



### From the Pastor

Having completed our remodeling project, asking the question, “What’s next?” is appropriate. We have a beautiful building, but what will we do with it? Who will we be as the people who gather there?

Certainly, we will continue in some ways with who we are and what we are doing. We are a strong and faithful congregation; we don’t need to be “fixed.” We have traditions and practices that have sustained us. Though the joke is (usually from pastors) that the seven last words of the church are “We’ve always done it this way before,” there are some things we have always done that need to continue. Mindless “change for change sake” is as foolish as continuing something just because that’s the way it’s always been.

But now is a time to think intentionally about who we are called to be in going forward. Or borrowing from my sermon before the Annual Meeting, “Who is Christ calling us to be as a **congregation?**”

I want to suggest that our building itself points to who we might (continue to?) be as a congregation. Our building from its inception has been accessible to persons challenged or barred by steps. Our building from day one has been accessible to all.

Whether this was done for construction purposes or aesthetics or because it would be “modern,” it has turned out to be ahead of its time. I’m sure that 45 years ago this design seemed ahead of its time because it was different. But more importantly than its being unique has been its openness, its accessibility, its hospitality and welcome to everyone. Let them joke about it being the “Flintstone Church;” We know what’s cool about the building is that it is easy to enter. Let’s be that way as a congregation.

Now without a doubt many of you are thinking, “Aren’t we that way already?” Yes, to a degree. But to a degree every church is friendly and welcoming. But are we as **uniquely accessible** as a congregation as our building?. Friendly? Of course. It’s rare to find a congregation that’s not at least friendly. Just like it’s rare to find a church building that doesn’t turn the lights on for worship. But I think we know that more is needed--not by us; by those whom God sends to us. Those who come as visitors and strangers. Especially those who have a difficult time finding acceptance elsewhere.

Let me suggest that we make this an **intentional** part of our local mission, a **self-conscious** part of our identity—to be the congregation that not only provides welcome but also hospitality, that not only says in word and deed “It’s OK for you to be here.” but says, “We **want** you here. We believe **you belong** here every bit as much as we do.” To be a congregation where persons who have felt rejected elsewhere, who feel like they don’t belong elsewhere, who have been pushed away by family or society or

the church elsewhere can find a spiritual home with us.

We are known in the community as the congregation that recently remodeled its building. How do we become known as the congregation that embraces each and all? That offers the love of God without judgment or qualification? That sees the visitor and stranger as the most important person on Sunday morning? How do we do that? What more can we do?

Yours In Christ,  
Rev Don



## FEBRUARY EVENTS CALENDAR

Sunday - February 5<sup>th</sup>

8:45 AM Sunday School  
10:00 AM Worship with Communion  
Special Congregational Mtg.

Tuesday - February 7<sup>th</sup>

7:00 PM Consistory

Friday-February 10<sup>th</sup>

SEF Out to Eat

Sunday – February 12<sup>th</sup>

8:45 AM Sunday School  
10:00 AM Worship

Sunday – February 19<sup>th</sup>

8:45 AM Sunday School  
10:00 AM Worship  
Newsletter Articles Due

Wednesday – February 22<sup>nd</sup>

7:00 PM Ash Wednesday Service @ St. John's UCC

Sunday – February 26<sup>th</sup>

8:45 AM Sunday School  
10:00 AM Worship  
Potluck after Worship

Wednesday – February 29<sup>th</sup>

7:00 PM Lenten Service @ New Horizon UCC

## USHERS

Feb 5 James & Nancy Eberhardt  
Feb 12 Shawn & Shannon Brock  
Feb 19 Dan & Kim Eberhardt  
Feb 26 Tom & Sharon Schmitz

## Mission Message

Mark your calendar for Sunday, February 5<sup>th</sup>! We will support Project Kenya with a fund-raising Soup Supper after church that day. Expect yummy soups, crunchy hard rolls and good conversation. We'll learn about Project Kenya's current activities and needs from Darci Kraus, who is on the Board of Project Kenya. Come and enjoy!



## CAMP FUND NEWS!!!!

St. John's U.C.C. Camp Fund Fundraising Committee has selected to create a cookbook for St. John's as our next fundraiser. We will have special forms and details at church. All members and friends of St. John's are asked to submit recipes within the next 2 months. Any questions, please contact Amy Juech or Marcia Beimling.



## FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES AND BIRTHDAYS

“Now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.” 1 Cor. 13:13

February Birthstone: Amethyst

February Flower: Violet

### ANNIVERSARIES-

February 10 John & Judy Gilchrist

### BIRTHDAYS-

February 2 Shannon Brock  
 February 8 Larry Oertle  
 February 10 Cash McMullen  
 February 12 Noah Raunio  
 February 14 Kris Klein  
 February 16 Michael LaFever  
 February 25 Dawn Boehlke  
 February 25 Karen Gluck  
 February 25 Ilma Arndt  
 February 26 Cinda Werner  
 February 27 Gary Grasse



## Keep in Your Prayers

- Ilma Arndt, who was hospitalized in January for tests.
- Church members who lost family members this past January:
  - Norbert & Esther Lohuis-Norbert's brother, Earl passed away.
  - Wayne & Carole Stroessner-Wayne's brother, Rev. Harry Stroessner passed away after a short battle with cancer.
  - Joe & Annie Thomas-Joe's brother, Donald passed away on January 5<sup>th</sup>.
  - Ilma Arndt-Ilma's sister, Velma Hellish passed away on January 10<sup>th</sup>. Velma was Darla Kraus' & Dawn Boehlke's aunt.
  - Dan & Anne Raunio & family-Dan's sister, Mary Stewart passed away at the age of 48 on January 13<sup>th</sup>. Mary leaves behind 4 children ages 6, 11, 20 & 27.
  - Bob & Dawn Boehlke & family-Bob's mother, Lorraine Boehlke passed away on January 21<sup>st</sup>.

### Thank you to...

- Those who helped take down the indoor Christmas decorations.
- Tom Schmitz, Al Neumann, Don Green, Ray Gawal and Jerry Shoemaker for taking down the outdoor nativity set and for putting up the parking lot markers.
- Bruce TenHaken and others who helped in keeping our sidewalk clear of snow this winter.
- Don Green & John Schluechtermann for serving altar communion on January 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Beverly Doegnitz for faithfully keeping the church books in 2011 and past years.
- Karen Gluck and Chris Krier for serving on the church's consistory. Karen served for 6

years and Chris served for 3 years. Karen served as co-president of the council for the last several years.

- Darla Kraus & Bruce TenHaken for agreeing to serve 3 year terms on the church consistory.
- Barbara Peterson for agreeing to serve a 2 year term on the church Endowment Fund Committee.
- Beverly Doegnitz & Bonnie Klitzkie for volunteering to attend the Southeast Association annual meeting in Milwaukee on April 28<sup>th</sup>.
- Darla & Darci Kraus for volunteering to attend the Wisconsin Conference annual meeting in Green Lake from June 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>.
- John Schluechtermann and Kim Eberhardt for agreeing to chair the 2012 annual chicken dinner on October 21<sup>st</sup>.

### Welcome to...

Jack & Amy Ploof who joined our membership on Christmas Day. Jack and Amy were married in our church on August 27<sup>th</sup>, 2011. They reside at 505 W. Center Avenue in Cedar Grove, Wisconsin. Amy works at Guy "n" O'Neill in Fredonia and Jack is employed as a cheesemaker at Cedar Valley Cheese on Jay Road and Hwy. 57, Belgium, Wisconsin. Please make them feel welcome.



## Mark Your Calendars

At the annual church meeting held on Sunday, January 22, 2012, the membership voted to once again hold our annual chicken dinner. This will be held on Sunday, October 21<sup>st</sup>. John Schluechtermann & Kim Eberhardt have agreed to chair this event. All members are asked to mark their calendars with this date. This event is our church's major fundraiser for the year and the help of every able-bodied member is needed to make this event a success. This year the money will be used to support paying the loan on the building project. If all of the money is not needed for that purpose, the excess will be shared with the benevolence fund.

## Building Committee Notes Jerry Shoemaker

All the project bills are in. We are expecting to receive energy savings credits of \$7,845.35 from WE-Energies. We will be \$26,291.27 **under** our original budget of \$712,613.00. We have ourselves to thank for much of this savings. These savings are due to:

1. The **huge** task Blaine Werner, Bill Bahr, Tom & John Schluechtermann took on in the construction of a uniquely designed shed.
2. The **many** volunteers who came multiple times to move and or clean church furniture as the project moved from one part of the church to another. This saved us from having to pay our contractor to do the work.
3. Berghammer Construction Co. assigned carpenter work to Site Manager Scott Schaefer who was an invaluable resource to us and project subcontractors.

We can all be proud that we were also able to add significant items to this project. There still were items the Building Committee wanted, but did not include:

1. Sanctuary and/or fellowship hall video screens.
2. New exterior stone post lighting.

3. Resurfacing parking lot.
4. Two new information boards in fellowship hall.
5. Building addition with storage & two classrooms.

These items will be passed to the Memorial Committee for future consideration from future memorial donations.

By the time you read this our Consistory will make the change from a construction loan to a mortgage loan with Collins Bank. The past two and one-half years have been very busy and very exciting for St. John's Church. We have accomplished much. Imagine all the ability that our church has. Consider what we really can do toward the work of God if everyone joined in. Perhaps we have only started to "Renew Our Vision..."

#### **Please Note**

St. John's Church has 30 folding chairs, 10 six foot long folding tables and one tent available for member's use. They are stored in our new outdoor shed. Contact a member of the Consistory for more information. We ask that you return them clean to the place in the shed you found them.

### **Notes from Your Parish Nurse** **Nancy Eberhardt**

Dear Family and Friends of St. John's UCC,

As we begin our Lenten journey, we can use this time to **reflect upon and prepare our hearts...**physically, emotionally and spiritually. In addition, February is recognized as having Valentine's Day and being American Heart Month.

#### **Physically**

The Bible reminds us, "...A heart at peace gives life to the body..."(Proverbs 14:30). The following suggestions are adapted from the American Heart Association's pamphlet, "Heart Health Education".

How to reduce your risk of heart disease:

- Quit smoking permanently
- Control your blood pressure & have it checked regularly
- Exercise at least 3 times a week for 20 minutes or more at your target heart rate
- Eat a balanced diet reduced in fat, cholesterol, and salt
- Contact the American Heart Association, your parish nurse, or doctor for information on smoking cessation, controlling blood pressure, heart healthy eating, exercise, and stress management.

#### **Emotionally**

St. Peter encourages us with these words, "...Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for your brothers, love one another deeply, from the heart" (I Peter 1:22). Love, acceptance and affirmation in our relationships help us to celebrate our oneness as children of the heavenly Father. Learning about all of our emotions assists us in experiencing harmony and wholeness in our lives.

#### **Spiritually**

We can pray these words with the psalmist, "Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence or take you Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me" (Psalms 51: 10-12). We share the good news that it is the Lord who creates purity and wholeness in hearts. At the same time, we understand our need to nourish our spirits; they were not created to thrive on neglect! We can care for our spiritual health by setting aside a regular time in our schedules for worship, Bible studies, individual and family devotions, prayer and meditation, and celebration of the Lord's Supper.

I pray that your Lenten experience brings you heart healing peace. May God bless you and your family during this special time of the year.

### **St. John's Extended Family Baked Potato & Board Game Night @ Church!!**

St. John's SEF will be meeting on Friday, Feb. 10 at 5:30 p.m. at our church for a 'Baked Potato' Night! Hot baked potatoes, butter, and beverages will be provided – you bring your favorite potato topping (cheese, veggies, bacon, ham, sour cream, etc.). Bring a favorite board game to play after the potatoes are devoured! Hope you can join us! Call Darla Jean Kraus at 920-980-3960 so we know how many plan to attend!

### **BRAT FRY**

Please note that Joe Thomas has applied for a date for our church to hold a brat fry at the Tri-Par in 2012. More details to follow once we have secured a definite date. We will need volunteers to work and also to supply bakery for a bake sale at the brat fry.

### **After Service Coffee Hour Hosts Needed!**

Consider hosting an after service "Coffee Hour"! Bring a treat to share (bakery - store bought is fine....cheese/crackers, fruit)! Juice and coffee are handy in the kitchen. Napkins, plates and cups provided. A sign up sheet for the month is posted on the bulletin board in the narthex.

### **Join us for a Monthly Potluck!**

There will be a potluck after church service on Feb. 26! Bring a dish to pass, all dinnerware and beverages are provided! Join us for great food and conversation!

### **St. John's Wednesday Night Book Club**

St. John's Wednesday Night Book Club will be meeting at the church on Feb. 1st at 7 P.M.. The book Don't Let's Go to the Dogs Tonight by Alexandra Fuller will be discussed. Copies of the book are available through the Lakeview Community Library, Random Lake. Join us for lively discussion and refreshments!

Church Phone: 920-994-4425

Church Email: [stjohns@excel.net](mailto:stjohns@excel.net)

Mailing Address:

PO Box 301

Random Lake, WI 53075

Web Site Address:

[www.excel.net/~stjohns](http://www.excel.net/~stjohns)

~ February 2012 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
<b>5</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sunday School 8:45 AM</li> <li>• Worship (Communion) 10:00 AM</li> <li>• Special Congregation Mtg.</li> </ul>	6	<b>7</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 7:00 PM Consistory</li> </ul>	8	9	<b>10</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SEF Out to Eat</li> </ul>	11
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<b>29</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sunday School 8:45 AM</li> <li>• Worship 10:00 AM</li> <li>• Potluck</li> </ul>	27	28	<b>29</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lenten Service @ New Horizon UCC 7:00 PM</li> </ul>			