

THE CHANNEL

Volume 23: 6 Dec.2011-Jan. 2012



MCC
SAINT JOHN THE APOSTLE
METROPOLITAN
COMMUNITY CHURCH

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Luke 2:8-14

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night.

An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."



Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people on whom his favor rests."

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John Arthur Ammann

August 4, 1949—November 9, 2012

John Ammann could almost be called a Florida native. Though he was born in Utica, New York, he moved with his family to Fort Myers when he was only five years of age. The son of the late Frank and Frances Ammann, John is survived by two sisters. John is also the father of four sons, a daughter and two adopted children. He has 20 grandchildren, and 8 great grandchildren, with one on the way. Paul mentioned to me that although he didn't get to see his grandchildren often enough, their eyes would light up when they saw their grandpa.

John's occupation was that of an automobile body repair specialist for most of his life. He was loyal to his trade, working for the same shop for more than 20 years. He loved life and what Florida had to offer, swimming, sailing, grilling, drinking beer, and eating M and M's.

John joined St. John the Apostle in October of 2006 and he and his partner, Paul Rogers were joined in a holy union the following year.. What I remember most about John is his quiet nature and the way he cared about his friends. He will be missed.

A memorial service was held for John on Nov. 26th at St. John the Apostle. Should you wish to remember John, you may send a donation to the American Cancer Society or to Hope Hospice, 9470 Healthpark Circle, Fort Myers, Florida 33908.

Mary Leigh



Christmas Eve Service

Saturday, Dec. 24th at 8 PM

The Service will include your favorite Christmas carols, a Christmas "sermonette," and Communion. There will be a period of fellowship before and after the Christmas Eve Service. You are invited to bring your best Christmas "goodie" recipe to share with your friends at St. John the Apostle.

Christmas Day Service



The Quilt

Their names are like a mantra
 I say again and again,
 The names of those I love.
 Their faces form a patchwork,
 A soft quilt, warming me.
 Some are bright, newly sewn into this quilt
 Of Memories. Some pieces although
 Old, have never faded.
 I say their names over and over:
 Jody, Marian, Georgia,
 Caretaker Claire, prissy JoAnne,
 Mary and Ellen, sisters to me.
 In my mind I trace faces
 Last touched long ago:
 Willie and George,
 Sweet boys and tomboys,
 Playmates of my childhood.
 I have patches for teachers
 Who were patient and caring
 When I was young and arrogant.
 I say their names softly, wrap
 The quilt close.

Sue Seitz

Letter from Jim Walker

Up until I came to St. John the Apostle MCC, I had never attended church - any church - on a regular basis. Growing up, my parents were not at all spiritual, and I had no idea what the word even meant. It wasn't until hardship began to arrive in my life about five years ago, that I began to think and feel something was missing. Once I was living here alone in Fort Myers, fourteen hundred miles away from my partner of eight years, I felt an even bigger emptiness. I was not initially convinced church or God was the answer. My first time at SJA, I felt out of place, as if because I had never attended a church, I was not welcomed by the people in one or even by God.

As the weeks passed, I grew more and more comfortable, and the faces once strangers, became close friends, who were amazing in their honesty. They didn't have a story to pitch. They didn't want to know a "celebrity." They didn't want sex. They just wanted to be friends. It was unlike anything I had experienced anywhere else. Pastor Steve's great sermons and all of the wonderful hymns are experiences I will always treasure.

As I listened and learned a little each Sunday, I started studying at home with an internet Bible study guide. Then a friend from Tampa gave me a devotional, and finally I started watching Joyce Myer online. I don't agree with everything she says, but 95% of it is very useful and makes sense to me. There is so much wisdom and love to be found in the *Bible* that it overwhelms me.

After losing my job, I really struggled with my depression, but my "church family" and all its support, both in person and through Facebook, really made an amazing difference. I have made so many great friends and just as importantly have discovered how important God is in my life. Rather than feeling sorry for myself, I got busy, kept myself around people, and tried to bring as many visitors to St. John the Apostle as possible. I also started doing more things for other people, even those at my former workplace that had hurt me. I've found that the more I do outside of myself, the better I feel about myself.

I am going to miss all of you so very much. I can only hope I find a church and a group as wonderful in Ann Arbor. Please stay in touch. God bless you, and may God Bless St. John the Apostle. My email address is jdnews4@yahoo.com.

Jim Walker

A Time to Contemplate

If we look at our lives as having chapters like a book, then I would qualify to say I am in the last chapters. I know that I have become more contemplative as I age. I say it that way because for several years I have been concerned about my two sons, my grand daughter, and a friend who are in the middle, early, and later chapters of their lives, but have no faith.

As often as I can and as subtly as possible, I will work into the conversation how God and Jesus work in my life. I always do so at the risk of people's rolling their eyes in their heads after I've made my "sales pitch" (as my second born puts it).

Recently, I've felt very moved in my spirit over this whole issue and have come to really understand why I'm so anxious for them to find God and Jesus. I could also see the relevance regarding what chapters we're in.

The following poem found its way to paper:

My Constant Prayer

If I could help my loved ones see

The joy that Jesus brings to me

Then maybe they will come to be

A Christian just like me

The love of God I feel each day

I want for them at work and play

But most importantly to me

Their having faith will guarantee

A place in heaven where we can be

United for Eternity

Deacon Mary Jane



Lay Delegate Corner

THE FIRST CHRISTMAS GIFT

What is this gift of Christmas? I am going to attempt to help us unwrap that gift, and I pray I can help to reveal the entire gift.

"For God so loved the world that God gave His only begotten Son that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life." (John 3:16) This is the gift: God loved; God gave; God promised. Now let us begin to unwrap it. There is more here than meets the eye at first glance. God gave us Jesus as our Lord and Savior. In *Matthew 1:21* Joseph is told by an angel that the child to be born is to be named Jesus because He will save His people from their sins. The name *Jesus* means *The Lord Saves*.

In giving us Jesus, God also gave us Himself. The Prophet Isaiah said, *"The virgin will give birth to a son and will call Him Immanuel. (Isa. 7:14) Immanuel means God with us. Jesus Himself said, "I and My Father are one." (Jn. 10:30.)*

Through Jesus, God gives us access to a personal relationship with God. How much better can it get? We can actually spend time with, walk with, and talk with God personally because of the gift of Jesus. And there's

more! God filled this package with an amazing love that is like no other, love that is unconditional, unending, unchanging, immeasurable, and indescribable! There is so much love in this package that it is overflowing.

Keep pulling out that tissue paper because there's more. God gives us the Holy Spirit, the promised Helper or Counselor, the Spirit of Truth Who will dwell in you to teach you all things. (*Jn. 14:16, 17, & 26*) (How cool is that?!) The Holy Spirit dwells in you. The Holy Spirit also empowers or enables us to do all that we are called to do.

God also gave us a shepherd. A shepherd provides, guides, and protects the sheep. Jesus tells us in *Jn. 10:11, I am the good shepherd. I lay down my life for the sheep.* Just so we are all clear on this, we are the sheep.

God gives us a friend. Jesus is our friend. *I have called you friend. (Jn. 10:11).* Jesus is not just a friend, but the best friend you will ever have. He is true, faithful, loyal, devoted, and trustworthy. Jesus will never hurt you, betray you, or disappoint you.

Dig deeper... we are getting to the really good stuff now. Well, it's all really good. God gave us a High Priest... *Jesus the High Priest who made sacrifice once for us all when He offered up Himself. (Heb.7: 26, 27)* an intercessor (*Heb. 7:25*), Jesus is continually intercessing for us.

We still have more. I'm getting so excited! Can you even imagine what's left? A resurrected body and victory over death--WOW! (*1 Cor. 15: 51-54*) *We shall not sleep, but we will be changed in a flash in the twinkling of an eye at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For the perishable must clothe itself with imperishable, and the mortal with immortal, then the saying that is written will come true. --Death has been swallowed up in victory.*

Now wait... here comes the best part... (I think it's all the best part) the promise of eternal life and an eternal home with Jesus. (*Selah, calmly pause, and think about that!*) Jesus said, *"In my Father's house are many rooms... I go to prepare a place for you, and if I prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you may be where I am. WOW! WOW! WOW! We get to spend eternity with Jesus!!!*

The first Christmas gift is yours. Included are the promises of Jesus' birth, life, death, and resurrection... all wrapped in one package. It's the greatest gift you will ever unwrap, so take your time. Be sure to unwrap the entire gift. It's packed full of love, light, peace, joy, strength, mercy, grace, healing, hope, and every promise of God."

I hope you have a very blessed Christmas and pray you find something in that package you've never seen before.

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Glenda E.

CHURCH DIRECTORY

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Dale Gnatek
Bob Schneider, Assistant to the Treasurer

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OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Thursday
10 am – 2 pm



Pastor's Pen



And the Word Became Flesh

Theological words are often confusing when they should be clear. They can be like a candle that offers more smoke than light. It happens when we use the words *Kenosis* and *Incarnation*. They are not words that we use often, and for persons of a certain age, these terms can call up images of a sick doll and contented cows. (A sick Ken doll and Carnation Evaporated Milk for all those not of a certain age.) But they are very important ideas that are embodied in our Christmas celebration. So let's clear away the smoke and have some more light.

Philippians 2:7 tells us that Jesus stepped down out of heaven and became a human being, "But emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the human likeness." God knew that we humans could not reach God on our own, so instead of letting us go, God came down to us. This is the ultimate in humility, and it calls for those who want to follow Jesus to imitate this humility. *Philippians* also says that we should have the same mind and the same attitude of Jesus in this way. Christmas is an opportunity to be reminded of the Christian call to humility. Humility has got to be one of the hardest virtues or fruits to obtain, but we must remember that we don't become humble by trying to be humble. We become humble by doing things (like service or simply putting ourselves in the other person's shoes) that will naturally and progressively make us more humble. That is *Kenosis*.

Christmas reminds us that all of life is spiritual. God became FLESH, became a real live human being! In this, God shows us that our human life, even with our problems and failings, is valued and is spiritual. We try to disconnect our everyday life from our spiritual life, but Christ calls us to a wholeness and holiness all the time. Our everyday life matters to God. Jesus was thirty years old when he started his public ministry. That means for thirty years, God lived a "normal" life just like you and me. Jesus worked, had family and friends, and did all the things a person of that time would do. But, we can be sure that Jesus didn't just "do" these things without any thought while waiting for the right time to begin a more "spiritual" work. If this ordinary time didn't matter to God, then Jesus wouldn't have gone through it. But, it did matter, and our life matters. That is *Incarnation*, and it invites us to begin to see every aspect of life as spiritual and interconnected.

Christmas is much more than a one day celebration; it is a yearly invitation to live every day with Emmanuel, with God with us. incarnationally. Robert Webber said that, "God united with humans in order for men and women to be united with God." This is Christmas. May we celebrate and remember these things and begin to live Christmas every day.

Pastor Steve

New Year's Prayer

Dear Lord,
 In the new year, we pray
 that You will guide us each new day
 in paths that are pleasing to You.
 Lord, the new year gives us another chance
 to rededicate our lives to You,
 to study Your Word
 so that we know right from wrong
 and to act in accordance with Your commands.
 Thank You for the sense of
 direction, purpose and peace we get
 from aligning our lives with Your Holy will.
 We pray for the strength and the will to obey You
 each and every day of the new year,
 and when we fail, we pray for Your mercy,
 Your compassion, Your grace and Your love.
 Help us in the new year to be Your faithful servants.
 In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Joanna Fuchs

Important Notice!

As of the end of this year,
 St. John the Apostle MCC
 will no longer have a
 P. O. Box address.

Mail should be addressed to
 (you may start now if you wish):

St. John the Apostle MCC
 3049 McGregor Boulevard,
 Fort Myers, Florida 33901



CHRISTMAS EVE ALTAR DEDICATIONS (POINSETTIAS)

The Christmas Eve sanctuary dedications can be in honor of or in memory of someone special to you. The cost (donation) is \$15 each. The Poinsettias will be yours to take home after the service. The deadline for dedications is **December 18th**. Please fill in the information below and either drop it in the offering plate with cash or a check marked "Christmas Dedication" or you may mail it to St. John the Apostle, 3049 McGregor Boulevard, Fort Myers, Florida 33901.

Name(s) _____

Phone Number _____

In Honor of/In memory of (circle one)

The Southwest Florida Gay and Lesbian Chorus Presents

“Here we come a caroling. . .”



Carol of the Bells is but one of the familiar Christmas holiday pieces you will hear at our concerts this December. Throw your cares away. Christmas is here, bringing good cheer! The Chorus will be singing some old time favorites and a new one or two. There will be solos and small ensembles as well for your entertainment.

This season you will see something a bit different. At the first two concerts (UU in Fort Myers), the audience will be seated Cabaret style at tables of up to 8 people. So, if you want to enjoy the concert with your friends, we suggest buying your tickets in advance and reserving a table. Complimentary desserts and beverages will be provided at no cost to you. The concert at the Naples Unitarian

Universalist Church on Dec. 17th will be mostly open seating.

‘Tis the season to be jolly, so come expecting to be entertained, to have fun, and to enjoy the wonderful expressions of the season!

Concert Schedule

Saturday, December 10th at 7:30 PM and
Sunday, December 11th at 4:00 PM

Unitarian Universalist Church
13411 Shire Lane
Fort Myers, Florida 33912

Saturday, December 17th at 7:30 PM

Unitarian Universalist Church
6340 Napa Woods Way
Naples, Florida 34119

Tickets may be purchased in advance for a donation of \$15 (\$10 for students). For advance tickets phone Kurt at the MCC office (239-344-0012), Sharon at the office at the UU in Fort Myers (239-561-2700), or by calling the Chorus hot-line at 239-410-2025. For ticket purchases in Naples, please call the Naples Unitarian Universalist Church, the Chorus hotline, or you may also buy them at the door.

DECEMBER 2011						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 10:00 AM Liturgical Worship 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Praise Worship	28 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Ceramics w/Marc Cady at Shore Club North 5170 Orange Grove Blvd	29 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Food Pantry 7:00 PM SWFL Gay & Lesbian Chorus 8:00 PM - 9:00 PM Lambda Drummer (AA)	30 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM Game Day @ SJAMCC 7:00 PM Word and Sacrament Service 7:30 PM Church Choir Practice	1 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Food Pantry 6:30 PM - 8:15 PM NA Meeting "Serenity by the River" 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM A New Way Life Al-anon	2 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Ceramics w/Marc Cady at Shore Club North 5170 Orange Grove Blvd 8:00 PM - 9:00 PM AA Meeting	3 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM The Rainbow Group of NA (Gay) 8:00 PM - 9:00 PM Lambda Drummer (AA)
4 10:00 AM Liturgical Worship 12:00 PM Membership Class 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Praise Worship	5 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Ceramics w/Marc Cady at Shore Club North 5170 Orange Grove Blvd 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM Stewardship Meeting	6 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Food Pantry 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM Lee County Health Department HIV/HEP Testing 6:30 PM Prayer Team 7:00 PM SWFL Gay & Lesbian Chorus 8:00 PM - 9:00 PM Lambda Drummer (AA)	7 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM Game Day @ SJAMCC 7:00 PM Word and Sacrament Service 7:30 PM Church Choir Practice	8 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Food Pantry 6:30 PM - 8:15 PM NA Meeting "Serenity by the River" 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM A New Way Life Al-anon	9 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Ceramics w/Marc Cady at Shore Club North 5170 Orange Grove Blvd 8:00 PM - 9:00 PM AA Meeting	10 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM Tri- ESS Gamma Kappa Gamma 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM The Rainbow Group of NA (Gay) 8:00 PM - 9:00 PM Lambda Drummer (AA)
11 10:00 AM Liturgical Worship 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Praise Worship	12 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Ceramics w/Marc Cady at Shore Club North 5170 Orange Grove Blvd 7:00 PM Spanish Class	13 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Food Pantry 7:00 PM SWFL Gay & Lesbian Chorus 8:00 PM - 9:00 PM Lambda Drummer (AA)	14 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM Game Day @ SJAMCC 7:00 PM Word and Sacrament Service 7:30 PM Church Choir Practice	15 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Food Pantry 4:00 PM Growth Meeting 4:30 PM Board of Directors Meeting 6:30 PM - 8:15 PM NA Meeting "Serenity by the River" 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM A New Way Life Al-anon	16 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Ceramics w/Marc Cady at Shore Club North 5170 Orange Grove Blvd 8:00 PM - 9:00 PM AA Meeting	17 6:00 PM Pot Luck Dinner 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM The Rainbow Group of NA (Gay) 7:00 PM Movie "The Perfect Gift" 8:00 PM - 9:00 PM Lambda Drummer (AA)
18 10:00 AM Liturgical Worship 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Praise Worship	19 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Ceramics w/Marc Cady at Shore Club North 5170 Orange Grove Blvd 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM Stewardship Meeting 7:00 PM Spanish Class	20 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Food Pantry 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM Lee County Health Department HIV/HEP Testing 6:30 PM Prayer Team 8:00 PM - 9:00 PM Lambda Drummer (AA)	21 Hanukkah 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM Game Day @ SJAMCC 7:00 PM Word and Sacrament Service 7:30 PM Church Choir Practice	22 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Food Pantry 6:30 PM Deacon Meeting 6:30 PM - 8:15 PM NA Meeting "Serenity by the River" 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM A New Way Life Al-anon	23 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Ceramics w/Marc Cady at Shore Club North 5170 Orange Grove Blvd 8:00 PM - 9:00 PM AA Meeting	24 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM The Rainbow Group of NA (Gay) 8:00 PM Christmas Eve Service 8:00 PM - 9:00 PM Lambda Drummer (AA)
25 Christmas Day No Christmas Morning Service 7:00 PM Christmas Evening Service	26 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Ceramics w/Marc Cady at Shore Club North 5170 Orange Grove Blvd 7:00 PM Spanish Class	27 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Food Pantry 8:00 PM - 9:00 PM Lambda Drummer (AA)	28 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM Game Day @ SJAMCC 7:00 PM Word and Sacrament Service	29 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Food Pantry 6:30 PM - 8:15 PM NA Meeting "Serenity by the River" 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM A New Way Life Al-anon	30 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Ceramics w/Marc Cady at Shore Club North 5170 Orange Grove Blvd 8:00 PM - 9:00 PM AA Meeting	31 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM The Rainbow Group of NA (Gay) 8:00 PM - 9:00 PM Lambda Drummer (AA)

JANUARY 2012						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10:00 AM Liturgical Worship 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Praise Worship	2 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Ceramics w/Marc Cady at Shore Club North 5170 Orange Grove Blvd 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM Stewardship Meeting 7:00 PM Spanish Class	3 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Food Pantry 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM Lee County/Health Department HIV/HEP Testing 6:30 PM Prayer Team Lambda Drummer (AA)	4 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM Game Day @ SJAMCC 7:00 PM Word and Sacrament Service	5 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Food Pantry 6:30 PM - 8:15 PM NA Meeting "Serenity by the River" 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM A New Way Life Al-anon	6 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Ceramics w/Marc Cady at Shore Club North 5170 Orange Grove Blvd 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM I Pad User Class 8:00 PM - 9:00 PM AA Meeting	7 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM The Rainbow Group of NA (Gay) 8:00 PM - 9:00 PM Lambda Drummer (AA)
8 10:00 AM Liturgical Worship 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Praise Worship	9 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Ceramics w/Marc Cady at Shore Club North 5170 Orange Grove Blvd 7:00 PM Spanish Class	10 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Food Pantry 8:00 PM - 9:00 PM Lambda Drummer (AA)	11 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM Game Day @ SJAMCC 7:00 PM Word and Sacrament Service	12 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Food Pantry 6:30 PM - 8:15 PM NA Meeting "Serenity by the River" 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM A New Way Life Al-anon	13 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Ceramics w/Marc Cady at Shore Club North 5170 Orange Grove Blvd 8:00 PM - 9:00 PM AA Meeting	14 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM Deacon Retreat 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM Tri- ESS Gamma Kappa Gamma 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM The Rainbow Group of NA (Gay) 8:00 PM - 9:00 PM Lambda Drummer (AA)
15 Dinner 10:00 AM Liturgical Worship 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Praise Worship	16 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Ceramics w/Marc Cady at Shore Club North 5170 Orange Grove Blvd 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM Stewardship Meeting 7:00 PM Spanish Class	17 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Food Pantry 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM Lee County/Health Department HIV/HEP Testing 6:30 PM Prayer Team Lambda Drummer (AA)	18 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM Game Day @ SJAMCC 7:00 PM Word and Sacrament Service	19 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Food Pantry 4:30 PM Board of Directors Meeting 6:30 PM - 8:15 PM NA Meeting "Serenity by the River" 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM A New Way Life Al-anon	20 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Ceramics w/Marc Cady at Shore Club North 5170 Orange Grove Blvd 8:00 PM - 9:00 PM AA Meeting	21 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM The Rainbow Group of NA (Gay) 8:00 PM - 9:00 PM Lambda Drummer (AA)
22 Music by Brenner and Beckstead AM and PM Services 10:00 AM Liturgical Worship 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Praise Worship	23 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Ceramics w/Marc Cady at Shore Club North 5170 Orange Grove Blvd 7:00 PM Spanish Class	24 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Food Pantry 8:00 PM - 9:00 PM Lambda Drummer (AA)	25 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM Game Day @ SJAMCC 7:00 PM Word and Sacrament Service	26 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Food Pantry 6:30 PM Deacon Meeting 6:30 PM - 8:15 PM NA Meeting "Serenity by the River" 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM A New Way Life Al-anon	27 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Ceramics w/Marc Cady at Shore Club North 5170 Orange Grove Blvd 8:00 PM - 9:00 PM AA Meeting	28 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM The Rainbow Group of NA (Gay) 8:00 PM - 9:00 PM Lambda Drummer (AA)
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Upcoming Events

December 10, 11, and 17: Christmas concerts presented by the Southwest Florida Gay and Lesbian Chorus. Please see details of these concerts on page 7 of this issue.

December 12: Jonathan Hollander is teaching a Spanish class beginning at 7 PM on Mondays.

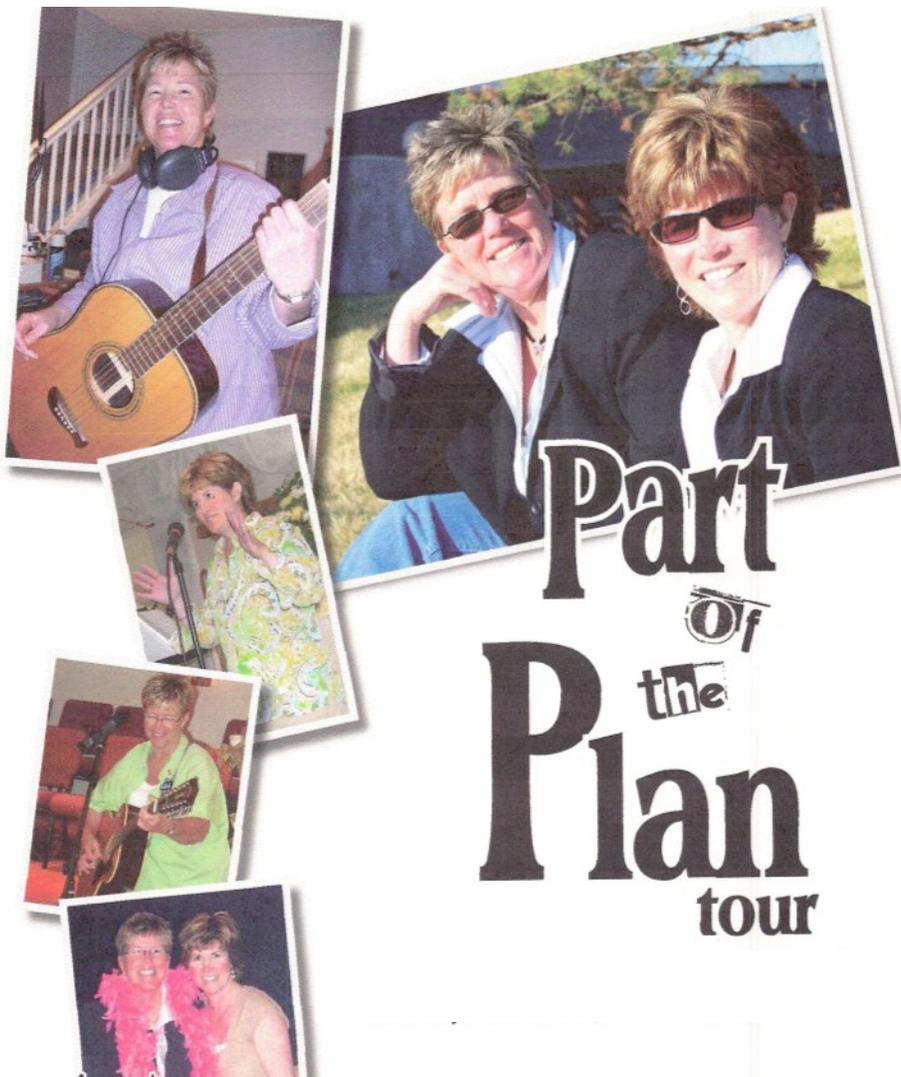
December 17: There will be a potluck at the church at 6 PM followed by a film presented by Pastor Steve at 7 PM entitled *The Perfect Gift*.

January 6: There will be an IPAD users' class from 6 PM to 7:30 PM taught by Eloise.

New Board Members Elected

Five new Board of Directors' Members were elected on November 13 at the 2011 Congregational Meeting. Charles Millard, Nancy Kilmartin, Jack Lewis, Bruce Mericle, and Dana Drew are our new members. They join current members, Pastor Steve, the moderator, and Eloise Pennington. We welcome their addition to the Board and look forward to their leadership.

For those retiring members of the Board, thank you for your service!



Brenner and Beckstead Ministry Coming to SJAMCC

On Sunday, January 22, Susie and Linda will be gracing us with their special ministry. They will be conducting the Sunday Morning Service and then will be in concert at 7PM.

St. John the Apostle MCC is as enjoyable a venue for them as it is for us. They share contemporary music and memorable stories about recovery, relationships, and relying on God. Please plan to join us for Linda and Susie's uplifting music and for their memorable stories.

Kick off our 25th Anniversary with a Cruise !!!

Grand Princess

7 Night Eastern Caribbean Cruise
November 24, 2012

Itinerary: Ft. Lauderdale; day at sea; San Juan, Puerto Rico; St. Maarten;
St. Thomas; day at sea; Princess Cays (private island); Ft. Lauderdale

Inside Cabin, Cat. J	\$704 pp/do
Oceanview Cabin, Cat. F (obstructed)	\$804 pp/do
Balcony Cabin, Cat. BC	\$1054 pp/do

Price includes cruise fare, port charges and all taxes plus a \$50 onboard credit per cabin. Other cabin categories are available. Past passenger rates may be available as well as military promos. Early booking for best cabin availability. Deposit is fully refundable if cancelled before final payment. If pricing drops between booking and final payment, pricing will be adjusted.

If booked during Sale Week – October 24 – 31, 2011, there is a reduced deposit of \$200 per cabin plus a Savings Coupon Booklet. After that date, a deposit of 20% of cruise fare is needed. Final payment is due July 27, 2012. Cancellation insurance is available.

Private motor coach transportation from St. John the Apostle Church on MacGregor Blvd. with a minimum of 36 passengers at an additional cost of \$45 pp which includes driver tips.

Contact Phyllis Sandler
Adventure Travel of Florida
Merchants Crossing
15201 N. Cleveland Avenue, #925
N. Ft. Myers, Florida 33903
239-731-7755 or toll free 877-255-7678

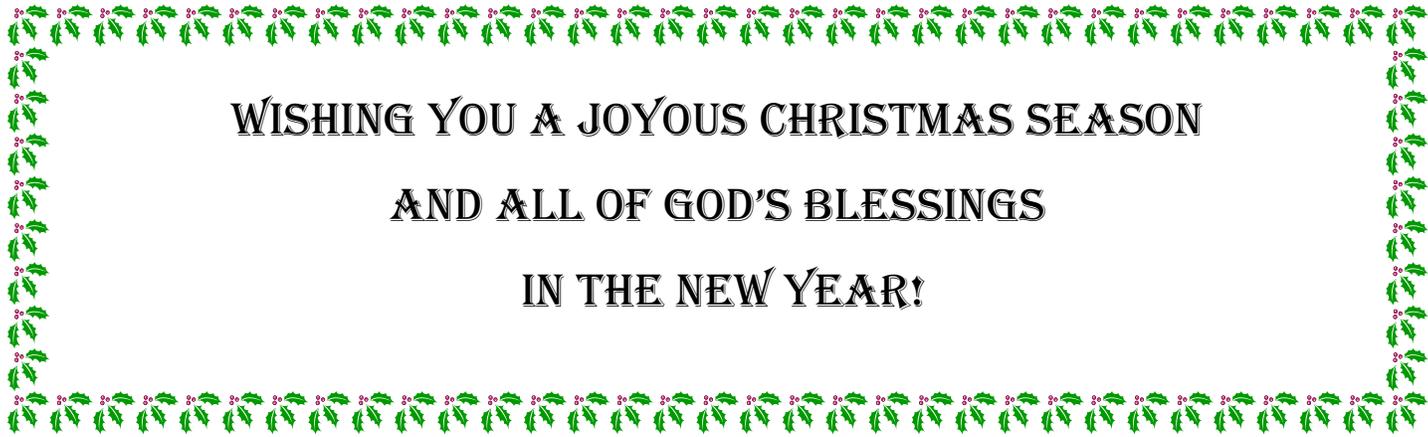
*Friends and family are
welcome to cruise also.*

Did You Know?



Kurt Hood is now the full-fledged Congregational Administrator, hired full-time recently by the Board of Directors. This helps to fulfill one of the important recommendations made by the Church Size Summit Conference for our church's growth. His expertise and competency for this position are most welcome! Those of us who volunteer to do things requiring office help say Hallelujah!

We welcome you, Kurt, and hope your tenure here is a long and happy one!



WISHING YOU A JOYOUS CHRISTMAS SEASON
AND ALL OF GOD'S BLESSINGS
IN THE NEW YEAR!

EVERY WEDNESDAY

Bridge Club and Game Day at SJA

Please come and join in the fun each and every Wednesday from 10:00 AM to noon.

We have an SJA Bridge Group that plays every Wednesday. We are also teaching bridge, so if you have ever wanted to learn how to play the game, NOW is your chance.

Our game of Bridge is conducted with an open communication level meaning where we openly talk and learn from each other. Bridge in our group is a lot of fun

and filled with laughter since we are all prone to making mistakes. But then how else do you learn?

We also have a group that plays board games which has recently been involved with Scrabble. They cut up and carry on with each other and help fill the parlor with laughter and good conversation.



CHRISTMAS TOY DRIVE

The Christmas season is upon us, and what a happy time it is for most of us as we try to figure out what gifts to buy for our loved ones! But, what about those children who have few prospects of gifts from loved ones? This year St. John the Apostle Metropolitan Community Church, as in years past, is cooperating with the Island Coast AIDS Network to provide gifts for children who may fit into that category. These children are all either infected with or affected by HIV and/or AIDS.

ICAN provides us with names and wishes of children for Christmas gifts. For some, your gift may be the only one they receive. Gift tags accompany the names and ages of the children, as well as three wishes for their Special Christmas. You may want to purchase more than one gift per child. We ask, however, that instead of buying more than one gift for a child that you consider buying for more than one child so that all the children will have gifts to open on Christmas morning.

Tags are now available with the return date for gifts by **December 18th**. If you are not able to pick up a gift tag in person, please call us (344-0012), and we will help you get a gift tag. Or, if you would like, send us your gift of a check or cash, and we will be happy to shop on your behalf.



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Bob Schneider, Chair



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a kind word, a listening ear,
an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring,
all of which have the potential to turn a life around.
Leo Buscaglia

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Wishing you a Very Merry CHRISTMAS!
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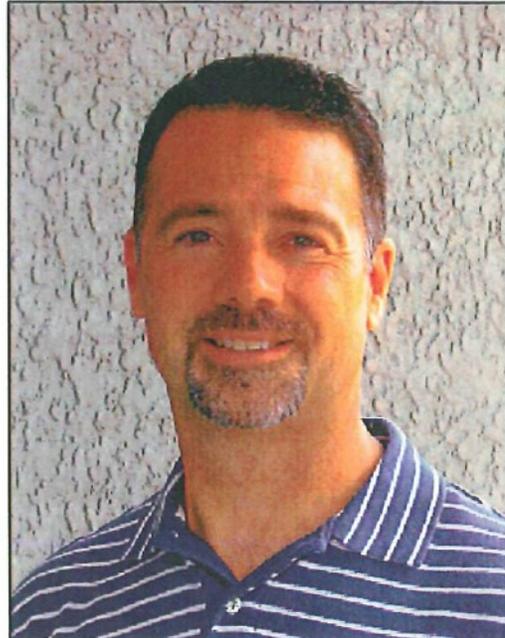
One of the Cape's "1st 100 houses" Off Del Prado at
Venetian Nice Canal w/dock, 1 bridge to River
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