

St. John's Visitor

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Richland at Newberry, Aiken, SC 29801 Volume 9, Issue 19

“Publish glad tidings, tidings of peace, tidings of Jesus, redemption and release.”

Those were the words of a hymn, sung at our 8:30 and 11 a.m. services recently. Not long ago we published glad tidings for our congregation that in less than three years, St. John's has decreased its debt from \$2.9 million to \$700,000.

The *Release the Future* campaign has brought our substantial debt to a point where we can see the light at the end of the tunnel. More importantly it has allowed us to point our attention to the matters of faith that are vital to our Christian mission. As was said at the beginning of the campaign, this was not about money but about our Christian responsibility.

God has worked with and through our congregation to bring us to this point. To all who have given so generously to *Release the Future*, thank you. Your faith is being rewarded daily in mission work throughout the city of Aiken and around the world.

As the official end to *Release the Future* arrives in early June, we ask all who have yet to complete their pledges to make an effort to do so. Others are also encouraged to be as generous as possible and to continue giving as you are able.

With God always with us, we will one day soon be able to publish glad tidings that our debt has been erased and St. John's is released to further its work for the Kingdom of God.

Tom Brown

Jeff Wallace

Release the Future Follow-up Co-chairs

“Moving St. John's into the 21st Century”

Meetings in the St. John's Gym
at 7:00pm

May 13, 20, 27 (Wednesdays)
with

Reverend George Howle
and the Board of Trustees

(Additional meetings planned for the fall)

May 17, 2009 - Sixth Sunday of Easter
Confirmation Sunday

“WORDS TO LIVE BY”
Scripture: John 15: 9 - 17
Rev. Dr. George 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, May 14

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

Friday, May 15

- 10:00am Ringspiration Handbell rehearsal
- 6:30pm Movie Night - *The Jesus Film*
- 7:00pm Monthly Bridge Group

Saturday, May 16

- 8:00am Grace Kitchen

Sunday, May 17 - Confirmation Sunday

- 8:15am Coffee House
- 6:00pm Women's Bible Study
- 6:00pm Sunday Night Youth

Monday, May 18

- 8:00am First Place
- 9:30am Exercise Class
- 10:30am Sunny Monday Meeting
- 12:30pm AI-Anon
- 7:00pm Assimilation Committee Time
- 7:00pm Book Club
- 7:00pm Finance Committee
- 7:00pm Senior Adult Council

Tuesday, May 19

- 7:00pm Joyful Sounds Rehearsal
- 7:00pm Strategic Planning Committee

Wednesday, May 20

- 9:30am Quilting/Bible Study
- 6:15pm Chancel Choir
- 7:00pm Covenant Prayer Group
- 7:00pm Men's Bible Study
- 7:00pm Information-gathering Meetings

Serving This Week

- Crucifer** - Kaitlyn Mikes
- Acolytes** - Zack Harrington, Hayden Hyche
- Altar Guild** Peggy Boykin, Nancy Martin, Nancy Perrine, Sandra Cantwell,
- Crib Rm** (11am) Susan Lawson
- Toddlers** - Amy Jernigan
- 2-3 Yr Nursery** - Amanda Ingram
- 3-4 Yr Nursery** - Carrie Killian
- Greeters 8:30** - Joe/Leah Lewis, Elizabeth Dill
- Greeters 11:00** - Cecil Bischof, Monnie Pitts, Sharon West, Sherry Williamson, Bill/Sylvia Spell
- Sunday AM Host (5/17)** - Ken Alexander
- Evening Hosts**
- Sunday (May 17) - Eric Randall
- Monday - George Kelley
- Tuesday - Charlie Neill
- Wednesday - Chuck Bryan
- Thursday - Barry Pearson
- Friday - Jim Minear
- Saturday - Rick Endler

NEW ARRIVAL: *Miles David McLendon, son of David & Tracy McLendon and grandson of Leighton & Guerry McLendon, was born May 4 in New Orleans, LA*

CONDOLENCES: *Deepest sympathy is extended to Mike Williams in the death of his mother, Elizabeth Williams, on May 2 in Bellingham, WA.*

CONGRATULATIONS: *Brigadier General John Geiger of the South Carolina State Guard was presented with the Silver Good Citizenship Award by the SC Society of the Sons of the American Revolution. The presentation was made at the Annual State Convention awards held in April in Santee.*

Happy anniversary to Tom & Mary Thompson who celebrated 62 years of marriage on May 8.

To all the wonderful people at St. John's Church: We cannot thank you enough for all you did for our sister, Nancy, and the boys at Alan's sudden passing. Your love, caring and support gave them the strength they needed for the difficult days to follow...Bless you all and thank you for all you did.

*Liz & Stan Rusin (Nancy Fairgrieve's sister & husband)
Prescott Valley, AZ*

St. John's Family: My husband Don loved this church, and even though we've been members here for just 4 short years, the support and love extended to our family at Don's death feels like we've been part of this wonderful place for our lifetimes. Thank you for the prayers offered, participation in Don's Memorial service and reception, the hugs, the tangible memorial gifts, and for the warm and caring ways you have helped our family ease through this transition. This church exemplifies to us the intent of a Christian community.

In His love, Midge Rothrock

SUNNY MONDAY GROUP will be meeting next Monday in Ward Hall with registration beginning at 10:30. This month's guest speaker is Ken Perrine who is sharing his extensive knowledge of the wildflowers found in Hitchcock Woods as well as his experiences in the publishing sector. May menu includes meatloaf, hashbrown casserole, green beans and angel food cake with strawberries & whipped cream.



MONTHLY BRIDGE GROUP meets Friday, May 15, at 7pm upstairs in the youth lounge. Elsie & Doug Leader are the hosts this month. It is not necessary to have a partner.

St. John's **PrimeTimers Travel Group** invites others to join them for their day-trip to Savannah, GA, on **Saturday, June 13**. Carolina Tours will provide the motor coach, driver and tour director for the group to dine at *Lady & Sons* for lunch, a visit to River-Walk and then enjoy *The Beat Goes On* musical production at the historic Savannah Theater. For cost, itinerary and other details, contact **Joan Irwin (642-4061.)**

St. John's Church is again hosting the Sand River Salkehatchie Summer Service and this year's dates are June 13-20. Help is needed with 20 meals during the week, including breakfast, lunch and dinner for roughly 60 people. If you or your group can host a meal, your help will be greatly appreciated. Please contact Phyllis Coker, Meal Coordinator at 648-2672 (cell 270-7121) or Gene Aiken, Youth Minister at 648-6891.

Do you have a **COLLEGE GRAD** in the family? Let the office know full name, name of degree and name of school so that their achievement may be recognized!



| Attendance - May 10 | |
|---------------------|-----|
| 8:30 | 114 |
| 9:02 | 162 |
| 11:00 | 567 |
| Total | 843 |
| SS | 283 |



St. John's
youth ministry

SUNDAY NIGHT YOUTH GROUP
May 17 - 6:00pm Regular meeting

COLLEGE FRIENDS - Please join Betsy & Mark Mahoney at their home next Sunday, May 17, at

6:00 pm for food, fellowship and fun!! Their address: 477 Sumter St SE and their phone (for questions) is 649-1279.



COMMUNITY VBS

AT MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH

Here is an opportunity to reach out to the children in Aiken and teach them about Christ's love. St. John's is partnering with Memorial Baptist in Aiken to put on a Community-Wide Vacation Bible School, June 22-June 26 from 6-9pm. Men, women and youth are needed to volunteer side by side with their members. Sign up today by calling Michelle Brown at 648-6891 or 522-2010. Share your time, glorify the Lord and make a special impact in the lives of little ones!

GO Global Outreach News

-St. John's Movie Night: "The Jesus Film", a powerful resource used in missions world wide, will be shown Friday, May 15 at 6:30 PM in the gym. Childcare will be provided, along with popcorn & drinks. Contact Beth Kelly (649-3591) for more details or to help host this event.

-Charleston Water Mission Project: A meeting will be held immediately after the 11 AM service in Ward Hall on Sunday, May 17, to discuss a mission opportunity to support **Water Missions International**. Volunteers will work one Friday (date to be determined) from 9 AM to 4 PM at the Charleston, SC production facility. Volunteers must be 18 or older and will work assembling, testing and packaging **Living Water Treatment Systems**. For more information, please e-mail Al Snell at alsnell@bellsouth.net.

-Whitney Simons will be visiting St. John's on June 21 to talk about her experience working with **Athletes in Action** in Puebla, Mexico.

-Mission Trip Opportunity: Special funds have been made available on a limited basis to help individuals participate in short term mission trips who cannot otherwise afford to do so. If interested, please contact Frances Osteen (648-2548).

CHILDREN'S CORNER

O.A.R.S. SCHEDULE FOR SUNDAY, MAY 17, 2009

1ST GRADE: PALMS & PSALMS
2ND GRADE: HOLYWOOD CINEMAS
3RD GRADE: THOU ART
4TH GRADE: FROM BC TO PC
5TH GRADE: MARY & MARTHA'S B & B
BIBLE MEMORY VERSE: "ALLOF THEM WERE FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT" ACTS 2:4

The Sunday 6pm **WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY** group will be using a video driven **3:16 by Max Lucado** from June 28-August 9. Learn how you can live the message of John 3:16 in your life, in your family, in your community and in our world. Contact Janel Poe (648-4541) to order your book or for more info.

REMINDER: Book Club meeting is next Monday, May 18, at 7pm in Room 204. Discussion for May is on *The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini. Sharon West, 648-3824, can provide more information. Come and bring a friend!

HAVE YOU REGISTERED for the St. John's Golf Tournament which takes place Friday, May 22, at Cedar Creek? Application forms are available at the reception desk in the lobby.

ST. JOHN'S VBS/CROCODILE DOCK! Want to get involved but don't have the time? Please consider donating any supplies that you might have or can purchase for this year's VBS. The supply list may be found next to *Jacque the Croc*, outside the main office and also outside the gym! Please return supplies to the table outside Michelle Brown's office before June 1!

LOOKING AHEAD

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 7 - ALL Volunteer VBS Meeting
June 8-12 - Vacation Bible School
June 13-20 - Sand River Salkehatchie
June 22-26 - Community Vacation Bible School
July 5 - Single worship service
August 16 - Blessing of the Backpacks
August 17 - Public School resumes
October 4 - World Communion Sunday
November 1 - All Saints Day - Daylight Savings time ends
November 7 - AppleFest

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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
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
JANE TIMMERMAN
60 MIDGE ROTHROCK
JIMI WHITESSELL
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
9:02 Music
PR/Communications Coordinator
Asst Director, Youth Ministries
Custodian Coordinator
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