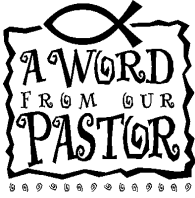


The St. John's Messenger

Volume 14 Issue 9

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September 2014



"How Is Your Soul?"

Becoming More Like Christ

Ephesians 4:13 ... until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God's Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ.

Each day is an opportunity to become more like Christ. Our heart's desire is that people will see Christ working in us and refining us. Christ's authority within us will influence the way we make decisions, respond to others, and behave in all situations. All of this is a reflection of our spiritual growth. So what is spiritual growth?

Spiritual growth is our daily pursuit of intimacy with Christ in all areas of our life. In response to God's love for us in Christ, we submit to his leadership in our life. We have to be intentional about spiritual growth. Spiritual growth doesn't just happen automatically; it requires an intentional choice. Each day we must choose to be like Jesus. We have a part to play in how deeply and how quickly we become like Jesus.

One way for Christ followers to check on each other is to ask, "How is your Soul?"

With that in mind I want to introduce the "HOW IS YOUR SOUL?" sermon series starting on September 7th. This is a four-week series that will encourage us to intentionally examine our pursuit of intimacy with Christ.

Sept. 7 HOW IS YOUR SOUL? Your Interior Life

Sept. 14 HOW IS YOUR FAMILY? Your Family Life

Sept. 21 HOW IS YOUR WORK? Your Active Life

Sept. 28 HOW IS YOUR CALLING? Your Missional Life

Take this opportunity to invite a friend or neighbor to come with you for this sermon series. This is a chance for you to initiate a faith conversation with people you know. Let them see how Christ is changing your life through your willingness to extend an invitation to them.

*Grace and Peace,
Pastor Bill*

NO RUMMAGE SALE

Please note, there has been a change of plans and there will be NO Fall Rummage Sale this year!

**NWA Fall Meeting
here at St. John's
October 12, 2014**



DISCOVERY DINNERS RESUME

Discovery Dinners will resume Wednesday, Sep. 3rd, at 5:30 p.m.. Come to praise God, and enjoy good fellowship and food!

STEWARDSHIP

Tithe (1/10) -- God's plan -- Try it --

It really works

Right is never wrong

Wrong is never right

Giving is always right

Not giving is always wrong

In Christian Love,

Bob Rumsey

FREE MOVIE NIGHTS

Family-friendly movies are being shown on Fridays at 6 pm Central time at the Calvary Chapel Outreach, 1615 E Buffalo St. (Highway 12) in New Buffalo, MI.

4TH ANNUAL FELLOWSHIP FEST

La Porte Co. Fairgrounds

Sep. 5 - 7, 2014

Please see the bulletin board for more information on this event!!

Bands, free food, kids' games, 5K Run/Walk, Chili Cookoff, and more!

PRAYER CONCERNS

Arbors of Michigan City

Carol Schultz
Ruth Thompson

Settlers House

Dorothy Johnson

Clare Bridge Cottage, Alterra

Ruth Daschbach

Rittenhouse

Beatrice Miller, Ann Johnson
John Reetz, Anita McKee, Alice Flotow

Lifecare Center of Michigan City

Libby Rogers

Sterling House



CALVARY RADIO, 89.9 F.M.

Christian Nurture highly recommends and encourages you to tune in to Calvary Radio at 89.9 FM to benefit from their teaching programs and music all week long. Their programs may be the only way some people have to hear the Bible taught chapter by chapter and verse by verse. Please prayerfully consider supporting their efforts by mailing a donation to them so they can keep spreading the gospel over the airwaves at: Calvary Radio Network, 150 W. Lincolnway, #2001, Valparaiso, IN 46383, or making a donation online at <http://www.calvaryradionetwork.com/Support.html>

HANDBELLS UPDATE

Once again, we want to thank you for supporting the Handbell Bake Sale we had this past June. The money we raised through the bake sale and donations helped offset costly expenses to have our handbells serviced. We shipped our handbells to Schulmerich Bell Company Refurbishment Center in Chester, S.C., in late June and they arrived back at St. John's 2 weeks ago. We had what is called an "Essential Refurbishment" which included the following: replaced all minor parts, anti-friction washers, bumpers, handle lock washers, clapper lock washers, clapper screws and stop nuts. They also checked the tuning, cleaned the handles and replaced all of the clappers. We know this refurbishing will add new years to our bells as we continue to praise God through the gift of music.



"Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth.

*Worship the Lord with gladness;
come before him with joyful songs."*

--The Handbell Choir

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Sat., Nov. 8, 2014 (Set-up, Nov. 7), 9 - 3:00 p.m.

Vendors needed!

Questions or for vendor sign-up, call Betty, 874-3725, or Karen, 872-5087.

VBS SUCCESS AND THANKS!



St. John's UCC stepped out in faith to host a Community Wide Vacation Bible School, and it was a joyous success. By the numbers:

158 kids registered; 6 local congregations collaborated; more than 100 book bags went to the kids; and in all, 10 local congregations provided 71 volunteers.

God's spirit was evident in the joyful atmosphere overall, in the good behavior of the kids, in the seamless unity of the volunteers in this mission, and in the seeds of faith planted in so many young lives.

We thank all the St. John's members who so graciously gave of their time and resources to our VBS efforts. You donated book bags, you volunteered to serve with the children, you served in the kitchen, you donated money, and you prayed to make this mission successful.

We especially thank the members of St. John's VBS Task Force who launched this mission in January: Pat Beebe, Don Briggs, Lynda Ferry, Greg Kearney, Jane Malott, LeeAnn Peterson, and Lisa Kay Swartz.

In 1 Corinthians 12, the Apostle Paul writes: "You are Christ's body - that's who you are! You must never forget this. Only as you accept your part of that body does your "part" mean anything. ... But it's obvious by now, isn't it, that Christ's church is a complete Body and not a gigantic, unidimensional Part? It's not all Apostle, not all Prophet, not all Miracle Worker, not all Healer, not all Prayer in Tongues, not all Interpreter of Tongues." [The Message] Let us continue to work together to bring God's Kingdom here, now.

HANDBELL CHOIR

Our handbell choir has begun again, after a summer break. We are looking for one or two individuals who can read music and want to praise God as we share the love of music with the congregation. Questions, Dave Swartz (872-9121) or Debbie Dill at (219-362-4345).

MISSIONS OPPORTUNITIES!

A reminder, as simple toys, school supplies, and flip flops go on sale, they may be appropriate for the Christmas Child Boxes we assemble in October and November. Also, we continue to support the Tuesday Soup Kitchen at New Disciple Love Church. Juice and paper goods are always needed there.

Thank you for your prayers and help as you remember our neighbors! --your Missions Committee

LAPORTE COUNTY 29TH ANNUAL CROP HUNGER WALK, SUNDAY, SEPT. 28TH

1st United Methodist Church
1225 Michigan Avenue, LaPorte
Register: 1:15 p.m., Walk: 2:00 p.m.

Please walk or sponsor a walker! We have few walkers, but we can have many sponsors! All money raised goes toward food and food-related projects to help the hungry. It also supports our local soup kitchens! For more information, please contact Lynda at 872-1427.



ALL-CHURCH PICNIC

Sun., Sep. 7, 2014
One worship service
10:00 a.m.

Please note, the PEEPS group is requesting baked goods for the Cake Walk such as cakes, brownies or cupcakes. Please place baked goods in a disposable container and clearly mark item for the Cake Walk. There will be a special table set up in the fellowship hall for the Cake Walk items. Also, remember to sign up on the bulletin board outside the library if you are planning on attending the picnic.

WOMEN PARTNERING WITH CHRIST

The ladies' study group Women Partnering with Christ will resume meetings on Wednesday evenings at 4:10 pm. on September 3rd. Questions, please call Dolores, 362-3665. All ladies are welcome!



JI-YOUNG RETURNS FOR CONCERT

Mark your calendar for Sunday, September 28th as that is when Ji-Young Jeoung will return to St. John's for a concert at 2:00 in our sanctuary. Many of you may remember, (who could forget), Ji-Young as she was our organist for a short period of time before she and her husband, John, moved to Indy. She is a vibrant and gifted individual and you will be uplifted as to the gift of music that God has given her. A light refreshment will follow her concert. Hope you can join us!

USHERS

Ushers for the month of September are:
Joe Dabkowski, Mike Kerestury,
Craig Schroeder, John Bauer

ALZHEIMER'S CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP

**Meets the 2nd Thursday of every month,
6:30 p.m. here in our Adobe Room**

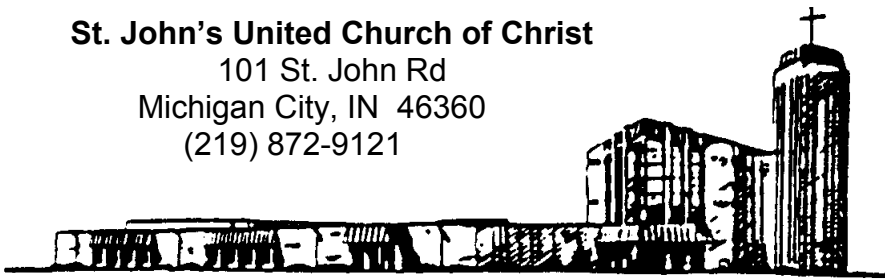
For more information, please call 1-800-272-3900.

THANK YOU!

Thank you so much for your generous response our Salvation Army needs. Thank you for your donations of paper goods and toiletries! For our September collection, please consider bringing canned fruit and vegetables.

St. John's United Church of Christ
101 St. John Rd
Michigan City, IN 46360
(219) 872-9121

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PRESCHOOL SUPPLIES COLLECTION

Collection for donations for St. John's Preschool continues! Please drop off donations in the library.

PRESCHOOL WISH LIST

diaper wipes paper towels napkins construction paper Kleenex
antibacterial wipes 5 oz. disposable cups

Thank you very much for your generous donations for the MCAS supplies collection! These were dropped off for distribution to our city schools and were very much appreciated!

CHRISTMAS IN SEPTEMBER??



Yes, it's time to start working on Operation Christmas Child! We can all find a way to help make this year great by organizing packing parties, helping pack boxes, praying for God to bless this good work and donating the following items in the church library:

Toys: Include items that children will immediately embrace such as dolls, toy cars, stuffed animals, kazoos, harmonicas, yo-yos, jump ropes, balls, toys that light up and make noise (with extra batteries), etc.

School Supplies: pens, pencils and sharpeners, crayons, markers, notebooks, paper, solar calculators, coloring and picture books, etc.

Non-Liquid Hygiene Items: toothbrushes, bar soap, combs, washcloths, etc.

Accessories: t-shirts, socks, hats, sunglasses, hair clips, jewelry, watches, flashlights (with extra batteries), etc.

A Personal Note: You may enclose a note to the child and a photo of yourself or your family. If you include your name and address, the child may be able to write back.

Please Do Not Include: Used or damaged items; war-related items such as toy guns, knives or military figures; chocolate or food; out-of-date candy; liquids or lotions; medications or vitamins; breakable items such as snow globes or glass containers; aerosol cans.

Also, we will gather on September 21st after the 10:00 service in Fellowship Hall and make twist band jewelry to include in our gift boxes. Please join us, everyone welcome!!

