

# The St. John's Messenger

Volume 15 Issue 9

[www.stjohnsmc.com](http://www.stjohnsmc.com)

September 2015



## BE THE CHRIST FOLLOWER YOU WANT YOUR CHILDREN TO BE

Just as education happens in a classroom, learning also takes place within a family. Families pass on values, identity and hope.

It is so important for us to share faith with the next generation. The primary role you and I can play is that of an example. We are to be an example of a person who loves Christ and is willing to live by his direction. You and I are to be an example of a Christ follower to our family and to our neighbors.

We can talk about faith in Christ but our children need to see what faith in Christ looks like. Kids don't always do what we say — they do what they see. We need to be the kind of people we're hoping our teens will be. That doesn't mean we need to be perfect; it means that we need to be authentic in pursuing Christ. We need to be honest about our shortfalls, humbly asking forgiveness when we fail.

I contend that **if you want to lead your children to Christ, you must first follow Christ in your lifestyle.**

So what does a great follower look like? I would suggest great followers share at least five characteristics:

1. **They know the leader.** You can't be a good follower unless you have accepted the leadership of Christ. When you read the Bible you will know **ABOUT** Christ. When you accept his spirit you will **KNOW** Christ.
2. **They are obedient.** They model obedience to Christ as an example to others. This is how you become the Christ follower you want your children to be.
3. **They are servants.** They notice how Christ serves and they do the same things. Jesus set a great example—just follow the leader.
4. **They are humble.** Great followers don't make it about them. They shine the attention on Christ. They know life is all about living by the love of Christ.
5. **They are loyal.** Great followers understand that Jesus gave his life to save their life. The Lord's gracious love creates loyalty.

The following list identifies three persons from the Bible who served God faithfully after they followed a great example.

- Joshua followed Moses for more than forty years before he led the children of Israel into the Promised Land.
- Elisha served Elijah for ten years before he took up his master's mantle and went on to perform *even more* miracles.
- The Apostle Peter followed Jesus for three years—and made a lot of mistakes—before he and his fellow-disciples “turned the world upside down” (see Acts 17:6).

I encourage you to be an example of a Christ follower. *Pastor Bill*

## CROP WALK

~ here at St. John's! ~

Please help us end hunger one step at a time when St. John's UCC hosts the 30th Annual La Porte County CROP Walk. Participants will gather at 1:30 pm on Sunday, September 27, 2015, with the Walk beginning at 2:00 p.m.. Funds raised will help support the La Porte and Michigan City Salvation Army Food Banks. Any questions, please contact Jan Lubiniecki at 879-3712 or Kristen Jasicki at 874-2176. We hope to see you there!

## ALL-CHURCH PICNIC

Sunday, September 13th

One worship service,  
10:00 a.m.

Please bring your favorite side dish or dessert to share! The Church will provide meat & beverages, tableware & plates. Also, remember to sign up on the bulletin board outside the office if you are planning on attending!



### **UPCOMING COMMUNION and SPECIAL OFFERINGS**

Sep. 6, Communion: Blanket Fund

October 4, Communion: Crosscurrent Teen Ministry

Oct. 4, Special Envelope: Neighbors in Need

Oct. 18, Mission Envel.: M.C. Homeless Shelter



### **BOY SCOUT UPDATE**

Each morning the fog blanketed the river, but Venturing Crew 871 endured! Congratulations to the 7 participants, Brandy, Cheyanne, Katie, Maggie, Will, Anthony and Edward for bringing home the first place Co-ed Novice Division trophy for the 120-mile White River Canoe Race, July 2015. Thank you all for your support for these young people!



### **CHRISTMAS CHILD BOXES**

Needed: T-shirts (Dollar Tree usually has them), colored pencils, coloring books or pads of paper that fit into shoe boxes, small flashlights & batteries, flip-flops, toothbrushes, bars of soap. Since these are assembled in October and early November, we can shop the sales now!

### **WOMEN'S GUILD NEWS & TRIVIA**

St. John's Women's Guild enjoyed the music of Patsy Cline at the Main Street Theater in July. Some of our favorites were "Crazy" and "Just a Closer Walk with Thee." There were just two women in the cast—one who sang all of Patsy's great songs and her assistant/secretary who did cute acts and comedy.

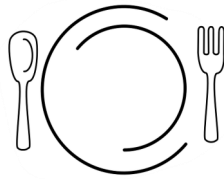
Since we attended the play in July, we had our annual potluck/bingo at the August 20th meeting. Devotions were given by Karen Lawrenz and potluck arrangements were by Eleanor Warnke and Thelma Hubertz.

Did you know that the Evening Guild was first started in 1955 at our church on 9th and Franklin? With lots of members we had style shows with members as our models. Mrs. Janet Timm-Redding was the Evening Guild's first president. We now have Rumage Sales, peanut brittle made by members and church member, and the Christmas Bazaar in November.

### **45 CELL PHONES DONATED!**

Thank you!! Ever wonder what happens to the cell phones you so generously donate? The metals are extracted and sold and phone cards are purchased for cell phones for soldiers and Compassion International. And as a bonus, you've cleared a space in your drawer! Everyone wins! *Thank you, Missions*





**Coming Soon to St. John's Fellowship Hall-**  
**The Return of "The Discovery Dinners"!!!**

Starting Wednesday, September 9, at 5:30 p.m., we will be serving delicious dinners and guess what? You don't have to cook (at least one night a week!)! SO come by, enjoy fellowship, music, Bible studies and the fact that YOU don't have to cook every Wednesday night! Questions?? See Beth Ann Ast

**CHURCH WORLD SERVICES**

- Blanket Fund

Blankets and mosquito nets will be distributed by Church World Services. Monies donated on Communion Sunday, September 6, will be donated to this effort.

- CROP Walk

We encourage people to walk and/or sponsor a walker! Please check the front of this Messenger for more information on the CROP Walk.

**BIBLE STUDY**

We have begun a new Bible study that meets on Wednesday evenings at 6:15 p.m.

We are studying the Book of Judges.

Questions, please call Gerri, 879-0902.

This class is open to everyone!

**WOMEN PARTNERING WITH CHRIST**

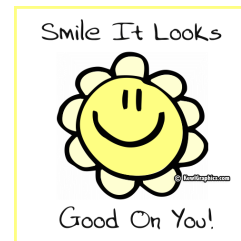
The ladies' study group Women Partnering with Christ will resume meetings on Wednesday evenings at 4:10 pm. on September 9th. Questions, please call Dolores, 362-3665. All ladies of the congregation are welcome!

**ALZHEIMER'S CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP**

Meets the 2nd Thursday of every month, 6:30 p.m. here at St. John's

The next meeting will be Thursday, Sep. 10th.

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



**GREETERS NEEDED!**

Please add your name to the list on the bulletin board to be a Sunday morning Greeter and help keep this wonderful St. John's tradition alive! All upcoming Sundays are available. Don't be shy—all that is needed is your sunny smile and welcoming spirit!



**NEW! BEREAVEMENT GROUP**

Led by Pastor Dennis Carroll

Begins Thursday, September 24, 11:00 am, in the Adobe Room

Invite your friends, relatives, neighbors. This group is open to all!

**UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER**

September 13: Church Picnic

September 27: CROP Walk, at St. John's

November 14: Christmas Bazaar

December 5: Christmas Tea



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O magnify the Lord  
with me, and let us  
exalt His name  
together.

— Psalm 34:3

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**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! The theme for this summer's

VBS was "Mount Everest, Conquering Challenges with God's Mighty Power." 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 new book bags and supplies, you volunteered to serve with the children, you served in the kitchen, you donated money and milk jugs (!), and you prayed to make this mission successful. For all of your support, we say **THANK YOU!!**

Please add to your calendar, there will be a VBS recap meeting on  
**Monday evening, September 14th, at 6:30 p.m.**  
in the Youth Lounge.

