

SMALL GROUPS

Adult Small Group
NEW Study: "Jesus Apprentice"
 Hosted by Sunday Morning Small Group
 When: 9:30 am
 Where: Adult Classroom
 Leader: Joyce Shanks

Adult Small Group
NEW Study: "The Wired Word"
 Hosted by: The Late Sunday Morning Small Group
 When: Sundays at 10:45 am
 Where: Adult Classroom
 Leader: Cindy Riddick

Adult Small Group
NEW Study: "The God We Know"
 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

Adult Small Group
Study: Naomi: When I Feel Worthless, God Says I'm Enough
 When: Wednesday's 7:00 pm
 Where: Adult Classroom
 Leader: Ron Collins

GriefShare Group
Began Thursday, May 16th
 When: Thursday's 6:30 pm
 Cost: \$15.00 Includes workbook
 Where: Adult Classroom
 Leader: Byron Hambrick

Please see our "Getting Plugged In" brochure for a complete and detailed list of Outreach & Missions opportunities.

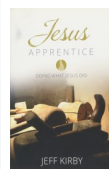
Sunday Worship Services
 9:30 am—Contemporary
 11:00 am—Traditional

Checkout the calendar at www.stjohnsumctc.org
 Inviting People to Experience Amazing Love!

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

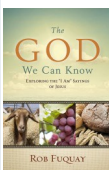
ADULT DISCIPLESHIP

A Place to Grow—New Studies on Tuesday and Sunday



Sunday mornings @ 9:30 am

You are invited to join the 9:30 am group as they begin a new study called *Jesus Apprentice: Doing What Jesus Did*. If you attend the 11:00 am worship service, consider coming early to church for this study as they explore how to learn to do three things Jesus did: share the good news of God's kingdom, heal the sick and suffering, and push back the darkness. Joyce Shanks leads this group.



Tuesday mornings @ 10:00 am

Join this 6-week DVD study, *The God We Can Know*, that will explore the "I am" sayings of Jesus found in the Gospel of John. In these I AM statements, Jesus speaks about such ordinary things — bread, light, shepherd, vine—to help us understand more about his identity and purpose. Dianne Ho-Gland leads this group that meets in her home. Email Dianne (d.hogland@yahoo.com) for her address.



A Place to Serve—Sunday Morning Worship

There are a couple of opportunities to serve on Sunday morning. If you are looking for an easy place to get plugged in, ask me about one of these opportunities:

- * Greeter at the Welcome Center on the first Sunday of the month
- * Communion server at the 9:30 am worship server (serves four times a year)

There are so many more ways to grow and serve at St. John's. Check out the website, the rest of this newsletter, the back of the worship bulletin, or give me a call. We'll chat about what might be a good fit for you.

Grace and peace,
 Rev. Cindy Riddick

Worship Attendance		
Worship 5/5/19	8:30	72
Worship 5/12/19	9:30	96
Worship 5/12/19	11:00	43
Worship 5/19/19	9:30	78
Worship 5/19/19	11:00	33
Worship 5/26/19	9:30	86
Worship 5/26/19	11:00	50

2019 YTD Tithe & Offerings (funds we have collected compared to what was budgeted)	
YTD Income Received as of May 31st	\$164,229.63
YTD Projected Income as of May 31st	\$182,230.00
YTD Income difference as of April 30th	Surplus/-Deficit \$ -18,719.17

Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord all the earth.
 Sing to the Lord, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day.
 Psalm 96:1-2

Believe it or not, we were created mainly to praise God and to proclaim the glory of God for we are the work of God's hands. One of the ways we praise God is by singing. Some of you might be thinking to yourself that you don't sing. What you are really expressing is that you don't believe that you sing well. And then there are some of us that just don't feel like singing at all or we don't feel like singing a song of praise. Sometimes what we have within us is a song of sorrow. Sometimes we just feel too beat down to sing. Music is an emotional endeavor. Music can reflect our emotions and it can impact our emotions. Maybe this is why the Psalmist suggests that we sing a joyful song. The Psalmist knows that if we sing a joyful song, it might just lift our spirits even in those times when we are laden down with sorrow and worry. So, whether we think we can sing or not, it is good to surround ourselves with the music that leads us to praise God with thanksgiving.

I admit that it can be a challenge to praise in the midst of our storms. Even as I write, I feel worn down, tired and a little sad. Earlier this week I received a call from a dear friend, Derrell Lee. Derrell Lee is a member of Chapelwood UMC in Nash, TX. I received this church as my second appointment. We moved to Nash in late 2004 when Ethan was just a baby. Ethan is now 14. So, I was greatly surprised to hear Derrell Lee's voice. Though I loved all the folks at this church, I sporadically kept in touch. It's like this with every move. Relationships and dear friendships are released as new friendships are forged with every move. This makes every move bittersweet. The move from Nash was more bitter than sweet. We were a newly formed family. And I was hurting from my first appointment. That one didn't end well and that is just another story for another time. I found so much healing and affirmation among the people of Chapelwood UMC.

One of those individuals became my ministry buddy. Her name is Nita. As an introvert, I needed lots of support to get out there. So, Nita came alongside of me for most of the visits that I made. We went and visited people in their homes. And we made hospital visits together. We prayed so many prayers together. We shared meals together. Every week, we would take the altar flower arrangement and make smaller arrangements to bring to the people we were going to visit. Nita and I were together at least one day a week throughout my time there. One day, Nita called me in tears to tell me that her daughter, Paula had been diagnosed with cancer. The diagnosis had come too late. Paula would take chemo to help her feel more comfortable, but it wouldn't save or prolong her life. She didn't survive much longer after her diagnosis. Nita was brokenhearted. I visited with Nita and Paula often. And when the time came, I officiated over Paula's celebration of life.

Derrell Lee had called to tell me that Nita now has the same kind of cancer that Paula had. Again, it has been diagnosed too late. She is refusing all treatment, except for medication to ease the pain. Derrell Lee wanted to know if I would call her. It took me a couple of days to get up the nerve. It's been a long time since I had talked to Nita even though she had been such a vital part of my life for several years, while I was in Nash. Derrell Lee called on a Monday. I called Nita on a Wednesday. She is so brave. We talked about Paula, about her diagnosis, about her grand-daughter taking her to her doctor appointments. That part of the conversation didn't last too long before she was asking about me and my family. She wanted to know if we were happy. And I told her, "Oh yes! We are so very happy. Everyone is thriving in Texas City!" We talked about our Chapelwood friends and that she is still going to church. Nita was always the optimist. Always the one praising God in the midst of the storm. She and Derrell Lee sang in the choir. And we always joked that Nita was the positive optimist while Derrell Lee was the pessimistic skeptic. We'd laugh and laugh together.

Before I got off the phone with Nita, I prayed with her. We praised God for the promise of resurrection. And we both proclaimed that God is so good. Even in the midst of death, God is good! And though I am filled with sorrow over the upcoming loss of this dear friend, and even though there were tears threatening to spill down my cheeks as I said my last goodbye and I love you's to this dear friend, I knew that I needed to take a page from Nita's book. I have to continue to sing a song of praise for God is

worthy. And as I sing, my spirit is slowly lifted and my faith is strengthened. God is truly worthy of all my praise, even my sorrow-filled praise that will soon be turned to joy (Ps 30:11).

How can I keep from singing Your praise
 How can I ever say enough
 How amazing is Your love
 How can I keep from shouting Your name
 I know I am loved by the King
 And it makes my heart want to sing
 Chris Tomlin

Grace and Peace,
 Stephanie Hughes
 Rev. Stephanie Hughes

ST. JOHN'S 4TH ANNUAL TALENT OR WANNABE'S SHOW
SUNDAY, JUNE 30TH 5:30-7:30 PM
 We will have fellowship and refreshments beginning at 5:30 pm with the Show beginning at 6:00.

PLEASE SIGN UP
 AND LIST YOUR ACT
 REHEARSAL WILL BE
 SATURDAY, JUNE 29TH
 AT 4:00PM

CHILDREN'S & YOUTH



Summer is here! Kids are out of school. The heat is here. All I want to do is sit by a pool with a snow cone all day! This summer we have some great plans! Quite a few of our Treehouse kids are headed to church camp at Lakeview in June. Then our Family Night at the Nessler center is earlier than usual. Make plans to join us at the Texas City Water Park on July 10th! Mark your calendars! But my most favorite part of summer is Vacation Bible School!!! It will be July 22nd-26th! St. Johns will take on a space theme this year! To Mars and Beyond is our theme! We will need ALOT of volunteers! If you are interested in volunteering, please sign up! I can find something for EVERYONE! Please help us have a successful VBS!



Vacation Bible School is July 22nd-26th from 9:00am-12:00pm!! Children ages 4-Completed 5th grade are all welcome! Registration is open for both kids and volunteers!! Register today at <http://tmab.cokesburyvbs.com/stjohnsumcoftc>

Jessica Dean, Director of Children's & MDO



Summer is finally here! We have a great summer ahead of us and we are starting off with a very busy June. We kicked things off this past Sunday with our Live Clue event. We turned the church into a Clue board and had the students navigate the board to solve the mystery. We had volunteers dressed as the characters and give the youth clues when they entered each room. It was a lot of fun made even more exciting by the fact that Pastor Stephanie's character, Rev. Green, turned out to be the murderer. Thank you so much to everyone who helped out with this event. This coming Sunday our senior high students are headed out to UMARMY. We have 9 youth, 4 adults, and 1 college helper attending this year. We are going to Bryan, TX and I am very excited. We won't even be home for 24 hours before we head right out again; this time to Lakeview for summer camp with the junior high and elementary kids as well. Lakeview is always a highlight of the summer. When we return we get to catch our breath for just a bit before weekly youth events start in July. I am super excited and I know the kids are too.

Peace and Blessings,
 Mae Diaz de Leon, Youth Director

MISSION/OUTREACH



Texas City 4th of July Parade

You are all invited to represent St John's in the Texas City 4th Of July parade. The Clough's have graciously volunteered to loan us their trailer to use as a float. We need riders and walkers. We will meet at the Sanders/Vincent Center in Texas City for line up is at 9:00am. We are collecting cases of bottled water. Sign up today and come join us for some star spangled fun for the holiday!



Hurricane Harvey was almost 2 years ago but there are still families recovering from that devastating storm. The 4B Disaster Response Network has continued to rebuild homes. In preparation for our GSM in August we are participating in a weekend training this Saturday, June 8th @ 10:00 am-11:30 am, at St. George's. Come learn about flooring, doors and drywall! We will join 4B in their efforts to reach out in the community. The first person to read this and contact me gets a \$10.00 gift card to chick-fil-a. Plan to join us in service at the August First Saturday Serve. Get your family, small group or best friend and head out to serve in our community by helping a Harvey impacted family return to their home. There are many projects available and no experience is necessary - a 4B trained professional will guide us. GSM/4B Saturday, August 3, 2019 8:00 am-12:30 pm

- ◆ No experience necessary.
- ◆ 4B will provide an experienced team leader to give you direction.
- ◆ Volunteers under 18 MUST be accompanied by an adult and NO volunteers under the age of 12.



Mentors Wanted - We have officially launched our Kids Hope USA mentor program and we need mentors, prayer partners and sponsors. We will be partnering with La Marque Primary. We kick off in the fall of the new school year, however we have lots to do between here and there. Training is provided! Please contact me at 409-655-5348 or via email at IClark@stjohnsumctc.org for additional information.

Fresh Fire!!! Ingrid Clark

Foundry Youth Ministries

June 2 9-15 16-21 30	Summer Kick Off Party: Live Clue UMARMY Lakeview Summer Camp Church Talent show
July 3 11 17-30 22-26 31	Tie Dye Day Strand Trip SUMMIT Vacation Bible School (youth volunteers) Pleasure Pier
August 4 7 11	Mud Fest - District Event Wave Pool - District Event End of Summer Party

Summer 2019

St. John's UMC Texas City