



the Reminder

September 3, 2017

September at St. John's

By Reverend Troy Benton

September is a good time to assess current reality, adjust to new possibilities, shore up areas that need recalibration, and rev up the engine of work and progress. For St. John's, this is a fitting description of what is occurring in our church life. We continue to move forward on our vision, we are determining how to live out our purpose, we are solvent on our mission, and we are energized by the promise and potential before us. Bottom line: St. John's is a church in God's hands readied for our next assignment, adjusted to new realities, renewed for our future, and charged to being agents of redeeming each other and the world.

This September the following opportunities are just some of the ways you can grow stronger and we can become better:

- a church-wide prayer focus in September will be offered as we pray for members, clergy, our church, and our world with resources to be shared beginning this Sunday, September 3, 2017.
- new discipleship classes, bible studies, and small groups are being formed and offered
- our Youth Ministry kicked off their new year last Sunday.
- a new Choir Director has begun her work and new persons are joining our choir.
- our Young Adults have begun meeting again monthly.
- our Vision Team will move into the next phase of planning and seek ways we can be all God is calling us to be.
- the Charge Conference, our annual church meeting, will be held this fall (more details soon).
- our annual Missions Fair is coming in October.
- a Men's Event is being held in late October.
- our 2017 Christmas Season is being planned, and may include a special service for those who leave early for the holidays.

We also have learned about opportunities for us to grow as God's family around matters that hinder our work together. We understand the importance of growing around these and other areas, and are being intentional to invite all to engage and grow in the grace of getting better for ourselves and one another. From our Thursday bible study to the Social Justice class, to the many committees and groups which help lead and govern our church, we always find ways to become better and stronger. Our Mission Garden is also in full swing! Volunteers are always needed, and your heart (and hands) will never be the same again once you start serving! We also strive to create a worship/study opportunity to help those challenged to attend on Sunday mornings, as well as a connection experience during the week. These elements, and other moments like our "Welcome Lunch", as well as our two worship services, have us busy and blessed.

So dive in and get engaged with us! We are better because of you! September at St. John's: not as quiet as we may have thought!

Prayer Requests

This week I will pray for:

- The military and their families, including from St. John's: Ryon Daggett and Todd & Hope Schissel.
- Prayers for our summer Mission Garden crops and the recipients who are nourished by them.
- Prayers for Terry Paur who fell and broke his leg last week. He is at Liberty Village getting rehab therapy.
- Bob and Carolyn Pulliam request prayers for Byron who had knee replacement surgery this week.
- Prayers for Nancy Carey as she adjusts to living at Rosewood.
- Linda Overbeck requests prayers for her brother-in-law Steve who is in the hospital with pneumonia.
- All unspoken prayer requests of our congregation.

Conflict Resolution Events

One recent commitment the leaders of St. John's have made is in the area of handling conflict and providing the necessary tools to assist. As part of these efforts, St. John's has invested in resources to allow every church member and leader who desires to attend conflict resolution training at no cost.

You are personally invited to attend one or both of the upcoming events:

- Friday, September 22, 2017: "Leadership and Anxiety in the Church." This seminar looks at the challenges presented by rising levels of anxiety, awareness of the family systems theory, and a self-differentiated leadership team.
- Saturday, September 23, 2017: "The Healthy Congregation." This seminar is well known for helping both clergy and laity in becoming system thinkers, how to respond in healthy ways in managing conflict, and redirecting people to focusing on the mission.

The location for both trainings will be held at the West Salem Trinity United Methodist Church - 4212 Broadway Street in Mount Vernon, Illinois. We will have our St. John's church van available to transport those who are interested in attending, but seats are limited. To register please call the church office at (618) 656-1853. Plan to join us as we learn, grow, heal, and become stronger together.

ST. JOHN'S UMC
7372 Marine Road
Edwardsville, IL 62025
(618) 656-1853
thenewstjohns.com

Worship Services: 9 a.m. or 11 a.m.

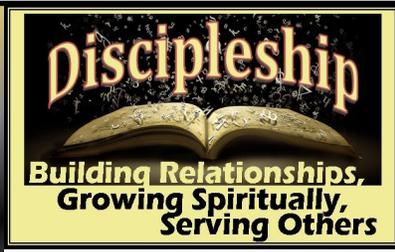
OUR PURPOSE: to lead people into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ.

OUR VISION: to be a beacon of faith and service, focusing our passions and gifts to reflect Christ's love to the world.

OUR CORE VALUES: knowing, loving, and serving God.



To submit something for the Reminder, please email it to Lynette Nelson at lynettenelson@thenewstjohns.com by **Tuesday at 4 p.m.**



"The Kingdom of God is like yeast..."

"God's kingdom is like yeast that a woman works into the dough for dozens of loaves of barley bread - and waits while the dough rises."

Why did Jesus choose to compare the Kingdom of God to something as simple and small as yeast? God's kingdom starts like this...small and simple. God uses everyday situations and common happenings to help us grow in our faith and deepen in our relationship with Jesus Christ. Also, just like yeast, God's kingdom becomes real inside people who are transformed and changed into Christ's like-ness.

God is doing something incredible within you! Can you recognize it? God is still at work in you. He is still at work in the world. Allow God to take hold of your heart and soul. Put your full devotion in Him. You are the mustard seed and the yeast that God is using to change our community and change our world! The Kingdom of God is here!

Women's Study Group

The Women's Study Group meets every Thursday morning in the "Far Side" Sunday School classroom from 9:30 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. Some women come at 8:30 a.m. to walk together in the Ministry Center prior to study group. We take a break between Thanksgiving and Christmas, with our last meeting held in May for a break during the summer.

This year we plan to study "The Lives of Great Christians," which is a 24 lecture series by the Great Courses. Some of the lecture topics include: the Early Martyrs, Augustine, Paul, Francis of Assisi, John Wesley, and Dietrich Bonhoeffer. The group is open to anyone, even though it is called a "women's group," men are welcome, too.

If you are interested in attending or have any questions please contact Nancy Hoffman at (618) 656-4740 or mommus64@gmail.com.



Pausing with God

Dear Parents,

Are you busy and possibly a little worn out? This school year, take a few minutes each day to center yourself and your family in God. Consider starting your day with a prayer and devotion. It can bring a little more peace to your chaotic and busy life. Pausing for a few seconds to breathe and find the good in a situation can relieve anxiety and tension. Finding a place in your house that you can make into a small sanctuary can give you a safe space to connect with your Creator.

This year, allow God to take control of your family's life and start living the gifts that God has in store for you. Visit the table in the Education Hallway to pick up a free, family devotional and take time to make God the priority in your home. Practice does not make perfect, but practice allows God to do amazing things in you and your family.



Sunday School	Amplify and Intensify meet each week in Room 202 at 10:05 a.m. Come join us for good discussions over donut holes!
Amplify & Intensify  	September 3: No Youth Group September 10: Back to School Pool Party at the McGinnis' home from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. Bring a dessert or side dish to share. September 17: Youth Group, 6 p.m. at SJUMC
<p align="center"> Pastor Katie Gholson (618) 656-1853 or katiegholson@thenewstjohns.com Amplify Coordinator: Tress Kurzym (832) 693-6745 or tresskurzym@thenewstjohns.com </p>	

Sunday School Helpers

Teachers and substitutes are needed to help this year with Sunday School. Please consider sharing the good news about God with the children of our church and volunteer!

If you can help please call the church office at (618) 656-1853 or email stjohnsemail@gmail.com.

Salvation Army Meal

Help serve at the Salvation Army on Sunday, September 10, 2017, at 3 p.m. We will prepare and share a meal with residents at Booth House, who are working to transition from homelessness to self-sufficiency. This ministry blesses all who participate by giving them a window into the struggles of others, and a meaningful way to make a difference! Contact Joann Eyster at (618) 444-8516 to help.



Join the Children's Choir

The In God We Trust Children's Choir is looking for children currently in kindergarten through 5th grade who love to sing! The choir rehearses every Sunday in the adult choir room from the end of Sunday School (10:55 a.m.) until the Young Persons Moment during the second service (approximately 11:10 a.m.). The choir will perform a few times in the fall and spring during both Sunday morning worship services. Rehearsals will start Sunday, September 10, 2017.

Bread for the World

Bread for the World will be meeting on Monday, September 11, 2017, at noon at First Presbyterian Church in Edwardsville. Come and join a group that advocates for legislative action to prevent hunger and extreme poverty in our country and world. For more information please contact Jane Klopfenstein at jkopf1@gmail.com.

Wednesday Meal

Don't feel like cooking dinner? Make plans to join St. John's at the Wednesday Meal Event, Wednesday, September 13, 2017, from 5:30 p.m. until 6:15 p.m. The menu includes Pasta Fagioli soup, Italian salad, Baked Ziti, mixed vegetables, and Bread Pudding with vanilla sauce.

Dine in or carry-out is available. Cost is \$9 per adult, \$3 for children three to 12 years old, and free for children under three. Proceeds will benefit the St. John's kitchen.

Please RSVP by Sunday, September 10, 2017 by calling the church office at (618) 656-1853 or emailing Donna Gardner at dmgardner@sbcglobal.net.

Book Group

The St. John's Book Discussion Group will be reading and discussing the book *Lilac Girls* by Martha Hall Kelly for the September selection. Inspired by actual events during World War II the book follows an American socialite, a Polish teenager sent to a concentration camp, and a young female German doctor whose lives are set on a collision course. The author weaves together their stories of bravery, cowardice, and cruelty.

Join us on Sunday, September 24, 2017, at 5:30 p.m. at Jeri Lampman's home for a potluck dinner and discussion. Please rsvp if you plan to attend via text at (618) 531-3183 or jerilampman@att.net.

Can you Help Bridge Bread

Bridge Bread is a wonderful ministry in St. Louis where homeless men and women learn job skills and develop a work history by working as bakers. St. John's sells Bridge Bread once a month, and all proceeds support the bakers and helping them start their new lives. We work with two area churches to coordinate schedules for picking up the bread and tasty treats. Our church coordinator, Amy Kerntke, recently moved out-of-state and Joann Eyster has kindly taken over organizing our sale days. She needs help to keep this important program offered at our church. Please consider helping by contacting Joann at (618) 444-8516 or joannmarti1@hotmail.com.

Online Directory

Did you know that St. John's has an online church directory? We do, and it is a great way to keep in touch with members of the St. John's church family! The directory is password-protected, and can only be accessed by those who are listed. You do NOT need to be a member of St. John's to be listed. If you would like to be listed, if your information has changed, or if you need instructions on how to access the directory, please contact the church office at (618) 656-1853 or email directory@thenewstjohns.com.

Upcoming Birthdays

September 3 Dustin Gholson
September 4 Connie Biesemeyer
 Brendan Colligan
September 5 Ashley Piper
 Allan Sellers
September 6 Jason Henderson
 Hazel Loucks
September 7 Frances Coldren
 Abby Schwent
 Marian Skinner
 Kristen Stahlheber
September 8 Hazel Pautz
September 9 Pam Dillon
 Steve Horrell
 Lainey Wieggers

UMCOR Help for Houston

The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) brings God's hope, healing, and renewal to people whose lives are disrupted by war, conflict, or natural disaster and provides humanitarian relief and disaster response to people in more than 80 countries around the world, including the United States. This Sunday, September 3, 2017, we will have a second offering to assist with the UMCOR Hurricane Harvey Relief Effort. Consider helping by making a donation titled "UMCOR" on your giving envelope, check, or notation online.

Our office will ensure your gift is sent immediately to UMCOR for relief assistance. 100% of all gifts go to direct assistance, and administrative costs are covered through other means. For more information please call the church office at (618) 656-1853.

Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Coffee Fellowship, FH, 8:30 -11 am Traditional Worship Service, MC, 9 am Sunday School, 10:05 am Contemporary Worship Service, MC, 11 am	LABOR DAY: OFFICE CLOSED	TWIGS Mobile Market, Granite City, 9 am UMW Wesley Circle, Room 105, 7 pm Children of Hope, Room 105, 7:30 pm	UMW Board Meeting, Room 105, 9 am UMW General Meeting, FH, Noon Organist Practice, MC, 2 pm Al-Anon, Room 105, 7:30 pm New Testament Study, Room 127, 6 pm Choir Practice, Choir Room, 7:30 pm	Covenant Group, Room 105, 8 am Open Walking, MC, 7:30 am World Religions, Room 105, 8:45 am Study Group, Room 105, 9:30 am Praise Band Practice, 6:30 pm	Visitation Team Meeting, Room 105, 9 am Narcotics Anonymous, FH, 8:15 pm	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Coffee Fellowship, FH, 8:30 -11 am Traditional Worship Service, MC, 9 am Sunday School, 10:05 am Contemporary Worship Service, MC, 11 am Salvation Army, Booth House, 3p Board of Trustees, Room 127, 4:30 pm Youth Group Pool Party, McGinnis' House, 6 pm	Open Walking, MC, 8:30 am Staff Meeting, Room 127, 9 am Library Team, Library, 9:30 am Bread for the World, First Presbyterian Church, Noon Cancer Support Group, Lampman's Home, 6:30 pm Boy Scouts, FH, 7 pm	Outreach Team, Room 127, 6:30 pm Children of Hope, Room 105, 7:30 pm	Wednesday Meal Prep, FH/Kitchen, Noon Organist Practice, MC, 2 pm Hospice So IL Grief Support Group, Room 105, 3 pm Wednesday Meal, FH/Kitchen, 5:30 pm New Testament Study, Room 127, 6 pm Quilting for God, Room 203, 6 p Al-Anon, Room 105, 7:30 pm Choir Practice, Choir Room, 7:30 pm Young Adult Journey Group, Room 202, 7:30 pm	Covenant Group, Room 105, 8 am Open Walking, MC, 7:30 am World Religions, Room 105, 8:45 am Study Group, Room 105, 9:30 am Taste of GGAR, Parking Lot, 4 pm Praise Band Practice, 6:30 pm	Narcotics Anonymous, FH, 8:15 pm	