible Study

Serving This Week

- Crucifer** - Kaitlyn Mikes
- Acolytes** - Jordan Kelley, Katherine Weigle
- Altar Guild** - Frances Burnham, Betty Mullikin, Ann Prather, Pat Sauls
- Crib Rm** (11am) Emory Langston Grandparent-Barbara Zirps

Toddlers - Casey Young

2-3 Yr Nursery - Amanda Stefanakos

3-4 Yr Nursery - Heather Young

Greeters 8:30 - Claudette Strickland, Sharon West

Greeters 11:00 - Monnie Pitts, Walter Croft

Sunday AM Host (2/8) - Virgil Sauls

Evening Hosts

- Sunday (**Feb 8**) - Charles McKeel
- Monday - Dennis Fish
- Tuesday - Mike Uhle
- Wednesday - Keith Polk
- Thursday - Brian Eberhard
- Friday - George Bodkin
- Saturday - Gene Usher

NEWS OF THE FAMILY

NEW ARRIVAL: *Bailey Ann Wright*, daughter of *Andy & Cheryl Wright*, granddaughter of *Gayle Garrison* and great-granddaughter of *Lamar & Vera Keisler*, was born January 27, 2009, in Aiken.

APOLOGY: *The picture of Jack & Libby Taylor* in last week's newsletter mistakenly identified them as *55+ Lunch Chairs*. *The Taylors* were most gracious greeters but *Mimi Wiland* and *Alice Allington* actually chaired that activity. So sorry!

THOUGHT YOU'D LIKE TO KNOW: *When the Welcome Travelers Baptist Church* was vandalized shortly before Christmas, this year's **Confirmation Class** decided to write individual notes and contributed \$60 to send. *The church* responded by expressing their gratitude not only for the monetary gift but, more importantly, for the encouragement their words offered. Well done, Class!

HOSPITALIZED: ARMC - Sara Charlton, Malcolm Dailey; Discharged - Doris Hoffman

IN MEMORIAM

LILA CHRISTINE WALKER BREELAND

January 28, 2009

THE FAMILY LIFE COUNCIL invites you to a showing of the recently released movie, *Fireproof*. Bring your spouse, your fiancé, your friends and enjoy popcorn, soft drinks and a great movie with your church family. The show begins at 3pm in the gym on Sunday, February 15.

FIREPROOF YOUR MARRIAGE, a six-week Bible study aimed especially at younger couples, begins Sunday, February 8, at 5:30pm in Room 207. Additional information can be obtained from Judy Jernigan.

VALENTINE'S LUNCHEON for St. John's senior singles takes place on Thursday, February 12 at 11:30am in Ward Hall. Please RSVP to the office, 648-6891.

Financials for week ending January 31, 2009

Budgetary needs for the week	\$ 34,914
Budget funds rec'd this week	\$ 15,626
Budget funds rec'd to date	\$143,061
Actual expenses to date	\$134,334
St John's loan amt w/Security Fed	\$790,808

Faith Promise Report for week ending Jan. 31

2008 Faith Promise	\$233,252.48
Received this week	\$1,020.00
Received YTD	142,787.20
Disbursements to date	124,964.84
Balance for which to pray	90,465.28

GETTING TO KNOW ST. JOHN'S is a series designed to acquaint newer members with Methodism and this church is particular but is open to anyone interested.



Sessions are scheduled for the next 3 Sundays (Feb 8, 15, 22) at 9:45 in Ward Hall 3. New members will be received on February 22. Contact the office if interested.

**Fellowship Supper
Menu for February 11**

- Chicken Lasagna*
- Tossed Salad*
- Red Velvet Cake*
- Pizza for Children*

Attendance February 1

8:30	102
9:02	198
11:00	408
Total	708
SS	361



St. John's
youth ministry

SUNDAY NIGHT YOUTH GROUP
No meeting on February 8
Ski Trip Weekend!



A way to involve your children in short term, local missions is by participating in *Spread the Joy* opportunities that crop up all through the year. Children ages 4K-5th grade, along with their parents (or not), are invited and encouraged to come make Valentines on February 8, 5:30-7:00pm. These will be delivered to some special St. John's members. Meet in the Art Room upstairs in the OARS hallway. Emily Moore, 644-0725, can provide more details.

ATTENTION, LADIES

What: 8wk Bible Study (Max Lucado's 3:16)
Carol Fraser is facilitator.

When: Begins Wed, Feb 11, 7pm-8pm in Rm 207

Why: Feed your soul!

How: Sign up by contacting Carla Dillman, 642-6390, or Carolyn Roberts, 649-6970. Pick up book in Nancy Reed's office and pay on February 11.

ACTS COLLECTION IN FEBRUARY: BEEF STEW

Missionary Prayer Focus: Praise God that the Smiths have arrived safely in Milan, Italy, and that Winsor and Vanessa start school on Monday. Pray for God to meet their need for a school for Josiah and Jordan.

GO Global Outreach News

A post-GIC **Life Commitment luncheon** will be held on February 8 in Ward Hall. The purpose will be to discuss opportunities to serve here in Aiken and around the world.

Christ Central is looking for volunteers to help with their "Jobs for Life" training program that teaches unemployed and underemployed adults the skills to find and retain a job. Contact Sandy Miller (643-9084) or Christ Central directly.

They are also in urgent need of men's clothing, underwear and socks, dinner plates, pots, pans and coffee makers.

Tigers Go Prayer Request – "For God to open doors and lead us to a place to host our campers this summer (Camp Collide). I am confident that God would not lead us this far without leading us all the way - but I need your prayers."

The Chastain Family Prayer Response – Praise to God for meeting their physical and financial needs over the last few difficult months. May they continue to rely on Him and move to Russia when the time is right.

CHILDREN'S CORNER

O.A.R.S. SCHEDULE FOR
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2009

1ST GRADE: JOYFUL NOISE
2ND GRADE: CREATION STATION
3RD GRADE: PALMS & PSALMS
4TH GRADE: HOLYWOOD CINEMAS
5TH GRADE: THOU ART

PRESCHOOL/MDO REGISTRATION for 2009-2010 takes place on **SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2009**. All forms must be turned in that day. Please *do not* send any forms in your child's book bag. Additional information may be obtained by telephoning 648-4745.



UMW CIRCLE MEETINGS FOR FEBRUARY

Monday, February 9

11:00am # 4 Church Parlor

Tuesday, February 10

11:00am #11 Red Lobster

12:30pm # 9 Woodside Country Club

RSVP-Frankie Lambright 648-8720

2:00pm #10 St. John's Resource Center

7:30pm # 1 Marguerite Flynn - 115 Kimberly Dr NW

Monday, February 16

2:30pm # 3 St. John's Church Parlor

Tuesday, February 17

7:00pm # 8 At the Church

Wednesday, February 18

7:00pm # 7 Room 116-118 at the Church

LOOKING AHEAD

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 15 - Movie presentation - *Fireproof*

February 25 - Ash Wednesday

April 4-9 - Mission Trip to New Orleans

April 1 - Lent Lunches begin - St Mary Catholic Church

April 5 - Passion/Palm Sunday

April 5 - Easter Egg Hunt

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

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

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

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*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.*