



St. John's United Church of Christ
500 West Main Street, Lansdale Pa. 19446

Enlightener

May, 2018 Vol. XXXVIII, No. 05

As I sit and write this, we are technically in the spring season, but I am dressed like it is winter, and my mind is on summer~specifically one special week that has me very excited! I wanted to take this opportunity to invite all of you to **Vacation Bible School 2018**, which is taking place here at St. John's from **Monday, June 18 - Thursday, June 21** from 6:30-8:30, with dinner served at 6 before our program begins.

For those of you who may be new to our church or new to the Vacation Bible School (VBS) experience, let me take some time to explain a bit about what happens here during our fun week together!

For four nights in a row, we all gather together, adults and children alike, to explore a particular theme that helps to enrich our lives as people, as followers of Christ, and as members of a larger community. This year, our theme is "iCare", which, with the help of some examples from scripture, will help us to explore how we show we care about people and causes we love. We will talk about how we communicate our own feelings and how we understand the feelings of others so that we can live as caring, expressive, and compassionate people in the world. Each night, we learn together, sing together, eat together, do fun activities and games, and come away feeling energized. Meeting back to back nights in a row gives us a unique opportunity to build community and build upon our learnings and experiences without "losing ground" like we sometimes do when we only meet once a month or even once a week.

We at St. John's believe that the church has special gifts to share and that we have an opportunity to provide something for our kids and adults that other places simply cannot. When we come together, God is among us, and the spirit is alive within us! It's hard to capture the spirit of VBS in words, which is even more of a reason to check it out this year!

VBS is for children age 4, through 6th grade, with an adult class lead by Rev. Sue, and opportunities for teens to help out as leaders. These wonderful events cannot happen without volunteers, so if you (or a teen you know) would be interested in lending a hand, please contact me as soon as possible. As always, even if you can't be there for VBS week, I'm counting on you to spread the word and hold all the participants in your prayers! Thank you! See you in June!

Rev. Addie

****Please complete this registration form for each child, cut it off, and return it to Pastor Addie, Mary Billy, or the church office! Thank you!**

Child Name _____ Grade Completed _____ Age _____

Parent Name _____ Phone# _____

Address _____

Emergency Contact Name _____

Relationship to child _____ Phone # _____

Food allergies or other medical notes _____



Children's Choir/United Voices		
Children's Choir: Assembly Hall	Wednesdays	6:30–7:30 PM
United Voices: Music Room	Wednesdays	5:30–6:30 PM

Church School	Sundays	9:00 AM
Worship	Sundays	8:00 & 10:15 AM

“After Worship” refers to the 10:15 AM service.

Rehearsals		
Chancel Choir	Thursdays	7:30 PM
United Ringers	Thursdays	6:15 PM

Events		
5/1	🎵 AGO Recital— Vincent Ryan	Noon
5/8	Men's Breakfast 🎵 AGO Recital— Andrew Heller	9:00 AM Noon
5/10	Ascension Day	
5/12	Women's Retreat	9:00 AM
5/13	MANNA Sunday Enlightener Deadline Mother's Day	
5/15	🎵 AGO Recital— David Furniss Worship at MANNA	Noon 7:15 PM
5/20	Pentecost Confirmation Communion Strengthen the Church Offering Fairly Traded Coffee	10:15 AM 8:00 & 10:15 AM
5/22	🎵 AGO Recital— Young Shim	Noon
5/28	Memorial Day Church Office Closed	
5/29	🎵 AGO Recital— David Christopher	Noon
5/30	Communion	Noon & 12:30 PM

Meetings		
AA	Tuesdays Fridays	7:30 PM 8:30 PM
Azul Dance	5/14 & 28	1:00– 3:00 PM
Boards and Council Meetings	5/14	7:00 & 8:00 PM
Brownies and Girl Scouts	5/7 & 21 Tuesdays	6:30 PM 7:00 PM
Chess Club	Fridays	6:00 PM
NAMI	5/1	7:00 PM
Prayer Group	5/21	7:00 PM
Prayer Shawl	5/7	6:30 PM
Prayer Walk	5/10 & 24	7:00 AM
Quilters	Tuesdays	1:30 PM
St. John's Stampers	5/10	1:00 PM
Stewardship Meeting	5/7	7:00 PM
The Art of Living	Saturdays	10:00 AM
Yoga	Thursdays	7:00 PM



May 2018
Nursery
Schedule

- May 6 Cindy & Darcy Reese
- May 13 Brennan Gage & Shirley Hale
- May 20 Charlene & Paul Herrick
- May 27 Jen & Olivia Gilbert

Thanks to those caring for our infants and toddlers during the 10:15 worship service. If you are on the nursery schedule, please arrive at 10 AM. If you cannot serve on the Sunday you are scheduled, it is important to find a replacement. Please follow these guidelines: **FIRST:** call someone else on the schedule to switch. Most scheduling difficulties can be handled this way. If you are unable to find someone, please call me at 215.527.6237. Thanks again for serving!
Mary Billy, Nursery Coordinator

It's not too late to donate a basket for the Deacons' Annual Basket Raffle.



Board of Deacons: If you would like to contribute a basket, please contact any Deacon. **Reminder—Basket Raffle dates:** Baskets need to be completed and delivered to the church office by May 6. They should be wrapped in clear cellophane and include a list of some of the contents. May 13 is the first day of ticket sales. Volunteers are needed to assist on Lansdale Day, June 2. If you can spare an hour or two representing St. John's and assist in selling tickets for the basket raffle, talk to a Deacon for more information. We will be posting a signup sheet for help in setting up between 8:00 and 8:30 AM and selling tickets or manning the baked goods table at two-hour intervals during the day. If you need ideas for basket themes, the Deacons are happy to help.



May Social Host Schedule

If you have a conflict, please try to find a replacement from your complete list of social hosts.

- 5/6 Jessica Rice & Matt Carson
- 5/13 Judy & Alan Johnston
- 5/20 Educators—Confirmation
- 5/27 Judy Haiges & Cindy Reese



Were You There?

Thirty Years Ago: A new sign and landscaping were approved for the front of the church.

Twenty-five Years Ago: An invitation was extended to all UCC congregations to attend Faith Works 94, a gathering of worship, study, inspiration, and celebration at Purdue University.

Twenty Years Ago: Rev. John Touchberry requested input from the congregation to help Council decide where to allocate designated spaces in the sanctuary for wheelchairs.

Fifteen Years Ago: The Wider Church Ministries of the UCC initiated the Olive Branch Appeal for individuals and churches to respond to the escalating humanitarian crisis in Iraq. Twenty-one relief distribution centers were established in churches and mosques around Baghdad, Mosul, and Basra.

Ten Years Ago: St. John's Youth Spud Lunch was held on May 4. A free-will offering supported the eleven St. John's folks who traveled to the national Youth Event in Knoxville, Tennessee.

Five Years Ago: A call went out for volunteers to price and package handcrafted articles from artisans in the developing world at the SERRV warehouse in New Windsor, Maryland. The activity was sponsored by the Brethren Service Center to help eradicate poverty through direct connections with low-income artisans and farmers around the world.

One Year Ago: St. John's Health Ministry reminded us in the May *Enlightener* that knowing your family's health history is important for your own health and the health of everyone in your family.

Below you will find the chancel flower donation list for May 2018. Please review this list and contact the church office if you would like to remove, add, or update any information on the list.



Reminder—the requested donation for the chancel flower listing is \$25.

May 6

In memory of Robert Gilbert from Bonnie Moyer and family

May 13 MOTHER'S DAY

In memory of their mothers, Ruth Ekberg and Mae Brown, from Sandy and Scott Brown

In memory of Lillian Wurster's birthday and Mother's Day from her daughters, Shirley Ehrlich and Christine Wiley

In memory of Nancy Schultz on Mother's Day from her daughter, Merle Anne Morcom, and Walter Hawkins

In memory of Sue Wilson on Mother's Day from her daughters

In memory of Ada Wallrath on Mother's Day from Jim, Anne, and Dan

In memory of Mary Franks from her parents, Donald and Suzanne Franks

In loving memory of her sister Bonnie Stott from Nancy Roberts

In memory of Denise Kasander from Ted, Jack, and Ben Kasander

Happy 90th birthday on May 13th to Lorene K. Ahrens from her loving family

In memory of Daniel Elliott on our May 15th wedding anniversary from his wife, Elizabeth

In memory of George Ruth's May 15th birthday from Chriss Bodde and family

In memory of William Patton's May 18th birthday from his wife, Jo, and family

May 20 PENTECOST SUNDAY - CONFIRMATION

In memory of Anne Carolus from Dick, Mary Sue, and Betsy Anne

In memory of Paul and Betty Fehnel from their son, Robert, and Jean Fehnel

In memory of Willoughby Moyer and loved ones from Jackie Hunsberger and Grace Moyer

In memory of Paul H. "Buck" Bergey's May 23rd birthday from his daughter, Melody

May 27

In memory of Philip Richart Jr's May 30th birthday, from Holly and Ken Fisher and the Kim and John Milliron family

In memory of Michelle Snyder's May 29th Birthday from her grandmother, Louise Snyder

Chancel Flower Ministry

Thank you for being a part of this important ministry. Many lives have been touched by your efforts.



Flowers should be delivered after the 10:15 AM church service or on Monday. Feel free to deliver the flowers to whomever you want—anyone who is celebrating a birthday or an anniversary, people who are ill, people who are in the hospital, people who need a little extra care. The people you deliver to do not need to be members of St. John's. They can be your friends, loved ones, and neighbors. The flower ministry is part of our outreach.

The flower room is through the door on the left side of the chancel—the side where the pastor preaches. All the supplies you will need are in this room:

- ≈ Plastic vases
- ≈ St. John's address directory
- ≈ Cards.

Please take the flowers out of the brass vases and put them into the plastic floral containers located on the shelves in the flower room. Return the liners back into the gold vases. Please include a card for each bouquet. There will be a copy of these instructions in the flower room. If you are out of town on your assigned Sunday, please switch with someone else. Again, many thanks for being a part of St. John's flower ministry. Please leave the plastic liners in the gold vases, they belong to the florist.

Lisa

May 6	Bonnie & Ken Hales
May 13	Judy Zoll
May 20	Wendy & Rick O'Connor
May 27	Peter Conver



News From The Pews

Finally, it is beginning to feel like spring, and this little church mouse is one very happy camper! If I wore flip-flops, I would be getting them

out about now . . . something I'm pretty sure Pastor Addie is doing because I know how much she enjoys wearing flip-flops and sandals. The beautiful redbud trees surrounding the labyrinth are budding, flowers are blooming in the church's gardens, and, at last, the weather is cooperating and allowing St. John's prayer walkers to resume their biweekly early morning walks at Whites Road Park. I am thankful.

Of course, good weather also means that you may be tempted to seize the moment and spend time outdoors, perhaps going places rather than coming to church on Sunday morning. I understand the lure of this beautiful time of year, but let me remind you that it is possible to do both: that is, to make time to worship AND spend time enjoying God's wonderful Creation. Come to church early and join the 8 AM worshippers if you have later morning and afternoon plans. If you have never ventured to church that early on a Sunday morning, you may want to check it out! A friendly, welcoming group of folks fills the pews on the "lectern side" of the Sanctuary, most of them arriving just a few minutes before 8 o'clock. We begin by spending time sharing the "Peace of Christ," which encourages worshippers to greet their neighbors, speak the words "May the Peace of Christ be with you," and get to know those you may not already know. Let me just say that most Sundays, Pastor Sue and Pastor Addie have a hard time getting the folks to settle down and return to their pews because everyone is so friendly and welcoming!

Yes, the early service has a different "feel" than the 10:15 service, and for those who love music and enjoy hearing our choirs share their gifts as worship leaders, the 10:15 service continues to be the preferred choice on Sunday morning, but I just wanted to remind you there are options! This little church mouse actually loves attending both services and I will confess: sometimes I need to hear the sermon twice because I miss important points the first time around.

So, as you enjoy the beauty and warmth of this wonderful time of year, know that I will be saving a pew for you, whichever worship service you choose to attend. And remember: we are better when you are here among us. St. John's is not the same without you!

AMOS

News From Church Council



Financial Report: Sandy and Bob Taylor, Cotreasurers: The ordinary income in March of \$33,754.62, although about \$5,000 better than February's income, fell well short of our ordinary expenses of \$48,166.52, resulting in a deficit of \$14,411.90. Even with the budgeted transfer from investments to the checking account of \$7,337.13, the monthly shortfall was \$7,074.77. YTD our ordinary income with budgeted transfers is short of our expenses by \$9,872, or 7%. Having a deficit is never desirable, but it is not uncommon at this time of year largely because of the seasonal heating and snow removal costs. And for a variety of reasons we expect that income in April will exceed expenses and significantly decrease our YTD deficit.

This year we have committed to an OCWM (Our Church's Wider Mission) contribution of \$45,726, or about \$3,810 a month. Our OCWM contributions in March totaled \$3,342. YTD, we are about \$834 (or 7%) below where we should be after three months.

Please feel free to share your questions or concerns with our Cotreasurers, Sandy and Bob Taylor.

Staff Reports:

Rev. Sue Bertolette, Senior Pastor: Ten new members joined church on Palm Sunday. John Hendricks takes photos of new members and Pat Rieker prints pictures for the bulletin board that welcomes new members. We are continuing to work on Emergency Preparedness Plans. Sgt. Devlin from Lansdale Police Department met and dialogued with the group and later toured the building to become familiar with exits. He will return to meet with the extended task force. St. John's will host Penn Foundation's Autism Awareness seminar, an event for clergy and laypersons to focus on how to best work with those on the autism spectrum.

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Rev. Addie Stong, Associate Pastor: While Addie is always busy with St. John's activities, she reported on her work with the wider church activities. She participates in conference and ministerium activities. In addition, she attends the yearly Clergy Convocation in Lancaster with Rev. Sue and is currently in charge of all the worship planning. Rev. Sue noted that she represents St. John's well!

David Furniss, Minister of Music: David is always looking ahead. He is busy working on choir plans for the rest of the season. The next Artist Series concert is on April 29 and will feature *St. John's Mass* by Davis Giersch. Save the Date cards were distributed. In Abbie Lampe's absence due to illness, he reported that the May 6 worship service will include the presentation of the musical *100% Chance of Rain* by the children's choir and Sunday School children. During May, St. John's will host the Tuesday noon American Guild of Organists organ recitals.

Lisa Delp, Office Administrator: Lisa reported that the St. John's calendar is full with activities for church and outside groups. Lansdale School of Business will celebrate their 100th graduation and the Montessori School has evening events planned. Showers, weddings, and more will be taking place at St. John's.

Old Business: As an update on a meeting with borough officials concerning the Anchor House lot, the latest plan shows a proposed 25 parking spaces for us, a gain of 11 spaces. The price tag for the plan is \$400,000. If St. John's were to opt to fund the plan and be reimbursed by the borough, there would be a savings of about 30%. Much of the cost is the requirement for underground drainage. Paving the alley (which is really a part of Courtland Avenue) would add \$35,000-\$40,000. At this point, the borough will take the plan to the Parking If they agree to the plan, then Council must take action to approve or disapprove. A lawyer's services would be required to protect our interests.

[continued at right]

If the Parking Authority declines to participate, St. John's has other options to pursue.

New Business: A motion was passed to donate \$500 from our GEM fund to Harold O. Davis Memorial Baptist Church Youth Scholarship Fund. HOD is a sister UCC-affiliated church that struggles financially. Eleanor Johnson was an active member of this church before her health declined and she was directed to St. John's for a local UCC church family. This church provides a vital ministry in North Philadelphia. Through Rev. Sue's participation in Eleanor's service, she learned of Eleanor's strong commitment to their Youth Scholarship Fund, which provides financial assistance to students seeking to further their education. Our contribution is inspired by the good work of this group and their need for funds to support their mission.

Board of Trustees:

Projects Completed:

Automatic doors have been installed at the elevator entrance and the office entrance. Thanks to Jim Lederach for saving us money by helping with the electrical work.

Projects in the Works:

Anchor House parking lot: See **Old Business** in the general Council notes at left.

Anchor House shed teardown is scheduled for the week of April 30. Any help we can get will be appreciated.

Anchor House parking signs: Leroy will order 2 signs for the existing parking lot indicating it is for St. Johns and Snyder Real Estate parking only.

Due primarily to the traffic problems created by the closing of the Madison Avenue parking lot, we are having problems with cars cutting through the alley in back of the church and driving too fast. Leroy will order two 15 mph speed limit signs.

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Board of Educators:

We are losing volunteers for the nursery. A new schedule will come out in June for coverage from July through December. Pastor Addie will make an announcement in church. Rev. Patti Thomas and Nicole Groff will be organizing the children’s library, which will be relocated to the Activity room. Vacation Bible School is June 18 through 21. The theme is iCare (Emoji).

Junior Church Schedule May 2018		
5/6	Amy Faga	215.368.8338
5/13	Cindy Benedict	215.285.9038
5/20	No Junior Church	Pentecost
5/27	Joanna Weierman	215.896.1871

Acolyte Schedule May 2018	
5/6	Anna Evans & Darcy Reese
5/13	Alex & Jessica Ace
5/20	Aidan Gage & Connor Sivco
5/27	Debra Fitzgerald & Susan Popjoy

Board of Elders:

A visitation team will deliver lilies and cards designed by St. John’s Stampers to shut-ins.

Elder of the Morning

Date	Elder	Special Activity
5/6	Judy Leslie	
5/13	Marcia Stacy	Mother’s Day
5/20	Jo-Ann Sine	Pentecost, Confirmation and Communion
5/27	Gayle George	

UMBRELLA MINISTRY	
5/6	Patti Thomas
5/13	open
5/20	Marcia Stacy
5/27	Judy Johnson

Attendance for March 2018

Date	8:00 AM	10:15 AM	Total	Past 5 Years	Average
3/4	47	150	197	2017	237
3/11	54	170	224	2016	327
3/18	64	174	238	2015	281
3/25*	56	245	301	2014	262
TOTAL	221	739	960	2013	338
*Palm Sunday		Average/Week = 240		5-Year Average = 289	
Attendance for Easter Week					
Date	Liturgical Celebration		Attendance		
3/29	Maundy Thursday		117		
3/30	Good Friday		37		

**ARTICLES DUE FOR JUNE ISSUE
DEADLINE: MAY 13**

Leaders: Please provide articles for these coming events for the next *Enlightener* issue:

- ∂ Graduates
- ∂ Father’s Day
- ∂ Church Picnic
- ∂ 61st Anniversary of the UCC

All submissions must include your name and phone number and be typed or printed. Submissions can be placed in the *Enlightener* bin in the Church Office (bottom bin), or emailed to erickinsey46@gmail.com. If you have questions, please call Eric Kinsey at 215.513.2237.

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Eric Kinsey, Editor: erickinsey46@gmail.com

May 2018 Usher Team Leaders	
5/6	Sally Jarinko, Mark Methlie
5/13	Gerald Linderman
5/20	Nancy Roberts, Roger Atkin
5/27	Thomas Beggs

Thanks to all who donated items for this semester's Goodie Box program!



Interesting to note that this service project has just completed its 15th year!!

Thinking back over the years, you, the congregation has kept many students close with your well wishes, goodies, and prayers! Thanks also to the packers—Lorenz Ahrens and Lorretta Umstead—and a grateful shout-out to Lauren Billy who took time from her spring break to help! Many thanks to Mary Billy for her continued support with juggling all those boxes to the Post Office.

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On Saturday May 5, 2018, there will be a 5K Run and Walk to benefit the Worm Project. The race will start and end at the Dock Mennonite Academy Stadium, 1000 Forty Foot Road, Lansdale. Registration is at 9:00 AM; the Run starts at 9:30 AM. To preregister pick up a form in the Library or go to wormproject.org. If you do not want to run but would like to donate, you can do so online, use a preaddressed envelope with the newsletters in the library, or send to The Worm Project, Franconia Mennonite Conference, 1000 Forty Foot Road, Lansdale, PA 19446. Questions? Please ask Jo-Ann Sine at 215.855.3040 or joannsine@gmail.com.

| Summary of Last Month And YTD Income And Expense | Mar 2018          | Jan-Mar 2018      |
|--------------------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>                   |                   |                   |
| <b>Income</b>                                    |                   |                   |
| Current Tithes/Offerings                         | 29,412.52         | 97,066.37         |
| Event Income/Fundraisers                         | 0.00              | 649.75            |
| Flowers                                          | 808.00            | 1,308.00          |
| Investment Income                                | 281.29            | 2,217.00          |
| Rental Income                                    | 2,350.00          | 7,050.00          |
| Use of Building Income                           | 470.00            | 1,020.00          |
| Misc. Unrestricted Income                        | 421.50            | 2,078.64          |
| Int. Income, Savings Accts.                      | 11.31             | 32.65             |
| <b>Total Income</b>                              | <b>33,754.62</b>  | <b>111,422.41</b> |
| <b>Gross Income</b>                              | <b>33,754.62</b>  | <b>111,422.41</b> |
| <b>Expense</b>                                   |                   |                   |
| Salaries and Benefits                            | 31,508.79         | 94,526.37         |
| Elders Expenses                                  | 37.88             | 37.88             |
| Deacons Expenses                                 | 147.50            | 3,124.04          |
| Educators Expenses                               | 0.00              | 0.00              |
| Trustees/Building Expenses                       | 2,205.42          | 4,722.31          |
| Building Operation Expenses                      | 5,520.41          | 20,513.11         |
| Operating Expenses                               | 8,746.52          | 18,379.30         |
| Miscellaneous Expenses                           | 0.00              | 629.56            |
| <b>Total Expense</b>                             | <b>48,166.52</b>  | <b>141,932.57</b> |
| <b>Net Ordinary Income</b>                       | <b>-14,411.90</b> | <b>-30,510.16</b> |
| Budgeted Transfers From Investments              | 14,048.09         | 20,638.26         |
| <b>Net Ordinary Income Plus Transfers</b>        | <b>363.81</b>     | <b>-9,871.90</b>  |
| <b>Other Income/Expense</b>                      |                   |                   |
| <b>Other Income</b>                              |                   |                   |
| Art. Ser. Income—Special                         | 1,120.00          | 1,781.00          |
| Benevolence Offerings                            | 4,671.10          | 13,968.94         |
| Special Accounts                                 | 3,539.84          | 8,144.18          |
| Soup Sales                                       | 36.00             | 1,047.00          |
| Rummage Sale                                     | 0.00              | 137.00            |
| Immediate-Needs Income                           | 250.00            | 750.00            |
| <b>Total Other Income</b>                        | <b>9,616.94</b>   | <b>25,828.12</b>  |
| <b>Other Expense</b>                             |                   |                   |
| Benevolence Disbursements                        | 4,328.34          | 9,253.84          |
| Special Fund Expenditures                        | 5,332.19          | 6,628.19          |
| Soup Sale Expenditures                           | 1,273.00          | 1,273.00          |
| Rummage Sale Expenditures                        | 906.08            | 906.08            |
| Art. Ser. Fund Expenditures                      | 425.00            | 1,425.00          |
| <b>Total Other Expense</b>                       | <b>12,264.61</b>  | <b>19,486.11</b>  |
| <b>Net Other Income</b>                          | <b>-2,647.67</b>  | <b>6,342.01</b>   |
| <b>Net Income</b>                                | <b>-17,059.57</b> | <b>-24,168.15</b> |
| <b>Net Income Plus Transfers</b>                 | <b>3,011.48</b>   | <b>3,529.89</b>   |



## New Members

### **Sherry Slater-Brooks**

I am originally from the east side of Cleveland, Ohio, and was born and raised Catholic. My undergraduate degree is from a small liberal arts (at that time all female) college run by the Notre Dame nuns. I earned my master's degree from Lake Erie College, which began as a female seminary in 1847.

The focus of my professional accounting career has been in the private sector, primarily in manufacturing. I am a lifelong baseball fan and am prayerfully hopeful my hometown team will win the World Series at some point in my lifetime. While there are still teams that have never held the honor, Cleveland holds the record (since the Cubs won two years ago) for the longest drought—70 years!

My spouse is Reverend Celeste, whom most of you might remember from her field education time at St. John's as an LTS seminarian. We have three children, two grandsons, two dogs, and one cat. The human kids are all because of her, and I am the reason we have so many with four legs. I am very happy and honored to be a member of this wonderful church family or "motley crew" as Reverend Sue lovingly refers to us.

Lorene Ahrens

### **Frances Fraelich and Mark Hunsicker**

Frances and Mark have been coming to St. John's for three years. Frances has come to us from another St. John's UCC in Norristown. Mark comes from St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Norristown. Frances has had many jobs in her career. Most recently a school-bus driver and school kitchen assistant. She said her most important job has been as a domestic engineer, raising her four children. She enjoys exercise in her free time. She joined St. John's because of our acceptance of others. Mark has enjoyed a career with Verizon. He enjoys fishing for relaxation. He reflected that St. John's is where he wants to be of help to others.

Sponsored by Steve Bossert.

### **Kathleen Siddall**

Kathleen grew up in the Olney section of Philadelphia. Now she lives in Morgandale with her rabbit and two dogs. (Bunny is safe; Kathleen is a vegetarian.) She works in risk analysis. Her first love is music—she has already joined Chancel Choir and United Ringers—and she sings cabaret and theater music. She also likes to read, and swims and practices yoga. We welcome her into our "motley crew."

Susan Sands

### **Stephanie (Stevie) Harris**

Stevie grew up in in Montgomeryville with her family, including three sisters, and has been living in the Philadelphia area, currently residing in Elkins Park with her husband Brian Leslie and their daughter Aurora (Rory), with a second daughter due in August. The family was very happily married by Rev. Sue on April 30, 2016. Stevie spent several years as the grant administrator for The Blind Relief Fund of Philadelphia and is currently enjoying some time home with the family while planning her next venture. Stevie is excited to be joining the St. John's family and looking forward to getting to know the congregation over the coming months.

Brian Leslie

### **Stephanie and Kris DeDominic**

Stephanie and Kris were married in St. John's UCC and have four children; Kyleigh, Ethan, Sophie, and Kristian. They live in Hereford, Pennsylvania. Stephanie is a surgical nurse at Lehigh Hospital. Kris is a mechanic in Lower Merion Township. They enjoy spending time with their children and grandmother, Mary Belle Krewson, and family and friends.

### **Jay Foster**

Jay lives with his wife, Carol, in Towamencin. They have two children, Sarah and Andrew, and two grandchildren, Mason, age 7, and Ethan, age 2. Jay works at Brooks Instrument in Hatfield and is a veteran of the US Marine Corps. In his spare time, Jay enjoys working in his yard and brewing beer with his son. He likes vacationing and going out to dinner with his wife. He exercises regularly and is an Eagles fan. He became a St. John's member because we welcome people from all walks of life, no matter where they are on life's journey.

Rick Fanciullaci



*Our thoughts and prayers are with the family and friends of George Snyder; Corrine McNabb; and David Sutton, uncle of Liz Vanderburg.*

*Prayers also for Ken and Bonnie Hales on the loss of his sister, Margery.*



### What is May Day?

To most people in the Northern Hemisphere, May Day conjures images of brightly colored twirling ribbons and promises of warm days ahead. That's not the whole story, though: May Day is also a day of protests and riots that traces its modern roots back to a world-changing explosion in Chicago.

Depending on where you are, it's either a seasonal celebration or a day to celebrate workers' rights, or maybe a little bit of both. Think of the latter use as a Labor Day, if you will, for the rest of the world.

### How did it start?

Originally, May Day was an ancient pagan holiday celebrating the start of summer. In Gaelic traditions it is known as Beltaine. As time went on, different groups adapted the celebration to their specific cultures or beliefs. Europeans and Americans often celebrate in a more secular manner with diversions like maypole dancing and flower crowns. Also of note: In May, the Southern Hemisphere is getting ready for winter, so May Day as a seasonal celebration is, for the most part, a Northern Hemisphere celebration.

### How did it become a day for labor rights?

May Day is also a labor holiday in many areas of the world, and that part of its history is a thornier story. May Day has shared a date with International Workers' Day since the 1880s. At the time, labor movements around the world were fighting for fair work accommodations like eight-hour workdays and unions. The date was chosen because it aligned with the anniversary of the Haymarket affair in Chicago, where police killed four people at a peaceful protest after someone threw a bomb into the crowd. The event had a huge impact on labor movements across the world. The long-running May Day Parade in Minneapolis features both colorful, festive floats and revelers who wear satirical costumes related to the labor and political issues of the day.



## STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH OFFERING

*The gifts He gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ.*

— Ephesians 4: 11 - 12

**Please join us in planting the seeds needed to grow and sustain our denomination by making a gift to the Strengthen the Church offering.**

The **Strengthen the Church** offering supports the expansion of ministry and growth of UCC local congregations. Your support of this offering will help the UCC fulfill on its commitment to creating a just world for all by investing in new ministries and practices that meet the emerging needs of local communities.

#### In 2017, your support made possible:

- ◆ 12 awards totaling almost \$350,000 through the New and Renewing Spiritual Communities grant program!
- ◆ The Adese Fellowship program launched its first class of 14 future church leaders!
- ◆ The addition of 24 new faith communities to the UCC!

This is in addition to the great ministry happening in your local conference!



# Organ Recitals at St. John's in May

St. John's newly renovated **Schultz Memorial Organ** will be featured during the month of May when we are the host church for the

## **Tuesday Noon Recital Series**

sponsored by the

### **Philadelphia Chapter of the American Guild of Organists.**

All Tuesday Noon Recitals are free and are about 35 to 45 minutes in length.

**May 1**

**Vincent Ryan**

Minister of Music, Advent Lutheran Church, Harleysville

**May 8**

**Andrew Heller**

Director of Music, St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Ardmore

**May 15**

**David Furniss**

Minister of Music, St. John's United Church of Christ, Lansdale

**May 22**

**Young Shim**

Organist, Ambler Church of the Brethren

**May 29**

**David Christopher**

Organist and Director of Music

Episcopal Church of Saints Andrew and Matthew, Wilmington, DE



This spring marks the **30<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY** of St. John's Artist Series! The first Artist Series event was an organ concert by David Furniss held on March 27, 1988, performing *The Way of the Cross* by Marcel Dupré. Since then there have been nearly 200 events, featuring musicians from St. John's Church and the North Penn community, from across the United States, as well as from Germany, Russia, and the Netherlands. St. John's Artist Series has presented a great variety of events, including choral concerts, organ concerts, piano concerts, chamber music, staged productions, and more. The Artist Series has remained a self-sustaining operation from the beginning, and raised a significant amount of money for the Schultz Memorial Organ renovation. Many thanks to those of you who have faithfully supported St. John's Artist Series over the years!