

HERALD

St. John's United Church of Christ
JULY, 2008

A few months ago I talked with Carolyn Hayes, Bob Kleeman, Don Crismon and Steve Gray, our Conference Minister, about my plan to conclude my time here as your Interim Minister the end of August. I have been serving here with an open-ended contract, month to month, as long as this was agreeable to you and to me. After more that two years of delightful ministry, I believe it is time to start a new chapter in my life and in yours, and so August 31 will be my last Sunday with you.

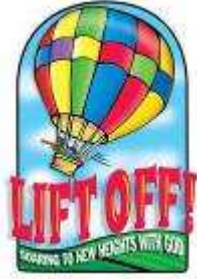
You have been so kind, responsive and encouraging to me. I talked about you often as I led a workshop on Interim Ministry with pastors from the Evangelical Church in Westphalia, Germany last month. They were eager to learn of this "ministry of transition" as one settled pastor leaves and another begins. My regret is that the Search Committee, which has been working diligently on your behalf, has not identified as yet who that next pastor will be. Steve Gray will be working with you to provide continuing pastoral leadership as you finish this process of discerning and election.

I have learned a great deal from you. You are a gifted and talented community, with your share of saints, comedians, characters and leaders. Your rich history is only prelude to what God is calling you to become in the years that stretch before you. The one you call to be your next Senior Minister will find this to be an extraordinary setting for ministry, for challenge and mission and growth.

You have been on a significant journey for many years and I have thoroughly enjoyed sharing this latest portion of your journey. You surrounded me with an exceptional staff who are so very competent in their own ministries. I leave with regret, for I will dearly miss seeing you on a regular basis and working with you. Although we accomplished much, there is an adequate amount of unfinished business to challenge you as you continue to grow into the full stature of Christ, the head of the Church.

I look forward to these concluding two months together. We can count on God to bless us richly as we live our way into God's future. Peace. John Krueger

VBS



Our St. John's UCC Youth has been relatively idle over the past month in preparation for Vacation Bible School. Vacation Bible School (VBS) was a hit, and we had 25 children attend. Most children in attendance were church members, or family of church members. The theme of this year's VBS was Lift Off! Soaring to New Heights with God, thus explains the hot air balloon decor sported by the church building's hallways during the last week of June.

Each night began with an assembly time where children sang songs, danced, and watched video clips featuring Dr. B.A. Loon, skyologist from Balloon University. The rest of the evening was spent making crafts, playing games, eating treats, doing labs experiments in the Discovery Lab, and learning Bible stories through a drama team. A new lesson was presented every night and was reiterated in each activity. To close the evening children gathered together to sing, pray, tell what they had learned, and gave an offering. All contributions made to the offering were given to the American Red Cross to aid flood victims in South Central Indiana.

Another bright spot were the volunteers that participated in VBS. Church members of all ages volunteered and seemed to really enjoy themselves. In fact, there were many moments throughout the week that it was difficult to decipher who was having the most fun, the children, or the adults? Everyone involved thoroughly enjoyed themselves and everyone around them, and the week would not have been a success with out their participation.

Letter from the Youth Director

In April, I spoke with the Personnel Committee in regard to my future as Director of Youth and Family Ministries at St. John's UCC. I will be stepping down from this position to attend graduate school in the next month. As August begins, so too will my time in Indiana University's Higher Education and Student Affairs Graduate Program. In addition to classes, I will be working as a Graduate Assistant at IUPUI's Bepko Learning Center, a requirement for this graduate program. With these two commitments, designating the appropriate time and attention deserved to the youth will be lost.

Leaving this position is a difficult decision, for I very much enjoy working with the church youth, members, and staff. At the present, I feel this decision is what is most appropriate for my career aspirations and for the church. When accepting the offer to become Director of Youth and Family Ministries I was under the assumption that the children of the church would be doing most of the learning. This has not been the case, I have learned significantly more from each member of St. John's UCC (from ankle-biter to senior citizen). It is my hope that you will be just as kind, generous, open-minded, and willing to assist whoever is to take over in the future, as you did for me. Thank you, again for all that you have done for me and for the youth and family ministries.

Supplementary to continuing education I still plan to attend St. John's UCC, and help our church youth more in the capacity as a volunteer. Having only been at St. John's UCC for ten months I can attest that the passion this congregation has for its church is contagious. I am glad to share this passion, and look ahead to building these relationships and growing in Christ with you all.

Keep the faith,

Landon J. Brothers



Thank you all for your cards and all of your prayers. They were greatly appreciated. What would we do without our church family? Thanks to Pastor John for his concern and to Pastor Don for his visits.

Marjorie Hodder

Thanks to all for your many concerns, prayers and cards while I was in the hospital and now that I'm in rehab. Thanks to Pastor Don for his many visits.

Bill Tavenor

I would like to thank everyone for all your prayers and cards.

Betty Durment

Roberta Grubbs

Thanks for all the prayers, cards, calls and visits during the illness and passing of our dear friend, Betty Durment. Special thanks to Pastor Don for the lovely service and all of his visits and calls and to Pastor John for his visits. We truly have a wonderful church family at St. John's.

Marian Childers,
Kathy, Phil, and Andrew Harris,
and all of our family

Dear Pastor Krueger and the Congregation of St. John's Church,

Many thanks to you for the many cards my father received on his 99th birthday from the people of St. John's. All of them were special and touching, and brought back wonderful memories for him.

We wish you many blessings in your ministry and mission.

Sincerely,
Mark Meckstroth

Dear Friends,

We are grateful to you for your very generous gift of \$250.00. Thanks to this contribution and the support of others like you, the Ronald McDonald House of Indiana will continue to be a place of refuge and rest for families during a time of great stress and anxiety.

Beth E. Johnson,
Executive Director

Births

Aiden James Madison

June 14, 2008

Parents: Scott and

Julie Madison

Deaths

Betty Durment

May 30, 2008



By: Gay Hampton
Lori & Bruce Houston
Allen & Mary Baker
Jean Ressler
Doug & Joan Davidson
Susan Smale
Dick & Pat Schneider
Mary Martha Circle
Gwen Hamilton
Dick & Rhoda Johnson
Norena Niles
Mary Ann Farrell
Del & Lois Kauffman
Mr. & Mrs. Wm Nierman
Mike Kauffman
Marian Childers
Jean Bailey
Ruth Schnell
Raymond & Joan Buchanan
Ruth Smale
Tarkington Tower Condo 3J
Ron & Marty Brothers
Ed & Millie McClain
Linda Leonard
Margie Potter
Lew & Rosemary Thomas



Emily Moeller & Scott Harding

June 21, 2008

Barfield & Weimer

June 28, 2008