



historically rooted  
branching toward the future

# APRIL 2009

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### St. John United Church of Christ

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Our Website:  
[www.stjohnuccgermantown.org](http://www.stjohnuccgermantown.org)

**Worship & Sunday School  
10:15 a.m.**

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

**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**  
Information for the Heartbeat is due  
the **10<sup>th</sup> of each month.**

You may turn in a paper copy at  
church or email your information to  
[stjohnucc53022@sbcglobal.net](mailto:stjohnucc53022@sbcglobal.net)

# HEARTBEAT NEWS

*St. John United Church of Christ*

## **Pastor's Message**

Dear St. John family,

On the first Easter morning two Roman watchmen were guarding Christ's tomb. Suddenly, the stone that closed the tomb began to move! We don't know what the guards did but we know the stone continued to move in its groove and rolled slowly off to one side. How it happened we don't know, that it happened we do know, and this is enough. God rolled away the great stone from the door of the tomb, and His buried Son came forth alive.

This means that God has rolled away the massive stone of death from every believer's future. The risen Christ has promised, "Because I live, you will live also." This does not mean that we do not sorrow when we lose someone we love. The pain of separation is still there. It does mean that we can have confidence that someday we will be with our loved ones in God's promised kingdom. God has rolled away the fear of death.

Because of Easter, God has also rolled away the stone of despair. Because of our shaky economy and world outlook, many are in the depths of despair. This however, is a Saturday-before-Easter outlook. When Wellington fought Napoleon in that decisive battle of history, all England waited breathlessly for the news. In those days, it had to come across the channel by sailboat to England and then be signaled by semaphore to London. High atop Winchester Cathedral in southern England, the semaphore began to spell out the message letter by letter: W-E-L-L-I-N-G-T-O-N-D-E-F-E-A-T-E-D. Then, a dense fog settled over the city. The semaphore could no longer be seen. The message "Wellington defeated" spread gloom and despair among the people. Then the fog lifted and the semaphore flashed the rest of the message, "Wellington defeated the enemy." This complete report changed the gloom to gladness.

Nineteen centuries ago a far more decisive battle was fought. The Son of God single-handedly took on all the demonic powers of the universe. The cross was the battleground. On the Saturday after Jesus' death, the message was semaphored to the world; "Jesus defeated." Was He not dead and buried? Was not a giant boulder sealing the tomb? But on Sunday the fog lifted, and God completed His semaphore of good news to the world! "Jesus defeated the enemy." The Lord God omnipotent reigns, Lord of lords and King of kings. Despair cannot last. Christ is risen. Hope forever prevails.

There is no stone so big and heavy, blocking our way that God cannot move. When the women approached the tomb on Easter morning, they saw that the stone had already been rolled back. Christ is victor. God is sovereign. Love permeates all.

ALLELUIA!  
Pastor Matheny



# Of Note

## ***April Birthdays***

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 4 Gisela Bronner<br>Jim Ruben  | 15 Andy Borucki  |
| 5 Scott Passineau  | 16 Curt Witzlib  |
| 6 Walter Krueger, Jr.<br>Tobi Sieglaff<br>Brian Sprink<br>Amanda Witzlib       | 17 Erik Johnson<br>Ryan Burch<br>Becky Burch<br>Paul Passineau |
| 7 Bill Kaiser<br>Benjamin Fischer<br>Melissa Luckow                            | 18 Ward Steinmann<br>Aubrey Schneider                          |
| 8 Kay Wendt<br>Joshua Anderson   | 19 Mike Rooney<br>Kailyn Pieper                                |
| 10 Lauren Waraxa<br>Scott Wolf   | 23 Jodi Schneider<br>Christopher Waraxa                        |
| 11 Charles Krueger<br>Jill Lemke   | 25 Mark Luckow   |
| 13 Brenda Thimke   | 28 Jeff Lehmann<br>Genny Vriesen                               |
| 14 Mike Ries<br>Charles Zodrow<br>Robert Witzlib<br>Joe Toth<br>Janet Robinson | 30 Mike Fischer  |

## ***Please Remember***

### **Get Well Wishes**

Needed for Gisela Bronner; she was hospitalized, but now is home.  
Needed for Marge Wundrock; she has shingles; she is at home.

### **Sympathy**

Sympathy to Ken and Joan Schaetzel; Joan's brother-in-law, Bruce Massick was called to his Eternal home.

### **Congratulations**

To Sarah Hillstrom; she was named to the fall of 2008 Dean of Honors list at the University of Wisconsin, Oshkosh.

## ***April Anniversaries***

- |                              |            |
|------------------------------|------------|
| 3 Ralph & Gisela Bronner     | (50 years) |
| Brian & Connie Ellingson     | (16 years) |
| 5 Rollie & Suzanne Pieper    | (40 years) |
| 11 Mark & Pam Frey           | (39 years) |
| 14 Richard & Betty Schwartz  | (11 years) |
| 22 Matt & Merry Lison        | (20 years) |
| 23 Jay & Carrie Schaetzel    | (21 years) |
| 27 Chris & Carol Mastronardo | (18 years) |
| 30 Dennis & Jane Schmidt     | (15 years) |

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

# Upcoming Events & Information



## Flowers For Easter

The sign up sheet for Easter flowers is posted in the Stairwell.

Please sign up for lilies, tulips, daffodils or hyacinths. You may purchase them in memory of someone, in honor of someone or just because!

The price is \$10.00 each and a check can be made out to St. John UCC indicating "flowers" in the memo portion. Let's beautify our sanctuary for Easter!

Deadline is April 5<sup>th</sup>.

## EASTER BREAKFAST

The Women's Guild will again sponsor the Easter Breakfast on Easter Sunday.

Because there will be more time between the usual 8:00 breakfast and the 10:15 service, we will be offering two seatings – one at 8:00am, and

another at 9:15am. This way, those who will be attending the 10:15 service can be assured of a hot breakfast also! But, we will need you to **sign up for the breakfast you will be attending.** The sign up sheet is in the stairwell. Thank You!

## Events

### Special Services

Lenten and Holy Week Services at *Our Saviour's*

- April 1 - 6:15 pm meal; 7:00 pm Lenten Service
- April 8 - 6:15 pm meal; 7:00 pm Lenten Service
- April 9 - 7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Service at  
Our Saviour's
- April 10 - 7:00 pm Good Friday Service at  
Lutheran Church of the Living Christ
- April 12 7:00am Sunrise Easter Service
- 8:00am Breakfast
- 9:15am Breakfast
- 10:15am Easter Service

### Meetings

- Church Council – Thursday, April 2, 7:00pm
- Outreach Committee – Sunday, April 19, 9:00am

### Activities

- April 4 – 9:00 All Church Cleaning
- April 11 – 9:00 Set Up for Easter Breakfast
- April 26 – 2:00 outing to see "Grease"

## Greeters, Ushers & Liturgists

**Sunday, April 5, 2009**

*Palm Sunday*

*Greeter:* Janet Robinson

*Ushers:* Bill Kaiser and John Schaetzel

*Communion Ushers:* Chris Pickett, Karen Becker & Mike Szymik

*Liturgist:* Merry Lison

**Sunday, April 12, 2009**

*Easter Sunday*

*Greeters:* Romaine Family

*Ushers:* Bob and Jeannie Lehmann

*Communion Ushers:* Matt Lison and Ken Schaetzel

*Liturgist:* Pamela Hansen Ruben

**Sunday, April 19, 2009**

*Greeters:* John Schaetzel Family

*Ushers:* Rich and Cherie Bersch

*Liturgist:* Bill Kaiser

**Sunday, April 26, 2009**

*Greeters:* Sam and Jodi Schneider

*Ushers:* Ken and Joan Schaetzel

*Liturgist:* John Schaetzel

**NOTE: If you cannot make your commitment for the above:**

**PLEASE** notify Mary Ann Toth at (262) 251-0365. Thank You!

## Council Highlights

At its monthly meeting held on March 12th, the St. John Church Council:

- Set May 31<sup>st</sup> as Confirmation Sunday
- Approved a request from Mission Alive for a church-wide mission trip to Cincinnati for urban outreach from July 12-18
- Approved a request from the Worship Committee to spend up to \$300 to purchase banner stands and banners for the church sanctuary
- Approved a recommendation to the congregation to purchase a replacement copy machine, and set March 29<sup>th</sup> immediately after the worship service for a special congregational meeting to act on the recommendation
- Finalized a contract extension with Our Saviour's UCC to share the services of Pastor Matheny for two more years. Once both churches councils agree to the extended contract language, the document will be presented to both congregations for approval
- Approved a request from Women's Guild to hold a fund-raiser again this year in conjunction with Shady Lane Nursery
- Acted on a request to transfer the membership of Curt Witzlib to St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Slinger
- Acted on a request from Sally, Christopher and Lauren Waraxa to withdraw their membership

Present: Cherie Bersch, Eric Hillstrom, Mary Johnson, Bob Lehmann, Pastor Matheny, Mike Szymik, Mary Ann Toth and Dick Wallander

Absent: Karen Becker and Jay Schaetzel

**Next Council meeting April 2, 2009**

# Committee Reports

## ***Outreach Committee***

Thank you to all members, family and friends who attended the Culvers Fundraising outing on Tuesday February 17<sup>th</sup>. \$550.00 of food was purchased at Culvers. We raised \$55.00 for Outreach mission trips.

45 brave members, friends and families of St. John U.C.C. and Our Saviour U.C.C. attended the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Dartball night. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Dartball night was held February 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:00pm following a snowstorm. Delicious ham and rolls served as well as vegetable tray, dessert, snacks, & soda. There were three teams Cubs, Brewers, and Twins. The Cubs were the winning team. The new homerun slugger is Lillianne Tess.

### ***Mark your Calendars - Upcoming Events***

April 26<sup>th</sup> 2009 at 2:00pm - Adult Fellowship is planning an outing to the Menomonee Falls Patio Player production of the Musical "Grease". Ticket prices \$14.00 single ticket or \$18.00 Movie / Dinner package. Following the play we will meet back at St. John U.C.C. for a light dinner. A sign up sheet will be posted in the Narthex. Pay in advance by March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2009. For questions and more information contact Jeannie Lehmann 262-251-1756.

### ***May – Volunteer opportunities***

Church Spring Cleaning – Saturday May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2009. More information to follow.

### ***Fellowship***

Please consider signing up for Fellowship following church services in our Fellowship Hall ( a clip board with the sign up sheet is located near the kitchen). Please consider signing up for dates still available. April 19<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>. May 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> Join us after church. All members/ friends are welcome. Any question contact Amy Witzlib at 262-502-1835.

### ***Volunteers needed:***

Volunteers will be needed to provide rides to church for members who do not have transportation to / from church. Please contact Pastor Matheny or A.J. if interested in volunteering at 262 - 251 - 0640.

The next Outreach Committee meetings are April 19<sup>th</sup> at 9:00a.m. Any church members wishing to join the committee are welcome. We meet in the Fraederich Education room next to Pastor Matheny's office.

Submitted by Caroline Romaine

## ***Women's Guild***

At our meeting, Joan thanked all who helped at the Women's Day Service. The Easter breakfast was finalized for April 12, 2009. There will be two breakfast times; 8:00 am and 9:15am. A sign-up sheet in the stairwell is for people to sign up which time they will attend.

There were 10 scholarships for Fort Wilderness for \$25.00 each. The Shady Lane Greenhouse coupons are available for \$10 each and are good April 1 to June 30, 2009, to be put toward scholarships. It was decided to donate \$250.00 toward the new copier. The greeting cards will soon be available. At our May 6, 2009 meeting, we will be planning for the 2009-10 year. Our hostess will be Virginia Wendt. We closed with the Lord's prayer.

Submitted by Lisa Graveen

## ***Worship Committee***

The Worship Committee met on Sunday, March 8. We welcomed Eric Hillstrom as the council liaison and Mary Johnson as a committee member. Previous and up-and-coming services were discussed. Pastor Matheny will continue to look into additional music for our services. The hand bell choir will perform at the 10:15 Easter service.

A banner stand and a banner will be ordered for our approval. Our goal is to have this in place for Confirmation Sunday, which will be May 31.

The Maundy Thursday service (4/9), will be held at St. John. The service will include Holy Communion. The Worship Committee, along with Stewardship Committee, will serve fellowship on May 3. We are also looking into various ways to celebrate Mother's Day. Our theme basket for the Craft Fair was discussed. Our next meeting will be May 3 at 11:30am. Join us!

Submitted by Joan Schaetzel

# Craft Fair Committee

## St. John UCC 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Fall Fair Art, Craft and Flea Market

The 2009 Fair plans have begun! We've started to get some exhibitors already but we need your help in spreading the word. If you know someone who would be interested in exhibiting, please let Mary Ann know or applications can be picked up or e-mailed from the church office. If you come across websites that post craft fair events, please let Merry know. Often times these sites will advertise our event for no charge. The more people who know about our Fair, the more crafters and attendees we can attract!

In this month's newsletter, you will see an envelope for the cash raffle. Donations towards the cash prizes for the raffle are greatly appreciated! Please put your number (found on your regular offering envelope) on the cash raffle envelope so your donation can be recorded on your financial statement.

While the cash raffle has been extremely popular, we also gladly accept other raffle items as well. Gift cards for gas, restaurants, fast food, grocery stores and bookstores are popular items but we welcome any donations of new items for this raffle.

If you are interested in donating cash for the youth raffle, there are envelopes on the bulletin board on the landing. We would like to purchase a savings bond or two for the youth raffle. As far as other donations for the youth raffle, gift certificates are always popular. Again, we welcome any items but unisex prizes are best so the winner ends up with a gift that is appropriate for them.

Thank you in advance for your donation, it is greatly appreciated!

Our calendar of scheduled meetings follows below. (The meetings begin at 6:30 pm.)

Monday, April 27th

Monday, July 27<sup>th</sup>

Monday, August 24<sup>th</sup>

Saturday, September 12<sup>th</sup> – CRAFT FAIR!

Monday, October 5<sup>th</sup> (Wrap Up Meeting)

Submitted by Merry Lison

# Christian Board of Education

The CBE met on Monday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>. At that meeting we accepted the resignation of Bill Kaiser. Due to his commitments on other committees, he felt he could no longer serve on the CBE. We thank Bill for his help and encouragement during the past year. That means we are looking for more members to assist in our work. Meetings are every other month. If you are interested in finding out more about the committee or in joining us, please contact Pamela Hansen Ruben (262-253-7287 or [phrubenucc@wi.rr.com](mailto:phrubenucc@wi.rr.com)).

## Sunday School

The Sunday School schedule has been reworked for the remainder of the year to accommodate some changes. Please note that there is NO Sunday School on March 30<sup>th</sup> since most schools are out for spring break. Session three will run from April 6<sup>th</sup>-April 27<sup>th</sup>. Session four will be May 4<sup>th</sup>-May 18<sup>th</sup>. There is NO Sunday School on May 25<sup>th</sup> (Memorial Day weekend). June 1<sup>st</sup> will be Sunday School teacher and high school graduate recognition day. There will be no formal classes. We hope everyone will join us at services to honor these special church members.

We are still in need of a few teachers for Sessions three (Grades 4-5) and four (Grades 1-3 and Preschool-K). If you are able to assist with any of these classes, please contact Connie Ellingson (262-790-2664 or [bcellingson@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bcellingson@sbcglobal.net)).

It was decided to continue with *Seasons of the Spirit* for our Sunday School curriculum. Copies are being ordered for next year.

## SportsLife Camp

We are beginning our planning for this summer's SportsLife Camp. Andrea Thomas has agreed to be our coordinator for the program. We are completing "negotiations" for a co-coordinator. There will be a meeting with the coordinators and CBE members for initial planning of the program. We have been informed that we need to have a minimum of 50 students participating this year. Mark your calendars for August 11<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> and tell your friends and neighbors! We also will be recruiting assistants and chaperones for the program. Watch for more information!

The next CBE meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm in the conference room. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Submitted by Pamela Hansen Ruben

# State of the Church

## Income & Attendance

## General Fund Activity

<u>Date</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Income</u>
2/1	64	2,101.00
2/8	47	4,272.70
2/15	56	1,357.00
2/22	71	1,490.00
Total Offerings:		9,221.16
<b>Year-to-Date Income:</b>		<b>20,308.78</b>
February Earmarked*:		3,304.70
*Our Saviour's Pastor Expenses		
February Earmarked*:		455.16
*Insurance		

Submitted by Cherie Bersch, Financial Secretary

<u>Checking</u>	
Balance Forward	99.00
Deposits	9,221.16
Transferred from (to) general savings	0.00
<b>Total available</b>	<b>9,320.16</b>
Disbursements	
Personnel	6,646.35
Operations	2,072.92
Program	29.91
Benevolence	0.00
Earmarked	0.00
<b>Total Disbursements</b>	<b>8,749.18</b>
<b>Balance 2-28-2009</b>	<b>570.98</b>
<b><u>Current Account Balances</u></b>	
Checking	570.98
Savings	
Savings Account Total	7,947.41
Parking Lot-Earmarked	<u>(2,957.28)</u>
Savings available to General Fund	4,990.13
<b>Total Available to General Fund</b>	<b>5,561.11</b>
<b>Disbursements Due 3-31-2009</b>	<b>5,914.40</b>

Submitted by Mike Szymik, Treasurer

## Other News and Notes

There will be NO Sunday School on Easter Sunday, 4/12, and the following Sunday, 4/19 (due to Easter break).

### **St. Ben's Community Meal Program**

In 1908 St. Benedict's primary purpose was establishing a mission to serve the growing number of African Americans living in Milwaukee. Through the years a variety of services have been offered at St. Benedict's. These included a parish committed to serving the spiritual needs of African American Catholics; a boarding elementary and high school, providing education and academic excellence to young African Americans; a community meal, supplying food on a daily basis to the homeless and hungry of Milwaukee; a clinic, furnishing quality health care to the homeless and

uninsured population; and jail chaplaincy, meeting the physical, spiritual and psychological needs of Milwaukee County inmates.

**The one constant over the years that permeates these ministries has been the affirmation given to all gathering at what is affectionately called *St Ben's*. People outside the mainstream of society are welcomed daily to some rest and a little bit of home.**

### ***History of the Meal***

The roots of St Ben's Community Meal are found in the hearts of a young couple, Michael and Nettie Cullen. In 1966, inspired by the philosophy of Dorothy Day and the Catholic Worker Movement, this Irish immigrant family founded Casa Maria House, which is located about a mile from St Benedict the Moor. Casa Maria's purpose was to promote and practice direct and personal sharing with the poor by receiving guests in their kitchen for a meal.

A growing number of men, women and children from the neighborhood joined them for this daily meal, and it rapidly outgrew their small space, and they were forced to seek larger quarters. In collaboration with Capuchin Alex Luzi, and after much prayer and reflection, the Community Meal was moved to its current location at St Ben's on November 13, 1970.

From the beginning there was a strong emphasis on the community aspect of the Meal. This was evidenced on two fronts. First, sponsor groups from a variety of churches and civic groups throughout the wider Milwaukee community committed to providing the Meal from Sunday through Friday evenings. Secondly, a sense of community and relationship was generated within the Meal Hall itself as sponsors, volunteers, guests, and staff came together to enjoy a nutritious meal in an environment of hospitality and safety.

### ***Mission Statement***

- We believe in the innate dignity of all people. We recognize that God is present and active in every situation and person.
- All who participate in the Meal—guests, sponsors, volunteers, and staff—are people with gifts and talents, needs and weaknesses.
- We share a nutritious meal in a setting of hospitality and safety.
- We commit ourselves to addressing not only the effects, but the root causes of hunger and poverty.
- We collaborate with other individuals and groups to enhance our ministry.
- We support an integrated spirituality that recognizes the relationship between faith, justice and service.

### ***Statistics***

- The Community Meal is served six nights a week, Sunday to Friday, from 5:15 to 6:30. In 2007, meals were served on 299 days to 100,341 people for an average of 336 per day.
- 85 sponsor groups prepare, transport and serve the meals. Most groups serve on a monthly basis, and some have contributed food and service since the Community Meal's beginning in 1970.
- Hundreds of donors support the meal by providing food and monetary donations.
- 10-15 daily volunteers assist by serving beverages, working in the kitchen, cleaning tables & chairs, and performing a variety of tasks.
- Hospitality ministers and "Blue Shirt" (security) staff ensure a hospitable and safe environment inside and outside the Meal Hall.
- Hundreds of guests gather each evening to share a meal and companionship with each other.
- Over 100 additional volunteers support the meal with their work in concession booths at the Bradley Center. Annually, this combined effort yields additional revenue of about \$20,000 for the Community Meal.
- The Meal Staff coordinates the sponsor groups and volunteers to provide a nourishing dinner to be enjoyed by all in a friendly and peaceful setting. They also provide educational and immersion opportunities for people to deepen their understanding of the root causes of poverty and hunger.
- The Community Meal Ministry Council works with the staff in helping to sharpen the vision and provide future direction.

*(above information from [stbensmilwaukee.org](http://stbensmilwaukee.org))*

***St. John UCC has been a part of this ministry for several years, joining with others throughout the Milwaukee-metro region in serving the Community Meal at St. Ben's. If you have never participated in this ministry, consider joining us on Monday, April 14<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 pm***

## Be an April Fool

English essayist and poet Charles Lamb (1775-1834) once joked, "Here cometh April again, and as far as I can see the world hath more fools than ever."

April Fools' Day is best known as a day for practical jokes, but it can be used in more beneficial ways. It can be a day of faith and fun - a day to thank God for the joyous times of life, for the days of laughter, for funny stories, for the antics of children and for other things that bring smiles to our faces.

There is opportunity for laughter every day. Laugh! Laugh heartily and often. You will find healing in mirth and levity. And remember, "He who sits in the heavens laughs . . ." (Psalms 2:4, NRSV)



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**TIME VALUE MATERIAL**