

the little church with
a big heart



historically rooted
branching toward the future

OCTOBER 2007

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St. John United Church of Christ

N104 W14181 Donges Bay Road
Germantown, Wisconsin 53022
(262) 251-0640
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Our Website:
www.stjohnuccgermantown.org

**Worship & Sunday School
9:30 a.m.**

Pastor: Michael J. Matheny, Sr.
Home: (414) 351-6542
Cell: (414) 241-6648

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Information for the Heartbeat is due
the **10th of each month.**

You may turn in a paper copy at
church or e-mail your information to

ygeefmly@milwpc.com

(Editor: Colleen Yaggie)

HEARTBEAT NEWS

St. John United Church of Christ

Pastor's Message

Dear St. John Family,

On Sunday, October 7th, I will be celebrating the 29th anniversary of my ordination into the Christian Ministry. I was not ordained when I began my ministry. I would like to share with you the reason why.

After graduating from Bible College, I became a youth minister and ordination was not required. I continued to work with youth in Milwaukee and then Madison for ten years. While living in Madison, I attended Heritage Congregational Church pastored by Richard Pritchard, so we became acquainted and I became active in the church. Pritch encouraged me to go to seminary.

While in seminary, I struggled with the concept of ordination because I am a firm believer in the "Priesthood of all believers." That is the belief that all Christians are called to ministry, but we have different callings and gifts. A pastor is not holier or more important than a person who works in a factory or a mother with several small children, etc. I never felt comfortable with dividing Christians into clergy and laity.

After graduation from seminary, I was called to the First Congregational Church in Emporia, Kansas. I was ordained with the understanding that it was an affirmation of my calling to be a pastor and it was done by a local church, not a denomination. The service was attended by my family, church members, and other ministers from Emporia and surrounding states, plus "Bontha," who had not yet returned to India. The ordination sermon was given by Richard Pritchard, my home pastor. Reverend Pritchard was with us in October of 2004.

Not only is this the 29th anniversary of my ordination, but it is the 3rd anniversary of my service to St. John as pastor. St. John is a special place, and it has been an honor and joy to know and serve each of you. Pastors are under-shepherds to the great Shepherd which is our Lord Jesus Christ. I serve Him and you in His name and for His sake.

*God's best to you,
Rev. Michael J. Matheny, Sr.*



Of Note

October Birthdays

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Kathy Manning | 20 Clark Page |
| 5 Jeanette Leicht | 21 Michael Schneider |
| 6 Joseph Vanderschaegen | 24 Shawn Klimas |
| 7 Sally Waraxa | 26 Matt Lison |
| 9 Lisa Martine | 28 Ken Roskopf |
| 10 Katie & Brad Pieper | Melissa Koedinger |
| Elizabeth Thimke | 29 Kyle Higgins |
| 12 Bonnie Pfeil | 30 Dawn Umhoefer |
| 13 David Taylor | |
| 15 Tyler Ellingson | |
| 16 Courtney Vanderschaegen | |
| 19 Scotty Bowlin | |
| Jean Koedinger | |
| Sarah Thimke | |

Please Remember

Addresses for Our College Age Members

Lisa Martine
1803 Main Street
LaCrosse, WI 54601

Emily Romaine
727 West Lincoln Avenue
Evans Hall – Room 330
Oshkosh, WI 54901

Get Well Wishes

Edith Schaezel; she was hospitalized and is now at Linden Grove receiving therapy

October Anniversaries

- | | |
|-------------------------------|------------|
| 2 Ken & Diane Ramthun | (53 years) |
| 6 Curtis & Nola Witzlib | (45 years) |
| 8 Mike & Jennifer Higgins | |
| 11 Andy & Sandy Borucki | (21 years) |
| James & Carolyn Truman | (10 years) |
| Thomas & Polly Weber | (32 years) |
| 13 Ken & Karen Roskopf | (45 years) |
| Charles & Shelly Zodrow | (28 years) |
| 14 Jim & Pamela Ruben | (18 years) |
| 26 Luke & Jennifer Wagner | |
| 28 Warren & Shirley Fraedrich | (57 years) |

If someone's birthday or anniversary is missing or if the date is incorrect, please notify Mary Ann Toth. Thank you!

A Unique Proposal

At the celebration of their 50th wedding anniversary, Mr. and Mrs. Earl Calhoun of Tulsa told how he proposed and she accepted. They were attending a church service in Deepwater, Missouri, when Mr. Calhoun flipped through the hymnbook and pointed out the words, "Every Day I Need Thee More." Mrs. Calhoun took the hymnal, turned a few pages and showed him her answer: "Take Me As I Am." He did.

-The SourceBook of Wit and Wisdom

Upcoming Events & Information

Neighbors In Need Special Mission Offering

Enclosed is information explaining *Neighbors In Need* (NIN) and an envelope for your contribution. NIN supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the US and Puerto Rico. The offering also helps support the UCC's Council for American Indian Ministries, as well as justice advocacy and direct service projects supported by Justice and Witness Ministries. Last year our congregation gave \$130 to support these causes.

NIN Sunday is October 7, 2007. If you cannot bring your envelope then, you can bring it any Sunday in October. Thank you!

Grace in Giving

*If I see the gift as mine alone to give,
I might give hesitantly,
even grudgingly,
considering my options,
then giving from a sense of ought.
If I see the gift as God's
who allows me to use it for a time,
then the gift can flow more freely,
as I join with others
to be a channel
for God's love and mercy.*

-Roberta Porter in *Alive Now*



Celebrate World Communion Sunday October 7, 2007

Over 70 years ago, on November 1, 1936, World-Wide Communion Day was born. In the winter of 1935, a group of ministers met to study the spiritual needs and possibilities of the church during the dark days of the Great Depression. In the Lord's Supper they saw a great opportunity to unite Christians in dedication to Christ.

In 1937, the date of World-Wide Communion Sunday was changed to the first Sunday in October, where it has remained. The word "wide" has since been dropped from the name, giving us the present observance of World Communion Sunday.

The day remains as it began: "A great opportunity to unite the membership in dedication to the Lord Jesus Christ." People from the four corners of the world gather together to answer Christ's invitation, "This do in remembrance of me."

-Bethel Presbyterian Church
Peoria, Illinois

Events

Special Services

- New Member Sunday – Sunday, October 21st; Potluck Lunch to follow the service – find more information under *Outreach Committee News* elsewhere in newsletter

Meetings

- Church Council – Thursday, October 11th, 7:00 pm
- Women's Guild – Wednesday, October 3rd, 7:00 pm
- Outreach Committee – Sunday, November 4th, 8:15 am
- Christian Board of Education – Monday, Oct. 29th, 7:00 pm

Activities

- Pumpkin Carving – Sunday, October 28th, to be held during Fellowship after our church service

In the Coming Months

- New member Pot Luck – Sunday, October 21st
- Tree Trimming and Christmas Caroling – Sunday, Nov. 25th
- Packer Tailgate Brunch – Sunday, December 2nd
(information for all of these events can be found under *Outreach Committee News* elsewhere in this newsletter)

Greeters, Ushers & Liturgists

Sunday, October 7, 2007

Greeters: Don & Lillian Sutton

Ushers: Dennis & Sue Beck

Communion Ushers: John Schaetzel, Chris Pickett, Eric Tess

Liturgist: Eric Tess

Sunday, October 14, 2007

Greeter: Pam Szymanski

Ushers: Rich & Cheri Bersch

Liturgist: Cheryl Maederer

Sunday, October 21, 2007

Greeters: Mike & Corrine Szymik

Ushers: Jeff & Carol Klimas

Liturgist: Marilyn Gabrielsen

Sunday, October 28, 2007

Greeters: David & Dawn Taylor

Ushers: Rose Allen & Curt Witzlib

Liturgist: Bill Kaiser

NOTE: If you cannot make your commitment:

GREETERS, please call Mary Ann Toth at (262) 251-0365. Greeters perform an important role in Fellowship, especially when we have visitors. **USHERS** should notify their back-up and call the church office at (262) 251-0640 to let A.J. Schroeder know so the correct names are in the bulletin. Thank You!!

Council Highlights

At its monthly meeting held on September 13, 2007, the St. John Church Council:

- Approved the appointment of an ad-hoc committee comprised of Mary Johnson, Bob Lehmann, Matt Lison, Pastor Matheny, John Schaetzel and Mike Szymik to explore pastoral sharing options with Our Savior UCC.
- Set the hours for the church secretary for Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings.
- Authorized the use of the Fellowship Hall by *Youth for Understanding* for Sunday, October 7th from 1:00-6:00 pm.
- Authorized the use of the Fellowship Hall by Girl Scout Troop 4215 for Monday evenings from September through June from 6:00-9:00 pm.
- Set Christmas Eve services for 4:00 pm and 7:00 pm on December 24th.

Thank you to everyone who helped make our Annual Craft Fair such a success. A special thank-you to Merry Lison and the entire Craft Fair Committee for all of the effort put into our biggest fund-raiser of the year.

Thanks go out to all who responded to our call for Sunday School teachers, and to Annaliesa Kubosch who will serve as Sunday School Superintendent this year.

Present: Karen Becker, Mary Johnson, Bob Lehmann, Matt Lison, Pastor Matheny, Mike Szymik, Mary Ann Toth and Dick Wallander

Absent: Cherie Bersch and Betty Parker

The next meeting of the Church Council is scheduled for October 11th at 7:00 pm

Committee Reports

Outreach Committee

Brewer Game Outing

Our Brewer Game family outing was held on August 19th; we met at the church at 11:00 am. Because of rainy weather, we held our tailgate party at the church. Many attended the tailgate potluck party. We enjoyed a variety of appetizers, snacks, salads, and desserts.

Seventy-six people attended the game. Thirty-five church members wore their St. John t-shirts. Donna Matheny won the t-shirt raffle.

At 1:05 pm, the baseball game was underway between our Milwaukee Brewers and the Cincinnati Reds; Cincinnati defeated Milwaukee, with a final score of 7-6.

T-Shirt Sales

T-shirts, sweatshirts and polo shirts are still available for sale (only in Adult large size). We have a limited quantity. For more information, contact Rich Bersch at (262) 242-0275.

Adult Fellowship

2008 Entertainment Books are on sale now until December 23rd; cost is \$35 per book (\$7 from the sale of each book goes to Adult Fellowship). There are 22 books left. Contact Jeannie Lehmann if you are interested in purchasing a book.

With the purchase of a book, you also get a code for another city/site to use the coupons "Entertainment on Vacation." Our group ID is 748438 to purchase Entertainment Books for different cities. For more information on these offers, go to entertainment.com.

Fellowship

Please consider signing up for Fellowship following church services in our Fellowship Hall (there is a clip board/sign-up sheet located near the kitchen). Come and join us. All members and friends are welcome. Any questions, contact Amy Witzlib at (262) 502-1835.

Upcoming Events:

- New Member Pot Luck: Sunday, October 21st after the service. A sign will be posted on the bulletin board for all church members to sign up for the potluck. Join us and welcome our new members!
- Tree Trimming and Christmas Caroling: Sunday, November 25th. Please join us following the church service to help decorate our church and trim the Christmas tree in preparation of the upcoming Christmas season. A light lunch will be provided. Following that, we will go Christmas Caroling at 2:00 pm at the Arboretum.
- Packer Tailgate Brunch: Sunday, December 2nd; the Outreach Committee will be serving brats and hot dogs; more information to follow regarding the brunch.

The next Outreach Committee meeting is November 4th at 8:15 a.m. Any church members wishing to join the committee are welcome. We meet in the conference room next to Pastor Matheny's office.

Submitted by Caroline Romaine

Mission Alive Committee



Food Pantry

If members bring food for the food pantry, please check the expiration date of the food. Also, the food pantry could use more paper products. Thank you.

Submitted by Rich Bersch

Christian Board of Education

The re-formed Christian Board of Education (CBE) met to finalize Rally Day and discuss teacher recruitment for the fall semester. The following people have agreed to serve on the board: Pamela Hansen Ruben (Administrator), Annaliesa Kubosch (temporary Sunday School Coordinator), Bill Kaiser, Matt Lison (Council Liaison), Bob Lehmann and Ann LaMarre. Mary Johnson (Youth Coordinator) agreed to serve on the board if needed. We are still looking for more people to serve on the board. The CBE's purpose is to plan events and support our coordinators and teachers. Please consider joining the board. If you have questions or are interested in helping, contact Pamela Hansen Ruben at (262) 253-7287 or pruben@wi.rr.com. The next meeting of the CBE is Monday, October 29th at 7 pm in the conference room. All are welcome to attend.

It has been decided that there will be no confirmation class for this year. There are only two students of age to participate in this class, and they will join in with next year's group. This will provide for a better, more interactive learning environment in preparation for Confirmation.

Sunday School is using the *Seasons of the Spirit* curriculum this year. The fall semester is broken into two, five-week sessions as follows: Session 1: Sept. 16th to Oct. 14th; Session 2: Oct. 21st to Nov. 18th. Options are still being discussed for the spring semester, including: three, seven-week sessions or four, five-week sessions.

The classrooms are divided by age: Preschool-K, grades 1-3, grades 4-5, grades 6-7 and youth. If you are available to teach the Preschool-K class this fall or any of our grades in the spring, please contact Pamela Hansen Ruben. All materials will be provided.

Our special thanks to the following who have volunteered to teach this fall: Caroline Romaine and Joan Schaezel (grades 1-3); Lynn Dettmering and Chris Pickett (grades 4-5); Shirley Fraederich (grades 6-7); and Mary Johnson, who is leading a new, youth discussion session. Annaliesa Kubosch has

agreed to teach the Preschool-K class until another teacher is found.

During our Rally Day service Sept. 9th, our fall teachers were introduced, and the following 4th graders received their bibles: Tyler Flood, Dana Lemke, Kate Wallschlaeger and Robert Witzlib. We're looking forward to a successful Sunday School program.

We are still in need of someone to direct this year's Christmas program. Time has been set aside during Sunday School for practices and the CBE will assist in obtaining any necessary items. There are several programs already available to choose from, or the director is welcome to bring his/her own ideas. Please contact Pamela Hansen Ruben if you are willing to direct this year's Christmas program.

To help you prepare your children at home for Sunday School, or to follow up with the material being taught, following is a list of the themes and readings for classes in September and October.

9/16: God's persistent love

Luke 15:1-10; 1Timothy 1:12-17

9/23: Praying as Jesus' disciples

1Timothy 2:1-7; Luke 16:1-13

9/30: How to be followers of Jesus

1Timothy 6:6-19; Luke 16:19-31

10/7: Passing on faith stories

2Timothy 1:1-14, Luke 17:5-10

10/14: Giving thanks to God

Luke 17:11-19; 2Timothy 2:8-15

10/21: Encouraged in faith

Luke 18:1-8; 2Timothy 3:14-4:5

10/28: Relying on God's love and mercy

Luke 8:9-14; 2Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18

Submitted by Pamela Hansen Ruben



See you in Sunday School!

Craft Fair Committee



THANK YOU!!!!

A big thank you to all who made this year's Craft Fair a great success!

The results of the Fair were not available before the newsletter deadline, so watch for more information in the November issue.

Submitted by Merry Lison

Women's Guild

The weather was great for this year's Craft Fair and the Women's Guild extends a thank-you to all who helped out. Women's Guild will again be doing a Fall Theme Basket for the 2008 Craft Fair, so keep an eye open for all the sales.

New Member Sunday will be October 21st. We will supply the bread and jelly. We will check with the Council about scheduling an all-church cleaning on November 10th.

Thanksgiving baskets will be prepared in November for our shut-ins. Please keep in mind items that may be put in the baskets; we will need seven of each item.

We are also looking into menus for the Christmas party if anyone has any suggestions. Our next meeting will be held Wednesday, October 3rd at 7:00 pm. Come and join us.

Submitted by Lisa Graveen

Other News and Notes

St. John UCC Maintenance Progress Report – As of August 13, 2007

Item 1	Steeple roofing and repair	Completed
Item 2	Belfrie repair, under-coating and painting	Completed
Item 3	Tuckpoint north/front of Church building	Completed
Item 4	Fascia & overhang repair, under-coating and painting north/front of Church building	Completed
Total Dollars Spent as of 8/12/07		\$25,700.00

As of 8/13/07, the project as outlined above has been completed and the dollars required to pay for this work are on-hand with only one payment yet to be made.

Other maintenance which requires attention at this time:

• Balance of fascia & overhang under-coating and painting on Church building	\$5,950.00
• <u>Tuck-pointing east, west & south sides of Church building</u>	\$5,660.00
Total Dollars required to complete repair projects (provided no additional repairs are required such as new trim, etc.)	\$11,610.00
Total remaining in Building & Maintenance account	\$5,529.00
Funds needed in order to complete project	\$6,081.00

Any individual wanting to make a donation towards the cost of completing these necessary projects should make a separate donation, indicating on the check or on the envelope that the money is for Building & Maintenance

Volunteer Opportunities

Cedar Community is Looking for Caring Individuals

Are you a caring and compassionate person? Are you a good listener? Do you feel the need to give back to the community? If you answered "yes" to these questions then Cedar Community in West Bend would like to hear from you. Cedar Community is currently seeking volunteers to participate in their hospice program.

Hospice volunteers receive eight hours of training and provide residents with companionship by spending time visiting them, taking them outside on the grounds and to various Cedar Community programs. Hospice volunteers provide emotional and social support in a caring environment. Each hospice volunteer is assigned to one resident and visits the resident one day a week for as long as they wish.

Anyone interested in learning more about this and other volunteer opportunities available at Cedar Community should contact Bonnie Amerling, Cedar Community volunteer coordinator, at (262) 306-4218. The next hospice training is on October.

Your Help is Wanted! Volunteer Drivers Desperately Needed for Home Delivered Meal Program in Germantown & Hartford

The Washington County Senior Dining Home Delivered Meal program needs volunteer drivers in the Germantown area on Tuesdays and in the Hartford area on Tuesdays and Fridays. Volunteers would give approximately one hour to take noon meals to homebound persons. Without volunteer drivers these people in need cannot receive the meals. Anyone willing to deliver meals and have your mileage reimbursed should call the Aging and Disability Resource Center of Washington County at (262) 335-4497 or 1-877-306-3030 for more information.

A Message of Thanks

*Living is the art of loving.
Loving is the art of caring.
Caring is the art of sharing.
Sharing is the art of living.*

-Anonymous

Dear Pastor Matheny and St. John volunteers,

Thank you for your much needed help in our emergency food pantry! We appreciate you taking the time to support our mission! Please contact me if you are interested in volunteering again.

Best regards,

Wendy

Volunteer Coordinator – Milwaukee Christian Center



State of the Church

Income & Attendance

<u>Date</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Income</u>
8/5	36	2,612.00
8/12	50	2,375.00
8/19	81	1,369.00
8/26	48	1,042.00
<hr/>		
Total Offerings:		7,398.00
Total Income:		7,398.00
Year-to-Date Income:		75,706.20
August Earmarked*:		155.00
<i>*Sunday School materials</i>		
August Earmarked*:		120 .00
<i>*SportsLife Camp (Singing Can)</i>		

Submitted by Cherie Bersch, Financial Secretary

General Fund Activity

<u>Checking</u>	
Balance Forward	969.02
Deposits	7,400.00
Transferred from (to) general savings	0.00
Total available	8,369.02
<hr/>	
Disbursements	
Personnel	4,984.88
Operations	1,973.70
Program	703.68
Benevolence	0.00
Earmarked	0.00
Total Disbursements	7,662.26
<hr/>	
Balance 8-31-2007	706.76
<hr/>	
<u>Current Account Balances</u>	
Checking	706.76
Savings	
Savings Account Total	821.98
SportsLife Camp-Earmarked	(810.00)
Mission Trips-Earmarked	(2,185.31)
Parking Lot-Earmarked	(3,235.75)
Available to General Fund	(5,409.08)
<hr/>	
Disbursements Due 9-30-2007	12,951.43

Submitted by Mike Szymik, Treasurer

The Beauty of Stewardship

Stewardship has to do with how we manage our time, talent, resources – basically our entire lives. It's a beautiful concept when properly understood. Here are the basics of good stewardship:

God is the source of all creation, including our lives. God is the primary owner of all that exists.

We are blessed by being given the task of managing well all that we have influence over: our lives, our abilities, our minds and bodies, our time, our part of the earth, our finances, our children, our church buildings, our automobiles, etc.

Although we can make decisions regarding each of the above, ultimately we are responsible to God. Sooner or later, we must give an account of our management of God's creation and of God's gifts.

When we properly use the talents, resources and property that God allows us to manage, we find great joy. Think of planting a garden which soon overflows with colorful flowers, wonderful vegetables and flavorful herbs, etc. God gave us the plot of ground, God gave us the seed, God gave us the wisdom and strength to bring forth such beauty, such good things to see or eat, or smell. Yet we did the work, with God's help, to make it a reality. Like Adam we tilled it and kept it. But God gave the increase. God's provisions and our labor brought the garden to its fulfillment.

Good stewardship enables us to do something positive and wonderful with the money God has allowed us to have. What feels better than knowing one has managed money well? Our bank account, our checkbook and our portfolio tell the story. When money is handled well, we have enough for ourselves and are still able to give to God's work. That is the beauty of stewardship.

Leading good life helps children embrace faith

By Norris Burkes, Gannett News Service

Returning home one evening on a cross-country flight, my colleague and I began a conversation about our children. Within a few moments, the conversation turned to a turbulent area for many parents.

"Do your children go to church with you every week?" she asked.

"Yes," I answered rather flatly.

"Mine won't go," she said, gazing through the darkened window. "If they do go, it becomes a fight, and I end up crying through Mass."

"Two go easily and the other two need some coaching, but getting them to go is the easy part," I admitted. "We've taken our children to church their whole lives, so they know as long as they are in our home, they will always go."

"Tough love, huh?"

"No, not really. It's kind of like seat belts."

"Huh?"

"They never liked seat belts when they were young, but they learned the car doesn't move without seat belts. My children go," I said, "but that doesn't mean that they want to be there or that their faith is refreshed in the same way I experience."

"So they're not resentful about not having a choice?" she asked, her voice conveying the suspicion that my children spend their grown-up years in therapy.

"I'm not sure giving them a choice is always wise," I said. "There's a scriptural proverb which says, 'Start a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it.' I think that suggests we are to give our children a faith tradition that may one day serve to jump-start and help them better understand the sincerity of their parents' beliefs."

"So you're admitting, 'You can lead a horse to water, but you can't make him drink'?" she asked.

"You might say that. They may not choose to drink from spiritual waters, but we do have an obligation to be sure they are close to the well. I'm not sure how parents justify giving choices about something as deep as spiritual education when they don't give them choices about learning to read and write."

"But in the end," she stated, "we can no more choose faith for our children than I can fly this plane."

"Exactly, because the hardest part is still going to be how you live between worship services during the week. If you're not careful, the message can get lost in the noise of the church, and I think children are especially tuned in to the hypocrisy factor."

The plane ride and the discussion ended that night as most do – safely and without any new solution to world problems.

Bringing your children to church is a good start, but it's not enough by itself. We need to talk with them and explain why we go to church, thereby giving them a glimpse into our souls. Leading a good life, where service to others is paramount, does a great deal. We want our children to become the best people they can and we want them to be driven by more than habit. Children do not need to clone our faith, but in the end, parents need to be present with their children in their search for the meaning of faith, and model that faith so it can become the most potent and creative force in their developing lives.

(Norris Burkes is a civilian hospital chaplain and an Air Force Guard chaplain)

A Season of Glory

Now has come the glory season. Glory in the bountiful
fruits of God's earth. Glory in the
breathtaking
multi-colored leaves
of the trees. Glory in the
invigorating smells of Fall. Even glory in the
sparkling frost-blanket covering the grass and putting it to
sleep for the winter. Glory, glory
everywhere we look.



**St. John United Church of Christ
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TIME VALUE MATERIAL

