

SMALL GROUPS

Study: "The Ten Commandments For Today"

Hosted by Sunday Morning Small Group
When: 9:30 am
Where: Adult Classroom

Study: "Come As You Are Not"

Hosted by: The Late Sunday Morning Small Group
When: Sunday's at 10:45 am
Where: Adult Classroom
Leader: Gary Potter

Study: "At the End of the Day: How Will You Be Remembered"

14-week Adult Study
Hosted by: The Tuesday Morning Small Group
When: Tuesday's at 10:00 am
Where: Dianne Ho-Gland's home in Texas City
Leader: Dianne Ho-Gland

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

Worship Attendance		
Worship 8/6/17	9:30	89
Worship 8/6/17	11:00	59
Worship 8/13/17	9:30	114
Worship 8/13/17	11:00	55
Worship 8/20/17	9:30	100
Worship 8/20/17	11:00	45

Upcoming Committee Meetings



Grow Team Meeting
Wednesday, September 13th at 6:00 PM

Ad Council

Meeting will be on Tuesday, September 19th at 6:00 pm in the Café.

All members are invited to attend to hear about what is happening in the ministries of St. John's.



CHURCH WORK DAY

Saturday, October 14th at 8:30 AM

ALL church members are invited to spend a Saturday afternoon cleaning, repairing, and beautifying the church building and grounds. See signup sheet on information table.

Stewardship Report

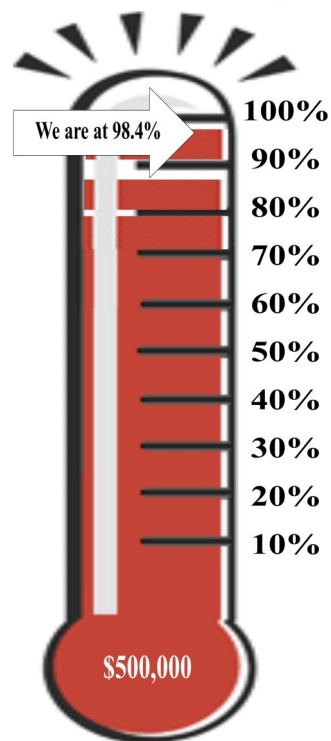
Building Loan Update:

Our current balance is \$8,100!!!
HOW CAN YOU HELP?
PRAY TODAY...GIVE TODAY!!!

We are so very excited to be so very close to paying off our building! Thank you all so much for your faithful and continuously generous giving that has brought us this far.

We are on pace to pay off our loan by the end of this year! This a very exciting time in the life of our church.

ST. JOHN'S CAPITAL DEBT REPAYMENT
CURRENT LOAN BALANCE: \$8,100



2017 Tithe & Offerings (funds we have collected compared to what was budgeted)	
2017 Income Received as of August 31st	\$ 285,826.23
2017 Projected Income as of August 31st	\$ 249,699.33
2017 Income as of August 31st Surplus/-Deficit	\$ 36,126.90

The Monitor

September 2017



ST. JOHN'S
A United Methodist Congregation

A Word From Our Pastor

What a mess! That's what my mom used to say when she would come into my room when I was little. And now I say the same thing to my little girl when I open the door to her room. And it is the phrase I've said many times over, since Harvey has visited. When I looked out our front door and saw our streets flooded and the water creeping close to the house, I exclaimed, "What a mess out there!" When I looked inside a flooded home that had a slimy coat of mud everywhere, I exclaimed, "What a mess and it smells so bad in here!" And now when we are driving around and see the piles of soaked through furniture, sheet rock, flooring and all the other unrecognizable belongings, I exclaim, "What a sorrowful mess!"

The messy piles of stuff represent an overwhelming loss in our community. I have heard some people use the expression that they lost everything. Everything was ruined and turned into a big mess. There's nothing left to salvage. That leaves a huge void and it would be easy to feel powerless in the midst of such great loss. Yet, we believe in and serve a God that can do amazing things with absolutely nothing. From the very beginning, God created *ex nihilo* – out of nothing. God's Holy Spirit hovered over the chaos, the mess, and began to create. There was nothing to build upon, but God's own imagination and power. Since then, God's Spirit continues to hover over our chaos and our voids. God continues to create beauty all around us. Unlike the beginning of creation, where there were no witnesses, we get to witness God's creative and restorative work here now today, and we get to be participants in it.

St. John's has done a beautiful job of participating in God's restorative work in our immediate community and surrounding areas. We have partnered with other churches and sent out teams to help families begin the recovery process by first hovering over the chaos and then beginning the hard work of pulling out all the damaged stuff – furniture, walls, floors, electronics, and precious memorabilia. Everything that was covered in Harvey muck has to come out. God's work can be seen all over this community through the loving actions of lots of people. God will never leave us or forsake us. On the contrary, in times like these, God works in powerful ways to recover, restore, renew and especially create something new where there was once nothing. Ultimately, we serve a God of hope, so even in the face of such great destruction and loss, we remain a people of hope.

Grace and Peace,

Stephanie Hughes

Rev. Stephanie Hughes



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
Inviting People to
Experience Amazing Love!

Find us on Facebook @
stjohnsumctexascity



INVITE

INVITE TEAM
BEING THE HANDS AND FEET



We need volunteers with a passion for the following ministries to lead and coordinate them. We've identified several ministries in the community that could use our help in some way. We decided to focus on 3 and offer them to those wishing to participate. These opportunities are available for anyone interested.

- ⇒ **UFA/Susan's Market**—Needs help with various duties. Can leave your name with them as someone to call when needs arise 409643-8240.
- ⇒ **Elmcroft**—Requests volunteers in a variety of capacities. We are working on providing a calendar showing upcoming events with a sign-up sheet that will be located in St. John's lobby. In the mean time volunteers can contact Elmcroft directly at 409-935-6620 and ask for Theresa.
- ⇒ **Roosevelt-Wilson and LaMarque schools** are requesting volunteers to serve as mentors for 1-hour each week. To sign up, visit www.mentorsgc.org or call 409-763-4638.

FUSION
MERGING SCRIPTURE WITH LIFE
WEDNESDAYS 6:15-7:45
STARTS WEDNESDAY SEP 13TH



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!!

The Annual District HUB Charge Conference
Sunday, November 12th at 3:00 pm location TBD

You will have an opportunity to meet our new District Superintendent Rev. Vincent Harris. We will be conducting Annual Charge Conference business and some local church. All members are encouraged to attend this important meeting.

GROW



Well, August was a treat! Who knew we would have wonderful Hurricane Harvey to mess with us! September is here and Mother's Day Out is about to start. Our small, little Mother's Day Out has DOUBLED in size!! We have so many kids that we added on 2 more classes. Three of our classes are even on a waiting list! Our Mother's Day Out is growing and we are so excited to have children in our church that are learning about Jesus and the other lessons being taught by our awesome teachers. Terry Fry and Brock have been with us since day one. They are great with the kids and every kid loves them!! We have added some new additions to our staff. Debbie Collins and Laura Lailhengue will be teaching our two year class this year, Mechelle Alvarado will be teaching our three year old class and Betty Magee will be teaching our four year old class! One of our awesome Mother's Day Out moms, Lisa Perez, will teach our one year old class! I am so excited for what our school year will be like! With God on our side and our rock star teachers, Mother's Day Out will surely be a hit this year!!

Jessica Dean

Fall Dates for Children Activities

Sunday, Oct. 8th— Children's Sunday & Third Graders Bibles are given out
Tuesday, Oct. 31st—Trunk or Treat **(We will need lots of candy to hand out!!!)**



Growing up in Galveston, I am no stranger to dealing with Hurricanes. We were surrounded by pictures and stories of the 1900 storm. We heard stories of Hurricanes past, like Carla and Alicia over and over from different family members. My grandmother even had a cork board map of the coast, in her

dining room, which she used to track each storm with push pins. My childhood is filled with memories of boarding up our house, riding out storms by candle light, and driving around afterward to see how the rest of the city fared after each storm. As a child, the bigger the storm, the bigger the adventure. When larger storms would head our way we would go north to my Uncle George and Aunt Mollie Ann's house in Pearland along with my Grandmother and cousin Ruth Ann. My Aunt and Uncle's house was filled with African art and treasures from their time living there, including a game they brought back that was a favorite of all the cousins. They also had a lot of land covered with trees that we would adventure through endlessly with my uncle as our tour guide.

Even as an adult, Hurricanes still held some of that excitement from childhood. And then there was Ike. We evacuated and rode out the storm in safety, but our house was almost completely immersed in water and we lost about 95% of everything we owned. You hear people say it's just stuff that was lost, but that stuff is connected to memories and losing it is painful. Nine years later it still stings when I go to look for something and then remember that I don't have it anymore because of Ike. Watching the news and reading Facebook posts from friends during Hurricane Harvey, my heart broke for everyone whose homes were flooded and my own buried emotions bubbled back up to the surface.

But it wasn't all bad. Despite all of the tragedy there was also hope. It was very inspiring to see the "regular" people, who didn't have to help, chose to put others first and go out and rescue their neighbors and strangers trapped by the floods. And afterwards, to see the lines of volunteers outside of shelters and posts on Facebook about the overwhelming amount of donations to the shelters was quite moving. What an amazing display of what it means to be Jesus to those around us. I was raised with a fiery Texas pride and it now burns stronger than ever.

As soon as possible, the church jumped in by starting to help those in need from our community. One day we had 13 youth volunteer to clean up at a member's house, while a few others served at other sites alongside their parents. Just a few days later we had 14 youth volunteer at a distribution center sorting donations and creating and passing out food boxes and essentials kits for those in need. I am so very proud of our youth here at St. John's for sacrificing their time and strength to help those in need.

Peace and Blessings,
Mae Diaz de Leon

Foundry Youth Sundays

6th-8th grade will meet from 4:30-6:00
9th-12th grade will meet from 5:00-6:30

Fall Dates for Youth Activities

- Sunday, September 10th - Foundry Parent & Volunteer Meeting 5:00 pm - 6:30 pm
- Sunday, October 1st - Foundry Youth to Dewberry Farms (Weather Permitting)
- Tuesday, October 31st—Trunk or Treat
- Wednesday, Nov. 22nd - Foundry Youth Volunteer prepping for Community Thanksgiving Meal
- Sunday, Nov. 26th: No Youth Group

Mark your calendars:

Dewberry Farms trip will be on Oct. 1st. We will leave the church at 10:45, stop to eat lunch on the way and then head to the farm for a fun afternoon. Cost will be \$22 plus money for food and extra stuff going on there. We will need drivers to take the kids, so if you are interested in driving, please let Mae know as soon as possible. The website for Dewberry Farms is dewberryfarm.com. We will get the **SPECIAL: Opening Weekend Deal!** It shows you all the different things that come with that package.