

SEPTEMBER 2008

St. James United Church of Christ
76 Main Street, Hamburg, NY 14075
716-649-6171

Robert Matlack, Pastor
Alva Looze, Associate Pastor
www.saintjamesucc.com

Christina Shrewsbury, Director of Music
Karen Reinagel, CE Director
St James e-mail: stjamesucc@choiceonemail.com

Edited by Charlotte Lujan

SEPTEMBER IS HERE!!

Normally things are pretty quiet here at St. James over the summer. But this summer has included some significant activities.

Our sanctuary floors have been refinished and re-carpeted. If you haven't yet checked out the new look, this is the time! Other building improvements have continued at a significant pace.

Our Casting Your nets team has been hard at work envisioning and planning how we can grow as a congregation. You'll see some of the fruits of their planning this Fall.

As a result, this summer hasn't been as quiet as usual, because we've been busier than ever working on living out our faith - and helping others to do so. And, now that summer is coming to an end, the pace picks up even more.

September 7th is the opening day of Church School. As usual Christian Ed has some very special activities planned!!! However, even more important than the fun and the food is that this is a time to worship the one who has given us life, and to teach our children about the faith

(continued)

that has and continues to shape our lives.

Our community is richer and stronger when we're all active and involved. Make sure you're there on September 7th - and the weeks that follow. Be an active part of this special community of faith, - and know the blessing of that involvement.

See you there!

Bob

FALL CHURCH SCHOOL KICK OFF LUNCH AND ANNUAL ICE CREAM SOCIAL

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7TH Church School Family Day

The Board of Christian Education will hold a Family Day to celebrate the Fall Opening of Church School. Come and join us immediately following worship for LUNCH and then stay for the ICE CREAM. There will be hot dogs, hamburgers, chips, pickles, beverage, and ice cream sundae's to eat. We will once again have a BOUNCE HOUSE for the children attending. Mark your calendars for this special date and sign-up on the bulletin board.

(continued)

Bring your favorite ice cream

topping. Classes will begin following the children's sermon at 10:30 a.m. and run for half an hour. Following worship and class we will all meet in the Assembly Hall for coffee hour and our annual Ice Cream Social.

This is a favorite event for the young and old alike. Bring your favorite topping to share and place it on the table near the kitchen. The CE Board volunteers will take care of the rest. Grab a cup of coffee and you are all set to relax and catch up on what everyone has been doing the past couple of months.

We look forward to seeing all of you

Karen Reinagel

A SPECIAL THANKS

We've had a busy summer. I am grateful to all the helping hands during the renovations. Our landscaping adds charm to the church along with the refinished front doors. The balcony has been reinforced and new tile in the narthex, our sanctuary and sacristy floors have been refinished, and new carpeting has been installed, and new ribbons in the hymnals and Bibles. This work has taken many dedicated workers many hours to complete.

Our families had a great time at VBS doing mission projects. Our Casting Your Nets team tried a few new worship services and appreciate your feedback. They are busy preparing for the Fall.

"God is Still Speaking" to us in many ways and I am looking forward to the new, exciting things happening here at St. James as we reach out into the wider community to help others. God Bless all of you!

Alva

SERVERS

The Servers will meet in the Lounge on Tuesday, September 23rd at 1:00 p.m.

The Fall Soup Sale is Saturday, October 11th. Bring family and friends for lunch. \$5.00 per person to eat in or \$5.00 per quart to take out.

The carpet has been installed. Many thanks to all the volunteers who helped in carpet removal, moving of pews and cleaning.

Kitty Sandoval

SEWING MISSION

Our next meeting will be September 9th at 9:30 a.m.. We will stop for lunch at noon. Dessert will be provided by Barbara Peckham. You are invited to stop by and see the articles that our group makes. You might be interested in joining us.

Jennie Altes

UPDATE OF SERVICE FOLKS

Please give the office a picture and information regarding service loved ones so that we can update our service board.

SUPPORT ONE ANOTHER

Evangelism Committee has recognized that a number of our church families are self-employed and we urge you to support them in their work. Please help us make this list comprehensive by calling the church office to add a name so that a list can be published by the Committee.

OUR MISSION CORNER

Our first candidate for our local mission portrait is "Pudge" (Adelene) Schmidt. Besides jokingly encouraging our family to get another alarm clock so we could arrive at church on time, I remember Pudge from visiting my grandmother at Lakewood Health Center over many years. She has volunteered there over ten years, enjoying the people and forgetting about her own aches and pains. She began volunteering after World War II by babysitting. Then she volunteered at the Town Adult Daycare Center.

She has been a member of St. James for many years, joining at the same time as Linda Meyer. Her advice for energizing the church is to bring in more young people.

Heidi Walling

GETTING TO KNOW ONE ANOTHER

Evangelism Committee will be interviewing members of the congregation and will be asking for a picture to put in the Connector so that we can get to know a little more about our congregation.

FLU CLINIC

The Flu Clinic will be held October 9th from 10 a.m. til 3 p.m. in the Lounge by the VNA. This is a quick and easy way to get your flu and pneumonia shots. Tell a friend. No appointment needed, walk-ins only.

SOUTHTOWNS CLUSTER DINNER

The dinner will be held September 28th at St. John's UCC, Eden, at a cost of \$15.00 per person.

5 p.m. gathering and appetizers
6 p.m. is dinner

Rev. David Felton, our Regional Conference Minister will speak on his trip to India. One of the exciting things that has happened in Global Nagar, near the ground zero of the Tsunami is a thirty home village for displaced families built by UCC money given to the church for victims. A plaque reading "Global Nagar, a gift from Global Ministeries, The United Church of Christ and Disciples of Christ stands at the entry of the Village. David Felton's name appears on that plaque as one of four.

TRIP TO CLEVELAND OFFICE?

A suggestion was made that we make a visit to our Cleveland Office for anyone who would like to visit. If you think that you might like to take a day trip to Cleveland for a tour of our UCC Headquarters with lunch and shopping on the way home, please let the office or Charlotte Lujan know. We are hoping to plan a trip next spring if there is enough interest and we can do it for a nominal price.

NYC CAPITAL FUND CAMPAIGN PURCHASED A CONFERENCE CENTER

One of the most important events of this past year for the NYC has been the capital funds campaign to purchase a conference center. The goal of the campaign was \$500,000. The challenge goal was \$600,000. The Conference has received pledges in excess of \$700,000. They ended up in the black and were able to send an additional \$10,000 to the national church. Dan Newcomb is part of that committee.

UCC DEVOTIONAL WEBSITE.

The UCC Website has some very good information including daily devotionals and a prayer evening for folks to phone. Please take the time to look at it. I think you'll be happy you did.

VBS - MISSION POSSIBLE

St. James, Hamburg Pres and St. Matthews teamed up to bring a great program. Our theme was Mission Possible. We spent quality time together to work on mission projects which included the entire family. We met July 21st, 22nd and 23rd in the evening to share a meal and complete hands on projects. I hope we can expand the program next year. A special thank you for everyone that attended and to all who volunteered to help work on the VBS program

MUSIC NEWS

Welcome to the start of the 2008 Season.

Wednesday, September 17th at 7:30 p.m. will start rehearsals. Please join us singing with your choirs at St. James.

Our Rehearsals for Children's Choirs will be Wednesday evenings beginning at 7 p.m. with Cherubs, age 4 - 9. Our Youth Choir for Grades 5 - 9 meets at 7:30, followed by Teens in High School Grades 10 - 12 .

Our Adult Choir will begin singing for worship Sunday, September 14th at 11 a.m.

See you there!!!

Christina Shrewsbury
Direction of Music Ministry

WEDNESDAY FAMILY NIGHT

September 17th 6:30 to 8:30

Mark you calendars. I hope everyone had a safe and healthy summer. Don't forget to sign up and join us for pizza and time together, eating, laughing and hanging out. A special thanks to everyone that helps with this event, whether you bake, set up, clean up or attend.

FROM THE OFFICE.....

Committee Chairpersons should check your committee's mailbox in the church office periodically to clean out and check your mail. Each committee has a mailbox, as well as Council President, Secretary, Youth, Sewing Mission, Cabinet, and we wouldn't want you to miss out on any important notices.

It is also important to let the church office know when you use supplies so that we can replenish them as needed.

Patty Jensen

CHRISTIAN ED NEWS

CE BOARD MEETING & CLASSROOM CLEANUP

August 28, 5:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.

The Board of Christian Ed will hold a Classroom cleanup event at 5:30 followed by dinner at 6:30 along with their meeting. This event will take the place of the September meeting. The cleaning time will be used to spruce up the classrooms for the Fall kickoff of church school. Please bring cleaning supplies. Dinner will be provided during the CE meeting following the cleaning.

TV IN THE HORTON

LOUNGE

Just a reminder that the TV is hooked up to the DVD player and VCR. There is a RED NOTEBOOK near the DVD player which explains how to use the system so that you use the system correctly. If you have questions, please speak with Karen Reinagel.

HEIFER FAIR - SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28TH

The church school classes will be working on our Heifer Fair mission project during the first month of class. The children will be choosing an animal and preparing a booth in order to raise awareness and funds for Heifer International. On Sunday, September 28th the children will hold their fair in the assembly hall during coffee hour. Everyone will then have a chance to support this worthwhile mission project and watch the delight on the faces of the children in our congregation as they raise funds to support this project. So remember to come and check out what is going on at the Heifer Fair, Sunday, September 28th.

CAR POOLING?

Many folks work downtown or other areas of Buffalo. With gas prices so high and parking downtown so high, I was wondering if there is any interest in starting a car pooling list. Please see Charlotte Lujan if anyone is interested and we'll try to get a list together.

STUFFED ANIMALS TO LOVE DURING WORSHIP

The CE Department has placed a basket of stuffed animals in the rear of the sanctuary for your children to love, cuddle and prayer with during worship. They are a nice quiet friend to sit with during the service and give the children something to keep them occupied if the service is a bit longer than their attention span. At the end of the service the children are encouraged to return the furry friend to the basket so they will be there for next weeks service.

YOUTH NEWS

YOUTH BOARD PLANNING MEETING

Our next meeting will be August 6TH At 6:30 p.m. in the Resource Room. If you are interested in helping plan events or work with the youth program are you invited to attend. We remind you to be on the lookout in the bulletin, on the bulletin boards, on flyers and mailings for information regarding future youth events.

A Note to Parents and church members

If you are someone that would be willing to donate your time and talents to help with the youth program please speak to Karen Reinagel. This can be anything from volunteering to run a youth activity to chaperoning an event or providing transportation to events.

BURGERFEST ST. JAMES EVENT

On Saturday, July 19th the youth held a Theme Basket Auction and sold Popcorn and Birch Beer, they raised \$553.30 for the youth program of St. James and put St. James on the map during Burgerfest. Thank you to everyone who donated a basket or helped with this event in any way. Everyone that volunteered the day of the event had a great time and their help was greatly appreciated.

Youth House and Property

Did you realize that the Youth of St. James are responsible for maintaining and raising funds for the care and operation of the Youth House? A special thank you to anyone that has supported their efforts by financial means, mowing the lawn, shoveling snow in the winter, donating paper recycling items to the paper retriever program, donating clothing to the St. Pauly's clothing shed, bringing bottles and cans so the youth can return them for the deposit money or supporting any of our many fund-raisers. Volunteers are appreciated to help the Youth with various projects. We have a special group of youth at St. James and your continued support of their efforts warms the heart and helps them pay the bills.

Abitibi Paper Recycling

Along with our other fund-raising efforts the youth will

continue to operate the Abitibi Paper Recycling program at St. James. Please remember to place your paper items in the Abitibi Paper Retriever located at the rear of the St. James Parking Lot. Items that can be placed in the Retriever are newspaper, magazines, shopping catalogs, office & school papers and mail. Please do not put plastic, glass, metals or trash in the Retriever.

St. Pauly's Textile

If you have clothing, shoes, sneakers, belts, purses, blankets, sheets, pillowcases, drapes and stuffed toys and you are looking for somewhere to give them, please consider putting them in the St. Pauly's shed directly behind the Youth House. Placing them in plastic bags is appreciated. St. Pauly is a locally owned company and a member of the Better Business Bureau. Their mission is to get USEABLE clothing to people who can use it, here in the U.S. and in 3rd World Countries. This past year almost 20 million garments have been distributed to over 3 1/3 million people all over the world. The clothing is never shredded. St. Pauly has worked with over 300 non-profit organizations this past year, to help them achieve a portion of their fund-raising needs. In the past 10 years St. Pauly has sent over \$1,000,000 to local non-profit groups. Please note that donations of financial and volunteer help are always

(continued)

appreciated by these groups. If you have further questions speak to Karen Reinagel or call St. Pauly's and speak to Joe or Paul

at 585-292-0460. *(Please NO rags, fabric scraps, pillows, toys or household goods, please understand that the above unwanted items are a hardship and expense to dispose of.* Thanks!

Can & Bottle Drive

The Youth program is continuing their Can & Bottle Drive as an on-going fund-raiser. If you would like to donate your empty cans and bottles just leave them on the front porch (go up the stairs or ramp and place items in or near the plastic barrels on the right side of the porch) of the Youth House and we will take care of the rest. Please do not leave them by the back door of the Youth House.

Christian Education Help Wanted Season

We have a few openings for Church School Teachers, Assistants in the Classroom, CE Office Assistants, Substitutes, Workers in the Pres-School Room. If you are someone that would be interested in working with the Church School/CE Department of St. James, speak to a Board. or CE member or Karen Reinagel. If you haven't taught before or worked within our CE program this is a good time to consider joining us and helping to work with wonderful families, great children.

NYE 2008 (National Youth Event) - "Living the Life" - July 24th - 28th U. Of Tenn.

Donna & Bill Schumacher, Rita Los and Abby Reichard served as chaperones to the National Youth Event this July together with youth Hannah Rowland, Danielle Baco, Ryan Houghton, Spencer Rubeck, Erica Jackson, Cory Los Schumacher and Brandon Whitworth. A special thanks to all the chaperones for giving their time and energy to working with our youth. The youth and chaperones would like to thank everyone for their prayers, support and well wishes as they went on their way to attend NYE2008 in Tenn. They would also like to extend a special thanks to the legacy committee for their support.

The following letter is from Marian Shearer and Michael Cain from N.Y Conference:

Dear youth and advisors,

It was such a joy to be together as New York Conference at NYE!

Thank you for coming, for all the effort to raise funds and arrange transportation, for signing and adhering to the covenant, for behaving and for whooping it up.

Thanks for cheering "New what? New York!" and singing along with "Let the redeemed of the Lord say so!"

Thanks for listening and receiving the interfaith invitation of Eboo Patel, the heartrending

(Continued in next column)

story of Krista's work with the Palestinians, Julia's story of living in the redwood, and John

Thomas's assurances about where we shall plant our faith.

Thanks for gathering each evening for our vespers, and traveling in packs for safety. Thanks for tolerating the food service and living successfully in a dormitory. Thanks for walking and walking and walking, for praying and laughing and dancing and making new friends in Christ. Thanks for praying for the Unitarian congregation where the shootings happened. Thanks for getting to at least some of your workshops.

I hope you share this experience with your churches. Make reports, send pictures around, put it on your web pages and face books, look at the pix and stuff at ucc.org/youth. And save the dates: March 6-9, 2009 for the state youth event, and July 2010 for the regional event in central Pennsylvania.

Please forward this to everyone who traveled with you. Thanks, from the bottom of our hearts, for being the UCC at UT, being NY at NYE. You are living the life of faith and planting hope in all of us.

Peace & blessings,
Marian and Michael

You can make a difference! You can help feed hungry people. You can help to stock food pantries. You can help provide disaster relief. You can help to provide tools. You can help to shelter refugees.

JOIN THE CROP WALK! Our Church School Children will be walking during class time and are looking for sponsors. This is our 2nd year participating in the CROP WALK with Church School and we hope you will support our effort. Walkers will step out all over Western NY!

One-quarter of the dollars raised in the CROP Walk will return to communities in WNY for local hunger programs. CROP walks help to support food pantries, Meals on Wheels, meal sites and Food For All in WNY.

Mark your calendars and remember to sponsor a walker or become a walker yourself. Pledge information will be posted near the bulletin board during the month of September up to the day of the CROP Walk. Talk to Karen if you need more information. Remember if you walk please turn your collected donations to the church office so we can keep track of who walked and what they raised.

CROP WALK

Sunday, October 5

DUNKIRK NEWS

The Dunkirk Conference Center Summer Camping Theme for

2008 is "Handle with Care".

We had several children, youth and friends of St. James attend various camps this season. Everyone has reported having a great time. There are many opportunities available at the Center. I hope when next year's camping season rolls around you will take the time to check out what is going on at Dunkirk. If you are interested in learning more about the camping experience at Dunkirk you can always speak to Sara or Emily Jensen, Brittany, Bryce or Brooke Reinagel, Erica Jackson, or Ryan Houghton, since they know first hand what it's all about. Friends Attending Camp were Nicole Bucley, Joseph Austin, Patricia Bucley, Grace Maker and Catie Taber.

Other events offered by Dunkirk for the remainder of their 2008 Schedule

October 25th - Halloween Happening

December 6th - Breakfast with Santa

be made available for DCC and/or would like to make a contribution for their acquisition, contact the Camp Director (716) 366-1900 X12 at your earliest convenience.

Pliers (reg., needle nose)

Deep Fryer

Allen Wrenches

25 - Round Banquet Tables

Vice Grips

Cake Decorating Tips & Bags

Generator Muffin Pans

Pipe Locator Bread Pans

Router Pastry Brushes

4" or 4 1/2" Grinder Bench Brush

Golf Carts Kitchen Shears

Dry Wall Lift Steamer

Nail Gun Cutting Boards

Roofing Nail Gun

Storage Bins (flour & sugar)

Torpedo Heater Asst. Sizes
Hotel Pans

Transit Scoops

Circular Saw Pan Extenders

Painting Supplies

Soup Chafers

Wonderful Things". On Sunday, June 22nd our annual church picnic and worship service was held at the conference center grounds. The service was at 11:00am with the picnic immediately following. We once again teamed up with First Congregational UCC from Angola to celebrate and worship together in song, prayer and praise of our Lord! Everyone that attended was treated to a great day including food, fun and games and the biggest hit was the swimming pool being open. Thank you to everyone that helped to make this a special day.

Summer Church School & Childcare

A special thank you to Margaret Stuhr, Jackie Stuhr, Jackie Lehner, Patty, & Sara Jensen, Heidi & Mark Walling, Gay Lynn Nelson, Christina & Dan Wilder, for helping Karen with the Summer Church School & Childcare program.

Don't Forget Dunkirk's Wish List If you have any of these items (new or used) which could

Dunkirk Day/ Church Worship and Picnic

Our Theme was "Jesus Does

Concerned Ecumenical Ministry is holding its first Diner Dash 4-Miler Friday 9/5/2008 at 6:30 p.m. Proceeds will support

the Loaves and Fishes Dining Room. The course is located in Elmwood Village along Elmwood and Delaware Ave.

Loaves & Fishes is supported by the Western Area Churches in covenant with its Outreach Committee.

If you would like to participate, download registration forms at www.dinerdash4miler.org or register online at www.active.com. We need racers and volunteers and will happily accept donations.

Catherin Rieley-Goddard,
Executive Director, CEM

THANK YOU!!

I want to say thanks to the congregation for my scholarship.

Your support is so helpful.

Chad Los Schumacher

FOOD PANTRY

Sept 7 Bisquick, bread mixes

Sept 14 Hot/cold cereal

Sept 21 Spaghetti Sauce,
canned stew, ravioli

Sept 18 Pancake mixes, oatmeal

REGISTRY

Baptisms:

Emma Jayne Mirando

Born: 1/21/2008

Baptized: 6/1/2008

Parents: Caitlin and Domenic
Mirando

Michaela Kristina Innus

Born: 12/30/2007

Baptized: 8/10/2008

Parents: Jennifer and Guntis
Innus

Weddings:

Allison Karn and Steve Layton

Married June 7, 2008

Caitlin Whitworth and

Domenic Mirando

Married July 12, 2008

Jennifer Jones and

Robert Jaromin

Married August 16, 2008

Deaths:

Doris Zell

Born: 11/11/1917

Died: 6/10/2008

Service: 6/13/2008

go their own way, "yoke" is a strong word for a relationship. You wouldn't want to be yoked to just anyone. But Jesus uses it to describe a close connection with God. He urges us to "take" this upon ourselves. We can hardly "make" it with our own spiritual willpower or high-end idealism.

Faith becomes tiresome and hardly "rest for your souls" when it's a matter of what we should do to make it right. Nothing is ever as it should be, nothing is ever enough.

Thinking of Jesus' yoke as a bridge to goodness and love that already supports us, Luci Shaw write\s in her poem, "Step on it:"
*All these broken bridges--
we have always tried to build them
to each other and to heaven.*

*Why is it such a sad surprise
when last year's iron-strong, out-
thrust organization, this month's
shining project, today's silver network
of good resolutions all answer
the future's questions with
rust, and the sharp, ugly jutting
of the unfinished? We have
miscalculated every time . . .
We are our own botched bridges.
But you did the unthinkable.
You built one Bridge to us,
solid enough, long enough,
strong enough to stand all tides
for all time, linking the
unlinkable.*

Prayer: May we receive from you, O Lord, what we can never make happen alone. Help us to find your strength and love in all we face. Amen.

A Reflection by William C. Green, UCC Conference

Literally a crossbar joining oxen or horses that would otherwise