

2017 ANNUAL REPORT

ST. JOHN UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST 10207 LINCOLN TRAIL FAIRVIEW HEIGHTS, IL

JANUARY 21, 2018 ST. JOHN UCC IN FAIRVIEW HEIGHTS PASTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

Mark 9:37b “whoever welcomes me isn’t actually welcoming me but rather the one who sent me.” CEB translation. Every since I met with the search committee and spoke to your Church Council back in February of 2017, I have felt welcomed. The congregation has been nothing but kind to me ever since. I could not ask for anything more.

I feel very blessed to be called by God to serve this wonderful faith family. You tolerate my strange sense of humor and my creativity. You have been patient as I explore our scripture lessons each Sunday and search for God’s revelation. I appreciate your willingness to allow me to be present with you at stressful times such as surgery, illness, or loss.

As we strengthen our faith together, the hope is that our friends and neighbors will ask us about our joyous hearts and compassionate nature and wonder where it came from. Like ripples in the water, our Christian values and actions can affect our community and the world.

Thank you for allowing me to walk with you on our faith journey to be the church God is calling us to me.

Peace and blessings to you all, Pastor Rosemary Captain

President's Remarks

A lot happened at St. John in 2017. We said goodbye to Pastor Jim and Cami and welcomed Pastor Rosemary. We had 3 gumball trees removed, we decided to put a new roof and the church and sell the parsonage to pay for it.

I would like to thank everyone who does so much here at St. John. The people who come for work days - raking leaves and gumballs and working inside as well. A huge thank you to Jim Eisenhower for his work in getting the parsonage replatted and rezoned. Our Sunday School teachers, choir director and organist and the our great staff who all go above and beyond their job descriptions and Carol Bulva who always makes the altar look beautiful. Thank you to Barb Whitaker and Melinda Stidham for taking over the Communion preparations. Cheri Schutzenhofer and Judy Schmitt for getting ushers and lectors. A big thank you goes out this year to Janice Petroff for her hard work at the Farmers Market.

A big thank you goes out to retiring Council member Judy Schmitt. Your service is greatly appreciated. Also thanks to all of the council. They worked really hard this year and made some big decisions. It was a pleasure to work with all of you this year.

Susan Williams

EVENING CIRCLE

The Evening Circle meets at 7:00pm on the third Monday of each Month from September to April.

Sub Sandwiches and Turtles were made in January. We also signed Valentines to be sent to local veterans and of course sent birthday cards to church members. And in March we donated a basket to DuBois for their fundraiser.

In September we planned events for the coming year. November's Thank Offering was given to OCWM and in December we had our annual Christmas party complete with games and prizes. In December we also brought our annual Bake Sale and we again sponsored a child at KinderCottage for Christmas and had a special offering for the Fairview Heights Food Pantry.

As always we donated the proceeds from our fundraisers to several causes: the St. John camp fund, the Fairview Heights Food Pantry, Kindercottage and the parking lot loan.

Over the summer we met for a craft project which was a decorative wall hanging made out of dyed coffee filters.

All ladies of the church are welcome. We would love to see you there

Choir

We may be small in number, but we do our best to gloriously sing praises to God. We sang once or twice a month and prepared special anthems for Easter, Pentecost and Christmas. Among our faithful singers were Scott and Shannon Banjavcic; Anne Brown; Jackie Canterbury; Kim Christ; Vicki Hartmann; Stacie Pickens; Jennifer Riess; Mike Stidham; and Lew Thomasino. Many thanks to all of them and especially to Sharon Banjavcic who always makes us sound great!

Confirmation

We had a class of five youth who were confirmed in May of 2017. They completed a study of elements of the Bible and the foundations of our faith and our denomination. The confirmands are Connor and Hunter Brink, Brenna Cohlmeier, Silas Thomasino and Tyler Underwood. The mentors who taught the program are Judy Schmitt, Mike Stidham and Nancy Eisenhower. Thanks to the supportive families and Pastors Jim Nolan and Rosemary Captain for making this momentous step possible for these young Christians.

Sunday School and Faith Formation

The theme of Sunday School for children and youth for 2017-18 is Missions Possible. We have had a mission each month in which the kids can participate. We encourage all children and youth to see what they can do for others. By learning the practice of service to others, it is hoped that each child may find a particular call from God. We meet every Sunday except the first Sunday of the month, which is family worship and communion Sunday. The mission of the entire church for the monthly first Sunday and actually every Sunday is to feed our community through the Fairview Heights Food Pantry.

For adults, there was a Lenten study of the Lord's Prayer. On Wednesday evenings, we gathered to share a meal and then to read, pray and study. There is adult Sunday School each Sunday at 8:45. The topics change from time to time and have included the Protestant Reformation and Advent lectionary readings. There is room for you in the group!

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Thanks to everyone throughout the year for their generous donations as the kids collect for missions during church.

January	OCWM	\$78.88
February	One Great Hour of Sharing	\$93.32
March	Heifer Project	\$110.18
April	Heifer Project	\$152.74
May	Camp Scholarship Fund	\$100.30

June	Camp Scholarship Fund	\$70.19
July	Camp Scholarship Fund	\$114.80
August	School Supplies	\$92.14
September	Neighbors in Need	\$126.94
October	Food Pantry	\$170.22
November	Belleville Christian Center	\$159.60
December	OCWM	\$62.82

ALUMINUM COLLECTION - Thanks to Urban & Mary Lou Baum for your help!

\$ 76.45 Camp Scholarship Fund

\$ 40.50 Hurricane Relief

PANCAKE BREAKFAST – Palm Sunday – We had a great turn out! \$

The dollar amount went toward the five confirmands. (confirmation items and party after church).

DUBOIS CHURCH CAMP – Thanks for penny donations to help these campers go to summer church camp. (Tyler Underwood, Wyatt Vance, Brenna Cohlmeier)

RALLY DAY – On September 10th we gave out special “Rally Cat” cookies and celebrated the first day back to Sunday School. This year’s theme is “Missions Possible”. The children collected food items for the food pantry, birthday items for making birthday bags to be given out to families at the food pantry. Also, make Christmas cards for December.

FALL FEST/CHILI COOK-OFF – On Sunday, Oct. 29th the kids dressed up in costumes, brought gifts (food items) for food pantry. Chili tasting, lunch of hot dogs and fixin’s and goodies. Plus fun games and activities. Sue Williams won first prize for her chili! YUM!

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM – Thanks to Nancy Eisenhauer for a wonderful Christmas Program this year....“The Carpenter’s Tree”. Everyone did an awesome job!

FELLOWSHIP – THANKS to all who helped serve yummy treats!

THANKS to all of our Sunday School teachers!