

# St. John's Visitor

December 8, 2009 Published weekly by St. John's UMC Church Richland at Newberry, Richland, SC 29801 Volume 9, Issue 48



**Children Ages 3K – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade**  
**You do not want to miss this exciting trip to BETHLEHEM!**

**WHEN?** Saturday, December 19<sup>th</sup>  
2:00 – 5:00 pm

**WHERE?** St. John's Gym  
**Parents, Drop-off your children while you do your last-minute shopping!**

December 13 - Third Sunday of Advent

Messages this week by  
Rev. Dr. George Howle and Rev. Keith Stewart  
"PREPARING THE WAY"  
Scripture: Luke 3: 7 - 20

Services at 8:30 and 11:00  
in the sanctuary.

Contemporary service at 9:02 in the gym

**Register Online:**  
**[www.stjohns-umc.org](http://www.stjohns-umc.org)**  
*Volunteers are still needed. If you can help, please contact Allison Beatty or Michelle Orr.*

*Meetings to Note*

**Thursday, December 10**

1:30pm Joseph's Coat  
7:00pm Overeaters Anonymous

**Friday, December 11**

10:30am Ringspiration Rehearsal

**Saturday, December 12**

8:00am Grace Kitchen

**Sunday, December 13**

8:15am Coffee House  
9:45am Sunday School  
10:00am Getting to Know St. John's  
5:00pm Masterworks Concert & Reception  
6:00pm Women's Bible Study  
6:00pm Sunday Night Youth Group

**Monday, December 14**

8:00am First Place 4 Health  
10:00am Exercise Class  
12:30pm Al-Anon  
6:00pm Pastor Parish Relations Meeting  
7:00pm Book Club  
7:00pm Women's Bible Study

**Tuesday, December 15**

7:00pm Joyful Sounds  
7:00pm 9:02 Band Practice  
7:00pm Finance Committee

**Wednesday, December 16**

9:30am Quilting Fellowship  
9:30am TF Bible Study  
4:00pm Griefshare Grp Communion/Dinner out  
6:00pm GIC Leaders & Committee  
6:45pm Chancel Choir rehearsal  
7:00pm Covenant Prayer Group

**Serving This Week**

**Crucifer** - Kaitlyn Mikes  
**Acolytes** - Danielle Smith, Casey Beckum  
**Altar Guild** - Zenith Sharpe, Nancy Pitts, Donna Caprell-Kraft  
**Crib Rm** (11am) - De Bumgardner  
**2-3 Yr Nursery** - Michelle Hudgins  
**3-4 Yr Nursery** - Denise Zimmermann  
**Sunday AM Host (Dec 13)** *Jim Heffner*  
**Evening Hosts**  
Sunday (**Dec 13**) - *Adam Bates*  
Monday - *Gene Usher*  
Tuesday - *Jim Fuqua*  
Wednesday - *Dan Fabrick*  
Thursday - *Eric Randall*  
Friday - *George Kelley*  
Saturday - *Charlie Neill*

**Attendance - December 6**

8:30	254
9:02	135
11:00	426
Total	815
SS	355

**NEWS OF THE FAMILY**

**NEW ARRIVAL:** *Xander James Stefanakos, son of James & Amanda Stefanakos, was born November 14 in Augusta.*

**ANNIVERSARY:** *Congratulations to Nita and Paul Bell who celebrate fifty years of marriage on December 19.*

**CONDOLENCES:** *Deepest sympathy is extended Vernon Derrick in the death of his sister, Runette Still, in Atlanta, GA, on December 3.*

**HOSPITALIZED:** *MCG - Mary Wiland; Discharged - Ray Hydrick, John Swanner, Art Justice (to Carriage Hills)*

*On behalf of United Methodist Women, Mary Jordan expresses a most sincere thank you to Cannon House Florist for the lovely arrangement they provided for the Turkey Dinner which was also used in the sanctuary for Sunday morning services.*

*I would like to thank the congregation of St John's United Methodist Church for the love and support through the loss of my husband, Robert (Bob) Rehn. I appreciate all who helped through prayer, food and kind words. Special thanks to Rev. Dr. George Howle, Mary and Bob Kosky, Doris Hoffman and Everett Summerall for a beautiful memorial service. Being part of this church has meant so much to Bob and me over the past 5 years. Love, Ann Rehn*

*Your beautiful card, flowers, phone calls and food were wonderful tributes to my husband, Bruce, and to all our children. So many friends in such a wonderful congregation as St. John's, gives each of us a new sense of the closeness of God in our lives. Thanks so much from myself (Jane) and our three children, Bruce III, Jennifer & Gary - the Selman Family.*

St. John's members who volunteer at *St. Thaddeus Soup Kitchen* have asked this church to assist by donating a dozen or more cookies to them on the 3rd Saturday (Dec 19) by 9:30 a.m.



Another option is to contribute to a fund to have cookies made by Tri-Development. Phone Debi Rood, 649-3498, with questions.

**Financials for week ending Dec 5, 2009**

Budgetary needs for the week	\$ 34,914
Budget funds rec'd this week	\$ 18,620
Budget funds rec'd to date	\$1,395,152
Actual expenses to date	\$1,459,117
St John's loan amt w/Security Fed	\$ 326,176

**Faith Promise Update**

Faith Promise	\$177,112.00
Rec'd YTD	\$125,218.62
Disbursed YTD	\$122,837.13
<b>2009 Faith Promise year =</b>	<b>2/1/09 thru 1/31/10</b>

**WEDNESDAY SUPPERS**  
will resume in January  
**December 9 is the final one**  
for this year.

**GETTING TO KNOW ST. JOHN'S** will consider *What We Believe* at next Sunday's session with Keith Stewart in Ward Hall at 10am.

Those unable to attend or be part of a meeting to share ideas and thoughts about the **STRATEGIC PLAN** for St. John's are invited to Ward Hall on Sunday, Dec 20, at 10am.

**STEPHEN MINISTRY:** Please continue to pray for discernment and guidance for the Stephen Leaders and for those who have been selected to begin the 50 hour training for Stephen Ministry beginning **STEPHEN MINISTRY** January 5, 2010.





St. John's  
youth ministry

## SUNDAY NIGHT YOUTH GROUP

Sunday, December 13 6:00pm  
Final 2009 meeting

Youth Choir Reminder - Caroling on Dec 17

**WINTER SOLSTICE SERVICE** or **LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE** is December 21, 6-7pm in the Chapel. December 21 is the day of the year in which there is the shortest number of daylight hours; hence the night is the longest. This can be symbolic of feelings of grief and loss that are also heightened by the holiday season. The brief Solstice service offers an opportunity to memorialize loved ones lost, to spend time with others who are sharing your feelings and to provide an opportunity to experience Christ's love and the daylight following this long night.

## GO Global Outreach News



### Operation Christmas Child Warehouse in Charlotte, NC

Thanks, St. John's, for donating 335 boxes to **Operation Christmas Child** this year! The volunteer group that went to Charlotte, NC had a great time and was impressed with the OCC staff and operation. The group inspected boxes at a "Sensitive Country" station, which means that the boxes were destined for a Muslim country. Special rules had to be followed as they inspected and prepared the boxes for shipment. The volunteers highly recommend this trip for anyone interested in future OCC events.

**David Dill** is nearing the end of his mission trip with Engineering Ministries International in Uganda. Please pray that David will be able to wrap up his architectural efforts successfully and have a safe return trip home.

**ACTS** reports they are in desperate need of children's clothing. All sizes are needed but especially sizes 2T-6T. Please look through your unused children's clothing & give if you are able to do so.

**Home Hosts** are needed for the GIC from January 27-31. If you are willing to open your home & house one of our visiting missionaries, please contact Cindy & Al Snell at 642-5672 or [alsnell@bellsouth.net](mailto:alsnell@bellsouth.net).

## CHILDREN'S CORNER

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2009

**3K THROUGH 4TH GRADE**  
**JOHN PREPARES PEOPLE FOR JESUS' COMING**  
**LUKE 3: 7-18**

**5TH-6TH GRAPPLE DARE FOR THE WEEK:**  
**I DARE YOU TO APPRECIATE YOUR CHRISTIAN**  
**FRIENDS THIS WEEK. AND I DARE YOU TO BE**  
**AN AMBASSADOR FOR CHRIST TO THOSE**  
**FRIENDS WHO DON'T FOLLOW JESUS.**

**REMINDER: In order to be posted to this year, contributions must be postmarked by December 31!**

**SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR** is displayed in the lobby outside Ward Hall through Thursday. It's a good way to find a few items for Christmas!!

**GRACE KITCHEN** coordinator Bobby Coker expresses his very sincere thanks to those who volunteered their time on Thanksgiving weekend. Anyone who is able to assist on the Saturday after Christmas, 12/26, is asked to contact him at 439-6596 or Marsha Mikes at 644-7204 or 645-0018.

**9:02 CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION** of carols and scripture is Sunday, Dec 20, 6pm. There will also be a *crèche display*. Those interested in displaying should bring nativity scenes on Sunday and pick them up the next day. Please notify the office if you plan to share your display.

Concluding session of **HOLIDAY GRIEF PROGRAM** is Wednesday, 12/9, 4pm in the Parlor. On December 16 the **GRIEF SHARE GROUP** will meet at the church for communion and then go out to eat as a group

ACTS COLLECTION

DECEMBER: Macaroni & Cheese

### LOOKING AHEAD

**Saturdays** - Grace Kitchen opens at 8am

**December 19** - A Night in Bethlehem

**December 20** - Chancel Choir Christmas Cantata

**December 21 - 6pm** The Longest Night Service

**December 24 - 5pm** Family Candlelight Service (Sanctuary)

**December 24 - 6pm** Communion Service (Chapel)

**December 24 - 11pm** Candlelight service (Sanctuary)

**January 6** - Cottage Meeting

**January 20** - Cottage Meeting

**January 27-31, 2010** - Global Impact Celebration

**February 3** - Cottage Meeting

# St. John's Visitor

PERIODICALS POSTAGE PAID  
AT AUGUSTA, GEORGIA  
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 HAWKINS  
21 PAULA SAWYER  
30 MICHELLE PEARSON  
61 ALLISON BEATTY  
60 MIDGE ROTHROCK  
ALLEN RADCLIFFE  
JIMI WHITESSELL  
JANE TIMMERMAN  
LOUIS PLAYFORD  
31 GERALD F. THOMPSON  
WILLIE M. GREEN  
ENSLEY O. ADAMS  
ROBERT WOODS  
YVONNE DUBLIN

### THE PEOPLE OF ST. JOHN'S

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  
Director, Children's Ministries  
PR/Communications Coordinator  
Volunteer Facilities Coordinator  
Asst Director, Youth Ministries  
9:02 Music  
Organist  
Custodian Coordinator  
Custodian  
Custodian  
Custodian  
Custodian

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*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.*