
THE ST JAMES JOURNAL

Volume 15 Issue 8

Building A Community for Christ

August 2010

From the Pastor

One Tuesday night this summer, I was doing what thousands of parents in Wake County do every summer Tuesday night – volunteering at my child’s swim meet. It was the largest meet in the history of our pool, with over 400 children and youth swimming, and with over 800 parents, grandparents, and friends watching. And it was the hottest Tuesday night of the summer (if I had a flair for the dramatic I would say that it was the hottest Tuesday night in the history of swim meets, but I don’t want to push it too far!). There were bodies everywhere you looked, and since we had already been running to 3.5 hours in a regular swim meet with 250-300 swimmers, we were sure we would be swimming until close to midnight.

But the most amazing thing happened that night. Every volunteer did exactly what they needed to do; the kid pushers kept track of the children in their age group and had them ready to swim when they were called; the clerk of course had kids arranged by heats lickety-split; the starter had kids on the blocks and in the water quickly; the judges worked together beautifully resolving any question of which lane came in which place; and every other volunteer worked hard to make sure their responsibility was handled effectively and efficiently. It was incredible to watch. When our swim coach took the microphone to talk to the crowd gathered in the pool, he said “This is the largest meet we have ever hosted, and we are going to finish in less than 4 hours because of our volunteers!”



When everyone does their job – whether paid or volunteer – effectively and efficiently, amazing things happen. And when they are kind to one another, forgiving, supporting and encouraging, miraculous things happen! Even though we were beaten that night by the best swim team in the county, we enjoyed our experience, because everyone was mutually supportive and encouraging.

For this reason I write to you – the servants of this church are amazing. Worship happens because of the MANY volunteers who show up, prepare the sanctuary, make sure the air is working, distribute bulletins, help visitors find what they’re looking for, welcome worshippers, lead through music and the spoken word, lead children’s church and so much more. Sunday School happens because faithful ministers prepare and teach each week. YouthWorks volunteers prepare and serve supper working in teams. Vacation Bible School leaders plan and organize so that we will be ready. And the list goes on.

As we prepare to enter the fall, we will have many opportunities for ministry. And if all of us, every single one, do what we are called and gifted to do, and do it to the very best of our ability, AMAZING things will happen! How is God calling you to be in ministry? Is it as a 2010-2011

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All signed articles, letters, announcements, and other information of interest are welcome and considered for publishing.

The deadline for submissions is the 23rd of each month. Place articles in the newsletter mail box located in the church office, or email the editor at the address above.

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Sunday School teacher? Or in Children's ministry? Youth ministry? Music ministry? As a lay reader in worship? As a volunteer at a work day to paint the building or trim the trees?

In this newsletter there are many opportunities for ministry. I know that God has called all of us together to be involved, working as a team, so that the Kingdom of God will be furthered in this place. Please read carefully and ask questions, and then get involved!

Kim

What About YouthWorks

You may have noticed a few new faces at Saint James this summer. Maybe seen a few extra signs around the building or noticed a lot of extra paper towel in the restrooms. If you have, what you are witnessing is a YouthWorks summer in action! It would be safe to assume that you have heard the name YouthWorks a few times this summer. But maybe you aren't sure exactly why there are about 70 new teenagers showing up at the Saint James doors every Sunday between 4:30 and 6 with sleeping bags and matching t-shirts. You might be asking yourself what exactly is it that YouthWorks does. And that would be a pretty good question...

For nine weeks this summer, 39,000 junior and senior high school students, as well as families, from all over the United States and Canada will be taking part in a YouthWorks week. During these weeks youth will be ministering in a community by volunteering with social service organizations, facilitating



YOUTHWORKS
AT
WORK

a children's program, visiting the elderly and painting homes. There are a total of 76 sites all over the country this summer, and Raleigh, NC is one of them.

In a typical day, we start with breakfast and personal devotions and then we send out the youth to serve in local organizations in this community, as well as invite kids from the area to join our Kids Club. Youth are able to help in ministries like North Raleigh Ministries, Saint Savors, First Baptist Clothing Closet as well as in organizations like the Boys Club and Interfaith Food Shuttle. After their long day of service students have some free time. We take them to a local event in the community, like the Carousel Farms Rodeo, and in the evening we have Club and church group time, where youth are able to focus on Jesus and reflect on why they are serving.

We have been blessed by the kindness of Saint James as this is our first summer using this church as our only housing site for the summer! Although we have served in Raleigh and Durham for four years, this is the first year we have focused solely on Raleigh as our community. This is also our first summer holding a Kids Club in Raleigh, and although our numbers are growing slowly, there is a great need in this community to love on children in the area. We have been blessed with the opportunity to meet a small fraction of that need.

YouthWorks is committed to creating life changing experiences for teenagers and enabling them to serve as the generation of today. Part of that experience is getting to know a different community better. This is a part of our YouthWorks week, which always wraps up with a Community cookout! I hope you feel free to join us any given Thursday around 6pm for a great time of food and fellowship! We would love to have you!

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

By R. E. Cobb, Chairman

Once August arrives, autumn is soon to follow. Typically, September is the time for churches to begin planning budgets and financial campaigns. It is a good bet that you, the reader, is now thinking that the following paragraphs will be a pitch for increased giving. Sorry to disappoint, but this article will not focus on money, budgets, or stewardship.



Have you recently thought about what St. James could do for you? What if you became more active? What might you get from more involvement? On a recent Sunday, I thought about all that St. James means to me and all the benefits I receive from my involvement. Two of my grandchildren were with me on that particular Sunday. We received spiritual enrichment from an excellent sermon, great music, church school lessons, and association with wonderful people. As a bonus, a good example was set for my grandchildren.

Time spent in evaluating our needs, purposes, and goals is seldom wasted. Maybe this is the time to ask ourselves if our spiritual needs are being met? If the answer to this question is “no”, maybe the joy and inspiration of renewed church activity could help.

Forgive the Inexcusable

To be a Christian means to forgive the inexcusable, because God has forgiven the inexcusable in you. This is hard. It is perhaps not so hard to forgive a single injury. But to forgive the incessant provocations of daily life—to keep on forgiving the bossy mother-in-law, the bullying husband, the nagging wife, the selfish daughter, the deceitful son—how can we do it? Only, I think, by remembering where we stand, by meaning our words when we say in our prayers each day, “Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.” We are offered forgiveness on no other terms. To refuse it means to refuse God’s mercy for ourselves. There is no hint of exceptions and God means what he says.

---C. S. Lewis

MARY BROWN CIRCLE FLOWER DISTRIBUTION

The Mary Brown Circle is continuing to distribute the Sunday sanctuary flowers.



We only do this if the party placing the flowers do not want them. Please keep the flowers or part of the flowers if you wish. If you do turn the flowers over to us, please feel free to tell us whom you would like to receive a bouquet. Over the past few years, we have given many St. James members flowers. We always add a note card telling who has contributed the flowers that particular Sunday. Also, we do appreciate any and all vases returned.

WEEKDAY SCHOOL

We have good facilities, excellent and caring teachers, and a quality program of activities; but, we need more students. As mentioned in the July Journal our church members could be our best ambassadors. When you are around parents of young children, find a way to talk about our school. We enroll children from 13 months (and walking) through transitional kindergarten. Requests for information may be made to the church office or calling 872-5532.



Heart Matters

from the Greeter's Program Volunteers

A relationship between two or more of Christ's followers is simply a heart-to-heart matter.

John Wesley said: "If you heart is as my heart, give me your hand." In other words, when two (or more) people know



Christ, they have something wonderful in common. Therefore, they should embrace one another as brothers and sisters in Christ.

Attending worship and being involved in church activities draw us closer to Jesus and to each other. As Christians, we are called to be hospitable toward strangers, not just our friends and acquaintances. Remember Christ's words: "I was a stranger and you welcomed me..." (Matt. 25:35)

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

" NEWS AND VIEWS "

From Sharon Johnson, President

I hope everyone is having a good summer. Here are few upcoming events for the UMW.

July 26-29. The St. James UMW will help every night with Vacation Bible School.

September 25. The St. James UMW will have its second fundraiser for the year. Our annual Yard Sale will need many volunteers to help make this event a success. We will have a sign up sheet on our bulletin board in August.

I had a wonderful meeting about the St. James UMW with Pastor Kim Lamb. She was very interested in what our goals and positions were in the church. I was very eager to share with her all the good things that the UMW is involved in. She has our UMW Handbook and will be able keep up with our coming events for the year. I really enjoyed our meeting. It was a good sharing time.

Security is having the Word of God in your own language. Peace is having the Word of God in your heart.

-----Corrie Ten Boom

A Study for Adults "Strengths Finders"



Adult Classes Pastor Kim Lamb will lead this 4-session study for adults in the Choir Room at 10:00 a.m. on **Tuesday, August 24 and ending, Tuesday, Sept 14.** The same study will be held each **Thursday from August 26 - Sept 16 at 6:30 p.m.** in Montague Hall. The purpose of this study is to learn about the strengths God gives to all of us, to see how our strengths can be used in effective ministry, and to learn how our complementing strengths create strong teams. Pre-registration is required because books must be ordered at a **cost of \$20 each.** All persons participating need their own book and access to the on-line inventory. To register, please call the church office.



*By Ann Bridgers,
Librarian*

The Church Library Inventory is nearing completion. The books are in order on the shelves. Some titles were missing; some were withdrawn from the collection because they were old and obsolete; and some were withdrawn and will be given to the UMW Yard Sale.

The following are new books given to the Library:

Open Arms by Traci Depree and Home to Briar Mountain by Diane Noble were given by Mrs. Eloise Ward of Conway, N.C. in memory of Arline Bridgers, aunt of Julian Bridgers.

The Trellis and the Seed: a Book of Encouragement for all Ages given by Beth Cobb.

A complete series of 9 titles of Anne of Green Gables by L.M. Montgomery, given by Kirsten Lamb.

Thank you to Eloise, Beth and Kirsten for their donations. Books may be given to the Library in honor or in memory of a loved one. Please let librarians know of your desire to do so.

There is still time to do some **Summer Reading.** Come by the Church Library across from the Choir Room to select titles of interest. A computer is available for searching for books of interest by author, title and subject. The directions for use of the Concourse Library Program are printed near the computer. Come by anytime that the Church is open to use the Library. Videotapes, CDs, DVDs, and Audio books are also available.

You may check out books by writing your name and the date taken out on the card in the back of the book and placing it in the OUT BOX located on the DESK in the Library.

We encourage Children, Youth and Adults to check out Books and AV materials.

Thank you for using your Church Library for Biblical sources, Inspirational Readings, help with Sunday School lessons, Devotionals and Pleasure Reading. We are there to support the Educational Programs and Spiritual Enrichment of the Church.

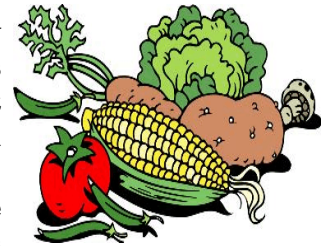
Pray often; for prayer is a shield to the soul, a sacrifice to God, and a scourge for Satan.
-----John Bunyan



FEED YOUR NEIGHBOR SUNDAY

Wouldn't you love to be part of the St. James Gleaning Ministry, but you're not available on gleaning days, you don't have a truck, and you're not crazy about getting up at dawn to dig around for produce in someone else's fields? Well here's an opportunity made just for you. On August 29, St. James will be celebrating "Feed Your Neighbor Sunday," an exciting new program sponsored by the Society of St. Andrew (SoSA). **In fact, St. James is the FIRST church to sign up for this year's event.**

At the end of each summer growing season, many of us have too many tomatoes, cucumbers, and zucchini to eat, while others in the community have nothing fresh on their tables. "Feed Your Neighbor Sunday" provides a creative, easy, and healthy way for you to reach out and meet the most basic needs of others in the community. All you have to do is bring the extra fresh fruit and/or vegetables from your home gardens to church on Sunday, August 29. Members who wish to contribute but do not have a garden are encouraged to bring any amount of produce purchased at a store or farmer's market. After worship, your gleaning ministry volunteers will deliver the produce directly to needy locations coordinated by SoSA (such as senior assisted living, homeless shelters, etc.).



Children can also participate in "Feed Your Neighbor Sunday" by collecting coins during the month of August to contribute to the SoSA ongoing programs. There will be a drawing contest during August to encourage children to get involved.

The church that collects the most produce will receive a certificate recognizing its efforts, and the child with the best drawing will also receive a certificate, as well as a t-shirt. SoSA will publish the results of the produce collection and the drawing contest in its newsletter.

SoSA will be distributing more information early in August, and each St. James bulletin in August will contain more details and reminders to participate. In the meantime, go water your garden.

Grace and peace,
Diane Lipscomb (diane_lipscomb@hotmail.com)
Sue King (kingsue@access4less.net)
St. James Gleaning Ministry



Here are some mission opportunities at St. James in which you may participate!

- Food Pantry
- Angel Tree Project
- Bread Ministry
- Basket of Bubbles
- Methodist Home for Children Christmas Party
- Shawl Ministry
- Vacation Bible School
- Gleaning
- Holiday Gift Market
- Diaster Relief - MERCI Center
- Mission Trips
- Field Trips for Seniors (XYZ Club)
- Thanksgiving Food Drive
- Meals on Wheels
- World Service
- Heifer International
- Nothing But Nets
- Society of St. Andrew
- Habitat for Humanity
- North Raleigh Ministries Volunteers
- Urban Ministries
- Zoe Ministries
- Helping Hand Mission

You can give without loving...but you cannot love without giving. If you have an interest in any of these missions and/or would like to serve on a Mission Committee, please call Linda Spain at 876-5796 or email her at linda@stjamesraleigh.org.

By Sue King, Assistant Music Director

The Sanctuary Choir is taking a summer break from rehearsals but will still present the anthem at 11:00 on most Sundays. Rehearsals will resume on Wednesday, August 25, at 7:30 pm. New members (or returning members - and you know who you are!) are always welcome in any voice range. Contact Lennie Collins (lennie@stjamesraleigh.org) if you need more information.

The Handbell Choir is also on vacation for a few weeks and will resume rehearsals on Tuesday, September 7, at 7:00 pm. If you can read music and reach the bells on the tables, please consider joining us. If you need more information, contact Sue King at sue@stjamesraleigh.org.

The 8:45 Sunrise Singers, Joyful Noise, and the Praise & Worship Team don't take "vacations" but continue to provide music during worship about once a month. Contact Lennie, Sue, Sheila DeBastiani (sdebastiani@wakemed.org) or Sharon Johnson (wjohnson99@mindspring.com) for information on these groups.

AND, if you are a vocalist or instrumentalist but choirs just aren't your thing, please contact Lennie to discuss ways you can participate in the music program at St. James. We love what we do and would love to include you.

BUT, if you just want to support the music program by singing your heart out during hymns and occasionally patting a musician on the back, we love that, too.



From Gayle Matthews, Chairperson

The Evangelism Committee would like to express a big THANK YOU to St. James members for helping us get better acquainted by wearing a name tag. We will continue to wear them during Sunday morning worship services. Our thanks to UMM and UMW for buying card tables to place at each entrance to the Sanctuary. Please continue to stop at either table and pick up a name tag.

Another thank you to our members and visitors for the warm welcome we give each other. This creates an excitement of coming together for Worshipping Our God. We are a blessed congregation.

ATTENDANCE

I will be loyal to the United Methodist Church and uphold it with my presence.....”

7/4/10	Attendance Total	188
	Sunday School	97
	Offering Received	\$9,741.21
7/11/10	Attendance Total	223
	Sunday School	112
	Offering Received	\$5,831.02
7/18/10	Attendance Total	208
	Sunday School	98
	Offering Received	\$7,960.05
7/25/10	Attendance Total	209
	Sunday School	102
	Offering Received	\$5,447.02



**Remember
in
Prayer**

I will be loyal to the United Methodist Church and uphold it with my prayers.....”

Home: Clarence & Uldine Parkhurst, Vernon Penny, Kathryn DeBastiani, Ralph & Wanda Goodson, Robert & Faye Gardner, Bill Layfield (Dawn Evans’ dad), Leona & Cecil Alford, Rita Evans (Jack Evans’ mom), Rod Simpson (Susan Curtin’s brother), Doris Manning, Keith Starling, Colon Jones, Frances Floyd, Curtis Harris, Russell Whidby, Polly Hemphill, Marge Turnage, Evelyn and Gary Lyons, Kelly Tatum, Julia Sharp, Van Finch, Judy Rhodes, Mehnert Flanders, Joan Skorupa

Rest/Retirement Centers: Billy Buffaloe, Ruth Harrell, Sallie Reames, Bill Baird, Milton and Betty Rountree, Ray and Dottie Coulter (Masonic Home in Greensboro)

Nursing Home/Rehab: Steve Frazier, Josh Tomlinson, Bert Skorupa, Lorene Etheridge, Dave Hogg (Mayview), Katherine Doggett (Sunnybrook), Sallie Bartholomew (Universal Health Care).

Hospital: Chase and Regan Shultz (Wake Med)



Ben Buzek, Charles Cook, Jeremy Franks, Bryan Jones, Josh Lewis, Monte Porter, Allen Daniels, Ben Spain, “Bo” Calvert, Sawyer Calvert, Phillip Gorney, Lt. Daniel M. Murphy, II, Justin Brightbill

Calling All Golfers! - The Third Annual Stan Whitt Memorial Golf Classic will be held on **Saturday, September 18th** at the Wilmar Golf Course in Knightdale, NC. The only qualifications are an interest in helping a good cause and a willingness to have fun. Registration forms are located at the Volunteer Desk or you can contact Milburn Holbrook, Steve Betts, or Richard Currin.

RELIGION: BASED ON SCRIPTURE OR CUSTOM

From the book, History of the Papacy from Peter to John Paul II, comes this quote: “In a world where literacy is rare, tradition and custom become the law and the rules we live by.”

What’s wrong with basing the rules we live by on tradition and custom? Guiding rules should show us what is morally right. Traditions and customs are usually based on what is comfortable and convenient for us. They don’t necessarily have anything to do with what God would have us do. Consider these customs - slavery, child labor laws, and women who were not allowed to vote.

Ancient civilizations had almost no scientific knowledge of how the world works, which led them to believe the world is flat, the sun god burns up crops, and rain dances will bring rain. Lack of knowledge of Holy Scripture has far worse consequences.

Christians want to be sure the rules they live by are based on God’s will. If these rules are based on God’s word, we can be pretty sure we are living within His will. Early 21st Century Christian literacy, especially Scripture literacy, is rare, and there is regrettably little distinction between believers and nonbelievers. (Of course, there are many exceptions among believers, but not enough to threaten the rule.)

In Sunday School classes and Bible studies, participants mostly use tradition and custom to prove their points. It is rare to hear someone support their points with Scripture references.

So, if opinion on Christian matters is largely based on worldly truth, what do we get? We get beliefs of convenience. We get humanism - a one size fits all philosophy. The 1960's hippie quip, “If it feels good, do it.” was originally spoken in jest, but the movement carried it like a banner, a license into behavior that wasn’t funny to our Heavenly Father.

Your Brother in Christ,
Foy Biggers

SHMILY

Shirley Dobson tells of a game her grandparents played called SHMILY. They took turns writing that word in unusual places for the other person to find. For example, when steam would gather on a bathroom mirror, one or the other would write “SHMILY” on it with a bare finger.

Apparently, the word could show up anywhere — even on sugar, flour or salt spilled on a kitchen counter. The game lasted a lifetime.

When Shirley’s grandmother died, a bouquet ribbon had the letters SHMILY on it. What did they stand for? They were the first letters of the words: See How Much I Love You.

Calling All Golfers!



The Third Annual Stan Whitt Memorial Golf Classic

Saturday, September 18
Wilmar Golf Course
Knightdale, N. C.

Registration forms are located at the
Volunteer Desk or contact Milburn
Holbrook, Steve Betts, or Richard
Currin.

Donate Blood

To the
American Red

Cross

On
Sunday, August 29,
2010

St. James UMC Carson
Hall

From
10:00 am to 2:00 pm

Watch for the sign up sheets in
August!

Interested in the future of St. James?

Come to the

Planning Session
for the Children's Program

Thursday, August 5, 2010
7:00 PM
Choir Room

Bring your interest and ideas!!!

SPREAD THE WORD!

Openings at

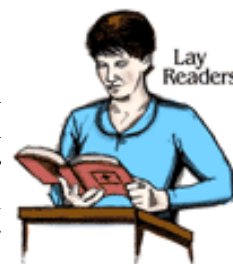
**ST JAMES
WEEKDAY SCHOOL**

**In all age groups
School begins Sept 7**

Information and Registration forms can be
picked up from the Weekday School Office

Lay Reader Training

We will hold Lay Reader training in the Sanctuary on two Sunday afternoons, **August 15** and **August 29 at 5:30 pm**, for all those who are interested in and called to this worship leadership ministry. Those who are interested in and called to this ministry opportunity are asked to participate in one of the one-hour sessions. Lay readers are an integral part of worship and lead our congregation into worship each week. Lay readers are comfortable speaking in public, using sound amplification, and are strong and fluid readers, speaking with good vocal inflection. Lay readers are comfortable in directing the congregation's worship. Our training time will include an outline of the typical leadership responsibilities of the lay reader and practice at the lectern, and will present the role of the lay reader in worship. Please ask Kim Lamb your questions (765-5796 or kim@stjamesraleigh.org)!



Adult Bible Study on the Gospel of John

Invitation to John is an 11-week Bible Study using the short-term Disciple Bible Study material and will be led by Kim Lamb. The study will be held both as a morning and evening study on **Wednesday evenings from 6:30 - 8:00** and on **Thursday mornings from 10:00 - 11:30** beginning **September 22 and 23**. Pre-registration is required, as books need to be ordered. The cost of the books is **\$10**. Please register by calling the church office and please specify whether you will attend the morning session or the evening session.

Youth News & Notes

We are looking forward to a great fall! Please check the website and see what is going on. The youth pages will be changing soon, and the information you need to have will be there. In addition, our youth and their families stay up-to-date with events by email. Please confirm that you are part of the email chain by sending Betsy Ferrell an email (ferrellb@earthlink.net) confirming that you want the emails.



To the Staff & Members of St. James, Dottie and I are finally together again after 5 months of medically enforced separation. It is a great feeling. However, I am still in rehabilitation and have a long way to go. Both, Dottie and I want to thank the several members of St. James who were of such a great help to us in February when I went into the hospital. Also we want to thank those who assisted us in such a wonderful way with our move and settling in Greensboro. We truly appreciate their outpouring of Christian love and friendship:

Deanna and Bruce Cheatham
Beth and R. E. Cobb
Ann and Julian Bridgers
Betty and Jimmy Harrelson
Sue King, Linda Spain, Nancy White,
Kay Strickland, Lynn Carter,
L. W. Sharp and John White.

Thanks to everyone for the cards, calls and visits. In Christian Love,
Ray and Dottie Coulter

Please call the office for the Coulters address and phone number.