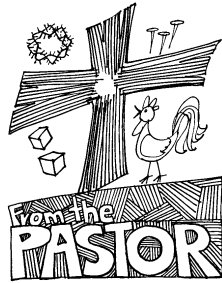


Dear Partners in Ministry,



I love this time of year. I love the fall. I love the colors of trees and sky and mums and pumpkins. I love the feel in the air, cool nights and warm sunshine in the day. I can look out my window at church and see the flaming burning bush and the neighbor's tree that turns so bright and colorful. What a gift this explosion of color is right before we sink into the gray of winter. Autumn is my favorite season.

Autumn is not any kind of official season of the church year but many important things happen this time of year in the life of faith. Our stewardship drive has begun, a time of reflection and promise and pledging to the work of Jesus Christ. Planning is under way for a fund raiser Spaghetti Dinner, with Christmas shopping from vendors and raffle baskets. Several people took the ten dollars seed money to create some to sell or raffle. In November we celebrate Thanksgiving as a nation. In the church, we remember all who have died in the past liturgical year. And this year, the first Sunday in Advent is at the end of November.

As we make the turn to winter and a new church year, it is truly time to give thanks for our many blessings. It is truly a time to remember and just plain give. I mean give to those in need and give to those we love. As the glory of fall is a gift to us, let us be a gift to God and to the world.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Sue

Dear St. Philip's Family,

Just want to say a big "Thanks" for all the cards, phone calls, visits from Pastor Sue and others, and most of all for your prayers. I am progressing better each day and know that I am on the mend. Hope to be at church this Sunday. Now we have to deal with Art's situation. Know that God will take care of us. May God richly bless and keep each of you in his care. You are a wonderful church family.



Love and prayers.
Paul Shrout

~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~
Greetings in Christ,

As you know the Bible tells us to study to know God's word. Well you have been helping to encourage a few of our area students to go to school with the right tools and get their education. We were able to help 55 children through our "Backpacks for School" project this year and over 70 children with packs and school supplies. The students were ecstatic in receiving their backpacks, school supplies, and a new outfit. Those parents that were recipients of this special project were also very happy. Those, which were not full recipients of this project, but only received school supplies, were happy also.

Once again you have gone out of your way to be generous to those in need. We would like to thank you for your expression of kindness. May God's blessings continue to flow to you and yours. Please hold us up to God when you pray that we may continue to be a blessing to those in need of one.

In God's Service,
(signed) Johnniest B. Henry
St. John's UCC – N. Grand

~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Dear Sunday School Children:

Thank you for underwriting the cost of Morgan's allowance with your recent gift of \$25.00. Your gift and encouragement is a great support for Morgan in his efforts to overcome his troubles.

We certainly could not do it without support from friends like you! We truly appreciate your spirit of giving to those in need. Thank you again for your continued support.

Sincerely,

(signed) Michael P. Brennan
Executive Director Evangelical Children's Home

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS



Ruth Ann Nuelle at St. Anthony's Hospital.

LYDIA'S HOUSE

Many thanks to the ladies who once again provided a bountiful and delicious community meal for Lydia's House. These generous people, who also happen to be great cooks, were Mary Lou Farrow, Dorothea Holdener, Janet Remmers, Nancy Krenning, Shirley Nottelmann, Lois Decker, Joan Schumacher, Merle Schuette, Jacque Walker, Pat Siewing, Frances Kalbfleish, Sue Leary, Alice Hillyard, Betty Moore, Barbara Barnes, Joyce Brand, and Ardelle Dischinger. There was also a terrific chicken casserole. The donor didn't put her name on the sheet but we thank you, too! Our next meal for Lydia's House will be December 2nd, so think of a special holiday dish.

MUSIC NOTES

The Chancel Choir is now rehearsing for Stewardship and then we will begin on Advent anthems. We need people as we get into this Advent Season. Wednesday evening 7 – 8 pm. One hour for God's worship.



Children's Choir will sing first Sunday of November which is November 1st. We need children to stay after church for 15 minutes. We are now learning to sing *Pass It On*. Please let your children stay for 15 minutes.

If anyone has a recorder that plays CD's and cassette tapes we would appreciate a donation to the church if you are not using it. The one in front of church won't always work.

SANDWICHES

After church on November 1st, Sunday School boys and girls will be making sandwiches for Joint Neighborhood Ministries. Extra help is always welcome !!!

VENDOR NIGHT/SPAGHETTI DINNER

Friday, November 13, 2009
Vendors – 4:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Dinner – 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.



Be sure to mark your calendar !!!
This is a fundraiser for the church !!
Come visit all the Vendors – do some of your Christmas shopping and enjoy a Spaghetti Dinner with salad, bread, and dessert. We still need some desserts. Check the sign up sheet on the Bulletin Board.

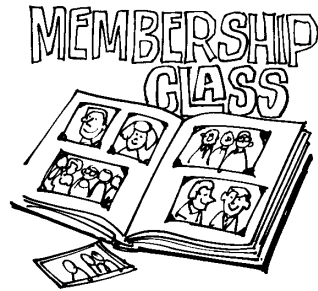
If you don't know what a vendor night is it's when people bring products they have to sell for us to look at and hopefully

purchase. We will have people from Pampered Chef, Avon, jewelry items, etc. Good time to get some early shopping done. Please come and support your church.

Adults - \$6.00 Children 2-12 - \$2.00 Under 2 - Free

NEW MEMBERS

New members will be received at St. Philip's on Sunday, December 6th. If you would like to become a member of St. Philip's please let Pastor Sue know. There will be a class in the conference room on Sunday, November 29th after worship giving information about the UCC church and St. Philip's.



MEMORIAL SUNDAY



Memorial Sunday this year will be observed on Sunday, November 22nd. If you would like the name/s of someone who passed away this year to be remembered on that Sunday, please give the name/s to Shirley in the church office by the 15th so that they can be included in the bulletin .

HANGING OF THE GREENS

Time is nearing for Hanging of the Greens on November 29th. The Learning Ministry will have "Crafts" homemade, sun catchers to paint, and a Christmas group project for everyone. Also, help will be needed to decorate the church. Congregational Life Ministry will provide a lunch for all of us. Plan to stay that day and enjoy the festivities.



COOKIE SALE

It hardly seems possible that it's time for Christmas cookies but it won't be long! The annual cookie sale will be December 6th. We need many varieties of your wonderful cookies to package for sale. So dust off your recipes and bring your favorite cookies to church by 9 a.m. on Saturday, December 5th. That's also the time to come if you'd like to help package. We're looking forward to the usual great assortment of delicious cookies from St. Philip's premier bakers!



CHRISTMAS PLAY

On December 13th, the boys and girls will present the Christmas Play. I am sure Santa Claus will come. And then, we will have punch and cookies. Be sure to check the December Crier for more details. We will have reminders for practice, etc.

CHRISTMAS MITTEN TREE RETURNS THIS YEAR !

An old St. Philip's custom is returning this year! Starting on the first Sunday in Advent, (November 29th), you will see a small tree in the gathering area. Help us help "decorate" it with warm mittens, hats and scarves for children and adults at St. John's Community Service Center. According to Johnniest Henry, the director, many of her clients cannot afford warm winter clothing, and the items will be greatly appreciated.

Barbara Barnes
Outreach Committee

50+ CHRISTMAS LUNCH PARTY

Date: Saturday, December 12th
Time: 12 noon – 3 pm
Place: Helen Fitzgerald's on S. Lindbergh
Cost: \$18 per person (this includes tax and tip)



Menu - (choice of one)

1. Chicken Mudega (chicken rolled in Italian bread
Crumbs, char-broiled with white wine sauce,
topped w/provel cheese, ham and mushrooms)
2. Eight ounce Strip Steak
3. Lemon pepper Cod

Served with: House Salad w/house dressing, roasted red potatoes, vegetable medley, bread and butter, coffee, iced tea and water. (Desserts will be provided.)

Reservations and money due any time, but no later than Sunday, November 22nd. A sign-up sheet will be posted on the bulletin board.

P.S. **Each** person is to bring a \$1.00 wrapped gift.

Committee: Jan Freese, Alice Hillyard, Virginia Hladnick, Betty Moore, Ruth Ann Nuelle.

COMING EVENTS IN NOVEMBER

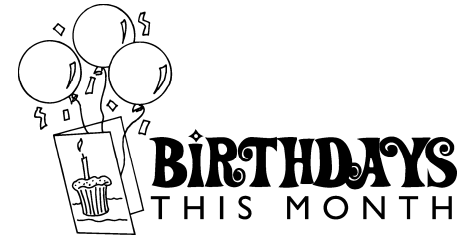
- 1 Communion
Youth Sunday
- 2 Bible Study 9 am
Council 7 pm
- 3 Bell Choir 7 pm
- 4 Choir 7 pm
- 5 Yoga Class 6:30 pm
- 8 Birthday Sunday
- 9 Bible Study 9 am
- 10 Bell Choir 7 pm
- 11 Free Lunch – noon
Choir 7 pm
- 12 Yoga Class 6:30 pm
- 13 Vendor Night/Spaghetti Dinner 4 pm – 8 pm
- 16 Bible Study 9 am
ECC Board Mtg. 7:15 pm
- 17 Women's Fellowship – St. Nick's gift making
- 18 Outreach Team Mtg. 10 am



- Choir 7 pm
- 19 Yoga Class 6:30 pm
- 21 50+ Group Chili Lunch 12 noon
- 23 Bible Study 9 am
Crier articles due
- 24 Bell Choir 7 pm
- 25 Choir 7 pm
- 26 Office closed – Happy Thanksgiving
- 27 Office closed
- 29 Hanging of the Greens
- 30 Bible Study 9 am

BIRTHDAYS FOR NOVEMBER

- 1 Olivia Witte
- 3 Chris Siewing
- 8 Amy Balzer
- 9 De'Ana Holdener
- 11 Rachel Ricks
- 15 Sarah Shelton
Jan Freese
- 16 Gary Karcher
- 20 Bryan Hickman
- 23 Brigitte Mittler
- 28 Shirley Jennings
Dorothea Holdener



**LITURGISTS, USHERS, ACOLYTES AND CHILDREN'S TIME
FOR NOVEMBER**

Liturgists



November 1	Youth Sunday
November 8	Lois Decker
November 15	Gary Karcher
November 22	
November 29	Jim Caldwell

Welcoming Teams

November 1	Youth
November 8 and 15	
November 22 and 29	

Children's Time

November 1	Youth Sunday
November 8	
November 15	
November 22	
November 29	



Acolytes

ACOLYTES



November 1	Madeline Williamson
November 8	Harrison Fischer
November 15	Jordan Lewis
November 22	Scott Karcher
November 29	Ashley Kulich

VENDOR FAIR/SPAGHETTI DINNER

St. Philip's United Church of Christ
10708 Lavinia Drive 63123
314-843-5100

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13TH

4 PM - 8 PM

DINNER SERVED FROM 5 PM TO 7 PM

CARRY OUTS AVAILABLE

ADULTS \$6.00

CHILDREN \$2.00

UNDER 2 YEARS OF AGE ARE FREE

VENDORS AVAILABLE 4 PM TO 8 PM

Some of the vendors are : Pampered Chef, Avon, Jewelry

Why not do some early Christmas Shopping !

There will be baskets for raffling too !!!



The Sandpiper

By Robert Peterson

She was six years old when I first met her on the beach near where I live. I drive to this beach, a distance of three or four miles, whenever the world begins to close in on me. She was building a sand castle or something and looked up, her eyes as blue as the sea.

"Hello," she said.

I answered with a nod, not really in the mood to bother with a small child.

"I'm building," she said.

"I see that. What is it?" I asked, not really caring.

"Oh, I don't know. I just like the feel of sand."

That sounds good, I thought, and slipped off my shoes.

A sandpiper glided by."That's a joy," the child said.

"It's a what?"

"It's a joy. My mama says sandpipers come to bring us joy."

The bird went gliding down the beach. Good-bye joy. I muttered to myself, hello pain, and turned to walk on. I was depressed, my life seemed completely out of balance."What's your name?" She wouldn't give up.

"Robert," I answered. "I'm Robert Peterson."

"Mine's Wendy....I'm six."

"Hi Wendy."

She giggled. "You're funny," she said.

In spite of my gloom, I laughed too and walked on.

Her musical giggle followed me.

"Come again, Mr. P," she called. "We'll have another happy day."

The next few days consisted of a group of unruly Boy Scouts, PTA meetings, and an ailing mother. The sun was shining one morning as I took my hands out of the dishwasher. I need a sandpiper, I said to myself, gathering up my coat.

The ever-changing balm of the seashore awaited me. The breeze was chilly but I strode along, trying to recapture the serenity I needed.

"Hello, Mr. P," she said. "Do you want to play?"

"What did you have in mind?" I asked, with a twinge of annoyance.

"I don't know. You say."

"How about charades?" I asked sarcastically.

The tinkling laughter burst forth again. "I don't know what that is."

"Then let's just walk."

Looking at her, I noticed the delicate fairness of her face. "Where to you live?" I asked.

"Over there." She pointed toward a row of summer cottages.

Strange, I thought, in winter.

"Where do you go to school?"

"I don't go to school. Mommy says we're on vacation."

She chattered little girl talk as we strolled up the beach, but my mind was on other things. When I left for home, Wendy said it had been a happy day. Feeling surprisingly better, I smiled at her and agreed.

Three weeks later, I rushed to my beach in a state of near panic. I was in no mood to even greet Wendy. I thought I saw her mother on the porch and felt like demanding she keep her child at home.

"Look, if you don't mind," I said crossly when Wendy caught up with me, "I'd rather be alone today." She seemed unusually pale and out of breath.

"Why?" she asked.

I turned to her and shouted, "Because my mother died! And thought, My God, why was I saying this to a little child?"

"Oh," she said quietly, "then this is a bad day."

"Yes," I said, "and yesterday and the day before and —oh, go away!"

"Did it hurt?" she inquired.

"Did what hurt?" I was exasperated with her, with myself.

"When she died?"

"Of course it hurt!" I snapped, misunderstanding, wrapped up in myself. I strode off.

A month or so after that, when I next went to the beach, she wasn't there. Feeling guilty, ashamed, and admitting to myself I missed her, I went up to the cottage after my walk and knocked at the door. A drawn looking young woman with honey-colored hair opened the door.

"Hello," I said, "I'm Robert Peterson. I missed your little girl today and wondered where she was."

"Oh yes, Mr. Peterson, please come in. Wendy spoke of you so much. I'm afraid I allowed her to bother you. If she was a nuisance, please, accept my apologies."

"Not at all — she's a delightful child." I said, suddenly realizing that I meant what I had just said.

"Wendy died last week, Mr. Peterson. She had leukemia. Maybe she didn't tell you."

Struck dumb, I groped for a chair. I had to catch my breath.

"She loved this beach, so when she asked to come, we couldn't say no. She seemed so much better here and had a lot of what she called happy days. But the last few weeks, she declined rapidly." Her voice faltered, "She left something for you, if only I can find it.. Could you wait a moment while I look?"

I nodded stupidly, my mind racing for something to say to this lovely young woman. She handed me a smeared envelope with “Mr. P” printed in bold childish letters. Inside was a drawing in bright crayon hues – a yellow beach, a blue sea, and a brown bird..Underneath was carefully printed:

A SANDPIPER TO BRING YOU JOY.

Tears welled up in my eyes, and a heart that had almost forgotten to love opened wide. I took Wendy’s mother in my arms. “I’m so sorry, I’m so sorry, I’m so sorry,” I uttered over and over, and we wept together. The precious little picture is framed now and hangs in my study. Six words – one for each year of her life – that speak to me of harmony, courage, and undemanding love.

A gift from a child with sea blue eyes and hair the color of sand – who taught me the gift of love.

NOTE: This is a true story sent out by Robert Peterson. It happened over 20 years ago and the incident changed his life forever. It serves as a reminder to all of us that we need to take time to enjoy living and life and each other. The price of hating other human beings is loving oneself less.

Life is so complicated, the hustle and bustle of everyday traumas can make us lose focus about what is truly important or what is only a momentary setback or crisis.

This week, be sure to give your loved ones an extra hug, and by all means, take a moment...event if it is only ten seconds, to stop and smell the roses.

May God Bless everyone who reads this! There are no coincidences! Everything that happens to us happens for a reason. Never brush aside anyone as insignificant. Who know what they can teach us?

I wish for you, a sandpiper

and a Happy Thanksgiving !!