

# St. John's Visitor

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

Richland at Newberry, Aiken, SC 29801

Volume 9, Issue 9

## STRATEGIC PLANNING - 2009 UPDATE

The 2009 leadership (Church Council) of St. John's is currently making a concerted effort to further refine the strategic plan to enable us to implement our previously adopted church mission statement:

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

The Strategic Planning Committee (SPC) is providing the leadership for this exciting and dynamic process. Excitement comes from: the creation of a shared vision of where we want to be as a church, as well as providing a roadmap and a shared motivation to get there. The process is dynamic in that the route we take to get there will be expected to change along the way. Planning is particularly beneficial in times of uncertainty and change, because it helps us focus on accomplishing important goals in a coordinated and efficient manner. The Church Council has embraced this concept, and is working with the SPC to complete a comprehensive plan that will take us from today through the next ten years. To this end, the SPC has developed the following vision for St. John's:

*"Be a thriving and friendly two thousand-plus member church whose members are actively engaged in making disciples for Christ."*

Whereas the development of a plan sounds great, the question is whether we are really ready to work to make this happen? Please recognize that the vision statement describes just who it is that will be responsible for the implementation. It will be us – the members, not just the church staff! Furthermore, we need to consider if we are ready to face the requirements of this goal. We all like to think that growth in our church would be wonderful, but in many ways we have been lulled into a state of complacency with who we are. So, we must first ask ourselves, are we ready to make the changes necessary to accommodate growth and to cope with the issues which will come with this type of growth – such as parking, facilities, staff, etc.? Of one thing we can be certain, that by carefully listening to our Lord during this process, we will have no problem finding the right road to take. God will unquestionably be our best GPS system! The first iteration of our long term goals will be completed shortly and will be presented in a future issue of the visitor.

Dennis L. Fish  
Chair – Church Council

Tracey Smith  
Chair – Strategic Planning Committee

### DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS SUNDAY, MARCH 8

Set your clocks ahead one hour Saturday night!

**Don't be left out! You are special!**

Help us make our St. John's  
PICTORIAL DIRECTORY

complete by making your portrait appointment.

Sign up on-line through a link on  
St. John's Website or at one of the sign-up tables  
on Sunday morning or Wednesday night.

**March 8, 2009 - Second Sunday in Lent  
Scout Sunday**

**"TEACH US TO PRAY"**

**Scripture: Luke 11: 1 -9**

**Rev. Dr. George K. Howle**

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

NEWS OF THE FAMILY

Meetings to Note

Thursday, March 5

9:30am Bible Study  
7:00pm Overeaters Anonymous

Friday, March 6

10:30am Ringspiration Handbell rehearsal

Saturday, March 7

8:00am Grace Kitchen

Sunday, March 8 - Daylight Savings Time

8:15am Coffee House  
5:00pm Youth Choir  
5:30pm Fireproof Marriage Bible Study  
5:40pm Confirmands & Mentors  
6:00pm Women's Bible Study  
6:00pm Sunday Night Youth

Monday, March 9

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

Tuesday, March 10

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

Wednesday, March 11

9:30am Prayer Shawl/Quilting  
9:30am Bible Study  
3:30pm Grief Share

No Fellowship Supper this week!

5:45pm Children's Choirs  
6:00pm Lenten Communion Service  
6:45pm Chancel Choir  
7:00pm Covenant Prayer Group  
7:00pm Men's & Women's Bible Study

Serving This Week

Crucifer - Sarah Arnold

Acolytes - Zach Harrington, John Luke Nance

Altar Guild - Lynda Troutman, Sherry Williamson, Mary Ann Ray, Mary Musick, Alice Burdette

Crib Rm (11am) Barb Zirps

Toddlers - Megan Godard

2-3 Yr Nursery - Denise Zimmermann

3-4 Yr Nursery - Casey Seawell

Greeters 8:30 - John & Betty Jossey

Greeters 11:00 - Keith Polk, Julie Polk, Debi Rood, Johanna Gibbs, Henriann Goddard

Sunday AM Host (3/8) - John McMahan

Evening Hosts

Sunday (March 8) - Charles McKeel

Monday - Dennis Fish

Tuesday - Mike Uhle

Wednesday - Keith Polk

Thursday - Brian Eberhard

Friday - George Bodkin

Saturday - Gene Usher

**CONGRATULATIONS:** Once again the St. John's Youth did an outstanding job as they led worship last Sunday. This very competent generation surely provides encouragement and incentive to each of us in our own faith walk.

**HOSPITALIZED:** ARMC - Earl Bruorton; **Discharged** - Jane Selman

IN MEMORIAM  
WYATT MANLY JOHNSON  
February 27, 2009

The Friendship Class thanks all who participated in their soup and salad lunch on February 22. Through the congregation's generosity, they will donate \$450 each to ACTS and to Aiken Pregnancy Care Center. *The Friendship Class*

**COMMUNITY LENTEN LUNCHESES** begin at noon on Wednesday this week, at St. Mary's Catholic Church. Duties are rotated between participating churches. You are invited to be part of this time of fellowship and reflection each Wednesday during Lent.

**UNITED METHODIST WOMEN** invited all women of St. John's to join in their Spring Celebration. Mark the date of March 29 at 2pm to hear Special Guest Speaker Dr. Elizabeth Everitt. Child care available.

**FLOWER CALENDAR** has one opening on next Sunday, **March 8**, and also on **March 29** as well as all other months of the year. Please contact the office (648-6891) to remember or honor your loved one with altar flowers.

**INEZ CRAIN** scholarship forms will be accepted through March 31.

Financials for week ending February 28, 2009

Budgetary needs for two week	\$ 34,914
Budget funds rec'd this week	\$ 24,630
Budget funds rec'd to date	\$350,875
Actual expenses to date	\$266,349
St John's loan amt w/Security Fed	\$ 784,608

Faith Promise Update

Fiscal Year 2009-Faith Promise	\$176,312.00
Fiscal Year 2009-Rec'd YTD	\$59,135.50
Fiscal Year 2009-Disbursed YTD	\$ 3,750.00*

\*Error reported last week- amount disbursed should have been -0-  
\*\*2009 Faith Promise year = 2/1/09 thru 1/31/10

**Aiken Pregnancy Care Center Mission Project:** The children of Friendship Class members are sponsoring a church-wide drive to collect new and gently used items for children such as clothing (sizes newborn to 4T), diapers, wipes, pull-ups, strollers, formula, cribs, bottles, swings, books & toys. Please place donations in the collection box by the gym entrance. Due date is April 30. Contact Kevin Buchanan, 617-9558, or Kelly Boni, 642-0361, with questions or for assistance w/larger items. Tax forms can be provided.

**DAVID WILLIAMS**, missionary partner in Ethiopia, will preach at 3 services on March 15 and also share in Ward Hall from 10-10:45am. Everyone is invited.

NO FELLOWSHIP SUPPER  
ON March 11  
Next supper is March 18

Attendance March 1

8:30	107
9:02	143
11:00	306
Total	556
SS	321



## SUNDAY NIGHT YOUTH GROUP

6pm March 8

*Come and bring your friends!!*



Come make a splash at Crocodile Dock---our Vacation Bible School from June 8th through June 12th! Our goal is to reach as many children as we can with God's love at Crocodile Dock. Can you help us? If you would like to volunteer, please contact one of our VBS directors (Allison Beatty-644-5819, Denise Musick-649-6869) or Director of Children's Ministries (Michelle Brown-648-6891.) Be sure to check out [www.stjohns-umc.org](http://www.stjohns-umc.org) to register your children for VBS.

**COOKIES FOR KAIROS** are needed by March 24. If willing to bake a batch, please contact Jennifer Willoughby at 646-8146.

The **OARS KIDS** will be invited to an ice cream sundae party on April 15 during Wed. night supper before choir. However, how many memory verses they recite will determine how many toppings they will receive on their sundae. If they do not recite any verses, then they will receive plain ice cream! A printout of the verses will be sent home with your children or can be picked up on the table in the OARS hallway.

**Missionary Prayer Focus:** For the children of Helping Hands to see and feel God's love during the cookie bake on March 7.

## GO Global Outreach News

**Cookies!** Volunteers are needed to help teach/bake cookies at **Helping Hands** on March 7 at 3:00 PM. We will be baking cookies with the teen girls/boys and also the 12 and under group. Please contact Sandy Miller (643-9084).

**David Williams**, our field missionary in Ethiopia, will visit St. Johns on Sunday, March 15. He will preach at all three services and present an audio-visual program from 10-10:45 in Ward Hall. Immediately following the 11:00 AM service, David will be in Ward Hall to meet with anyone interested in a short-term mission trip to Ethiopia this fall.

**A Campus Workday at Epworth Children's Home** will be held Saturday, March 21st. There is a signup sheet outside of Ward Hall. The bus leaves at 8:00 AM and returns around 4:00 PM. Epworth will provide lunch. Tasks will be assigned there, such as raking and painting. For questions, please contact Maureen Bernard (221-9635).

**Aiken Pregnancy Care Center** is looking for volunteers to help with their Spring banquet to be held April 30. Please show your support by calling Jessica Loggins at Aiken Pregnancy Care Center (642-3949).

## CHILDREN'S CORNER

### O.A.R.S. SCHEDULE FOR SUNDAY, MARCH 8, 2009

1<sup>ST</sup> GRADE: THOU ART  
 2<sup>ND</sup> GRADE: FROM BC TO PC  
 3<sup>RD</sup> GRADE: MARY & MARTHA'S B & B  
 4<sup>TH</sup> GRADE: THE ARKADE  
 5<sup>TH</sup> GRADE: JOYFUL NOISE  
 BIBLE MEMORY VERSE: "WE SHOULD HELP PEOPLE WHENEVER WE CAN." GALATIANS 6:10

**ST. JOHN'S PRESCHOOL** still has a few spaces available in 3K and Kindergarten classes. Call Michelle Pearson for more information.

### UMW CIRCLE MEETINGS FOR MARCH

#### Monday, March 9

11:00am # 4 Church Parlor

#### Tuesday, March 10

10:00am #11 Church Parlor

12:30pm # 9 Houndslake Country Club

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

7:30pm # 1 Betty Thomason - 15 Burgund Rd SW

#### Monday, March 16

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

#### Tuesday, March 17

7:00pm # 8 At the Church

#### Wednesday, March 18

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

### ACTS COLLECTION IN MARCH:

Macaroni & Cheese

### LOOKING AHEAD

**March 4** - Lent Lunches begin - St Mary Catholic Church

**March 15** - David Williams, Visiting Missionary Partner from Ethiopia

**March 24-April 4** - Pictorial Directory Portrait Appts.

**March 26** - Joseph Martin Concert

**March 29** - Musical Lenten Journey - Chancel Choir

**March 29** - UMW Spring Celebration

**April 4-9** - Mission Trip to New Orleans

**April 5** - Passion/Palm Sunday

**April 5** - Easter Egg Hunt

**April 9** - Maundy Thursday Communion Service

**April 10** - Good Friday Tenebrae Service of Shadows

**April 12** - Easter Day

**April 24-25** - Youth Choir Trip

**May 17** - Confirmation Sunday

**May 22** - St. John's Golf Tournament at Cedar Creek

**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

[george.howle@stjohns-umc.org](mailto:george.howle@stjohns-umc.org)  
[keith.stewart@stjohns-umc.org](mailto:keith.stewart@stjohns-umc.org)  
[harry.sampson@stjohns-umc.org](mailto:harry.sampson@stjohns-umc.org)  
[catherine.stapleton@stjohns-umc.org](mailto:catherine.stapleton@stjohns-umc.org)  
[nancy.fairgrieve@stjohns-umc.org](mailto:nancy.fairgrieve@stjohns-umc.org)  
[gene.aiken@stjohns-umc.org](mailto:gene.aiken@stjohns-umc.org)  
[nancy.reed@stjohns-umc.org](mailto:nancy.reed@stjohns-umc.org)  
[anne.hawkins@stjohns-umc.org](mailto:anne.hawkins@stjohns-umc.org)  
[paula.sawyer@stjohns-umc.org](mailto:paula.sawyer@stjohns-umc.org)  
[michelle.pearson@stjohns-umc.org](mailto:michelle.pearson@stjohns-umc.org)  
[mary.kosky@stjohns-umc.org](mailto:mary.kosky@stjohns-umc.org)  
[michelle.brown@stjohns-umc.org](mailto:michelle.brown@stjohns-umc.org)  
  
[midge.rothrock@stjohns-umc.org](mailto:midge.rothrock@stjohns-umc.org)  
[jimi.whitesell@stjohns-umc.org](mailto:jimi.whitesell@stjohns-umc.org)  
[gerald.thompson@stjohns-umc.org](mailto:gerald.thompson@stjohns-umc.org)

Church Office: 648.6891  
Church FAX: 648.7197  
Preschool: 648.4745  
Web Site: [www.stjohns-umc.org](http://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.