

The Visitor

“That you might have life-life in all its fullness”
January 2008 *John 10:10*

Bad Girls of the Bible

It is easy to focus on the saints of the Bible. Sarah was so faithful. Esther was so loyal. Mary was so brave. Starting January 9th, we're going to look at some biblical women who weren't so perfect. They're all here: prostitutes, adulteresses and divas. Join us in a fast-paced, fun study in good living from the Bible's bad news belles.

6:00-7:00pm Wednesdays

January 9	Eve
January 16	Rebekah
January 23	Potiphar's Wife
January 30	Rahab
February 6	Ash Wednesday – no class
February 13	Herodias
February 20	Woman forgiven for adultery
February 27	Woman with the alabaster jar

Men's Euchre Nights



Men's Euchre fun nights will return on Thursday, January 24th and February 28th, starting at 7:00pm in Fellowship Hall. Bring a friend and come and join in the fun.

Beading Class



You are invited to design your own bracelet. It will be created using sterling silver components with glass, pearl and swarovski crystal beads. Instructions and tools will be provided by Melissa Thompson and friends. The class will be held in the Upper Room on Sunday, January 27th from 2-4pm. Registration is requested by Monday, January 21st by telephoning the church office, 325.2165. The class fee of \$20.00 will cover all supplies needed. Coffee and refreshments will be provided. You are welcome to bring your own beads, tools and join us at no charge for an afternoon of fellowship.

Jambalaya Jubilee

Friday, January 11

4:00-7:00pm

in Fellowship Hall

Carry-outs and kids menu available

Adults: \$7.50 Ages 4-10: \$4.00 3 & Under: free

Proceeds from this event will go toward the church's adult work trip to Back Bay Mission in Biloxi, MS. Tickets will be available from work trip members or during fellowship time on Sunday mornings or in the church office.

Men's Book Study

Indianapolis Colts Coach Tony Dungy's #1 Best-selling Book "Quiet Strength" will be the topic of the men's book and Bible study.

Tony Dungy's words and example have intrigued millions of people, particularly following his victory in Super Bowl XLI, the first for an African American coach. How is it possible for a coach--especially a football coach--to win the respect of his players and lead them to the Super Bowl without screaming tirades and insults, the profanities, and the demand that the sport come before anything else? How is it possible for anyone to be successful without compromising faith and family? In this inspiring and reflective memoir, Coach Dungy tells the story of a life lived for God and family--and challenges us all to redefine our ideas of what it means to succeed.

Tony Dungy led his team to #1 in the world-and showed the world a better way to live, lead, and succeed.

The study will be held on **Tuesday evenings from 5:30 to 6:30pm**. It will run for six weeks beginning on January 15th and ending on February 19th. Please telephone the church office, 325.2165 to order your book and reserve your spot. You can begin reading the book at your convenience as we work through the study guide each week.

Happiness



How many times have you wished friends and family "Happy New Year!" this week? Although we don't typically think of New

Year's Day as a religious holiday, the greeting that we give each other this time of year reflects a truly Christian hope: the hope that we might have joy and happiness in the here and now.

For God's wish for us, is that "You shall rejoice, you shall be happy," as scripture repeatedly says. There is a sense in which it is impossible to be a truly religious person unless you dearly want others to be happy.

During World War II the Christian theologian, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, resigned his position when the Nazi government decreed that anyone with any trace of Jewish blood could not serve in the German church. Later, for his opposition to Hitler, he was hanged. While in prison before his execution, he wrote, "You know what has been the trouble with our ministry over the centuries? We haven't been sufficiently concerned that people enjoy themselves in this life, have pleasure in life and as a result we were not sensitive enough to the pain and suffering people endure in life."

As much as Christians should hope for happiness in the life to come, we also should concern ourselves with happiness in the here and now. Valuing happiness, says Bonhoeffer, is one of the ways to value the life that God has given us.

Many people think of happiness as continuous, uninterrupted well-being or pleasure; without imperfections or disappointments. The reality is that real happiness requires a pretty good imperfection tolerance level.

When we are able to tolerate imperfection, in ourselves and in others, we have a better chance at being happy. Rabbi Herbert Bronstein wrote that, "Happiness, for the most part, does not depend on outward circumstances, but rather on how we respond from the inside to that

outer circumstance. Everything that happens to us in life is a kind of question to which only we can give the answer." Sometimes the questions life puts to us are very, very hard. The good news is that we are not alone as we give our answer.

The promise of scripture is that God can be a source of strength and joy. Psalm 84 says that "happy are those whose strength is in God." Jesus says, "I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete," (John 15:11) and "Rejoice in the Lord always, again I say rejoice" says Paul (Phil 4: 4).

My hope for 2008 is not only that we will have a Happy New Year, but that the strength of God, the ability to rejoice in the Lord, and the joy of Christ may be in us all.

Peace,
Gretchen

Thank You....

Thank you to the members of St. John's - who have been our church family since we first moved to Monroe - for all the kind words and expressions of good will as we begin the next chapter of our lives in a new community. Your thoughtfulness and gifts have been appreciated and will be lasting remembrances of you and of all the times we've shared at St. John's. I have been so fortunate to have been the Director of Music, organist and Choir Director where I worked with such wonderful people who volunteered their time to be in the choirs. The memories of those rehearsals and worship services will always be in my good memory file. Virgil was happy to have been able to serve on committees, the council and the usher team during our membership. As you wish us well, we, too, wish the best for St. John's and its membership.

Thank you.
Virgil and Joanne Bauman

Elder of the Month

Lucy Kubly

Lucy has been an energetic, creative member of St. John's for almost 60 years. Lucy married Al Kubly at a candle-lit ceremony at St. John's in February 1948. They had some unexpected wedding guests, when several bats joined the festivities. Their 3 children (Bill, Wendy and Dawn) were each baptized and confirmed here. Lucy taught 5-year old Sunday School with Zee Bauman and Betty Goerlitz for about 10 years. Among Lucy's joys were the many years she was actively involved with the Garden Apartments. Both she, and all of the original Garden Apartments committee members, worked hard to get a "yes" vote from the congregation to begin construction. She also remembers fighting in court to maintain the Apartments' tax exempt status. After the Garden Apartments were built, Lucy organized many parties for the original residents with home-cooked meals and entertainment.



Lucy enjoyed years of making poster menus and announcements for the food fairs and bazaars. Lucy also remembers giving her own interpretation of the poem "When I'm an Old Woman I Shall Wear Purple"...wearing a red hat, red gloves and playing the xylophone from LaVerne Springer's attic.

Send Lucy a card at 1716 Lake Dr. she would love to hear from you!

Card Creations Club

Announcing the St. John's Card Creations Club! Beginning January, the Card Creations Club will meet on the 3rd Thursday of each month from 5:30-7:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. Each month we will make 6 handmade cards. We hope you will join us on **Thursday, January 17th**.

Cost: \$10.00, all supplies included, instructions by Michelle Nommensen. The card theme for January is Birthday/Valentine's.

Pre-registration is appreciated by telephoning the Church Office 325.2165 but not always necessary.

Learn About Prison Ministry

On Sunday, January 13, Rev. Jerry Hancock, Director of the Prison Ministry Project will preach at St. John's UCC. The Prison Ministry Project is an outreach ministry of the United Church of Christ. Its challenge is to serve prisoners and their families, engage the wider church in prison issues and to be an advocate for prison reform. **Rev. Jerry Hancock** entered the ministry after working for more than 30 years in the criminal justice system. Here is how he explains his change in careers:

"Sometimes it is hard to understand the meaning of your own life. Sometimes it is hard to understand where God wants you to be.

... I started as a law student interviewing prisoners in the jail at seven o'clock every Monday morning. Since that time I have prosecuted and defended rapists, murders and shoplifters. I have written legislation. For awhile I was head of the state crime labs, and we introduced forensic DNA in Wisconsin. I worked with law enforcement leaders—like David Cooper—on the development of Problem Oriented Policing. And I worked with Jim Doyle on the prosecution of Publishers Clearing House for defrauding the elderly. It was a wonderful career, and I looked forward to going to work every day. But about five years ago, I began to think that God might be calling me in a different direction. I know that God wants me in prison. I need to be in prison to find the justice that is missing in the legal system."

Join us on Sunday, January 13 to hear more about Rev. Hancock's ministry among Wisconsin prisoners and how it has shaped his own faith. If you like to support this mission, you are welcome to send your contribution to the following address: Prison Ministry Project 1609 University Avenue, Madison, WI 53726.



Euchre at the "Garden"

Looking for something to do during these winter months? This is a reminder that we'd like you to join us each 3rd Thursday of the month at Garden Apartments for a night of playing euchre starting at **7pm**. **Our next date to play is January 17th**. The evening ends with fellowship and light refreshments.

Stewardship Corner

The Stewardship Committee wants to express their appreciation to everyone who has contributed financially or in other ways this past year. All of your support, whether great or small put together, helps to continue with all the activities and ministries that are offered here each week and all year long; Sunday services, Faith Zone, choirs, Bible and book studies-just to name a few. Thank you also to those who returned their intention of giving cards. Wishing you all a joyous 2008. The Stewardship Committee

Capital Campaign

November – 2007

Cash on hand	\$9,206
Pledges receivable	<u>\$6,896</u>
Total Assets	\$16,102
Debt	\$0
Costs to complete	<u>\$0</u>
Total Liabilities	\$0
Excess of assets over liabilities	\$16,102

Green County Food Pantry

In the month of November, boxes of food were prepared for 306 adults and 216 children. A total of 522 people were served at the Food Pantry with 36 new families. St. John's donated 709 pounds of food. The shelves at the Food Pantry are in need of mac and cheese, canned fruit, jello, pudding, pancake mix, hot chocolate, hot cereal, soup, cake mixes. **Just remember; please check the expiration dates as outdated items cannot be used. Also dented and rusty cans cannot be used.** St. John's next collection Sunday will be **January 6.**

Tools for Hope and Blankets

It is time once again to talk about Tools for Hope and Blankets. This collection will be taken on Sunday, February 3, 2008. The offering envelopes are enclosed with this Visitor.

This special offering provides tools to help people build or rebuild homes and to use in food production and gathering. It also provides blankets, tents, and mosquito nets for disaster victims and needy children.

This is an international endeavor that touches many foreign countries, but also served the U.S. Gulf States after the series of hurricanes, including Hurricane Katrina.

Recently, some 8,000 congregations and groups provided more than \$3.7 million to help some 89 nations, including the United States. The right tool at the right time can make a world of difference in the lives of children and families faced with an emergency or struggling to keep food on the table.

Here are some statistics that point out the need for programs like this:

More than 800 million people in the world are hungry.

Every five seconds a child dies from hunger-related causes.

13 million children in the U.S. live with the threat of hunger daily.

1.1 billion people in the world lack access to safe drinking water.

This is a chance to give people renewed hope, just as the resurrection of Christ gives all of us renewed hope. Please give generously to Tools of Hope and Blankets! Thank you for your on going support of this important cause.

The Mission Committee

The St. John's UCC Thanksgiving food drive for the Food Pantry collected over a thousand pounds of food. A special thank you to all who donated food to this special collection.

The Mission Committee

Welcome Back Deborah Krauss Smith



A face familiar to many will return to St. John's in the new year. Deborah Krauss Smith will assume the role of Organist/Director of Music Ministries starting January 1, returning to a position she previously held at St. John's from 1986-1996. A graduate of UW-Eau Claire with a double-applied major in organ and voice and degree in vocal music education, Deb taught elementary level music

in the Monroe schools from 1977-1984; was organist at Union Presbyterian Church in Monroe from 1970 - 1973; served the United Methodist Church of Monroe as organist, children's choir director and handbell director from 1977 - 1986; and after leaving St. John's, was on staff at Asbury United Methodist Church in Madison as organist/director of music from 1996 until the end of 2006. The granddaughter of Swiss and German immigrants to Green County, Deb has also directed the Monroe Swiss Singers since 1985.

Along with her husband of 28 years, Greg, Deb lives north of Monroe on a 160 acre grain farm (which Greg operates), along with an assortment of goats, cats and a dog. Greg also owns and manages Triangle Truck Center, a semi tractor repair facility north of Monroe on Aebly Road.

Prayer Tree

Sometimes the need for support from friends and family is so great, due to life's circumstances. That is why St. John's has a prayer tree. There are people willing to pray for your concerns. You just need to call the person in charge for a particular week. We pray, then wait for God to answer in His way. Prayers are offered for a 2 week period unless you want us to continue for a longer time. The following people will take your requests in January:

January 6 Diana Weckerly 325.4697
or email at drweckerly@tds.net

January 13 Marie Wunschel 329.7881
or email at joshies_mom@yahoo.com

January 20 Gloria Rieder 325.6854
or email at glorchen@tds.net

January 27 Marie Laeser 325.2344

Prayer requests may also be placed in a locked box in the narthex of the church or at St. Clare Friedensheim. We encourage you to use this ministry provided by your church.

Deb Announces

Have you ever been a part of St. John's music ministry? Have you *never* been a part of St. John's music ministry? Maybe now is the time to try something new and different in 2008!

The Sanctuary Choir, St. John's mainstay adult choir, rehearses in the choir room on Wednesday evenings during the school year from 7 - 8 pm, and sings for worship approximately 3 times monthly, plus special services. New singers are always welcome, and the first rehearsal of the new year will be Wednesday, January 9.

The Bells of Praise, which meets Tuesday evenings from 7 - 8 pm, is again in need of additional ringers. Potential ringers should have a good sense of rhythm, and while you don't need to be an expert music reader, you should be able to at least follow a musical score, particularly note values. The first rehearsal in 2008 will be Tuesday, January 8; but, if you are not currently a ringer and would possibly like to ring, please contact Deb, our Director of Music Ministries, before the first rehearsal.

And, Deb would like to see if there's a possibility of starting up the **Youth Ensemble** again. This group would be primarily for middle-schoolers and high-schoolers, with a rehearsal time to be determined later if there is enough interest in re-starting the group.

For additional information on any of these offerings, feel free to talk to Deb on a Sunday morning, telephone her at 328-4838, or e-mail dkrauss@tds.net.

Just a Reminder:

Scrip card orders will be due by 9am on Tuesday, January 8 and Tuesday, January 22. The Scrip table will be available in Fellowship Hall at 10am to 10:30am on Sunday mornings for the opportunity to place orders, pick up orders or purchase cards that are available.

Part of the proceeds goes in the general fund which pays for the heat, lights, etc. So your support for the Scrip program is greatly appreciated.

Thank you

Thank you to Connie O' Brien, Linda Colbeck and Dodi Westgard for decorating Fellowship Hall, the Library, and Upper Room. All was beautifully done and appreciated by many.

Thanks so much!

A very big thank you goes out to Bill and Joan Schmid, Ben and Lois Kaster, Henry Tschanz, Martha Bernet, Kris Winkler, Deb Newman, Dennis Ganshert, Sharon Buri, Sharon Blumer, Jean Cook, Cathy Crubaugh, Sally and Kady Jordan, and Shelby and Mitchell Wilson for all their help decorating the Sanctuary for Christmas. What a great crew! You're the best.

Thank you to Martha Etter-Luedeking for the poinsettia plants for the German Service and thank you to Tom and Carla Hartwig for the wreaths on the front doors.

Thanks again,
Jane Ganshert
Altar Guild

I want to take this opportunity to say thank you for the prayers, cards, telephone calls, and e-mails I received during my recovery from knee replacement surgery. Since returning to the office, thank you for the concerns and welcome back.

Special thanks to the office helpers, Ann, Dorothy, Gloria, Sonja and Stephanie on a job well done! Thanks to Judy for all the extra things that fell on her desk during this time. To all of the staff for your patience, encouragement and support during this time, thank you.

Again, I must say St. John's is a great place to be -- a big thank you to everyone as it made my recovery a lot easier.

Herb and I wish to all of you at St. John's a very Happy New Year.

Blessings,
Yvonne

Campbell's Soup Labels For Faith Zone

Help St. John's get FREE merchandise. St. John's is now a member of the "Labels for Education" program. You can help simply by collecting Campbell product proofs of purchase and bringing them to the container located above the coat rack next to the library. It's easy to pitch in. Simply save product upc symbols or bottle lids on any of the following Campbell products. You no longer need to save the entire label, just the upc code.

Campbell's soups, Campbell's Supper Bakes meal kits, Campbell's or Franco-American Spaghetti Os pasta, Campbell's beans, gravies, and canned pasta, Prego pasta sauces (lids), Swanson broths and canned poultry, V8 vegetable juices (lids), V8 Splash (lids), V8 Fusion (lids), Campbell's tomato juice, Pepperidge Farm breads, cookies, crackers, and frozen products, Pepperidge Farm Goldfish crackers, Market Day products and Campbell food service products. For a complete list of products visit labelsforeducation.com or pick up a list from one of the literature racks.

We will continue to collect Box Tops for education, and milk moola strips for Monroe Schools so please continue to save these also.

Thanks for your continued support.

Second Harvest Food Pantry

If you or someone you know is in need of extra food at this time, you may go to the **St. Vincent de Paul parking lot on January 17** and **between the hours of 3-4pm** food items will be given to you. You merely have to show up with plastic bags or tubs in which to put the food. There is usually a nice assortment of food handed out but one needs to stand in line, outside, to collect the items so appropriate dress is suggested. There is a plan which is underway to provide a shelter for this distribution but it will not be completed for another several months. This ministry to improve life for our community residents is organized by St. Victor parish and St. Vincent de Paul and supported by St. John's Mission Committee.

Church Records

Baptism

Claire Josephine Holland
daughter of Joseph and
Melissa Sorn Holland

Marriages

December 1

James Kundert
Deidre Gilbertson

Our Sympathy to the family and friends of

Alfred Baumgartner
John Waefler
Dan Bauer
Howard Schulz
Maralyn Hubbard
Helen Rufer

Memorials given to St. John's In loving memory of

Howard Schulz from
Paul and Alice Benkert
Martha Bernet

Albert Abplanalp from
Charlotte Abplanalp

Alfred Baumgartner from
Lauren and Lois Meinert
Family and friends
Harold and Heddy Shager
Martha Bernet
Thomas Schuetz

Kathryn Fritz from friends

Happy Anniversary

January

- 1 Sam and Odellia Nafzger
- 2 Ivan and Marlene Gobeli
- 7 Robert and Karen Sutter
- 9 Karl and LuAnn Krahenbuhl
- 18 John and Kay Tuescher
- 23 Nathan and Dorothy Roth
- 26 George and Marilyn Wells
- 28 Delbert and Gudrun Kundert
- 30 Norman and Mildred Gruenewald

This anniversary list is church members who are celebrating at least 50 years of marriage and more. Our Congratulations! If we have accidentally missed your anniversary please telephone the church office, 325.2165.

Memorials given to the St. John's Capital Campaign In loving memory of

Maralyn Hubbard from
Bob and Gloria Rieder

Howard Schulz from
Bob and Gloria Rieder

Dan Bauer from Gloria Rieder

Alfred Baumgartner from
Ilene Patterson and
Dick Feller
Bob and Gloria Rieder
Kathy Collins
Randy and Sue Armstrong
Henry and Melva Tschanz

Happy Birthday

January

- 1 Wallace Miller
- 1 Robert Sutter
- 4 Rose Beach
- 4 Roy Vetterli
- 6 Katheryn Etter*
- 8 Erwin Rufener
- 9 Frieda Krier
- 9 Robert Zimmerman
- 10 Maurine Horstmeier*
- 13 Kathryn Friedrich
- 15 Paul Benkert
- 15 Betty Ritschard
- 16 Rose Marie Schafer
- 17 Bertha Digman
- 17 Alice Schoepfer
- 23 Mildred Gruenewald
- 23 Naida Johnson
- 24 Zee Bauman
- 26 Dorothy Cromwell*
- 26 Marie Rufener
- 28 Vi Regez
- 28 Marie Siegenthaler
- 29 Ruth Ott
- 31 Royletta Moon

To make our special birthday list you will need to reach the young age of 75. The names with the * are members who have reached the young age of 90.

Money given to St. John's Capital Campaign

In honor of

Inez Goecks birthday from
Helen Locher

February Service Group 11

Men and women of St. John's are assigned to a Service group and each Service group is assigned a month of the year with a chairman. If you see your name on the list, don't wait, please telephone the monthly chairman to volunteer for the monthly event. You will be asked for money, food, or serving at the monthly event. Thank you for your generosity with your time, talents or resources.

Chairperson - Chris Zeal 608.527.2660

Richard and Tammy Anderson
Kelvin and Sandra Baertschi
Herbert and Marian Baumgartner
Paul and Carolyn Beach
Erik Beach
Cindy Bechtolt
Michelle Berget
Roger and Manda Berry
Richard Bruny
Paul and June Chapman
Curtis and Linda Dickson
Carla Erickson
Katheryn Etter
Bob and Nancy Faith
Gloria Feller
Tamara Fuchs
Keith and Joann Ginner
Roger and Joan Goepfert
Jodi Granberg
Colleen Hasler
Joe and Melissa Holland
Melissa Jackson
Sherry Jackson
Carrie Jackson Foulker
Carol Jaggi
Christy Jaggi
Deb Johnson
Ben and Lois Kaster
John and Catherine Kehoe
Kenneth Klassesey
Wilbert and Leona Klassesey
Jocelyn Kline
Elwood and Carol Koch
Pete and Diane Koch
Evelyn Krattiger
Deborah Krauss Smith
Kevin and Susan Leistikow
Jamie Leopold

Marley Lindsey
Martha Etter Luedeking
Robert and Sandra Marian
Walter and Mabel Marty
Harris and Carol Meyers
Bret and Brenda Miller
Michael and Julie Miller
Randall and Carol Ninmer
S Jane O'Neill
Paul and De Paulson
Timothy and Marla Petit
Jeffrey Prophett
David and Marian Quade
Tim and Tiffyn Riese
Russell and Kathy Rufer
John and Shirley Schindler
Henry and Frances Schmid
William and Joan Schmid
Robert and June Schutz
Eugene and Brenda Showers
David and Cynthia Sickinger
Joel and Shani Spangler
Walter and Dina Speich
John and Mary Ubert
Leona Wartenweiler
Alan and Barbara Ziltner

Fellowship Time

Sunday mornings at 10:00am
February 3, 10, 17, 24



Worship Services

8:00am at St. Clare Friedensheim Chapel

9:00 & 10:30am at St. John's

9:00am Faith Zone

January 2008

On Wednesdays

1:30pm Sewing Ladies

5:30pm Mid High Fellowship

5:30pm Kids Club & Junior Choir

6:00pm Kids Club & Children's Choir

6:00pm Confirmation Meal

6:30pm Confirmation

6:30pm Senior High Fellowship

7:00pm Sanctuary Choir

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Church Office Closed	2 1:00pm Sewing Ladies	3 5:30pm Men's Ministry 6:30pm Pack 114 Committee 6:30pm Creative Circle 7:00pm Faith Circle 8:00pm AA	4	5
6 Communion Food Pantry Blood Pressure check	7 6:00pm Webelos 8:00pm AA	8 9:00am Scrip Orders due 5:15pm Membership Committee 6:00pm Bear Den pack 114 6:00pm Bear Den pack 101	9 10:30am Staff 1:00pm Sewing Ladies 6:00pm Bible Study Wednesday Schedule 7:30pm Church Council	10 8:00pm AA	11 4:00pm-7:00pm Jambalaya Supper	12
13 Worship Prison Ministry Speaker	14 6:00pm 4H 6:00pm Webelos 8:00pm AA	15 5:30pm Men's Book Study	16 10:30am Staff 1:00pm Sewing Ladies 6:00pm Bible Study Wednesday Schedule	17 5:30pm Card Creation Club 8:00pm AA	18	19
20 Worship	21 6:00pm Webelos 8:00pm AA	22 9am Scrip Order due 1:30pm Parish Visitors 5:30pm Men's Book Study 6:00pm Pack 101 6:00pm Pack 114 7:00pm Property Committee	23 10:30am Staff 1:00pm Sewing Ladies 6:00pm Bible Study Wednesday Schedule	24 8:00pm AA	25	26
27 Worship 2pm Beads Class	28 1:00pm Church Women United 6:00pm Webelos 8:00pm AA	29 5:30pm Men's Book Study	30 10:30am Staff 1:00pm Sewing Ladies 6:00pm Bible Study Wednesday Schedule	31 8:00pm AA		