

St. J Newsletter

April-May 2014

From the Pastor's Desk:

During Lent, our congregations have been engaged in a Bible study of the last week of Jesus life. Combined with our fellowship meal and our mission speakers, it has proved necessary to limit the scope of these studies to as little as one specific event, or even a single verse of the text. Any given verse of the gospels can become an exhaustive study of language, authorship, source, old testaments references, history, and current models of interpretation. And that is true even if we limit ourselves to the literature we consider authoritative, the 66 books of our Bible. Beyond what we consider the authentic books of our scriptures, there were other gospels written that are not in the New Testament, perhaps for good reason. One tells of lions and panthers that worshipped baby Jesus and showed Mary and Joseph the way to Egypt and protected them as they came back to Nazareth. The Infancy Gospel of Thomas contains fables about Jesus performing miracles when he was boy, such as breathing life into clay birds that He had made, or that He spoke at the time of His birth, or that He could tell what was in the hearts of other children. It also says that he was mean to his parents and performed miracles to keep them in fear of him. When which books to include in our modern Bibles was being decided, such writings were rejected for their suspect content.

And yet, even in our current texts, we encounter some rather fantastic tales. In a recent study regarding the Jerusalem temple, we were reminded that Jesus, though he was probably exempt, paid his and Peter's share of the annual Temple tax. **Matthew 17: 24-27**. It was how he got the money for the tax that is rather unbelievable. Jesus told Peter to go to the lake, drop in a hook, and the first fish he caught would have a coin in its mouth, which he was to use to pay the tax, which is just what happened.

Now it could be that a consideration of this story would involve a study of ancient fishing practices in Galilee during the time of Jesus, and of the different species of fish that brood their eggs and young fish in their mouths, and the origins of the practice of throwing coins into fountains in search of good fortune, and of the coinage in use during the first century in Palestine and on and on and on.

Or, maybe we are best served by looking at the meaning of the story, as it might be applied to ourselves. Perhaps what we should take from the story is that we should avoid offending others. Our purpose as Christians is to help make others more receptive to the gospel by our example, and not less.

Sometimes we need to avoid claiming our rights for the benefit of others. Jesus, though he may not have technically been required to pay his share for the support of the temple, chose to do so, that he might not offend the sensibility of others, and potentially inhibit their relationship with God, and with himself. The story also reminds us that what we do about our offerings and our giving, is ultimately between God and ourselves.

We might also consider this odd tale as informing our understanding of the resurrection story of Easter. As God's Son, Jesus does not need to pay the temple tax but he chose to pay it for himself and for Peter. In the same way He chose to die on the cross to pay for all our sins. The coin was the precise amount to pay tax for two people. His death on the cross is the precise and exact and perfect price to redeem all believers. The method of providing the tax payment that Jesus chose (the coin in the fish) is unexpected and odd; just as the Messiah's death on the cross was unexpected and odd to his followers.

Many meanings can be extracted from our Bible stories, especially the amazing good news of the events of Easter morning. Perhaps what ultimately matters the most is what does each of us believe, and what will we choose to do about it?

Sunday Church Worship Schedule

St. John's:

Sunday School and
Worship 8:45 a.m.

St. Jacob:

Sunday School 9:00 a.m.
Summer vacation after May 11
Worship 10:15 a.m.

May:

4 – Kendra Hoffman
11 – Beth and Kristen Hanser
18 – Judy Bolton
25 – Dian Gansmann

Church Contact Information:

St. Jacob Office Hours:

Tuesday and Friday: 8:45 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

St. Jacob Phone: 644-2142

St. Jacob FAX: 644-2292

St. Jacob e-mail: stjucc@hometel.com

Rev. Gary, Home: 644-5703

Rev. Gary, e-mail: knipkamp@hometel.com

St. Jacob Nursery

Located in Heritage Hall, our nursery is a fresh clean space with age appropriate toys and furnishings for newborns through second grade. It's a wonderful way for your children to begin friendships with kids they'll know for many years.

Nursery Volunteers!

April:

6 – Joyce and Kristen Kniepkamp
13 – Kristie Daniel
20 – Katie Prange
EASTER 10:15 a.m. only
27 – Audrey, Rachel, Katie Yann

Birth

Brantley Jade Zurliene – January 7, 2014

Weddings

St. Jacob

Stephanie Huelsmann and

Christopher Chace

November 16, 2013

St. John

Sherri McCaw and *Petru Moraru*

November 30, 2013

Baptisms

Kimberly Anne Nelson – November 6, 2013

Emma Liu Overbey – January 19, 2014

In Our Prayers

We offer our heartfelt sympathies to the families of:

John McCarey

Opal Keilbach

Jim Beardsley

Lenore Frey

on the death of their loved ones.

Holey Week

On the first Sunday each month, both St. John and St. Jacob are continuing their coffee hour fellowship times.

From 9:45 a.m. until worship time at 10:15 a.m. in St. Jacob, and immediately following worship at St. John, in the respective fellowship halls, there will be a time for doughnuts – coffee – conversation.

Sunday School

Easter Sunday, April 20th –

Easter Egg Hunt during Sunday School

All students will sing in church

Sunday, May 11th –

Mother's Day Celebration /

Promotion Sunday / Last Day of Sunday School for Summer Break

Sunday September 7th –

Sunday School Resumes

The Sunday School is always looking for teachers / volunteers for one hour on Sunday morning. If you can volunteer one hour a week or would like to be part of the rotation, please let Pastor Gary or Patti Woods know.

Easter

Easter Flower Order Form is included in this Newsletter and must be in the St. Jacob Church Office by Sunday April 13th.

Strawberry Festival

Hi everyone, it's time to mark your calendars! The Strawberry Festival will be held Sunday, May 18th this year.

As always, we will be seeking volunteers on Saturday for setting up the park and cleaning berries, and on Sunday – parking, grilling, and working in the food stand.

The T-Shirt / Worker Sign Up and Donation Sheet is included in this Newsletter.

The Strawberry Festival Chairmen for the Craft Stands are Don and Audrey Yann, 667-4626. Anyone who like a space for their Craft Stand should contact them.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

Each year, One Great Hour of Sharing – United Church of Christ produces an Annual Mission report. We highlight a glimpse of mission made possible because of the support of our churches and friends. Your support is deeply appreciated by all whose lives are touched.

In 2014, the One Great Hour of Sharing theme is "We Are One". The focus is on sharing with our brothers and sisters in need around the world because we are connected with them through Christ Jesus. It suggests that as long as anyone has an unmet need, we all have unmet needs. This idea is easy to understand when the person in need is a family member or neighbor in our community. It is not as easy when the person in need is someone we don't know, who lives far away.

We are called to care for those near and far, alike. From disaster relief, to training programs, to boots, and healthcare, your gift is making a major impact in the lives of real people.

Together we are showing the world, God's love and compassion through acts of kindness, making the United Church of Christ a vehicle through which lives are transformed.

With your generous support, these vital ministries of life can continue. Please give generously! Thank you!

DuBOIS 2014 Summer Camps

The 2014 Summer Camp Schedule is now available. If you have the internet at home, go to <http://www.duboiscenter.org> and select Summer Camps. Complete information and registration forms are available. If you do not have the internet, pick up the information/registration forms in the Narthex.

SPRING Work Day DuBois Center – Service Saturday – April 12

YOU'RE INVITED! Help us get ready for summer! Youth and adult fellowship groups, families, individuals – everyone is invited to lend a helping hand as we prepare our facilities for the busy summer camping season. Everyone can help with the maintenance of DuBois Center. Projects vary depending on the skills of those involved and the weather, but a tired muscle or two and a great sense of satisfaction are guaranteed. There are fans to be cleaned, leaves to be raked, wood to be stacked, and buildings to be cleaned and painted. There are also a variety of carpentry projects, as well as other tasks requiring special skills. The work may not be glamorous, but it really does make a **BIG DIFFERENCE!** We'll gather at 7:30 a.m. at St. Jacob and conclude work by 4:00 pm. Lunch and supplies are provided, but we will need to **CALL AHEAD** to reserve a spot and let them know about any group members

CELEBRATE SPRING AT DuBOIS CENTER Sunday, April 6th – Buffet Style Fried Chicken Dinner from 12 noon to 2:00 p.m.

Prices: \$10 – age 12 & up \$6 – ages 5-11 FREE – ages 4 and under

Tours and Activities 12:30 – 2:30 p.m. – Enjoy all at NO cost!

Summer Camp Orientation 2:30 – 3:30 p.m.

Reserve space today! Contact DuBois by noon on Monday, March 31st – 787-2202

with special skills. Whatever tools and professional equipment we can bring will be greatly appreciated. DuBois Center telephone www.duboiscenter.org for more information or call 787-2202.

Lenten Schedule

Wednesday Lenten meals begin at 6:15 p.m. except Maundy Thursday, which begins at 6:30 p.m. Program and Bible Study follows after meal at approximately 7:00 p.m.

Donation for the meal is \$5.00 for adults.

Fifth Wednesday, April 2nd

AT ST. JOHN, SUMMERFIELD

Host – St. John, Sumerfield

Meal – Wurst Markt

Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

Speaker: Tom McCaw,
Veteran's Affairs

Sixth Wednesday, April 9th

Host – Schmidt Family

Meal – Jambalaya / Desserts

Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

Speaker: Katie Prange,
Holocaust

Maundy Thursday, April 17th - 6:30 p.m.

Host – St. Jacob Brotherhood

Meal – Beef Stew and Biscuits / Desserts

Bible Study

Speaker: Staff from Emmaus Homes



Easter Flowers

Order your flower(s) to decorate your church sanctuary for Easter Sunday below.

Make checks payable to: St. Jacob U.C.C.

Put number of flowers in box next to flower name.

Lily Price \$8.50

Tulip Price \$8.50

Hyacinth Price \$8.50

Put X in box next to name of your church.

St. John's St. Jacob

Your Name: _____

In Memory Of: _____

In Honor Of: _____

Return this form to the St. Jacob Church Office or drop in your church offering plate.

Deadline for ordering: Sunday, April 13th

People who ordered flowers may take them home after late services on Easter Sunday.

Strawberry Festival T-Shirt Order Form

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Please put the number of shirts next to the size you would like.

Youth (\$12):

Adult:

____ S	____ S (\$12.75)	____ 2X(\$16)
____ M	____ M(\$12.75)	____ 3X(\$17.60)
____ L	____ L(\$12.75)	____ 4X
____ XL	____ XL(\$12.75)	____ 5X

Total Number of Shirts: _____ Total Price: _____

Strawberry Festival Worker Sign Up

Name(s): _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

Saturday: Berry Cleaning: _____ Park Set Up: _____

Berry washing (need strong arms & back): _____

Sunday:

Server Shift 1 (10 - 1): _____ Server Shift 2 (1 - 4): _____

Cashier: Shift 1 (10-1) _____ Shift 2 (1-4) _____

Soda Stand (help Youth Group): Shift 1 (10-1) _____ Shift 2 (1-4) _____

Jump House: Shift 1 (10-1) _____ Shift 2 (1-4) _____

Parking: _____ (7:00 am – 10:00 am) Kabob Grillers: _____

Donations:

Pie Crusts (9" deep dish): _____ Yellow Cakes (not iced): _____

Angel Food cakes: _____ Cash for supplies: _____