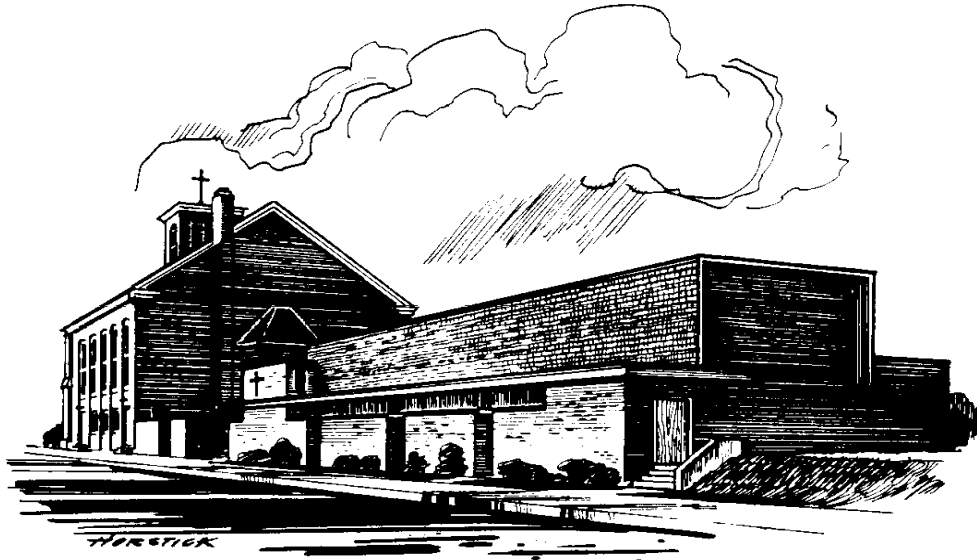


ST. JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

*N. Whiteoak and Walnut Streets
Kutztown, Pennsylvania 19530*



2011

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THE CHURCH STAFF

<i>Pastor:</i>	The Rev. Sue Marie Baskette
<i>Adult Choir Director:</i>	Mr. Donald L. Ryan
<i>Choir Director Emeritus:</i>	Dr. Frank H. Siekmann
<i>Bell Choir Director:</i>	Dr. Christine B. Ryan
<i>Children's Choir Director:</i>	Mrs. Lucinda B. Knauer
<i>Church Administrative Assistant:</i>	Ms. Jane McClellan-Renner
<i>Service Sexton:</i>	Ms. Kim Adamson
<i>Custodian:</i>	Mr. Charles Schaffer

2011 CONSISTORY

Elders

Ms. Kathy Landis (2011)
 Mr. Davis Knauer (2011)
 Mr. Barry Haydt (2012)
 Mr. Marcus Held (2012)
 Mr. Dennis DeTurk (2013)
 Mrs. Vicki Wessner (2013)

Deacons

Mr. Dale Reppert (2011)
 Mrs. Sharon Smith (2011)
 Ms. Doris Schlenker (2011)
 Mr. Todd Mertz (2012)
 Mr. Robert Leiby (2012)
 Mrs. Cathy Smith (2012)
 Mr. Eric Bubbenmoyer (2013)
 Mr. Eric Erb (2013)
 Mrs. Denise Schnauer (2013)

2011 OFFICERS

<i>President of Consistory:</i>	Mr. Barry Haydt
<i>Vice-President of Consistory:</i>	Ms. Vicki Wessner
<i>Secretary of Consistory:</i>	Ms. Sharon Smith
<i>Church Treasurer:</i>	Mr. Kenneth Berg
<i>President of the Congregation:</i>	Dr. Robert C. Ziegenfus
<i>Vice-President of the Congregation:</i>	Mr. Barry Haydt

2011 STATISTICS

MEMBERS ON CHURCH ROLL:	January 1, 2011	469	
	<u>GAINS</u>	<u>LOSSES</u>	
Confirmation	4	Deaths	4
Transfers	0	Removals	0
Affirmation of Faith	0	Transfers	3
MEMBERS ON CHURCH ROLL:	December 31, 2011	466	

Report of the Pastor

...for I know the plans I have for you ~ declares the Lord, plans to prosper you to give you ~a future and a hope. And when you call upon me and search for me with your whole heart I will hear you and you shall find me and I will gather you up... and bring you to your homeland and you shall be my people and I will be your God.

Jeremiah 29

Greetings and Salutations,

God continues to bless the congregation here at St. John's. As I write this reflection on the events of 2011 it cannot be overlooked that this was a year of transition. It was only 5 months ago that we welcomed Jane McClellan-Renner as our new Administrative Assistant, to whom I am deeply grateful for all her diligent, dedicated and efficient work; this was a year of looking back – celebrating 275 years of faithful service; of looking at the present – bidding farewell to a beloved interim Rev. Karl Jones; and looking ahead toward to the future by welcoming me in as your settled Pastor. Transitional times can be unnerving and even bring anxiety because of our fear of the unknown. Yet, this congregation, with its array of caring and generous people, has managed to steer through the waves of transition with ease and poise.

During my 7 months among you all, I have continually been amazed and overwhelmed with the depth and width of our ministries and the dedication and friendliness of the people. We are a community that is willing to respond with faithfulness to a gracious God.

My arrival in the area was during the summer months. And quite often people will consider the summer months to be a lower activity or quieter time in the life of a church. Thus the summer months are usually when pastors schedule themselves for an extended holiday or establish a time of scheduling, planning and organizing the year to come. But, upon my arrival here I quickly found that the people of St. John's remain very active and highly participatory throughout the summer. The congregation here is found to be involved in projects like the Folk Festival and the Relay for Life. They are found celebrating with special services and activities – such as this year's 275th anniversary, or celebrating mission opportunities such as Christmas in July. I recall writing for the Spiritual Council in the month of June that in the first 3 weeks I had participated in 6 services and committed to an additional 2. In that time I had also participated in several community mission events as well. Obviously this is a vibrant and active congregation. What a joy it is to be a leader of such a committed group. We sure do keep busy with God's work!

As I wrote in the January Newsletter:

So far we have enjoyed 7 months of fellowship and worship together, and what a pleasure and joy these months have been. This has been a marvelous time of getting to know people and personalities, of discovering the strengths and tenets of our lovely community. We here at St. John's are very blessed with so many talented, inspired and committed people. We have a plethora of strengths: truly being a warm and welcoming congregation; committed candy makers and strawberry festival folk; we hold values sprouted from educational interests and connections; we prioritize expression of spirituality through the integration of diverse media, relationships, and values; and we hold near and dear to our hearts an emphasis upon family.

Over these past months I have been listening intently to hear how it is that both individually and collectively you define and claim these values, and how you take ownership of the identity of St. John's UCC in Kutztown. What I have heard is that as an in-town church we desire to network with the greater community and to rekindle a relationship with the university, to strengthen our faithful interactions and responses to families and friends, and to revitalize our emphasis upon celebrating the spirituality found in and through the arts.

And this is how we have been responding to this call:

- by celebrating the continuance of spiritually led services with a strong emphasis on God's Word, and
- by embracing special moments of healing and upholding excellence in special music ensembles.

We celebrate the continuance of our great and gifted choirs and the many beautiful voices of our lectors. This year we enjoyed a phenomenal Christmas pageant and we rejoice as we look forward to intentional efforts of involving more youth in worship.

We have responded to the call for faithful interactions and responses to families and friends by beginning a knitting and crocheting group. The members of this group will provide baby blankets for the children we baptize and hats for those in need.

We have a fabulous Junior High Youth Group leading the way into our Wonderful Wednesdays - an evening of groups gathering to sing, laugh, learn and pray together.

We are also strengthening and revitalizing the Care Team. The Care Team is a small group with big hearts, assisting in the ministry to our shut-ins and those in need.

I am deeply grateful to all of you, and especially to our consistory, as well as our staff, for the privilege of accompanying you in ministry. There is still so much more that happens in God's ministry among us that I do not have room to highlight here. But everything we do is valued and rejoiced. If there are needs that you see in the community here at St. John's that you would like us to respond to, please do come and share your thoughts, your hopes, and your dreams with me. There are many ways, when working together, that we can share the light of Christ with others. By God's hand we are equipped, one day at a time to serve in love.

If there is ever a time that you would like to speak with me, I am available. The office hours are Monday through Thursday from 9-4:00. If I happen to be away at the time of your call, Jane will be certain to get your message to me and she always knows how to reach me in the event of an emergency.

You will find me in the office, but most often these hours will tend to fall to afternoon and evening hours. You will also see me out and about in the town and occasionally on campus. When I am out there, know that I am there on behalf of St. John's and I invite you to join me at any time.

Pastors have many roles: preacher, teacher, counselor, visitor, administrator and resource person to the congregation. But most importantly, the pastor is entrusted with the spiritual lives of the persons within the congregation. They are also responsible for participating in the extensive network of ministry as a member of: an association, the conference and the local ministerium. Upholding this responsibility, I am serving the East Berks Association at the Conference level as a member of the Church and Ministry Committee.

A pastor is also called to be involved in ministry beyond the walls of the congregation. They are to be out and in the community in ways that witness to the mission of Christ. This is a very integral part of my call here at St. John's as we strive to strengthen our relationships with the local community and the university. In this charge I have become a member of the Kutztown Community Partnership as well as connecting with several university events and staff.

As we move forward, may we always feel equipped and ready to respond to God's call as known to us in the image of Christ. Jeremiah tells us that God has plans for us with a future and a hope. All that we need to do is respond, in a faithful manner, to the incredible graciousness of God's call bestowed upon us. May we continue to be blessed by God's awesome power and listen to the stirrings of the Holy Spirit in this partnership of ministry.

In Christ's Service,
Pastor Sue Marie

WORSHIP AND MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2012

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP AND CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL AT 10:15 A.M.

HOLY COMMUNION SERVICES FOR 2012: (The First Sunday of every month plus High Holidays)

February 5	10:15 a.m.
March 4	10:15 a.m.
April 1	10:15 a.m.
April 5 - Maundy Thursday	- 7:30 p.m.
April 8 - Easter Sunday	- 7:00 a.m. & 10:15 a.m.
May 6	10:15 a.m.
May 27	10:15 a.m.
June 3	10:15 a.m.
August 5	10:15 a.m.
September 2	10:15 a.m.
October 7	10:15 a.m.
November 4	10:15 a.m.
December 2	10:15 a.m.
December 24 - Christmas Eve	- 7:00 p.m.
December 25	10:15 a.m.
January 6, 2013	10:15 a.m.

SPIRITUAL COUNCIL – The first Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

CONSISTORY - The second Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

CHOIR REHEARSALS - Every Wednesday Evening: - Children's Choir - 6:00 p.m.

- Bell Choir - 6:00 p.m. -- Senior Choir - 7:15 p.m.; Sunday - 9:00 a.m.

WOMEN OF ST. JOHN'S - Meetings - Third Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

Church Administrative Assistant's Report

I want to thank Tara Boyer for the wonderful support she has given me in my months at St. John's UCC. She began by sitting with me for a few hours before leaving and "showing me the ropes" at a high level. There is no way she could have covered all the details in that short time but she did leave me very good instructions on the major responsibilities of the position. She continues to answer questions as they arise and I am grateful for her support and the friendship she has extended.

One of the things that Tara told me from the beginning was about the great people that I would have surrounding me and how much fun it would be to work with them through the year and the various activities of the church calendar. She was right. I want to thank everyone who has provided guidance, input and general support as I "learn the ropes". This position is a new adventure in my life. As many of you know, I have retired from one career and am now trying another one.

Soon after beginning, I was introduced to "candy making" and all of the work and dedication of those involved in creating such delectable treats. The Bazaar is hard work as I found out by watching all of the activities. I was pleased to be able to help in small ways like making candy labels or ordering supplies. I can see that the Women of St. John's are great contributors to the success of the financial side of the church as well as part of the worship community itself.

While I am experienced with computers and general document preparation, Pastor Sue Marie has shown great patience with my inexperience in church document preparation in particular. My thanks to her for teaching me the intricacies of

bulletin preparation, for example. I appreciate all the tips and support she has provided as I learn the new job.

The first day that I began, I was introduced to Charlie. Charlie is the all around man who does whatever is needed at St. John's from hanging the Advent Candles, decorating for special occasions, setting up for meetings, celebrations, candy making, and all church functions to mowing and snow shoveling. Whenever I need something, Charlie is right there to help, whether it is to move the boxes of envelopes from the closet to the office so I can label them or empty the recyclable boxes. I enjoyed seeing another side of Charlie when he played in the band during various services. In relation to that, may I say how great a music program St. John's has going. I had an opportunity to hear the choirs, instrumentalists, and the instrumental groups at Pastor Sue Marie's installation and the 275th Anniversary service. Bravo!

From reading Tara's report last year, the electronic giving was a new service. From my experience with it, it works extremely well and I had the opportunity to interact with the company for some year end changes and it is easy to use. My thanks to Eric Haydt who got me set up with the access to do that work. Wonderful Wednesdays is new this fall and provides an opportunity for people of all ages to meet and interact and grow spiritually. People are arriving to do dinner and prepare for the evening as I am ending work on Wednesdays. It is a great opportunity to meet more church members.

I attended the 275th Anniversary and could see the tradition and spirit of St. John's and how it is still going strong after so many years. What a wonderful celebration that involved the efforts of so many! St. John's is to be congratulated on its past success and progress which provides the platform for further growth in 2012 and beyond. I am pleased that I can be a part of such an opportunity and hope to provide the support that you need in your work at St. John's UCC.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jane McClellan-Renner

Spiritual Council

The Spiritual Council consists of the Pastor and the Elders of the church. In 2011 the members were Pastor Sue Marie, Barry Haydt, Kathy Landis, Davis Knauer, Vicki Wessner, Dennis DeTurk and Marcus Held.

We are very grateful for the time and energy that the Elders commit to our church and it's ministries: leading a team of ushers and assisting in the serving of Holy Communion, encouraging membership involvement, leading Stewardship education and helping to establish goals to further the church's overall mission and purpose.

As 2011 closes we extend deep gratitude to Davis Knauer for his hard work and dedication of time as his term of office comes to a close. Looking ahead to 2012 we say hello to Dr. Robert Ziegenfus.

In Christ's Service,

Pastor Sue Marie

Spiritual Renewal and Healing

Healing and Spiritual Renewal are continuing important parts of the ministry of St. John's Church. Since 1999 St. John's has been offering the restoration of wholeness (shalom) using a variety of resources to enhance the relationship of body, mind, and spirit.

Healing Services are offered at St. John's periodically throughout the year during the regularly scheduled worship service.

In addition, the following programs related to exercise, health, and spiritual renewal are offered:

Book & Breakfast for Women - meeting weekly on Saturday mornings
Hatha Yoga - June DeTurk, instructor
Feldenkrais - Carol Siddiqi, instructor
T'ai Chi - Anthony Lorenzo, instructor
Jyorei – Janice Eshleman, coordinator

The Labyrinth at St. John's continues to be used as an instrument for meditation and spiritual healing, both by individuals and by groups.

The Healing Ministry team includes all members of St. John's and friends who are health care providers and/or are involved in medical, psychological, or social services, or who have an interest in healing ministry.

In Christ's Service,

Pastor Sue Marie

Consistory

This has been a busy year for Consistory. We said good by to Pastor Karl Jones and welcomed Pastor Sue Marie Baskette. She brings to our congregation new leadership, ideas and spirit. As the months and years go by we will spend time getting to know her. We also said good by to our Secretary Tara Boyer and said hello to Jane McClellan-Renner.

We have celebrated our 275th Anniversary in grand style with a special service. We also want to thank Mae Frederick for the wonderful 275th anniversary hanging she made for our Sanctuary. Thanks to the committee Vickie Wessner, Todd Mertz, Doris Schlenker, June Deturk, Cindy Knauer, Gloria Schaeffer, Lagora Oswald, Joanne Carroll, Don Ryan and Susan Ziegenfus for working all year to make the celebration possible.

We have Karl Bubbenmoyer and family to thank for their time and talent in making our landscaping look professional. It took a lot of back breaking digging and pulling out stumps to get the ground ready for planting. Then another big thanks for taking the time to make our Church entrance a spectacular show of color with the profusion of beautiful flowers and shrubs.

Thank you to Charlie Schaffer for keeping the church neat and tidy and for all the effort taken to have tables and chairs in place for events, meetings and social gatherings.

Many thanks to our music department, composed of Donald and Christine Ryan, Lucinda Knauer, Kathy Mohler and Frank Siekmann. Their talents and hard work make our church special.

A huge thanks to Kim Adamson for keeping Sunday morning moving along.

And a special thanks to all our members for making our church the best in Berks County.

Yours in Christ,
Barry D. Haydt, President of Consistory

Property and Maintenance

The property committee met on several occasions to discuss the needs of the buildings. The main concern was the condition of the roof on all of the buildings. The work on the Spiritual Center will be covered in a separate report on that building. The slate roof on the original building is in need of repair due to slates that have been broken. Several contractors have been asked for bids to repair the slates but none are willing to do the work at this time. The roof on the new part of the church sanctuary has been repaired and should be stable for the near future.

The shingles on the exterior walls were damaged by both vandals and storms. They have been nailed and should be fine for the time being. Originally wooden shakes were on these walls and have been replaced by asphalt shingles. These shingles are designed for roofs and not vertical application therefore they do not seal and will be a continuing problem.

The largest improvement was to the Walnut Street side of the building dealing with the landscaping. The Bubbenmoyer family took on this project single handedly and has enhanced the appearance greatly. They are owed a big thank you for doing this huge project.

Committee Members: Lee Erb, Karl Bubbenmoyer, Dalton Diehl, Dave Walker, Archie Follweiler & Dennis DeTurk.

St. Johns U.C.C. Membership Self Finance of Spiritual Center 232-240 W. Walnut Street (Property), Kutztown

In May 2002, after much discussion, the imminent threat of student housing across the street, and the desire to control the use of the parking lot, the Congregation of St. Johns purchased the Property for \$270,000.00

The Fleetwood Bank secured the loan at a fixed rate of Seven (7) % per cent for a 20 year amortization after allowing 1 year of interest only, to allow time to improve the property and seek renters. The parking lot was paved, a side entrance installed, the building was painted and renters were found.

Discussions ensued as to future use, an engineer's blueprint was drawn, a capital campaign to pay down the loan and raise funds to improve the interior was organized. The campaign funds raised were 50 % of the goal, subsequently the mortgage was not reduced, and the interior was not significantly improved.

Renters such as the woodworkers, artist manufacturing, and senior center, have come and gone. Currently the Kutztown Bottling Works, Mission Tees, and Rhythm in Motion Dance Co. rent 100% of the building at \$4280.00 per month in total, or income of approximately \$50,000 per year. Compared to 2 years past when Rhythm Dancers was not a tenant, Mission Tee was almost bankrupt; our rent has increased almost \$20,000 for the year. With mortgage and utility expenses we were \$20,000 in the red 2 years ago.

The Finance Committee developed a plan to begin balancing the Church budget from an \$80,000 a year projected deficit. The Finance committee, chaired by Jeff Ebling, members Dale Reppert, Eric Haydt, Vickie and Gary Wessner, Ken Berg, Pastor Karl, I, and others from time to time had met monthly to grasp the consequences to the church financial future.

At the annual Church Meeting three years past I introduced the idea of self-financing the Spiritual Center. I presented it to the Finance Committee and it was adopted.

Our \$250,000 mortgage expense was \$2350.00 a month or \$28,200 annually at 7% annual interest. The Fleetwood Bank, Leesport Bank would not significantly refinance the loan at a lower rate. With money market rates being

approximately 2% it seemed why not self-finance the mortgage.

So after a year and ½ the congregation has reduced the Fleetwood mortgage to \$125,000.00. Fleetwood Bank has agreed to be paid interest only as long as we continue to significantly reduce the mortgage. Therefore the Fleetwood 7% interest and membership 4% interest project a payment of \$13,500 annually. If the congregation lends the church the other \$125,000 the annual mortgage rate would be \$10,000.00

The taxes, insurance, and utilities of electric, natural gas heat, and water, and maintenance are another \$3000.00 a month.

Therefore in the past 2 years the cash flow of the Spiritual Center has been stabilized not to be a drain on the church, rather a benefit.

Building Maintenance

The roofs were evaluated, routine repairs made for \$3000 and an Overhead Heater replaced for \$2000. All renters are pleased. We will evaluate the roofs. If no significant expense is needed, maybe we will replace some windows.

Respectfully submitted,
Archie Follweiler

Christian Education Report

In the area of **Education** we celebrate the continuance of our excellent Sunday School ministry and we rejoice at the fruitful efforts of many that resulted in a productive year.

We had a very successful year. Vacation Bible School was again teamed with St Paul's UCC and took place in August. We all had a lot of fun learning about Jesus while we soaked up the rays and caught the waves of the Beach Bash theme.

The summer church picnic was once again rained out, but we didn't let a little rain and a hurricane stop us. We held our picnic indoors the following week and had a fabulous time, enjoying games offered by Carol Erb.

We are grateful and thankful for the dedication of time and talent from everyone who has taught Sunday School this year: Gail Young, Carol Erb, Elisa Hammes, Vicki Wessner, Karise Mace, Melissa Bubbenmoyer, Cecily Ryan, Jennifer Erb and Emily Ebling. And we are especially grateful to Gail Young who has sustained the Christian Education program for years. Many heartfelt thanks Gail!

This year's Christmas tree stood tall and proud in the sanctuary decorated in hand made ornaments from the Sunday School Classes. Many, many thanks to everyone who pitched in, making the Christmas season such a huge success.

We are excited about the addition to our Christian Education Program – the Junior High Youth Group. Our hats are off to Karise Mace who had a vision. And with the assistance of o' so many, her vision has developed into the successful "Wonderful Wednesdays".

We are in need of a Christian Education Coordinator. The Christian Education committee continues to meet, organize and plan, not only for the coming Winter Term, but projecting and readying for next year. If you are interested in joining in this vital ministry of our community, please contact the office at 610-683-8531.

In Christ's Service,
Pastor Sue Marie

The Women of St. John's

April 3 the women helped the 275th Anniversary Committee with breakfast foods to serve before the Jazz service. The Women of the Church served breakfast after both Easter services. On May 21, we supplied a continental breakfast for the Eastern Berks Association meeting that was held at St. John's. Lunch was served after the funerals of Darwin Angstadt, Rodney Rhoads and Mae Fox. Our church shut-ins were given Easter flowers and Christmas poinsettias. In spring, the women (and men) had their annual Easter candy project. In September, chow-chow was made to be sold at the Bazaar. In September, the Covenant Renewal Dinner was held at St. John's and the women provided a dinner meal for 26 guests. The annual Golden Age dinner was held in October at the church for those able to attend and meals were delivered to shut-ins. 40 meals were served. Light refreshments were served after the 275th Anniversary service in October. In November, we again had a successful Christmas Bazaar. Coffee, punch and cookies were served to visitors during the Library Holiday House Tour. The Women organized the Christmas Angel project, asking church members to help us provide Christmas gifts to almost 50 children that are clients of The Nurse Family Partnership and Friend, Inc.

Repayment of a student loan enabled us to give: a) \$500 to Sara Mohler for her trip to India; b) \$500 for church clean up kits, a project through OCWM; c) \$200 to a program that provides business loans to women in third world countries (managed by One Great Hour of Sharing); and d) \$100 to a Venture Retreat Program for Seniors at Camp Mensch Mill.

We also made \$100 donations to: a) Austin's Fibromatosis Research Fund, b) Crohn's research, c) the Lion's Eye Bank, d) \$300 to the Kutztown Fire Company, e) \$310.74 to Friend, Inc, and f) a \$50 sign for Relay for Life.

Contributions made to St. John's	
General Account---	\$17,000.00
OCWM-----	\$ 4,000.00
Mortgage Principle-----	\$ 1,000.00

Respectfully Submitted,

Martha DeTurk

ST. JOHN'S U.C.C. WOMEN OF THE CHURCH FINANCIAL REPORT – 2011

Contributions:

St. John's – General Account.....	\$17,000.00
St. John's – OCWM.....	4,000.00
St. John's – Mortgage Principal.....	1,000.00
St. John's – Kutztown Fire Co.....	300.00
St. John's – Memorial Fund.....	200.00
Friend, Inc.....	310.74
Austin's Fibromatosis Research Fund	100.00
Lion's Eye Bank	100.00

PSEC – Ventures Senior Retreat.....	100.00
Crohn’s Foundation	100.00
Golden Age Dinner.....	576.61
Christmas Flowers to Shut-ins (17).....	133.62
Total.....	<u>\$23,920.97</u>

Financial Projects:

Easter Candy	\$14,754.83
Christmas Bazaar	\$9,778.77

Balance in Treasury 12/31/11

Sovereign Bank – Checking Account	<u>\$16,237.36</u>
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Respectfully Submitted,

Sharon Smith, Treasurer

Strawberry Festival Annual Report

2011 marked the 16th consecutive year that St. John’s has operated a strawberry festival stand as part of the Kutztown Folk Festival. The festival was held from July 2nd through July 10th. 2011 was a slightly below average year, but still much better than 2010. A profit of \$5,630 was made on sales of \$11,658. This is a 43% increase compared to 2010. The ten-year average sales are \$12,688. From the 2011 profits, \$5,500 was given to support the church’s operating budget; the remaining \$130 will be used to support the 2012 start up. As in past, thanks to everyone who continues to make the strawberry festival a success. The strawberry festival serves as a great means of fellowship and a way for St. John’s to be a presence in the community.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Ziegenfus and Jeff Ebling

The Adult Choir

The members of the Adult Choir have continued their music ministry to the church through their dedication and hard work shown in their singing of anthems and special music. The choir prepared anthems for many special occasions this past year including Pastor Karl Jones’ last Sunday, confirmation last spring, preparing a joint anthem with New Bethel Church Choir for the PA German Festival Service, Pastor Sue Marie’s installation service, 275th Anniversary Service and music for the church Advent production of *A Simple Christmas Pageant*.

The membership has been steady throughout the year. From time to time, the choir has been blessed with guests to its ranks. Sunday morning attendance has been around 10 members. The choir has scheduled one hour rehearsals on most Wednesday evenings and Sunday mornings prior to church. The choir season had a break during the summer immediately following the PA German Festival, and started again following Labor Day. We are grateful to the musicians

who provided music in worship during the summer months while the choir was away. The following people have given their time and talents to the choir during the year:

Kim Adamson	Davis Knauer	<i>Michaela Ryan</i>	
Sue Marie Baskette	<i>Preston Knauer</i>	Fred Schearer	Kathy Mohler,
<i>Andrew Brett</i>	Nancy Lounsbury	Miriam Schearer	accompanist
Karlene Brintzenhoff	Karise Mace	Frank Siekmann	
Joanne Carroll	<i>Sara Mohler</i>	<i>Matthew Siekmann</i>	
June DeTurk	<i>Adam Rabenold</i>	Amy Pfeiler-Wunder	<i>guests</i>
Ginny Grim	Christine Ryan	Gail Young	
Cindy Knauer	<i>Cecily Ryan</i>		

I am grateful to my colleagues at First Presbyterian Church, Allentown for again allowing me to borrow music from their choral library. The use of their library, as well as of the Choral Public Domain Library on line, has allowed the choir to learn and sing music not in the church library free of cost (other than the cost of printing the music here at church).

The ministry of music is a special calling. It demands much time, ability and faithfulness. Each choir member has been given special gifts by God. During my tenure as adult choir director, the church has seen many changes. I have felt fortunate to be able to mutually share a music ministry together through these changes. We offer ourselves freely to this ministry through music with gratitude and thankfulness.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald Ryan
St. John's UCC Adult Choir Director

St. John's United Church of Christ Bell Choir Annual Report 2011

Membership:

Mary Ann Serio
Marcia Reidenhour
Sharon Smith
Gail Young
Susie Merkel
Joanne Carroll
Karise Mace
Roxanne Moyer
Kathy Mohler
Donald Ryan
Michaela Ryan
Cecily Ryan (substitute ringer)

Director: Christine Ryan

Director's Report:

The St. John's UCC Bell Choir prepared anthems for worship one Sunday each month for the following months: January, February, March, April, May, June, July Folk Festival, September, October, November, December Hanging of the Greens and Christmas Eve concert. The bell choir members are capable of ringing anthems of beauty and technical difficulty with great talent and musicality. Anthems based on Medieval chant, Southern

Harmony and patriotic songs were highlights of the 2011 repertoire. The Christmas Eve concert featured bell arrangements of French carols that highlighted techniques such as thumb damping, malleting, martellato, and, for our higher bell ringers, four in hand. I continue to be extremely proud of the accomplishments of the bell choir, and cherish the fellowship that we share throughout the year, both in and out of church. New ringers are welcome to join us each Wednesday evening from 6-7 PM at church to learn how to ring handbells.

Special Note: The 4 octave handbell set owned by St. John's UCC was taken to a Schulmerich certified repair technician for overhaul on December 26, 2011. Bells were inspected by the technician, and the planned refurbishing included replacing springs and collars, polishing the brass, cleaning all housing and handles, lacquering the clapper heads, and repairing the cases.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Christine Ryan

Instrumental Music at St. John's

The Instrumental Music Program at St. John's continues to flourish. Participants are from the Congregation plus musical associates in the community-at-large. These include both the Kutztown Area Middle School Jazz Band and the High School Jazz Band. This wide participation also brings with it additional attendees at the services and occasionally, but importantly, additional members to the Congregation.

Special recognition should be extended to Pastor Karl for his contributions to the planning process, his musical writings, his versatile musicianship and his help in bringing instrumentalists in from his home county.

The outline of the program is this:

1. Jazz Service in conjunction with the Berks Jazz Fest. This service often includes the Middle School Band and a featured professional soloist.
2. St. John's Concert Band as part of University Appreciation Sunday.
3. St. John's Brass Choir as part of Reformation Sunday.
4. Jazz Service which typically includes Jazz Combo, Big Band, and the Kutztown High School Jazz Band.
5. Festival Orchestra which accompanies congregational singing during Palm Sunday, Easter, and Hanging of the Greens.
6. Woodwind Ensemble which is an integral musical part of the Christmas Eve Service.

While the program continues to flourish, it must also adapt to the ever-changing availability of capable and available instrumentalists. An example of this challenge is when players graduate from high school and go on to college at some distance from Kutztown.

As Director and Arranger, I foresee continued musical contributions to our church services. This is made possible by the unusual and remarkable number of very talented musicians at St. John's.

Submitted by,

Dr. Frank H. Siekmann

Youth Choir

The Youth Choir of St. John's UCC meets each month and prepares music for church services and special programs. The group performs new octavos as well as old favorites.

Besides singing for the Children's Day program in May, they sang and held lead parts in the December's "Simple Christmas Pageant."

"Thank You" to Donald Ryan for his lovely, expert accompanying and support of this youth group.

Members include:

Emily Bubbenmoyer	Katrina Brintzenhoff
David Erb	Julia Mace
Cecily Ryan	Michaela Ryan
Britta Schumacher	Stephanie Wessner

I deeply appreciate the time that these young people put into the group.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lucinda B. Knauer, Director

Children's Choir

"God likes me when I work, but He loves me when I sing"

The Children's Choir had another great year of singing and worshiping God through song.

Children's Choir meets Wednesday evenings from 6 – 6:45 pm in the Fellowship Hall during the school year. Attendance for the rehearsals is usually 100%. The group is very dedicated and supportive of the program.

The children performed a Children's Day program and they were an integral part of the "Simple Christmas Pageant" in December. I would like to offer a special "Thank You" to Donald Ryan for his beautiful accompanying and his support of time and talent to the choir.

The annual "Super-Soaker" party was held at the Knauer house in June, 2011.

Members of the choir include:

Emily Bubbenmoyer	Sarah Bubbenmoyer
Singa Campbell	Cassandra Frieauf
Abe Frieauf	Nathan Hammes
Evie Mace	Julia Mace
Meredith Mace	Michaela Ryan
Annabel Wunder	

The voices, smiles and laughter of these children bring me great joy and I am proud to be their director.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lucinda B. Knauer, Director

Council on the Arts of St. Johns UCC

January 9, 2012

Balance checking account as 1/1/2011-----\$1168.29

Deposits --- \$ 256.00 – Patrons of Music
 \$ 432.01 – Haring Fund dividends
 \$2,715.00 – Haring Fund principal
Total deposits ----- **-----\$3595.02**

Expenses ----- \$ 425.00 - Special Music, Jazz Festival
 \$ 150.00 - Jazz Festival/Membership BAC
 \$ 50.00 - University Appreciation Sunday
 \$ 200.00 - Installation
 \$ 25.00 - 275th Anniversary
 \$ 450.00 - All Saints Day
 \$1,000.00 - Advance for Frank Runyeon
Total expenses ----- **-----\$2300.00**

Balance as of 12/31/11----- **-\$2463.31**

Pending: \$1,615.50 for refurbishing the bells

Balance on Haring Endowment Fund as of December 31, 2011 ---\$ 35,000.00

Submitted by:

Joanne Carroll
Treasurer, Council on the Arts

Church in Society

We are continuing to expand and energize our missional ties to the greater community.

We continue to support the Food Pantry and other ministries of Friend, Inc. such as the Brake the Cycle of Poverty bike ride and this year’s newest edition of the Pet Food Pantry.

We also continue to organize and host the Community Thanksgiving Dinner. We support the Walk for the Cure for juvenile fibromatosis, participate in the Relay for Life and the Jingle Bell Run/Walk for the Crohn’s and Colitis Foundation.

Connecting with the town and University, we have participated in orientation days, Muscle on Main, Trick or Treat night and helping out at the Farmer’s Market at Trinity Lutheran church in town.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Sue Marie

Finance Committee Report

Members of the finance committee in 2011 were; Gary and Vickie Wessner, Dale Reppert, Eric Haydt, Ken Berg, and Jeff Ebling. The Finance committee met throughout the year working on three main topics.

1. In February various proposals for the pastor's compensation package were reviewed and recommendations made. These recommendations were approved by consistory and formulated into an offer letter to Pastor Baskette.
2. In March and April suggestions were developed on the format for a weekly summary of giving. The format was reviewed by consistory with some modifications made. Starting in April a summary of the previous week's and year to date giving was added to the bulletin each week. This weekly summary will continue for 2012.
3. In August the finance committee started preparing the 2012 budget. The first draft of the budget was prepared in September and reviewed by consistory at their October meeting. The input received from consistory was incorporated and a second draft was presented at the November consistory meeting. This second draft was endorsed by consistory and adopted by the congregation on November 27.

Respectfully,

Jeff Ebling

Stewardship Campaign

Stewardship letters were sent out in November 2011 asking for 2012 pledge cards to be completed and returned. The pledge cards were returned though the end of December 2011. This year's campaign did not include an effort to remind members to return their pledge cards. In previous years this contact included personal phone calls as well as visits.

The 2012 results compared to the last two years are shown below:

<u>Year</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>
Total Pledged	\$100,648.00	\$123,682.00	\$83,302.00
Number of Pledges	61	74	53
Average Amount of Pledge	\$ 1649.78	\$ 1671.38	\$ 1571.74
Ave. Actual Weekly Giving	\$ -0-	\$ 2832.00	\$ 2779.00
% of Annual Income Total	\$ -0-	67%	66%

Thanks to all of the faithful worshippers who returned the cards. It is so important for planning purposes to have an idea of planned giving. We also had some additional members who returned cards but due to current economic conditions did not feel comfortable naming a specific amount but who plan to give as they are able this coming year. We understand and appreciate the efforts of all.

Respectfully Submitted,

Davis Knauer

Endowment Committee Report

The Endowment committee met during the Finance Committee meetings. We discussed all topics during the Finance Committee meetings. No changes were made to the guidelines and strategy developed in 2010.

Submitted by,

Dale Reppert

Memorial Committee Report 2011

The Memorial Committee spent most of 2011 finalizing the information needed to complete the Memorial Book. As soon as the printing is completed, the book will be put on display in the Narthex, honoring a different deceased member each Sunday.

During 2011, memorials for the following members were created:

Darwin Angstadt

Rodney Rhoads

Mae Fox

Elsie Fox

Total amount of the memorial fund contributions for 2011 is \$1,715.00

Remember, funds may be added to existing memorial funds at any time in honor of someone's birthday, anniversary or other important events of the person's lifetime.

Committee Members are Barbara A. Held, chairperson, Roxanne Moyer, Sharon Koslowski, Carol Erb, and Lee Erb.

Respectfully Submitted,

Barbara A. Held, chairman