

The St. James Connector

JULY/ AUGUST, 2010

St. James United Church of Christ
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St. James Scholarship Recipients

Congratulations go to the following recipients of the St. James UCC Scholarships for 2010. Each of them will receive a \$300 scholarship:
Beth Bimber;
Jennifer Bimber;
Erica Jackson;
Christian Henderson-Sargent
Mary Lehner;
Chad Los Schumacher;
Cory Los Schumacher; and
Michael Walling.



REMEMBER OUR SERVICE WOMEN AND MEN

We have a bulletin board outside the church office to post their pictures so that we can recognize and honor them

SUMMER SEASON

This is the time of year when people think about sleeping in or doing things outside on a Sunday morning - instead of going to church. Yet, when we give in to that temptation, we are only cheating ourselves.

Summer is a time of renewal and we all desperately need that spiritual renewal. Yet true renewal begins with worship. It's not something you can do on your own - you need God and a community of faith as a vital part of that process. If you have a Sunday morning activity planned, then come and worship with us on Saturday evening! By all means, enjoy this beautiful world that God has created, but make sure that that enjoyment doesn't come at the expense of time spent in prayer and worship.

CHURCH COUNCIL

Our summer meeting will be at Butch Meyer's home on July 26th for a picnic and meeting at 5:30 p.m. Bring a lawn chair and your appetite.



WELCOME!

Dawn & Jon Barnes, who are part of the UCC/DC Common Global Ministries, and who are Missionaries, have served for eight years as development officers with the Kei Regional Council of the Eastern Cape of United Congregational Church of the Southern Church of Southern Africa. Currently they are on home leave. Dawn and Jon are a young couple with two children and are ordained pastors in the Christian Church, Disciples of Christ.

Southtowns Cluster will be hosting them here at St. James on Wednesday July 7th at 6:30 p.m., with a potluck supper and program to follow. Bring family and friends and a dish to pass. Please sign up on the sign up sheet or call the office 649-6171.



FLOWERS

Fresh flowers always add to our worship. If you have some and would like to share please bring them to the office on Friday and we will gladly arrange them.

SERVERS

Our picnic will be held at Joanne Roberts' home on Tuesday July 27th. We will be gathering at 1 p.m. and serving at 4 p.m.

Our August meeting will be Tuesday, August 24th at 1:00 p.m. in the Horton lounge. Refreshments will be served by Myra Ferguson and Nancy Banks.

SEWING MISSION

We hope you enjoy a relaxing summer, Sewers. Come back September 8th refreshed and ready to work for our charitable cause.

Bring a sandwich, dessert will be provided by Helen Marcus.

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN ED

Our Picnic and Meeting will be held Tuesday, August 3rd at 6:00 p.m. at a location to be announced.

From Barb Reuter....

Please pick up contributor statements beginning in July. It helps us save on postage. Thank you, Barb Reuter

OCWM

Our Churches Wider Mission

If I asked you what O.C.W.M stands for - would you know? Even more importantly, if I asked you what it does - would you know?

OCWM - Our Churches Wider Mission

The name is appropriate to the purpose. The dollars that our members pledge and give to Our Churches Wider Mission go to fund the ministry and mission of the New York Conference (UCC) - from the services and programs that our churches receive to the ministry and mission work that we are part of together. In addition, the OCWM dollars fund the ministry and mission of the United Church of Christ - again from the services and programs that our churches receive, to our mission work which extends to about 70 countries around the world, and 270 partner churches that we work with.

Years ago St. James UCC decided at a congregational meeting that 60% of the OCWM dollars given by our congregation would go to the New York Conference, and that 40% of the OCWM dollars would go to the denomination. That practice continues to this day. NONE of the OCWM dollars given are kept by this church, rather we try to encourage members to support the important ministry and mission of the wider church.

Rev. Bob



The 47th Annual Meeting of the New York State Conference was held at Silver Bay again this year. Our Delegates were Barb and Dan Newcomb along with Karen Touris. Donna Ludwig attended as a visitor.

It was a beautiful weekend at Silver Bay. We are able to greet old friends and meet new friends. In order to meet the budget the conference staff is being cut by one. A motion was made to ask each church to commit to raise their OCWM \$1000.

Karen Touris is our newest delegate and her son, Matthew accompanied her. We all were so proud of Matthew as he, along with other youth, did the sermon for the Youth Worship on Saturday night.

If you would like to see Silver Bay and highlights of the annual meeting go to www.uccny.org.

Summer Church School Program

St. James is open all summer. We have childcare during the service and Church School following the children's sermon each Sunday for children from K - 5th grade. We even serve lemonade, ice tea and cookies following worship.

Try something new - walk to a service or plan to attend a service and then do a family activity on your way home. We miss you when we don't see you all summer long. We are open so please stop by and see us!

Stuffed Animals for Children

There is a basket of donated stuffed animals in the rear of the sanctuary provided by our Christian Ed Department for worship time. The basket is labeled Stuffed Animals for Worship. These soft furry friends are for children to love and pray with during worship. They are a nice quiet friend to sit with during the service and give the children something to keep them occupied when the service is a bit longer than their attention span. At the end of the service the children are encouraged to return their furry friends to their basket so they will be there for next week's service.

Burgerfest

Saturday, July 17th

Plans are underway for the youth to plan and host a variety of events during Burgerfest, Saturday, July 17th. We will be selling popcorn, birch beer, 50/50 split tickets and tickets for our Theme Baskets Raffle. We had a great time last year and plan to repeat it this year. If you would like to help plan and be a part of the activities at St. James during Burgerfest please be sure to speak to Karen Reinagel or sign-up on the bulletin board. We need Theme Basket donations. If you are able and willing to donate a basket please sign-up on the bulletin board and have your baskets turned in by Sunday, July 4th.



BURGERFEST ST JAMES CAMPFIRE

Saturday night July 17th after worship we are having a

campfire, s'mores and music. Come join the fun!

Summer Church School Program Opportunities

Even though the regular church school year ends with our annual church picnic and service at Dunkirk Conference Center, the recruitment of teachers and other staff for the summer months is ongoing. We are looking for Teachers, Assistants, Childcare workers, coordinators, snack donations, refreshment coordinators, and craft people. If you are someone who is thinking about offering your time and talent to the Christian Ed Program, please talk to Karen Reinagel and let's see if we can find a place where you would feel comfortable volunteering. We need people to work with our summer program for the weeks of June 20th and 27th, July 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th, August 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th and September 5th.

Please consider volunteering for a Sunday or two and spending some quality time with the children that enter our doors over the summer months. There is no prep time Karen has all the supplies ready for you each Sunday. If interested please speak to Karen, sign up on the bulletin board, or fill out an interest slip and return it to the CE office.



AUGUST 1st - PICNIC

Save the date! The Southtowns Cluster is having a picnic at St. John's in Eden on Sunday, August 1st at 4:30 p.m. Watch

your bulletins this summer for more information .

Vacation Bible School VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

VBS is August 23rd through August 26th from 9 a.m. to Noon this year at St. Matthews. The Theme is "We Are The Church Together".

The VBS Committee is looking for folks who would be interested in volunteering their talents in the following areas: carpentry, gardening, first-aid, languages, child care, puppet ministry, quilting, recreation, music, clowning, dance, snack prep., jewelry making, knitting, cooking, geology, and arts and crafts. There will also be a time during VBS to work as a group on mission projects, have snack time and other activities. Be on the look out for more information in the bulletin, on the bulletin board and possible a special mailing. If you are interested in volunteering to work on VBS and share a special talent, please speak to Karen Reinagel.

The evening closing service will be held on Thursday night, and is open to ALL followed by an Ice Cream Social, and a Square Dance with music by Gary Burdick & Company. A Free Will Offering will be taken. So mark your calendar and get you dancing shoes polished and ready to go.

VBS registration forms will be available soon, so be on the look out for them at the CE bulletin board or in your Sunday bulletin.

SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Church & Ministry would like to thank all the folks who have dedicated funds to the holiday plant sales and who purchased

hanging baskets for our Mother's Day plant sale. We were happy to be able to give a scholarship to 8 youth this year.

Family Night

Our Family Nights will resume in September. Please watch for the time and date in the September newsletter.

Thank you to everyone that has been a part of this fun event.

Have a wonderful summer!

Summer Youth News

Remember to check the church bulletin and bulletin board during the summer for events and activities. You never know when we will have an event planned. Be sure to give your email address to Karen Reinagel, at (karen@saintjamesucc.com) or let Donna know, so we can contact you.

Remember to sign-up to come and help with child-care and/or enrichment time during the summer months.

Mid Atlantic Regional Youth Event

Several youth and advisors will attend the RYE at Lebanon Valley College on July 21st. We wish them a safe trip and meaningful experience. There is still time to register. Please speak to Karen Reinagel or Donna Schumacher if you are interested.

Dunkirk Conference Center

It's not too late to register for camp. You will have to pay a little more but it is worth it! You will still be eligible for the St. James scholarship. Get a registration form at the CE bulletin board area or from the

CE office on the 2nd floor, fill it out, hand in your registration with the deposit or half of the payment (make the check payable to the Dunkirk Conference Center) and Karen Reinagel will do the rest.

Opening of Fall Church School Program

Sunday, September 12th

The Fall church school program will begin on Sunday, September 12th. We will have a celebration for the opening so look for details in the summer newsletter. Don't forget to mark your calendars. In fact invite a new neighbor or a friend to join us on this special day!

The Board of Christian Education is in the process of doing annual CE Staff Reviews and recruiting teachers and other volunteers as assistants, subs, middle high leaders, etc. for our regular church school program. Each year many staff members return and volunteer their time to our program but we are always looking for new people to volunteer in a variety of other ways. If you have been thinking about offering your time to the Christian Ed program please talk to Karen Reinagel. We are always looking for people to teach, assist in the classroom, lead mini courses, work with the youth program, work AV or video equipment, or serve on the Board of Christian Ed. You are invited to try one or more of these activities. Areas that we still are in need of help are youth house chaperones, folks to oversee the CE storage area where our supplies are kept, office assistants, substitutes and classrooms assistants. We are flexible and encourage people to volunteer as little or as much as they like.

Remember Our Youth Fundraisers

We are very appreciative of our congregation's support for our ongoing fundraisers, our bottles and cans recycling, paper recycling, candy sale and clothing shed. Thank You!

Dunkirk Walk A Thon

The 2nd Annual Dunkirk Conference Center Walk-a-thon will be held on Saturday, September 18th, 2010. Please save this important date and help us make this event an even bigger success than last year. Please use the sponsor sheet included with the newsletter to begin getting pledges. Sponsor sheets can also be picked up outside the CE office or by the bulletin board. Let's show our support for Dunkirk and plan on raising money through pledges and by walking together on Saturday, September 18th. Be sure to let the CE office know how much you get in pledges. We will be asking for matching legacy funds.

Sign-up on the bulletin board if you plan on walking so we can go as Team St. James!

FOOD PANTRY

<u>July</u>	4	Canned/dry soups
	11	Peanut butter/meat products
	18	Juice/juice mixes
	25	Dry/canned milk
<u>August</u>	1	Cake/muffin mixes
	8	Canned vegetables and fruit
	15	Instant potatoes
	22	Macaroni/pasta
	29	Paper products



WOW!!!

There is going to church and then there is being part of a church family. The people at St James UCC are an amazing group! When a member suddenly has an opportunity to obtain a seizure alert dog, which is a VERY expensive animal with incredible training after she has struggled with a seizure disorder for many years and before she or her family even think about asking for help from St James, the wheels begin turning and an event was planned. Such is the history of the Pancake Breakfast in honor of Susanne Wiltberger that was held on May 16. We have shared Susanne's struggle with seizures for over 25 years, and we can tell you that the breakfast was one of the most positive and inspiring events we have experienced.

Our thanks go out to everyone who helped with, participated in, and contributed to the Pancake Breakfast, the basket raffle and the 50/50! After receipt of a few additional contributions the total raised now stands at \$991!! That has put Susanne at over 90% of her goal!

From Patty who said "this is what I see" and worked hard to turn that into reality, to Karen and the Board of Christian Ed who said "let's do this", we are grateful. To the Senior High and Middle High Youth Groups

who prepared, served and provided clean up, Vicki and Patty who flipped pancakes and scrambled eggs, to all who set up, sold tickets, and donated the baskets we say thank you. To all of you we say WOW and THANK YOU!!

Sue Wiltberger

Helen and Charley Markus

Thank You

Thanks go to both the Servers and Sewing Mission for their contributions to the seizure alert dog fund for Sue. We greatly appreciate your help. Sue is hoping that before the end of the year her companion dog will become a Server as well as being a service animal!

Helen Markus

Thanks to my friends for their assistance May 16th and June 6th. Special thanks to Pastor Bob and Dave and Nancy Banks.

Jennie Altes

Special thanks to all those folks who helped with Dunkirk Day. It may have been a little cloudy but didn't dampen our spirits. An extra special thanks to Nick and Christian Reinagel for their musical talents, Jason Stuhr for manning the AV equipment and Kurt and Chad Schumacher for setting up and taking down the AV equipment.

A special thanks to Bill and Donna Schumacher for grilling at the Baccalaureate Luncheon. Also thank you to everyone that helped set up, serve and clean up for the event.

The family of Bob Meyer wishes to thank everyone for

their kind words of sympathy.

Character Council

July - Meekness vs. Anger

Meekness is yielding my personal rights and expectations with a desire to serve.

August - Security vs. Anxiety

Security is structuring my life around that which cannot be destroyed or taken away.

REGISTRY

Death:

Robert L. Meyer

Born: May 7, 1922

Died: May 19, 2010

Service: May 24, 2010

New Members:

Lynn Klispie

Melissa Ryan

Brian Casselberry

Confirmands 2010

Brittany Reinagel

Daniel Scheffler

Lucas Vail

Hannah Vail

Legacy Grant Recipients

The St. James Legacy Fund is funded primarily through trusts and bequests that have been left to the church. The monies cannot be used for the church budget, and our goal is to use the majority of these funds to help organizations that help people in our community, our nation, and our world. Requests for funding start with a group in St. James that makes the request. These requests go to our Legacy Committee that considers them and makes recommendations to the Church Council, which takes the final action to authorize the grants.

At the June Church Council meeting the following grants were approved:

Buffalo Amputee Golf Classic \$200;

Habitat for Humanity - \$2,500

Operation Good Neighbor - \$1,000

Churches in Action - \$1,000

St. James Scholarship Fund - \$160

Hamburg Counseling Center - \$8,000 (we have been associated with the center and the funds are to help replace two flat roofs and the brickwork to alleviate leaks; and

Camp Scholarships - up to \$1,500 (\$2,400 was previously approved).