

# SAINT JOHN'S

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Creating a community where  
God's love changes people  
and God's people change the world.



## Sunday Morning Worship

February 14: 9:00 a.m.; 11:00 a.m.

## Sunday School

9:55-10:50 a.m. (some start earlier - see brochure on information table)

## February 14, 2010 Newsletter

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## Church Office Hours

Mon-Thurs: 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Closed Fridays

The Church office will be closed Mon., Feb. 15, for Presidents' Day holiday.

**1** *We believe in:* making disciples of Jesus Christ for transformation of the world.

**2** *We live by two kinds of holiness:* Personal, Social

**3** *We follow three simple rules:* Do no harm, Do good, Stay in love with God

**4** *We work in four areas of focus:* Develop leaders, Create places for new people, Eliminate poverty, Improve health globally

## Giving Up Styrofoam for Lent *by David Gilliam*

What will you give up for Lent? Do you practice such a discipline? What's that all about anyway?

The tradition of giving up something for Lent has to do with spiritual growth. Put simply, if you can identify something that is hindering your relationship with God, something that comes between you and loving God or neighbor or creation, try giving that up for the season of Lent—Ash Wednesday until Easter Sunday. The psalmist put it this way in Psalm 51: create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.



Last week in a staff meeting we had a lively discussion about the use of Styrofoam coffee cups in the church. Turns out we have a genuine theological and moral dilemma. We are torn between our sincere desire to be good stewards of the money we use to be church and our sincere desire to be good stewards of God's Earth. As you perhaps know, Saint John's has been working for many years to conserve energy and other natural resources. We try in many ways to be ecologically green and friendly. Also, we're trying to cut our expenses every which way we can.

In recent times we've been using paper coffee cups. Problem is, use has gone up along with costs. We can save \$2,000 a year by switching to Styrofoam—something the Trustees, as conscientious stewards, are proposing to do. The staff was pretty much unanimously unhappy with that proposal. So what do we do? As a church we could give up coffee for Lent and even forever. Problem solved. For years people have advocated using real pottery cups. Not a bad idea except we can't get consistent volunteers to wash them after church on Sundays. Our staff already have full work loads and we've cut the Sunday support staff in half this year. It's not their job to wash our dishes.

I am asking the staff and the church to give up Styrofoam cups for Lent this year. We have paper coffee cups on hand to last a few months. To make this permanent, we need your help. We're planning to put a donation box on the coffee bar. If that solves our funding issue—fantastic. If it doesn't, then we need a faithful every week team of cup washers (and please get the lipstick washed off). Or, we need more "green" coming in to pay for paper cups. Or we give up coffee for Easter and beyond. As that great theologian Kermit so rightly sang on Sesame Street—it's hard to be green.

"Giving Up Styrofoam for Lent" continued on page 2

## FEBRUARY 14 IN WORSHIP

This Sunday, Rev. David Gilliam brings the message "Shining Like the Sun", based on Exodus 34:29-35 and Luke 9:28-36. Music is shared by the Trinity Singers at both services. Gretchen Noelle Ewing, daughter of Jason and Jessica Ewing, will be baptized at the 11:00 a.m. service. This Sunday is the Austin Marathon which encircles the church. For an alternate route to church, see article on page 3.

**Calendar**

**Sunday, February 14**

200p Flute Choir, MR  
430p Prayer Group, A  
530p UMYF, YH

**Monday, February 15**

**Church Office Closed**

1230p Eclipsing Empire, 5900B  
530p Aerobics, YH  
530p Al-Anon, A

630p Heart of Christianity, 5900B

645p DKG-ETA-TAU, A

**Tuesday, February 16**

230p Tai Chi, 5900B  
600p Finance, 5900 F  
630p Acts of Disciples, 5900B

**Wednesday, February 17**

900a Staff Meeting, 208  
1030a GG Chapel, Sanc.  
1045a Cokebury, MR

1200p Ash Wednesday Service, Sanc.

130p Intro to Group Spiritual, Chapel

530p Aerobics, YH

545p Jones Handbells, Sanc.

630p Ash Wednesday Service, Sanc.

700p Way of Forgiveness, 208

700p Primer on John Wesley, 119

700p Beginnings, 211

730p Debtors Anon, A

**Thursday, February 18**

900a Postal Pros, 119

1000a GG Music, 101

100p Grace Garden Art, 102

630p Contemplative Worship, Chapel

630p Cub Scouts, YH

700p AA, A

**Friday, February 19**

1200p Girls in Grace, A

530p Aerobics, YH

**Saturday, February 20**

900a WomenCare, A

930a UMW Unit, 5900

A, B, C = Annex Classrooms (5906 Wynona)

FH = Fellowship Hall

GH = Great Hall

MR = Music Room

Sanc. = Sanctuary

YH = Youth House (5908 Wynona)

5900= 5900 Wynona: F=Front B=Back

**Contact Us**

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Email: [info@stjohnsaustin.org](mailto:info@stjohnsaustin.org)

**News by Email** - Contact the office by phone or email and give us your email.

I want to love God. One way I love God is to love God's creation. In Genesis 2, God gave me and you and all humankind a job: take care of the garden, take care of this beautiful life-giving eco-system that sustains us and all of life. Using Styrofoam clearly comes between me and my love for God's creation. So I'm giving it up for Lent. If my spiritual growth this Lent is fruitful, I'll be giving it up permanently.

How about you? If you have thoughts or suggestions—please submit them to your Church Council. They'll be meeting in late March, quite near the end of Lent.

Ash Wednesday is next week. Services at noon and 6:30 p.m. I wish you and all the world a Holy Lent.

**Thank You for your Generosity**

Over the past few weeks, we've been looking at what the Bible teaches us about financial management. We've considered how we make and spend money, how we deal with debt, and how we save and invest for the future. We've examined how God wants us to relate to our money and earthly possessions, and we've explored what it means to live a life of gratitude and contentment. We have studied and worshipped . . . and we have responded!

On Commitment Sunday, we received more than \$614,076 personal commitments for the coming year. Including cards turned in at other times, we received a total of 126 commitment cards. Thank you!

Thank you for prayerfully considering what offering you will make to God through our church in the coming year. Your gifts are an act of worship and an investment in opportunities for God to work through us. Our prayer is that you will find greater contentment and simplicity in your life as you put God first in your giving and your living. May we all experience the joy that comes from knowing that our gifts honor God and change lives!

If you still have questions or need to turn in your card, please do so by contacting the church office. --*David Gilliam*

**NEWEST MEMBERS OF OUR FAMILY**

Heather Hatten and her two sons, Henry (almost 3) and Eli (almost 1) joined on January 10, 2010. You will usually find the Hattens in the Bethlehem Room during the early service. Heather has been attending for three years now. We "officially" welcome the Hatten's to our Saint John's family.



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## WEEK OF FEBRUARY 14

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### Alternate Route for Austin Marathon - THIS SUNDAY!

Austin Marathon and Half Marathon is this Sunday. This one completely encircles the church, making it difficult to get here unless you live “inside the circle”. The roads affected near Saint John’s are 2222/Allandale at Shoal Creek, 2222/Koenig at Woodrow, and Burnet at Northcross. Past years have produced very long waiting times at these crossings. Consider this alternate route. Whatever direction you are coming from, get on Mopac/Loop 1. Exit at Westover Rd. and head east. You are now “inside the circle”. At Jefferson (1st stop sign), turn left. Go 2 blocks to 29th – turn right. Stay on 29th until you get to Lamar – turn left. Stay on Lamar to 45th, turn left. Turn right at Burnet, and then left on Allandale, and you’re here.

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### Ash Wednesday Services - February 17, noon & 6:30

Frederick Buechner defines sin as “whatever you do, or fail to do, that pushes them (God, others, the world, society, nature) away, that widens the gap between you and them and also the gaps within yourself.” Surely there are for all of us things, memories, hurts, fears, which separate us from God, others, ourselves---feelings or attitudes that may prevent us from celebrating fully a resurrection faith. Lent is the time to seriously attend to those things that separate us. Ash Wednesday, February 17 marks the beginning of Lent. Two Ash Wednesday services are planned, at noon and 6:30 p.m. Each will involve the burning of palms from last Palm Sunday and the imposition of those ashes; each provides a way to participate in a call to repentance and reconciliation as we begin the journey of the lenten season toward Easter.

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### Contemplative Worship - February 18

Our Contemplative worship will feature a labyrinth walk as a spiritual practice for Lent. We took an Epiphany break during the month of January, but all are invited to come on February 18 at 6:30 p.m. for a brief description of the history and practice of this ancient prayer tool. The short explanation will be followed by an opportunity to walk and pray the labyrinth with candlelight and music. It is a meaningful way to observe the second week of the Lenten season.

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

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### 3rd Annual Hunger Meal - February 21

The Hunger Meal, a Hope Food Pantry fundraiser, educates the public about hunger issues in our community. The meal will be held at Saint John’s, Sunday, Feb. 21, at 5:00p.m. Tickets are \$12 in advance and \$15 at the door. Similar to the way Hope Food Pantry serves food recipients, attendees are divided by a lottery into upper, middle and lower income status groups represented in Travis County. The dinner served depends on the group chosen. The upper-income group is served a 4-course meal by a wait staff, the middle income group has a buffet-style pasta dinner, and the low-income group has rice and beans. There will also be a silent auction. Tickets will be available in the gallery February 14. For tickets or more information, contact Zada Doherty, 345-1605, zada@austin.rr.com.

Happy  
Birthday!



- Feb.16:** Rick Beard, Phoebe George, Alan Moore  
**Feb.17:** Kelin Kincaide, Rachel Nabhan, Bess Porter  
**Feb.18:** Sharon Morgan, Marvin Morgenroth  
**Feb.19:** Martha Renfroe  
**Feb.20:** Micah Camacho, Madelon Hysaw, Tiffany Jones, Sarah Smith, Liza White  
**Feb.21:** Carol Curry, Jennie Lou Knobloch, Adam Stewart, Melanie Thompson, Greg Wooldridge  
**Feb.22:** Tracy Burger, Lynn Lindsay, Wesley White

#### Newsletter deadlines!

Newsletter submissions are due the previous Thursday (yes, 10 days before!) for inclusion in the following Sunday’s newsletter. Articles may be edited for style and length. Submit to [holly@stjohnsaustin.org](mailto:holly@stjohnsaustin.org) or leave your article in the church staff mailbox outside of the church office.

#### OUR PRESENCE:

##### Attendance Sunday, February 7

Wed. Noon Service	7
Sunday School	254
Worship 9:00a	141
Worship 11:00a	233
Worship Total	381

#### Worship Service CD’s Available

If you know someone who would like a CD on a weekly basis, give the name to Jeanette Ball. We also need people to deliver them to our homebound. Sunday’s Worship CDs are available for pick-up in the church office on Thursday mornings, and a limited number of CDs are available for anyone on Sundays in the Gallery.

#### Large Print Hymnals Available

Large print hymnals are available on the usher carts that are near the entrance doors to our sanctuary. If you know someone who has special needs, please let the church know. We will do our best to accommodate them.

### Save Your Tabs!

Save the pull tabs on your fruit, veggie and meat cans, as well as soda cans and put them in the specially marked "Ronald McDonald House" boxes attached to the can recycle containers around the church. Ronald McDonald House receives money for these tabs to support their "home-away-from-home" for families of children with serious illnesses.

### Lost and Found

Please see if any of these items belong to you. Anything left in the lost and found box at the end of February will be donated to charity. Lost and found is located under the desk just outside the church office.

- Starbucks tall insulated mug with leaves and berries pattern.
- Nokia car adapter/charger
- Round tin blue Christmas tray
- Child's blue quilted zip-up vest
- Child's size 5 white sweater with 2 dark red roses on front
- Child's swimsuit, aqua blue with colored dots and pink sash
- Small stuffed Daisy duck
- 3 pet bowls: small yellow w/cat; small multicolored w/dog; large grey dog bowl
- Several umbrellas
- A black heavy wool ladies coat is hanging in the church office.

### IN THE COMMUNITY

#### Recording for the Blind & Dyslexic

Consider volunteering for the Recording for the Blind & Dyslexic (RFB&D). Volunteers perform every step in the production process, including setting up textbooks, operating recording equipment, reading, quality control checking, and duplicating. No special knowledge is needed, as RFB&D will train. Volunteer opportunities are also available in areas of outreach, development and special events. Informational tours of about an hour are available. For information, call 323-9390.

#### OUR SERVICE

#### Open Hearts Volunteer Opportunities in this week's newsletter

- AAIM: Mission Opportunity, pg. 4
- Save Your Tabs, pg. 4
- Easter Egg Hunt, pg. 4
- Galveston Mission Trip, pg. 4

## AAIM: Mission Opportunity - Monday, February 22

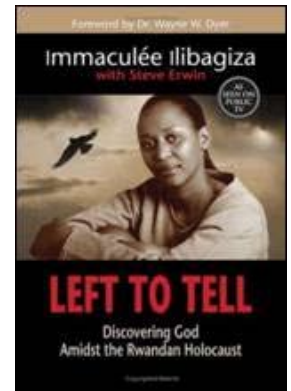
We have been invited to help with the "Square One Lunch" program for refugees on February 22. To help refugees get oriented to life in Austin, AAIM started a monthly program. Located downtown in Central Presbyterian Church, the AAIM Refugee School offers year-round English as a second language and basic cultural education classes to newly arrived refugees from different parts of the world. Saint John's will provide the refugees with a simple lunch. If you are interested in helping prepare and/or serve lunch please contact Valerie [valerie@stjohnsaustin.org](mailto:valerie@stjohnsaustin.org).

## Moms' Coffee - Monday, February 22

The next Moms' Coffee is set for Monday, Feb. 22, when we'll begin our discussion of Immaculée Ilibagiza's amazing autobiography *Left to Tell*. Ilibagiza's life was transformed dramatically during the 1994 Rwandan genocide when she and seven other women spent 91 days huddled silently together in the cramped bathroom of a local pastor's house. She entered the bathroom a vibrant, 115-pound university student and emerged weighing just 65 pounds to discover all but one family member had been brutally murdered. Crediting her survival to faith and prayer, after her escape she found it possible, and in fact imperative, to forgive her family's killers.

Moms' Coffee begins at 9:00 a.m. at 5900 Wynona, across the street from the church, for pastries and hot coffee. We will go through the book together and meet every other week to discuss. Free childcare provided. Please email [sally@stjohnsaustin.org](mailto:sally@stjohnsaustin.org) by Monday, Feb. 15, if you would like it. You may purchase the book beforehand through Amazon.com. Copies of the book are also available at Austin public libraries. The cost of the study is free.

On May 1, Immaculée will be at the Paramount to talk about her remarkable life. We will plan to attend this special event as a group.



## Children's Easter Egg Hunt and Lunch - March 28

Children 5th grade and younger are invited to participate in this annual event. Each child needs to bring one dozen "stuffed" plastic eggs for the Easter egg hunt. Easter eggs should be placed in labeled containers in the Gallery prior to the 11:00 a.m. worship service. After the service, gather at 5900 Wynona. Join us for lunch after the egg hunt. Sandwiches provided; please bring a side dish or dessert to share. Be looking for a sign up sheet in the gallery beginning February 28. Questions or to volunteer, please contact Tracy Burger at [tracy@stjohnsaustin.org](mailto:tracy@stjohnsaustin.org).

## Back to the BEACH...to Work!

Saint John's has another adult mission trip scheduled for the week of April 11 on Galveston Island. There are still some 2000 homes in need of repair. Options include three to five days, leaving Sunday and coming back Friday inclusive. Cost, approximately \$100. We will have a short meeting soon to deal with all your questions, so please get on the list now by writing the coordinator, unless you've extended that word to him. Call or write Mike Renquist, 663-9868 or [mgrquist@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mgrquist@sbcglobal.net).

# CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTRIES

## Children's Events

- Sunday, February 28:** Kids On A Mission at 9:50 a.m.  
**Sunday, February 28:** Special Children's Music Offering at 11:00 a.m.  
**Sunday, March 21:** Kids On A Mission at 9:50 a.m.  
**Sunday, March 28:** Children's Palm Procession at 9:00 & 11:00 a.m.  
Special Music Offering at 11:00 a.m.  
Easter Egg Hunt at 12 noon, 5900 Wynona

**July 12 – 16:** Galactic Blast Vacation Bible School from 9:00 a.m. – noon.

*Children's Sunday School 9:50 a.m.*

**Sunday, February 14:**

Children meet at 9:50 a.m. in their regular Sunday school classroom. This week's focus scripture for all children's classes is Luke 9:28-36, the story of Jesus' transfiguration on the mountainside.

- 3 and 4 years (Rm. 105 - drop off in 106)
- K & 1st grade (Rm. 103)
- 2nd and 3rd grade (Rm. 104)
- 4th and 5th grade (Rm. 101)

## Youth Events

**Sunday, February 14:** Join us for our new February series "Why I am a follower of Jesus." Free dinner, Valentine's games, program led by Valerie, and service project. 5:30-7:30 p.m. in the Youth House.

*Youth Sunday School: 10:00 a.m. in the Youth House*

**Sunday, February 14:**

• **Confirmation Class:**

We continue our study "Claim the Name."

• **7th - 8th grade:**

We continue our series on "Jesus" led by Valerie Vogt.

• **9th - 12th grade:**

We continue our study, "Living the Questions" led by Micheal Harper.



## Grace Garden Happenings

The weather has not been cooperating with outdoor play, so Grace Garden has recently introduced kid friendly yoga to the students. This has allowed the children to learn a new indoor physical activity while keeping their energy levels up!

Some poses that they have learned so far include snake, down-ward dog, tree, and the teacher's favorite; daydream pose. Yoga has also been helpful regarding relaxation techniques and the children's "tummy" breathing. Each child seems to have a favorite pose they request. Yoga is typically practiced after the class has had their free time in the fellowship hall. It is a nice wind-down to transition time. I am thrilled to see the children involved in something new and exciting. It is always fun to learn something different and creative.

– Ms. Rianne, older 3's teacher



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## ADULT LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

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### Still time to participate in Adult Classes for Spiritual Formation:

Most classes began this week, but are willing to include new people for one more week.

- *Luke & Act*: Taught by John Anderson and Mike Renquist on Tuesdays, 6:30
- *Beginnings, An Introduction to Christianity*: Led by Sally Rodgers, Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.
- *A Primer on John Wesley*: Led by Barbara Holmes Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.
- *The Way of Forgiveness*: Led by Georjean Blanton and John Anderson, Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.
- *The Heart of Christianity*: led by Russ Harper, Mondays at 7:00 p.m.
- *Eclipsing Empire*: Led by Jeanette Ball, Eva Jordan and Kay Brock, Mondays at 12:30 p.m.
- *Introduction to Group Spiritual Direction*: Led by Georjean Blanton Wednesdays at 1:30 p.m., beginning Feb. 17.

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### Intentional Faith Development Retreat - February 27

If you are interested in participating in a time of learning and planning Adult Spiritual Formation, mark your calendars for Feb. 27, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The Intentional Faith Development Committee will learn from Dr. David White, Nelson associate professor of Christian Education at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary. We are blessed to have such a great resource as David as an active participant at Saint John's and our IFD Committee. IFD will be developing a plan for life-long opportunities for spiritual growth and development.

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### Lenten Study on Prayer - Begins February 28

Starting February 28 at 10:00, Georjean Blanton will lead a four week discussion about prayer, what is it, why do we do it, how do we do it, what difference does it make? All Sunday school classes as well as those who are not part of a regular Sunday school class are invited. No experience or text is required: simply a desire to know more.

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## NEWS & NOTES

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### Thank You for Sunday Morning Snacks

Thanks to these generous and talented folks who provided snacks on Sunday mornings in January: Zada Doherty, Mary and Ron Faithfull, Terilyn Peters, Ashleigh Lind, Christine Dixon, Mary Quinn Rozkydal, John and Betty Anderson, Sue Hill and Loretta Turner.

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### Kids to Put Together Giggle Bags! - February 28

Kids On A Mission has a new assignment. Our next project is assembling Giggle Bags for young hospital patients in Austin. We'll assemble the bags on February 28 during Sunday School. If you've ever been in a hospital, you know that even spending a few hours there can be boring and not much fun. Our hope is that these bags, filled with fun items, will bring joy to children. KOAM is in need the following items for Giggle Bags:

- brown paper bags
- bubbles, puzzles
- handheld games
- any small, silly items that can fit easily into a bag.

Items may be dropped off in the gallery. If you have questions about what to bring, please email [sally@stjohnsaustin.org](mailto:sally@stjohnsaustin.org). KOAM is set for once a month throughout the year. Please see Children's Corner for a list of all other events coming up in Children's Ministry.



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### Are You CPR or AED Trained?

We are looking for those of you that are trained to give CPR or to use an AED (automatic external defibrillator). We are wanting to be prepared when we have emergency medical issues at the church by having a list of people who might be present and would be willing to use their life saving skills. Please contact Sallie Sassano ([ssassano@stjohnsaustin.org](mailto:ssassano@stjohnsaustin.org)).

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## CONGREGATIONAL CARE

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Saint John's staff and prayer group members pray for these people each week. We encourage you to include them in your prayers as well. To have your prayers of joys and concerns added to the list, please submit them in writing to the office, or to [info@stjohnsaustin.org](mailto:info@stjohnsaustin.org). Include your name and phone number.

*Hospital:* Allyson Clynh, Sonny Cochran

*Deaths:* Marvin W. Morgenroth passed away February 1 in San Antonio (Marvin Morgenroth's father). Funeral Service was February 4 at Mission Park South in San Antonio.

Dr. George Bowman passed away January 31 (Liz Stewart's grandfather). Funeral Service was February 6 at Marek-Burns-Laywell Funeral Home in Cameron, TX; Graveside service following at Oak Hill Cemetery. Memorial Service was February 7 at Foundation UMC in Temple, TX.

<i>Prayers and Concerns:</i>	Bill Henry	Marge Michalchick	Sally Tanberg
Saint John's Family	John Hettrick	Scott Millard	Rita Tanberg
Christine Baker & family	Elmer Hixson	Virginia Montgomery	Jerry Todd
Norma Barber	Reva and Jack Jackson	Alan Morris	Flo Wojcik
Keith Beasley	Christy Johnson	Richard Murph	Amy Wright
Bill Brewer	Ollie Jones	Dorothy Parker	Dorotha &
David Cappolino	Terry Jones	The Piland family	Vernon Wright
Rick and Spencer Chaney	Tommye Jones	Barby Pool	Cy Zaleski
Liam Collier	Mildred Keithly	Wade and Rayda Porter	Ben Zieger
Jill Deckman	Dale Kirtland	Chris Purkiss' niece	
Naomi Fitzmorris	Frank Kizlinski	Scott Rust	
Theresa Kotara Fohn	Bill Lust	Chris Sparks	
Gail Fuller & Carrie James	Dora & Charles McDonald	Becky Stathos	
Linda Greenhaw	Ryan Melton	Rev. Henry Swafford	

*Military Service:* Captain Luke E. Barber (Dora Barber's grandson), Shea Browning (Faye Byers' great grandson), Marine Riley Callahan (Jane Wilson's grandson), Tim Campbell (Kathie Tovo's nephew), Eric Clakley (husband of Rachel Richey Clakley), Wesley Ebbers (Susan Harrelson's nephew), PV2 Amanda Fain (Renee Speed's niece), Wesley Iley (Cecil Allert's grandson), Stephen Jarman (Gene Jarman's son), Brandon Kloppe (Elissa Kloppe's husband), Cpl. Justin Kloppe (Elissa Kloppe's brother-in-law), Tech Sgt. Chad Knox (Lynn Lindsay's nephew), SSG (P) John M. Lewis (Nona Gold's great nephew), Michael Scott Meischen, US Navy (Sue Meischen's grandson), Alexandria Ogg (Elissa Kloppe's cousin), Sean Pavelka (Kim Graley's cousin), SSGT Hans Pugh (Tim Pugh's son), Rudy Rosales (Melissa Rosales' husband), Cpl. Peyton Sackett (Randi Wardian's friend), Col. Kenneth Tovo (Kathie's brother), Thomas Walker (Johanna's husband), Chester Wall (Karen Young's nephew), Holden Wilkie (Sally Tanberg's son), Tyler Wilkins (Georjean Blanton's great nephew), Scott Zaleski (Judy & Cy Zaleski's son). Jason Zirkle (Leif Dove's cousin), Megan Montgomery's husband, Mark.

### **PLEASE NOTE:**

**Prayer requests are listed for one month and then automatically roll off, unless you advise us otherwise.** If you know of a listed concern that no longer needs our prayers, please let us know.

**Please take a moment to write a note, on a Prayer Post Card, to individuals for whom you are praying.** Prayer Post Cards are available in the pews. If you do not know the address, cards may be placed in the offering plate or left in the church office for mailing.

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# SAINT JOHN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS NOTES

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## Companions Class, Annex A

For progressive 40-something couples, singles and partners. Part of the Reconciling Ministries Network. We are discussing the book, *How to Think Like Leonardo Da Vinci*, by Michael Gelb. It is a look at the beliefs, principles and spirit of one of the world's most famous Christians! A quote from the book: "We live in a world of unprecedented noise, fog, and traffic. But you, like Leonardo, are born of the sun, and traveling towards it. This is a guidebook, inspired by one of history's great souls, for that journey. It is an invitation to breathe the vivid air, to feel the fire in your heart's center, and the full flowering of your spirit." Contact: Cathy Kyle, 450-0919.

## Discussion Class, Rm. 119

People in this class consider relevant books and papers within the context of the Bible and our Faith. The class discusses the intersection of current social issues and Christian Faith. Contact: Bill Harris, 454.1052 or [billandlibharris@sbcglobal.net](mailto:billandlibharris@sbcglobal.net)

## Fellowship Class, Rm. 210

It was good to see so many members in attendance this week. Ralph's lesson was from the book of Matthew in which Jesus helped a Canaanite woman because of her great faith reaffirming the idea that God's love is available to all people. Healing prayers are sent to Q Hightower for her daughter who is facing surgery. We want to thank Maxine Seay for filling in on the piano the last two weeks. Hopefully, everyone can make it to class next Sunday due to the Marathon race in the area.

## Happy Heretics, 5900 Wynona, Front

Lively and topical religious discussions dealing with real world issues of modern Christianity and faith.

## New Young Adults Class, Rm. 207

This gathering of young adults (20s and 30s) that meets upstairs in room 207. We meet weekly, supporting each other and discussing topics of interest. Visitors highly encouraged!

## Open Circle, Annex C

January 10, we began the churchwide study, *The ENOUGH Initiative: Discovering Joy through Simplicity and Generosity*. This Scripture based study on generosity and simplicity is quite relevant to our current economic crisis. It promises some fresh understandings of our faith in today's world. Themes of loss, materialism and change will also be covered. All are welcome to attend this study or visit. Feel free to contact Beth Siever if you have any questions at: [bsiever@austin.rr.com](mailto:bsiever@austin.rr.com).

## Seekers Class, 5900 Wynona, Back

Singles and couples in their 30s to 50s seeking to become better disciples of Christ through primarily scripture-based studies. Class time is informal yet enriching through education, prayer and support for each other. The class also enjoys family-oriented service and social events.

## Serenity Class, Rm. 206

Our class serves as a bridge between the church and those of us who struggle with our own compulsive nature, whether it involves work, food, alcohol, drugs, focusing on other people, etc. Whatever is shared

within the class remains confidential. We use scripture and the 12-steps of AA as guides for our discussion but the class is not a 12-step meeting.

## Wesley Class, Rm. 208

Tom Griffy gave the lesson from Matt. 15:21-28 (the Canaanite woman). Jesus is at the region of Tyre and Sidon. He moved from the Jewish area of Galilee to a Gentile region populated by Canaanites. The parallel of the story of this woman matches the story of the Centurion who asked Jesus to heal his servant. Jesus recognized the Canaanite woman's humility and faith and healed her daughter. Sue Meischen announced Ollie Jones will have surgery on his aorta at the femoral arteries this coming Tuesday, Feb. 9. Marna Henley, a past member, will have her pacemaker replaced. Liam, the Collier's grandson, is home now. The heart doctors are pleased with his improvement and will care for Liam over the next few weeks to observe his continued improvement. The class recognized Oscar Orum's birthday February 4.

*For a full description of Sunday School Classes at Saint John's, please see the brochure at the table by the front doors.*

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