

St. John's Visitor

April 22 2008 Published weekly by St. John's UM Church

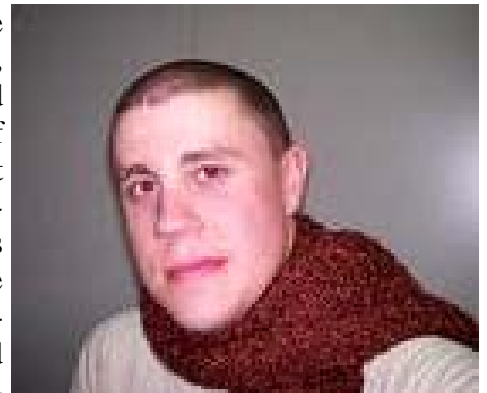
Richland at Newberry, Aiken, SC 29801 Volume 8, Issue 16

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

'Hundreds of hands.....large, small, soft, callusedso different, yet alike in purpose..... reverently touching shawls draped over the chancel rail..... lingering for a moment as prayers are offered for the recipients of the colorful creations.....'

This has become a familiar scene at St. John's in the past two years as shawls have been blessed on the altar and then presented to individuals in need of a tangible reminder of God's love. One of the shawls that you placed your hands on a few weeks ago has been carefully packaged and is traveling to Iraq. When Michael Goldston opens this package, he will discover a shawl that has been touched and prayed over by members of this congregation who have known him since he was an infant---those of you who taught him in Sunday School, Vacation Bible School and MYF; others who witnessed his confirmation; and still others who wished him well as he graduated from high school and college. Wrapping this shawl around his shoulders, Michael will surely feel the power of your prayers and be comforted by the knowledge that the same God who knew and loved him before he was even born will be with him during this time when he is so far from home.

Another young soldier in Iraq did not grow up in this church and has never had the opportunity to meet you, but he can certainly attest to the power of the prayers that are woven into these shawls. Robert Krueger, son of Delores Fish, was given a prayer shawl just before he was deployed to Iraq. He folded it neatly and tucked it inside his bedding, not certain if he would be able to take it with him, but definitely not wanting to leave it behind in the States. Soon after arriving in Iraq, he sent his mother a picture in which he was wearing his prayer shawl loosely wrapped around his neck. The shawl had indeed made it to Iraq! Last month, he called home with the news that he had miraculously escaped being injured by a powerful bomb that had landed 50 feet from where he was standing. It had lodged deeply in the ground before exploding, greatly diminishing its destructive power. Hearing this news, his mother reminded him that it was not mere coincidence that he had survived this close call because every day he is covered in prayers----*your* prayers.



What a special gift you have sent to these young men! They are far from home; but because of the shawls, they know that they are not forgotten and that you will continue to keep them in your prayers.

Perhaps some of you have felt God nudging you to join this ministry. If so, please give your name to Paula Sawyer in the office and someone will contact you. We will provide instruction and encouragement to any of you who do not know how to knit or crochet. Some of the shawls which you prayed over several weeks ago were made by women who first said, "Yes!" and then said, "Teach me!" Their handiwork is proof that when God calls us to a ministry, he will give us the skills we need to accomplish it and will greatly bless us for our obedience to His call.

April 27, 2008 - Sixth Sunday of Easter

"SHOW US THE FATHER"

Scripture: John 14: 7 - 11

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, April 24

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

Sunday, April 27

- 8:15am Coffee House
- 9:02am Contemporary Worship in Gym
- 10:00am New Member Coffee
- 3:00pm VBS Meeting
- 4:00pm Under the Steeple Concert-Organ
- 5:00pm Prayer Shawl Ministry
- 6:00pm Women's Emmaus
- 6:00pm Women's Bible Study
- 6:00pm Christian Believer Bible Study

Monday, April 28

- 8:15am First Place
- 4:00pm UMW Executive Meeting
- 7:00pm Women's Bible Study

Wednesday, April 30

- 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's Bible Study
- 7:00pm Women's Bible Study

Serving This Week

- Crucifer** - Kathleen Brannon
- Acolytes** - John Boone, Lindsay Carpenter
- Altar Guild** - Linda Endler, Virginia Morris, Betty Mullikin, Ann Taylor, Mimi Wiland
- Crib Rm** (11:00 a.m.) - Darby Copeland
- Toddlers** - Rebecca Harper
- 2-3 Yr Nursery** - Amanda Stefanakos
- 3-4 Yr Nursery** - Tracey Smith
- Greeters 8:30** - Hilda Scrist, 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 27)

Michael Rollins

Evening Hosts

- Sunday (April 27) - Bob Kosky
- Monday - Marc Nadeau
- Tuesday - Jeff Ray
- Wednesday - John Geiger
- Thursday - Jeff Crenshaw
- Friday - Robin Dillman
- Saturday - Kevin Buchanan

Last Week's Attendance

8:30	134
9:02	165
11:00	406
Total	705
SS	325

BAPTISM: Receiving the Sacrament of Holy Baptism on April 20 was **Samantha Meredith Moore**, daughter of **Jimmy & Emily Moore** and granddaughter of **Jim & Carolyn Moore**.

NEW ARRIVAL: **Ryan Philip Sikes**, son of **Jocelyn & Philip Sikes** of Easley and grandson of **Jan & Brent Boore**, was born April 20 in Greenville.

CONDOLENCES: Deepest sympathy is extended to **Rosalind Crenshaw** in the death of her cousin, **Mike Starnes**, on April 17 in Columbia, SC.

HOSPITALIZED: **Aiken** - Nita Robison; **Discharged** - Betty Boone, Monnie Pitts, Helen Lane; **Discharged to Carriage Hills** Eleanor Cool; **Discharged from Carriage Hills to home** - Ray Hydrick

IN MEMORIAM

JOANNE STIEFEL EUBANKS

April 14, 2008

There's a change in the **First Sunday Food for ACTS** effort. On the first Sunday St. John's will be asked to provide donations of a single item. For May the request is for a box of saltine crackers from all who care to contribute. Please place in one of the appropriately marked boxes located throughout the church. Also, home-grown vegetables will be gratefully received - these should be dropped off directly to ACTS.

FELLOWSHIP SUPPER
Menu for Wednesday, April 30

- Antipasto Salad
- Homemade Lasagna
- Bread
- Coconut Pie

Financials for week ending April 19, 2008

Budgetary needs for the week	\$ 35,042
Budgetary funds rec'd this week	\$ 25,648
Budget funds rec'd to date	\$ 549,854
Actual expenses to date	\$ 473,336
St John's loan amt w/Security Fed	\$ 1,117,608

Faith Promise report for week ending April 19

2008 Faith Promise	\$233,252.48
Received last week	1,006.50
Received YTD	42,147.61
Balance for which to pray	\$191,104.88

NEW MEMBERS are invited to a *Welcome Coffee Hour* at 10:00 am next Sunday, April 27, in Ward Hall. Please RSVP to the church office if able to attend. Hopefully, you can take advantage of this opportunity to meet some other new folks and learn a bit more about St. John's.



St. John's **PrimeTimers Travel Group** invites others to join in for their day trip on **Thursday, May 22**, to tour the new state-of-the-art *Billy Graham Library* in Charlotte, NC.



Lunch is planned at the *Graham Brothers Dairy Bar* located inside the *Library (Dutch Treat.) Capitol Tours* will supply the motorcoach and driver, leaving Aiken by 8:30am and returning about 5:00pm. If interested in this day trip, please call **Spence Grotheer (642-0084)** for more details.

UNITED METHODIST MEN meet Thursday (April 24) at 6:30pm in Ward Hall for their monthly covered dish meeting. Rev. Bruce Fox, a founder of Christ Central Ministries and Senior Pastor for South Aiken Church of God is the invited speaker.



St. John's
youth ministry

Regular meeting Sunday, 6pm
This will be the last time
Walter will be teaching.

May 4 - Party for Walter!

NEED A NAMETAG? Check the ribbon outside the office door. If you do not find yours there, please contact Anne in the office.



PUZZLE PAGES STILL NEEDED. Please leave clean, unworked pages in the basket outside the church office.

On May 4 *all young men of St. John's* are invited to a complimentary **FULL BREAKFAST** in Ward Hall at 8am during the early services. Please call the office by Wednesday, April 30, to reserve a spot.

HELP URGENTLY NEEDED for pick-up drivers/helpers, cashiers and sales floor helpers in Habitat Resale Stores in Aiken (Park Av SE) and Burnetown (Augusta Rd.) Training provided - bring a friend and make a team. Eric Lenser, Program Mgr., has details, 642-9295, x108 or email Eric_Lenser@habitataiken.org

PLEASE HELP provide meals for Salkehatchie during week of June 7-15 - breakfast, lunch, dinner. Teens from across the state will be repairing five area homes at no charge to the homeowner. If you and/or your group can help,

EPWORTH CHILDREN'S HOME is requesting donations of summer church camp clothes for their boys and girls. Stop by the table outside of the church office for a card with sizes. Thank you for your generous support!

Church Women United's annual observance of the Aiken **MAY FRIENDSHIP DAY** will be held Friday, May 2, 2008 beginning at 12 noon. The services will be held at Beaver Dam Baptist Church, located at 632 Beaver Dam Rd in Aiken. This year's theme is *God's Wisdom Inspires Hospitality*. Churches are asked to make their donations at this time which will help Children's Place, Abused Women, Salvation Army, Alston Wilkes Society, Development Center and Camp Hope.

Soon you will be asked to participate in a United Methodist tradition that was started in 1935. Since that first **MOTHER'S DAY OFFERING** churches across the state of South Carolina have supported their Epworth Children's Home on this special day. Please be prayerful about your donation for the May 11 Mother's Day Offering. The children at Epworth are depending upon your generosity. For more information on Epworth Children's Home, please visit www.epworthchildrenshome.org.

CHILDREN'S CORNER

O.A.R.S. SCHEDULE FOR
SUNDAY, APRIL 27, 2008:

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

APRIL'S FAMILY ACTIVITY: The Family Life Council would like to invite children of all ages and their families to a Polo Match on Sunday, April 27, at 3:00pm at Whitney Field (off Mead Avenue.) We will be on the far side of the field (from where you drive in), mid-field. Bring a blanket, a snack and a friend - and join us for some fun and fellowship. Hope to see you there! Call Teresa Crain at 215-6034 with any questions.



To honor or remember your mother by including her in the **MOTHER'S DAY BULLETIN INSERT** on May 11, see a member of UMW Circe #10 on the next two Sundays. Cost is \$1 per name.

VBS (June 16-20) REGISTRATION can be done online!



Reminder - Under the Steeple Concert
Sunday, April 27 - 4:00 pm
Dr. Andrew Elliot Henderson,
Organ

LOOKING AHEAD

April 27 - New Member Coffee
April 27 - Organ Concert
May 1 - National Day of Prayer Service
May 4 - Young Men's Breakfast
May 6 - MDO Summer Registration
May 9 - Preschool Mother's Day Program
May 9-14 - Scholastic Buy 1, Get 1 Free Book Sale
May 18 - Confirmation Sunday
May 22 - Preschool/MDO Last Day
May 22 - Kindergarten Graduation
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

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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
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
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Custodian
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