

# NEWS FROM THE PEWS

The Monthly Newsletter of St. John UMC



# SERVE

## January 2019

Wow! What a great Christmas we had as we celebrated the promise of God!

Now we have a New Year with all the potential and all the promise of what can be by God's grace. Sometimes people are saddened by a new year, but I am excited and empowered. I love having a new start, a new goal, and a new day. Our overreaching goal at St. John is to expand the love of Jesus Christ by growing the church, both spiritually and numerically. Will you pray this year for the growth of the church? And will you work towards that goal?

Our theme word for the year 2019 is SERVE. This is the word that was selected by the leadership of our congregation. Throughout the year, we will highlight and focus on mission service, both inside and outside these walls. One phrase I hope we hear and use often is "Every Member in Ministry." One of our goals this year is that all of our members will be active in a "hands-on" ministry; be it from praying to washing pots, to visiting the sick, to singing in a choir. Each of us is called to be in ministry.

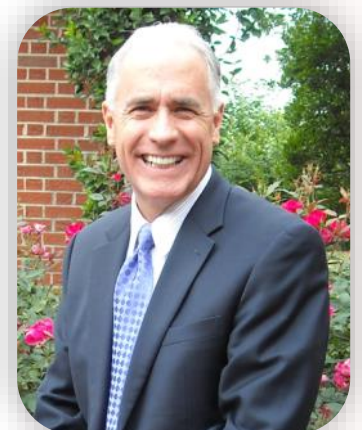
Another goal is that you will consider being in a growth group during the year at some point. We are starting several new Disciple Bible study groups, beginning January 20<sup>th</sup>. This is a new edition that is shorter than the original studies. These groups will be meeting on Sunday afternoons, with childcare available. There is still a place for you.

Some other goals that we hope to accomplish is to hire a Children and Family minister, make some improvements to the parking lot and to the facilities, and we hope to expand our mission to our four compass points: The Jessye Norman School, The Wesley Foundation, The Stith Mead House, and St. John Towers.

I am excited, and I hope you are, about a New Year with new possibilities, and I pray God will grow us forward as we seek to SERVE in 2019.

Blessings to you,

Jody



## United Methodists are a Global People

by Dr. Jody Alderman



We sometimes think in the church that what we do is all local, but we forget the power the United Methodist church has as a global denomination.

We are a people responding to the needs of others around the

world, sharing the love of Jesus Christ in words and in deeds. For example, we support primary schools in Madisi, Malawi, a country in Southern Africa; we provide support to the churches in Russia, and to orphanages in Goma, Democratic Republic of Congo; we supply emergency food distribution to Tacloban, Philippines; and we gather groups of Korean United Methodist to pray near the North Korean border.

Historically the Methodist Church has supported higher education by starting dozens and dozens of colleges and theology schools in the United States and around the world. Just a few years ago we started the Africa University that is going strong. We also have started many primary and elementary schools, including a German-speaking class for immigrants entering Europe. We have been involved in starting hospitals and clinics around the world. We sponsor mission trips to Honduras and many other Latin American countries. We support worship services in Mu'er, Shanghai China and offer a Methodist Zimbabwean worship service in Alberta, Canada.

(These listed here are a small portion of what we do around the world.)

Does the larger church have its problems? Certainly, just like the local church. But let us remember that our focus is to spread the love of Jesus Christ in how we live, in how we give, and in what we do. I hope we can all say: "I'm proud to be a United Methodist!"

## Disciple Fast Track

- Becoming Disciples Through Bible Study

- Into the Word, Into the World

January 20 - April 7, Sundays at 5pm

### Disciple Bible Study

We are planning exciting bible study opportunities for members and guests! Beginning January 20th on Sunday nights, 5pm-6:30, we will offer two different classes in Disciple Bible Study. This 12 week study in the Old Testament then breaks for the summer and resumes for 12 weeks in late August for the New Testament study. Various facilitators will lead, including Carol Capers, Nesbit Dasher, Rev. Chuck Moon, Sandy Hobbs, Alison Wright, Nichole Kuehl, and Dr. Jody Alderman.

For those who have not taken a *Disciple Bible Study*, choose Disciple 1: *Becoming Disciples Through Bible Study*, an overview of the entire Bible, 12 weeks through the Old Testament, followed by 12 weeks through the New Testament.

For those who have taken Disciple 1, choose Disciple 2: *Into the Word, Into the World*, a 12 week study of Genesis - Exodus, followed by a 12 week study of Luke - Acts. Our informational meeting and orientation will be after church January 6. Lunch and nursery provided with RSVP by Jan 4. Sign up at church or online!

### How To Improve Your Life In 2019

- ◆ If you are able, walk every day
- ◆ Put some quiet into your day
- ◆ Be thankful everyday
- ◆ Do something for others and for yourself
- ◆ Pick out a good attitude each day
- ◆ Let your light shine
- ◆ Practice giving
- ◆ Keep the Word of God in your heart
- ◆ Don't be afraid to set a goal or to plan
- ◆ Don't be afraid to change your plans
- ◆ Serve

### St. John UMC Leadership Workshop

The St. John Leadership Workshop will be held on Saturday, January 12, 2019 from 9:00 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. at The Foundry, 801 Greene St., Augusta. The workshop will feature special guest, Rev. Betsy Butler, Minister of Outreach at Athens First UMC. Coffee bar and breakfast snacks begin at 8:30am. Lunch will be provided. RSVP online or to the church office. 706-724-9641

For more information on all our ministries and missions, visit us online at [www.StJohnAugusta.org](http://www.StJohnAugusta.org)

## This Month in Worship

**Worship Service: January 6, 2018**  
**The Gift of Light**

**Sermon Scripture:** *Matthew 2:1-12*  
*Isaiah 60:1-6, Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14,*  
*Ephesians 3:1-12*

**Worship Service: January 13, 2018**  
**Jesus Is Introduced**

**Sermon Scripture:** *Luke 3:15-17, 21-22*  
*Isaiah 43:1-7, Psalm 29, Acts 8:14-17*

**Worship Service: January 20, 2018**  
**When The Wine Runs Out**

**Sermon Scripture:** *John 2:1-11*  
*Isaiah 62:1-5, Psalm 36:5-10,*  
*1 Corinthians 12:1-11*

**Worship Service: January 27, 2018**  
**The Word Is Preached**

**Sermon Scripture:** *Luke 4:14-21*  
*Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10, Psalm 19,*  
*1 Corinthians 12:12-31a*

## HONORARIUMS AND MEMORIALS

### **Bless This House:**

In memory of Cameron Johnson's birthday  
by Thomas and Amy Garigan.

### **Endowment Fund:**

In memory of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Z.  
Greenway by Paul and Corinthia  
Greenway.

In honor of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph W. Evans  
by Paul and Corinthia Greenway.

## CLERGY AND STAFF OF ST. JOHN UMC

**Phone:** (706) 724-9641

**Rev. Dr. Jody Alderman, Senior Minister**

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**Organist/Director of Music**

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**Tim James, Building Manager**

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**Etelka Mayo, Church Cook/Hostess**

Ext. 17

**Brandon Germany, Custodian**

## Concerts with a Cause Presents



January 18, 2019

7:30 pm

This nationally prominent choir, under the direction of Brad Holmes, has sung by invitation at six national and regional conferences of The American Choral Directors Association.

Also appearing on this concert:

The Davidson Chorale, Phillip Streetman, director

A love offering will be taken for *A Place To Dream*

Free, open to the public. Nursery provided.

**UMW** (United Methodist Women) will meet at the home of Nichole Kuehl on Monday, January 14 at 7pm. The UMW Towers circle will meet Thursday, January 10 at 10:30am in the private dining room of St. John Towers.

**UMM** (United Methodist Men) will meet in the church Fellowship Hall on Tuesday, January 8. Our speaker will be Rev. Jody Alderman on the Appalachian Trail: Finding Your Spiritual Peace in Nature. Dinner will be served at 6:30pm with the program to start at 7pm. Please notify the church office if you will attend. 706 724-9641



We are planning a trip either President's Day weekend Feb 15-18 (3 nights) or Feb 22-24 (2 nights) at Beech Mountain or Winterplace Ski Resort. Please email your choices to Nichole by Sunday, Jan 6 and pay a \$100 deposit for your family spot (1-5 people). Please see our website for more details.

## St. John Clothes Closet

**-Winter Coats Still Needed!-**

**& Sign up to volunteer at:**

<https://stjohnaugusta.org/news/current-needs/>

## In Our Prayers

Sonja Husz, Bob & Sally Fisher, Leonard Brubaker, Paul Ottinger, Curt & Patty Strickland, the Hoglund Family, Jencie and Phil Hargrove, Tim and Carolyn Maund, John Schlatter, our military at home and abroad, and the troubled corners of our world.



## Wednesday Night Programs in January

5:00 pm Children's Choirs, resuming Jan. 16  
6:30pm Adults: Fellowship Hall  
1/9 - Revelation: God's Presence in Your Life  
1/16 - Prison Ministry  
1/23 - Special General Conference Information  
and 30 Day Prayers  
United Methodist Youth Fellowship (UMYF)  
(6th - 12th grade), Rm. 214  
M & M Club (Methodists & Missions)  
(Pre-K - 5th Grade), Rm. 109  
1/30 - All ages program: Baby Shower for  
UM Children's Home  
(Nursery provided, ages 0-5. 5pm-9pm)

**No Supper, Choirs or Programs January 2.**

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT MENU

Join us for supper and fellowship each Wednesday night.

### January 2

No Supper

### January 16

Lasagna/Chicken  
Green Vegetable  
Corn on the Cob  
Tossed Salad  
Brownies  
French Bread  
Milk, Tea, and Coffee

### January 9

Pork Chops/Chicken  
Turnip Greens  
Black Eyed Peas  
Tater Tots  
Salad Plate  
Pineapple Cake  
Corn Bread  
Milk, Tea, and Coffee

### January 30

Beef Stew/Chicken  
Rice  
Green Vegetable  
Tossed Salad  
Lemon Bisque  
Corn Bread  
Milk, Tea, and Coffee

**Cost:** Adults: \$7; Youth (7-12) \$3; Children (3-6) \$1; Children under 3 are free. To reserve or cancel, call the church office at 706-724-9641 by 12:00 p.m. on the Tuesday before. You may also fill out a supper reservation form online under the programs tab.

## Augusta District Training – Thomson First, Jan. 13, 3-5pm

Church leaders are encouraged and all church members are invited to attend these workshops.

- Creating a Culture of Hospitality - Rev. John Kenney/Sarah MacDonald
- Trustees - Rev. Dr. Mike Cash
- Staff Parish Relations Committee - Rev. Terry Fleming
- What are Fresh Expressions? - Rev. Dr. Beth Sanders/Rev. Scott Parrish
- Foster Care and How Your Church Can Help - Rev. Lindsey Solomon
- Unique Challenges faced by Older Adults - Rev. Karen Kagiyama
- For Finance Committee members, there are webinars at <https://www.ngumc.org/webinars>



St. John United Methodist Church  
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