



St. Charles United
Methodist Church



December 2011

St. Charles United Methodist
www.stcharlesumc.com

Tim's Corner
pastor@stcharlesumc.com



Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year!

It began with the breath.

Wait a minute: This is not supposed to be the story of Creation (Genesis 1) or even a story about Jesus empowering his disciples for the ministry of forgiveness (John 20:19-23). This is supposed to be a story about the blessing of Light.

It began with a breath. I could sense a presence very close to my face. Then there was another breath, warm and moist. Then his muzzle nudged my face and I opened my eyes to see Ash, our Great Dane. It was 3:50 a.m. and he wanted, I guessed, for me to take him outside. By 3:55, Ash was ready to come back inside.

Returning to the bedroom, I noticed that the hall bathroom was brightly illuminated by light from outside. As I drew closer to the window I began to see a remarkable pattern of light. I wondered what could be causing the beautiful pattern, but the window would not open immediately. I knelt before the window hoping that the tall window would open if I lifted from its base. Outside, it was a crystal clear night with a brightly shining moon.

I lowered the window. From my knees, I could see the true pattern of the light – it formed a truly majestic cross. I know a bit about the refraction of light through glass surfaces – that's why I looked out the window. But I was drawn to the window by a sequence of events that led me to experience blessing when I wanted to be asleep.

I decided not to wake Beverly, but decided to take pictures with my cell phone's camera. I hope that you will ask me to show you the pictures of the blessed Light given to me in the Advent/Christmas Season of 2010 (I wish that I was technologically savvy enough to reproduce it here.). I call the picture "4 a.m. CST" – Christ Shining Through.

May you be awakened. May you discover a blessed Light during Advent and Christmas 2011.

Remember: It began with the breath.

Godspeed,

Tim

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CALENDAR EVENTS

12/5 & 19	10:30am Bereavement Counseling w/Pastor Earline
12/6	7:00pm Admin Council
12/10	9:00am UMW Chit, Chat & Chocolate
12/12	7:00pm Finance Meeting
12/17	10:00am Angel Tree Party
12/17	7:00pm Christmas Musical
12/23 & 26	Office Closed
12/25	MERRY CHRISTMAS
12/31	Happy New Year



CHURCH VOLUNTEERS

Lay Readers

	8:30	11:00
12/4	Chris LaBure	Jim Miller
12/11	Dave Lambert	Jerry Schultz
12/18	Frank House	Dan McNeill
12/25	No 8:30 service	TBA
Greeters:	Charlie Matthews	Favaloro Family
Ushers:	Tom McLain Judy McLain	

Acolytes

We are in need of acolytes to volunteer at both services. Please call the church office if you have a child that may be interested!



Children's Church

	8:30	11:00
12/4	Luana Hinchman	Tammy Rowell
12/11	Susan Meyer	Lee McNeill
12/18	Raina Edwards	Jolene Conlin

If you would like to volunteer for help with Children's Church, please call Luana Hinchman at 504-559-

Administrative Board

"Give Thanks to the Lord" As we just celebrated this Thanksgiving season, hopefully you all said a prayer for the blessings we receive from God. This Church that we hold so dear is a gift from God and each of your families' activities here gives it life and vibrancy.

This is the end of one journey or the beginning of another. I will be passing the reins to Gwen Keller next month as Council Chairperson. I admit that after 3 years as Finance Chairman and now 3 years in this position, I may wonder what I am doing on Tuesday evenings. There are a lot of activities at St Charles so I am sure to be busy. I still have many weeks of disciple 2 to learn. Chris LaBure was a wonderful mentor to follow.

A few months back as Pastor Juliet was leaving, I listed her legacy here at St. Charles and realized at the time that my legacy and fellow council members was similar. We have grown a lot as a church and your involvement and support have made all of these gifts possible. I list them here for reference and reflection in no particular order.

- Sanctuary renovation and new furniture
 - Signage and outside painting
 - Missions expansion and St Marks project
 - Praise Band worship
 - Safe Sanctuary policy
 - Program Director
 - First \$400,000 budget
 - Web-site revitalized
 - New parsonage
 - New cross and flame in front
 - Largest disciple class
 - New scout trailer
 - Growth in education programs
 - New commercial freezer
 - Graffiti removed
 - Back to the Beach
 - Largest Fall Fest 2011
 - Driveway entrance enlarged
- None of these would have happened without the passion expressed by individuals or groups who took on the projects that are reflected here. I can hardly wait to see what the next 3-6 years brings to the

list. In closing, I say think "God-sized" and he will provide. Thanks for allowing me to serve you.

God bless, Jim Adams

Jim Adams, chairman

2011 Administrative Council Dates
Please mark your calendar
December 6, 2011

Church Staff

- Tim Lawson, Pastor
- Mrs. Karen Nauck, Church Secretary
- Ms. Raina Edwards, Program Director
- Mr. Gerald Ebeling, Custodian
- Mrs. April Ebeling, Director of Music
- Mrs. Joy Oufnac, Pianist
- Mr. Rob Streeck, Sr. High Youth Director
- Mr. Bruce Thompson, Jr. High Youth Director
- Jamie Napolitano, Adventure Club Director

Children's Day Out Preschool

- Director: Patty Loftus
- Phone: 985-764-3004

Each day is a new day; each sunrise holds a new plan. Fear not and go forth.

*Discover.
Consume.
Understand.*

-Edgar L Byrd



United Methodist Women

What is "Chit, Chat, and Chocolate" you ask? Come experience a wonderful women's Christmas event with interactive activities in which women can enjoy the wonder of Christmas. Our greatest gift from God will be unwrapped in a way that will help you experience God's incredible love for us during this busy holiday season. It will be followed by an instructional cross painting activity by our very own Beverly Lawson. We'll then participate in a small group Christmas Cooking show. Our morning will end with a scrumptious fellowship dinner. All women are invited to join us on Saturday, December 10, from 9:00 to noon in the Fellowship Hall. Register by Wednesday, December 7 by either calling the church office at 985-764-8292 or email to gkeller30@cox.net. Cost is \$ 6.00 and can be paid the morning of the event. Nursery will be provided upon request.

UMW will also sponsor the Poinsettia's for the church, so please watch for order forms in the weekly bulletins. Orders must be submitted by December 11th.



MUSIC NOTES

Hi Friends!

This past month has been a challenging and rewarding time. I led worship music on a Kairos weekend, patriotic music at the Veteran's home, and active music with the preschoolers during "Brain Food for the Preschoolers Palette". What diverse groups of people and yet music engages and uplifts us all!

Speaking of engaging and uplifting, our Christmas cantata this year is titled "I Have Seen the Light". Our chancel choir will be joined by singers from several other area churches and accompanied by the I witness praise band! We will be presenting it **Saturday, December 17th at 7pm**. I hope that you make plans to attend with your family and friends; it promises to be an inspirational evening!

See you in service!

April Ebeling

Director of Music Ministries

music@stcharlesumc.com



SCRIP NEWS

Scrip

Who loves to stand in long lines with people that are grumpy? Not me – that is why I buy my gift cards (Scrip) from the church. The other reason is the church makes money without me spending any more than I already do.... What could be better or easier? Check out the hundreds of gift cards we have for you to use for your everyday shopping or to give as gifts. Don't forget that Scrip also comes in handy for your travel needs with hotels, rent a cars, cruises and so on. It is the way the church got to purchase a van, video and sound equipment for the Fellowship Hall and Sanctuary, blinds in the Fellowship Hall, part of a copy machine and roof and our Genie!! All of that was purchased from Scrip money and not church funds. The only way we can continue being able to purchase items like this is if you purchase Scrip from your church!!

Feel free to tell your business or other organizations, friends and family about Scrip so they can purchase from us too. Just stop by the secretary's desk before Sunday School, during office hours or call Mary Anne at 764-83686. A Scrip call is never a bother!!

Some places you may shop for Christmas are:

- | | | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|-------------|--------------|
| Honey Baked Ham | AMC Gift Cards | Old Navy | Amazon.com |
| Winn Dixie | Bed, Bath & Beyond | Cabela's | Dick's |
| Wal-Mart/Sam's | Best Buy | Macy's | Dillard's |
| Michael's | Game Stop | Home Depot | Lowe's |
| Joann Fabric | Best Western | Shutterfly | Marriot |
| Overstock.com | Applebee's | Taco Bell | Papa John's |
| Domino's | Chili's | Outback | Olive Garden |
| Copeland's | Cracker Barrel | Subway | IHop |
| Landry's | Wendy's | Burger King | Bravo's |
| PF Chang's | Starbucks | Cold Stone | Ruth Chris |
| Baskin Robbins | Hard Rock Café | Arby's | Quizno's |
| Groupon | Buffalo Wild Wings | Whole Foods | CVS |
- AND HUNDREDS MORE

St Mark's "Feeding the Homeless"

This is a great hands on mission that you can do in less than a day!! We are looking for 6 people to "Team Leaders/Cook Captains" for our 2012 dates. SCUMC serves lunch on a Sunday morning at St Mark's six times a year. As a leader, you would be responsible for planning, purchasing, cooking, serving and cleaning up on one of those Sundays. You need a team of 6-8 (and can be more) people which you will have no problem recruiting because people look forward to going to St. Mark's. The mission team has budgeted about \$250 or a little more per meal and we serve about 175 meals.

Check your calendar and see if you can volunteer for one of these dates:

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| February 19 th | August 19 th |
| April 22 nd | October 21 st |
| June 17 th | December 16 th |

Please call Ronnie Schindler if you would like to volunteer for one of these dates. Thank you for your help and everyone you feed thanks you also.



Missions Moment

What a blessing it is to be part of a Missions-minded church!

A Time For Praise, Love and Peace

For many people Halloween triggers the beginning of a season of shopping, parties, gift giving and stress. I have fallen into that pattern too many times myself, but then I remember that Jesus said 'My peace I give you, my peace I leave with you'. When I think about that, all the feelings of inner turmoil, hurriedness and stress seem to melt away. I can see what is really important in the holiday seasons, from being truly grateful to God for the essence of our lives at Thanksgiving, to celebrating the true meaning of Christmas by praising the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ.

I do not believe that our church could do a better job of offering such a variety of ways to become involved and help our fellow man (and children!) during the holidays. There should be something that everyone can feel drawn to. There is Angel Tree, Gifts through Prison Ministry, helping with the Angel Tree party, helping to decorate the sanctuary tree and there will be more as the month goes on.

So when you begin to feel rushed, stressed or out of touch, take a moment and a deep breath and remember that our God is a God of wonder, love and peace. He loves us and He wants us to share His love with everyone, everywhere. Relax, know that God is in control and follow your heart for a season of love and peace with the Prince of Peace Himself.

God bless you,
Pam Waguespack
Missions Co-Chair
See ya next year!

Congregational Care

This ministry is designed to make sure we care for our congregation during times of need. Specifically when someone is in the hospital, ill or during times of bereavement, and in happy times such as a births or other celebrations, etc. We send cards, cook meals, make visits as appropriate. We can only do these things if we know about them, therefore we are asking that each one of you help to keep us informed. You can email Karen Seifert at kseifert1@cox.net with information.

If this committee sounds like something you would like to be a part of you will get an opportunity to learn more and sign up at our upcoming mission fair.

Thank You



Adult Education

by Jerry Schultz

Jim Miller will lead us in an Advent class starting Dec 4th. The class will meet in the prayer room. All are welcome to come one, two or bring a friend to join in with us as we get into the true meaning of Christmas. This will be a 3 week class. 12/4, 12/11, & 12/18. No additional books required, just the word.



Women's Study:

Come join the Women's Sunday School Class, in the Sunday School building as we use Inner Compass, An Invitation to Ignatian Spirituality by Margaret Silf as our guide. Inner Compass looks at the most fundamental questions that concern every human being whatever their race, culture, religion, or state in life. "Where are you?" "How are you and why?" "Who are you?" Based on the writing of St. Ignatius Loyola from his sixteenth century book, Spiritual Exercises. Ignatius wrote his Exercises as a way of helping us to see and find the will of God. Margaret shares something of her own take on issues such as discernment, desire, and detachment and encourages people to discover what these things mean for them in their everyday living. As we are tossed on the high seas of political, moral, social, and spiritual turmoil, we urgently need a compass to help us reveal which movements within ourselves are capable of engaging our deepest vital energy and which are leading us only to fleeting satisfactions that leave us unchanged and unfulfilled. Learn to live with the questions and uncertainties as you trust that the mystery we call God will continue to hold and shape you and the universe and the questions.

The Seekers & Timothy class meet every Sunday in the Sunday School Building. All are welcome, no appointment necessary.

Coming next quarter...Living in a Committed Relationship, Crown Financial Planning, and Just Walk Across the Room..Simple Steps Pointing People to Faith.

Let's go be the blessing that God created us to be.

Merry Christmas, Jerry

Wednesday Night Dinners

Like to cook, fellowship, serve others? Then Wednesday night dinners are for you. We need "Cook Captains" to be a part of the rotation and we need "Guest Cooks". If you would like to volunteer for either please let Ronnie Schindler know. (764-8386) The cook captains cook about every 2 ½ months or so and a guest cook can be on a one time basis.

We are also looking for some people that like to have fun but don't cook. We have a couple of cooks that are willing to cook the meals but their schedules don't allow them to serve the meals. We would need a team to come in and warm the meal that is already cooked, set up the serving table, serve the dinner and then cleans up. No skills required for any of this and training is available!!

Children's Ministry

Mark your calendar and watch for more information, the New Orleans District will be hosting a Children's Ministry Workshop on January 7th at St. Charles UMC. Dawn Young from the La Conference Office will be planning the workshop. We will be host to the New Orleans District as well as others. This will be a day you want to attend and help host!!



SENIOR HIGH YOUTH NEWS

Busy, Busy, Busy!



Wow, it's already December... Where did this year go? We've had a busy couple of months - Youth Sunday, Pumpkin Patch, working with CDO, feeding the homeless at St. Mark's and preparing a Wednesday night supper here at SCUMC. I'm ready to wind it down a bit!

The plans for our Christmas party are still being finalized, but it's going to be a lot of fun (not to mention, a lot of food)! Our Wednesday night studies and discussions will continue as always. This is a great time to invite a friend to join you - they just might find a home with us!

See you Wednesdays at 6:30!

If you need more info, please call Val Keller or Rob Streeck

Adventure Club December 2011



We had an amazing November! The Adventure Club partnered with the Jr. High and High School youth, and we offered a Wednesday night program for Preschoolers that included reading, dancing, singing, and a very popular puppet show! I am so proud of the way these kids interacted with our young guests, and we had a very successful evening with over 20 children participating.

The kids were able to "let loose" at Game Night and enjoy three hours of games, music, food, dancing, and prizes. I couldn't have organized and facilitated these events without the people that volunteered their time and energy. Thank you! I am always looking for volunteers on Wednesday evenings, so please contact me at (504)957-8974 or jamieboutlaw@bellsouth.net if you would like the opportunity to join us for an hour or even more!

We will be meeting in the first two Wednesdays in December (7th, 14th), and then we will break for the Christmas holidays. This year has been an action-packed adventure, and I am looking forward to seeing what the new year will bring!

Jamie Napolitano

Adventure Club Director



Thank You's

Dear Church Family-

God has blessed us once again this year, with the ability to provide families with a great meal for people who would go without on Thanksgiving. I would like to thank each and every one of you, from the bottom of my heart with the love and grace displayed during this time. The recipients of the food and turkey were very grateful and asked that we echo that at the church. Our church is very special and always shows God's Love in each and everything they do. Once again, thank you for all your efforts and to those that helped with the baskets, to those who gave monetary donations and the cooks for preparing a wonderful breakfast, which was enjoyed by all and to all those who prayed for this endeavor.

Yours in Christ, Brenda Marino

Dear Church Family-

We thank you for the prayers and concerns during our grandson, Zachary's illness and passing. The phone calls, e-mails, meals and card helped lift out spirits during this difficult time. We're so blessed being a part of this church family.

Friends in Christ, Al and Peggy Martin

Angel Tree



We have been blessed with 70 children that we have the privilege to purchase gifts for this Christmas. These children have a mother or father in prison. The inmate had to request from the Chaplain to purchase a gift for their child. They choose the type of gift the child would like and we get to be the hands and feet of Christ to go purchase the gift. Wow what can bring out the Christmas spirit more than that!!

Check the Narthex for the Angel Tree and choose a boy or girl you would like to buy a gift for. Remember to record what number you have taken so that we know where all of our angels are. Purchase a clothing item and the wish item both totaling about \$50. Wrap the gifts, securely fasten them together and fix the angel back on to the gift. Please have all the gifts back to church no later than December 11th.

Children's Christmas Party

We are hosting a Christmas Party for our families and for the families of the Angel Tree. We will have games, cookies, food, storytelling and song. We invite you and your friends to come take part in sharing the Christmas spirit!!

We are also in need of volunteers to help with the party and for food. Maybe your small group or Sunday School class wants to do this as a group. It would make the job easy if we can have volunteers to:

Coordinate Food

Coordinate Games

Coordinate Cookie Decorating

Coordinate Crafts

Coordinate Storytelling

Coordinate Music

Need A Santa!!

Pictures of children with Santa that could be printed and given to them



PROGRAM DIRECTOR NEWS

On Sunday, December 18th, at 9:45 AM. Sunday School classes will celebrate the birth of Jesus in the Fellowship Hall.

Wednesday Night Dinner

During our Wednesday Night Dinners in December we will play concerts and movies that celebrate the Birth of Christ!!!

December 7th - Third Day "Christmas Offering" Concert

December 14th - "The True Christmas Story," Travel with teacher and historian Ray Vander Laan to the land of Israel to discover fascinating truths about the events surrounding the birth of Jesus.

December 21st - iWorship: Christmas Offering Concert

Discovery Kids

Our new Wednesday Night Program "Discovery Kids" will meet on December 14th and 21st at 6:30 PM. This program is for 4 to 8 year olds. Kids experience various discovery centers that are based on Bible Stories. Discovery Centers include Games, Snack-It Café, Surprise Station, Music & Memory, and Projects With A Purpose!!!! Volunteers are needed to take part in this life changing program!!! If you are interested in becoming involved in these programs, please see me.

Blessings,

Raina

programs@stcharlesumc.com

LCIW INSIGHT FOR INMATES CHRISTMAS EXTRAVAGANZA

December 1, 2 & 3, 2011

Tom Matlock with Insight for Inmates passed away a couple of years ago after serving over 20 years in ministry to the prisons of Louisiana. His heart was always for the men and women who were incarcerated--and his passion was for the children of the women of LCIW. I believe that this is God's heart as well. These children would probably not have had a Christmas with their Moms--no gifts from their moms--if not for Tom Matlock's organization of Churches and volunteers. He was relentless in finding donations of toys that the moms could give to their own children--and of finding volunteers who would help the moms to choose and wrap these toys and then attend the Christmas party on Saturday along with the moms and their children. Since his death, the donations have been scant, but last year each child still received four toys along with a stuffed animal.

Women volunteers are needed to help: on Thursday we will sort toys and choose gifts for the moms to give their children. On Friday, volunteers will help moms to wrap the toys they will give to their children. On Saturday, they will share the joy at the Christmas party.

And of course, **your Church's donation of TOYS ARE NEEDED.** There are usually about 250 children who participate in this outreach. At 4 toys each, that's about a thousand toys. (That isn't counting the stuffed animals.) This is an impossible number of toys to collect before the December 1st deadline. ". . . With man this is impossible, but with God, ALL things are possible" (Matthew 19:26).

For more information contact Blythe Barrios at blythebarrios@yahoo.com.

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

December 2011

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Pastor Tim's cell 1-225-333-1906

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E-mail: office@stcharlesumc.com

Website: www.stcharlesumc.com

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

	12/29	Doug Waguespack	
12/3	Kala Keller	12/30	Lee Wilkins
12/4	Ryan Keller		
12/5	Wendy Kahn		
12/6	Cathy Moser		
12/8	Josie Cammarata		
12/11	Onni Cesta		
12/13	Reese Napolitano		
	Brady Napolitano		
12/14	Steven Green		
	Meredith Core		
12/15	Dawn Streeck		
12/16	Bruce Warner		
12/21	DeAnn Sullivan		
12/25	Peggy Acy		
	Robert McNair		
12/27	Teresa Hooker		
12/28	Blythe Barrios		



DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

12/27 Jonathan and Joy Oufnac

Sunday Services

Contemporary Worship Service: 8:30 a.m.

Traditional Worship Service: 11:00 a.m.

Sunday School Classes (all ages): 9:45 a.m.

Wednesday Evening

Mid Week Dinner & Fellowship: 5:30 p.m.

Choir Practice 7:00 p.m.

Bible Studies: 6:30 p.m.

Sr. High, Jr. High 6:30 p.m.

Adventure Club 6:30 p.m.

Thursday Evening

Praise Band 7:00 p.m.

Keep Christ in Christmas

The Mexico Mission Team is selling yard signs to help you let your friends & neighbors you are keeping Christ in your Christmas

One Sided Sign \$10

“Jesus is the Reason for the Season”

Two Sided Sign \$15

“Merry Christmas” on the back

To order see Ronnie Schindler 764-8386

