

# St. John's Visitor

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## General Conference 2008 in Fort Worth, Texas, April 23<sup>rd</sup> to May 8<sup>th</sup>!!!

Have you ever wondered what makes United Methodists different from most other Protestant denominations? It is in the way that the Church governs itself!

The United Methodist Church is comprised of thousands of local churches that span across the entire globe. "Each local church is a connectional society – of persons who have been baptized, profess their faith in Jesus Christ and assume membership in the United Methodist Church." These local churches, if they are small in size, are connected with other local churches located near them creating a "charge conference." St. John's is large enough in size that we stand alone as our own charge conference, but we are still connected to other congregations and charge conferences through districts.

Districts are a group of charge conferences and stand alone local churches, like St. John's, that are relatively close to one another geographically. We are a part of the Orangeburg District which is made up of 106 local churches. St. John's is the largest church in the Orangeburg District and is under the supervision of our District Superintendent, the Reverend Ron Pettit.

The annual conference connects districts to one another creating a larger body. St. John's is a member of the South Carolina Annual Conference which includes all of the United Methodist Churches in South Carolina. A Bishop of the United Methodist Church maintains watch over the annual conference or a group of annual conferences – these both are called an Episcopal Area. Bishop Mary Virginia Taylor is the Bishop of the South Carolina Annual Conference, and this is the only annual conference over which she presides.

Local churches are then connected to one another through jurisdictional conferences which are the groupings of Episcopal Areas that fall within geographical zones. St. John's is in the Southeast Jurisdictional Conference. There are five jurisdictional conferences in the continental USA and seven jurisdictional conferences outside of the USA. These jurisdictional conferences are all connected to form the General Conference. Obviously, St. John's is a member of the General Conference!

Are you feeling small yet? Well, you shouldn't – because every member of the United Methodist Church has an opportunity to make an impact in the General Conference through petitions submitted to the Annual Conference and, after approval, submitted to the Secretary of the General Conference. These petitions seek to reform and restore the Church to the vision held by the Wesley brothers. Every four years, the General Conference convenes to sift through all of the petitions brought forward by the members of the United Methodist Church. As you can see, we are connected to all of our brothers and sisters within the worldwide UMC.

The General Conference meets every fourth year, this year in Fort Worth, Texas. Delegates include an equal number of clergy and laity. *The Reverend Ken Nelson*, a former Associate Minister at St. John's, will be attending in 2008 as a clergy delegate.

There are a lot of issues facing the UMC. To learn more about these important petitions **please pick up one of the free *South Carolina: United Methodist Advocate* newspapers in the office to see how the South Carolina Conference and St. John's will be voting!**

### April 6, 2008 - Third Sunday of Easter Communion Meditation

**"IN THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD"**

**Scripture: Luke 24: 13 - 25**

Dr. George K. Howle

#### Schedule of Services

- 8:30 am Worship in the Sanctuary - Traditional
- 9:02 am Worship in the Gym - Contemporary
- 11:00 am Worship in the Sanctuary - Traditional

*The Sacrament of Holy Communion  
will be celebrated at all services.*

**Bible Study Groups**

Check with your leader about meetings during week of Spring Break!

**Meetings to Note**

**Thursday, April 3**

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

**Sunday, April 6**

8:15am Coffee House  
9:02am Contemporary Worship in Gym  
6:00pm Sunday Night Youth  
6:00pm No Christian Believer-Spring Break

**Monday, April 7**

8:15am First Place  
10:00am Visitation Committee  
7:00pm Stewardship Committee

**Tuesday, April 8**

7:00pm Board of Trustees

**Wednesday, April 9**

9:30am Quilting and Prayer Shawl Groups  
4:00pm Grief Share Group  
**No Fellowship Supper this week**  
7:00pm Covenant Prayer Group

**Serving This Week**

- Crucifer** - Victoria Lockridge
- Acolytes** - Adam Bumpus, Matt Hudgins
- Altar Guild** - Linda Endler, Virginia Morris, Betty Mullikin, Ann Taylor, Mimi Wiland
- Crib Rm** (11:00 a.m.) - Susan Vernon
- Toddlers** - Katie Proctor
- 2-3 Yr Nursery** - Molly Jones
- 3-4 Yr Nursery** - Dawn Mahoney
- Greeters 8:30** - Hilda Secrist, Ann Carter, John & Andrea Downs
- Sunday School Greeter** - Diane James
- Greeters 11:00** - Evelyn & Gail Marine, John & Jean Geiger, Debi Rood, Charlotte Holly
- Sunday AM Host (April 6)**  
Frank Smith, III
- Evening Hosts**
- Sunday (April 6) - Jerry Johnson
- Monday - Charles McKeel
- Wednesday - Dennis Fish
- Thursday - Mike Uhle
- Friday - Keith Polk
- Saturday - Brian Eberhard

**Last Week's Attendance**

8:30	122
9:02	140
11:00	407
Total	669
SS	325

**NEWS OF THE FAMILY**

**NEW ARRIVAL:** *Avelyn Briar Yeh, daughter of Edward & Heather Yeh, was born March 26 in Aiken.*

**BAPTISM:** *Receiving the Sacrament of Holy Baptism on March 30 was Hope Elizabeth Cornelius, daughter of Harry & Mary Cornelius and granddaughter of William & Nell Berrie.*

**CONDOLENCES:** *Deepest sympathy is extended to Sandra Holman in the death of her mother-in-law, Camilia (Babe) Holman, March 17 in Tumball, TX.*

**HOSPITALIZED:** *Aiken - Harry Carey; Discharged - Mary Gardner, Francis Hubbard; Carriage Hills - Eleanor Cool*

**IN MEMORIAM**

**PATRICIA "PATTY" MOORMAN ATKINSON**

**March 27, 2008 (Perrysburg, Ohio)**

*From our heart we send a very grateful "thank you" to all of you who were so caring, supportive, and prayerful during Mother's recent illness and death. Mother (Merve Lefler) was a member of St. John's for close to 50 years and she dearly loved this church. Also the reception was so appreciated by our entire family. Words seem inadequate to truly express our deep gratitude for all of you - our dear St. John's family!*

*Blessings, Ken and Nancy Perrine & family*

*Congratulations to the Monday Morning First Place Class on their sixty-eight pound weight loss!*

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!** There are two upcoming concerts on our "Under the Steeple" series: The first is Andrew Henderson, Organist from New York City. It is 4 pm on April 27<sup>th</sup>. The second is Kings Brass at 7 pm on June 3. Both concerts are free admission, as always.

**Financials for week ending March 29, 2008**

Budgetary needs for the week	\$ 35,042
Budgetary funds rec'd this week	\$ 27,239
Budget funds rec'd to date	\$ 454,214
Actual expenses to date	\$ 386,679
St John's loan amt w/Security Fed	\$ 1,117,608

**Faith Promise report for week ending March 29**

2008 Faith Promise	\$233,152.48
Received last week	5,546.00
Received YTD	37,578.11
Balance for which to pray	\$195,674.37

**NO FELLOWSHIP SUPPER**

**on Wednesday, April 9**

*Spring Break!!!*

**ST. JOHN'S**

**HIRES NEW ORGANIST**

After months of searching, interviews and performances, St. John's has hired a new organist effective June 2008. Our new organist performed at both services on February 17<sup>th</sup>. His name is Mark Dickens and at present he resides in Columbia, SC. He is in his junior year at USC and will graduate in 2009 with a Bachelor of Music in Organ. He currently is organist at St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church in North Augusta and Organist and Choir Director at Ascension Lutheran Church in Augusta, Ga. Al Snell, Chairman  
Pastor Parish  
Relations Committee



**April 6 6:00 PM**  
**Sunday Night Youth Meeting**

**April 13 4:00-6:00 PM**  
**Master's View Party at**  
**Gene & Katie Aiken's home**

**TIGERS GO MISSION TEAM** leaves for New Orleans on Saturday, April 5. Focus areas are home repair and evangelism. There are thirty participants, youth and adults who will be representing St. John's during this week-long trip. Please remember to support them with your prayers and thank them for their work when they return. See more information at [tigersgo.org](http://tigersgo.org).

Construction on the next **HABITAT FOR HUMANITY HOME** begins on April 19. This ongoing ministry provides simple, decent, affordable housing for Aiken families and this church has been meaningfully involved for 20 years. The upcoming house will be home #70. Volunteers to share in this community effort are needed. 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: [buchanan@gforcecable.com](mailto:buchanan@gforcecable.com) or 641-1285.

#### **BIBLE STUDY AT ST. JOHN'S**

**Mondays, 8am** - First Place (new session begins 4/14)

**Mondays, 7pm** - Women's Group

**Wednesdays, 9:30am** - New Testament Study - Acts

**Wednesdays, 7pm** - Women's Group

**Wednesdays, 7pm** - Men's Group

**Thursdays, 9:30am** - Women's Group

**Sundays, 6:00pm** - Women's Group (new session 4/27)

Contact the office for study topic  
and/or contact person.



#### **UMW APRIL CIRCLE MEETINGS**

##### **Tuesday, April 8**

10:00 am #11	Church Resource Rm
12:30 pm # 9	"Bag" Lunch - Church
2:00 pm #10	Church Resource Rm
7:30 pm # 1	Pat Sauls
	907 Magnolia Ln SE

##### **Monday, April 14**

11:00 am # 4 Church Parlor

##### **Tuesday, April 15**

2:00 pm #13 Church Resource Rm  
7:00 pm # 8 Church Parlor

##### **Wednesday, April 16**

7:00 pm # 7 Church - Room 116

##### **Monday, April 21**

2:30 pm # 3 Church Parlor

## **CHILDREN'S CORNER**

### **O.A.R.S. SCHEDULE FOR SUNDAY, APRIL 6, 2008:**

**1<sup>ST</sup> GRADE: MARY & MARTHA'S B & B**

**2<sup>ND</sup> GRADE: THE ARKADE**

**3<sup>RD</sup> GRADE: JOYFUL NOISE**

**4<sup>TH</sup> GRADE: PALMS & PSALMS**

**5<sup>TH</sup>/6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE GIRLS: HOLYWOOD CINEMAS**

**5<sup>TH</sup>/6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE BOYS: THOU ART**

**K.K.I.K. (Kicks for Kids in Kenya)** - Come join our St. John's children in collecting gently used or new shoes! There are drop-off boxes in our church. Please help with this donation and pray for Kenya's children. All donations will be given to "Life for Children Ministries." Contact is Taylor Mabry, 648-9730. Thank you!!!

#### **GET CRAFTING**

Apple Fest is coming! Start crafting items now for Apple Fest in November. We take all kinds of hand-crafted items. If you make soap, quilts, or jewelry, make some extra for the craft booth.

Commie and Mae Beth are dreaming up another wonderful ornament for your collection. Don't miss out. Remember to come by the craft booth and see what they come up with this year. While you're there, check out all the other handcrafted items for sale!

Are you interested in tutoring and sharing your love of God with school age children from Christ Central Ministries? **Where:** Memorial Baptist Church **When:** Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6:30-7:30. Please prayerfully consider this and email Sherry Williamson at [rsww20@bellsouth.net](mailto:rsww20@bellsouth.net) or call at 645-0034 (cell#) if you are interested. Christ Central Phone# 644-0705.

You are invited to contact Spence Grotheer at 642-0084 if interested in joining the Travel Group going to Columbia for the **Bill Gaither & Homecoming Friends** Friday, April 11, at the Colonial Center in Columbia.

#### **LOOKING AHEAD**

**April 5-10** - Mission trip to New Orleans

**April 27** - Organ Concert

**May 18** - Confirmation Sunday

**June 1** - Graduation Sunday

**June 3** - Kings Brass Concert

**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

# St. John's Visitor

PERIODICALS POSTAGE PAID  
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ST. JOHN'S VISITOR  
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Aiken, SC 29802-0809

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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  
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