

The St. James Connector

NOVEMBER, 2010

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Musical Staff Complete!

Last month's newsletter talked about the hiring of Ciaran Krueger as our Director of Music. Ciaran is conducting all of choirs. Our intention was also to hire an Accompanist to work with Ciaran - primarily with the adult choir - and of course playing hymns and other music at our worship services. We are pleased to announce that Jonathan Rizzo has been hired to fill that position.

Most of you have had the pleasure of hearing Jonathan play for our worship services this fall - and a number of times over the summer. He is a wonderful young musician and brings a great deal of talent and enthusiasm to our staff! Welcome Jonathan!

At this point in time we don't have an organist on our staff. Ciaran is taking organ lessons, and periodically will be playing pieces on the organ during our worship services. Jonathan is planning on taking organ lessons as well. In the interim, our intention is to bring in an organist about once a month to play the hymns, the prelude and postlude for our worship.

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Our organ is a wonderful instrument and we want to make sure that it continues to be very much a part of our music program! I am pleased to announce that on October 31st, (Reformation Sunday), Fern Smith will be playing at our Sunday morning worship service.

Harvest Home Sunday November 21st

At Thanksgiving time one of the natural things to do is to give in gratitude to help those who are less fortunate than we are. Sunday November 21st is a wonderful opportunity. On Harvest Home Sunday, we encourage people to bring food, or monetary donations to be used by area food pantries to buy food through the Buffalo Food Bank.

November 21st is also our Commitment Sunday. Pledge cards will be mailed out to your home a few weeks before that time. Everyone is encouraged to bring their Pledge that Sunday as we make our commitments together as we travel this journey together into God's future!

GIFT Thanksgiving Dinner GIFT Thanksgiving DinnerGIFT Thanksgiving Dinner Growing In Faith Together

GIFT is five UCC churches that have been meeting and sharing together in a variety of ways as we support each other on our journeys as Christians. Participants are: St. James (Hamburg), St. Paul's (Alden), St. John's (Strykersville), First Congregational (Angola), and First Congregational (Niagara Falls).

The Thanksgiving meal has become an annual tradition - and a wonderful one. Please plan on joining us. The meal is free. Just sign up on the bulletin board so we know about how many people to expect. It's a wonderful gathering - with great food consisting of a full turkey dinner, great company (from six different churches), and great worship!

We eat at 5 p.m on Saturday, November 13th. Worship is at 6:30, and afterwards we go back to the Assembly Hall for coffee and dessert. Please join us!!!

Family Night

It's back on Wednesday. Our first Family Night will be November 3rd at 6:00 p.m. I have missed our monthly pizza night and Cirian, our new music director, is looking forward to sharing some music and fellowship with everyone.

Please remember to sign up so I know how much pizza to order and if anyone would like to bring something to share for dessert.

Family Movie Night

Our first Family Movie Night is Friday, November 19th at 7 p.m. Please remember to sign-up if you are planning on attending. When you sign-up please indicate whether you are willing to stay and help clean up following the event and also if you are willing to bring a snack or dessert to share. This is a great event to invite some friends to! The name of the movie will be posted on the bulletin board along with the sign-up sheet.

Board of Christian Ed

Our next meeting will be held November 2nd at 7 p.m. Please call if you cannot attend.

"GOD IS STILL SPEAKING"

@ St. James UCC

"No matter who you are, where you are on life's journey you are welcome here."

Thanksgiving Eve

Thanksgiving was at it's heart a religious festival, as the pilgrims gave thanks to God that they had enough! Please join us at church on our "Thanksgiving Eve" (Tuesday - November 23rd). At 7 p.m. we will have a brief (20 minutes or so) service of worship as we give thanks together.

Fourth Grade Bible Study

4th Grade Bible Study will take place this year on two Sundays, November 7th and November 14th, with a copy of The Good News Bible being presented to the children on November 21st during worship. The children will be studying with Pastor Alva in preparation to receive their Bibles. This is a special time in the life of the children; they are now old enough to be able to read and have a better understanding of what has been written about in this very special book. If you have a child in 4th grade and have not received a letter before the classes start, please speak to Karen or Pastor Alva.

If you have a child in Fourth Grade, be on the look out for a letter explaining the details. If you have any question please speak to Karen Reinagel.

Server's

The Servers' next meeting will be held in the Horton Lounge on November 23rd at 1 p.m. They are collecting donations of personal care items for the Buffalo City Mission until November 23rd. The donation box is outside the Lounge.

Our Soup Sale was a great success. Thank you for all your support.

This year's Christmas Party is December 7th at 1 p.m. at the West End. Please call Kitty

Sandoval at 646-4444 if you have questions.

WESTERN AREA FALL MEETING

Our next meeting will be held on Sunday, November 7, 2010 at Epiphany UCC. at 9365 Clarence Center Rd., Clarence NY at 1:30 p.m. Registration \$8.00, reservations need to be in by Oct. 28. Please let Alva know if you can attend.

Paula Pfister Pie Auction Sunday, November 21st

Twice a year a pie/dessert auction is held to raise funds for the Paula Pfister Christian Education Scholarship Fund. This fund began to honor the memory of Paula Pfister, who served as CE Director at St. James for several years. Students who serve faithfully in our CE program for their high school years are eligible to apply for this scholarship.

Paula was a wonderful person who worked hard for our children and congregation. Please honor her memory by participating in this event. If you would like to help please sign-up to bring a dessert in a non-returnable dish or pie plate. Just sign-up, bring in the pie or dessert the day of the auction, fill out a bidding sheet/form the day of the event which is held in the Assembly Hall and stay to bid on other pies or desserts and watch as your donation raises money for this worthwhile event. All other types of desserts are welcome as well as pies.

Sewing Mission

Our next meeting will be Tuesday November 9th in the Assembly Hall at 9:30 a.m. Bring your lunch, a delicious dessert will be provided by Ruth Rathman.

We are always eager to have new members join our group and share in our charitable work.

We are in need of sheets for chux pads. They may be left in the church office.

All who are interested are invited to attend our Christmas luncheon at Heidi's Hideaway on Tuesday December 14th. The cost is \$14 and the food is fabulous. See Jennie Altes or Karen Sutton to get entree choices.

Care and Share

In the past, St. James had a committee called Care and Share whose purpose was to help in the time of need, usually when someone had surgery and needed meals. For several years, this committee has not been active.

As Chairperson of the Social Concerns Committee, I would like to reinvent this group and try to expand on it. I have proposed to Bob and Alva that we have the group with several divisions. For instance, on the Time and Talent Sheets which we send with our pledges, we could add a Care and Share Group with divisions such as Making a Meal, Helping with Home Chores or Errands, Driving Folks to Appointments and Other for talents not listed.

I am hoping to revive this group in case we have needs in the future. While we certainly don't want disasters to occur, I have found that churches that have a similar group are able to function quickly when there is a need.

Please take the time to fill out your Time and Talent sheet when it arrives.

Charlotte Cialone

Youth Calendar of Events

If you are a member of our Youth program you should have received a mailing of our yearly events calendar list for 2010 - 2011. If you did not receive one please let Karen know and she will have one sent to you or you can pick up a copy in the bin outside the CE Office or in the bin on the Youth Bulletin Board.

Upcoming Youth Events

Please remember to mark events on your calendars and be sure to check Youth bulletin board and sign-up if required.

November 6th -7th

Bowling and Sleepover for the Middle and Senior High Youth at the Youth House

November 15th through 21st

Operation Christmas Child Senior High Class overseeing this event.

On Sunday, November 21st the Senior High class is invited to take the shoe boxes to a church in Springville and stop for lunch along the way. If interested talk to Karen.

Sunday, November 21st

Middle and Senior High Youth will be bagging the donations from Harvest Home Sunday.

Sunday, November 21st

Senior High Youth to help with Paula Pfister Pie Auction as needed.

Tuesday, November 29th

6:15 pm Youth Board Meeting

CROP WALK

Crop Walk was held on Sunday, October 17th. The Youth House was open and served as a rest stop for the walkers. Thank you to everyone who helped to man the rest stop/youth house during the walk. We also had a

group of youth help out at the house during the walk.



DECORATE FOR THE HOLIDAYS

The Cabinet would appreciate any helping hands to help decorate for the holidays. We will be gathering on Saturday at 10 a.m. November 27th. Come join us!

Youth News

Please take the time to fill out a Permanent permission form for Middle and Senior High Youth and return it to the CE office. Please be sure to fill out both front & back of the form and include your cell number. Forms can be found on the Youth Bulletin Board.

Don't forget our on - going fund-raising projects:

Abitibi Paper Recycling and St. Pauly's Textile Drive, and our Candy Bar Sale.

PLEASE NOTE: The youth are discontinuing the Bottle Return Fundraiser as of 12/31. Thank you to everyone that has

donated. This year's "Enjoy The City Coupon Books" are available now! The books are \$20.00 each. Books are available in the church office or speak to a youth, Karen, Donna or Patty if you are interested.

Thank you to everyone who continues to support our Youth Program!



ADVENT WORKSHOP

Our Annual Advent Workshop will be held Dec. 5th after church with projects for all

ages. The youth will be preparing subs in honor of Pearl Harbor Day. If you have an idea for a craft please share it with Alva, and we can always use extra hands.

We are planning on making bags so that our youth can put their crafts in a bag after completion. We will have small tables set up so our crafters will be able to sit down making the crafts.

Once again we will be offering card making as our mission project

Christian Education Advent Items

On Sunday during Advent beginning on November 28th, during the children's sermon, the children will receive a special advent gift. They will also hear about the special "No Tag Left Behind" policy for this year's Angel/Mitten Tree.

There will also be a basket of advent items on display located near the bulletin board. Please help yourself to any items you might like during the Advent season.

CHARACTER COUNCIL OF HAMBURG, INC.

Hospitality vs. Loneliness

To demonstrate hospitality in my life, I will:

Welcome Visitors

-Make others feel important

-Prepare for guests.

-Gladly share my things

-Not expect anything in return

Heifer Fair

We began this year's Church School Program by working on a Heifer Fair which was held on Sunday, Oct. 17th following worship in the Assembly Hall.

The Church School children raised \$400.00 and legacy funds are doubling that amount making it \$800.00 which will be sent to Heifer International. This is an annual event that the Church School presents. GREAT JOB KIDS!!!! Thank you to everyone who supported this great event and cause.

Youth Thanks

To Jenny Mumm and her mom Carol Wagner for donating a brand new grill to the youth for their grilling needs.

To Christian Henderson Sargent for teaching the Middle High class on Sunday, October 10th so Bob Whitworth could have a Sunday off.

To the Jensen's for raising \$560.00 for DCC at the annual Walk A Thon. Great Job!!!!

Thanks from our Council President

Summer has come and gone and what a summer it was.

The Music Search Committee worked long and hard during the process of hiring a new Director of Music. We have hired Cirian Krueger as Director and Jonathan Rizzo to be our accompanist

Thank you to all those committee members for your hard work that brought us joyful music once again

Butch Meyer

REGISTRY

Weddings:

Megan Roach and

David Caldwell
Married: September 26, 2010

Melissa Ryan and
Ryan Craig
Married: October 2, 2010

FOOD PANTRY

Nov. 7 Pasta, Pasta Mixes
Nov. 14 Canned, Dry soups
Nov.21 Peanut Butter /Meats
Nov. 28 Canned Juice/Juice
Mixes



ANOTHER SOUP-ER SUCCESS!

The Server's Fellowship would like to thank all who lent a hand, made a donation, placed an order and/or came for lunch at the annual Soup Sale.

Because of all the wonderful donations from members, Tops, Wegman's and Walmart we had no expenses and made \$1836.00, which is a new record!

Thank you to all who returned the soup jars. A quick way to remove the "Soup Label" is to fill the jar with hot water and then soak them in hot water and the labels will come off. It makes one less job for those involved. Thank you

Snow Angels Needed

Last year more than 30 youth in the village signed up to be "Snow Angels" and volunteer to provide assistance residents in need during winter snow and ice. We are asking volunteers to sign up. The village tries to

match up youth in the same area of the village where the residents have a need. All arrangements are made with the youth and the resident. If you would like to participate, please contact Lynn Detzel or Recreation Supervisor Bill Nye at 649-6170. Emails may be sent

ldetzel@villagehamburg.com or bnye@villagehamburg.com.

It is this service spirit that enables the village to work toward its vision of being the most desirable community in Western NY where quality of life, affordability and innovation are the norm. Thank you.

Angel/Mitten Tree

Each year during the Advent season the Board of Christian Education sponsors the theme of "Giving" and with that in mind the Board is pledging to make sure every tag on the Angel Tree has a gift to be sent back to the Salvation Army with the No Tag Left Behind policy. The money donated in the children's offering envelopes will help to defray the cost of purchasing the gifts we need in order to fulfill our goal. You are also invited to make monetary donations to help defray the cost of purchasing gifts to fill the tag requests during the advent season. Please help make this Christmas special for someone in need. The Angel Mitten Tree has been a tradition at St. James for as long as I can remember. The warm hats, mittens, gloves, and scarves are placed on the branches of the tree and given to those in need. The tags on the tree are to be taken so you can purchase a gift for the child whose name appears on the

tag you've chosen. You may either purchase the suggested items or choose one that you like. The gift tags will be in the Lounge once they arrive so be on the lookout for them and let the giving begin. *Remember do not gift wrap your gift!!!!* Please just return it and place it under the tree in the sanctuary or the lounge with the original tag attached to the items. The Salvation Army needs to be able to see all the gifts. The deadline to bring in gifts is Sunday December 12th. If you have any questions please speak to Karen Reinagel.

Christmas Pageant

Our Christmas Pageant is Sunday, December 19th this year, so circle the date on your calendar. It is always a special morning and service when the children of our congregation tell the story of the birth of the Christ Child. The service begins at 10:00 a.m. and the pageant will be presented in place of the children's sermon. Fittings for costumes will be taking place November 14th and finishing on December 5th. Please be sure to fill out a pageant permission form and return it. Permission slips may be picked up from your child's church school teacher, the church office or on the table by the CE bulletin board display. You may return the completed forms to any of the locations mentioned.

The dress rehearsal for the pageant is scheduled for Saturday, December 18th from 10:00 a.m. to Noon and will be followed by a holiday pizza party. If you would like to help

with the pageant, rehearsal or party, please speak to Karen Reinagel. We always have room for all the children that would like to be included in the cast. Participation in the pageant is usually for children four years old and up. If a parent feels that their three year old is ready to be in the pageant, please speak to Karen to make arrangements. The youngest children are usually the stars. If you have any questions please feel free to call the Christian Education Office and speak to Karen.

Operation Christmas Child

The Power of a Simple Gift is a Samaritans Purse Project sponsored by both the Board of Christian Education and Senior High Youth Group November 15th-21st. Operation Christmas Child brings joy and hope to children in desperate situations worldwide through gift-filled shoe boxes and the Good News of God's love. Here is a way you can make a difference in the lives of those children:

Step 1 Please pick up an empty standard size shoe box or a small plastic container. The lid anbox may be wrapped separately but not required. Most important. pray for the child receiving the gift.

Step 2 Determine whether your gift will be for a boy or a girl, and the child's age category: 2-4, 5-9 or 10-14. Use the appropriate boy/girl label provided with the shoe box. Mark the correct age category on the label, and tape the label to the top of your box

Step 3 Fill the box with a variety of gifts that will bring delight to a child, i.e. School Supplies, small

toys, hygiene items or other things such as hard candies, etc. Please double bag all edible items. Also T-shirts, socks, caps, sunglasses, hair clips, flashlights with batteries; a personal note, a photo of yourself or your family and your address are acceptable. DO NOT INCLUDE: Used or damaged items; war-related items chocolate or food; out of date candy; liquids or lotions; medications or vitamins; items such as snowglobes or glass containers; aerosols.

Step 4 Please include \$7 or more for each shoe box to help cover the shipping and other costs. You can use the donation envelope included in the shoe box. If you make more than one box, you may include a total donation.

Step 5 Place a rubber band around each closed shoe box and drop off at the collection center near the lounge or church office by November 21st.