

**SMALL GROUPS**

**Study: "The Parables For Today"**  
 Hosted by Sunday Morning Small Group  
 When: 9:30 am  
 Where: Adult Classroom

**Study: "At The End Of The Day"**  
 Hosted by: The Late Sunday Morning Small Group  
 When: Sunday's at 10:45 am  
 Where: Adult Classroom  
 Leader: Gary Potter

**FPU Class Spring Session**  
**Study: Financial Peace University / Dave Ramsey**  
 When: Sunday's 5:00 pm  
 Where: Sanctuary  
 Leaders: David & Christie McKnight  
 info@mcknightvideo.com

**New Lenten Study: "24 Hours That Changed the World"**  
 When: Thursday's at 11:00 am  
 Where: Adult Classroom  
 Leader: Pastor Stephanie Hughes



Pick up a list of available ministry opportunities off the information table.

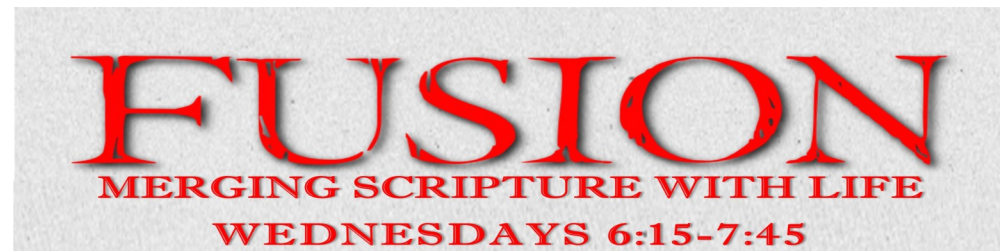
| Worship Attendance |       |    |
|--------------------|-------|----|
| Worship 2/5/17     | 9:30  | 88 |
| Worship 2/5/17     | 11:00 | 46 |
| Worship 2/12/17    | 9:30  | 94 |
| Worship 2/12/17    | 11:00 | 44 |
| Worship 2/19/17    | 9:30  | 85 |
| Worship 2/19/17    | 11:00 | 63 |
| Worship 2/26/17    | 9:30  | 88 |
| Worship 2/26/17    | 11:00 | 51 |

**SERVE**



**Grow Team Meeting**  
**Wednesday, March 8th,**  
**At 6:00 pm in the Foundry**

**Invite Team Meeting**  
**Thursday, March 9th,**  
**At 7:00 pm in the Cafe.**



Come and check it out.... there will be food...  
**FUSION!!!**

Where scripture and life merge for a deeper understanding  
 10 Week Study on the book of Genesis: March 8th-Genesis 31-35  
 Please bring a non-perishable food item to donate to UFA!!!

For the young, the young at heart and everyone in between!  
 Come join us at St. John's United Methodist Church!  
 6:15-6:50 = Food and Fellowship  
 7:00-7:45 = Scripture Study

**Stewardship Report**

**Building Loan Update:**

**Our current balance is \$58,019**  
**HOW CAN YOU HELP? PRAY...PLEDGE TODAY...GIVE!**

| 2017 Tithes & Offerings                                 |              |
|---|--------------|
| (funds we have collected compared to what was budgeted) |              |
| 2017 Income Received as of Feb 28th                     | \$ 65,571.17 |
| 2017 Projected Income as of Feb 28                      | \$ 62,424.83 |
| 2017 Income as of Feb 28th<br>Surplus/-Deficit          | \$ 3,146.34  |

**The Monitor**

March 2017



**ST. JOHN'S**  
 A United Methodist Congregation



**8200 25TH AVENUE N.**  
**TEXAS CITY, TX 77591**  
**409-655-5348**

**Sunday Worship Services**

**9:30 am—Contemporary**

**11:00 am—Traditional**

Checkout the calendar at  
[www.stjohnsumctc.org](http://www.stjohnsumctc.org)  
 Inviting People to  
 Experience Amazing Love!

Find us on Facebook @  
[stjohnsumctcascity](https://www.facebook.com/stjohnsumctcascity)

**A Word From Our Finance Chair**

In 1958, God led a group of people to start a church and gave them the means to build a house to worship in. In 2009, Satan took it away. God did not forget about us. God provided the means to build a new and better facility to worship in. There was a shortfall of \$500,000 to complete this building in accordance with what we felt we needed to accomplish the goals we had set out. God provided access to borrowed funds to cover the shortfall, he led the people of St. John's to commit to repay that loan, and gave them the ability to meet that commitment which was up and beyond their tithing. Over the past 6 years the money from those commitments was applied directly to the debt. We have come pretty close to achieving extinguishing the debt. This month when the term of the last capital pledge campaign ends, we will have approximately \$50,000 remaining on our loan.

We are not going to have a new campaign asking for pledges to retire the remaining balance. Instead we are going to retire the debt through the operating budget of the church, i.e. through normal tithing. You are probably wondering how we are going to do that when the budget is already stretched pretty thin. Well this is how...We are asking everyone to continue giving the amount they pledged in the building campaign as part of your tithing. Now you are probably asking yourself, "why would I do that?" I asked myself that question and could only come up with one reason. Because you want to!

People often do things for different reasons, like going to church, stopping to help someone in need, etc. You never really know why they did what they did, but what you do know is that they did it because they wanted to. So I don't know why you would want to continue giving your commitment to the building fund in addition to your tithe now that that commitment will expire this month, but I know why Robin and I are and I'd like to share why with you.

We have history in this church. We were married in St. John's 42 years ago this summer. We have been members here 37 years or so. We raised 2 children through St. John's and we are now introducing God to our 4 grandchildren through this church. We have made a lot of friends through this church, some moved on, some passed on, but we still remembered them, and some are still here. We owe our spiritual growth and relationship with God to St. John's. We have struggled through many of the same hardships everyone encounters, marital stress, financial strains, family members passing, personal problems and the general ups and downs of life. Through worship services, bible studies and prayer we found the strength and ability to cope with and work our way through those difficult times.

When one door closes, God opens another one. By losing our old building to fire, God opened the door for St. John's to provide greater opportunities to more people to find his love and establish a relationship with him.

Continued on the next page...

So as the song lyrics 'Greater Things Are To Be Done In The City' says – Robin and I believe greater things can be and are to be done through St. Johns. We want to be a part of St. John's achieving those things. To achieve those things takes money! We are used to giving the amount we committed to the building fund. We made that commitment 6 years ago and have contributed ever since. It is already a part of our budget and it is not like we will miss the money now. We honestly cannot think of anything we would use the money on that would bring us more enjoyment., or enrich our life more. It is an expression of our faith.

There are many Bible stories about giving 10%. We started out giving without much thought as to how much or why. I didn't like pledging because I wasn't sure we would have the money or not and didn't want to be obligated to something. Over the years we looked around and realized how blessed we were with health, family, friends, children doing well, working, wonderful grandkids and the list goes on. So we decided we should be giving more. We found we felt better about giving more and actually wanted to give even more. We feel whatever we give, time or money, has been returned to us through God's blessings, not necessarily financially, but in all respects of our lives. St. John's has been here for us over all these years, through good times and bad times, through thick and thin and now St. John's needs us to be there so it can meet the potential God laid out for it. And we are committed to being there!

Finally, I want to ask you a question. If a stranger walked up to you and offered you \$100 bill and all you had to do was give them a \$10 bill, would you do it? At first you would probably be leery even skeptical. After all you don't know this person and you don't know that the \$100 bill is real. After considering all that, you probably would take the \$100 bill, look at, feel it, smell it, snap it, and check for the watermark. Once you decided it was real, you would probably give them the \$10. And probably do it as often as the opportunity availed itself. You would probably be so excited about it, you would tell everyone you know what happened. Now consider this...God is no stranger! His blessings are real! Look around you and I think you would agree that 10% is a small amount to give for what he has already given you. Robin and I feel it is. That is why we are going to continue giving our commitment to the build fund as part of our tithing. If you didn't have the opportunity to make a commitment to the building fund, you have the opportunity now to review your commitment to St. John's and give according to your ability, your conscience and with a happy heart.

Mike Bartholomew, Finance Chair

## GROW

### A Word From Our Director Of Family Ministries

As Stephanie has been going through the Fruits of the Spirit, I personally have been taking time to reflect on these fruits in my life. **Love:** I'm pretty loving for the most part. I can work on it some, but I'm in a good position here. **Peace:** I've gotten a lot more peaceful. Peace and contentment are the themes in my life for 2017. I haven't always been at peace, I haven't always been able to be happy with the life that I'm living but when I say or think about the word peace, I really do feel at peace. There are many things in my life that I would love to change but for now, I am at peace where my life is. **Patience:** I am not always patient. I have A LOT of patience with children. I love kids so much and I have a lot of patience for them. Its almost like I am so patient with kids that I don't have enough to share with adults. Patience with adults is definitely something that I need to work on and be better at. **Kindness:** I'm not always kind. There's not much of a filter from my brain to my mouth. I tend to say what I'm thinking and then have to apologize later. Kindness is definitely something I need to work on. **Goodness:** I am pretty good most of the time. I have been called a "goody two shoes" in my time. But I have a God who has been good to me and in turn, I try to be like him. I'm not perfect at it but I definitely try. **Faithfulness:** I'm very faithful. I am faithful to God, to my job, to my friends, to my husband, to my family. I give my 100% to those and sometimes I wear myself thin. I'm learning to say no but I'm faithful. **Gentleness:** I find that gentleness is like patience in my life. I'm very gentle with children, not so much with adults. Definitely something I need to work on! **Self-control:** oh Self-control! You would be last. This is the hardest one for me. I have zero self-control. I have no problem lying in bed all day with a messy house, I can't stop myself from eating junk food, I love to spend money and if there is a big, flashing sign that says clearance, I am all over that bin. I definitely lack in the self control area. It's the hardest for me. It always has been. I don't know about you but I've enjoyed Stephanie's sermons on the Fruits of the Spirit. I hope you did too.

See you soon,  
Jessica Dean

### Foundry Youth Sundays

6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade will meet from 4:30-6:00  
9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade will meet from 5:00-6:30

Foundry Youth is in full swing!!! If you would like to volunteer your time for the youth group we have many ways for you to get involved. We need more leaders to help with group discussion & lead lessons. And people to cook Sunday night dinners. Please contact Pastor Stephanie or Jessica Dean to volunteer.

## INVITE

### MARCH MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

Monthly collection for UFA Susan's Market, a client-choice food pantry located in the building that houses the UFA offices at 2000 Texas Ave in Texas City. For more information or to volunteer, please call UFA at 409-643-8243. **St. John's will be collecting Laundry Detergent the whole month of MARCH. You can drop off your donations in the bin in the Ministry area.**



St. John's Community Garden Team  
Is having a planting day  
**Saturday, March 11th**  
8:00 am – 10:00 am

Please stop by the information table and sign up today!!! We could use 5-10 people to help weed all the beds and around the fruit trees and also help plant the plants and seeds for the spring garden.

### Up Coming Dates...Mark Your Calendar:

April 16<sup>th</sup>-Confirmation Sunday (And Easter)  
June 8<sup>th</sup>-June 11<sup>th</sup>-Big House –Register by March 26th \$125 due by April 1st  
June 11<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>-UM Army in Bellville TX– Register by March 26th -\$250 due by June 4th  
June 18<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>-Camp at Lakeview– Register by May 22nd - \$400 due by June 4th  
July 24<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>-Vacation Bible School-Hero Central

### Pancake Supper Fundraiser Update:



Thank you, thank you, thank you for supporting our kids at the pancake fundraiser!!! We raised \$1,000!!!!!!! We had 19 kids work at the fundraiser so each kid was able to add about \$50 to their account for Big House, UM Army, and/or camp at Lakeview! You guys are so awesome! Thank you all so very much!!! This helps cover the cost of Camp (\$400), Big House (\$140) and UM Army (\$250) per kid.

### Good Samaritan Ministry Work Day

Our next work day will be on  
Saturday, March 18<sup>th</sup>.

anyone interested in working with this ministry is invited to attend.  
You can sign up to help at the information table.  
If you would like to volunteer or if you know someone in need of help from this ministry please contact John or Tanya Mize at jmizer1964@yahoo.com.

