

# OCTOBER 2011

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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](http://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 **10<sup>th</sup>** of each month.

You may turn in a paper copy at church or e-mail your information to **[ygeefmly@milwpc.com](mailto:ygeefmly@milwpc.com)**

# HEARTBEAT NEWS

*St. John United Church of Christ*

## **Pastor's Message**

Dear St. John Family,

October always begins with World-Wide Communion Sunday. Our special guest this year will be Rev. Kasongo Gui Kabeo. Rev. Kabeo was born and raised in the Congo. He is a graduate of Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, MO, and is now on the pastoral staff at Benediction Lutheran Church in Milwaukee.

His ministry is to the African population in the Milwaukee area. He will be sharing about his ministry and the scripture of the day. Accompanying him will be his wife, Leah and their four children.

We will also have the scripture lesson read in different languages before the communion service. Afterward, we will be enjoying a delicious potluck luncheon.

Donna and I will be gone for a few days in October to visit our daughter and her family in Albuquerque. The guest minister for that day will be Rev. Ann Utke. Ann is a UCC minister and serves as a Hospice Chaplain with VITAS Hospice. She is an excellent speaker and worship leader, and I know you will enjoy her ministry.

One service opportunity is the annual CROP walk sponsored by Church World Service. This year's Washington Co. walk is being coordinated by Our Saviour's. If you are interested in walking you can call the St. John office for more information.

Also, I'm excited to announce that "Bontha" will be visiting from India and will be with us on one of the October Sundays. It will be great to have him sing, and share what God is doing through his ministry.

Go Brewers, Badgers & Packers!

God's best to you,

*Rev. Michael J. Matheny, Sr.*



the little church with  
a big heart



historically rooted  
branching toward the future



# Upcoming Events & Information

## ***Neighbors In Need***

The Neighbors in Need offering, which we will receive on October 2<sup>nd</sup>, supports the UCC's Ministries, of justice and compassion throughout the United States. Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries to fund a wide array of local and national justice initiatives, advocacy efforts and direct service projects. Through UCCTakeAction.org, our national Justice and Witness Ministries office offers resources, news updates and action alerts on a broad spectrum of justice issues. Working with members of the UCC Justice and Peace Action Network (a network of thousands of UCC justice and peace advocates), Justice and Witness continues its strong policy advocacy work on issues such as the federal budget, voting rights, immigration, health care, hate crimes, civil liberties, and environmental justice. Neighbors in Need also supports our American Indian neighbors in the UCC. One-third of the offering supports the UCC's Council for American Indian Ministries (CAIM). Historically, forebears of the UCC established churches and worked with Lakota, Dakota, Nakota, Mandan, Hidatsa, Arickara, and Hocak in North and Sough Dakota, Wisconsin, and northern Nebraska. Today there are 20 UCC congregations on reservations and one urban, multi-tribal UCC congregation in Minneapolis, Minnesota. These churches and their pastors are supported by CAIM. CAIM is also an invaluable resource for more than 1,000 individuals from dozens of other tribes and nations who are members of other UCC congregations in the U.S.

Enclosed is an envelope for Neighbors in Need, October 2<sup>nd</sup>. Let's surpass last years amount of \$197.00.

## ***Events***

### **Special Services**

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

### **Meetings**

- **Craft Fair Meeting – Monday, October 10<sup>th</sup>, 6:30pm**
- **Spiritual Life – Thursday, October 13<sup>th</sup>, 9:00am**
- **Church Council – Thursday, October 13<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 pm**
- **Worship Committee – Sunday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 11:30am**

### **Activities**

- **World Communion Sunday & Pot Luck – Sunday, Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup> to be held during Fellowship after our church service**

### **In the Coming Months**

- **Christmas Tree set-up – Sunday, November 20th**
- **Dedication of Christmas Tree – Sunday, November 27<sup>th</sup>**

## Greeters, Ushers & Liturgists

**Sunday, October 2, 2011**  
W.W. Communion Sunday

*Greeters:* Gayle Johnson  
*Ushers:* Rich and Cherie Bersch  
*Communion Ushers:* Chris Pickett & Mike Szymik  
*Liturgist:* Jane Etnyre

**Sunday, October 9, 2011**

*Greeter:* Sharon Reeder  
*Ushers:* Ken and Joan Schaetzel  
*Liturgist:* Rollie Pieper

**Sunday, October 16, 2011**

*Greeters:* Romaine Family  
*Ushers:* Rich and Cherie Bersch  
*Liturgist:* Joan Schaetzel

**Sunday, October 23, 2011**

*Greeters:* Ken and Diane Ramthun  
*Ushers:* Matt and Merry Lison  
*Liturgist:* Merry Lison

**Sunday, October 30, 2011**

*Greeter:* Carol Vanderlois  
*Ushers:* John Schaetzel & Dick Wallander  
*Liturgist:* John Schaetzel

**NOTE: If you cannot make your commitment:** please call Mary Ann Toth at (262) 251-0365.  
Thank You!!

## Council Highlights

At its monthly meeting held on September 8th, the St. John Church Council:

- Discussed the letter from Church Mutual Insurance Company regarding the Wisconsin concealed carry law.
- Discussed the status of the proposed Prayer Garden project.
- Discussed a proposal for new audio-visual equipment for the sanctuary.
- Approved the use of the Fellowship Hall by Youth For Understanding on Saturday, October 1.

Present: Eric Hillstrom, Mary Ann Toth, Dick Wallander, Judy Luckow, Sharon Reeder, Donna Tess, Pastor Matheny

Absent: Cherie Bersch, Karen Becker, Jay Schaetzel

Next Council meeting: October 13, 2011

# Committee Reports

## ***Outreach Committee***

Our fifth Brat Fry was held on Saturday, August 27<sup>th</sup>, 2011. Our Brat Fry sale profit was \$272.00. As always 10% of all the Brat Fry sales goes to Mission Alive. A special Thank you to Luke Schaezel, Chris Pickett, and Katie Wallschlager for helping during the Brat Fry sale.

Report on church picnic on Sunday, August 14<sup>th</sup>, 2011. The Church picnic was held on a beautiful sunny day. We had 30 members of St. John UCC and Our Saviour's UCC attend the church picnic. Those who came enjoyed brats, hotdogs, hamburgers, and roasted corn on the cob; along with potato chips, watermelon, and Dixie cup ice cream. Marge Miller from Our Saviour's UCC made a delicious pickle salad and a dessert. We had two drawings for a guessing game for containers of candy. Lucky winners were Mary Ann Toth and Ellen Van Maasricht. Fun was had by all. The event was free to all who attended and was sponsored by the Outreach Committee.

### **Mark your calendars – Up Coming Events:**

#### **Sunday October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2011 - World Communion Sunday – Pot Luck Dinner**

On Sunday October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2011 we will be having a Pot Luck Dinner following church service to celebrate World Communion Sunday. A sign - up sheet will be located on the bulletin board on the stairway landing to the Fellowship Hall. Please sign up to bring a dish, salad or dessert to share. We encourage you to invite your friends, neighbors, and families to the Pot Luck Dinner.

**November 20<sup>th</sup>-Christmas Tree set-up**

**November 27<sup>th</sup> - 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent (Dedication of Christmas tree)**

**Christmas Caroling – date/time TBA**

**College Care Packages  
February 2012**

***Adult Fellowship***  
**Movie outing - *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat***  
**April 2012**

### **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). Join us after church. All member and friends are welcome. Any question contact Annaliesa Kubosch 262-243-9381.

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

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

Any members wishing to join the committee are welcome. The next Outreach Committee meeting TBA at 9:30am. We will be meeting in the Fraederich Education room. Contact Caroline Romaine at 262-385-1327 for more information.

Submitted by Caroline Romaine

# 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

ATTENTION: ALL COMMITTEES

The Women's Guild will again be sponsoring a "Christmas Wish Tree." Please confer with your committee and advise what you would like to ask for on the tree and let the Women's Guild know by November 2. If any questions, please contact any Guild member.

Thanks, and Happy Wishing!!

Submitted by Joan Schaezel



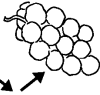
## The Harvest


Harvest time was very important to the Israelites. They had three harvests each year: barley in spring; wheat in summer; fruits in autumn.



Find these foods that the Israelites harvested, and circle them.

GRAPES	HERBS	OLIVES	APPLES	GOURDS
BARLEY	NUTS	BEANS	ONIONS	LENTILS
ALMONDS	LEEKs	FIGS	CUCUMBERS	
WHEAT	MELONS	RYE	POMEGRANATES	





H	A	C	B	R	Y	E	B	R	V	E	N
G	A	U	A	S	N	O	L	E	M	S	U
R	L	C	R	F	I	G	S	T	A	T	T
A	M	U	L	I	M	B	E	H	A	N	S
P	O	M	E	G	R	A	N	A	T	E	S
E	N	B	Y	E	S	E	L	P	P	A	K
S	D	E	H	R	O	N	I	O	N	S	E
V	S	R	E	S	G	O	U	R	D	S	E
T	I	S	M	E	S	L	I	T	N	E	L
S	E	V	I	L	O	W	H	E	A	T	H

# State of the Church

## Income & Attendance

<u>Date</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Income</u>
8/7		4,777.42
8/14		753.00
8/21		1,605.00
8/28		1,211.14
<hr/>		
<b>Total Income:</b>		8,346.56
<b>Year-to-Date Income:</b>		74,380.10
<b>August Earmarked*:</b>		3,287.42
<i>*Our Saviour's Pastor Fees</i>		

Submitted by Cherie Bersch, Financial Secretary

## General Fund Activity

<i>August 2011</i>	
<b>Checking</b>	
Balance Forward	607.92
Deposits	8,347.57
Transferred from (to) general savings	0.00
<b>Total available</b>	<b>8,955.49</b>
<hr/>	
Disbursements	
Personnel	5,831.21
Operations	2,033.39
Program	772.60
Benevolence	0.00
Earmarked	0.00
<b>Total Disbursements</b>	<b>8,637.20</b>
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<b>Balance 8-31-2011</b>	<b>318.29</b>
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<b>Current Account Balances</b>	
Checking	318.29
Savings	427.33
Total Available	745.62
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Earmarked	7,461.10
<hr/>	
<b>Available to General Fund</b>	<b>(6,715.48)</b>
<hr/>	
<b>Disbursements Due 9-30-2011</b>	<b>8,076.59</b>

### ***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 colorful 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.



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**TIME VALUE MATERIAL**