

# The St. James Connector

SEPTEMBER, 2010

St. James United Church of Christ  
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September is always an exciting time here at St. James. Many children and families are back after a summer respite. Activities resume, and St. James is a very busy, exciting place to be!

September 12<sup>th</sup> will be the opening day of Church School and kickoff to that excitement.

As usual, we have some very special activities planned for the day!!! 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 that has and continues to shape our lives. Hopefully the fun part of the day will get us all excited about the part that is really important, the part that we all need so desperately!

Our community is richer and stronger when we're all active and involved. Make sure you're there on September 12<sup>th</sup> – and in the weeks that follow. Be an active part of this special community of faith – and know the blessing of involvement.

See you there!

Bob



## A NOTE

We have been blest with a beautiful summer this year! Summer usually brings lower attendance and I am looking forward to Fall to see old familiar faces, new faces and the sound of many children's voices.

We have enjoyed a variety of musicians this summer and we have been happy to appreciate their various talents. We owe a special thank you to our Music Committee for the numerous hours they have worked and we are looking forward to having a permanent Music Director.

Also we want to say thank you to those who have watered, mowed, painted, raked, visited and volunteered in numerous ways to keep St. James lively.

Most important is worshipping together as a community of faith, invite a friend. "God is Still Speaking" and I am looking forward to seeing all of you in September!

Alva

## FALL CHURCH SCHOOL KICK OFF

### WESTERN THEME SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12TH

Come and join us immediately following worship for fun and fellowship! We will have Lunch, Ice Cream Sundaes, a Bounce House and more.....

It's time to start thinking about your favorite ice cream topping - you know the one you are going to bring when you come to the Fall Church School Kick Off.

Church School Classes will begin following the children's sermon at 10:30 a.m. and run for ½ hour to open up the Fall Kick Off. We will all meet outside or in the Assembly Hall if weather is poor for all the festivities.

This event is run by the Board of CE and the Casting Your Nests team. We look forward to seeing all of you on Sunday, September 12th.

*I believe in the sun even if it isn't shining. I believe in love even when I am alone. I believe in God even when He is*

*silent. Author Unknown*

### **Servers**

Our next meeting is Tuesday, September 28<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. in the Horton Lounge. All women of the church are welcome to attend.

Our Fall Soup Sale will be held on October 9<sup>th</sup>.

### **Sewing Mission**

Our 2010-2011 season of the Women's Sewing Mission will begin on Tuesday, September 14<sup>th</sup>. Bring your lunch and meet in the Assembly Hall at 9:30. Please plan to join us for charitable work and lively conversation.

### **FAMILY NIGHT**

Family Night is still in the planning stages until we have a new Music Director.

Once someone has been hired Family Night will be planned and advertised via the weekly bulletin, so be on the look out for all the latest. If you have any questions please feel free to speak with Karen Reinagel.

### **CHURCH SCHOOL**

The church school classes will be working on a 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. In October 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 our children as they raise funds to support this project. Check October's newsletter and the bulletin for more details.

### **Bible Study**

Studying the Bible together is a very basic and important part of our journey as we seek to grow in our faith. After our summer vacation, the Thursday morning Bible Study will begin Thursday, Sept. 9<sup>th</sup>. We will meet from 10 to 11 a.m. We're starting with the gospel of Luke - and you are welcome to come and join us - on a regular basis if you can, or whenever you are available!

Bring your Bible, although we have plenty if you forget!

### **NEWS FROM TLC**

We had a great summer and are looking forward to a busy Fall. We will be having an all day staff training day on August 23<sup>rd</sup>. This is a requirement from NYS Office of Child & Family Services. This day offers the staff the opportunity to continue to develop their skills in early child care education.

There are still a few openings in some of the classrooms for the Fall. If anyone is interested in placement, please call Patty Connors at 649-5303.

### **Pulpit Exchanges**

The *G.I.F.T. (Growing In Faith Together)* churches will have a pulpit exchange September 26<sup>th</sup>. Rev. Pat Minnick will be preaching at St. James and Bob Matlack will be at First Congregational, Angola.

The *Southtowns Cluster* will be having a Pulpit Exchange on October 10<sup>th</sup>. More details will follow.



### **SOUTHTOWNS CLUSTER DINNER**

Date: September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2010  
Place: Trinity UCC-Gowanda  
Time: 5:00 p.m. Gathering  
6 p.m. Dinner  
7 p.m. Program

Our speakers will be the Rev. Marion Shearer and the Rev. Glenda Prins. The topic for the evening will be recent changes in the New York Conference. . The cost for presale tickets is \$15.00. Tickets are the door will be \$16.00. Tickets may be purchased from the church office. Come. Enjoy a fine dinner and see Trinity's newly renovated Fellowship Hall.

### **NYSOM Student**

For those of you that I have not met yet, I am Jess Kacalski and I am a NYSOM student.

First of all I would like to thank Pastor Bob, Pastor Alva, the Committee on Ministry and the Council for allowing me to do my internship here at St. James for a year. I have tried to become involved in as many committees as possible. I will be participating in worship on Saturdays and Sundays, and hope to be able to do more visitations in the Fall. I only have a few more classes to complete in the Christian Leadership Program.

I am currently seeking to enroll in the Ministry of Word and Sacrament Program this Fall.

I reside in Angola, and am the mother of two sons. I am

semi-retired and a student at Empire State College.

I would like to thank everyone for all your support and am looking forward to a spirit filled year.

### **Dunkirk Walk-A-Thon Saturday, September 18<sup>th</sup>**

Rain or shine, check in is at 10 a.m. until 11 a.m. Walking starts at 11 a.m.

Pledge sheets are available through the Christian Education Department or at the Christian Ed Bulletin Display. This is the second annual Dunkirk Walk-A-Thon! If you would like more information you may email

[walk4dcc@yahoo.com](mailto:walk4dcc@yahoo.com). Mike

Hanes is the chairperson of this event. The Legacy Committee has agreed to match any funds we raise for the walk-a-thon so be sure and let the Christian Ed Office or Karen Reinagel know what you've raised so we can get those matching funds. Last year a group of walkers went to Dunkirk and walked together. If you plan to walk, let us know so we can support each other.



### **COFFEE HOUR**

Thank you to Jen and Phil Reinagel for setting up coffee hour each Sunday.

Help is always needed. Please volunteer to give them a hand.

### **Youth Board Meeting**

A meeting is set for Tuesday, September 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:15 p.m. in the Resource Room.

As always, watch for the

bulletin, on the bulletin boards, on flyers and mailings for information regarding youth events that we are planning.

clean and organize classrooms. Pizza will be provided during our monthly meeting. Board members please RSVP to church office.



### ***A Note to Parents and Church Members***

If you are someone willing to donate your time and talents to help with the Youth Program, please be sure to speak to Karen Reinagel. This can be anything from teaching church school, volunteering to run a youth activity to chaperoning an event, even just providing cars for transportation to events.



### **FLU CLINIC**

Date: Thursday, Oct. 14, 2010

Time: 10 am to 2 pm

Our annual flu clinic will be with us again, and the Visiting Nurses Association of WNY will be administering flu and pneumonia shots beginning at 10 a.m.. No appointment is necessary. The Insurances that will be accepted this year are Medicare Part B, Blue Cross Blue Shield, Univera, and Independent Health,

Invite a friend and get your flu shot!

### **Board of Christian Education**

There will be a meeting Tues., Sept. 7<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. to prepare for opening of church school. Bring cleaning supplies to

### **CROP WALK IN OCTOBER**

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 walked in the spring and will be donating their pledges to the community CROP walk.

Walkers will step out all over Western New York this Fall! One-quarter of funds raised in the CROP Walk will return to communities in WNY for local hunger programs. CROP helps support food pantries, Meals on Wheels, meal sites and Food For All in WNY.

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 would like 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.

### **MISSIONARIES**

This July 7<sup>th</sup> we had the honor of hosting Dawn and Jon Barnes, with their two young children for a potluck supper

and program.

The Barnes Family has been working as missionaries in South Africa for the last eight years and were home on leave. They are ordained pastors in the Christian Church D.C.

## FOOD PANTRY

### September

- 5 canned fruit/vegetables
- 12 instant potatoes & gravy mixes
- 19 noodles, macaroni
- 26 paper products

## DUNKIRK CONFERENCE CENTER

What a great year to attend camp, the weather was great. We had 27 campers (some went to more than 1 camp) attend various camps over the summer and legacy gave out over \$3,000.00 in scholarship money. We also had a few campers that brought a friend along with them. There are many opportunities available at Dunkirk Conference Center and 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 your interested in learning more about the camping experience at Dunkirk you can always speak to Emily or Sara Jensen, Erica Jackson, Bryce, Brooke, Brady or Christian Reinagel, Spencer Rubeck, Luke or Andrew Mumm, Hayley, Drew or Maddy Loretto, Matthew Touris, Madeline or Eliza Vail, Erin Berlin, Dylan Dunham, Joshua or Samantha Waryk since they know first hand what it's all about.

## THANKS

A special thank you to all who volunteered to help with the summer Christian Ed program. The children enjoyed their activities during the summer months. The following is a list of people who volunteered this summer: Cailey Rizzo, Spencer Rubeck, Robin Lindstrom, Gay Lynn Nelson, Karen Touris, Patty, Emily and Sara Jensen, Veronica Pigeon and Karen Reinagel. To the parents that brought their children to church during the summer months thank you for sharing them with us.

## CHURCH GIVING

This is the time of year when we review the church budget to see how things stand after the summer. We also begin to plan our annual stewardship campaign.

Similarly, as contributors to St. James, you should review your giving to make sure you are up-to-date and also begin to plan your giving for next year.

We encourage everyone to make a pledge of annual giving during our appeal. Pledges help the church plan its budget for the coming year. Making a pledge also ensures you will receive a record of your giving, which is needed if you itemize deductions on your tax return.

If you have income that varies, you can still make a pledge you are comfortable with and increase your giving during the year. All giving will be recorded as long as you clearly identify your gifts or use the envelopes given to you.

Of course, we are also grateful for all the loose offerings and unpledged funds given to St. James. If at any time you decide to increase your giving or want to receive a receipt, you can do so.

There are two other things you should consider when planning for the coming year:

- ✚ Do you want to make all or part of your 2011 contribution in advance before the end of 2010

allowing an increase in deductions?

- ✚ Do you want to automate your giving? You can have your donations to be deducted directly each month from your savings or checking account and you can change the amount or stop deducting at any time. Just inquire at the church office.

Dave Reichard  
Treasurer

## Registry

### New Members:

Jim and Margaret Stuhr

### Baptisms:

Isaac Eric Innus  
Born: October 5, 2009  
Parents: Jennifer and Guntis Innus

Margaret Stuhr  
Born: October 20, 1960  
Parents: Mits and Mary Takayamo

Benjamin Lee Stuhr  
Born: June 7, 2000  
Parents: Jim and Margaret Stuhr

Eric James Stuhr  
Born: May 25, 2002  
Parents: Jim and Margaret Stuhr

Jason Murphy Stuhr  
Born: April 6, 1996  
Parents: Jim and Margaret Stuhr

Sarah Kimiko Stuhr  
Born: May 25, 2002  
Parents: Jim and

Margaret Stuhr

**Weddings:**

Clarence Lee Tucker V and  
Melissa Ann Harrington  
Married: July 24, 2010

**Deaths:**

Jane Bayles  
Died: August 9, 2010

**Youth House and Property**

Did you realize that the Youth of St. James are responsible for maintaining and operation of the Youth House? They raise funds for its care!

We would like to say a special thank you to all those who have supported their efforts. You have provided with your money, mowed the lawn, shoveled snow, donated paper recycling items, donated clothing to the clothing shed, brought plastic bottles and cans so the youth can return them for the deposit money and supported all of our many fund-raisers. Volunteers are always welcome 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.

Speak to Karen Reinagel if you would like to have more information!

**Reformed Worship and Sacraments Course**

The Rev. Dr. Howard Boswell will lead a study on Worship as it stands at the center of our

Christian life. It is through our devotion we learn who and whose we are. We will take a look at theology and practice of Reformed worship and explore creating a service for the Lord's Day, celebration sacraments, developing special services and study of the church year. Training will be offered to church elders with no pastor with special attention to the current context for worship. The location will be at the Kenmore Presbyterian Church. Registration can be made through [mmohlke@gmail.com](mailto:mmohlke@gmail.com) or Resource Center. The fee is \$70 and will take place Wed. October 13, 20, 27 and Nov. 3, 10, 17 from 6:30 – 9.

**Youth Fund-Raising**

**Please continue to support our fund-raising efforts.**

**Youth Can & Bottle Drive**

Please feel free to leave your cans and bottles in the bins on the front porch of the Youth House. If you need help getting your cans & bottles out of your vehicle please ask a youth to help you. Please remember **NO GLASS Containers!**

**Youth Candy Sale**

The youth are selling candy bars for \$1.00 each. They are located in the church office or ask a youth and they will be glad to sell you one or more.

**Paper Recycling Program**

The youth are continuing their paper recycling drive and the paper retriever bin is located at the rear of the church parking lot. Please support their efforts and bring your paper recycling and drop it off in the bin and help us raise

money for the youth program at St. James. Remember - **NO PLASTICS IN THE BIN, THIS MEANS NO PLASTIC BAGS ALSO!**

**St. Paulys Clothing Drive**

We encourage you to bring your unwanted clothing to our clothing shed located at the rear of the Youth House lawn. It helps if the clothing is put in a plastic bag before it is dropped in the bin. This a great fundraiser for our youth program and we appreciate your help.



**SPIRIT IN COMMUNITY  
CALLING FORTH OUR  
GIFTS**

The discerning, exploring and embodying of our unique participation in the Body of Christ is an ongoing process. It's a privilege and joined joy to gather with others along the way to play with the possibilities and to see and be seen with new eyes.

Our guide for this 3 session journey is the Rev. Shirley Chan, a UCC and Disciples minister who has served interim and called pastorates plus college and elder chaplaincies. She has embraced a healing ministry including massage therapy, spiritual direction and many cross-cultural energetic healing modalities. Her holistic

and global perspective will carry us into fresh experiences and conversations for identifying and responding to God's call in our lives.

Save your seat for the inner excursions of the wisdom of Africa, Ireland, India, Sudan, South America, the Middle East, Europe, and of course, the ever-exotic USA.

The workshops will take place at St. James UCC, September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> and October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2010. The fee is \$30.

Please feel free to email [mmohlke@gmail.com](mailto:mmohlke@gmail.com) or call the Resource Center at 631-0979 from 9-noon, Mon-Thurs.