



St. John's UMC

focus

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
APRIL 2018 – VOLUME 4

REACH OUT AND RE-CONNECT

by Christine Studebaker

On Sunday, March 18th, Darren spoke about connections and how we are more likely to take advice or relate to someone through “word of mouth”. In his message he talks about us reaching out to those outside of the church walls and inviting them in to hear the word of God and to share our fellowship with them.

How about we also reach out and re-connect with those St. John's members with whom we may have lost contact? These folks may be absent due to an illness, travel, job change or some other life event we

just don't know about..... But what happens more often than not, is that a person or family may drift away due to these events in their life and then begin to feel detached or awkward with re-connecting. What sounds so silly is that we probably feel that way too, it may seem crazy after weeks, months or sadly enough years of not being “connected”. Let's try through “word of mouth” to reconnect to someone with whom we have lost contact and with someone we just met. Why ? Because we are here to share the “good news” and rejoice with others!

MISSION OUTREACH TO SAGER BROWN

by Carolyn Henry

Four members of our St. John's family will be traveling to Sager Brown, April 8-13. They are Nikki Underwood, Bridget Hancock, Linda Lindell and Carolyn Henry. A big THANK YOU to everyone who donated for the materials for the Hygiene Kits. We will be assembling the kits during the Wesley Value Meal on Wednesday, March 28th from 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 pm.

Church Events

- Apr 1st - Easter Sunrise Service
- Apr 2nd – Church Office Closed
- Apr 8th - 13th – Sager Brown Trip
- Apr 14th Younglings Yard Sale
- Apr 17th UMW Berquist/Carlson Circle
- Apr 23rd Single Board Meeting
- Apr 27th - 28th Red Poppy Parking Lot Fundraiser
- Apr 29th – Church Under the Bridge, Austin, TX
- Apr 29th – Joint Worship Service

What Next?

by Rev. Darren Walker

One of the most important questions, I ever learned was during a preaching class in seminary. The teacher was a retired pastor. Early in the semester, he told us, "Once you finish your sermon, read it over, from start to finish, and then ask the question, 'So, what?'" In other words, what difference does this make? What are you asking people to do as a result of listening to what you have to say?" He went on to tell us if the answer was "Nothing," we needed to rewrite our sermon.

Nearly twenty years later, I heard the follow up question to "So, what?" The follow up is "What next?" Once we determine what is worthwhile, what

is significant, we need to decide what happens after that so we don't just stall out.

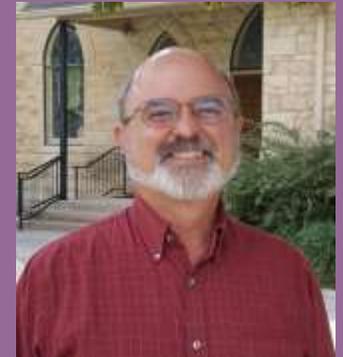
Recently, we celebrated Easter. We are in the middle of answering "So, what?" Were there professions of faith? Were lives changed, healed, renewed? If all Easter meant was candy eggs, chocolate and new clothes, we need to start working now to get it right for next year. If we got Easter "right" this year, then we need to ask "What next?" How do we build on the excitement of Easter? How do we welcome new people? How do we nurture new disciples and mature current disciples?

One of the answers to those questions is through our Fellowship groups which recently began. As we meet in these groups and grow as Disciples, we will reach out to more people to share with them what we have found. Another answer is we will continue to be involved in Mission Outreach as we seek to connect with the least, the last and the lost. What we must not do is take a break until next Christmas, resting on the Joy of Easter.

What we do as a church and as individual Christians should make a difference in the world, as well as in our community. While I do not know exactly what the future holds for us, I do know it will matter, especially when we are connected through the Holy Spirit.

Jeremiah 29:11

"For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope."



Thank you!

by Kathryn Price

The Younglings would like to give a big "Thank You!!" to everyone who baked something and/or bought something at the Lemonade Stand/ Bake Sale on Sunday, March 18th. Over \$350.00 was raised and will go in the Children's Mission Offering account. Part of the money will go to support the Ronald MacDonald House, and part will go to support the San

Gabriel Springs Foster Care.

BUT WAIT! Saturday, April 14th, the Younglings will be doing a Yard Sale. Bring you items for sale to the garage at the church office. Proceeds will go to pay for improvements to St. John's UMC.

Thank you for supporting the Children of St. John's!

Youngling's Lemonade & Bake Sale

The Youngling's Lemonade & Bake Sale were a huge hit as church members helped the Younglings support their mission. They raised \$358.06 and showed just how mighty the young can be!



Harvey Recovery Still Ongoing

by Carolyn Henry

I have just returned home from a Harvey Recovery trip to Victoria, Texas. This trip was sponsored by UMVIM (United Methodist Volunteers in Mission) and supported by UMCOR. And yes, even after 6 months, and in an area not even considered the hardest hit, the needs are great – almost overwhelming. The team saw a number of homes that were devastated by the terrific winds that Harvey brought, tearing off roofs and leaving them completely open to water damage from heavy rains. We did what we could in the short amount of time we were there – tearing out drywall badly stained with mold and then applying mold killer to the studs, tarping roofs that have been open to the elements for six months, but this was not our main focus. We came to offer Christian love and hope. The homeowners were so hungry for someone to share their stories with. I'm not good at tarping roofs but I can listen. I will never forget one grandmother saying with tears in her eyes "My grandson told me to just bulldoze this house down – but how can I do that? My children and grandchildren grew up in this house. All my memories are here. This is MY HOME!" This home has now had the roof tarped, received mold remediation, new siding applied to damaged outside areas, and soon another team will bring in fresh drywall and paint. This family now has hope and peace, thanks to UMVIM and the many volunteers who gave of their time and strength to offer help to those in need.

Other families are still waiting – I'm sure they are feeling helpless, frustrated and even hopeless. More trips are being planned on an ongoing basis. At this point most are in the recovery stage, so no special training is required in order to go. Please check the website: <http://www.ctcumc.org/centerformissionsupport> for opportunities, and please consider going on a trip.

The UMVIM, CTC team leader manual says the following in answer to the question "Why go out on a mission journey?" – "We engage in hands on ministry on Christ's behalf so that God can be known in the world. We do not merely send money; we enter into situations of need and brokenness to show God's great love to others. The *ministry of presence* is powerful and often impacts the people we serve more deeply than any activity we might engage in while among them. We are mistaken if we think our presence brings God into a situation. God is already there. Our lives only give witness to the God who is already present and active in the world."

Group Focus



Faith In Action

by Nancy Bacchus

TRUTH IN ADVERTISING:

- This fine local organization needs MORE drivers.
- The "greater Georgetown" community continues to grow.
- In 2017, 679 seniors in our community received almost 9500 (yes, really!) rides.
- FIAG transportation options include doctor and dental appointments, banking and grocery errands, and other basic needs.
- Accessible transportation for seniors equals a better chance to continue living independently.

YOU ARE NEEDED

Please volunteer to drive Miss Daisy or Mister Sam through a faith-based group; it's easy, well-organized, and rewarding.

Drivers have complete flexibility in when, where, and how often they accept a senior client.

If YOU will help, please contact nancybacchus@gmail.com (St. John's Faith In Action Georgetown board representative).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The Wesley Value Meal is held every Wednesday evening from 5:15 PM to 7:00 PM. The menu will be posted each week through e-mail and on the website at <http://www.stjohnsumc.cc/wesley-value-meals>. If your group or committee would like to host a Wesley Value meal, please contact Rejeanna Fraser at flamingolady64@gmail.com
- May newsletter articles are due to Michelle at michelle@stjohnsumc.cc by Friday, April 20th at 12:00 PM.
- If there is an emergency on the weekend, please contact one of the staff members. Their phone numbers are in the directory for your convenience.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, April 17, 2018

The St. John's UMW will be hosting a Bergquist/Carlson Circle Meeting at 2:00 PM on Tuesday, April 17, 2018 in the Fellowship Hall. The program will be "Medical Trip to Haiti" by guest speaker, Dr. Doug Davis. Our hostess this month is Betty Tanner. For more information contact, UMW Co-Presidents, Shirley Channell at skdr50@suddenlink.net or Patty Lee at prlee@suddenlink.net.

PRAYER & BLESSINGS CORNER

A Prayer Team Note

by Martha Arizpe

Friends play a vital role in life, as they add layers to one's personality that one would not otherwise have. As we get older, our friends become even more important. Biological family may or may not live close by, so your friends can fill that gap. Need transportation somewhere? - call a friend; pets need looking after? - text your Buddy; develop a huge need to see the latest movie? - give your Bestie a buzz.

Here at St. Johns UMC, you will find a plethora of people who would love to be your friend. And when you need prayer, and believe me, you will, you can contact the St. Johns Prayer Team Ministry. We are a friendly group of happy Christians who will gladly pray FOR you and WITH you. You cannot have too many friends, and we would love the opportunity to be yours. Contact us at prayerteam@stjohnsumc.cc.

Attendance for March 2018

2018

Jan - Avg 180

Feb - Avg 188

March as of the 18th - Avg 190

2017

Jan - Avg 187

Feb - Avg 209

March through 31st -Avg 192

February Financials

Period ending 2/28/2018

Income \$105,850

Expense \$103,579

Total \$2,271

STAINED GLASS WINDOWS

by Heritage Committee

The Sanctuary stained glass windows are priceless. Please take time to really soak in the true beauty of these magnificent and artistic windows that glisten with the morning light as we worship each Sunday morning together.

Have you wondered what the meaning was behind the gorgeous stained glass windows? Here is a scramble of the symbols and the meaning that is depicted. Can you match all of them correctly?

Cross and Crown

Ten Commandments

Open Bible

Steadfastness

Lilly

Majesty of Christ

The Stone Tablets

Innocence and Purity

Fleur de Lis

Revelations

The Anchor

Victory through suffering

The stained glass window on the west and east sides of the sanctuary were donated in memory of the members that have gone before us. St. John's has such a rich history spanning over 130 years. We guarantee that as you visit with your family and friends at St. John's you will find many folks that are still connected to these families.

Anna H. Carlson; Carl Monson; C.S. Lindell; William E. Sandberg

