

# THE HERALD

Volume XLI, Issue IX

September 2015

## Expectations

A number of years ago I celebrated a baptism that caused me to think about what happens to a person after they have been baptized. Perhaps you have heard the story, but just in case you haven't, I want to share it briefly with you now. The baptism took place over fifteen years ago. The baptismal candidate was a thirty plus year old Marine Gunnery Sergeant. Our Unit had been in the field for over a week, and during that week the Gunney and I had talked numerous times about Christianity, faith, and the sacrament of Holy Baptism. He was not baptized because he said he had never felt worthy enough. He told me he had been raised Lutheran but his family had never taken him to church to be baptized as a child. He believed in Jesus Christ as his Savior and he wanted to be baptized, but again – he did not feel worthy. After many conversations, we got beyond his sense of being unworthy and he asked to be baptized. Well, as I said, we were out in the field without access to a church with a baptismal font. But we were along the NC coast, right off of Bogue Sound. So we scheduled his baptism by immersion in the ocean. The Gunney was a big person, and how I managed to baptize him without drowning one of us is beyond me. Yet I did. God works in mysterious ways, right? It was an exciting event, and afterwards he asked me “What comes next?” And that’s the question I think about so often. What does it mean to be a baptized child of God? What changes after a person is baptized? Is it a noticeable change or is it subtle? Do we immediately begin a course of intense study, or do we slowly grow into our identity as Christians and baptized children? Exactly what are the expectations?

And that is a good question to ask ourselves. What are

the expectations we have in life, and what are the expectations we think life has of us? Again, exactly what are the expectations?

Earlier this year our Vestry met for a retreat. We do this every year, and a part of the retreat is to establish goals for the coming year. One of the goals established was to consider ‘expectations.’ For instance, when people visit our church, what expectations might they have as they settle into the pew and participate in worship? When we receive new members, what are the expectations they might have of the church as they become a part of the St. John’s church family? While it is true that every person has their own set of expectations, we wondered if there might be some common expectations of members that we could identify. And so we have been working on what our members might expect from St. John’s.

The other side of that question is what does it mean to be a member of the church, or phrased another way, what might be the reasonable expectations the church has of her members? What level of participation might be expected? As you can imagine, these sorts of questions generated some really good conversation.

The hope is that we will create a brochure that speaks about church membership in a way that helps us all answer the question Gunney asked following his baptism – “What comes next?” The brochure can provide us with food for thought as we consider the place of the church in our life and our place in the life of the church. The brochure is a working document at this moment, but the Vestry looks forward to sharing it with you soon. Until then, if you have some thoughts about expectations, please share them with me. I would love to hear your thoughts.

Yours in Christ,

*Pastor Butler +*

## *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. 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, Joseph Gibbons Clark, Mark Evans, Ryan Hanson, John Lese-mann, and Christopher Osgood.

**St. John’s Lutheran Church**

**5 Clifford Street, Charleston, SC 29401**

**Church Office: 843-723-2426**

**Fax: 843-577-2543**



Outdoor  
Worship  
Service

September 13 — 11:00 a.m.

Palmetto Islands County Park -  
Mt. Pleasant

The Big Oak Shelter

Join us for the Annual Congregational Outdoor Worship Service and Picnic on September 13th at Palmetto Islands County Park-The Big Oak Shelter. We will 'congregate' for worship at 11:00 a.m. (Entrance fee is \$1.00 per person unless you have a Charleston County Park Pass.) Bug-free worship and food are provided, thanks to the 'gnat scat' that keeps the pests from making us *their* meal! Please bring a covered dish or dessert that you would like to share. If a serving utensil is needed for your "covered dish," please provide this. Also, you might want to bring a lawn chair in case the benches get too hard. The Chorale will have some wonderful music to share, and we will have a joyous time in God's outdoor venue! Sign up below and return to the church office no later than September 8th.

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**Picnic Reservation Form**

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Number Attending: Adults \_\_\_\_ Children (under 12) \_\_\_\_\_

To help us plan, we ask that you please let us know what food item you will bring:

Covered Dish \_\_\_\_\_ Dessert \_\_\_\_\_

Remember to bring enough to share with others!

*Clean up: if you are willing to help clean up after the picnic,  
please let us know by checking the box below.*

Yes, I can help clean up

## MUSIC NOTES

Greetings!

Another successful season of the Summer at St. John's concert series has come and gone, and I would like to heartily thank the many folks who donated their time and talents to make our 8th season of summer concerts a success. Marc Marchant designed a wonderful poster, which you probably saw posted around the church and parish hall, to promote the series. Barbara Tamsberg greeted concertgoers and passed out programs. Delicious receptions were planned and carried out by a long list of volunteers, including Sara Jane Foltz, Brenda Brannen, Kathryn Tolley, Sally Fulmer, Diane and Lynn Bean, Judy Butler, Norma Luden, Donna Counts, Sarah Christenberry, Rosemary Serpa, and Cindy Donahue. It was always such a pleasure to see guests mingle with the performers and enjoy delicious treats on our beautiful portico. Thanks again to all these wonderful volunteers without whom this concert series could not take place!

I hope you enjoyed the special music presented during August as the Chorale enjoyed its annual summer vacation. The month of special music included the Charlestons, French horn player Anne Holmi and her trumpet playing daughter Laura, violinist Rafe Goldman, and tenor Brink Norton. I thank these talented performers, most who come from our own congregation, for sharing their talents with us throughout the month.

I look forward to seeing many of you at our outdoor service on Sunday, 9/13, at 11AM at Palmetto Islands County Park. This is always a great opportunity for us to worship in a very different venue. The St. John's Children's Choir will sing, the Chorale will perform a favorite gospel arrangement, and St. John's resident guitarist Chris Antley will channel his inner Jeff Buckley. Lots of delicious food and fun and games after the service, too!

The St. John Chorale and Handbell Choir begin rehearsals on Wednesday, 9/2. New members are always welcome! The Handbell Choir rehearses from 5:30-6:10 each Wednesday in the church balcony and the St. John Chorale follows in the Choir Room from 6:15-8. Come sing and ring with us!

In music,

*Todd*

Music Quotation of the Month:

"Some people have lives; some people have music." —John Green

## “Sometimes You Have To Trim It”

You may notice that the Confederate Jasmine that was growing along the handrail as you leave the parish building has been trimmed back. As much as we loved this flowering plant, it had taken over the handrail, making it impossible for anyone to use the handrail if necessary. Additionally, because it was so thick and overgrown, it was contributing to rust developing on the handrail. For that reason we have trimmed it. We know you'll understand-even as we miss the wonderful smell it produced.

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### **New Member Social**

On Sunday, September 27, the Social Ministry Committee will sponsor a New Member Social as we welcome and get to know or reacquaint ourselves with our new members from 2014 and 2015. The Committee invites you to join us for fellowship and some light breakfast goodies. So, if you've been looking around our church and seeing new faces, come join us on the 27th at 9:45 AM in the Social Hall as we have introductions and get to know each other better. See you there!



### ***Memorials for Nell Jones***

Bob and Sue Adden, John and Sara Jane Foltz, John and Carolina Gamble, Betty Lemacks, Billy and Anita Mitchum, Joy and Hubert Shuler, Ken and Gina Snell

### ***Memorials for Jane Siegling***

Bob and Sue Adden, Carl and Elizabeth Beckmann, Judy Burges, John and Mary Lou Coombs, Donald and Linda Dalton, John and Sara Jane Foltz, John and Caroline Gamble, Bill and Thalia Gerard, Dan and Ilene Lackland, Betty Lemacks, James and Sara Livingston, Larry and Shirley Kreyling, Joel and Anne Lake, Elmore Marlow, Frickie and Linda Martschink, Miles Martschink, Jim and Elisabeth Martin, Robert McKay, Harold and Ruthie McLeod, Jr., Billy and Anita Mitchum, Chris and Sarah Meany, John and Carol Peecksen, Dan and Nancy Prickett, Alma Savedge, Second Company Governor's Foot Guard-Connecticut, Betty Seignious, David Sikes, Patrick and Guerry Sistare, and Ken and Gina Snell

## **New and Existing Acolyte Training**

You may not notice the acolyte at our worship services, but acolytes are responsible for lighting the candles in the chancel before the service and extinguishing them after the service. Here at St. John's, we rely heavily upon many of our members to serve as acolytes. Our young people normally become acolytes when they reach the fourth grade and our adults who acolyte begin when they volunteer. But whether the acolyte is a young person or an adult, they play a vital role for our church services.

There will be a training session for both new and existing acolytes on Sunday morning, September 27, at 10:15. This training session will take place in the church after the New Member Social. If your child is in the fourth grade or older, please make certain you have them join Pastor for this training session.

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### **Confirmation Ministry**

There comes a time in our life where our curiosity and our intellect meet and we want to know more about our Christian faith and our Lutheran heritage. The church responds to this inquisitive time in the life of our young people by offering Confirmation Classes. The purpose of these classes is to teach some basics about the Bible, our Christian faith, our Lutheran heritage, and the commitments we make to grow in our faith as we accept mature responsibilities for our participation in the life of the Church and the sharing of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. At St. John's we teach this information to young people who have at least reached the sixth grade, or who have displayed a maturity that would suggest they are ready for these classes and committed to the program. The Confirmation Ministry Program at St. John's is a two year program.

Pastor Butler will speak about Confirmation Ministry during the Sunday School hour on Sunday, September 20. If your child is entering the sixth grade or older and has not yet been confirmed, please plan to meet with Pastor in the Social Hall of our Parish Building at 10:00 on September 20. We will be discussing the curriculum, the class times, and the requirements for successful completion of the program. Should you have any questions about whether your young person might be a candidate for this course of instruction, please speak with Pastor Butler before the meeting.

## Lee-Freyschmidt Circle

The Lee-Freyschmidt Circle will meet Wednesday, September 9th, at 10:30 a.m. at the home of Barbara Lee (3349 Ethan Street, Mt. Pleasant).

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## Tovey Circle Annual Picnic

The Tovey Circle will enjoy their annual picnic at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 10th, at the James Island Yacht Club. Meet at the home of Dan and Lynda Marchant (723 Wildwood Road, James Island) to caravan to the JIYC.

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## *The Ladies Sewing Society*

**Sunday, September 20, 2015 @ 4:00 p.m.**

**(Social Hall)**

**Organizational Meeting and Salad Supper**

**We warmly welcome guests**

All ladies of St. John's are invited to join us for our Fall "kick-off" Meeting and Salad Supper. Each member is asked to bring a salad to share. Beverages and dessert are provided.

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## *St. John's Women of the ELCA*

### **Trident Conference Fall Meeting**

**September 26, 2015      11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

**St. John's Lutheran Church**

A program will be presented about education and poverty.  
Lunch will be served — A nursery will be provided

### ***Congregational Concerns and Prayers***

We remember in our prayers: Jack Doscher, Natalie Fisher, Betty Lemacks, Jeff Nadzak, Peggy Rugheimer, Margaret Stephens, Cele West, all those who are infirm and recovering from illnesses and our members who have experienced losses of loved ones.

## August Vestry Highlights

The Vestry of our congregation met on Thursday evening, August 13, to discuss and conduct the business and ministry of our church. The following represents the highlights of that meeting:

1. The meeting was called to order by Vestry President Dan Prickett and opened with prayer offered by Pastor Butler.
2. The June 2015 Minutes were approved as submitted.
3. The Treasurer's Report was received as information.
4. During the Officers' Report the following items were discussed: a) the need to establish a 275th Anniversary Task Force to plan the celebration of St. John's Lutheran Church's 275th Anniversary. This anniversary also coincides with the 500th anniversary of the Reformation; b) a request from the German Friendly Society that they be allowed to host a concert within St. John's Church on January 19th in honor of their 250th Anniversary. Approved.
5. During Pastor Butler's report, he noted the attendance numbers for June and July, as well as providing the current membership statistics of our congregation. He then recommended John and Denise Crane for membership (approved) and Matthew, Katie and Sarah Gnann for membership (approved).
6. Larry Kreyling reported for Christian Education on the success of our Vacation Bible School and upcoming plans for our Little Luther League and the Senior High Youth Group. He mentioned that an exciting Rally Day is planned for August 30 beginning at 9:45 AM. At that time students will also be introduced to their teachers and classroom locations.
7. The Evangelism Committee shared with Vestry a design for "calling cards" that they are almost ready to make available for distribution to visitors.
8. The Finance Committee is requesting that all funding requests for the 2016 Budget be submitted to Chris Antley by September 14.
9. Randy Lesemann reported on the work the Property Committee has been doing. Chief among that work is the review

of security measures at our church. Security cameras are being considered, and Randy presented two proposals from two different companies.

10. Dan Marchant reported that the Social Ministry Committee has now engaged with Star Gospel Mission to provide occasional meals for the residents. The first venture went very well. The next meal will be held on September 9.
11. The Worship and Music Committee reported that 160 hymnals have now been designated and paid for. Book plates are being prepared; a dedication of the hymnals will take place at a future worship service and then the hymnals will be placed in the pews.
12. Becky Courtney outlined the implementation plans for new Service Groups for our congregation.
13. The Next Vestry Meeting will be held on September 17 at 6:30 PM with the officers gathering at 5:30 PM to review and approve the Agenda.



Several months ago, the Social Ministry Committee determined that sometimes a hot meal is a boost to our own members as well as those we serve outside our church. Thus, the CONGREGATIONAL CARE meals program was born, and it is ably coordinated by Jan Kyle. Members provide casseroles or soups which can be frozen and pulled out as needed. If you would like to contribute food for this cause, please e-mail Jan at [johnjankyle@att.net](mailto:johnjankyle@att.net) and she will call upon you when our supply gets low. A big THANKS goes out to our most recent chefs: Evelyn Dolven, Jan Kyle, Sandra Poulnot and Nancy Prickett.



September 2	Caroline Kinnett	September 17	Harold Haltiwanger
September 3	Carl Beckmann	September 18	Jameson Hoffman
September 3	Tommy McIntosh	September 19	Greg Edwards
September 8	Lauren Meany	September 20	Josh Lynn
September 8	Thomas Meany	September 20	Claudia Morton
September 10	Charles McKeever	September 21	Elizabeth Spaulding
September 11	Abigail Hoffmann	September 24	Alan Gosnell
September 11	Baxter Littlejohn	September 24	Don Toussaint
September 11	Ken Snell	September 25	Kristina Lanphear
September 12	Joy Cornwell	September 26	Brandt Allen
September 12	Sharon Haltiwanger	September 28	John Gnann
September 12	Bobby McClary	September 28	Rachel Stelling
September 13	Matt Beecher	September 28	Esther Williams
September 14	Shirley Nadzak	September 29	John Gamble
September 15	Peter Poulnot	September 29	Gayle Hilton
September 16	Evelyn Dolven	September 30	John Kyle
September 16	Helen Gnann	September 30	Ilene Lackland

