

St. John's Visitor

March 25, 2008 Published weekly by St. John's UM Church

Richland at Newberry, Aiken, SC 29801 Volume 8, Issue 12

No Turning Back

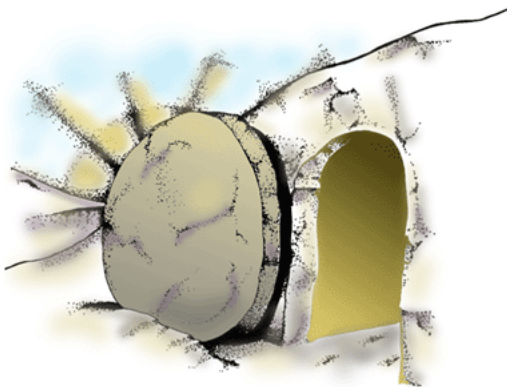
I woke up in a hurry last Thursday in order to make it to my Lenten small group study at the Waffle House. As I pulled into the parking lot, I was overcome with joy for the seventh straight week as I saw my group patiently waiting. During the entire Lenten season, several of the senior high youth and I met, before school and work, once a week to share breakfast, pray together, and discuss a devotional book that we were loosely following. For me personally, this time together had become a means of grace preparing me for my busiest day of the week – visitation day.

Lent is the season when we examine our own lives to see the places where we stray away from following Jesus Christ. This 40 day self-reflection is a time where we prepare ourselves for the celebration of the resurrection of our Lord on Easter morning. This past February 6th, Ash Wednesday, many of us probably set out on our own Lenten journey by giving up something like sweets or television in order to re-focus our attention on becoming true disciples of Jesus Christ. Deep down, I was dreading the end of Lent because I knew that our group would probably disband. Then one of the youth answered my prayers by suggesting that we should continue meeting until I leave for Duke. And even greater, everyone else agreed that this would be a good idea.

Throughout my own personal journey this Lenten season, I remained faithful in some of the spiritual disciplines I undertook while I also reverted back to indulging in several of the mundane habits, like ESPN.com surfing, I had given up for Lent. Nevertheless, Easter morning arrived in its grandeur and glory as we praised the Risen Christ in our own lives. This year I realized that Easter morning did not mark the end of our Lenten journey, but rather signified the beginning of our ministry. Jesus empowered his disciples in John 20:21 by proclaiming, *"Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you."* He has given us the sacred responsibility of going out into our community to spread the Good News to everyone we encounter. There is no turning back! We have left the empty tomb on a mission to share with all the love and hope of Jesus Christ. I pray that we may continue following the disciplines we acquired during the Lenten journey as we use them for the betterment of the Kingdom.

Grace and Peace,

Walter Cantwell



March 30, 2008 - Second Sunday of Easter

"I'LL BELIEVE IT WHEN I SEE"

Scripture: John 20: 19 - 31

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

NEW ARRIVAL: *George Asbury Lawson, IV, son of Amy & George Lawson, III, and grandson of Susan & George Lawson, Jr., was born March 17 in Nashville, TN.*

HOSPITALIZED: *Aiken - Arlene Usher, Eleanor Cool; Discharged - Tom Minter, Fred Penix, Carolyn Heaton; Discharged to Carriage Hills - Harry Carey*

Meetings to Note

Thursday, March 27

- 9:30am Bible Study
- 6:30pm United Methodist Men
- 7:00pm Overeaters Anonymous

Friday, March 28

- 7:00pm Primetime Bridge

Sunday, March 30

- 8:15am Coffee House
- 9:02am Contemporary Worship in Gym
- 5:00pm Prayer Shawl Ministry
- 6:00pm Women's Emmaus
- 6:00pm Women's Bible Study
- 6:00pm *Christian Believer Bible Study*

Monday, March 31

- 8:15am First Place
- 7:00pm Women's Bible Study

Tuesday, April 1

- 10:30am Fun Tuesday for Retirees
- 6:00pm Education Committee

Wednesday, April 2

- 9:30am Quilting and Prayer Shawl Groups
- 9:30am TF Bible Study
- 4:00pm Grief Share Group
- 5:00pm Fellowship Supper
- 7:00pm Covenant Prayer Group
- 7:00pm Men/Women's Bible Study

Serving This Week

- Acolytes** - Caroline Smith
- Crucifer** - Zach Madden, Andrea Mikes
- Altar Guild** - Mary Musick,
Lynda Troutman, Sharon West,
Sherry Williamson
- Crib Rm** (11:00 a.m.) - Marian Dean
- Toddlers** - Robin Vitali
- 2-3 Yr Nursery** - Karen Buchanan
- 3-4 Yr Nursery** - Angie Doolittle
- Greeters 8:30** - Paula & Barry Clayton,
Claudette Strickland, Ed Farmer
- Sunday School Greeter** - Beverly Burch
- Greeters 11:00** - Walt Croft, Lee Poe,
Marcia Harris, Sherry West,
Nancy Vernon, Charlie Thorngate

Sunday AM Host (March 30)

Dave Kelly

Evening Hosts

- Sunday (March 30) - *John Geiger*
- Monday - *Bob Fogle*
- Tuesday - *Jeff Crenshaw*
- Wednesday - *Robin Dillman*
- Thursday - *Kevin Buchanan*
- Friday - *Lamar Keisler*
- Saturday - *Clay Jones*

IN MEMORIAM

JAMES RICHARD "BO" TAYLOR

March 16, 2008

IN MEMORIAM

ALDA WEAVER KEETER

March 24, 2008

Our family wants to thank this wonderful church family for the outpouring of love that you have shown us these past weeks. We've always known St. John's to be a great church, but the incredible support through cards, food, and words of concern and comfort has been overwhelming. In the past 2 1/2 years the visits from staff and volunteers and the wonderful prayer shawl had been such a comfort to my mother, Sally Hooper. We feel so blessed to be a part of St. John's.

Carolyn and Jim Heffner

Ryan and I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all of the wonderful volunteers who made this year's Easter Egg Hunt so special. Our sandwich crew, egg "hidlers", and all of the other people behind the scenes were a blessing. It was a beautiful day and the children were precious. We would also like to say a special thank you to Scott Heath & Aiken Pest Control for spraying the parkway for ants prior to the hunt. We are already looking forward to next year.

Michelle & Ryan Orr, Children's Coordinators - Family Life Council

We greatly appreciate your support and want to acknowledge the recent donation of luggage for the children at Helping Hands...who have been removed from their homes due to abuse, abandonment and neglect. With your help, we dedicate ourselves to being the best that we can be while these children are in our care. Without continued support such as yours, it would be impossible to continue to operate our emergency shelter.

Angela Booker for Helping Hands, Inc.

Faith Promise report for week ending 3/22

2008 Faith Promise	\$233,152.48
Received last week	4,946.75
Received YTD	32,032.11
Balance for which to pray	\$201,120.37

Last Week's Attendance

8:30	317
9:02	135
11:00	905
Total	1357
SS	300

FELLOWSHIP SUPPER

Menu for Wednesday, April 2

Menu for Thursday, March 20

Chicken Parmesan

Tossed Salad Crusty Bread

Coconut Cake

Financials for week ending March 22, 2008

Budgetary needs for the week	\$ 35,042
Budgetary funds rec'd this week	\$ 19,277
Budget funds rec'd to date	\$ 426,975
Actual expenses to date	\$ 351,180
St John's loan amt w/Security Fed	\$1,117,608



St. John's
youth ministry

Sunday Night Youth Meeting 6:00 PM

St. John's **PrimeTimers Travel Group** invites others to join in for their trip on **Friday, April 11**, to attend the **Bill Gaither & Homecoming Friends** event at the Colonial Center in Columbia. The cost covers your reserved seating and transportation on St. John's mini-bus. A supper stop before the performance will be "Dutch Treat." If you are interested in this day trip, please call **Spence Grotheer (642-0084)**.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY HOME BUILD

St. John's is again participating in this ongoing ministry which provides simple, decent, affordable housing for Aiken families. St. John's founded the local affiliate 20 years ago and this upcoming house will be home #70. Volunteers are needed who would like to share in this community ministry - a wonderful opportunity to extend a helping hand as well as share in some great fellowship with other church members. St. John's is sharing this build with other churches which results in work days on 4/19 (afternoon), 5/10, 5/31, 6/21 and 7/19. In addition to builders, volunteers are needed to provide lunches. If interested, please **contact David Buchanan** at buchanan@gforcecable.com or 641-1285.

REMINDER TO BRIDGE PLAYERS: This month's bridge game was postponed to **March 28 (fourth Friday)** rather than the usual date. If interested in playing, please notify Doug Leader and plan to be in Ward Hall Friday at 7pm.

Aiken Pregnancy Care Center Spring Banquet

When: April 17, 2008

Where: St. Mary's

Time: 7:00-9:00 pm

St. John's is hosting a table for eight.

If you are interested in attending, please contact Jan Gilbert at 646-0451 (cell).



UNITED METHODIST MEN'S annual fish fry will begin Thursday at 6:30pm in the gym. Richard Church, Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity of Aiken County, is speaker for the evening. All men of the church are invited.

CHILDREN'S CORNER

O.A.R.S. SCHEDULE FOR SUNDAY, MARCH 30, 2008:

1ST GRADE: FROM BC TO PC
2ND GRADE: MARY & MARTHA'S B & B
3RD GRADE: THE ARKADE
4TH GRADE: CREATION STATION
5TH/6TH GRADE GIRLS: PALMS & PSALMS
5TH/6TH GRADE BOYS: HOLYWOOD CINEMAS

"A Time of Prayer"

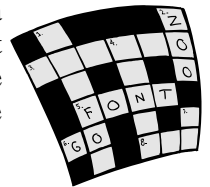
*All who believe in the power of prayer
are invited to attend!*

Life for Children Ministry

Trip to Kenya

Sunday, March 30 10:45 in the Chapel

DO YOU HAVE blank puzzle pages (clean and unworked) from the Aiken Standard, Augusta Chronicle and the State newspaper that you'd be willing to donate? Please leave in the green basket outside the church office.



LOOKING AHEAD

April 5-10 - Mission trip to New Orleans

April 27 - Organ Concert

May 18 - Confirmation Sunday

June 7-14 - Sand River Salkehatchie

June 16-20 - Vacation Bible School, 2008

June 28-July 5 - Pee Dee Salkehatchie

July 12-19 - Santee Salkehatchie

FUN TUESDAY

ALL RETIREES INVITED

for food, fellowship and a bit of exercise

TUESDAY, APRIL 1

10:30 AM IN WARD HALL



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
23 HARRY W. SAMPSON
26 CATHERINE STAPLETON NANCE
25 NANCY FAIRGRIEVE
27 GENE AIKEN
58 WALTER CANTWELL
57 NANCY REED
34 ANNE L. HAWKINS
21 PAULA C. SAWYER
30 MICHELLE I. PEARSON
33 MARY KOSKY
60 JAN GILBERT
61 MICHELLE BROWN
31 GERALD F. THOMPSON
WILLIE M. GREEN
ENSLEY O. ADAMS
ROBERT WOODS
YVONNE DUBLIN

Minister
Director of Staff and Planning
Director of Music Ministries
Financial Services
Director of Youth Ministries
Ministerial Intern
Director, Adult & Senior Ministries
Assistant to Ministers
Church Secretary
Director, Preschool/MDO Ministries
Coordinator of Volunteers
Missions Coordinator
Director, Children's Ministries
Custodian Coordinator
Custodian
Custodian
Custodian
Custodian

george.howle@stjohns-umc.org
harry.sampson@stjohns-umc.org
catherine.stapleton@stjohns-umc.org
nancy.fairgrieve@stjohns-umc.org
gene.aiken@stjohns-umc.org
walter.cantwell@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
jan.gilbert@stjohns-umc.org
michelle.brown@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

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St. John's United Methodist Church, 104 Newberry St NW, Aiken, SC 29801-3918.