



MINISTRIES & CONNECTIONS DIRECTORY

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
3911 SWEET AIR ROAD
PHOENIX, MD 21131
410-592-6565

Website: stjohnssweetair.org

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

WELCOME ALL As Christ accepts and loves all kinds of people, we seek to accept and reach out to others with hospitality, flexibility and love.

TELL THE STORY so that all will experience Jesus and His triumphant, unconditional love in their real lives.

GROW AS DISCIPLES As His followers, we move between nurturing ourselves in relationship with God, and going out to love and serve others in the world.

OUR VISION God calls us to reach out to others. We go forward with a passion for a variety of ministry and worship experiences and discipleship growth opportunities. Lay ministry is primary. Our goal is that each one will have a transforming and personal experience of Jesus. God will provide all that we need!

02/02/2010

• **Head to Heart Ministry (7-8th Grade Confirmation)**

Meeting Times: Tuesday nights, 6:30-8:30PM

This dynamic ministry is an interactive and effective way in presenting the gospel to middle school youth. Multi-media, small groups, story telling, and action-oriented fun undergird the solid attraction to this ministry. Tuesday nights start off with food, games, and interactive skits. A personal faith story is shared, followed by Bible verses to hear God’s word, and small groups led by adult (and senior high) mentors. Every other Tuesday youth are engaged in a service project, a fun event, or quality time at home spending time with family.

For more information about this ministry, please contact church office, 410-592-6565

YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRY TEAM

The Youth and Family Ministry Team serves to edify the Youth and Family Ministry Director with guidance, vision, suggestions, encouragement, and general oversight of this core ministry in the congregation.

ST. JOHN’S Contact Numbers

| | |
|--------------------|----------------------------|
| Main Office | 410-592-6565 |
| Fax | 410-592-5868 |
| Office email | office@stjohnssweetair.org |
| Monthly newsletter | hearye@stjohnssweetair.org |
| Web Site | www.stjohnssweetair.org |

STAFF

| | |
|--|--|
| Senior Pastor | Rev. David Asplin asplin@stjohnssweetair.org |
| Associate Pastor | Rev. John Seltzer seltzer@stjohnssweetair.org |
| Minister of Pastoral Care | Rev. Siegfried Otto barbelotto@verizon.net |
| Pastor Emeritus | Rev. Partee Boliek |
| Director of Music & Organist, Traditional Worship | Mike Chambers mikechambers@earthlink.net |
| Contemporary Worship Leader | Mrs. Lea Ann Mainster lamsing4him@earthlink.net |
| Dir. of Youth & Family Ministry | vacant |
| Dir. Of Children’s Ministry | Mrs. Trisha Wetzelberger wetzie@comcast.net |
| Custodian | Mr. Wayne Goettner |
| Office Managers | Mrs. Phyllis Floyd Mrs. Bea Sherrill bsherril@zoominternet.net |
| Child Care Providers | Mrs. Marlene Spivey Ms. Samantha Southern |

CHURCH COUNCIL

Church Council meets each second Monday of the month @ 7:00PM and a second time each quarter for fellowship. Each term on Church Council is 3 years. The council consists of 12 elected members (4 elected each year), the Treasurer, the Financial Secretary, the Senior Pastor and the Associate Pastor. The treasurer and the financial secretary are appointed each year by the council and are non-voting members.

CHURCH COUNCIL 2010

| | |
|--|----------------------------|
| Lisa Ring | lring98@comcast.net |
| Brad Shepherd, Vice-President | shepherbrigitte@yahoo.com |
| Rick Matthai, Secretary | rick.matthai@comcast.net |
| Jack Arsenault, President | jackofhorshell@comcast.net |
| Brad Houck | houckpa@verizon.net |
| Carol Kuchar | carolkuchar@verizon.net |
| Laura Mitchell | lleemitchell@aol.com |
| Bill Markley | wmarkley2@comcast.net |
| Chris Odell | odell2711@comcast.net |
| Don Glenn | theos@comcast.net |
| Ceil Steindler | ceksteindler@comcast.net |
| Edie Bandy | bandy@zoominternet.net |
| Monte Carpenter, Treasurer | montec@comcast.net |
| Susan Daneker, Current Funds Secretary | suedaneker@yahoo.com |
| Doug Waire II, Capital Funds Secretary | coopstown@aol.com |

See Website home page, "Discover" for pictures

women actively participating in the Circles. Circle meetings are held monthly. Twice a year a combined meeting is held.

- **Deborah Circle**

The Deborah Circle ladies meet on the first Thursday of each month (September ~ June), in the Fellowship Hall at 11:30AM. The ladies bring a bag lunch ~ beverage and dessert are supplied (ladies take turns bringing the dessert). A Bible Study follows a brief business meeting. Meetings are usually over by 1:00PM. The Deborah Circle actively supports The Heifer Project, Augsburg Lutheran Home Christmas in July and a seminary in Estonia. Contact Jeanette Smith, 410-692-5072. All women are welcome!

- **Lydia Circle**

The Lydia Circle meets on the third Thursday of each month (September ~ June) at 9:30AM in the Parlor. We engage in Bible study, go out to lunch four times a year and sponsor projects. Our ongoing project is making blankets (either by knitting, crocheting or quilting) to be used at local hospitals for the Linus Project. We also purchase gifts for the Salvation Army's Christmas Angel Tree project and supply clothing and toiletries for a shelter. We warmly welcome anyone who would like to join us. Please call Lee Moulds at 410-308-3545

YOUTH and FAMILY MINISTRIES

- **High School Ministry**

Meeting Times: Sunday evenings, 5:00 - 7:30PM

High School ministry is led by youth with guidance from the Youth and Family Ministry Director and several adult mentors. This ministry, like the other ministries at St. Johns, is based on peer relationships between each other and God. Activities include retreats, service projects, movie discussion nights, mission trips, church-wide youth gatherings, et al. We are known for having fun and serving Christ. For more information about this ministry, please contact the church office and/or see the St. John's website.

- **Prayer Group**

Prayer group meets each Friday morning from 9:00AM to 10:00AM in the church Parlor. Prayers are offered for those present as well as needs and people of the congregation and beyond. Contact: Lois Collinge, 410-666-3699

STAFF SUPPORT MINISTRY TEAM

Staff Support team members seek to edify non-ordained staff members of St. John's for the purpose of strengthening the ministries in which they serve and the mission to: Welcome All, Tell the Story, and Grow as Disciples.

Contact: Gerald Peterson, Chair, 410-592-2707

WELLNESS MINISTRY

The Wellness Ministry is made up of dedicated lay people whose goal is to be sure the shut-ins, the lonely and the ill still feel part of the congregation. We make home and hospital visits, phone calls, send cards and give communion when desired. We also have a casserole ministry, led by Barbara Heusler, 410-557-6240, to provide food to members during stressful life situations. The Wellness Team is under the direction of Pastor Siegfried Otto and is chaired by Bill Moulds, 410-308-3545.

WOMEN OF THE CHURCH

All confirmed female members of St. John's are members of the Women of the Church. Some of the projects that the women facilitate at St. John's are: the Food Cupboard, Change for Change, the Chrismon tree, blankets for Lutheran World Relief, Tools of Hope & Blankets through Church World Services, the ELCA Women's Thankoffering Service and processing the orders for altar flowers, poinsettias at Christmas and tulips at Easter. Contact: Jeanette Smith, 410-692-5072

There are two active "Circles" within the Women's Group. They are: Deborah Circle and Lydia Circle. There are approximately 30

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

Alcoholics Anonymous meets here at St. John's each Thursday evening at 7:30PM in the Chapel Hall. Walk-in guests are always welcome. Contact the church office for any further information.

ALTAR GUILD

The Altar Guild is comprised of men and women who prepare and maintain the altar area for all worship services. Teams are rotated monthly to care for altar appointments, supplies and various worship resources.

Contact: Janet Grove, 410-592-2851

BOY SCOUTS

Boy Scout Troop 818 meets at St. John's each Wednesday evening, in the Chapel Hall, from 7:00 to 9:00PM.

Contact: Michelle Newman, 410-785-2210

CEMETERY COMMITTEE

This group oversees the ministry and care of the St. John's Cemetery. Guidelines for lot purchase and care are available in the church office, or from the current chairperson, Ross Smith (410-692-5072). Members of St. John's and their minor children are welcome to purchase cemetery lots.

CHAPEL COMMITTEE

The Chapel Committee maintains the physical care of the Chapel, manages fund contributions, and encourages use of the Chapel to further the mission of St. John's.

Contact: Linda Peper, 410-557-7550

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

- **Vacation Bible School**

Vacation Bible School is for grades K – 5th grade and is offered for one week during the summer. It is organized by a team of amazing adults. Working beside the adults is a group of high school helpers who serve as useful aides. Children learn about God through songs, games, stories, crafts and friendships new and old. Contact: Claire Meloni, 410-667-1133

- **“Kids of the Kingdom” Sunday School**

Sunday School at St. John's is based on the Workshop Rotational Model. Beginners, ages 3-5 years, meet in a traditional classroom. While all ages meet 9:30AM -10:45AM, grades 1-6 follow a more “interactive” rotational plan. This approach means that every month students take an inside look at a Bible story through a variety of fun, interactive, “hands-on” workshops, which include: Arts and Crafts, Drama/Storytelling, Video, Science, Games, and Cooking. Age-level groups travel with an adult Shepherd to a new workshop each week. The workshops are led by an adult leader who teaches the same lesson to different age groups during the one month rotation. Kids love this model of Sunday School because their diverse learning styles and needs are being met. Adults love it because they can volunteer to help with Sunday School without committing to the entire year. The great benefit to this ministry is that more adults and teens have opportunity to use their gifts and talents to help children in their faith formation. Most Christians come to faith in Jesus before the age of 12. Therefore, children are a primary group for discovering the reality of God's love in Christ. More opportunity, limited time commitment, and untapped creativity are breeding a thriving Sunday School! If you would like to help, please contact the church office or Trisha Wetzelberger, 410-592-6565.

COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING TEAM

This team helps St. John's Welcome All, Tell the Story and Grow as disciples by developing vehicles of communication within the church that are user friendly, clear in content, aesthetically attractive, and wide in appeal. Its effort is to promote Christ within St.

session meets in a home or at church and begins with a shared meal. The evening proceeds with singing, laughter and a video presentation by Rev. Nicky Gumbel, the founder of the Alpha course. After the video, participants break into small groups to discuss that evening's topic. Some topics are: Who is Jesus? Why did Jesus die? Why should I read the Bible? What about the Holy Spirit? How can I overcome evil? Does God heal today?

Alpha is designed to be a blessing to the Christian as well as the non-Christian, the strong believer as well as the person who still has questions. Please feel free to invite your relatives, friends and neighbors.

For more information about dates and times contact the church office @ 410-592-6565 or see the website listing under Faith Ministries.

- **The Marriage Course**

The Marriage Course is a series of 7 sessions designed to strengthen marriage relationships. Couples are invited to participate and be encouraged with relationship skills that are suggested. Husbands and wives are given opportunities to reflect together after listening to the video series produced by The Alpha Course ministry. Contact: Bill and Barbara Clark: 410-592-8723

- **Monday Night Bible Study**

A Monday night Bible Study meets in the Youth Center each week from 7:00 to 8:30PM. Each different study is usually 8 to 10 weeks long. Contact: Bill Collinge, 410-666-3699

- **Men's Breakfast Bible Study**

All men are welcome to come . . . every week or any week! The study starts with breakfast each Thursday from 7AM to 8AM in the Fellowship Hall. It is a time to share friendship and faith! No scholars, no lectures, just men seeking to relate faith with living. Everyone is welcome!

Contact: Gene Cairns, 410-592-7432, or

Pastor John Seltzer, 410-592-6565

- **Men's Bible Study #2**

All men are welcome...1st & 3rd Monday at 10 am in the church Parlor. Fellowship, Faith, Friends (new & old).

Contact: Bill Moulds, 410-308-3545

PRAYER MINISTRY TEAMS

During the weekly distribution of Holy Communion at the 9:30AM service, a prayer team is available to pray with persons for any need.

Contact: Barbara Bushman, 410-420-4046

PRAYER CHAIN

This ministry is served by people who pray for various requests of parishioners. The contact person receives requests by phone and passes the prayer need to the next person on the Prayer Chain until numerous folks are praying on their own as requested.

Contacts: Lois Collinge, 410-666-3699, or
Iona Dorn, 410-592-9725

PROPERTY COMMITTEE

The Property Committee oversees the physical well-being of the property (buildings & grounds). They welcome new members! They meet each third Monday of the month at 7:00PM in the church Parlor.

Contact: Joe Connell, 410-817-4016

SMALL GROUP MINISTRIES

St. John's is committed to fulfilling the mission of St. John's through Small Group ministries. The essential ingredients are prayer, scripture, care for others and service. Groups are alive in great variety, such as Bible studies, the garden group, home fellowship groups, ministry groups such as Handbells and Jubilee Choirs, and life issue groups. Close to 20 groups are usually meeting during the year. See the St. John's website,

www.stjohnssweetair.org, for more information.

Contact: Pastors Seltzer or Asplin, 410-592-6565.

Some of the options include:

- **Alpha Course**

A Practical Presentation of the Christian Faith

The Alpha course runs through 10 weekly sessions. Each weekly

John's and to the wider communities we serve. This includes "inviting publicity" to diverse people, with current information that fosters faith in Christ.

Contact Pastor John, 410-592-6565.

COUNTRY FAIR DAY

Country Fair Day is a gigantic flea market and craft sale held each year at St. John's on the second Saturday in October. This event provides an opportunity for St. John's to "Welcome All" and to witness our hospitality and mission. The fair happens from 7AM until 4PM. Dealers/Vendors purchase spaces to market their products. As a team, the church:

- Sells ads for a patron book, which is produced and distributed on Fair day
- Prepares and sells a variety of food (pancake & sausage breakfast, pit beef, hot dogs, crab soup, french fries, barbeque, donuts, coffee, hot chocolate)
- Provides various activities for fun and fellowship (children's games, scarecrow making, petting zoo)
- Offers a Bake table, White Elephant table, Consignment table, Silent Auction

Parking and admission are FREE! St. John's relies on volunteers to accomplish the many activities of the day. Profits are used for benevolence and various church projects.

Current chairperson is Andy Essel: 410-229-9870.

ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE

The Endowment Committee encourages financial contributions and manages the St. John's Endowment Fund. The purpose of this fund is to continue the enhancement of St. John's in spiritual, charitable, and educational ministries, and in other benevolent missions of the church.

Contact: Fred Derrick, 410-817-9061

FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Finance Committee exercises oversight of St. John's insurance policies, monetary investments, receipts and expenditures. This team develops an annual mission plan (budget) for the Church Council and leads the way for faithful stewardship. Meetings are the 4th Monday of the month, 7:00PM.

"FAITH STEPPING STONES" FAMILY MINISTRY

Faith Stepping Stones is a ministry for helping faith to grow in children from cradle to graduation. This ministry seeks to build a nightly devotional ritual in each family that re-engineers Christian education with parents and their children. With eight stages of nurture, each Stepping Stone event BLESSES the Child, GIFTS the Family, and CALLS Parents to the Promises of Baptism. The active "Steps" in this ministry for parents and children are:

- Raising a Healthy Baby—Baptism Preparation (infants)
- Raising a Healthy Preschooler (18 months - 4 years)
- Entry to School (5 years - 6 years)
- My Bible (3rd grade +)
- "Livin' Forgiven" Communion Preparation (2nd grade and older)
- Entry to Confirmation (end of 6th grade)
- Confirmation and Commissioning (7th - 8th grades +)

Contact person: Trisha Wetzelsberger, 410-592-6565

FUNERAL BUFFET COMMITTEE

One of the great joys is to provide food for those who are mourning the loss of a loved one. This team of men and women offer comfort by serving family and friends in the Fellowship Hall at the time of a funeral or memorial service.

Contact: Doris Koerner, 410-666-0433

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

St. John's supports the Upper Chesapeake and Harford County chapters of Habitat for Humanity. All levels of service are needed

• **Children's Choir**

The Children's Choir is made up of boys and girls who are in grades two through six. Rehearsals are held on Sunday mornings, 9AM in the Choir Room. The Children's Choir sings periodically from October through June.

Contact: Gail Southern, Director, 410-357-8631

• **Handbell Choirs**

St. John's has a 4 1/2 octave and 3 octaves of handchimes. More hands are always welcome. Rehearsals are held on Tuesday evenings from 7:45PM to 9:00PM. They practice and play from September through June.

Contact: Louisa Rettew, Director, 410-666-1992

• **Praise4Him (Contemporary Worship Team)**

The Praise4Him worship team and band provides an atmosphere of praise and worship at St. John's "Bridge" (Contemporary) service, which takes place at 9:30AM on Sunday morning. This team offers contemporary-style music, appealing to all ages and walks of life. The casual but spirited atmosphere of the Bridge service is a great way to experience God's love and fellowship with others. Rehearsals are Wednesdays, 7PM in the Worship Center. If you are gifted in the area of music, whether it is in playing an instrument or singing, and you would like to be a part of the "Praise4Him" ministry and fellowship, contact Lea Ann Mainster, Worship Leader, 410-879-5362.

MUTUAL MINISTRY COMMITTEE

This team works to support the pastoral staff by providing conversation opportunities that strengthen the pastors in their serving.

Contact: Susan Rowe, 410-527-4611

OWLS (Older Wiser Lutherans) OF ST. JOHN'S

The senior folks in the St. John's community are a treasured blessing of faith and joy! There is an ongoing effort to provide fellowship with trips, dinners, visits, and friendship activities.

Contacts: Betty Ann Wolfe, 410-274-5000

Gail Cairns, 410-592-7432

provides. This mission trip usually happens for 10 days near the end of June. Contact: Linda Walsh: 410-592-6403

- **Amazing Grace Mission Partnership** – This team continues to support the ministries of Amazing Grace Lutheran Church in east Baltimore. Year round donations of food, school supplies, Christmas gifts, building materials, and clothing combine with helping hands of service from St. John’s to Amazing Grace and its surrounding community. Contact: Frannie Butcher - 410-592-1295
- **New Orleans Mission Team** – This team raises funds and gathers workers to travel to the “Big Easy” usually in January. With the help of local relief/rebuilding agencies, St. John’s provides hope and helping hands to help rebuild New Orleans in the wake of hurricane Katrina. Contact: Teresa Barrett – 410-592-2966

MUSIC & WORSHIP COMMITTEE

This team aids and supports the pastors by providing a meaningful and spiritual experience for all who worship. The team members coordinate greeters, ushers, acolytes, readers, lay ministry assistants, communion assistants, altar guild and banner makers. The continued goal is to provide, during worship, an atmosphere that is warm, comforting, inspiring and uplifting. Contact: Joel Grove, 410-592-2851

MUSIC MINISTRIES

- **Jubilee Singers (Senior Choir)**
The Jubilee Singers consist of anyone from Senior High age through adult. They provide music for one of the worship services each Sunday from the second Sunday in September through the third Sunday in June. They sing at most of our special services such as Thanksgiving Eve, Ash Wednesday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Christmas Eve. The Jubilee Singers rehearse on most Thursday evenings from 7:45PM to 9:00PM. Currently, there are about 20 people in the Senior Choir. Contact: Mike Chambers, Director, 410-254-3246

to raise funds, serve food, and do construction. Contact: Bob Rigger, 410-592-7933, or Fred Derrick, 410-817-9061

HOLY HANDS PUPPETS MINISTRY

With a team of adults and teens, this ministry serves the congregation in special puppet productions, worship skits, and “on the road” ministry to nursing homes and other groups. Their mission is to share the Gospel of Christ. Contact: Edie Bandy, 410-692-9667

HOSPITALITY—INVOLVEMENT—CONNECTION

The “HIC” team was created to “Welcome All,” especially newcomers, with a sense of belonging and friendliness. The team trains and oversees the ministries of greeters, ushers, Welcome Center, Sunday refreshments and fellowship, Newcomer Follow-up & Orientation. Contact persons:

Tom Walton (Newcomers), 410-592-9595
Bob Shaff (11am Ushers), 410-592-2392
Phyllis Mann (8:15am Ushers), 410-252-1731
Doris Koerner (Greeters), 410-666-0433
Liza DeBolt (Refreshments), 410-628-0611
Pastor John Seltzer, 410-592-6565

HUNGER AWARENESS MINISTRY

- **Change for Change**
Donations are received via a “Change for Change” box at the Welcome Center in the church lobby. Local mission projects such as *House of Ruth*, *Helping Up Mission*, *My Sister’s Place*, *Anna’s House*, and *Newborn Holistic Ministries* have benefited from these donations. Contact: Ellen Platt, 410-628-1333
- **Food Pantry**
St. John’s maintains a food cupboard that is stocked by members and friends of the congregation. Donations of non-perishable foods are brought to the church at any time the church is open or

on the first Sunday of the month, which is designated for food collection. Monetary gifts are also appreciated for that purpose. Most of the food is taken to Baltimore soup kitchens such as *Bea Gaddy's Family Center* and *Beans & Bread*. A supply of food is also kept at the church for local emergencies.

Financial donations have been used to support needs at *Sun Charities*, *Second Harvest*, *My Sister's Place*, and *Rapture Church*. Volunteers are always needed to pack the food and deliver it to the centers.

Contact: Ellen Platt, 410-628-1333

- **Garden Project**

The garden project is an outreach of St. John's which, for the past 20+ years, has provided from two to five tons of produce to Baltimore City soup kitchens annually. This project meets each Monday evening at 6:00PM during the growing season in the garden area behind the church. The produce grown at church is also supplemented with surplus vegetables from local gardeners.

- **St. John's Refugee Assistance Program**

In cooperation with Lutheran/Tressler Refugee Relocation Services, St. John's has two efforts. We collect good, used furniture and household items for distribution to new families arriving in the Baltimore area. It assists them in settling into rented housing as they arrive in the United States with nothing but their suitcases. These donations are acknowledged with a letter on church stationery documenting donations for tax purposes.

Contact: Mike Griffith, 410-833-2384

- **Other Hunger Awareness Team Ministries include:**

Serving Food to the Homeless, "Souper" Bowl of Caring, FairTrade Market Place, Dominican Republic Children's Food Offering, CROP Walk, Church World Service Blankets (Mother's Day) and Tools (Father's Day), ELCA Good Gifts, Amazing Grace/Baltimore Immersion Mission (see current details online at www.stjohnssweetair.org).

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY TEAM

The IT Team supports the information technology needs of St.

John's staff and mission. We seek to transform St. John's IT environment from stand-alone PCs to a standardized, secure, networked environment. We welcome interested disciples to help us serve the Lord through technology.

Contact: Tim Rader, 410-879-7868

KITCHEN MINISTRY

The Kitchen Ministry fills an important role in community outreach and supporting church activities. It provides meals for various church functions as well as catered meals for community events. The purpose of the Kitchen Ministry is to share the presence of Jesus in the blessings of food and fellowship. With joy and prayer, smiles and service, this team seeks to nourish body and spirit within and beyond the community of St. John's.

New helpers are needed and welcomed!

Contact: Jack Arsenault, 410-592-8939

MEDIA TEAM

The Media Team is made up of teens and adults who operate the sound and video electronics for worship and other planned activities. Opportunities to serve are weekly at any of the worship services, or as you are available.

Contact: Nelson Bengel, 410-557-7302

MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

The Memorial Committee manages financial gifts to St. John's in memory of deceased loved ones. Correspondence with donors is important to see that requests are honored.

Contact: Dave Vanderbeek, 410-557-2598

MISSION TEAMS

- **Dominican Republic Team** – This team welcomes new people each year to travel and serve in the eastern end of the DR. With full support of St. John's, a medical clinic, children's ministry, and construction project are included in the services our team