



St. John's Lutheran Church
5 Clifford Street, Charleston SC 29401
 Church Office: 843-723-2426 Fax: 843-577-2543
 Pastor Butler's Cell Phone: 843-810-8240

"Looking Around Our Church"

I always use January as a time for personal reflection; you know, the kind where you look back at last year, look forward to the year ahead, while also looking at exactly where you are at this very moment. We do that at St. John's too! We look at our present ministries and those we hope to be involved with in the near future. If you're into photography, it's like taking three pictures from the car as you are driving down the highway. You take one through the back window (this is where you've been and left). You take one of the inside of the car (this is where you are and what you've got to work with). And the third one you take through the windshield (this is where you are going, your destination). As I write you this month, let's reflect upon our three pictures.

2014 was a good year for our church's ministries. All Committees were involved in meaningful ministry both inside and outside the congregation. The Vestry accomplished many of the goals they set for themselves, including conversations about a revision of our constitution and what church membership means to the church and what it means to individuals belonging to the church. The Vestry also moved forward with establishing the John Bachman Society, which will officially come into being this month. And you, the congregation, strongly supported these ministries with your presence and contributions. And our church grew!

This year we hope to expand upon what we started last year and begin a number of new things. There are several aspects of our constitution that we hope to present to you for updating. We are looking to create more opportunities for our members to be involved with serving others and especially people in need. We will continue to share the gospel of Jesus Christ as we invite people to come live out their faith in Jesus as Lord and Savior with us. In fact, the Vestry will be in Retreat on February 21 to discuss those goals and create additional goals. We do not want to tread water, but continue to be a growing church that is transforming lives. There are many things that we pray to accomplish during 2015.

And as we look through the windshield at where we are headed, we know God is calling us to be as present in the future sharing the Gospel as we have been in the past. Many of the goals we will establish at the Retreat will not be completed in 2015 but will carry over into future years. We hope to identify the ministry needs of our congregation and community and develop ministries helping us fulfill the calling Christ gives us to "make disciples of all nations." As you reflect upon our church and our ministries, share your dreams for St. John's with us.

I always place before myself the challenge "to know Christ ... to make Christ known" as a first and foremost ministry goal. This challenge addresses the responsibility we all have to grow personally in our understanding of God's love made known in Christ and then our responsibility to make certain we are helping others to meet Christ and grow in their belief in a good and gracious God.

As you look around St. John's it is obvious we are blessed. I believe we are blessed so that we can be a blessing to others. And so, I thank you for what you have done even as I challenge you and thank you for what you will be asked to do as we get more and more involved in life changing and transforming ministry.

Join me in looking forward. God has a plan for us and we're on our way.

In Christ,
Pastor Butler +



The Ladies Sewing Society

Organized 1825

Sunday, February 8, 2015 - 3:45 p.m.

Fellowship Hall—Second Floor

We warmly welcome guests.

All ladies of St. John's are invited to join us for our meeting at 3:45 p.m. on February 8, 2015. Becky Courtney will present the program, with refreshments provided by Anita Mitchum.

Officers for 2015 are President-Anita Mitchum; Vice President-Linda Stephens; Secretary-Brenda Brannen; Treasurer-Becky Courtney

Lee-Freyschmidt Circle

Wednesday, February 11

The Lee-Freyschmidt Circle will meet on Wednesday, February 11th, at 10:30 a.m. at the home of Barbara Siegling (105 King Street, Charleston).

Tovey Circle

Thursday, February 12

The Tovey Circle will meet on Thursday, February 12th, at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Judy Butler (3216 Sand Marsh Lane, Mt. Pleasant). Brenda Brannen will present the program.

From The Social Ministry Committee...

During the month of February, Social Ministry at St. John's Lutheran will be collecting new socks, underwear, and diapers for children removed from their homes and serviced by the Lowcountry Orphan Relief. Lowcountry Orphan Relief, Inc. (LOR) is a non-profit organization that provides goods and services to children who have been abused or neglected. They work directly with other non-profits, schools, foster parents, and government agencies to identify the individual needs of these and other children in severe situations. They intervene at critical junctures in the lives of these children, with products and services that provide a strong, positive impact. **Since 2006, they have clothed over 14,000 children in the Tri-County area.** LOR uses more than 80% of all income given to them to provide for the children's needs. Presently, community volunteers at the "Valerie Vincent" Clothes Closet are collecting and shelving donations and filling orders for each child from area shelters, foster care and those removed from the custody of their parents. Children receive clothing, toiletries, books and school supplies within 48 hours

Congregational Care Meals Program

The Social Ministry's new Congregational Care Meals program, to assist our members in times of need, is off to a great start! By the end of January, we will have casseroles in the freezer from several wonderful cooks: Diane Bean, Cindy Donahue, Anne Holmi, Carla Kinnett, Jan Kyle, Barbara Lee and Chris Meany. THANK YOU ALL SO MUCH! That should put us in good shape for a while but it's good to have an ongoing list to draw from as our supplies are used. If YOU would like to join that list, please contact our Congregational Care Coordinator, Jan Kyle, at johnjankyle@att.net (preferred) or (864) 350-3439. We supply the disposable pans and Jan will supply the instructions. Thank you!

Souper Bowl Sunday

The date has been on the calendar for a year, and now the Super Bowl teams have been decided. On Sunday, February 1, the New England Patriots will take the field against the Seattle Seahawks and one of these two teams will be pronounced SUPER BOWL CHAMPION. As most of us are settling in to watch the game, we will enjoy dinner, snacks, drinks and fellowship. But there are many people who will not enjoy these blessings we often take for granted. In light of that, the SOUPER BOWL CAMPAIGN was started many years ago by a Presbyterian Church in Columbia, SC. Originally an effort to raise awareness about the reality of hunger in our communities, the CAMPAIGN has grown to where it is participated in by churches across the United States. St. John's has been a participating church for many years.

Again this year, our young youth will meet you on the portico following our worship services. They will be armed with a simple soup pot and a smile, along with hopes that you will drop a dollar in those soup pots. The offerings they collect will be given to Tricounty Family Ministries for use in purchasing food for the hungry in the greater Charleston area. So on Sunday, February 1, if you are able, please consider dropping \$1 into the pot and helping out those who might be struggling to feed their families.

And if you remember, bring a canned good as well and leave it in the narthex. We'll get it to Tricounty Family Ministries for use in their food pantry.

Thanks for your help in addressing and fighting hunger in our community.

Lenten Worship Services

The season of Lent will arrive on Wednesday, February 18, as we gather to observe Ash Wednesday. We will have two services that day where we will celebrate the sacrament of Holy Communion as well as have the opportunity to participate in the Imposition of Ashes. Then for the following weeks leading up to Easter, we will gather in the social hall for Wednesday evening's light supper and Lenten worship. Please add these additional opportunities at St. John's for worship during Lent to your calendar and schedule:

Wednesday, February 18	Ash Wednesday	12:00 PM and 7:00 PM
Wednesday, February 25	Light Lenten Supper	6:15 PM
	Worship	7:00 PM
Wednesday, March 4	Light Lenten Supper	6:15 PM
	Worship	7:00 PM
Wednesday, March 11	Light Lenten Supper	6:15 PM
	Worship	7:00 PM
Wednesday, March 18	Light Lenten Supper	6:15 PM
	Worship	7:00 PM
Wednesday, March 25	Light Lenten Supper	6:15 PM
	Worship	7:00 PM
Thursday, April 2	Maundy Thursday	7:00 PM
Friday, April 3	Good Friday	7:00 PM

You may also want to join us for the downtown churches ecumenical Lenten worship services. The dates and locations are:

Wednesday, March 4	First Scots	12:30 PM
Wednesday, March 11	First Baptist	12:30 PM
Wednesday, March 18	St. John's	12:30 PM
Wednesday, March 25	St. Michael's	12:30 PM



VESTRY HIGHLIGHTS

On Thursday, January 15, 2015, the Vestry met to discuss and conduct the business of the church. The highlights of the Vestry Meeting follow:

- 1) The meeting was called to order and opened with a prayer offered by Pastor Butler. Vestry President Dan Prickett welcomed new vestry members Becky Courtney, Randy Lesemann, Dan Marchant, and Tom Springer.
- 2) The December 2014 Minutes were approved as submitted.
- 3) The December Treasurer's Report was received as information. Anne Lake reported that the church had concluded the year with a positive contribution to expense balance. The Vestry commended the congregation for their strong support of the church's ministry during 2014.
- 4) Vestry President Dan Prickett noted that we will have a Vestry Retreat on February 21 (9:00 - 1:30) and it will be held in the social hall of the church. He also requested that each Committee Chair email him a list of the Committee members.
- 5) Pastor Butler reported on average attendance for December (early service-48; late service 160), attendance at our Christmas services (12/24-246; 12/25-53), and that our average attendance for 2014 was 161.
- 6) The Christian Education Committee shared news about Summer Lutheridge camping opportunities that are being explored with our youth, the plans to support Souper Bowl Sunday, and requested permission for the children's Sunday School class to contribute their first quarter Sunday School offerings to Low Country Orphan Relief in support of homeless children. This request was approved.
- 7) The Property Committee reported on a number of on-going projects and shared news about the fence that we will be receiving from Gibbs Museum to be erected along the property line between St. John's and the Unitarian Church. This fence was originally attached to the gates that are presently erected in our graveyard.
- 8) The Social Ministry Committee reported that they are working to redesign the designated offering envelopes located in the pews and that we will be providing the Hope Lodge meal on January 29.
- 9) The Worship and Music Committee recommended that the Washington Light Infantry be a part of our February 22 11:00 worship service. As a part of their participation, the names of those members of the WLI who have died since the last WLI Sunday will be read as a part of the prayer of the church. Approved.

The John Bachman Society

Mark Your Calendar

All members of St. John's are invited to attend a dinner on February 22nd at 5:00 p.m. where the John Bachman Society will be explained. The Society is being formed to recognize those members who make a decision to include St. John's in their estate planning. Please watch for opportunities to R.S.V.P. and join us for dinner and a discussion about the Society.

Children's Offering

We have had a very successful end of 2014 with the money raised by the children's offering for ELCA Good Gifts. The goal set by the children was to raise funds to purchase a pig and farm tools at a cost of \$55. They earned more than that, \$75! So, they voted to add a clinic visit for a child and fruit tree saplings to their gift. We are very proud of this accomplishment.

For the first quarter of 2015, they have voted to have their offering go to the Lowcountry Orphan Relief. I would like to challenge them to raise \$100 this term, which would be enough money to purchase 4 outfits for children.



Reminder

As a safety precaution, we ask that all parents remain in the building while their children are in Sunday School.

Little Luther League and Youth Planning meeting

On February 15, 2015, we will have a planning meeting for Little Luther League and Youth immediately following the late service. Lunch will be provided. We are asking for a donation of \$4 per person to offset the cost of the lunch. We will be planning events and activities for the remainder of the school year. Hope to see everyone there!



Calendar

Calendar

Committee Meetings

February 2 — 6:30 p.m.
Worship and Music Committee Meeting

February 9 — 6:00 p.m.
Social Ministry Committee Meeting

February 16 — 5:00 p.m.
Evangelism Committee Meeting

February 21—9:00 a.m.
Vestry Retreat



- February 3 Amy Butler
- February 6 David Sines Thomasson
- February 7 Billy Lesemann
- February 8 Amanda Littlejohn
Kirk Poulnot
Lilly Wertan
- February 9 Claire Moore
- February 10 Mary Lou Coombs
Hank Tolley
- February 11 Thalia Gerard
Chris McDonough
- February 13 Denise Haberern
Sarah Moore
- February 15 Jan Kyle
- February 16 Douglas Kilgour
- February 18 Rosemary Allen
Gregory Pitman
- February 19 Lynn Johnson
Louie Koester, III
- February 25 Marianne Albrecht
Mark Jordan
- February 28 Miles Martschink, Jr.

**Congregational
Concerns and Prayers**

We remember in our prayers: John Anderson, Bobby Babson, Jack Doscher (Franke Home), Judy Greer, John Foltz, Nell Jones, Betty Lemacks, Joan Rigter, Margaret Stephens, Susan Spoon, Cele West, all those who are infirm and recovering from illnesses and our members who have experienced losses of loved ones.

**Our Loved Ones
Away From Home**

We have a prayer list of those members of St. John's and our extended family who are in the military and/or involved in this current military situation. When filling out your blue attendance card, please add the names to it and indicate "military," and we will include your loved ones on our prayer list. Presently included are: Derek Bean, Alex Bedenbaugh, Lt. Joseph Gibbons Clark, Mark Evans, Ryan Hanson, John Lesemann, and Christopher Osgood.

MUSIC NOTES



A belated Happy New Year to All! I say belated since this is my first time writing to you in the New Year; I do hope your start to the year has been happy, healthy, and productive! I would be remiss if I did not offer my sincere thanks to each of you for the generous gift I received at the Vestry Christmas party. It was so very kind of you all and was most appreciated! I would also like to thank the St. John's "Ringers and Singers" for their Christmas gift, also very kind and generous; however, I must say that their greatest gift to me is the dedication, hard work, talent, and desire to praise God through music they bring to rehearsals and services throughout the year. The members of the St. John Chorale and St. John's Handbell Choir inspire me continually and I consider myself blessed to have the chance to work with each of them!

I am very pleased to share with you the news that St. John's will play host to two college choirs early in 2015. On March 16 at 7:00, the 60-voice Hamilton College Choir (Clinton, NY) will perform a program of sacred and secular music from throughout the ages. If the name sounds familiar, it's because it will be the choir's third visit to St. John's, having previously visited us in 2007 and 2011. Hamilton College happens to be the alma mater of Jessica and me, and it was actually singing in the choir that we met. Couple that with the fact that the choir's director, Dr. G. Roberts Kolb, was one of the most influential people in my musical journey, and it's a visit with great personal meaning to me. As in the past, we will be seeking volunteers to a) help with a reception planned for after the concert, and b) host singers in their homes on the night of March 16. (We will not have to host all the students.) Look for inserts in the bulletin soon that will give you a chance to sign up.

The second concert will take place on Thursday, April 9 at 7PM and will feature the Newberry College Madrigals. The Madrigals is a small vocal ensemble that is well-known for its high-level performances of choral chamber works that range from the Middle Ages through the 21st Century, including standards of vocal jazz. Chris Sheppard, the ensemble's director, specifically sought out St. John's as a performance venue in Charleston due to our shared history with John Bachman. (Rev. Bachman served as Pastor at St. John's for almost 60 years and also helped found Newberry College, serving as President of its first Board of Directors.) We will also plan a reception following this concert, for which we will seek volunteers, but the group will not require housing. I hope many of you will plan to attend one or both of these exciting choral concerts!

Lent is almost upon us and that means our Wednesday night services will be returning to the Parish Hall, starting on February 25. Beginning with a delicious light supper prepared by a rotating cast of volunteers and concluding in a 45-minute (or so) Service of the Word with hymns and a weekly meditation by Pastor Butler, these evenings are full of fellowship, prayer, reverence, and meaning. If you've never attended a Wednesday Lenten service before, why not make it a goal to join us?

Yours in music,
Todd
513-3050

toddmonsell@gmail.com

Music Quotation of the Week: "My ambition was to live like music." -Mary Gaitskill



Our Sympathy and Prayers are extended to:

Judy Greer and family upon the death of her mother, Mary Thomas
The family of Geneva Kahrs upon her death
Josh Littlejohn and family upon the death of his mother, Molly Littlejohn

May God's grace sustain them and comfort them with the assurance of eternal life in Our Lord Jesus Christ.



Memorial Gifts were given in loving memory of:

Ed Andersen

by

David Sikes, Jim and Kathryn Tolley

Eleanor Luden

by

David Sikes

Ruth Butler

by

Bill and Joy Cornwell

Richard Fulmer

by

Joe and Martha Clark, Bill and Thalia Gerard, Robert Kane,
Bill and Mary Motley, Jim and Kathryn Tolley, David and Margaret Withers

Warren Hilton

by

David Sikes

Geneva Kahrs

by

Joel and Anne Lake, Capers and Sandra Poulnot, Olivette Smith,
Barbara Tamsberg, John and Betty Wilson

Ed Rugheimer

by

David Sikes

Alice Caldwell

by

Toney And Myra Caldwell

Mac Caughman

by

Toney And Myra Caldwell

FEBRUARY WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS
8:30 a.m.

	February 1	February 8	February 15	February 22
ACOLYTE	Deborah Bussey	Ella Grace Sines Thomasson	Ellis Moore	Ella Grace Sines Thomasson
LECTOR/WORSHIP ASSISTANT	Jane Pelland	Sheila Sines Thomasson	Christi Kunkle	Randy Lesemann
WORSHIP ASSISTANT	Deborah Bussey	Barbara Allen	Carl Beckmann	Sheila Sines Thomasson
COMMUNION SET-UP	Cheryl Kostanesky	Carole Jordan	Dolores Nelson	Deborah Bussey
GREETER	Dolores Nelson	Tom and Debra Fletcher	Miles Martschink	Kathryn Tolley
MANAGER	Randy Lesemann	Sheila Sines Thomasson	Karen Moore	Deborah Bussey
USHERS	Carl Beckmann, Tommy Harken			

11:00 a.m.

	February 1	February 8	February 15	February 22
ACOLYTE	Parker Hoffman	Dani Andersen	Aly McDonough	Laura Holmi
CRUCIFER	Cille Fancher	Jaden Andersen	Henry Siegling	Parker Hoffman
LECTOR/WORSHIP ASSISTANT	Lynn Bean	Chris Antley	Mike Andersen	Judy Butler
LAY ASSISTANT	Nancy Prickett	Henry Siegling	Lynn Springer	Lynn Springer
COMMUNION CLEAN-UP	May Lou Coombs	Martha Clark	Gayle Hilton	Sandra Poulinot
GREETER	Mary Lou Coombs	Henry & Jane Siegling	Evelyn Dolven	Tom & Lynn Springer
MANAGER	Peter Holmi	Larry Kreyling	Dan Marchant	Tom Springer
FLOWER DELIVERY	Mary Lou Coombs Barbara Lawton	Joy Cornwell Dolores Nelson	Anne Poulinot Billie Jean Roble	XXXXXXXXXX XXXXXXXXXX
EVANGELISM CALLS	David Sikes	Diane Bean	Evelyn Dolven	Marianne Albrecht
USHERS	Larry Kreyling, Brian Hoffmann, Bob Pickard, Peter Sellars, Kenneth Snell, Stephen Spaulding			

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5 Clifford Street
Charleston, SC 29401

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ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
2015 STAFF, OFFICERS, VESTRY, & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

STAFF	MEMBERS OF THE VESTRY	COMMITTEE CHAIRS
Pastor Rev. David Butler Office Manager Carole Jordan Director of Music Todd Monsell Director of Christian Education/Youth Jennifer Gnann	Dan Prickett Vice President Dan Lackland Secretary Gayle Hilton Treasurer Anne Lake	Christian Education Larry Kreyling Sheila Sines Thomasson Frickie Martschink Endowment Bryan Counts Evangelism Finance History Lutheran Men Nursery Property Committee Shepherd Program Social Ministry Special Projects Stewardship Strategic Plan Women of the ELCA Worship & Music
Rev. David Butler Carole Jordan Todd Monsell Jennifer Gnann Director of Christian Education/Youth Director of Music Director of Christian Education/Youth Jennifer Gnann	Dan Prickett Vice President Dan Lackland Secretary Gayle Hilton Treasurer Anne Lake	Christian Education Larry Kreyling Sheila Sines Thomasson Frickie Martschink Endowment Bryan Counts Evangelism Finance History Lutheran Men Nursery Property Committee Shepherd Program Social Ministry Special Projects Stewardship Strategic Plan Women of the ELCA Worship & Music