PREVUES

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

January 2017

THE CHURCH ON THE AVENUE
ST. JOHN
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Fill the Box in January

Brighton Center is a non-profit organization on a mission to create opportunities for individuals and families to reach self-sufficiency through family support services, education, employment, and leadership. During the month of January 2017 the St. John Church Outreach Missions Group (OMG) invites the congregation to donate new baby and toddler supplies. Items collected will be delivered to the Northern Kentucky Scholar House. Scholar House is a comprehensive self-sufficiency Brighton Center program for single parent families that provides affordable housing, child development services, and case management support as residents pursue a degree in higher education. Look for the donation box in the back of the Sanctuary. For more information contact Willie Tackett willtackett@gmail.com or call 859.261.2066 ext. 206 or contact any OMG member: Bruce Horn, Bob Epton, Eileen Thornton, Steve Phillips or Carol Griffith.

ITEMS NEEDED:

- ***Diapers***
- ***Bottles***
- ***Blankets***
- ***Baby food***
- ***Clothing (newborn-toddler)***
- ***Pacifiers, teething rings, etc.***
- ***Toys (age appropriate for babies and toddlers)***
- ***Cash or Checks (payable to St. John United Church of Christ, Memo: Scholar House)***

Neighbors, Members, Regular Attendees, Friends and All are Invited to…

Kids Konnection

Sundays at 10:30a (grades 1st thru 5th)

A multi-age-level interactive class that meets on the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Sundays of each month.
Classes help kids learn about God's love and the Bible lessons about Jesus.

A criminal background check for leaders is required and two adults are always present in class.
Contact Pastor@StJohnChurch.net or call 859.261.2066.

Sunday Worship in January @ 10:30 a.m.

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

Sermons:

January 1st, Matthew 25.31-46
January 8th Dean Griffith, "JUSTICE & POWER, CONTROL & FEAR",
Isaiah 42.1-9, Psalm 29, Acts 10.34-43, Matthew 3.13-17
January 15th Keith M. Haithcock, "THE ONE FAMILY OF GOD",
Amos 5.18-24, Galatians 3.23-39, Luke 6.27-36
January 22nd Keith M. Haithcock, "CALLED TOGETHER", Matthew 4.12-23
January 29th Keith M. Haithcock, "The Vision Beautiful", Matthew 5.1-12

- **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.

WEEKLY BIBLE ENCOUNTER

An encounter for Adults and Youth on 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.
No Bible Class January 1st.
Invite a friend to come with you! Previous Bible knowledge or experience is not required.

January 10th deadline for blurbs for the **February** "Prevues" newsletter.
Please submit to: Prevues@StJohnChurch.net

Items for the *Prevues*, monthly e-newsletter, are due on the 10th of the prior month.
All repeat items should be revised monthly.
Email items for *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

Music on the Avenue
18th Annual Recital Series

Free to the Public!

February 3, 2017 - 8 pm
Songs from around the world
Cincinnati Children's Choir

February 10, 2017 - 8 pm
Tribute to Rosemary Clooney
Nancy James, jazz vocals
(with string bass and piano accompaniment)

February 17, 2017 - 8 pm
Treasures from the late 16th to early 18th centuries
Rod Stucky and Chris Wilke
Classical music for Baroque guitar and lute

February 24 2017 - 8 pm
Favorites by Mendelssohn & Dvorak
Phillips-Hofeldt Piano Trio
Classical piano, violin, and cello

March 3, 2017 - 8 pm
Jazz, Motown, and classic vocal pop
No Promises
Eight-man a cappella vocal ensemble

Please consider a donation to *Music on the Avenue*!

Please return this form with your donation by January 9, 2017 in order to appear in the program.
Checks should be payable to **St. John United Church of Christ**
(designate **Recital Series** in the check memo).

For online giving, go to https://stjohnchurch.net/grow, check "For a Mission" under Type of Gift, then select ***Music on the Avenue*** from the drop-down list of Missions.

Major Donor	Cornerstone Fund	$500+
Featured Sponsor	Recital Sponsor	$250 - $499
Friend of Music on the Avenue	Gold Level Silver Level Bronze Level	$150 - $249 $75 - $149 $25 - $74

Please list **Donor Name** as _____
Address _____
Phone Number _____ Email _____

Contact Steve Phillips with questions at 859-803-3830 or via e-mail at "stephen.phillips2014@icloud.com".

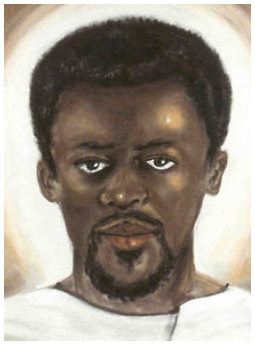
From the Corner
Dream

While driving to the office the other day the car in front of me had a bumper sticker that read, "JESUS: Foreign Parents, Brown Skinned, Anti-War, Socialist, Gave Away Free Healthcare." This is not the first bumper sticker that has said such things about Jesus. But it kind of woke me up to the reality of what we think about who Jesus was/is and what would Jesus do if he were in our situation. Often the answer to that question is as simple as a bumper sticker. Not easy, but simple.

I love New Years. We get to press the "Do Over" button of our life's computer. It's a time to reup or renew the agreements we've made with ourselves and others as to how we will live our lives, what we will accomplish and who we will become. It is a time to begin anew. The Bible has a word for this, it's called repentance. The word repentance simply means to turn around. When we find ourselves going in a direction that is taking us down a road we don't want to be on, we turn around and set our life's GPS not for just a new destination but a new journey altogether.

As I reflect on the past year I feel a sadness in my heart that our flag represents one nation, free and under God and yet race, skin color, family origin, sexual identity and faith still wrench us.

Martin Luther King, Jr. said, "Like life, racial understanding is not something that we find but something that we must create. And so the ability of [blacks] and whites to work together, to understand each other, will not be found readymade; it must be created by the fact of contact."
(*The Words of Martin Luther King, Jr.* 1996 Newmark Press, New York. p. 33.)



Jesus was born of foreign parents, they were not American and some would say his father was from another realm. Despite the classic artists' depictions of Jesus, his skin was most likely not white, and some believe he was black. He was a teacher of peace and sharing, not hoarding resources putting us in the divide of the 1% and the 99% of the economic world, but rather sharing, like our mothers and fathers taught us. And Jesus believed in free healthcare. As I say to my friends who call me a liberal, "I'm not as liberal as Jesus, but I'm working on it."

How will your life be different in the New Year? How will you wake up, work, share and live with others? Will you turn around to create a different journey with God and others or just do the status quo over again? Will you push the "Do Over" button to dream and create with God a better life and a better world by making contact and understanding those who are different than yourself?

Make it a Happy New Year!

Pastor Keith

Welcome New Covenant Members…

Mike Delaney has 3 daughters and 4 grandchildren. Exercises frequently and returning to complete certification of Chaplaincy. Also, may do some high school softball umpiring in 2017.

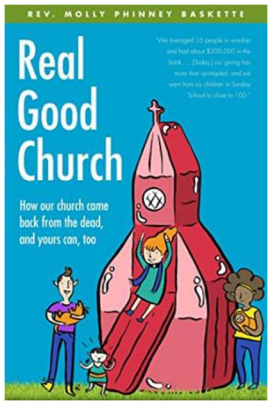
Jeff Draper was in the Marines for 30 years, married for 26 years, four children, lived in Washington, Virginia, California, Indiana, New Orleans, Africa and now Kentucky.

Cherie Draper is married with four children (children living at home: Bennet, Grayson, Jared, Nathan). Military spouse, previous counselor for military families, homeschool parent. Has moved 22 times, lived in Michigan, Washington, Oregon, Virginia, California, Indiana, and Kentucky. Travels, reads and has an intense interest in puzzles and movies.

"Just For Them" Brain Storm Session

Sunday, January 29th

11:45a to 12:45p following worship in room 102 (Lounge)



The Open Table group has been asked by the Strategic Leadership Council (SLC) to hold an Initial brain storming session to begin to come up with simple ideas to expand what has been Open Table Communion during Bellevue's First Fridays to a more "Just For Them" (those outside of the Church) event that will better engage those walking Fairfield Ave. on First Fridays. This session will be fast pass and focused on simple and easy-to-do monthly events between April and October. A sample of a simple event might be to host a free photo booth, or hand out a small bag of home-made cookies to those who pass by.

This is one of the SLC's goals for 2016/17. Come help us achieve this goal, grow the Church and build relationships within our community so they may come to "understand us the way we understand ourselves". Everyone is invited to participate.

If you have questions contact Pastor Keith at Pastor@StJohnChurch.net or 859.261.2066, ext. 202.

(Note: A "Just for Them" event is one of the ideas that came from our "Real Good Church" book study by author, Molly Baskette)

Pastor on Vacation – January 3 thru 11

Pastor Keith will be away for vacation and Christmas Day and New Year's Day holidays from January 3 thru January 11. 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 Congregational Care Team or Pastor-On-Call will be contacted as soon as possible. If there is a critical emergency or death, Pastor Keith will be notified.

St. John Office Hours change for the week of January 8th

The week of January 8th Debbie Cummings, Administrative Assistant to the Pastor, will be in the office Wednesday, January 11th and Thursday, January 12th 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

UPDATE Christmas Shoppe and Winter Rummage Sale!

A BIG hug of thanks to all who donated to our Christmas Shoppe and rummage sale that raised $1,704.75. Our workers gave many hours and they are all appreciated!

Handbell Choir

Have you heard the Handbell Choir play? Have you thought to yourself "I wish I could do that"? Well now is your chance! The Handbell Choir is in need of a few new ringers. No experience is necessary, if you can count a steady beat, we can teach you everything else! Rehearsals are on Tuesday evenings at 6:30, and we play during the service on the 3rd Sunday of the month. Rehearsals will begin again on January 24th. For more information contact Stephanie Dalsfoist, sdalsfoist@gmail.com or 513.708.0246.

Help Needed!

Acolyte

If you are in fifth grade or older (including adults) and would like to serve as an Acolyte (candle lighter) for worship services contact Pastor Keith at 859.261.2066, ext. 202 or Pastor@StJohnChurch.net. Training will be provided.

Ushers & Greeters

We need Ushers/Greeters for the first, third and fifth Sundays of the month. If you are interested in being part of this ministry of hospitality please contact Pastor Keith at 859.261.2066 ext. 202 or Pastor@StJohnChurch.net as soon as possible.

St. John Financial & Attendance for December

Offering Total: $14,067
Worship Attendance Average: 66
Year-to-date Worship Attendance Average: 71

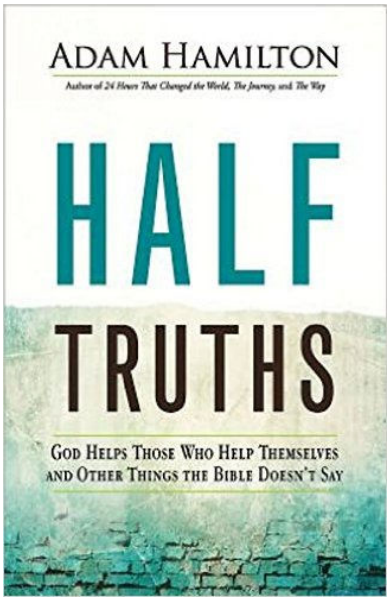
Blessings to those who are celebrating this month!

January Birthdays

1 Pat Giglia
2 Marlene Vossmeyer
3 Bruce Horn
4 Sandy Ruck
5 Codi Kindoll
13 Charles Giglia
15 Marc Bruin
22 Katherine Casteel
22 Marlene Hayes
Tom Vossmeyer
25 Nancy Haigh
26 Chelsea Clemons
28 James Colding
29 Joe Cox

January Anniversaries

27 Karl Frey & Doug Baldridge
29 Daniel Hoffman & Codi Kindoll



2017 Lenten Study

Half Truths

God Helps Those Who Help Themselves and Other Things the Bible Doesn't Say

By Adam Hamilton

A Five-Week study group for Youth & Adults

Wednesdays:
March 8, 15, 22, 29, and April 5
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Room 102 (Lounge)

Facilitator: Keith Haithcock

Each session will last up to 2 hours and include Bible study, book discussion, engaging DVD clips, and community building.

True or false:

1. Everything happens for a reason.
2. God helps those who help themselves.
3. God won't give you more than you can handle.
4. God said it, I believe it that settles it.
5. Love the sinner, hate the sin.

All true? Not so fast. We've heard these phrases all of our lives, but in Adam Hamilton's new book, Half Truths, you'll learn that although they capture some element of truth, when compared to the wisdom found in Scripture, they're really just popular sayings.

Order book by February 19, 2017 at the Welcome Table in the rear of the Sanctuary or online at https://stjohnchurch.net/pastors-book-club. Payment ($16, subject to change) must accompany your book order. Make checks payable to *St. John United Church of Christ*. Memo: *Lenten Study.*

Watch the promo video at: https://www.cokesbury.com/product/9781501813870/half-truths/

Nativity 2016 Evaluation Session

Sunday, January 22nd
11:45a to 12:45p following worship in room 102 (Lounge)

Everyone who served on the 2016 Nativity team is asked to attend a Nativity 2016 evaluation session following worship on Sunday, January 22nd. This session will involve making suggestions for our new Nativity Manual as well as ways to improve and stream line the process, communication needs, supply needs, etc., and selecting our team leaders for 2017. If you were not on this year's team but want to know how you can help this would be a good session to attend to learn what is involved in presenting this ministry each year. Everyone is welcome to attend. If you have questions contact Pastor Keith at Pastor@StJohnChurch.net or 859.261.2066, ext. 202.

Financial Snapshot

On November 28th, about 20 folks discussed the financial situation of St. John United Church of Christ. Allow me to share the discussion with you.

We celebrated that the number of families that pledged is up and the total amount pledged is also up. Last fiscal year 47 families pledged $136,486; this year 53 families have pledged to give $143,686. This is great news! It's wonderful that more people are committing to the ongoing sustainability of the mission of St. John, but also that some folks increased their giving because they experience joy and peace in supporting the mission with their finances.

We examined the balance as of November 17th, of all of our financial assets. There are five (5) bank accounts that are managed by the Strategic Leadership Council: the main checking account from which we pay the bills, the Memorial Fund, a savings account out of which we pay for unbudgeted items like the Christmas flowers and the new chairs, the UCC Invested fund is invested in the market and this fund is historically used to fund special projects like accessible upgrades and to pay bills when our checking account falls behind.

There are two other funds that are new due to the generous bequeath from Jeannette Ludwig. It was from these funds that the air conditioning, elevator and media center were paid. The Strategic Leadership Council voted in our November meeting to charge the newly formed Investment Committee, Tim Smith, Pat Giglia and Dean Griffith, with strategically placing $101,000 of the Ludwig funds in the market to promote growth. They will keep the SLC abreast of their progress.

The gathering at the Financial Snapshot luncheon then took a sobering look at 1st Quarter income and expenses for the organization. Historically, the SLC has to draw down funds from the UCC investment fund to cover expenses. Current projections, based on income and expense suggest that we may need to do that in early 2017.

The Stewardship Committee, Dale Clark, Keith Haithcock and myself, asked the group gathered around the table for their ideas about how we could avoid filling the deficit gap with invested funds. We are asking you the same question. If you have suggestions for how to make our organization sustainable, please submit them to Melissa Stephens Melissasuestephens@gmail.com, Pastor Keith Pastor@StJohnChurch.net, or Dale Treasurer@StJohnChurch.net. We will begin the budget process in January and your input is highly valued. You are invited to another Financial Snapshot luncheon in the first 3rd Quarter of our Fiscal Year to continue this important conversation.

In hope and faith, Melissa Stephens

Thank you for all the prayers, thoughts, cards, and calls due to the recent death of my sister Alice Rowland.

Diane Cottingham

Cub Scouts Come to Bellevue at St. John Church

Back in April 2016 I received an email from Adam Clinkenbeard, a native of Bellevue, asking if our congregation might be interested in being the Charter Organization of a new and needed Cub Scout pack that would serve the Bellevue, Dayton and communities beyond. I met with both Adam, Assistant District Commissioner – Trailblazer District of the Dan Beard Council of the Boy Scouts and Ben Adelman, the District Executive at Boy Scouts of America – Dan Beard Council. Ben, like Adam, was a Cub Scout and a Boy Scout. As he says, he's now a "professional Boy Scout". As a scout, Ben attended Cub and Boy Scout programs at a United Church of Christ congregation and knows our denomination well.

I walked Ben and Adam through the St. John Church house and they were very happy what they saw. Ben and Adam were both exceptionally excited that St. John Church was accessible to all persons (including children) with disabilities and that we are an Open and Affirming congregation that welcomes LGBTQ persons. Ben and Adam both met with the Strategic Leadership Council (SLC) for further information sharing and questions.

On Thursday, December 15th the SLC voted unanimously, and with much excitement, to become the Charter Organization for a new Cub Scout pack in Bellevue/Dayton and the surrounding area. It has been many years since our communities have had such a pack. This is a great opportunity to have a lifelong impact on boy's lives and to have contact with families with elementary age children right here in our community. As Ben and Adam explained to the SLC and myself, as the Charter Organization we have the opportunity to be as involved and engage with our Cub Scout pack as much or as little as we want. This could include members of St. John Church volunteering to be leaders in the pack, hosting a Scouting Sunday, work projects around the Church house, laying mulch in the Church yard, a special meal for Cub Scouts and their families, etc.

We've been praying for a Children's ministry at St. John Church. I believe God has opened this door to us. I pray we will step through it with as much energy and involvement as possible.

If you have an interest in working with our Cub Scout pack contact Pastor Keith right away. We hope that the new pack will be up and running soon after Labor Day.

You are invited to read more about the Cub Scouts at their official website https://cubscouts.org/ including a video on their leadership policy: http://scoutingnewsroom.org/blog/boy-scouts-of-america-amends-adult-leadership-policy/.

Pastor Keith, Cub Scout, Boy Scout, and Pastor & Teacher

Pray that God will guide our nation's leaders.

O God, our Creator, we give thanks for the privilege to express our love for neighbor with our vote. We pray for unity and healing in our country and the world. We pray especially for the newly elected leaders to political offices in our country. Grant them integrity and wisdom to serve the common good and to provide help and opportunity to people in need. Encourage us as we work with them to achieve the progress against hunger which we know is possible. In the name of Christ, we pray. **Amen.**

(From Bread for the World Nov-Dec2016 newsletter. www.bread.org.)

January Calendar

Sunday, January 1st
8:45a Choir Rehearsal, Rm 203
NO Weekly Bible Encounter Class
10:30a Worship with Communion & sign interpretation, Sanctuary
Matthew 25.31-46

Wednesday, January 4th
7:47a Morning Prayer, Sanctuary
2:00p Friendship Center, LL100S
5:30p Illumination Youth Ministries Sr. High & Middle School dinner served- Christ Church 15 S. Ft. Thomas Ave.

Thursday, January 5th
10:00a UCC Clergy Group, Church Parlor, Christ Church, 15 S. Ft. Thomas

Sunday, January 8th
8:45a Choir Rehearsal, Rm 203
9:00a Weekly Bible Encounter Class, Rm 102
10:30a Worship, Sanctuary
Sermon: "JUSTICE & POWER, CONTROL & FEAR"
Isaiah 42.1-9, Psalm 29, Acts 10.34-43, Matthew 3.13-17
10:40a Kids Konnection, Rm 202

Tuesday, January 10th
DEADLINE February Prevues items

Wednesday, January 11th
7:47a Morning Prayer, Sanctuary
2:00p Friendship Center, LL100S
5:30p Illumination Youth Ministries Sr. High & Middle School dinner served- Christ Church 15 S. Ft. Thomas Ave.

Thursday, January 12th
8:00a Staff Meeting, Rm 101
10:00a UCC Clergy Group, Church Parlor, Christ Church, 15 S. Ft. Thomas
3:00p Riverside Prayer Group, Rm 102
5:15p Youth Advisory Board, Christ Church 15 S. Ft. Thomas

Sunday, January 15th
8:45a Choir Rehearsal, Rm 203
9:00a Weekly Bible Encounter Class, Rm 102
10:30a Worship, Sanctuary
New Covenant Members received
Sermon: "THE ONE FAMILY OF GOD
Amos 5.18-24, Galatians 3.23-39, Luke 6.27-36
10:40a Kids Konnection, Rm 202

Monday, January 16th
Martin Luther King Day

Tuesday, January 17th
1:30p Staff Meeting, Rm 101

Wednesday, January 18th
7:47a Morning Prayer, Sanctuary
2:00p Friendship Center, LL100S

Thursday, January 19th
10:00a UCC Clergy Group, Church Parlor, Christ Church, 15 S. Ft. Thomas

Friday, January 20th
8:15a Staff Meeting, Rm 101

Saturday, January 21st
10:00a Variety Show Meeting, Rm 102

Sunday, January 22nd
8:45a Choir Rehearsal, Rm 203
9:00a Weekly Bible Encounter Class, Rm 102
10:30a Worship, Sanctuary
Sermon: "CALLED TOGETHER"
Matthew 4.12-23
10:40a Kids Konnection, Rm 202
11:45a Nativity 2016 Evaluation Session, Rm 102

Tuesday, January 24th
1:30p Staff Meeting, Rm 101
6:30p Handbell Rehearsal, Rm 203

Wednesday, January 25th
7:47a Morning Prayer, Sanctuary
2:00p Friendship Center, LL100S

Thursday, January 26th
10:00a UCC Clergy Group, Church Parlor, Christ Church, 15 S. Ft. Thomas
5:30p Strategic Leadership Council, Rm 102

Saturday, January 28th
11:30a Senior Meal, LL100
Sunday, January 29th
8:45a Choir Rehearsal, Rm 203
9:00a Weekly Bible Encounter Class, Rm 102
10:30a Worship, Sanctuary
Sermon: "THE VISION BEAUTIFUL"
Matthew 5.1-12
11:45a "Just for Them" First Friday Brain Storm Session, Rm 102
Tuesday, January 31st
1:30p Staff Meeting, Rm 101
6:30p Handbell Rehearsal, Rm 203

From the Community

Gift Shop Volunteers

St. Elizabeth Gift shops are not only a great place to shop but also a great place to volunteer! Whether assisting in finding the perfect "get well" gift or helping find a yummy snack, your smiling face and kind words will brighten someone's day. If you are interested in joining our team of volunteers please call Volunteer Services at 859.301.2140 or email volunteer@stelizabeth.com If the Gift shop is not the right volunteer opportunity for you, we have many other positions that allow you to impact the patient experience at St. Elizabeth!

For more information contact us directly:

St. John United Church of Christ

520 Fairfield Avenue, Bellevue, KY. 41073 859.261.2066

Website - http://StJohnChurch.net Facebook.com/StJohnUCC

MINISTERS

The whole congregation

PASTOR

Keith M. Haithcock, Pastor & Teacher

(Typical Office Hours: Tuesdays & Wednesdays 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.)

– Always available by appointment – Pastor@StJohnChurch.net; phone extension 202

VOLUNTEER IN RESIDENCE CLERGY

Sue Jelinek, Chaplain in Residence; sue.jelinek@cchmc.org; 513.681.4631

PROFESSIONAL & SUPPORT STAFF

Steve Milloy, Keyboard Musician & Choir Director; smilloy738@aol.com

Debbie Cummings, Administrative Assistant to the Pastor

Office@StJohnChurch.net; phone extension 201

(Office Hours: Tuesdays & Wednesdays 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.)

Linda Schuster, Data Coordinator

Data@StJohnChurch.net

Alicia C. Taylor-Byers, Interim Illumination Youth Ministries Coordinator

aliciataylorbyers@hotmail.com 859.609.0814

Luis Hernandez, House Keeper

(Cleaning Hours: Fridays 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. & Saturdays 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.)

STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP COUNCIL (SLC)

Louise Hall, President wlmm372@hotmail.com 513.481.5917

Steve Howes, President Elect howesfam5@aol.com 859.279.3407

Theo Baldwin, Recording Secretary TheoBaldwin@aol.com - 859.581.0493

Dale Sexton, Treasurer Treasurer@StJohnChurch.net - 859.581.0493

Lonnie Fields, Member at Large flds7@aol.com 513.481.5917

Melissa Stephens, Member at Large Melissasuestephens@gmail.com - 859.802.2745

OUTREACH MISSIONS GROUP (OMG)

OMG@StJohnChurch.net

St. John United Church of Christ is proud to provide outreach to the following organizations:

Illumination Youth Group

BRIGHTON CENTER
A COMMUNITY OF SUPPORT

Washington
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
Cincinnati, Ohio

Our Church's Wider Mission
God is still speaking,
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

Durban, South Africa

Rubate Hospital - Kenya Africa