

October 2018
Volume 32.10

St. John's United Church of Christ

St. John's United Church of Christ is a diverse community forming a united congregation, seeking to grow our faith, share it with others, and serve God's people wherever the need is present. We are living God's love and all are invited!!!

An Open and Affirming Congregation

503 Stuart Circle
Richmond, Virginia 23220

Telephone:
804.358.9291

Rev. Linda Higgins
Pastor

Email:

office@stjohnsrichmond.org



Web Site:

stjohnsrichmond.org



hello
October

175 years ago, on October 8, the German protestants in Richmond held their first worship service. That became the founding of our church. In the last 175 years, St John's has had four denominational identities and four buildings. Our name has changed through the years as our identity has become more welcoming to people who do not identify as German. Our building has moved to accommodate congregational capacity and community diversity.

One thing as you read St John's history, it often struggled with stewardship. The founders coming from a German state church background were not used to having to support their own church. Something we still struggle with today.

The first building, which we do not have a picture of, was a side by side two family house at 412-414 East Marshall Street. It was rented for \$150 a year and remodeled to be a worship space for \$9. This is where St John's first worship service took place.

On October 7th we will celebrate that humble beginning with our **175th Anniversary Worship**. We will top off a weekend of celebration with the **Reunion Happy Hour** from 5 pm to 7 pm on Friday, October 5th and the **German Dinner** on Saturday, October 6th with seating from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm. I encourage everyone to be part of this celebratory weekend and spread the news.

Our month of October will not end with the celebration but will continue with a visit from Canine Companions during church on the 14th, the Women's Retreat October 19 - 21 and Stewardship breakfast at 9AM on October 28th. Please plan to be here as we adjust to the new realities of using our parking deck and shuttle we need everyone to continue to support the church and be active in our community. We are not closing any of our ministry just learning new ways to do it.

The Rev. Linda Higgins

Linda Higgins



Church Council met for the monthly meeting on Monday, September 10, 2018.

Trustee Report – working on agreement regarding the alley parking easement which will allow parking the alley spaces to remain with building if the church building is sold. Once an agreement is met, the closing should be a week or two after. The Renovation Group (formerly Parking Lot Ad Hoc Committee) is looking into HVAC recommendations that will meet the historic tax credit requirements. Agreements have been entered into with a tax credit consultant and an LLC attorney. The Trustees will hire an accountant for the LLC and also hire an architect.

Finance Report – Jeff Hetzer presented the 2019 Ministry Plan. It is an operational budget and not a capital outlay budget. The proposed 2019 Budget shows a deficit of \$184,000 and Council will need to request the \$85,000 gift from Endowment and possibly a loan to cover the remaining deficit. Finance presented the budget to Council to review for questions or suggestions.

An investment account has been established for receiving stocks as a gift or to pay a pledge. A money market account has been established to receive the parking lot sale proceeds and will be used for building renovations. The money market account will be managed by the Trustees. The church has been using the gift from Helen Karnap to pay bills and expenses. Council will request the gift amount from Endowment when ready to determine best way to honor Helen's memory. Endowment is expected to honor June Sullen's memory as well.

175th Anniversary – Invitations have been sent. There will be a happy hour Friday night from 5-7. Council members will provide snacks. GermanFest will be on Saturday with dinner beginning at 5:30. The band will play from 6-8. Tickets will be available beginning September 16. David Agee will take tickets Saturday night. The Sunday service will be worship beginning at 10:00. Former ministers have been invited and some will participate in the service. The interim conference minister will preach. A jazz band will be present. A poster showing opportunities for giving to support the church will be displayed throughout the weekend.

Committee Updates

Worship and Music – The committee recommends leaving the worship start time at 10:00 and evaluating after the first of the year. There is no full time choir but there will be individual singers as in summer.

Mission and Outreach – Pridefest is Saturday, September 22 at Brown's Island. We are hosting a booth with First Congregational and Restoration Fellowship. Members of the committee are visiting the organizations supported by our monthly mission. T-shirts will be available beginning September 16. All are encouraged to wear them when we are working together in the community. Neighbors in Need offering will be collected October 7.

Facilities – Exit signs and emergency lights have new batteries. Outside lights have been replaced. The first floor restroom is being renovated. Painting is ongoing.

Congregational Life and Care - Women's Retreat in October. SJCP's Holiday Cabaret is on December 8, PALs concert on December 15 and the Christmas Tea on December 23.

New Business

Reviewed a proposal from Restoration Fellowship to use our Sanctuary and building the 2nd and 4th Wednesday evenings each month for worship. They seek access to the Sanctuary, restrooms, audio equipment, and instruments. Council will invite Pastor Lacette Cross to meet with us to discuss before committing to this use. Jeff Jacobs will draft a use agreement.

New Beginnings

Council reviewed the information from New Beginnings and decided to table further discussion until February 2019.

Motions

Minutes – August 13, 2018 approved with revision – added Rob Osborne and Jeff Jacobs as guests. Approved a called Congregational Meeting for December 2, 2018 to approve the 2019 budget.



CELEBRATION

Grace and Peace to you

from your sisters and brothers at St. John's United Church of Christ

You and yours are joyfully invited to join us in our 175th Anniversary celebration
of life and service to our community

October 5, 6, and 7, 2018

We are pleased to invite you, as former ministers, members, employees, close associates and current partners in ministry to join us for the joyful celebration of the 175th anniversary of the life and ministry of St. John's Church. You are part of our history and it is with gratitude that we extend this invitation of love.

On Friday, October 5th we will be hosting a Reunion Happy Hour from 5-7 pm.

On Saturday, October 6th we will have our annual GermanFest Dinner, with seating at 5:30 pm,

Featuring traditional German fare and Oom-Pah Band with lederhosen optional.

Reservations are required, and tickets (\$15 adults/\$5 children) are available through our website (StJohnsRichmond.org) or by calling the church office at (804) 358-9291.

Please join us for worship and festive jazz Communion on Sunday, October 7th at 10 am,
with Interim Conference Minister Rev. Roddy Dunkerson preaching.

Free parking/shuttle service for all events is available at the VCU Parking Deck,

Located at 534 N. Harrison Street, just south of Broad Street.

Please plan to attend. We are eager to see our old and new friends and to celebrate this momentous occasion with you.

German Fest

St. John's United Church of Christ

Richmond's 1st German Immigrant Church

Dinner & Music

503 Stuart Circle

Richmond, Virginia 23220

Saturday, October 6, 2018

Serving Starting at 5:30 pm

Bratwurst, Red Cabbage, German Potato Salad

Apple Cake, Vegetarian Options Available and Much More!



Adult Dinner - \$15.00
Child's Dinner (2-12) - \$5.00
Vegetarian Dinner - \$15.00

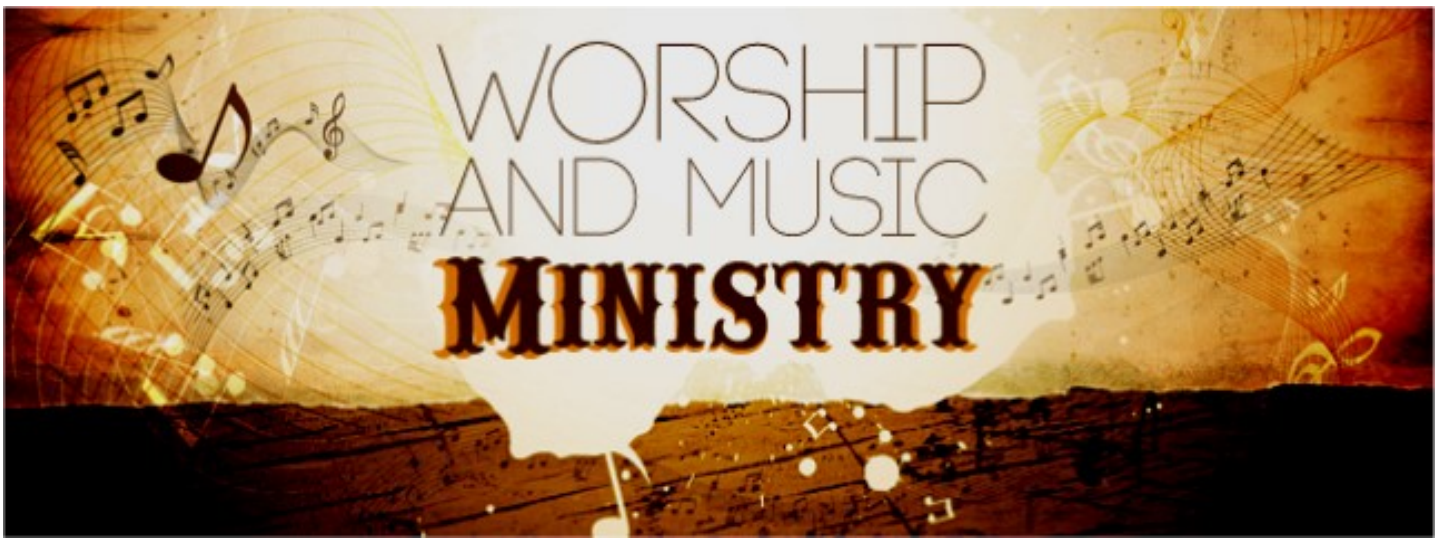


Beer & Wine Available For Purchase

Price Does Not Include Alcoholic Beverages

Parking Available at VCU Deck

Reservations Required: www.stjohnsrichmond.org or call (804) 358-9291



As our 175th Anniversary approaches, we are like busy bees getting ready for the event – sprucing up the building, making apple sauce and apple cakes for the German dinner, and reaching out to any and all who have been part of the St. John's Church community. Your Worship and Music Committee has also been busy planning a special worship service for the occasion. Our Anniversary worship on October 7th just happens to fall on World Communion Sunday which is a very special Sunday in the life of the church... reminding us of how important it is that we embrace the UCC Gospel-inspired motto "that they may all be one." [John 17:21]

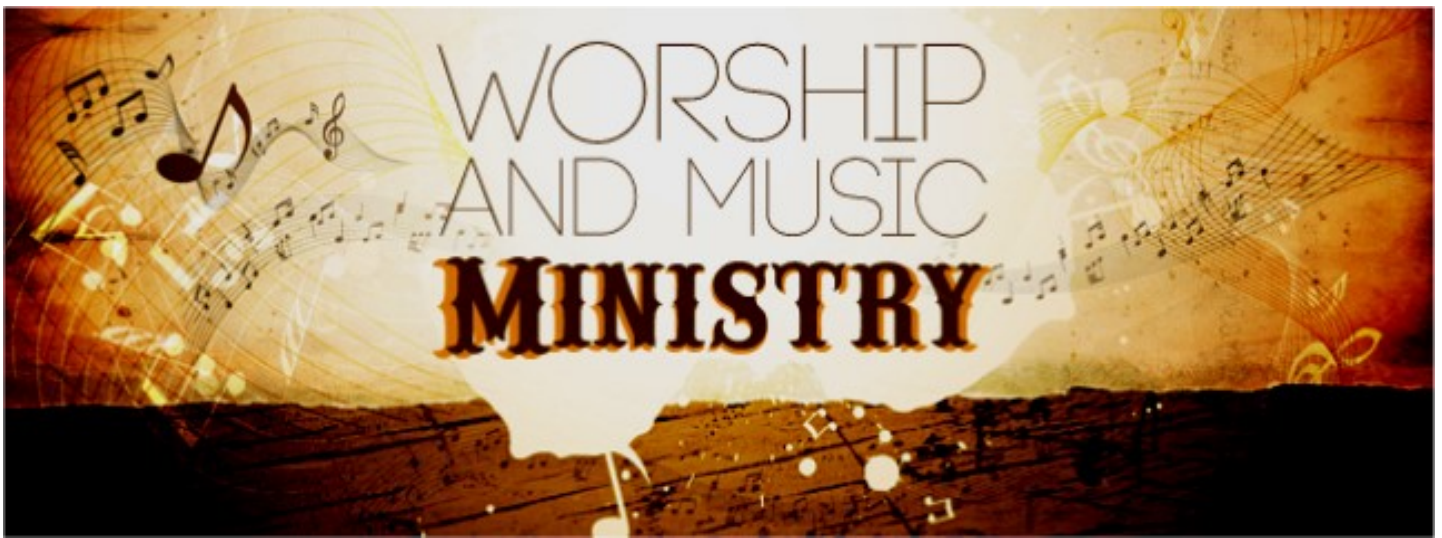
We are blessed to have as our guest preacher, The Rev. Roddy Dunkerson who is currently the Acting Conference Minister of the Central Atlantic Conference of the United Church of Christ. Rev. Dunkerson retired as Conference Minister of the Nebraska UCC Conference after 15 years of service in that position. His last years were given to helping work out the uniting of the Nebraska, Iowa and South Dakota Conferences into a shared regional conference. In addition to his gifts of listening and consensus building, Rev. Dunkerson is well versed in world and church history and his sermon message for us is entitled: "The Dance Between Tradition and Creating a New Future."

We are extremely fortunate to have the **Russell Wilson Trio** as our musical guests performing throughout our worship service on October 7th. This jazz trio is Russell Wilson, pianist, Matt Gold, bassist and Billy Williams, drummer. Here are a few snippets of info about these phenomenal local musicians:

Russell Wilson is an outstanding classical and jazz pianist. He is formerly a member of the Smithsonian Jazz Masterworks Orchestra, the Joe Kennedy Quartet, the faculty of Virginia Union's University and Virginia State University. Currently he is a piano instructor at VCU and serves as pianist for worship services at Second Baptist Church and Crown and Joy. Wilson enjoys a distinguished career as a solo and chamber music performer and is the principal pianist of the Richmond Symphony Orchestra. As a recording artist, he is featured on "Moonlight Piano" and "The Memphis Convention." During the summer of 1995, he became pianist for the Smithsonian Jazz Masterworks Orchestra conducted by David Baker and Gunther Schuller. He received the Theresa Pollak Award for excellence in the arts in 2002.

A native of Virginia Beach, **Billy Williams**, began playing drums at the age of 10 at the Brotherly Love Church of God in Christ in Norfolk, VA where his grandfather was Pastor and his mother was Minister of Music. The foundations of building a life that was Christ-centered shaped Billy's outlook on the power of music. The life long lessons of music Ministry, humility and professionalism learned during this time would also prove to be very vital to his career.

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A graduate of VCU, Billy has had the opportunity to travel the world extensively as a performer and educator. He has performed at Carnegie Hall, Jazz at Lincoln Center, and the Village Vanguard in NYC; the Kennedy Center and Blues Alley in Washington, DC, and prestigious venues in Paris, Amsterdam, London, Stockholm, Copenhagen, Berlin, Bern, Bologna, Vienna, and Qatar. As an educator, Billy has been featured as a Jazz Studies Artist-in-Residence at Duke University, the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, Jazz STL in St. Louis and at the Governor's School for the Arts in Norfolk, VA.

Since the age of 9, **Matt Gold** has loved making music with his double bass. His formal training began with John Chiego at the University of Memphis where he was awarded a full scholarship. He later went on to earn a Masters Degree in Music Performance at Indiana University, studying under world-renowned bass teacher, Lawrence Hurst. While at IU, Matt also had the privilege of working with Bruce Bransby, former Principal Bass of the Los Angeles Philharmonic, and Stanley Richie, a legend in the world of baroque music.

Matt has been a tenured member of the Memphis Symphony Orchestra, and has played with the Louisiana Philharmonic and Virginia Symphony Orchestras. Nowadays, he can frequently be seen on stage at Richmond's Carpenter Theatre with the Richmond Symphony. Matt has always had a strong interest in a variety of eclectic styles. In high school, he began rock and jazz lessons on guitar and studied jazz bass at the University of Memphis with Tim Goodwin. Matt has also taken composition lessons from Prix de Rome winner Kamran Ince. He currently plays his double bass in Goldrush, a Richmond-based rock band which also features his wife, Treesa Gold on violin.

In addition to performing, Matt also teaches at the College of William & Mary and the Omaha Conservatory of Music Institute, alongside a very successful studio of private bass students. When he is not making music, he loves exploring the Earth with his wife and daughter, Kit.

In addition to Rev. Dunkerson and the jazz musicians, our worship will be led by former Pastors and clergy associated with St. John's. We are in for a special, joyful, spirit-filled time to praise God and give thanks for the ministry and mission of this church.



175th Anniversary Celebration

St. John's will celebrate its 175th Anniversary on the first weekend in October. Planned activities include a "Reunion" happy hour Friday, October 5th; a GermanFest Bratwurst Dinner with all the fixing and the usual oom-pah band on Saturday, October 6th; and a special anniversary worship service on Sunday, October 7th.

Apple Cake Reminder

If you picked up a kit to make an apple cake for the GermanFest dinner, please return your finished cake to church on Sunday, September 30th. If you aren't going to be in church on Sunday, please contact Jeff Jacobs to make other arrangements at jwjacobs9@gmail.com, or call or text his mobile phone at (202) 361-9887.



GermanFest Dinner is Coming October 6th!

Please plan to attend the annual GermanFest dinner on October 6th, this year to also celebrate St. John's 175th Anniversary. Serving of the bratwurst, red cabbage, green beans, applesauce and apple cake dinner will begin at 5:30 pm, and music from the oom-pah band for listening and dancing will play through the evening. German beer and wine will be available for purchase. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$5 for children, with vegetarian options available. Tickets will be available for purchase before and after church this Sunday; to pay by credit card please log onto the church website (www.StJohnsRichmond.org) and click on the "Donate Today" tab. Or to make a reservation, contact the church office at (804) 358-9291.

GermanFest Cooks and Servers Needed

In preparation for the GermanFest dinner, we'll be shredding and cooking red cabbage and making German potato salad in the church kitchen on Thursday and Friday, October 4th and 5th. If you can help on one (or both) of those days, or help in the kitchen the night of the dinner, please contact Jeff Jacobs at jwjacobs9@gmail.com, or call or text his mobile phone at (202) 361-9887. If you can help in the dining room the night of the dinner, please contact Laura Totty at LTotty8894@gmail.com.

October is Stewardship Month

With the church budget process for 2019 already underway, within the next several weeks we will be kicking off the annual Stewardship Campaign. All are encouraged to prayerfully consider how they can meaningfully contribute to the life and ministries of St. John's, through the donation of their time, talents and (monetary) treasure. St. John's is at a unique point in its history, celebrating the 175th anniversary of its founding, while facing both significant challenges and opportunities for its future.

The sale of the church parking lot will help underwrite many of the essential costs of renewing an aging church infrastructure, but the church's long-term future depends on ongoing support for its community ministries and outreach. Please watch for the upcoming stewardship mailing, mark your calendars for a Stewardship breakfast and budget presentation on Sunday, October 28th, and another budget discussion opportunity after church on November 4th.

Pledge Sunday and the dedication of pledges will be on November 11th. In the meantime, please contact Stewardship Chair Jeff Jacobs, Finance Chair Jeff Hetzer, or Council President Dreama Terrill if you have any questions about, or would like to discuss, any church finance or stewardship issues or concerns.



We will be collecting the Neighbors in Need Offering on Sunday, September 30th. Please use the special envelopes available in your bulletin or indicate it on your regular offering the portion for Neighbors in Need

Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds of this offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants. Neighbors in Need grants are awarded to UCC churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities. These grants fund projects whose work ranges from direct service to community organizing and advocacy to address systemic injustice. This year, special consideration will be given to projects focusing on serving our immigrant neighbors and communities.



Circle Center Adult Day Services for Seniors is in need of someone from St. John's UCC to serve as our church representative on their Board of Directors. If you're interested call Chris Hagan at 804-741-2412 or via email at chrishagan1@verizon.net.



Because Justice...
Demands RISC

Richmonders Involved to Strengthen Our Communities: St. John's UCC is proud to be a part of RISC, an interdenominational, faith-based initiative to promote social justice in our communities. RISC has contributed to significant changes in affordable housing, education, mental health, job training, and healthcare. We're about to take on a new community problem, so we want to hear from members of St. John's! There will be a gathering

at the home of Elisabeth Burnette, 2233 Tuscora Road, on Thursday, October 11, 6:30 p.m. We will share our concerns for our community, learn more about RISC, and get to know each other better. All are invited to attend. Please RSVP to: Chris Wing, 612-790-0521, chriswing54022@yahoo.com. Members of the Mission and Outreach committee will be present. Hope you will be, too.

Chris Wing, CCC, SLP, Ph.D.

MISSION *of the* MONTH

Have you ever seen a person in a wheelchair with a service dog and wonder “What an amazing animal! How did it get trained?” Are you an animal lover? A dog owner? If so you are not alone.

In the US alone there are approximately 90 million dogs living in households, up from 68 million in 2000. Dogs are amazing pets, constantly loving unconditionally their owners and families. Let me introduce you to Canine Companions for Independence.

CCI is a volunteer organization devoted to breeding, training, and providing service animals for folks with all kinds of disabilities. Started in 1975, they have been providing assistance dogs for over 3,500 folks who need help to feel less isolated, more independent and worthy in the world. I discovered CCI when one of the patients I serve in my job got her first assistant dog a few months ago. Natalie is 11 years old with spina bifida who is wheelchair dependent. When her mother told me she was getting a companion dog I was first introduced to the concept of service dogs helping wheelchair dependent folks. Natalie’s life has changed dramatically as a result of her new companion: she has more freedom, friends and is less dependent on her parents, something a pre-teen craves. Because of the impact on Natalie’s life and my love of dogs I asked mom where they got the dog, and was told about Canine Companions. I looked them up online and discovered, while the recipient pays nothing, the breeding, training, feeding, housing, veterinarian care, amount to \$45,000 per animal. All this is covered through volunteers, donations, and corporate sponsorship.

Here’s where St. John’s comes in. On October 14, Canine Companions will be in worship and fellowship with us. They will share their story during Children’s Moment, and be available for additional conversation during Coffee Hour. While we may be a small congregation we have a big heart and most of us are either dog owners or animal lovers. We all subscribe to “Love your neighbor as yourself” and we all love our pets. Be as generous as your heart and pocketbook will allow this month for this wonderful, helpful and amazing organization.

To see a video that tells you all about them, go to <https://youtu.be/sDXkbv3bIoI>



Adult Bible Study

Adult education will begin on **November 4th** at **9:00 am**. We will be using the curriculum [Painting the Stars](#) celebrating the communion of science and faith. *Painting the Stars* explores the promise of evolutionary Christian spirituality. Featuring over a dozen leading evolutionary theologians and progressive thinkers. Come and explore how your faith is informed and changed by science.



The Central Virginia Sanctuary Network is looking for more volunteers at First Unitarian Universalist Church of Richmond, helping families in sanctuary and by providing transportation for other immigrants going to ICE check-ins. If you are interested in helping, please see Pastor Linda.



Volunteers Needed!

We need volunteers for Liturgist and Fellowship Hosts for the month of October. We have the plates, napkins, cups, lemonade mix, coffee/sugar/creamer & cookies; all you need to provide is a fruit or vegetable. Please contact Rev. Beverly Lindsey or call the church office if you can fill any of these positions.



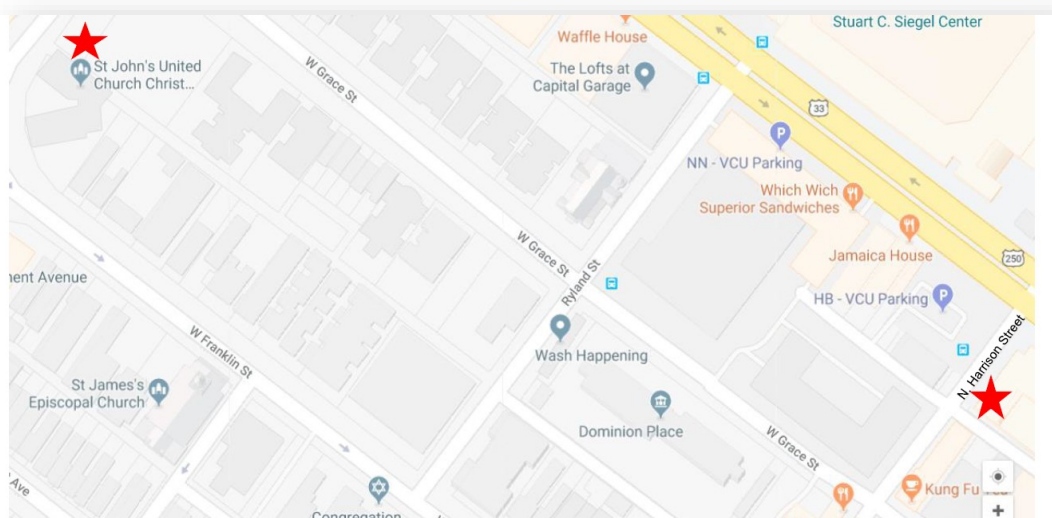
SAVE THE DATE!!

October 19-21, 2018

The Women's Retreat is being held October 19-21, 2018 at Kiptopeke State Park. If you want more information please contact Helena DeLigt at hdeligt@comcast.net.



New Parking Plan ~ Sunday parking is available at the VCU deck located at Broad and Harrison Streets. You will receive a ticket to access parking. Shuttle service is available one hour before service to transport members and guests from the parking lot to church and at the church following service and coffee hour. At church you will be given a bar code to use as you exit the parking lot, so you do not pay for parking. Parking is also available on Sundays from 7 am to 2 pm on the island side of Monument Avenue. For more information, call the church office at (804) 358-9291.



St. Johns Church Shuttle

The vans will pick up at the parking structure at 534 N. Harrison Street and transport to the alley behind the church. **Shuttle service from parking structure to church begins at 9:00 am and will run until 10:15 am.**

After the church services are complete the shuttle will begin transporting the congregation from the alley behind the church back to the parking structure at 534 N. Harrison Street. **The return shuttle will begin at 11:30 am and run until 12:15.**



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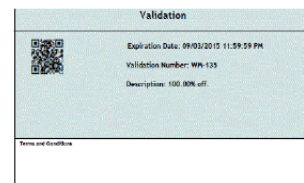
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Steps to Using a QR Code:

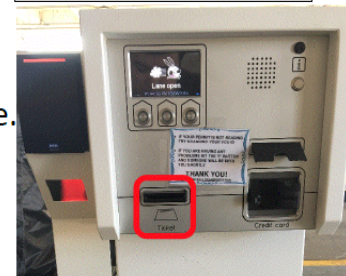
1. When coming into the deck press the button on the machine to receive an entry ticket.



2. Obtain a copy of the QR Code while at the church.



3. When exiting the deck reinsert the entry ticket into the machine so it can calculate time spent and the associated fee.



4. Scan your QR Code on the scanner just left of the machine.



5. If you are experiencing problems and there is no attendant nearby, please hit the "I" button and someone from our 24/7 Command Center will be with you shortly.





Volunteer Ministries

Ministry	October 7 Team 2	October 14 Team 2	October 21 Team 3	October 28 Team 3
Welcome Team Leader	Lynn Snyder	Lynn Snyder	Bill Watson	Bill Watson
Sound System	Will Atkinson	Will Atkinson	Bruce Miller	Bruce Miller
Tellers				
Liturgist	175th Church Anniversary			Marcie Agee
Facilities	Jeff Hetzer	Jeff Hetzer	Bruce Miller	Bruce Miller
Altar Guild	Erin Burnette Georgianne Stinnette	Lynda Merry	Johanna Gilbert Charlotte Quick	Helen Bunch
Fellowship Hosts	175th Church Anniversary			
Altar Flowers	Johanna Gilbert Iola H. Miller		Elisabeth Burnette	

Teller Coordinator:
Bud Higgins
804-301-5059

Fellowship Host Coordinator:
Rev. Beverly Lindsey
804-239-2871

Celebrating a special occasion?
Honoring a loved one?



Please find a substitute if you are unable to perform your ministry and contact your Team Coordinator AND the office to let them know who will be filling in for you. Thank you for making our church ministries run smoothly!

OCTOBER 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 5:30 pm <i>Renovation Committee Meeting</i> <i>Trustee Meeting</i>	2 5:30 pm <i>Finance Committee Meeting</i>	3	4	5 5pm to 7 pm <i>Anniversary Reunion Happy Hour</i>	6 5:30-7:30 pm <i>GermanFest Dinner</i>
7 10 am <i>175th Church Anniversary Festive Jazz Worship and Communion</i>	8 6:30 pm <i>Church Council Meeting</i>	9	10	11	12	13
14 10 am Worship	15	16	17 6:30 pm <i>Mission & Outreach Mtg.</i>	18	19 <i>SJUCC Women's Retreat</i>	20 <i>SJUCC Women's Retreat</i>
21 10 am Worship <i>SJUCC Women's Retreat</i>	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 9 am <i>SJUCC Budget Breakfast</i> 10 am Worship	Please see Weekly Bulletins and E-Blasts for Calendar Changes and Updates					



1	Chris Wing
3	JoAnn Jellison
6	Martha Cook
7	Mary Will
9	Rob Osborn
11	Anna Oxenham
15	Brian Jacobs
19	Dorothy Cook
22	Sarah Allen
24	Fritz Will, III
24	Brittany Totty
26	Daniel Martin
30	Billy Poarch
30	Jewell Ford