
◊ First St. John Journal ◊

Volume 24, Issue 9

September 2011

On Sunday, September 11, we and the rest of the country and world will acknowledge the 10th anniversary of the events of September 11, 2001. Our emotions and memories will be everywhere. But I came across a piece written by Gregory Tolle concerning another terrorist attack – this one in Oklahoma City, on April 19th, 1995. Greg Tolle’s story is meant for us:

At 9:02 p.m., July 4th, 2001, I sat at the property of Fifth and Harvey in downtown Oklahoma City. Six years, two months, fifteen days and twelve hours earlier, the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building had stood there. Now following the tragic bombing, it is the Oklahoma City National Memorial.

I was at the site for a United Methodist youth worship service. Six hundred and twenty people had gathered with our group at his unique setting at this unique time to worship God. I sat in the shadow of dusk six feet away from The Reflecting Pool – a shallow pool of gently cascading water. And that’s what I did. I reflected. I sat there with memories of the bombing bombarding me.

As I sat at the memorial for the youth worship service, I continued to reflect on every connection I had with the bombing. Mental images of the television flashed in my mind. I once again saw bloody people frantically scurrying around. I saw the picture of the fireman carrying the body of Baylee Almon. I remembered driving by the rubble where the building had stood a little over a month before the destruction.

The group of 620 worshippers began to sing “Shout To The Lord.” Somewhere after the words, “My Jesus, my Savior,” I started to quietly release the emotions associated with the sense of life. My eyes welled up with sadness expressed with tears. At the same time, I found comfort in singing what I believe – salvation is available through Jesus. In Christ, there is hope, even in the midst of a tragedy.

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FALL SCHEDULE

Our regular schedule resumes on Sunday, September 11th with traditional service at 7:45 am, Sunday School (JAM) at 9:00 am, and celebration service at 10:15 am. Join us!

REGULAR OFFICE HOURS RESUME



On Tuesday, September 6th, church office hours return to Monday through Friday, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. The office will be closed for Labor Day.

GUEST PREACHER

Join us on Sunday, September 18th when First St. John’s own Rev. Ken Fouty will give the message. Also, Pastor Ken will speak during the Sunday School hour in the lounge that day about his ministry. He will be available to answer questions about his experiences in the ministry.

Pastor Ken grew up here at First St. John and now lives in Michigan with his wife, Nicole, and their sons.

RALLY DAY



Save the date! September 11th is J.A.M. FEST (Sunday School) for children from ages pre-kindergarten through sixth grade. Join us for a special presentation children of all ages will enjoy. “Magic with Eli” will perform for the kids at 9:00 am. Snacks will be provided and everyone will be able to tour the Jesus And Me (J.A.M.) area.

Member Address Changes



Doris Danekind
Kingston Residence
333 E. Boundary St. Room 228
Perrysburg, OH 43551

Cheri Johnson
3458 Worden Rd.
Oregon, OH 43616

Norma Manteuffel
1036 N. Cousino Rd.
Oregon, OH 43616

Membership Updates

Births

None.

Baptisms

None.

Marriages

None.

Deaths

8-4-11 Gary DeWitt

Transfers to/from St. John

None.

CIRCLE NEWS

Miriam Circle will meet Wednesday, September 7th at 9:30 am in the lounge.

Ruth Circle will meet Tuesday, September 6th at 11:00 am in the lounge.

Rebecca Circle will meet Thursday, September 1st at 6:30 pm in the lounge.

Hannah Circle will meet Monday, September 12th at 6:30 pm at Janine Contat's home. Call Janine for directions.



DAYSCHOOL FUNDRAISER

"Save Around" is a coupon book with loads of coupons for area businesses, good throughout the year. This year's books are \$20 each. See Barb Shellhammer in the Dayschool office or Toni in the church office if you'd like to purchase a book.



NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
SEPTEMBER 22nd

ELDERS FOR SEPTEMBER



9/4 Darold Henninger, Bill Nelson

	7:45 am	10:15 am
9/11	Eric Johnson Linda Kusian	Volunteers Needed

9/18	Jeff Smith Jim Swanson	Mike Winslow Dick Haar
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9/25	Darold Henninger Volunteer Needed	Kevin Ruedy Bill Nelson
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ADDRESS CHANGES/CORRECTIONS

To keep our office records up-to-date, if your name, address or phone number changes, please notify the office by faxing (419-691-7220), mailing this form: 2471 Seaman St./ Toledo, OH 43605. Email: office@firststjohn.com

Name _____

Address _____

City, State Zip _____ Phone _____

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

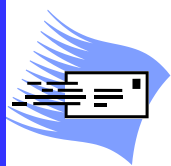
(continued from page 1)

As we concluded the service, the Independence Day fireworks began. Some of the youth were disturbed by it. It was frightening to have "bombs bursting in air" at a place where a bomb had been so destructive. But I looked at it differently. I sat and stared at the beautiful colors. Red. Orange. Sparkling white. They shot up so quickly and cascaded down so gently. Grace. It was grace falling down over us as a reminder of freedom. We have the freedom of free will. Some will choose evil, but when the vilest of evil springs forth, others accept the challenge to prove that good conquers evil. We have the free will to choose the good.

As I sat at the Memorial, I saw the good that replaced the evil. I witnessed a living testament of Paul's words in Romans 12:21: Do not be overcome with evil, but overcome evil with good.

The Oklahoma City National Memorial is a reminder not just of what has happened, but also of what can be. No longer was the area of Fifth and Harvey a pile of rubble – a mound of destroyed dreams. No, this is now a new place of new life. It represents how we can respond to the reality of evil with the much needed reality of good. On that Fourth of July, 2001, I saw that good not only in the Memorial. I saw a sign of God's grace gently cascading on earthly people who needed it. That is the Good News. We can overcome evil with God's good Grace.

-- Pastor Blohm



E-MAILING THE NEWSLETTER

E-mailing not only saves postage, but also ink and paper. If you would like your newsletter and calendar e-mailed to you, please send your e-mail address to: office@firststjohn.com

HAVE YOU MOVED?

Please notify the office when your address has changed. Newsletters sent to your old address are re-routed, but the church pays a fee each time this happens. Thanks.

LIBRARY NEWS



HEAVEN is for REAL by Todd Burpo is an account of heaven by a little boy. It will encourage doubters and thrill believers.

DOING LIFE DIFFERENTLY by Luci Swindoll is a book on living with imagination. I saw Luci at a Women of Faith conference on August 20 and she is a very inspiring speaker. I hope you enjoy this book.

These books were given in memory of Fred Saelzler.

When we start trusting God, anything can happen, anywhere!!!!!!
— Marilyn Cashen

NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS NEEDED

Church Council is seeking volunteers for a number of committees for 2012, including elders, finance committee, property management, Sunday School Board and council president. If you are interested in volunteering for these positions, please call the church office.

DAYSCHOOL NEWS

(continued from page 8)

If you want to visit a classroom or have a special talent you think the children would be interested in, please call me at the Dayschool office 419-691-6480, and we can schedule a time for your visit. Your hands could also be put to use in various ways around the building; if this interests you, please drop me an email at: b.shellhammer@firststjohn.com

Thank you for inviting the Dayschool families to join your congregation for worship on August 28th and also for the scholarships that were presented because of your commitment to support this ministry. Our main objective is to lead children to Jesus, and without the support of this congregation that could never be accomplished. May our heavenly Father bless our school and church family as we grow together in His love.

In service to His children,
Barb Shellhammer



MEMORIALS



CURRENT FUND

In memory of **Bill Ehram** by Joanne & Ron Koch, Alan & Sharon Fenner, Patricia Garren, Key Life Directions, Jill Fox MD, Inc., Carl & Janet Morrison, Barb Uhler, Ada Kreger.

In memory of **Marion Roth** by Carl & Janet Morrison, Jim & Janet Routson, Ronald Roth.

In memory of **Doris Higley** by Carl & Janet Morrison.

In memory of **Gary DeWitt** by Ada Kreger, Linda & Bernie Erdmann, Walt & Darlene Metzger, Eleanor Symington.

In memory of **Larry Kelly** by Ada Kreger.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

In memory of **William Ehram** by Bill & Dia Mermer and family.

In memory of **Gary DeWitt** by Darlene & Larry Paul, Carlene Trost, Tom, Sandy & Kevin Garverick, Richard Haar, Olga Zimmerman, Noel & Marti Heisler, Bill & Donna Nelson and family, Debbie & Jeff Smith, Ernie & Marge Bollinger, Gloria Haas, Margene Spring, Maro & Mike McCelheney, Evelyn Jones, Marian Pfeiffer, Frank & Barb Meyers, Katherine Brown, Jim & Dianne Schumaker, Jerry & Ginny Nissen, Ralph & Virginia Roberts, Norman & Phyllis Schuffenecker, Janet Wagner.

MEMORIAL FUND

In memory of **Marion Roth** by Doris Titgemeyer, Betty TenEyck, Chuck & Jane Neal.

ALTAR GUILD

In memory of **William Ehram** by the National Fenton Glass Society, Inc.

In memory of **Betty LeBlanc** by Katherine Brown.

In memory of **Gary DeWitt** by Wanda & Fred Rice, Barbara Uhler, Gene & Janet Schacht, Terry & Jane Schuetz, Angela Cschi, Denise & Brian McGee, Carl & Janet Morrison, Joanne & Henry Shumaker, Lloyd & Heidi Lind, Ruth Ziethlow, M/M Richard Gilts, Pastor Gerald & Ilean Labuhn, Jerry Curran, Jan & Donna Koenker, St. Charles Emergency Dept., Tom & Ginny DeWitt.

QUILTERS

In memory of **Gary DeWitt** by Betty TenEyck.

DEBT RETIREMENT

In memory of **William Ehram** by Betty TenEyck, Chuck & Jane Neal.

In memory of **Gary DeWitt** by Louise & Jim Sommers, Jean Garey, Dave & Diane Habegger.

JAM (Youth)

In memory of **Gary DeWitt** by Jim & Janet Fox.

ENDOWMENT FUND

In memory of **Gary DeWitt** by Gene Hagedorn, Darlene Lorenzen, Mark & Debbie Ackerman, Paul & Vivian Kuhlman, Eric & Cindy Johnson, Eileen Young, Jessie & Mike Henneman, Dave & Lore Warnke, Donna Koester, Glenn & Margaret Koester, Dick & Lola Crouse, Sarge & Susie Purwal, Russ & Chris Hunsaker, Martha Meyers, Bill & Cathy Caldwell, Marilyn Cashen, M/M John Blaylock, Hilda Saelzler.

ELEVATOR FUND

In memory of **Gary DeWitt** by Bill & Ginny Wegman.

In honor of **George Ackerman's** 80th birthday by Ernie & Marge Bollinger, Berry Lou & James Miller.

HOMEBOUND MINISTRIES

In memory of **Nick Romano** by Bob & Sherrie Haar.

DAY SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In memory **Gary DeWitt** by Mike Winslow.

WELCA

In memory of **Gary DeWitt** by Jean DeWitt.

CEMETERY FUND

In memory of **Gary DeWitt** by Dan, Joyce, Jean & Patrick Martin, Willie & Julie Moritz, Nancy Gallaher, Elaine Gladieux, Bob & Deb Hecklinger, Dennis & Lisa Pavley.

In memory of **Louis & Sarah Schrader's** 85th wedding anniversary on Sept. 11, 2011 by Irene Abbott.

TOLEDO SYMPHONY COMING TO FIRST ST. JOHN

As a grand finale for our 150th anniversary celebration, the entire Toledo Symphony will perform a Christmas concert at First St John on Saturday, December 17th. The Toledo Symphony performs a limited number of neighborhood concerts each year to raise money to support their organization. We were lucky enough to reserve one of these dates.

To make this concert possible, the 150th Year Celebration Committee and volunteers will solicit businesses and members to help pay for the concert. Our goal is to raise as much money as possible to minimize the cost of a ticket so all our members can attend.

We have created the following donation levels:

- Platinum \$500 or more
- Gold \$250 to \$499
- Silver \$100 to \$249
- Patron \$25- \$50

Donors will be listed in the program handed out at the concert.

This should be an exciting event and a fitting way to celebrate 150 years of First St John members' faithful service to the community and world. If you can help, please contact the church office or Bill Caldwell.

VINEYARD & JAM PARENT GROUPS

The Vineyard Sunday morning adult class will begin September 25th at 9:00 am in the kindergarten room next to the lounge. The J.A.M. Adult Coffee hour will begin on Sunday, September 18th in the J.A.M. area at the tables outside the J.A.M. Sunday School classes. Join us!

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Pastor Blohm will lead an adult class on Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. in the lounge beginning September 18th. Join Pastor and our bunch as we discuss the issues of today in light of the Word of God. All are welcome!

CHOIR PRACTICE—EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

If you are high school age or older and love to sing, then come and join us! Our first practice is Thursday, Sept. 8 at 7:00 pm. *See you there!*

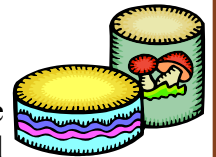


BELL CHOIR PRACTICE

Come on out and join the Bell choir. Our first practice is Monday, September 12th at 5:30 pm. No experience necessary!

Hope to see you there.

FEED YOUR NEIGHBOR!



Our collections for this ministry are still down. Let's start off the fall season by helping those less fortunate. Please bring your canned goods and non-perishable food items and place them 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 since they may break during shipping. Thank you.

**BOARD OF MINISTRIES MEETING
NOTE TIME CHANGE**

Join us on Tuesday, September 13th at 1:00 pm as we discuss what's happening in our ministries. Please note the time change. We're going to try to meet during the day to free up space for evening meetings.

**TUESDAY EVENING
BIBLE STUDY**



Join us beginning Tuesday, Sept. 13th at 7:00 pm. This year, we will study the Bible with emphasis on learning more about the Holy Spirit.

BROWN BAG BIBLE STUDY

Our lunch/Bible study sessions begin on Thursday, September 8th at noon. Come, and together we'll discuss what we want to study this year! Bring your own lunch; coffee and water will be provided. Everyone is welcome!

Prayer Chain (as of 8-29-11)

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

**Joan Bailey
Paul Kuhlman
Virginia Rowe
Rose Ruch**

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

**Alice Albrecht
Jordyn Beckhusen
Emma Carpenter
Gail Chaffee
Jonathon Cypher
Family of Gary DeWitt
Bernie Erdmann
Family of Grace Franks
Cory Folk
Jerry Gears
Family of John Gears
Lily Georgeson
Family of Doris Higley
Family of Rosemary Hornyak
Megan Hrevnak
Family of Larry Kelly
Floyd Koester
Laura Lytle
George "Skip" McCullough
Family of Jennifer Molnar
Charlie Ohlson
Gene Price
Family of Wayne Rode
Hilda Saelzler
Bishop Sanchez
Edith Schuffenecker
Steve & Connie Singlar
Bob Webb
Candy Webster
Family of David Wells
Terry Williams
Raetta Zeisler
Olga Zimmerman**

Please check the list and let any prayer chain contact listed below know if persons can 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 693-1549 Gloria Ross 836-7166

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



MEN'S BREAKFAST FELLOWSHIP

To the men (young and not so young alike) of First St. John, the men's breakfast fellowship is starting its fourth year of meeting together. To celebrate, we'll have a special breakfast meeting on Sat., September 17th at 8:30 a.m. (note date and time change) at Sonny Berry's Bayshore Supper Club on Bayshore Rd. Three years ago, we started with 5, and now our numbers range from 14 - 18. Please join us for this special celebration. For more information or if you need a ride, call Bob Haar at 419-250-9409 (new number). Thanks, and see you there!

From the Christian Education Director

School has started and we are reminded of fresh starts and new beginnings. With this I am reminded of the Bible verse: "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." (Jeremiah 29:11)

What comforting words as students to know that God has plans for you as you start a new school year. He knows your struggles and your joys and they are all for your good; for you to prosper and to give you hope for the future. Trust in the Lord with all of your heart.

These are also comforting words for parents. For the Lord knows the plans he has for your children. As they start this new school year, parents also struggle with anxiety and excitement for their children. Rest assured that as you pray throughout the day for your children that the Lord has them in his hands.

The church also has fresh starts and new beginnings. Below is a list of all our upcoming events.

Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University

**Classes start on Wednesday, September 7
and will run for 13 weeks
6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.**

What is Financial Peace University (FPU)?

FPU is the most important step to changing your financial future. It is your Total Money Makeover Program. It takes the knowledge from God and turns it into real action in our lives through a step-by-step process taught by best-selling author and financial counselor Dave Ramsey. FPU is a 13-week life-changing program that empowers and teaches you how to make the right money decisions to achieve your financial goals and God's plan for your life.

Who is Financial Peace University for?

EVERYONE!...from the financially secure to the financially distressed. Over 1 million families and individuals have attended Financial Peace University. Applying God's Word radically changes your life. On average, FPU graduates have paid off over \$5,300 in debt and saved \$2,700 during the 91-day program!

For more information contact Brent at 419-467-8954 or brent@sdcapital.org

Sunday, September 11 at 9:00 a.m.

Join us for a special presentation children of ALL ages will surely enjoy. This is the annual kickoff to our Jesus And Me (J.A.M.) weekly sessions. Snacks will be provided, and you will be able to tour our J.A.M. area.

MAGIC WITH ELI

Eli began performing magic when he was just 18 months old. By the time he turned three, he was performing on stage with his father, magician Andrew Martin.

Sunday, September 18 at 9:00 a.m.

Regular JAM sessions will begin.
Adult Group Coffee Hour also will start on
September 18 at 9:00 a.m.

MEMORIALS

(continued from page 4)

AIR CONDITIONING FUND

In memory of **Gary DeWitt** by Ruth Cummerow, Duane & Mary K. Hubaker, Esther Bell.

In memory of **Ann Hickman** by Sandra Stahl and family, June Smarkel.

In honor of **George Ackerman's** 80th birthday by June Smarkel.

CHOIR

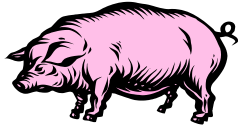
In memory of **Gary DeWitt** by Ron & Joanne Koch, Chuck & Jane Neal, Steve & Peggy Torda.

150TH ANNIVERSARY

In memory and honor of the **Koehne, Meier, Koester & Lauman** Families by the Dan Martin Family.



Chicken & Ham Dinner



Mark your calendars for Saturday, November 5th—the biggest church event of the year! Delicious meals of chicken, ham, mashed potatoes & gravy, green beans, coleslaw, applesauce, rolls & butter, and homemade desserts will be served from 4:00-7:00 p.m. This is a great community event, and it's not just for members. Invite your family, friends, neighbors, and co-workers—they'll be glad you did!!!

Tickets will be available in September. You may buy tickets from the church office or from circle members, or you can call Jane Schuetz at 419-691-5506. Tickets will go on sale after services in the lounge and narthex on October 23rd and 30th. And, yes, you can buy them at the door.

Ticket Prices:

Adults	\$9.00
Children 3-12 yrs	\$4.00
Children 2 yrs & under	Free (still need ticket)

Watch your October bulletins and newsletter for more information and a sign up sheet with ways you can help us make this dinner a success.



Needed: Craft & Bake Sale Items

We need items to sell at the Craft and Bake Sale held during the Chicken and Ham Dinner on November 5th. If you can help or if you would like to have your own craft table, please contact Jane Schuetz at 419-691-5506 or Louise Sommers at 419-691-7719.

ELECTRONIC GIVING AVAILABLE!

This fall, please consider signing up for electronic giving. First St. John relies on the financial support of the congregation, and electronic giving offers an easy way to give on a recurring basis. Please contact the church office for details. Thank you!

DAYCHOOL NEWS

Dear Friends,

Another school year is beginning and we are excited to have the opportunity to teach young children about our Father and watch their faith grow. It is a happy time here, a time of new beginnings and new friendships. We know each child is a special gift from God, and we thank Him for bringing them to us. Our teachers spent a great deal of time preparing for this new school year. They are committed to providing a Christ-centered learning environment for their students. We ask for God's blessing on the coming school year and your prayers that God will give us wisdom and joy as we teach His children!

I hope to introduce you to the teachers in each newsletter article this year, beginning with Rose Hite and Ashley Carr. Exceptional is the first word that comes to mind. Both are truly an example of Christ's love to the kindergarten children they teach. Rose is starting her 7th year as a kindergarten teacher. She is a graduate of Lourdes and has taught both kindergarten and third grade in the public school system along with substitute teaching various other grades. Before Ashley began her position as a teacher in our second kindergarten last year, she taught in our pre-k classroom and our summer program. She is a graduate of Bowling Green and also has experience as a substitute in the public school system. Ashley began working at First St. John the summer of 2004. We are truly blessed to have these two extraordinary teachers at our school.

We will begin fundraising this year by selling coupon books with worthwhile content. The books feature many locations and offers not found in any other program. The unique combination of local and national merchants means the coupons worth using are at places you already love. The cost of the book is \$20 and will be available to view in the church office before purchasing. Funds raised will be used for program improvements and supplies. Please consider helping us in this endeavor.

Alzheimer Day Center visits begin this month. Our visits are a rich and rewarding experience for all involved. We are thankful we can participate in such a fulfilling ministry and make new friends and connections with the clients of the Day Center.

News from The Church Mouse

The hazy, lazy days of a record-breaking summer have passed us by. It's time to rise to the challenges of the Fall Harvest Festival and the beginning of a new church year. The Mouse will be looking for you on Rally Day on September 11th. Will you see me?

The annual Harvest Festival will be observed on September 18th. Unlike today, the early St. John congregation was part of a mostly agricultural society. Fruits and grains from the harvest were displayed at this service in thankfulness for a bountiful harvest. The following week all the donations were home-canned and stored for the coming winter's food supply at the Orphan's Home. Today, pure food laws would prohibit these gifts.

Within our 150th celebration year we also celebrate the "new" Educational Building's 50th anniversary. On January 10, 1961, the Finance Committee announced that, "\$141,528.14 has been received from pledges thus far. The total cost of the building was \$285,000.00." Our 150-year financial record has been one of hard times, but we are blessed with a well kept Church campus. We pray that our spirituality record will be judged in the same light.

Spiritually, our early years were times of limited transportation and long hours of labor. The Pastor / Teacher / Schoolhouse relationship was instituted in the first years, but other activities did not come until the early 1900s when automobiles first appeared.

Times rapidly began to change. Horse and hand labor gave way to new mechanical "machines." The Lady of the House went from a "wash board" to the washing machine, and wheat harvesting gave way to the threshing machine. Rather than taking the horse and buggy to town, a farmer would take his Machine to town. This Mouse was a teenager before the words Automobile or Car became common usage.

Our public and religious educational systems also have sustained changes. Today we frown upon the memorization of the Catechism or multiplication tables. If we are lucky enough to get old, memories of memorization will be all we have left. Our ability for free or analytical thinking slowly disappears.

Why not have a favorite Bible passage or the Catechism to comfort us in our golden years?

This Mouse also would remind you of the old saying, "If you see a mouse, there is sure to be another close by." If you remember the addition and multiplication tables, one mouse and one mouse equals not two mice, but a family subject to additions. We Mice think of it as multiplications!

Smile a little, laugh a lot, and pray for GOD'S BLESSINGS. — *Your Mouse*

ITEMS NEEDED FOR LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

We are collecting items for personal care and baby care kits to be distributed through Lutheran World Relief now through September 11th. Donations are greatly appreciated. Kit content has changed from previous years, so carefully read the list below. Please deposit your donation in the Feed Your Neighbor bin in the Narthex or the carton box next to the tables in the lounge. Our ladies will pack the kits after September 11th, and the kits will leave our church on October 14th.

Personal Care Kits:

One light to medium-weight bath size towel (approx. 52" X 27"), dark color
Two bath size bars (4 to 5 oz.) of soap, any brand, in original wrapping
One adult-size toothbrush in its original packaging
One sturdy comb
One metal nail clippers (with or w/o attached file)

Baby Care Kits:

Two lightweight cotton t-shirts*
Two long or short sleeved gowns or sleepers (without feet)*
Two receiving blankets, medium weight cotton or flannel, or crocheted or knitted with lightweight yarn, up to 52" square
Four cloth diapers, flat fold preferred
One jacket, sweater or sweatshirt with a hood, or include a baby cap*
Two pairs of socks
One hand towel, dark color
Two bath size bars (4 to 5 oz.) of gentle soap, in original wrapping
Two diaper pins or large safety pins

*Clothing sizes can be up to 24 months

CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES – AUGUST 9, 2011

Bill Caldwell called the meeting to order. Pastor gave the devotion for the meeting. Bill asked for the roll to be called. Minutes from last meeting could not be approved. They were reviewed.

Board of Education - They are looking at 100 kids for the upcoming Sunday School year.

Elders Report - Bill Nelson is trying to make sure every event is covered.

Property Management – The items repaired by property management were: new doors on garage, faucet in cemetery fixed, back stairway fixed in education building, back light was fixed, eaves were cleaned out.

Finance Committee- Jim showed statements for June and July. During July the income was \$29,000 but the church had total expenses of \$37,000 so there was a shortfall. Better than last year at the same time period, though. Jim has a list of the total of various accounts and funds. Soon the budget will need to be put together for 2012, and Jim would like committees to put together their particular budget for the upcoming year. There was a fire inspection. We have added a sign to the educational door in the back indicating an emergency exit. If there is a power failure, the right hand side is magnetically sealed and will not work.

Youth- No report

Dayschool- Vacation Bible school was a great success. The August service is being worked on. The Guardian Angel program will be started and Jamie will give the congregation more information. The Guardian program basically involves having the congregation keep in touch with a child in the Dayschool. The Dayschool/ Sunday School Installation service will be reviewed with Pastor Blohm. Barb is appreciative of the update on the stairs and their inspection. Dayschool is not full yet, but extended care is fuller than it has been. She has a few low-attended afternoon classes. Kindergarten has 30 students.

Pastor Report - He also had positive feedback about VBS. 7th grade catechism class will be larger than last year. No transfers in or out. He is looking at a new Bible study from Crossways. The Synod Assembly in May contained no surprises for congregations.

Old Business - None

New Business- Bill has been reviewing different financing for the parking lot by checking new interest rates. Today there is hardly any interest being made on the special funds. Special funds would be willing to pay off the loan for the parking lot and then give the church a 5% loan to pay back special funds. It would save on interest by about \$16,000. The interest would go back to the special funds. Basically the church would be financing themselves. Bill took a vote to see if people would be in favor of this. He will work at contacting the other members.

Special funds committee needs another person to replace Fred Saelzler. This person would need to administer the fund and make recommendations of what to do with the money.

He also talked about current council vacancies and ones that will come up at the end of the year. He is putting together a committee to find new people.

The cemetery renovation has begun. They have fixed the stones. Special funds committee has recommended to give Jay Emch gift certificates for a token of the hours he has put in. Jim recommended a small stipend to pay him for his time and the materials he uses to straighten out the stones.

The Toledo Symphony is coming, and Bill is going to start raising money to fund their night here in December.

Bill ended the meeting. Members stood and recited the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Diane Habegger