

## **From Pastor Jim's Desk**

Moving into the month of October spells several good and even great things happening at St. John, for which I would ask all our members to give God thanks and praise. I know that some of these changes mean people must alter the way things have been done in the past, and that is never easy. But I think many of our members are willing to at least try the new things first, before making judgment.

### **Worship Style**

On the question of worship style, I have not met with the Board of Directors to discuss this nor to map out what and if my "Book-End" idea for worship has any traction. I have heard from only four members about the "Book-End" idea, one was opposed and three were in favor. So, all I can say at this printing is that no changes in Worship Style will happen in the month of October.

### **Preaching and Teaching**

My special preaching and teaching will begin the first Sunday in October. I am very happy to say that our people have responded very well. Most people, and not to blow my own horn, think that the two gifts God has given me are in the area of Preaching and Teaching. Not only do I absolutely love doing it, but people tell me they are getting lots out of it as well. Please join in praising God with me for these gifts and that the Spirit of our God is working through me to touch the hearts and lives of our people.

Another indication of how well our people are taking to this idea is that fact that so many booklets were taken already last weekend. I originally order 85 booklets, 10 for youth; 25 for adults; and 50 for retirees. Last weekend 48 booklets were purchased – better than half already picked up. Give God all the glory. These booklets will again be available this coming Sunday (last Sunday in September) because the study will begin Monday, September 26<sup>th</sup>.

Just to briefly explain: All members will be doing their reading in the booklet always the week before I preach and teach on that same text. The booklets lead our people through a devotions study of the text from the specific life cycle for that age group. On Sunday morning, I will not rehash what you have already read, but take the study of that same text to a deeper level, so that together we will plumb the depths of Scriptural understanding. This way we will cast our bucket into the Waters of Life, and draw up the cold and refreshing Waters of Life that will directly empower and benefit our life's walk with Jesus. I am so excited about this event, and I hope you are too.

For the few members who do not wish to participate and for any visitors that join us in worship, sermon outlines and notes will be provided, so that all can benefit from this study. Furthermore, you will notice a screen on the wall behind the pulpit, which will greatly add to the presentation. I believe we have God's command to use every method and means to teach the Gospel message. So I ask all our members to reserve judgment until they see how it will be used and the benefit and blessing using this type of presentation can make in our worship.

During the Preaching and Teaching time, children who are Sunday School age will be dismissed so that they can participate in study of God's Word which is age-appropriate to them. This dismissal will occur immediately following my Children's Message. They will come back into our worship sanctuary during the offering, to join us for the prayers and blessings at the conclusion of our service. Teachers serving in our Sunday School department will alternate months, so that they too can have the blessing of the preaching and teaching.

### **Inviting Friends and Family**

If I were invited to your home for a dinner, I am sure you would go out of your way to make sure everything was both comfortable and enjoyable for my visit. You would probably point out where the bathroom is; where the most comfortable chair was; and probably prepares a wonderfully delicious tasting meal that you were sure I'd enjoy.