



# **JULY - AUGUST 2019 NEWSLETTER**

**ST. JOHN UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

**10207 Lincoln Trail, Fairview Heights, IL**

618-397-6323

Website: [www.stjohnfairview.org](http://www.stjohnfairview.org)

email: [stjohnuccfh@wisperhome.co](mailto:stjohnuccfh@wisperhome.co)

Pastor Rosemary Captain

**Secretary Office Hours: Mon, Wed, Fri. 9am – 3 pm**

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

According to the summer solstice on June 21, it is officially summer. The next question is, what book is your summer “read”? Have you heard that expression before? “What will you be reading on the beach this summer?” (Not that we have any beaches around here.)

I’d like to know, what do you look for in a good summer “read?” Adventure, romance, mystery, or inspiration? I know a book that has **all** of those. **THE BIBLE!!** I can just hear the groans. **“Not again, Pastor. Give it up! The Bible is too vast, cavernous, and has too many odd names and places. I just wouldn’t know where to begin!” TRUST ME, I UNDERSTAND.**

**I have good news for you! I know where you can find help.** First of all, there are many small books and guides that can help: for example (my favorite) “How the Bible Came to Be” by John Barton, “The Bible from Scratch for Beginners” by Donald L. Griggs, “Bible for Vital Congregations” by Barbara J. Essex, “Introducing the Bible” by William Barclay, to name just a few. (I have these books and you are welcome to borrow them.) And I would also suggest that whichever Bible you are reading, make sure it is a **STUDY** Bible. The introductions and footnotes help tremendously. There are many translations of the Bible and I would suggest the New Revised Standard Version or the Common English Bible which we have in the pews. If the print is too small, most Bibles also come in large print.

Sometimes people are embarrassed to admit they don’t understand the Bible. That’s why I recommended the books in the previous paragraph. You can start your study in the privacy of your own home.

I distinctly remember when I thought the Bible was too impenetrable. And then I read Acts 8:26 -31. This passage is one of the stories of how the apostles spread the good news of Jesus.

“<sup>26</sup>An angel from the Lord spoke to Philip, “At noon, take the road that leads from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is a desert road.) <sup>27</sup>So he did. Meanwhile, an Ethiopian man was on

his way home from Jerusalem, where he had come to worship. He was a eunuch and an official responsible for the entire treasury of Candace. (Candace is the title given to the Ethiopian queen.)<sup>28</sup> He was reading the prophet Isaiah while sitting in his carriage.

<sup>29</sup> The Spirit told Philip, "Approach this carriage and stay with it." <sup>30</sup> Running up to the carriage, Philip heard the man reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "**Do you really understand what you are reading?**" <sup>31</sup> The man replied, "**Without someone to guide me, how could I?**" Then he invited Philip to climb up and sit with him."

**BINGO! THAT'S IT!** Even the Bible itself says "how can I understand this with someone to guide me?" All of us can use guidance as we sort through the Bible's passages, be it another book to help us, footnotes, or introductions to each book in the Bible. **Another way to better understand the Bible** is to discuss it with other people. We all have questions and perhaps, together, we can unlock the mysteries of this large sacred document. **LET'S DO IT!!**

Have a safe and blessed summer. Pastor Rosemary



## **A MESSAGE FROM YOUR FAVORITE OFFERING BASKET:**

If you want to keep the electricity (especially the AC) and water on in the church, keep on giving your offerings to the church, even if you're on vacation. The church is open 12 months a year, even if you're not here.



## AMONG OUR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS



### **JULY BIRTHDAYS:**

7/2 Betty Hayes  
7/8 Darlene Schaperkoetter  
7/10 Tiffani Eisenhauer

7/23 Yvonne Weber  
7/26 Clay Harris  
7/28 Sherry Hackbarth

### **AUGUST BIRTHDAYS:**

8/3 Jeanette Brown  
8/4 Bill Underwood  
8/5 Eric Moayer  
8/7 Brad Eisenhauer

8/9 Mike Stidham  
8/23 Rich Schmitt  
8/23 Cindy Harris  
8/23 Amanda Hamilton

### **JULY ANNIVERSARIES:**

7/14 Kim & Jim Turnbull # 35  
7/15 Sharon & Steve Banjavcic # 41  
7/17 Trisann & Bill Underwood # 20  
7/30 Stacie & Tim Pickens # 3



### **AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES:**

8/6 Sue & Gene Ganschinetz # 42  
8/26 Carla & Gary Warning # 41

**PRAYER LIST:** Tom Petroff, Dave Seneczyn, Roger Fox, Eric White, Gary Carr, Ed McLaughlin, Amy Arthur, Lori Riess, Trenton Pickens, Larkin Shay, Charles Chamberlin, Debbie Ricks, Fr. Roger Karban, Jordan Knipp, Donna Isselhard, Mitch Nallie.



### **Prayer**

*How to do nothing  
and still think you're helping*

**SHUT – INS:** Darleen Bax, Terry Kissel, Ardella Morris, Alice Stidham, and Jacque Mantle

**RECENTLY HOSPITALIZED:** Wayne Schlosser, Donna Isselhard



# OUR CHURCH WORKERS FOR JULY AND AUGUST

## USHERS:

7/ 7 – Tom & Jan Miller

7/14 – Sue Ganschinietz & Wayne Schlosser

7/ 21 – Tom & Jan Miller

7/28 – Judy Schmitt & Jackie Canterbury

8/4 – Mike & Melinda Stidham

8/11 – Judy Hartmann and Sue Williams

8/18 – Lew Thomasino & Chuck Kistler

8/25 – Ginny Ganschinietz & Grandson

## LITURGISTS AND READINGS:

### JULY

7/7 Sue Williams

2 Kings 5:1-14 Galatians 6:1-16

7/14 Wayne Schlosser

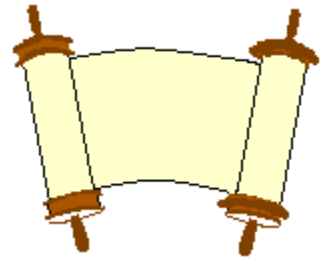
Amos 7:7-17 Colossians 1:1-14

7/21 Jan Miller

Amos 8:1-12 Colossians 1:15-28

7/28 Judy Schmitt

Hosea 1:2-10 Colossians 2: 6-15



### AUGUST

8/4 Sue Williams

Hosea 11:1-11 Colossians 3:1-11

8/11 Eileen Gammon

Isaiah 1:1, 10-20 Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

8/18 Sharon Banjavcic

Isaiah 5:1-7 Hebrews 11:29 - 12:2

8/25 Ginny Ganschinietz

Jeremiah 1:4-10 Hebrews 12:18-29

## NOTES AND THANK YOU'S

As some of you know, I was collecting vases from various sources and reselling them to a local florist. That money was kept in a special envelope to use at church for small things to save church a little cash.

I did that project for many years but have decided to “retire”. If you have an occasional vase, I will take it and give it to her. Special thanks to Eileen Gammon for helping me with this mission. We enjoyed it!

Thanks, Carol Bulva



**PENNIES FOR MISSION:** the month of July will go to **School supplies.**

## MISSION OPPORTUNITY:

There is an **immediate** need to help with the TWIGS program in Cahokia. "The TWIGS summer lunch program provides a free lunch and a book of their choosing to Cahokia children ages 1 – 18, Monday - Friday, June - July. This program is a ministry of Bethel UCC in Cahokia and St. Paul UCC in Columbia." The program feeds 500 children each week.

One way we can help is to provide a snack to be included in the lunch. The snacks they need are items such as popcorn, crackers, individual pudding or jello that does NOT need refrigeration etc. but NO NUTS , PEANUT BUTTER OR CANDY. (Plus you have to check to see if the snack is made in a nut free factory.) Each snack needs to be individually wrapped. Different kinds of snacks would be great. We don't have to donate 500 snacks, but anything we could do would be appreciated. If you would like to donate cash to be used in purchasing lunch supplies that would be greatly appreciated. If you donate cash or a check (made out to St. John UCC), please mark the envelope with donation to "TWIGS". We will collect donations until Monday, July 8 in the church office.



Thanks for your help. Sharon and Nancy



**PET BLESSING** Will be in September, date to be determined.

**RALLY DAY!** Will be September 8, 2018.



# **FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION: HAS THE WORD HOMOSEXUAL ALWAYS BEEN IN THE BIBLE?**

WRITTEN BY ED OXFORD

“The word *arsenokoitai* shows up in two different verses in the Bible, but it was not translated to mean *homosexual* until 1946. I have been part of a research team that is seeking to understand how the decision was made to put the word *homosexual* in the Bible.

“It first showed up in the RSV translation. So before figuring out why they decided to use that word in the RSV translation (which is outlined in my upcoming book with Kathy Baldock, [Forging a Sacred Weapon: How the Bible Became Anti-Gay.](#)) I wanted to see how other cultures and translations treated the same verses when they were translated during the Reformation 500 years ago. I started collecting old Bibles in French, German, Irish, Gaelic, Czechoslovakian, Polish... you name it. Now I’ve got most European major languages that I’ve collected over time.

“I had a German friend come back to town and I asked if he could help me with some passages in one of my German Bibles from the 1800s. We went to Leviticus 18:22 and he’s translating it for me word for word. In the English where it says “Man shall not lie with man, for it is an abomination,” the German version says “Man shall not lie with young boys as he does with a woman, for it is an abomination.” I said, “What?! Are you sure?” He said, “Yes!” Then we went to Leviticus 20:13— same thing, “Young boys.” We went to 1 Corinthians to see how they “translated *arsenokoitai* (original Greek word) and instead of homosexuals it said, “Boy molesters will not inherit the kingdom of God.”

“I then grabbed my facsimile copy of Martin Luther’s original German translation from 1534. My friend is reading through it for me and he says, “Ed, this says the same thing!” They use the word *knabenschander*. *Knaben* is boy, *schander* is molester. This word “boy molesters” for the most part carried through the next several centuries of German Bible translations. *Knabenschander* is also in 1 Timothy 1:10. The interesting thing is, I asked if they ever changed the word *arsenokoitai* to *homosexual* in modern translations. My friend found it and told me, “the first time *homosexual* appears in a German translation is 1983.” To me that was a little suspect because of what was happening in culture in the 1970s. Also, because the Germans were the ones who created the word *homosexual* in 1862, they had all the history, research, and understanding to change it if they saw fit; however, they did not change it until 1983. If anyone was going to put the word *homosexual* in the Bible, the Germans should have been the first to do it!

“As I was talking with my friend I said, “I wonder why not until 1983? Was their influence from America?” We had our German connection look into it again and it turns out that the company, Biblica, who owns the NIV version, paid for this 1983 German version. Thus, it was Americans who paid for it! In 1983 Germany didn’t have enough of a Christian population to warrant the cost of a new Bible translation, because it’s not cheap. An American company paid for it and influenced the decision, resulting in the word homosexual entering the German Bible for the first time in history.

“I also have a 1674 Swedish translation and an 1830 Norwegian translation of the Bible. I asked one of my friends, who was attending Fuller seminary and is fluent in both Swedish and Norwegian, to look at these verses for me. We met at a coffee shop in Pasadena with my old Bibles. (She didn’t really know why I was asking.) Just like reading an old English Bible, it’s not easy to read. The letters are a little bit funky, the spelling is a little bit different. She’s going through it carefully, and then her face comes up, “Do you know what this says?!” and I said, “No! That’s why you are here!” She said, “It says boy abusers, boy molesters.” It turns out that the ancient world condoned and encouraged a system whereby young boys (8-12 years old) were coupled by older men. Ancient Greek documents show us how even parents utilized this abusive system to help their sons advance in society. For most of history, most translations thought these verses were obviously referring the pederasty, not homosexuality!

“Then I started thinking that of 4 of the 6 clobber passages, all these nations and translations were referring to pederasty, and not what we would call homosexuality today.”

*An interesting article by Dr. Ed. Oxford*

# July

2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 Boy Scouts meeting	3	4	5	6
7 Service of Word & Sacrament 10am Followed by Fellowship Time	8	9 Boy Scouts meeting	10	11	12	13
14 Worship at 10 am	15	16 Boy Scouts meeting	17	18	19	20
21 Worship at 10 am	22	23 Boy Scouts meeting	24	25	26	27
28 Worship at 10 am	29	30 Boy Scouts meeting	31			



# August

2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 Service of Word & Sacrament 10am Followed by Fellowship Time	5	6 Boy Scouts meeting	7	8	9	10
11 Worship at 10 am	12	13 Boy Scouts meeting	14 Council meeting 7 pm	15	16	17
18 Worship at 10 am	19	20 Boy Scouts meeting	21	22	23	24
25 Worship at 10 am	26	27 Boy Scouts meeting	28	29	30	31

## **CAMP DUBOIS WELCOME TEAM - Join Us!**

**Most Sundays this summer.**

Our summer season kicked off on Sunday, June 9 as they welcomed over 70 eager, excited and perhaps nervous campers and their families. In addition to our summer staff, 12-15 volunteers are needed to ensure the process runs smoothly! Volunteers assist with greetings, parking, the camp store, registration, health screenings, dock duty and people-moving. They arrive by 1:15 pm and are done by 4 pm. Please consider joining our Sunday Welcome Team on Opening Day. You are invited to wear a church or camp t-shirt and show your spirit. Even consider bringing a team from your church! Please RSVP as far in advance as possible. Contact DuBois Center at 618-787-2202 or [dcinfo@duboiscenter.org](mailto:dcinfo@duboiscenter.org). FIRM commitments are greatly appreciated as we keep recruiting until the spots are filled. If this date doesn't work for you, additional Sunday opportunities are available.

