

**Let the children come to me;  
do not stop them;  
for it is to such as these that  
the kingdom of God belongs.**

**Mark 10:14b**



St. John's United Church of Christ  
**Christian Education Programs**

September – May  
2011-2012

## Nursery

A **nursery** is provided during the 9 a.m. worship service. The Christian Education Committee recruits and trains two adult caregivers for each Sunday and uses Confirmation students as helpers. Your child's safety and health are carefully provided for in this lovely, open room. A simple registration procedure is followed for each infant and toddler and parents are invited to drop in at any time.

The nursery is located on the upper level of the Christian Education Building.

## Faith Zone Newsletter

Provide your email on the registration and you will receive a monthly newsletter. Included in the newsletter will be happenings in the Faith Zone, the current rotation along with questions you can discuss at home, announcements and upcoming events.

## Registration Information

To register your child,

Bring, mail, or fax the form in the center of this booklet to the Church Office

You may also register on line ([www.stjohnsmonroe.org](http://www.stjohnsmonroe.org))

## Faith Zone 2011-2012

### What happens on Sunday morning?

**Children enrolled in the preschool class** go directly to their rooms on the upper floor of the Christian Education Building. These children remain in their classrooms for the entire hour.

**Children in grades kindergarten through sixth** go to Fellowship Hall where they will find their class table designated by a sign. Every class has a shepherd who greets them and attends the morning workshop with them. The shepherd is a person who has special gifts of nurturing children. Two shepherds are recruited to rotate Sundays and provide continuity of adult leadership as the children move to a different workshop each week. Attendance is taken and offering envelopes are received before the classes leave Fellowship Hall for the day's workshop.

**Seventh grade at 9 a.m.** will meet in the youth room. A team of leaders and new opportunities for service in the Faith Zone are in store for this year's class. The youth will participate in Faith Zone leadership through the preparation of skits and games for the Faith Zone Gathering Time and by mentoring the kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> grade in the computer lab once a month.

**The Christian Education office** is located on the upper level of the Christian Education wing and a volunteer is in that office on Sunday mornings to assist visitors and Faith Zone participants.

**The Faith Zone director, Gary Neuenschwander**, begins his morning in this office and then meets classes in Fellowship Hall where he is always happy to answer questions.

**Valerie Blum, the Christian Education (C.E.) program administrator**, and Gary Neuenschwander share an office next to the Christian Education office upstairs in the Faith Zone

# Faith Zone Calendar 2011 – 2012

## God's New Beginning

September 11 – Shepherd Sunday  
September 18 – Bible skills  
September 25 – Mission Sunday

October – God's Work in Progress-**Creation**  
October 30 – All Saints Day–Faith Zone event

November – Character Counts-**Joshua**  
November 27 – Advent Festival

December – Christ revealed-**Christmas Seen Through Symbols**  
December 25 – No Faith Zone

January 1 – No Faith Zone  
January – Loyal Living-**Ruth**

February – Gems of the Kingdom-**Parables and Stories of Jesus**

March 4 – Road Trip-**Resurrection to Pentecost**

April 1 – Palm Sunday–Faith Zone event  
April 8 – Easter–No Faith Zone  
April & May 6–Feed My Sheep, Peter-**The New Church**

May 13 – Faith Zone Review- Retelling the stories of the year  
May 20 – **Celebration Sunday**  
May 27 – Summer Worship Option Begins

## Including Children in Worship

St. John's welcomes children in our congregational worship services because we follow Jesus Christ, who welcomed and fully accepted little children. We want our children to know that we, too, accept them as they are and desire their participation in the community of faith.

Young children come to worship with wonder and a curiosity about everything. There are several things parents can do to make their child's experience - and their own - more relaxed and worshipful:

- ❖ Sit near the front where your child can clearly see the worship leaders.
- ❖ Prepare your child for the different parts of the worship service and explain special events ahead of time.
- ❖ Encourage use of the children's worship activity bulletin, available from the ushers, and invite your child to color or draw in those bulletins.
- ❖ Allow your child to bring a favorite stuffed animal along or pick up a Bible storybook in the library to browse during worship.
- ❖ If children are invited to participate by coming forward or giving a response, accompany them if they are hesitant and join them in responding.
- ❖ Feel free to choose, at any time during the worship, to take your child to play in the nursery for the remainder of the service. Your movement during the worship is not disruptive.
- ❖ If a child needs to use the bathroom, again, your quiet movement will not disrupt worship and there is a bathroom at the back of the sanctuary near the elevator entrance.

A sensitivity to the young child's abilities and needs can help make worship a more pleasant and meaningful experience. We encourage the church family to worship together.

## Third Grade Bibles

Each year St. John's United Church of Christ gives a Bible to third grade students participating in the Faith Zone. This year the Bibles will be presented during the 9 a.m. worship service on Sunday, Sept. 11. Memorial gifts are used to purchase these Bibles that are engraved with each child's name. The Christian Education Committee thanks all those who have donated money for these Bibles

## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation Class

Confirmation students receive their Bibles on **Sunday, Sept. 11**, during the 9 a.m. worship in the sanctuary. Confirmation Class begins on **Wednesday, Sept. 14**, with supper at 6 p.m. in Fellowship Hall and class in the Christian Education wing from 6:30–7:30 p.m. Parents and 8th grade students must attend the **Wednesday, Aug. 17**, meeting at 7 p.m. in Fellowship Hall to learn about the Confirmation program.

## Senior High Youth Fellowship Switchpoint

Senior High Youth Fellowship (SHYF) meets Wednesday evening during the school year, meeting from 6:30-7:30 p.m. in the Youth Room. Senior High Youth Fellowship will begin **Wednesday, Sept. 14**. Students are encouraged to attend when they can. If you are interested in receiving mailings about Senior High events, please contact Youth Directors Jason Leopold, at 608.732.7592 or Alison Winne, 608.214.7727 or the church office, 325.2165. Cell phone numbers would be appreciated! Information on the first meeting will be mailed to all St. John's high school students. Follow them on facebook: Switchpoint Shyf

## Faith Zone Curriculum

This year, we begin the first year of a six year curriculum of the Bible written by Potter's Publishing. Potter's Publishing has been developing workshop rotation curriculum since its inception. The guiding principles of this curriculum are:

- Curriculum that teaches the Bible so that it brings about radical transformation of children's minds and hearts and leads them to maturity in Christian faith.
- Curriculum that provides children with Biblical stories and concepts that they learn how to use as tools and rely on in their journey through life.
- Curriculum that honors children as multi-dimensional learners with God-given multiple intelligences.
- Curriculum that is solidly based on theology, current research in education and educational best practices.

## This year we study God's New Beginnings

### October 2011: God's Work in Progress, Creation

Children will learn that God's creation is not finished but is a work in progress. As they explore God's "earth machine" as a wondrously balanced ecosystem, they learn that God gave them responsibility for its care. Being created in God's image challenges them to reflect God's Spirit in their daily lives. They learn that they, too, are a work in progress and through Jesus they can be a new creation.

### **November 2011: Character Counts, Joshua**

Character counts! Children will learn that their character counts in leading their daily lives. Joshua's example of an obedient leadership will help them learn how faithful leaders can bring about new beginnings. As children follow Joshua from entering the Promised Land to his farewell address, they will learn about the qualities of a good leader who trusts and obeys God. Through historical re-enactment, they cross with Joshua into the Promised Land and learn of God's justice through Joshua dividing the Promised Land. They further learn about the consequences of disobedience and how it affects others through a game activity. Fairness, justice, obedience, and trust are some of the character traits explored to guide children to understand how they, too, can be God-like leaders in their daily lives.

### **December 2011: Christ Revealed, Christmas Seen Through Symbols**

Children can easily be distracted by the commercial side of Christmas. As Christian educators, we need to reveal the true meaning of Christmas to them. In this unit, Christ's birth and life are revealed through Christmas symbols today. Children learn that many of the symbols they see decorating their homes, store windows, and streets have deeper meaning than the secular symbols they have become and point to Jesus' birth. Children also learn the importance of telling the Christmas story to others.

### **January 2012: Loyal Living – Ruth**

Children follow Ruth from Moab to Bethlehem where she begins a new life with her mother-in-law, Naomi. The children will learn what loyal living means by seeing Ruth loyally providing for Naomi. They will see how Ruth and Naomi were faithful throughout their struggles. They also learn that Ruth and Naomi thanked God for their blessings by showing care and kindness to others. They make a connection between Boaz being Ruth's kinsmen redeemer to Jesus being ours.

### **February 2012: Gems of the Kingdom – Parables**

Jesus asked, "What is the Kingdom of God like? What shall I compare it to?" As Christians, we are part of the Kingdom of God. So, where are our crowns? Where are our precious gems? Children do some digging in the Bible and discover that parables are like precious gems...they tell us how we can be a part of the Kingdom of God. Jesus' parables tell how to have a new relationship with God and others. Kids explore parables depicting God's values, God's love, and God's Kingdom. The children will uncover the following parables: The Parable of the Two Sons, The Prodigal Son, The House Built on a Rock, The Rich Fool, The Workers in the Vineyard, The Yeast, The Hidden Treasure and Pearl.

### **March 2011: Road Trip – Resurrection to Pentecost**

This unit has an overall theme: **Jerusalem Tours**. Think of your children as being on a "road trip" for the next six weeks. Each Sunday, the children take a different trip to the Holy Land with tour guides from the Jerusalem Tours Office. (The tour guides are your teachers; each trip is a different workshop.)

### **April 2012: Feed My Sheep, Peter – The New Church**

Children learn of Peter receiving the Holy Spirit and the early beginnings of the church. Through various activities, children will explore the church as a community, the church's mission, and the church as a witness then and now. Lastly, they will learn about the birth of their own church and how they are a part of the Body of Christ.

## Welcome to the Faith Zone Workshop Rotation Model

The Faith Zone is St. John's Workshop Rotation Model of Education, which is based on the concepts of the Multiple Intelligence theory. All classes study the same Bible story for one month, with every workshop approaching the story in a different way.

Instead of recruiting one volunteer teacher, St. John's Christian Education Committee:

1. Designs each classroom for one specific learning experience. For example, a drama room, art room, storytelling room, movie room.
2. Recruits a teacher to teach the same workshop activity to a different class each week for one month.
3. Rotates a different class to a new workshop each week-hence the concept "rotation."
4. Uses one Biblical story for one month so that the children experience the same story through four workshops.
5. Recruits persons to act as "shepherds" for each class. The shepherds stay with the same class for the entire year providing continuity and stability to the group.

### The children become:

- \* Engaged in the Bible story.
- \* Eager to come back because they have other rooms to look forward to.
- \* Able to remember and retell the Bible story.

We use the workshop rotation model for children in grades K-6. Our three and four –year-old classes and seventh grade class at 9 a.m. remain in their rooms during the Faith Zone.

## Sunday Morning

On Sunday mornings, 15<sup>th</sup> Street becomes one way to the west and 14<sup>th</sup> Street becomes one way to the east. The church parking lot is very congested and for the safety of our members, we ask that those who are dropping off or picking up people use the driveway covered entrances.

**Phone Number: 608.325.2165**

**Fax Number: 608.325.2290**

**e-mail: [stjohnsucc@tds.net](mailto:stjohnsucc@tds.net)**

**Web Site: [www.stjohnsmonroe.org](http://www.stjohnsmonroe.org)**

**Find us on Facebook**

After normal office hours you are welcome to leave a message for a staff person by using our voice mail.

The church office is opened Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays  
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Mondays and Fridays 8 a.m. to Noon

The Christian Education Office is located on the second floor  
of the Christian Education Wing.

### Our Staff at St. John's

Rev. Dr. W.T. Mike Heath	Senior Pastor
Rev. Gretchen Sylvester	Associate Pastor
Kay Carter-Heath	Director of Christian Education
Deborah Krauss Smith	Director of Music/Organist
Val Blum	C.E.Program Administrator
Gary Neuenschwander	Faith Zone Director
Jason Leopold	Senior High Youth Director
Alison Winnie	Senior High Youth Director
Judy Hale	Accounting and Business Manager
Yvonne Tornow	Office Administrator

# 2011-2012 REGISTRATION

St. John's United Church of Christ

Child's name \_\_\_\_\_

Birth date \_\_\_\_\_ Allergies or health problems \_\_\_\_\_

## REGISTRATION FOR FAITH ZONE

Sunday morning, 9 a.m.  
beginning **Sunday, Sept. 11**

Enroll child in

- |                                       |                                  |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Preschool    | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade 4 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kindergarten | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade 5 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade 1      | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade 6 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade 2      | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade 7 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade 3      |                                  |

Preschool children and Grade 7 students should report to the Faith Zone where they will be directed to the proper classrooms. All other grades should report to Fellowship Hall each Sunday. At 9 a.m., the classes will move to the Faith Zone.

All children may be picked up at 10 a.m. in the Faith Zone.

*Children aged 3 through 4K should enroll in the preschool class and all others in their school grade*

## Parent Information

**Father's name**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Mother's name**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Phone** *(check preferred)*

Home \_\_\_\_\_ Day \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone** *(check preferred)*

Home \_\_\_\_\_ Day \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to be involved in the Faith Zone \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to be involved in the Faith Zone \_\_\_\_\_

If not a member, would you be interested in joining St. John's? \_\_\_\_\_

If not a member, would you be interested in joining St. John's? \_\_\_\_\_

**Child lives with:** Both parents \_\_\_\_\_ Mother only \_\_\_\_\_ Father only \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

**I prefer to receive:** *(check preferred)* \_\_\_\_\_ **mail** \_\_\_\_\_ **email** *(see below)*

**It should be sent to:** Both parents \_\_\_\_\_ Mother only \_\_\_\_\_ Father only \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Email address(es)** \_\_\_\_\_

Note: You will receive a monthly Faith Zone newsletter by email if you provide your address

**Photography permission:** Your child may be photographed and those photos may be used in worship or publicity unless you specify that no photos be used. \_\_\_\_\_ No photos may be used