



First St. John Journal



Volume 24, Issue 8

August, 2011

A man named Jerry Smith used to work as a builder in the Black Hills area of South Dakota. It was in the 1980s, and some major forest fires had been ripping up the area.

One day, he stopped at a fast food restaurant for breakfast. As he was eating, a teenaged boy and girl came in with their parents, all looking as if the end of the world had arrived. The mother began to tell anyone who would listen how a forest ranger roused her family from their campsite in the middle of the night. He told them they were in a danger zone for the fire. "Get in your car and leave immediately," he'd ordered. "Do not gather your belongings, just head east to the main highway."

"We had planned and saved for this camping trip for years," the mother lamented. "It's just terrible. Our vacation is ruined!"

A short time later, another family came into the restaurant— a mom, dad, two boys and a girl. They were all smiling, laughing, and in good spirits. They sat near Jerry, and the mother began recounting a familiar tale. "We were amazed at the way the ranger took control of a difficult and dangerous situation," she began.

"We scrambled to get dressed and out in a hurry. I was barefoot, my daughter was wearing my husband's boots, and the boys were in their socks! What an amazing experience it was," she exclaimed. "This is a great vacation we're having, and we will remember it forever!"

— from *Bits & Pieces*

An optimist is one who sees an opportunity in every difficulty. A pessimist is one who sees a difficulty in every opportunity. As God's people, forgiven and redeemed for eternity by Christ, we have reason to be optimistic as we continue to celebrate 150 years of being God's people in east Toledo and Oregon!

— *Pastor Blohm*

COMPANY IS COMING! WELCOME

On Sunday, August 28th we will have a special service welcoming our Dayschool families, many who have never been in our church before. We are working hard to make this celebration service very special and meaningful so they will feel the love of Christ and want to continue to worship with us. To make this day a success, we are asking for your help. Please consider helping out in the following ways:

1. If possible, please leave parking spaces open in our lot across the street. You may want to park at the Grove or next door at the old orphanage. We will use the Dayschool bus to shuttle people to the church if you park in these areas.
2. Chairs will be set up in the church basement with a live feed of the service on a television for all to see. Please consider offering your pew to a visiting family and going downstairs to worship.
3. Introduce yourself to those around you and make them feel welcome.

Please plan to attend this service even though it may be very crowded. We need everyone to help make this service a success!

*****NO CHAPEL COMMUNION ON AUGUST 7th. PASTOR BLOHM WILL BE ON VACATION.*****



CATECHISM STARTS SOON

An informational meeting for catechism is on Mon., August 29th at 6:30 pm in the church. Catechism is for all kids going into 7th or 8th grade this fall. Both parents and kids are encouraged to attend. Regular classes begin 1 Mon., September 12th at 6:30 pm.

MEMBER UPDATES

Births

6-23-11 *Kaylee Jo and Kyle David King*, born to Keith and Shanna (Henningsen) King.

Baptisms

6-5-11 *Cieara Marie and Kieara Marie Vartorella*, born February 15, 2008. Parents are Michael and Laura (Felder) Vartorella. Sponsors are Jared Gulau and Katie Mincheff.

6-12-11 *Cecilia Jane Pecina*, born January 21, 2011 to Sergio Pecina and Rebecca Cooper. Sponsors are Alexandro Cardenas and Brittany Byers.

7-10-11 *Emma Louise Eversman*, born October 11, 2010 to Kurt and Erin (Matejka) Eversman. Sponsors are Robert Parrett and Sara Eversman.

7-17-11 *Brienna Marie Muchewicz*, born November 2, 2010 to Jarrod and Stacey (Bartok) Muchewicz. Sponsors are Frank Bartok and Elona Greenhoff.

Marriages

6-18-11 Aaron Stewart & Ashley Gerrard

7-16-11 Keith Stanley & Lindsey Vicroy

Deaths

6-7-11 Larry Kelly

6-15-11 Viola Nelson

7-7-11 Marion Roth

7-13-11 Bill Ehram

New Members of First St. John

7-3-11 Lindsey Vicroy, Keith Stanley, and Daniel & Sarah Beamer received by Affirmation of Faith.

Transfer From First St. John

6-1-11 Nanci Shimman to St. Mark Lutheran on Woodville Rd.

FINANCIAL CLASSES— GET OUT OF DEBT!



First St. John will host a 13-week class by Dave Ramsey, a well-known Christian author, teacher, and TV personality who helps people get a handle on their debt. Classes will run on Wednesdays from September 7th through November 30th. Come and learn how to pay off your debt and save money.

Watch upcoming bulletins and your September newsletter for more details about this class.

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST

All men are invited to the Men's Fellowship breakfast on Sat., August 6th at 8:00 am at Bob Evan's Restaurant on Navarre. In September we'll start our fourth year by holding a special breakfast meeting at Sonny Berry's Bayshore Supper Club on Bayshore Rd. on Sat., September 17, at 8:30 a.m. Note time and date change. If you need a ride, call Bob Haar at 419-250-9409. Hope to see you there.

THANK YOU

Dear Pastor and St. John's Family,

Thank you so much for all the visits, phone calls and cards during the past few years. Mom loved hearing from all of you. It kept her spirits up. Thank you again,

-- The Family of Kathryn Webb

PANCAKE BREAKFAST



Join us for a pancake breakfast on August 28th in the gym after the 9:00 am service. We're inviting the Dayschool families, too, so we need to know how many people are coming. We also need volunteers to help set up on Sat., Aug. 27th and help with on Aug. 28th.

Please fill out the RSVP / Set Up form in this newsletter and either mail it to the church, drop it in the offering plate, fax it to 419-691-7220 or email the church office at office@firststjohn.com

Questions? Call Jane Schuetz 419-691-5506 or e-mail her at JESchuetz@aol.com.



LIBRARY NEWS

WHEN GOD WINKS AT YOU by Squire Rushnell has been donated by Joanne Koch. This book contains true stories that demonstrate how God communicates with us through things that happen in our everyday lives. Tim Conway and Billy Graham have written some of these, along with other famous people, and those not so famous. This is an interesting book that helps us keep the faith.

"In all your ways acknowledge Him, and he shall direct your paths." Proverbs 3:6

— Marilyn Cashen

WEBSITE INFORMATION

If you have information to be posted to First St. John's website, please contact Diane Habegger using this email address: dihab53@gmail.com

ALTAR GUILD MEETING

We will meet on Monday, August 1st at 6:30 pm. Mark your calendar!

ELDERS FOR AUGUST

We continue with the summer worship services at 9:00 am for the month of August.

7th Eric Johnson, Linda Kusian

14th Mike Winslow, Dick Haar

21st Jeff Smith, Jim Swanson

28th Kevin Ruedy, Bill Nelson

MEMBER ADDRESS CHANGES

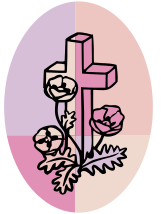
TSgt Kevin Fouty
407 AEG/ESPTS CF
APO AE 09331

Theresa Meyer
7100 S. Wilkinson Way A218
Perrysburg, OH 43551

Hilda Saelzler
Lutheran Home Assisted Living
2519 Seaman St. Apt. 23
Toledo, OH 43605

CEMETERY RENOVATION

Like our church, our cemetery is nearly 150 years old and represents the history of this congregation. Everyone involved in the Memorial Day Cemetery Walk worked very hard to get the rounds ready, and we would like to continue this work with a cemetery renovation, including straightening and leveling the grave stones.



Work will soon begin with the smaller stones that have been knocked over or are sinking into the ground. This phase of the project basically involves manpower with little cost to anyone.

The second phase involves the larger stones. Many will need more extensive excavation or new foundations. How this phase will be financed is still up for discussion. With this in mind, if you have a family stone you would like us to look at, please leave a message at the church office for Floyd Hagedorn or Jim Fox.

ADDRESS CHANGES/CORRECTIONS

To keep current information for office records, if your name, address or phone number changes, please notify the office by faxing (419-691-7220), emailing (office@firststjohn.com) or mailing the changes to: 2471 Seaman St./ Toledo, OH 43605.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State Zip _____ Phone _____

MEMORIALS

ALTAR GUILD

In memory of Nina Miller by Willie & Julie Moritz, Tom & Kathy Spears, Jim & Mellissa Lewis.

In memory of Wayne Helle by Wanda & Fred Rice.

In memory of Larry Kelly by Gene & Janet Schacht.

In memory of William Ehram by Terry & Jane Schuetz.

MEMORIAL FUND

In memory of Doris Higley by Mark Sass, Diane Pauly, Judy Bee, Joyce & Ken George, Martha Meyers, Doris Danekind.

In memory of Viola Nelson by JoAnn Diefenthaler, Norman & Phyllis Schuffenecker, Pastor & Mrs. Gerald Labuhn, Leona Arnold, Richard & Joyce Thorbahn, Todd & Susan Rathke, Robert & Carolyn Kapp, Mary Ellen Miller, Dan & Joyce Martin and family, Elaine Gladieux, Alan, Kim, Angie, Alyssa & Kayla Diefenthaler, Robert Nelson & Dennis, Jim & Shirley Ayers, Earl Warnke, Deb Lofquist, M/M Cliff Bury, Lyle & Sandra Diefenthaler, Mildred Diefenthaler, Bill & Donna Nelson and family, Gary & Jeaney Diefenthaler and family, Ray & Carol Cousino, Jean DeWitt, Tom, Sandy & Kevin Garverick, David & Diane Habegger, Martha Meyers.

In memory of Larry Kelly by James Harrell, Phyllis Coontz, George & Elaine Ackerman, Paul & Vivian Kuhlman, Gary & Linda Kusian.

In memory of Marion Roth by Engler, Garrow & Roth, Ltd.

ELEVATOR FUND

In memory of Virginia Nissen by Bonnie Varga.

In memory of Larry Kelly by Bonnie Varga.

CEMETERY FUND

In memory of Larry Kelly by Bill & Ginny Wegman, William Fischhaber, M/M Kenneth Vilhauer, Nancy Gallaher.

In memory of Viola Nelson by Irene Abbott.

In memory of Marion Roth by Jerry & Ginny Nissen.

CURRENT FUND

In memory of Larry Kelly by Kris Abel, Esther

Bell, Hank & Joanne Schumaker, Ernie & Marge Bollinger, Rose Marilyn Moring, Carl & Janet Morrison, Donna Cedoz, Diane & Karl Busson, Lowell & Diane Hartman, Norm Schumaker, Anna Mae Ferguson, Norman & Phyllis Schuffenecker, Jean DeWitt, Alan & Lisa Sattler, Karen Fry, Cliff & Madonna Bury, Betty TenEyck, Don & Betty Creps, Sue & Dave Kimmet, Pastor Gerald & Ilean Labuhn, M/M Ed Placko, Ruth Ziethlow, Bernie Sellers & Charlie Koch, Gary & Joanne Henningsen, Martha & David Kuhn, Tom & Shelley Garrett, Martha Meyers.

In memory of Kate Webb by Allan & Mary Reichert.

In memory of William Ehram by Lois Brecklen, Madeline Tell, Jean DeWitt, Elaine Gladieux, Pastor & Ilean Labuhn, Hank & Joanne Schumaker, Keith & Tona Lenz, M/M George Ackerman, Jerry & Ginny Nissen.

In memory of Marion Roth by Elaine Gladieux.

CHOIR FUND

In memory of Larry Kelly by Mary Ellen Miller, Chuck & Jane Neal.

HOMEBOUND MINISTRIES

In memory of Larry Kelly by Bob & Sherrie Haar.

In memory of Viola Nelson by Bob & Sherrie Haar.

In memory of Marion Roth by Bob & Sherrie Haar.

In memory of William Ehram by Bob & Sherrie Haar.

ENDOWMENT FUND

In memory of Viola Nelson by Ada Kreger.

In memory of William Ehram by Gene Hagedorn, Marilyn Cashen.

AIR CONDITIONING FUND

In memory of Larry Kelly by Ralph & Ethel Mae Vogtsberger.

In memory of Viola Nelson by Ralph & Ethel Mae Vogtsberger, Esther Bell.

In memory of William Ehram by Duane & Mary K. Hubaker, Sandra Stahl, Esther Bell, June Smarkel.

ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION 2011 MEMORY WALK

This year's walk to benefit the Alzheimer's Association will be Sun., October 2nd at the Lucas County Rec Center on Key St. in Maumee. Registration begins at 12:30 pm, and the walk starts at 2:30 pm. Part of the local donations goes to support the Alzheimer Day Care Center at the Lutheran Home at Toledo. If you want to join our church team or make an online donation, please go to www.2011alzheimerswalk.kintera.org/toledoohio. If you would like to make a cash or check donation, please contact Janine Contat at 419-837-0013 or j9swancont@hotmail.com.

Here are some facts to think about . . . Alzheimer's not only affects the individual, but also the family.

- 80% of care provided at home is by family caregivers who find caregiving the #1 stress in their lives.

*--2011 Alzheimer's Disease Facts
and Figures report*

- 11.2 million Americans provide billions of hours of unpaid care to people with Alzheimer's or other dementia.

*--The Shriver Report: A Woman's
Nation Takes On Alzheimer's*

CIRCLE NEWS



Ruth Circle will meet Tuesday, August 2nd at 11:00 am at the Oregon Inn.

Miriam Circle will meet Wed., August 3rd at 11:30 am at NeeNerz Restaurant in Genoa. Ginny Wegman's daughter just opened the restaurant.

FEED YOUR NEIGHBOR!

Our collections for this ministry are way down this summer. Please continue bringing your canned goods and non-perishable food items. Please place your donations in the bins in the Narthex (under the main bulletin board) and the lounge (near the double doors). Please do not bring in anything in a glass container. Thank you very much for your support of this ministry.

REMEMBER OUR HOMEBOUND

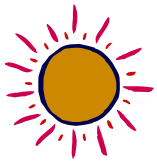


We're all busy with our lives — jobs, appointments, children, grandchildren, vacations, and volunteer work — that we tend to overlook our older members who can no longer attend church. Some have family who visit, but others do not. It's a lonely existence, one we ourselves may be faced with in our futures. The following is a list of our homebound members who may enjoy a card, a phone call, or a visit. If you need their phone numbers and/or addresses, call Toni in the church office (419-691-7222). Take a moment out of your day to brighten someone else's. Thanks, and God bless you.

Doris Bober
Russell Bodette Sr.
Virginia Brandeberry
Katherine Counterman
Doris Danekind
Peg (& John) Deuble
Mary Dippman
Darlene Eggert
Eddie Felhaber
Nyla Gerrard
Eleanor Habegger
Betty Helle
Don Higley
Virginia Hoffman
Margaret Hosley
Margaret Koester
Floyd Koester
Dorothy Kreszowski
Dorothy Laney
Norma Manteuffel
Theresa Meyer
Betty Morse
Geraldine Mottmiller
Gloria Romano
Hilda Saelzler
Phylliss Wagner
Bob Webb

DAYSCHOOL REGISTRATION

Classes for the 2011/2012 school year are filling up, so register soon! If your child will be 3, 4, or 5 years old by Sept. 30th and you'd like to enroll him or her, call Barb Shellhammer at 419-691-6480. If you'd like to check out the school first, call Barb to schedule a tour. Tell your friends and neighbors!



NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

AUGUST 19th

MEMORIALS

(continued from page 4)

WELCOME OUR NEWEST MEMBERS!

Please welcome Daniel and Sarah Beamer (children Dana, Michael, Emma, and David) and Keith Stanley and Linda Vicroy who affirmed their faith with us on Sunday, July 3rd. If you or someone you know might be interested in becoming a member of First St. John, our next new member's class will be sometime this fall.

DEBT FUND

In memory of Viola Nelson by the Ruth Circle, Louise & Jim Sommers.

In memory of Doris Higley by Louise & Jim Sommers.

In memory of Larry Kelly by Louise & Jim Sommers.

In memory of William Ehrsam by Louise & Jim Sommers, Jim & Dianne Schumaker, Harmeyer Farms, Ltd., Florence Clark, Walter Ehrsam, William & Donna Nelson.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

In memory of William Ehrsam by Frank & Barb Meyers.

MILITARY ADDRESSES

Here are the names and addresses of members, family, and friends of First St. John who serve in the military. You can send cards or packages to these service people, and remember to pray for them, too!

TSgt Kevin Fouty
407 AEG/ESPTS CF
APO AE 09331

SGT Nick Grady
2711B Chow Circle
Kailua, HI 96734

Chief Petty Officer Cynthia Henderson
44425 Scobee
California, MD 20619

Chief Petty Officer Marc Le Duc
78382 Dukewood Trail
Yula, FL 32097

2LT Michael R. Pavley
104th Transportation Co.
Shindand AB
APO AE 09382

Matthew Phillips
4924 Soaring Springs Ave.
Las Vegas, NV 89131

Captain Lindsey Rowland
237 Bartlett Dr.
Sackets Harbor, NY 13685

HISTORY OF OUR PIANO



The Steinway Baby Grand piano in the sanctuary was donated to our church by the Al Hecklinger family around 1972. During the Great Depression of 1929 Al's wife, Ruth (Ackerman), purchased the piano using money she had from renting a Navarre Ave. farm house she had inherited.

The story (as told to me by my brother Don Hecklinger) was that some poor soul "lost" it, and that Ruth was able to buy it at a very nominal price.

Originally it was placed in the lounge where it was not played very much and often "banged on" by little kids. Sometime later during a bad storm, water came through the ceiling and damaged the inside of it. Some years after that, the piano was restored and brought into the sanctuary.

At today's prices, it would cost about \$7,200 to buy a restored piano of this quality, or \$65,000 to purchase a new one. Today it's difficult to find the excellent sound boards that were used in these older pianos. The piano is currently valued at \$26,000.

Musicians love this piano. Our former organist Eric Dickey will still come visit sometimes during the summer just to play it.

-- Marge Hecklinger Bollinger

MORE MOUSE TAILS (TALES?)

The Mouse reported on the new basement and furnace in the Journal for June / July and signed off with “now the mouse is warm in winter.” WARM? WOW! This July has found us in the hottest summer since the record maker of 1936. The more “mature” among us remember not being allowed outside for play except early or late in the day. The house windows were closed and shades drawn to keep out the sun and hot air and not opened until late evening when the temperature had dropped.

Those with basements were the lucky ones. The basements were cooler and many moved there until fall. An electric fan was the ultimate solution if you could afford it, but it was still 1929 Depression times. Mortuaries provided advertising hand fans to most churches. Air conditioning as we know it will not come for decades. (The Mouse just burrowed deeper into the cool earth.)

We return to the post 50th Celebration in 1910, when the first English services were introduced. Seaman St. would not be improved for a few more years, but city water, telephone and electricity soon followed. In those years electricity became available from the streetcar lines and was not available to a wider number of homes until later. The organist's assistant job became extinct now that electric motors could pump organ air rather than hand pumping. (Losing jobs to technology is not new!)

Seaman Street was covered in stone, and annual taxes were assessed. Automobiles began to replace the horse on Sundays. Some families walked to church in order to give their horses a rest from the week's labors. Few could afford both work horses and riding horses. The change to autos eliminated the job of the person who watched the horses while services were conducted.

The year 1917 brought more social change with the beginning of WWI. German services were discontinued, but special services continued into the '30s and finally died in the 1940s. The Brotherhood for men and Ladies Aid for women organizations began after the war. More autos and fewer horses made for better transportation, which fueled the Roaring Twenties.

Times were better and building fever struck St. John's in 1928 when our present sanctuary was built. A farewell service for the 1876 church was held, and the men of the congregation disassembled it the following week, at which time Mr. Kuhlman's lost hammer was retrieved and the steeple unceremoniously pulled down by a truck with a young Robert Hecklinger inside.

The cornerstone, along with a time capsule, was laid on June 10, 1928. Dedication of the church was held on November 4, 1928. Little did they know that in less than a year the Great Depression of 1929 would strike. Stocks and bonds became worthless. Banks closed, and grown men hawked papers or sold apples on street corners. St. John could not even pay the interest on its loan. The financiers begged for mere pennies. The interior of our sanctuary could not be painted and was not finished until 1945. There was no social security or unemployment compensation. Talk about tough times!

Despite continuing financial problems, St. John pulled together to celebrate its 75th Anniversary in 1936. Thanks to that anniversary committee's published booklet, we have a factual picture of the first 75 years.

Looking back from 150 years, we can see many parallels. We, too, are pulling together in our 150th celebration. One only needs to reflect on our schedule of activities and our community's new awareness to the special needs of our facilities and programs.

The cemetery tour and Memorial Day services have prompted cemetery renovation. We have updated our tributes to veteran burials and records. Open house tours, dinners, and the Toledo Symphony concert are to come.

The Mouse is hot, so I will retire deep in my underground burrow until next time.

First St. John Lutheran Prayer Chain (as of 7-20-11)

Crisis Prayer Chain List: *Those who need prayers for upcoming surgery, emergency medical care (ICU), etc. Individuals moved to Chronic after 1st month unless a prayer chain contact is notified of special circumstances:*

**Emma Carpenter
Floyd Koester
Steve & Connie Singlar**

Chronic Prayer List: *Those who need prayers for ongoing serious situations such as cancer treatments, medical struggles, recovery, and/or personal situations. Individuals moved off after 3 months unless a prayer chain contact is notified of special circumstances:*

**Jordyn Bechusen
Gail Chaffee
Jonathon Cypher
Bernie Erdmann
Family of Bill Ehram
Lynn Folk
Family of Grace Franks
Jerry Gears
Family of John Gears
Lily Georgeson
Family of Doris Higley
Family of Rosemary Hornyak
Megan Hrevnak
Family of Larry Kelly
Laura Lytle
George "Skip" Mc Cullough
Family of Jennifer Molnar
Charlie Ohlson
Family of Wayne Rode
Hilda Saelzler
Bishop Sanchez
Edith Schuffenecker
Bob Webb
Candy Webster
Family of David Wells
Terry Williams
Raetta Zeisler
Olga Zimmerman**

Please let any of the prayer chain contacts know if any of these individuals could be moved off the list.

Prayer Chain Contacts

Carol Abbey 419-351-9795 or cabbey@jcrinc.com
Lynn Folk 691-3410 Donna Koehn 693-5030
Ada Kreger 419-693-1549
Gloria Ross 419-836-7166

From the C.E. Director's Desk

It's been a very busy summer! We had over 75 children attend our Vacation Bible School. The children learned that God is Wild About Them. We couldn't have had such a successful VBS without all the wonderful volunteers. I am so blessed with all of you who gave your time and your donations. Thank you, God, for all of my volunteers. As in years past, we collected socks for Hannah's Socks. This year we collected over 230 pairs of socks to be donated to this non-profit organization. Great job, everybody!

On August 28, 2011 at 9:00 a.m. we will have our Dayschool Welcome Service. We have invited all our Dayschool families and their children to this special service. We will also install and bless our Dayschool and Jesus And Me (J.A.M.) Sunday School teachers as they begin this wonderful adventure with the children.

As we start to think about Fall and the beginning of school, we look forward to the start of our JAM and other Sunday School sessions.

Save the Date – September 11, 2011 9:00 a.m.
Rally Day – First Day of JAM Session

Plan to attend this awesome event that will be filled with a special presentation and snacks.

CHOIR PICNIC/POOL PARTY



All choir members are invited to John and Karen Rowley's home on Thursday, August 18th for a picnic/pool party. John and Karen will supply the "main course" and beverages. Bring your favorite dessert, salad, or side dish to share. Please RSVP by email or phone to either John or the church office.

CHURCH DIRECTORIES

The First St. John directory is available for pick up in the church office. Anyone who had their picture taken for the directory receives one for free. If you did not get your picture taken but still would like to purchase one, they are on sale in the church office for \$10.