



**ST. JOHN**  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

# PREVUES

St. John United Church of Christ Bellevue, Kentucky

May/June 2009

Volume 2009, Issue 3

## Pastor Keith's Korner

**W**hat does it mean to be the Church these days? I often wonder if what we do as the church of Jesus Christ today is what Jesus had in mind for his disciples when he called them/us. So much energy is spent on buildings and structures, organization and policies. Is this what Jesus meant for us? I struggle with these things because I am a component of such time constraining behavior as well as one who abhors it. It's easy to get caught up in such "church work" and lose site of Jesus' call to follow him.

I wonder what kind of congregation we might be if we didn't have a building to take care. Would we be more dedicated with our time to talk with God, worship, study the Bible, develop relationships, give and serve others? What if we met in a rented space that was energy efficient, handicap accessible and maintained by another owner? Would this free us to practice our vocation of discipleship: feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, and helping the poor? The real question for us is this: If we knew a different structure or form of church life would make a difference in our

devotion to God would we be willing to give up what we have and choose a new way of being church together? These are lots of questions to ponder.

You know as well as I do that local congregations of all denominations are struggling these days to survive. Maybe the purpose of the Church is not to survive but rather to constantly be reformed and transformed in order to share the good news of Jesus Christ in new ways so those outside may hear, experience and receive the power of God's love. What is Jesus calling us to today: survival or renewal?

See you at the Church House.

*Blessings,  
Pastor Keith*



## VISION STATEMENT

"We risk to extend the extravagant welcome of Jesus by creating accessibility, pursuing spiritual formation, and engaging with the broader community. We will fulfill this vision by providing discipleship training, enhancing our building, growing our resources, and developing our staff." This statement is our vision for SJUCC over the next five years, 2006 through 2010.

## Beautifying the Church

The landscaping helps make our church a beautiful spot in the neighborhood. This is due to the help of volunteers in the "Garden Club". Mary Ann Reilly has now taken on the task of planting and maintaining the flowers, and she is inviting others to volunteer. If you're interested in helping please contact her at Garden@StJohnChurch.net for more information.

## Friday Flicks

On the third Friday of the month the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, & Transgender Alliance Ministry will host a potluck supper and a movie. Please bring a potluck dish and some friends and enjoy a movie focused on GLBT issues and characters. The dinner begins at 6:30 p.m. and the movie will begin around 7:00 p.m. The movie on May 15<sup>th</sup> will be *Birdcage*. Upcoming Friday Flicks are June 19<sup>th</sup>; July 17<sup>th</sup>; August 21<sup>st</sup>; September 18<sup>th</sup>; October 16<sup>th</sup>; November 20<sup>th</sup>; and December 18<sup>th</sup>. Friday Flicks will be held in the Fellowship Hall (Room LL100). Use the Ward Avenue door.

## Pride 2009

The Cincinnati Gay Pride Festival (June 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup>) and Parade (June 14<sup>th</sup>) is coming. The Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Alliance Ministry (GLBTAM) is getting ready for St. John Church to be visible with a float, booth and as a sponsor. Everyone is needed and invited to participate and help. There is a sign up sheet on the Welcome Table in the back of the Church or you may contact Tom Miller at GLBT@StJohnChurch.net for more information.

Also: we need shelving for the ever growing GLBTAM Resource Center in room 201. If you have a bookcase you can donate contact Will Tackett.

## Youth Day of Service, Sharing, Silly

On Saturday May 9<sup>th</sup> the Youth Ministry will participate in assisting St. Paul United Church of Christ in Alexandria with meal preparation and serving at a local soup kitchen. Following this service time we will go out to eat and then bowling. We will be leaving from the St. John at 8:15 a.m. and returning at 8:30 p.m. The cost is \$3, however, funds are available if assistance is needed. Youth (ages 12 to 18) are encouraged to attend and all youth must submit a permission slip in order to participate. Permission may be obtained by contacting Doreen Johnson at YM@StJohnChurch.net for more information. Please let Doreen know by April 30<sup>th</sup> if you plan to go and are not a youth. This will allow for St. Paul to be prepared.

## Youth Slumber Party

The annual Youth Ministry Slumber Party will be held from 5:00 p.m. May 24<sup>th</sup> through noon May 25<sup>th</sup> at Church. After a sleepless night we will march in the Bellevue-Dayton Memorial Day Parade. All meals and activities will be provided for. Please bring any games, music or movies (G or PG 13) along with your clothing and sleeping gear. Any youth participants must be within the age of 12 to 18 and they must submit a permission slip in order to participate. Please contact Doreen Johnson at if you have any questions.

## Pancake Breakfast Fund Raisers

The Youth Ministry is planning a Pancake Breakfast fundraiser on the first Sunday of May 3<sup>rd</sup>, June 7<sup>th</sup>, September, October and November. They will be held from 8:20 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. before the worship service in Room LL100. The menu will be pancakes, sausage or bacon, orange juice and coffee.

### **Covenant Membership Class**

Becoming a member of the church is more than adding your name to a list. It is a matter of faith and covenant (promise) to and with a faith community and the universal church (Christ's body). There are two sessions, both of which you will need to attend to complete the class: Wednesday, May 20<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday, May 27<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Topics include: Welcome & Introduction to St. John United Church of Christ, Statement of Faith, Spirituality, Baptism, Holy Communion, Bible, Worship and more. The class meets in the Lounge (room 102). Please register by contacting Pastor Keith at (859) 261-2066 or [Pastor@StJohnChurch.net](mailto:Pastor@StJohnChurch.net) no later than Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup>. Childcare is provided if requested by May 10<sup>th</sup>.

### **Memorial Day Parade**

The Evangelism & Growth Committee will be hosting our church's entry in the Bellevue/Dayton Memorial Day Parade on Monday, May 25<sup>th</sup>. Please meet at the church at 9:00 a.m. to help decorate our parade entry. We will travel together to the parade gathering point in Dayton, KY before the official parade start time of 10:30 a.m. Wear your red St. John T-shirt or something red, if possible. There will be a sign-up sheet on the Welcome Table in the rear of the sanctuary. For more information, or if you have a truck we can drive in the parade, please contact Steve Phillip. Come join the fun and pride we experience marching together in this worthwhile community event!

### **Trip to Rubate, Kenya**

Alleyne Kess is travelling to the Rubate College in Kenya to serve through the Southwest Ohio Northern Kentucky Association of the United Church of Christ Global Mission Partners June 15<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup>, 2009. Six adults and six teens are going. The Justice, Peace & Mission Ministry of St. John ask that you consider making a donation to help support Alleyne. The cost is \$3,500. Make checks payable to St. John United Church of Christ and mark Global Mission Partner 2009 in the memo section.

### **Spiritual Formation Ministry**

The purpose of the Spiritual Formation Ministry of St. John United Church of Christ is to oversee, coordinate, organize, promote and enlist participation in the Children, Youth and Adult discipleship programs of the Church. To strengthen the spiritual well-being of Covenant Members and others through Christian education and formation experiences for all ages. This includes but is not limited to Kids Konnection, Kids Korner, Youth Ministry, Children's Ministry, Spiritual Growth Series, Bible Study and Teacher Training. The Spiritual Formation Ministry will utilize United Church of Christ related programs and resources appropriate to this ministry. Contact Jennifer McGraw [SFM@StJohnChurch.net](mailto:SFM@StJohnChurch.net) for more information.

### **Spring Rummage Sale**

The Spring Rummage Sale will be held on Saturday, May 2, from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Items for the sale may be placed on the stage in the Fellowship Hall no later than Thursday, April 30<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers are needed. Contact Steve Phillips with questions.

## Worship Through Music

On Sunday, June 21<sup>st</sup> St. John musicians will come together for an all-music worship service at 10:30 a.m. This service will include solos, ensembles, choir, instrumental, and impressionist music. The congregation will have the opportunity to make hymn selections and prayers and liturgy will be offered. Mark your calendar now for this special service featuring St. John musicians and congregational singing.

## National Gathering

“Growing Bold”, the United Church of Christ Coalition for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Concern National Gathering is June 22<sup>nd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> in Grand Rapids, MI, just before the UCC Synod. It will be held at the Crowne Plaza. The emphasis is exploring the fullness of Open and Affirming (ONA)—what it means in relation to other issues, how churches are living into ONA, HIV/AIDS, gender identity and gender expression. Be assured that allies are very welcome and encouraged to come to this event. The goal is to have at least one person from every ONA congregation of the UCC present. Plan now to come and to bring someone along. Registration is available at: [www.uccCoalition.org](http://www.uccCoalition.org)

## Every Sunday

Youth and Adults gather every Sunday to study the Bible in Room 102 at 9:00 a.m. You are invited to come and bring a friend. No prior Bible knowledge is needed. Enjoy the adventure of spiritual growth in the company of others who share in the faith journey with you. We use the curriculum “Living the Good News” which follows the Bible texts for each Sunday.

## 2009 Youth Confirmation Program

Three congregations of the United Church of Christ (UCC) come together for a Youth Confirmation Program in 2009. St. John – Bellevue, St. Mark – Covington and St. John’s – Newport youth will gather on Wednesdays from September 2009 through January 2010. No it’s not too early to be talking about this. The River Valley Covenant Cluster of the UCC will be forming a Youth Ministry out of this experience. Pray for this effort as we seek to reach out to our youth. If you would like to be part of the Confirmation Program contact Pastor Keith as soon as possible at (859) 261-2066 or [Pastor@StJohnChurch.net](mailto:Pastor@StJohnChurch.net). You do not need to have already been baptized to attend. Confirmation is a spiritual formation program to help youth affirm their faith, confirm their baptism and learn about the Christian faith as understood in the UCC.

## St. John on Facebook!

Of course, we mean our church and not the saint! The Webmaster is trying out new ways of outreach and communication, and Facebook ([www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com)) is a very popular website for connecting with people and groups. St. John now has an organization page on Facebook and we are using it to post announcements and events. You can find a link to our Facebook page at the lower left-hand corner of the church website ([www.StJohnChurch.net](http://www.StJohnChurch.net)), or you can go to the page directly from <http://tinyurl.com/stjohnchurch>. To join this page, you will need to create a Facebook account. We would be glad to hear your feedback about using these new technologies. Please contact Dale Sexton, [Webmaster@StJohnChurch.net](mailto:Webmaster@StJohnChurch.net) for more information.

**Financial Update  
Our Giving for February - March 2009:**

For any financial question you may contact:  
Treasurer Patrick McGraw at [Treasurer@StJohnChurch.net](mailto:Treasurer@StJohnChurch.net)  
or Financial Secretary Jim Myers at [FinSec@StJohnChurch.net](mailto:FinSec@StJohnChurch.net)

**Websites to Know & Visit:**

**St. John United Church of Christ - Bellevue:** [www.StJohnChurch.net](http://www.StJohnChurch.net)  
**St. John's United Church of Christ - Newport:** [www.stjohnsuccnewport.org](http://www.stjohnsuccnewport.org)  
**National United Church of Christ:** [www.ucc.org](http://www.ucc.org)  
**Southwest Ohio Northern Kentucky Association:** [www.sonkaucc.org](http://www.sonkaucc.org)  
**Ohio Conference:** [www.ocucc.org](http://www.ocucc.org)  
**River Valley Covenant Cluster:** [www.RiverValleyCovenantCluster.org](http://www.RiverValleyCovenantCluster.org)

<b>February 2009</b>	<b>Offering</b>	<b>Receipts +/-</b>	<b>YTD Total +/-</b>
02/01/09	\$2,086.00	-\$1,135.06	
02/08/09	\$3,064.28	-\$156.78	
02/15/09	\$3,344.00	+\$122.94	
02/22/09	\$2,477.51	-\$795.06	
	<b>\$10,920.28</b>	<b>-\$1,963.96</b>	<b>-\$5,970.69</b>
<b>March 2009</b>	<b>Offering</b>	<b>Receipts +/-</b>	<b>YTD Total +/-</b>
03/01/09	\$2,477.91	-\$743.15	
03/08/09	\$2,827.40	-\$393.66	
03/15/09	\$2,509.00	-\$712.06	
03/22/09	\$2,042.00	-\$1,179.06	
03/29/09	\$3,926.00	+\$704.94	
	<b>\$13,782.31</b>	<b>-\$2,322.99</b>	<b>-\$8,293.68</b>
<b>Attendance numbers</b>			
<b>February 2009</b>			
1st	77		
8th	79		
15th	76		
22nd	81		
<b>Average for February 2009: 78</b>			
<b>March 2009</b>			
1st	95		
8th	83		
15th	93		
22nd	71		
29th	89		
<b>Average for March 2009: 86</b>			

**UCC General Synod**

The Twenty-Seventh General Synod of the United Church of Christ is June 26<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup>, 2009, in Grand Rapids, Michigan. The theme is "Immerse yourself." In addition to the regular business of Synod, there also will be celebration: preachers to inspire us, music to touch our hearts, presentations to engage us;

plus workshops, drama, dance and family fun! General Synod provides an opportunity to immerse yourself in the breadth, depth, diversity, compassion and joy of the UCC family. Look for more information at [ucc.org/synod](http://ucc.org/synod).

THE CHURCH ON THE AVENUE



**ST. JOHN**  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

**520 Fairfield Avenue  
Bellevue, KY 41073**

NONPROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
NEWPORT, KY 41071  
PERMIT NO. 451

**SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE 10:30 A.M.**

Holy Communion First Sunday of Each Month

**STAFF**

The Rev. Mr. Keith M. Haithcock, Pastor & Teacher

Mr. Brad Caldwell, Director of Music

Ms. Kate Plapp, Administrative Assistant to the Pastor

**OFFICE PHONE & 24-HOUR VOICE MAIL:** (859) 261-2066

**WEBSITE:** [www.StJohnChurch.net](http://www.StJohnChurch.net)

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**EDITOR:** Keith M. Haithcock, [Pastor@StJohnChurch.net](mailto:Pastor@StJohnChurch.net)

Items for publication must be received by the 10th of the month. To subscribe or cancel, contact [Office@StJohnChurch.net](mailto:Office@StJohnChurch.net) or call (859) 261-2066.

**DESIGN & LAYOUT:** Jennifer Miles

**Address Service Requested**

**Missionary at St. John**

Did you know the definition of a missionary is “one who is sent”? Who does the sending?

Where are they sent? Why?

You will have the opportunity to discover the answer to these questions, and more, on May 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> at St. John Church, during two meetings with our missionary from South Africa, Susan Valiquette.

Susan is currently serving a four-year term with Inanda Seminary, Durbin, South Africa. She is Chaplain at the all-Zulu girls’ congregational boarding school. She also serves as the Director of the Fellowship of Vocations that helps inquirers, students, and interns discern if they have a call to ordained ministry. The Common Global Ministries Board of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ jointly appoint Susan.

It will be very exciting to hear, first hand,

about how our brothers and sisters in Africa live and discover their own spiritual journeys.

Susan will be at St. John United Church of Christ, 520 Fairfield Ave., Bellevue, KY for an informal meeting Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-8:00 p.m. in the lounge. Dessert and coffee will be provided.

Sunday, May 10<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 Susan will be leading the worship service, with a luncheon afterward in the fellowship hall where she will share a multi-media presentation. I hope to see you there either Saturday evening at 6:30 p.m. and/or Sunday morning at 10:30 a.m. to strengthen and continue our own “African Connection”!

“You will do well to send them on in a manner worthy of God; for they began their journey for the sake of Christ.” — 3John 1:6b-7a  
*Grace, Alleyness Justice, Peace and Mission Committee* [Mission2009@StJohnChurch.net](mailto:Mission2009@StJohnChurch.net)