

**st John's**  
U.C.C.



**ALTAR LIGHT**  
**SEPTEMBER 2018**

## PASTORAL THOUGHTS FOR SEPTEMBER . .

If all goes well, we will have a permanent pastor at St. John's. Oh how I pray for that to be true. I like ministry, but now I just like others doing it!! Next June will be my sixtieth year of ordination. In anticipation of a new pastor, I think of the words of Paul writing to the Corinthian Church, "*I appeal to you to all be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you.*" Even in that new beginning there were those claiming allegiances and attitudes that set them against one another.

It reminds me of one community where we lived. There was the First Reformed Church, soon there followed a Second Reformed Church, and not long after that there came Trinity Reformed Church. Then ..... came The Reformed Church of the Resurrection!!! I'm not sure where you go from there. It seems wherever we are, there are divisions.

The hindrance to a full life is the tyranny of absolutism. We attempt to think of political leaders, church leaders, religions, or even neighbors as being absolutely right or absolutely wrong. Our world is divided into many very narrow segments. Even our religion becomes a player in the dangerous world of competing absolutes ... all or nothing polarities, presented by everyone from politicians to preachers to people in the pews.

Exclusivist faith is dangerous, whether we label it conservative, liberal, or progressive. I believe: THE MORE EXCLUSIVE WE CLAIM, THE SMALLER WE GET!

Jesus came to give us life ... life above these absolute polarities ...

Jesus came to give us truth --- truth above divisions ...

Jesus came to be the way .... The way to saving grace, beyond our understanding ...

It is a mistake to sharpen our minds by narrowing them ... to look at the Bible to close a discussion, for the

Bible seeks to open one ... and I worry about the intolerance of Christians in America ... God knows what is emotionally satisfying can be spiritually devastating.

So much for my rambling. We look forward to a new pastor is our midst. With that said, Shirley and I will follow the protocol of giving the pastor time to get to know you and serve among you, ... and we will absent ourselves from activities at St. John's.

Many blessings to all of you and to the new pastoral leadership.

Peace and love,

**Pastor Bill**

**SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 9TH FOLLOWING WORSHIP TO  
VOTE ON CALLING DAN WYSONG AS OUR  
NEW MINISTER.**

We are pleased to recommend to you our final candidate, Reverend Dan Wysong, for the position of minister to be considered by the congregation at a special meeting on **Sunday, September 9, 2018 following worship.**

If you are unable to attend the meeting and wish to cast a vote, you may send in or drop off the ballot enclosed with your notification of meeting letter. If you did not receive a letter notifying you of this special meeting, please call the church office immediately (662-5921). If you haven't heard Rev. Dan preach, and wish to hear him before voting, you may go to our church website: [www.stjohnswoodland.net](http://www.stjohnswoodland.net), click on Worship, then click on Sermons and lastly find a sermon with Rev. Dan's name assigned to it and listen.

In Christ's name,

The Search Committee:  
Carolyn Reiff, Chair  
Heather Albin  
Marilyn Mitchell

Bill Summers  
Hazel Peterson  
Jim Neilson  
Jeff Bourke

## THE ELDERS AUGUST MEETING REPORT

New '**Church Invite Cards**' are available in the narthex and in the social hall for people to take and hand out. The Food Closet and Woodland Care Car are two places where members have handed out these cards.

The '**Altar Committee Duties**' document has been updated to clarify the duties of Altar Committee members.

The next step in the **Narthex reconfiguration** is painting the area. The Elders will pull approximately five paint chips and have the congregation vote for their choice. Approval for painting was given at the Consistory meeting.

**Church publicity and social media** are going well. A new couple attended church last month after seeing our website. The Elders will be sending a thank you card to Tom Brannan to show our appreciation for the excellent job he has been doing with the church website.

The **Church Welcome Pamphlet** is coming along. The idea is to start with the background of our church with a brief history of St. John's and the UCC system.

**"Neighbors in Need"**, a UCC supported offering, will be collected on October 7th. Special offering envelopes will be available that day. Additional information is available in the church office.

**Name tags** are being prepared for our members for Sunday church services to make it easier for visitors to remember names when they attend. Visitors will also be given a name tag.

The **WEM Thanksgiving service** will be held at St. John's this year on Sunday, November 18, at 4:00 p.m.

Jeff bought **self-contained communion cups**. Each contain an individual serving of a wafer and juice sealed separately. These will be available to take communion to an individual at home, a retirement community, a nursing home or hospital.

**Harvest Home** was discussed. We will be contacting farmers affiliated with St. John's to invite them to come and possibly participate in the event. We'd like the farmers to bring a product representing what they grow, which they would come forward and place on the altar. (Example: a can of tomato paste, a loaf of bread, almonds, pistachios). The food would then be donated to the Food Closet or 4<sup>th</sup> & Hope.

We discussed the possibility of having a **Sunday evening class** which would be an extension of the Sunday morning Sunday School.

#### **Rides to church:**

Want to go to church, but don't have a ride? Please call the church office (662-5921) to set up a ride. We have members that will gladly take you to and from church. If you discover you need a ride on Sunday morning, no worries! Call Carol Lou (867-5045) and she will arrange a ride for you.

#### **Drivers of people to church:**

If you can transport individuals to church, please let Carol Lou know. Most people who need rides transport best in a vehicle that doesn't sit too high nor too low. Also, let her know if you are able to transport a wheelchair, as well.

## **St. John's Preschool**

We currently have 50 children enrolled in our pre-school, which is the number we are licensed for and 6 toddlers in the Toddler Option Program. We continue to receive calls on a daily basis and give tours. We have 8 children leaving within a week and 7 children starting by September 4th. We are in the process of hiring another teacher for the toddler room. Once that position is filled, we will be able to start 5 more children in the younger classrooms, where two teachers are needed.

Two of our board members, Ronnie Gedatus and Meera Wallace, have left the board because their children graduated in June. Our new board members will be Jared Plocher and Lauren Willer.

Our Scholastic Book Faire is scheduled for the week of September 4-7. Back to School Night will be September 6<sup>th</sup> from 5:30-6:30 p.m. and our Grandparent Breakfast is scheduled for September 10<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m.

Our annual Spaghetti Feed and Auction will be held Thursday, September 27<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. in the Social Hall. The cost is \$8 per person, \$15 for 2 Adults and \$20 per Family. Dinner will include spaghetti with meat or marinara sauce, garlic bread, salad and cookie. To-go-plates are available. Proceeds from this event will go towards the cost to replace the preschool windows.



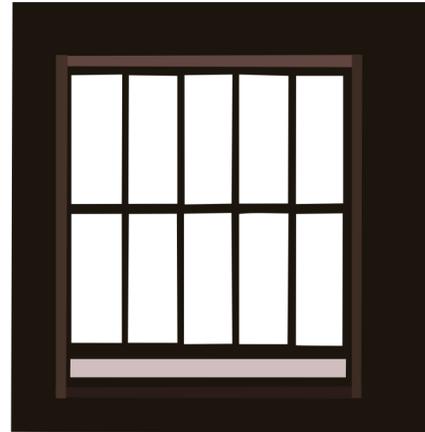
## Preschool Windows

The preschool windows were replaced this month by FitzPerfect Windows. They look great.

The cost to replace the windows was \$14,776. As of August 20<sup>th</sup>, the church raised \$11,850 in donations for the windows. In September the preschool will be designating the profit from their Spaghetti Feed toward this project.

On behalf of the church and preschool, I want to thank those who made donations to make these much-needed windows a reality. The new windows will lower our utility costs and enhance our security.

Sincerely,  
Marilyn Mitchell



### **SAVE THE DATE! ST. JOHN'S HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIRE NOVEMBER 16-17th**



Attention crafters and those of you who just LOVE craft faires: We will again be hosting this holiday event from 6-8 p.m. on Friday, November 16th and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, November 17th in the Social Hall. If you are interested in selling and would like to get a table reserved, please contact Carol Lou in the church office.

## **CHOIR REHEARSAL RESUMES**

**AUGUST 30TH**

Rehearsals begin at 6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary and end at approximately 7:30 p.m. Carolyn and the rest of the choir welcome anyone interested in singing with them. Think about it.



## **JUNIOR CHOIR RESUMES**

**SEPTEMBER 12TH**

We will begin rehearsing music for the fall and for the annual Christmas musical Wednesdays at 1:15 p.m. All children and teens are welcome. The Christmas musical this year is new to St. John's, with many roles available and some great music. We'd love to have friends join us, as well!

## **SCHOOL SUPPLIES FOR**

## **CHRISTMAS SHOE BOXES**

In August, we purchased school supplies for the 30 shoe boxes that will be given to 4<sup>th</sup> & Hope



families at Christmas. See Marilyn Mitchell to make your financial contribution for this project. Other items for the shoe boxes will be purchased in December.

**12TH ANNUAL  
RHYTHM & RIBS  
MUSIC • BBQ • LIVE AUCTION  
& RAFFLE**

Same great food, same great Dave Russell Band,  
same great auction opportunities!

**SATURDAY, SEPT. 22, 2018**

**6-10 p.m.**

**YOLO COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS  
WAITE HALL**

**\$100 VIP\* / \$45 Advance / \$50 DOOR**

\*The VIP Experience includes: unlimited beverages, reserved seating, VIP servers, early entrance at 5 p.m., meet and greet band, commemorative photo, t-shirt, bonus raffle ticket, etc.

**FOR TICKETS, CONTACT JANE MARTIN: (530) 908-5536  
OR MARILYN MITCHELL: (530) 908-1676**

**BBQ DINNER AND DANCE  
WILL BE INDOORS AND  
AIR CONDITIONED THIS YEAR!**

## **ST. JOHN'S RETIREMENT VILLAGE**

On August 31<sup>st</sup> from 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. a panel discussion exploring different beliefs on what happens after we die, with perspectives from a rabbi, a Christian pastor, a shaman and a physic. Contact Janet at 530-662-1290 or email [jmartinez@sjrv.org](mailto:jmartinez@sjrv.org).

## **FIJI OUTREACH UPDATE**

We will be sending 6 wardrobe boxes to Fiji within the next couple of weeks. Clothes and items left from an estate sale last week will be included in the shipment. Over the last two years we have sent over 30 boxes to churches in three different areas of Fiji. We also have purchased 50 sets of school supplies to send to a school in Fiji that was completely destroyed by a hurricane last year.

## **UPDATING CONTACT INFORMATION**

In an effort to maintain current contact information, we are requesting the members and friends of St. John's Church to update their information on the enclosed card that can be dropped off, mailed back or information can be e-mailed to the church at: [saintjohnswoodland@gmail.com](mailto:saintjohnswoodland@gmail.com).

## **SUNDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY**

If you can't make Wednesday Night Bible study, or you you'd like another Bible study to add to your faith walk, we have just the answer at 6 p.m. every Sunday in the Social Hall. This is not a potluck evening, just a group study aimed to enhance God's word.

### **KEEP THEM IN YOUR PRAYERS**

Faye Brannan, Jim Brannan, Paula Castles,  
Sammie Collins, Al Massa, Derril Peabody,  
Dathion Ruiz, June Rodegerdts,  
Bev Hall, Jane Dewey,

Firefighters and those affected by the fires  
Those serving in the military and their families  
Those suffering persecution globally  
Our local, state, national and world leaders

### **SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAY CLUB**

5th-Frank Smith  
6th-Holly Bourke  
12th-Jane Sieferman  
22nd-Carl Rodegerdts  
24th-Curtis Albin  
30th-Tom Brannan  
30th-Rosemary Horsting



### **ANNIVERSARIES**

23rd-Mel & Connie Ehresman

### **LOCAL OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES:**

We are continuing our collection of ***new or gently used bath towels and wash cloths*** for 4th and Hope. We are also still collecting ***unopened pet food, new and used towels and laundry detergent*** for the Yolo County Animal Shelter. You may bring these items to the social hall or the back hallway of the church where there will be designated boxes to put the items.



### **MARILYN MITCHELL**

I was born on June 13, 1947 in Woodland. I arrived 5 minutes earlier than my twin sister, Carolyn. We were a surprise to our parents, Robert & Jeanette Reiff.

Two and a half years later our sister Barbara was born. We were raised on a farm north of the Flier's Club and west of Yolo. We attended Cacheville Elementary School in Yolo. The three of us were active in 4-H and in St. John's Church. We attended church every Sunday as a family.

While in 4-H, Carolyn and I had the opportunity to attend a course in Citizenship in Washington DC. There were 42 youth (14-21 years old), two chaperones and our bus driver. We spent two weeks traveling through the southern states, a week in Washing DC, and one week returning through the north and mid-western states. The second highlight was going by train to Chicago to attend a 4-H Convention when I was a state winner in safety.

I always have loved music. I started playing trumpet when I was eight years old. I played in the band through high school and college and occasionally at church as a young adult. I started playing the guitar my senior year at college. I have played guitar at our

Mary's Chapel Easter Sunrise services for over 35 years. I began singing in the Jr. Choir when I was 8 years old. I joined the Adult Choir when I was 14 and have been in the choir for over 55 years.

I graduated from Woodland High School and attended Chico State University where I received a BA in Social Services.

After graduation from college, I began a 21-year career in retailing, as a manager/buyer for Breit's Department Store until it closed in February 1990. I started my 19-year career with Yolo Superior Court as a Legal Process Clerk. Over the years I worked my way up to Deputy CEO over operations and facilities. Since my retirement from the court in January 2009, I have worked at St. John's Preschool as the bookkeeper.

In 1970, I met my husband, Chuck, through a mutual friend. We were married in March 1972. We have two children, Sheri and Scott. Sheri is married to Jason Marcus and they have two sons Jacob (11) and Luke (7).

I have been an active member of the church all of my life and have helped with the chapel services at SJRV for the last 18 years. I have served on the church boards for over 35 years. I am currently Treasurer for the church and the preschool. I am President of the Board for St. John's Retirement Village and Treasurer for the Community Christian Academy. I was chairman of the church rummage sales for about 20 years. For the last couple of years, I have worked on estate sales for individuals who have downsized or moved to assisted living communities.

ST. JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
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Address Service Requested