PREVUES

THE MONTHLY E-NEWSLETTER OF ST. JOHN UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST - BELLEVUE KY

August 2016

From the Corner - "Happy Anniversary Friendship Center"

July 1, 2015 the *Friendship Center* at St. John United Church of Christ opened its doors. The *Outreach Missions Group* (OMG) of St. John Church has overseen this ministry through its first full year. The Friendship Center is for seniors, and other interested adults, in Bellevue and neighboring communities, to gather weekly on Wednesday to enjoy the company of friends, good conversation, refreshments, games, storytelling and engaging guest speakers.

Eileen Thornton (83), a resident of Covington, member of St. John Church and Recording Secretary of the OMG says that during this first year weekly attendance has averaged between 10 to 12 people. The biggest endeavor for the group is to reach more senior residents. There are hopes to schedule monthly speakers on topics of interest and possibly some "outings" to places of interest. On May 18th a free concert by a local artist attracted over 20. The reason Eileen attends is to meet people and enjoy the camaraderie, but mostly because it's fun. She says, "When I go I'm revitalized." Her son Mark (54) said, "It means, joy, humor, laughter, a lot of fun, good spirit, it's a club!"

Bob Epton (68) a resident of Bellevue, first noticed the Friendship Center signs in the yard, and thought, "I need to try and go there, I don't have a lot of friends." And so he has continued to come back for the past eight months. The Friendship Center is important to Bob now because he's made friends that are willing to help him and he is willing to help them as well. Bob says, "My best friend at the Friendship Center is Steve Phillips."

(continued on page 3)

Items for *The e-Weekly* are due electronically on Mondays.
Items for the *Prevues*, monthly e-newsletter, are due on the 10th of the prior month.
Email items for *The e-Weekly* and *Prevues* to Prevues@StJohnChurch.net.
Requests for the Prayer List are due on Mondays. **Email to** PrayerList@StJohnChurch.net.
Editor: Keith M. Haithcock, Publication Assistant: Debbie Cummings

Summer Sermon Series Continues

Pastor Keith will continue the summer sermon series titled "BE THE CHURCH" in August. This series will draw from the teachings of the Scriptures and the themes on the new United Church of Christ banner (see above) that lists many aspects of progressive Christianity which we value.

Pastor Keith and Rev. Ken Weidinger, Designated Pastor at Faith United Church of Christ (former student minister at St. John Church) have collaborated on this series. On Sunday, August 21st Ken and Keith will do a pulpit exchange and on Sunday, August 28th Faith Church and St. John Church will have a joint picnic at the city park behind Faith Church in Anderson Township (just 15 minutes from St. John Church). See these details on page 8. Plan to come together on Sundays in August and "BE THE CHURCH!"

Sunday Worship @ 10:30 a.m.

Pre-service Preparation Music begins at 10:20 a.m.

August Sermons

August 7th Keith M. Haithcock, "FIGHT FOR THE POWERLESS" – Proverbs 31.1-9; James 1.19-27
August 14th Keith M. Haithcock, "SHARE EARTHLY & SPIRITUAL RESOURCES" – Acts 4.32-37: Acts 8.27b-39
August 21st Ken Weidinger, "EMBRACE DIVERSITY" – Galatians 3.26-29; James 2.1-13
August 28th Keith M. Haithcock, "Love God & Enjoy This Life" – Deuteronomy 6.4-13

- **Read** the lesson for the day.
- **Invite** a friend, neighbor, or family member to come with you.
- **Pray** for all who will attend, the pastor, and other leaders of worship.
- **Enhance** your experience, sit toward the front and invite someone to sit with you.

(continued from page 1)

Steve (62), is a member of St. John Church and featured pianist and chair of the annual Music on the Avenue recital series. Bob and his wife Sylvia both feel at home with the whole group and he hopes the Friendship Center will grow and become active in the community.

Shirley Gregory, "a well-preserved senior citizen" and resident of Bellevue, heard about the Friendship Center from an ad in the *Bellevue Community News* and thought, "Oh, I'll go see what that's about." Shirley was looking to work with people and to make friends. Friendliness, learning new games, meeting different people and conversations are important to her. She says, "It's a place I can go, feel accepted, comfortable and joke with folks. As we celebrate our first year, I hope the Friendship Center continues to grow. They seek to welcome everyone no matter what you are facing in life."

All seniors, and other interested adults, are invited each Wednesday anytime between 2:00 and 5:00 p.m. There are no dues or fees but donations are always helpful. The building is fully accessible and air conditioned with parking off the alley behind the Church. The accessible door by the parking lot will be open, take the elevator to the lower level. For more information call 859.261.2066, press extension 206.

From the Corner is written by the Rev. Keith M. Haithcock, Pastor & Teacher of St. John United Church of Christ on the corner of Fairfield and Ward Avenues., Bellevue, KY
(Photo by www.jennifersummer.com)

Blessings to those who are celebrating this month!

August
- 3 Keith Haithcock
- 7 Doreen Johnson
- 8 David Hiser
- 15 Bobby Moreland
- 17 Dale Clark
- 19 Lorraine Arthur
- 22 Ed Stitt
- 24 Sandy (Guckiean) Showell
- Deana McReynolds
- 26 Carol Griffith
- 29 Penny Poirier
- 31 Tim Smith

August
- 1 Ed & Janet Ulsas
- 8 Alleyne Kess & Sarah Melcher
- 30 Tim Smith & Penny Poirier

August 10th deadline for blurbs for the September "Prevues" newsletter.
Please submit to: Prevues@StJohnChurch.net

August Calendar

Tuesday, August 2nd
1:30p Staff Meeting, Rm 101

Wednesday, August 3rd
7:47a Morning Prayer – Sanctuary
2:00p Friendship Center – LL100S

Thursday, August 4th
10:00a UCC Clergy Group, Church Parlor, Christ Church, 15 S. Ft. Thomas

Friday, August 5th
6:30p Open Table Communion, front sidewalk

Saturday, August 6th
10:00a Gary Scott graveside service Alexandria Cemetery 7 Spillman Dr. Alexandria, KY 41001

Sunday, August 7th
10:30a Worship with Communion & sign interpretation, Sanctuary
Sermon: "FIGHT FOR THE POWERLESS"
Proverbs 31.1-9; James 1.19-27

Tuesday, August 9th
1:30p Staff Meeting, Rm 101
4:30p Pastor – President meeting, Rm 101

Wednesday, August 10th
DEADLINE for September Prevues items
7:47a Morning Prayer – Sanctuary
2:00p Friendship Center – LL100S
5:30p Illumination Youth Ministries Sr. High & Middle School - First Christian Church Ft. Thomas (Disciples of Christ) 1031 Alexandria Pike, Ft. Thomas 859.441.8658

Thursday, August 11th
10:00a UCC Clergy Group, Church Parlor, Christ Church, 15 S. Ft. Thomas
3:00p Riverside Prayer Group, Rm 102

Sunday, August 14th
10:30a Worship - Sanctuary
Sermon: "SHARE EARTHLY & SPIRITUAL RESOURCES" Acts 4.32-37; Acts 8.27b-39; Psalm 65
4:00p Jelinek/Gatch wedding, Sanctuary

Tuesday, August 16th
1:30p Staff Meeting, Rm 101

Wednesday, August 17th
7:47a Morning Prayer, Sanctuary
2:00p Friendship Center, LL100S

Thursday, August 18th
10:00a UCC Clergy Group, Church Parlor, Christ Church, 15 S. Ft. Thomas

Friday, August 19th
5:30p Happy Prayer Group, Donna Hoffman's 539 S. Ft. Thomas Ave., Ft. Thomas

Sunday, August 21st
10:30a Worship, Sanctuary
Sermon: "EMBRACE DIVERSITY"
James 2.1-13; Revelation 7.9-17

Tuesday, August 23rd
1:30p Staff Meeting, Rm 101

Wednesday, August 24th
7:47a Morning Prayer, Sanctuary
2:00p Friendship Center, LL100S

Thursday, August 25th
10:00a UCC Clergy Group, Church Parlor, Christ Church, 15 S. Ft. Thomas
5:30p Strategic Leadership Council, Rm 102
7:30p Kids Konnection, Rm 102

Saturday, August 27th
11:30a Free Senior Meal, LL100S

Sunday, August 28th
10:30a Worship, Sanctuary
Sermon: "LOVE GOD & ENJOY THIS LIFE"
Deuteronomy 6.4-13; Mark 12.28-31; Ecclesiastics 8.14-15
12:00p Joint Church Picnic with Faith UCC Anderson Township (see page 8 for details)

Tuesday, August 30th
1:30p Staff Meeting, Rm 101

Wednesday, August 31st
7:47a Morning Prayer, Sanctuary
2:00p Friendship Center, LL100S

St. John Office Hours in August

Debbie Cummings, Administrative Assistant, will be in the office 8:00a to 4:00p on the following dates:

Tuesday, August 2nd – Friday, August 5th
Tuesday, August 9th – Wednesday, August 10th
Tuesday, August 16th - Thursday, August 18th
Tuesday, August 23rd - Wednesday, August 24th
Tuesday, August 30th – Wednesday, August 31st

Pastor on Vacation

Pastor Keith will be on vacation from August 30 thru September 6 including the Labor Day Holiday. If there is a pastoral need, hospitalization, or death, *please leave a voice mail at 859.261.2066 extension 202 with full details,* including phone numbers. Voice mail will be checked several times a day. The Pastor-On-Call will be contacted as soon as possible. If there is a critical emergency or death, Pastor Keith will be contacted.

OPEN TABLE – Communion on the Street

Friday, August 5th | 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. | Front sidewalk Fairfield Avenue
Offering Holy Communion to those on the street during Bellevue's first Fridays. If you would like to be part of the team of this outreach ministry contact Pastor Keith Haithcock at 859.261.2066, etc. 202 or Pastor@StJohnChurch.net

You can be part of this ministry too.
Contact Pastor Keith at 859.261.2066, ext. 202 or Pastor@StJohnChurch.net.
Visit http://www.shopbellevueky.com/calendar.php for upcoming events.

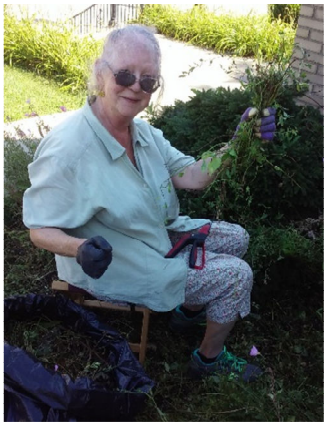
St. John Financial & Attendance for July (does not include July 31st)

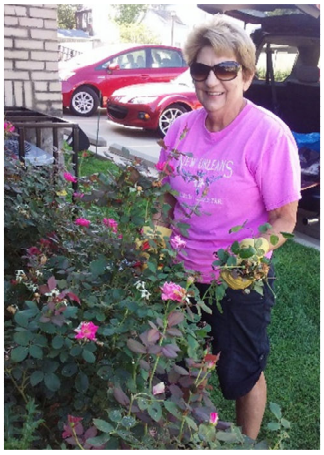
Offering Total: $13,849
Worship Attendance Average: 66
Year-to-date Worship Attendance Average: 72

Order your *BE THE CHURCH* t-shirt Today! $16 each
Deadline to order Sunday, August 7th.
Only pre-paid orders will be filled.

Place you order at the Welcome Table or mail your payment in before August 7th and indicate the size you need S, M, L, XL, XXL, XXXL.

Garden
Work Days
July 16th & 23rd





Thanks to Shirley, Jimmy, Theo Jan, Steve, Lonnie, David, Keith and Dale (those not pictured – Doug Baldridge, Karl Frey, Willie Tackett, Sandy Kerlin, Regis Nesbitt)
Join us next time!

Ringers wanted!

The handbell choir is looking for a few new ringers. No experience necessary. We can teach you anything you need to know. Rehearsals are Tuesday evenings at 6:30, and we play during service on the 3rd Sunday off the month. Rehearsals will begin for the fall on August 23rd. For more information contact Stephanie Dalsfoist, sdalsfoist@gmail.com or 513-708-0246.

Thank you…

to everyone who called, sent cards and prayers my way while I recovered from shoulder surgery. It's so good to be a part of a community that cares so deeply. Melissa Stephens

Thank you for your support

Your financial gift will be used to support Inanda Seminary in South Africa. Gifts like this are vital to Global Ministries as we walk together with international partners in God's global ministry.

Rev. Jane Sullivan-Davis, Global Ministries

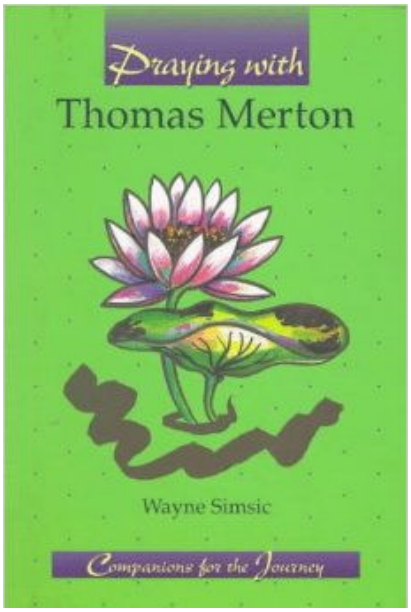
Security and Safety High Priorities for Strategic Leadership Council (SLC)

The Strategic Leadership Council is hard at work creating policies and procedures that will guide us in the future to be a more equitable, organized and effective organization. The first of these new procedures involves adherence to policies established by local law enforcement and the fire department. Louise Hall and Theo Baldwin toured the church building with local officials and discovered these easy, inexpensive ways to make our building more secure:

- provide a diagram of our building to police and fire departments
- number exterior doors so police and fire personnel know which door to enter in an emergency
- add a phone in the lounge and perhaps choir room so that all rooms have immediate access
- secure windows that law enforcement identified as potential break-in locations
- install batteries and lights in all alarm boxes

The SLC approved a proposal to hire Rich Wandstrat to make repairs to the wooden exterior doors, making them more secure. Rich will repair the doors and the center stabilizer bar so that the doors move and latch more easily. He will stain and re-paint the doors to match existing colors which will minimize the expanding and contracting of the wood. The doors will fit more securely in their frames. Discussion continues about possibly replacing the wooden doors.

Finally, the SLC will continue discussion regarding the role and function of worship service ushers and of groups meeting in the building to be proactive regarding the safety of people inside the building. This discussion involves the security of external doors, responding to medical emergencies, monitoring of keys/key cards and training for leaders and other individuals. More information to come as these decisions are made. Respectfully submitted - Melissa Stephens, SLC Member At-Large



You are Invited to the Happy Prayer Group…

Join us on the third Friday, August 19th at 5:30 p.m., at Donna Hoffman's home located at 539 S. Ft. Thomas Ave., Ft. Thomas. Donna will be cooking and grilling. Anyone is welcome please rsvp by August 12th sumytra@fioptics.com or 859.441.6882. The prayer meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m. and end at 9:30 p.m.

This is one of a number of St. John Church prayer groups. For the next several months we are using the book, "Praying with Thomas Merton" by Wayne Simsic. The book simply provides a point of conversation and reflection about prayer. Currently we meet in three different homes on a rotation basis. If you would like to participate please send an email to Keith Haithcock at Pastor@StJohnChurch.net and he will inform you of our next location. All are welcome to this informal gathering of fun, relaxation, conversation, support, reflection, and prayer.

All Church Picnic

This year's picnic will be with our sisters and brothers at Faith United Church of Christ in Anderson Township (Cincinnati) Ohio, just 15 minutes from St. John Church. Plan to bring the whole family. The event will be completely accessible, shade provided, and music by the Salsa Band from Faith Church.

Here are the basic things you need to know.

Date: Sunday, August 28th

Place: Faith United Church of Christ, 6886 Salem Road, Cincinnati, OH 45230

Time: We'll start about noon.

Theme: "Love God, Enjoy this Life"

What food to Bring: a Salad, or a Desert, or a Side dish to share and bring a lawn chair. (Faith Church will provide the main course and drinks, plates, cups, etc., and they will also have chairs)

How to get there from St. John Church:

DIRECTIONS
Take I-471 SOUTH to I-275 to Ohio.
When you cross the bridge exit at Kellogg Ave. Turn RIGHT.
Immediately get in your left lane and go to Sutton Road (light). Turn LEFT.
Go all the way up the hill to Salem Road (light). Turn RIGHT.
Go about a mile, FAITH CHURCH IS ON THE LEFT.

For more information contact Pastor Keith at Pastor@StJohnChurch.net or 859.261.2066, ext. 202.

Friendship Center!

Open every Wednesday from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m.
Fellowship Hall (lower level) at St. John United Church of Christ
Enter through the accessible door off the parking lot.

For adults and seniors
Games, crafts, conversation, social time, basic computer training, music, guest speakers, etc.
Share your talents and expertise.

For more information
Call 859.261.2066, ext. 206, and leave a message, or email OMG@StJohnChurch.net

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Sunday after Church Social

Immediately after worship
On select Sundays we offer a simple variety of refreshments.
Volunteers are needed to prepare and serve refreshments.

Table Setting Supplies are provided

Be part of the team
Share your culinary abilities with your Church, something light and simple is best.
A reimbursement for food of up to $25 is offered if needed.

Sign Up Today
If you are interested in volunteering contact Bruce Horn at bbobbyh55@gmail.com or 513.608.5331 or sign up at the Welcome Table in the back of the worship space.

Free Senior Meal & Social

The last Saturday of each month from 11:30a to 2:00p
Fellowship Hall (lower level) at St. John United Church of Christ
Enter through the accessible door off the parking lot.

Nutritious meals for senior adults.
Meet new friends, enjoy fun, laughter, games and more.

Serving seniors from all communities.
Invite a friend to come with you.

Reservations
Not required but helpful. Please call 859.261.2066, ext. 206 and leave a message with your name, phone number, and size of your party.

Save the Date

BRIGHTON CENTER
A COMMUNITY OF SUPPORT

Click Here For Tickets

WEEKLY BIBLE ENCOUNTER
BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 11TH

An encounter for Adults and Youth
Sundays @ 9:00 a.m. Room 102

The purpose of the Weekly Bible Encounter is:
To encounter the Bible through prayer, reading, study, scholarship and inquisitive community.

Led by a team of clergy on a rotating schedule.
Invite a friend to come with you! Previous Bible knowledge or experience is not required.

Kids Konnection Begins (ages 1st thru 5th grade)

Most of us at St. John Church do not have young children. But, just because your children are grown or you don't have children of your own does not mean you do not know children who could be a part of Kids Konnection at St. John Church!

It takes a congregation to raise a child in the faith. Every time we baptize or confirm a child we vow "to love, support, and care for that child as they grow in Christ". You have a spiritual obligation to offer a spiritual environment from which a child may grow in faith.

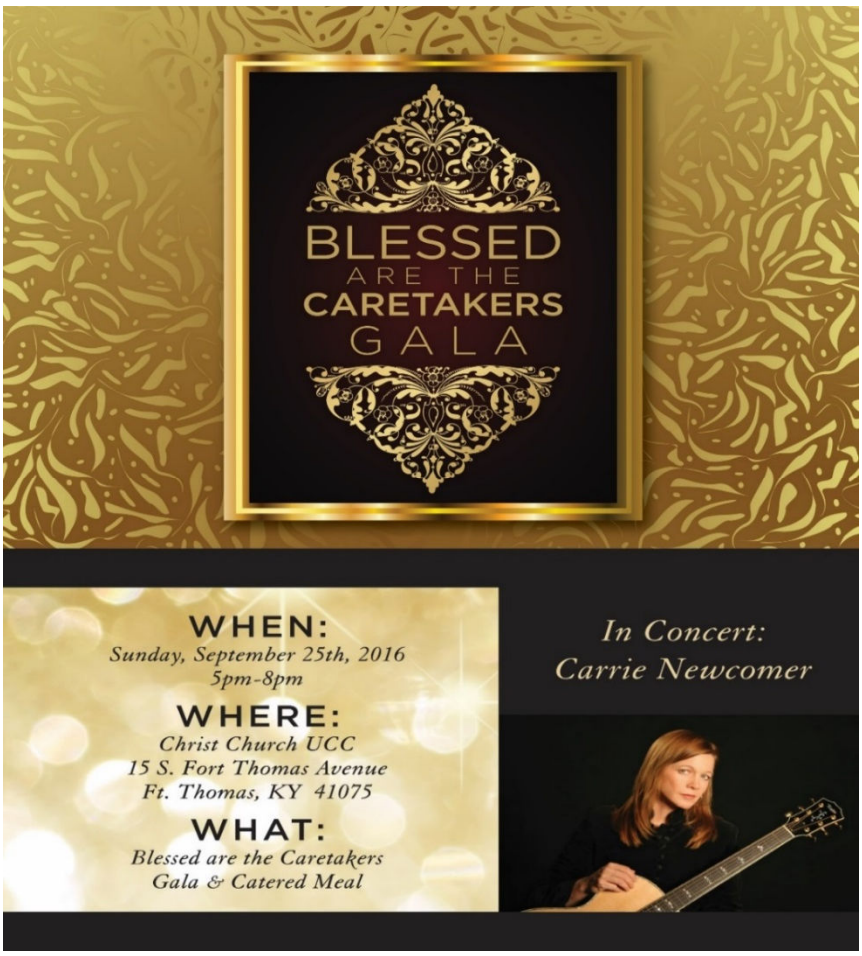
You could make the difference by
IDENTIFYING THE CHILDREN IN YOUR LIFE
And invite them to the
KIDS KONNECTION KICK OFF
Sunday, September 11th, 10:30 a.m.

If we are going to have a children's ministry then we need children – the children in your life!

For more information contact Pastor@StJohnChurch.net or call 859.261.2066, ext. 202.

Blessed are the Caretakers GALA

The United Church of Christ congregations of Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky invite those who are caretakers in our churches to the inaugural *Blessed Are the Caretakers Gala* celebrating and honoring those who care for their loved ones. We invite you to a catered meal and a world class musical performance by Carrie Newcomer. If you care for a parent, disabled child, ill spouse, or a friend, we invite you to call (859.635.9394) or email darlene@stpaulsalexandria.org to get your free ticket now.



To order your free ticket online click here: https://stjohnchurch.net/caretakers
There is no cost for either the meal or the concert to those who call for a ticket. All tickets are on a first come basis until we are run out. Should you have any questions about whether you fit the criteria or if you are not a caretaker but would like to volunteer to serve the night of the event, please speak with your pastor.

Pastor's Newcomers' Open House

Tuesday November 8th | 7:00 p.m. | Pastor Keith's home, 15 Custis Ave, Ft. Thomas, KY 41075
Pastor Keith would like to invite everyone who is a newcomer at St. John within the past year to an Open House at his home. Please indicate your interest on your Information Card or contact Pastor Keith at 859.261.2066, ext. 202 or Pastor@StJohnChurch.net. by Sunday, September 11th.

Covenant Membership Class

Saturday, November 12th | 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. | Room 102 (Lunch at a restaurant on the Avenue)
If you have been attending for some time we invite you to participate in our upcoming class. Please register by contacting Debbie Cummings at office@stjohnchurch.net or 859.261.2066 ext. 202. Attending this class does not obligate you to become a member.