



The Caller

Summer 2010

News from and for the members and friends of

The Caller is mailed 4-6 times a year by:
St. John's UCC
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www.stjohnsucc-brighton.org

St. John's
**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**



"Serving God by Welcoming ALL"

The Church in Mission

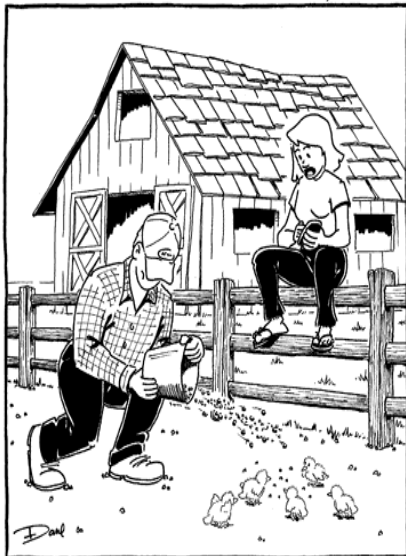
Sign up, Join in, Pray for the workers

Ministers: The Congregation
Minister to the ministers:
Rev. Mike Southcombe
Pastor and Teacher
Pastor's home: (618) 372-8374
Cell phone: (618) 558-5014
e-mail:
msouthcm@stjohnsucc-brighton.org

June 20-26: Mission Trip through DuBois Center and UCC Disaster Response Ministries, 9th grade – adult.
www.duboiscenter.org.

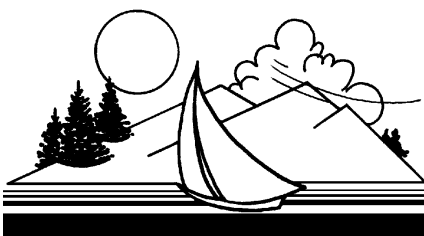
FINDING ELIM

By Dave Nelson



I HAVE A **HUGE** FARM ON FACEBOOK,
AND YOU CAN'T IMAGINE HOW
MUCH WORK IT IS.

Check out more Dave Nelson
comics at www.findingelim.com



July 10-19: Catamayo, Ecuador, Habitat House build.

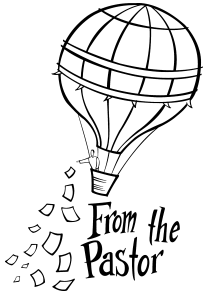
Information on Hallway bulletin board or call Kent Lytle at 618-255-2640, or e-mail kent.lytle@concocophillips.com

Calling all Lumberjacks—Looking for a Morning or

Afternoon Work Project? Volunteers are needed to move piles of branches from the base of Oak Lodge. We are in the process of removing two large trees that could damage the new roof on Oak Lodge during heavy winds. The branches have all been cut off and only the trunks remain, but before we can finish the project large piles of brush need to be cut into smaller pieces and hauled away. After the branches are removed and the trunks are cut down, another work group will be needed to move and split that wood. For more information, contact Shirley at DuBois Center at 618-787-2202 or shirlyadir@frontier.com.

Disaster Assistance for Northwest Indiana (DANI) (*Minimum age 16 years*) Openings available for May, June, July 2010. See Pastor Mike for registration information.

Sign up for the Illinois South Conference "Weekly Connections" and get notified of upcoming mission trip/work day opportunities—and lots of other news from around the Conference! (go to www.iscucc.org) Also, Hitz Memorial Nursing Home, Hoyleton Youth and Family Services and Emmaus Homes always welcome volunteers for a workday or special project. See Pastor Mike for contact information.



"And also with you." That familiar response in worship means a great deal—it means that the same peace the worship leader wishes for the congregation, the congregation wishes for them. It is a sort of agreement—I'll pray for you knowing you will pray for me.

I happen to like the older response, "And with your spirit." We often ask friends, "How are you?" when what we are really asking is, "How is your spirit?" We can see a limp or a bandage, or the hesitation in moving too quickly after a sprain or some surgery. As Christians and as true friends, however, we are really asking the deeper question, "How is your spirit?" about those concerns and joys we cannot so easily see. "The peace of the Lord be with you," is not just a rote line in worship—it is the hope that our time in worship will somehow speak to and comfort all those worries we bring with to worship—bills to pay, our adult children struggling in their jobs, youth balancing school, work and all the temptations of the internet and modern life and the health and wholeness issues that seem to rise up out of nowhere. "The peace of the Lord be with you" is a greeting and a pledge to be with each other in the midst of all those worries.

In the months ahead, I would like us to think in those terms as we move ahead in life. On the next page there is a report and a thank you for our last Lenten Fish Fry. I would like to take a moment to look a bit more deeply: how did the fish fry nurture your spirit?

For me, it is always inspiring and humbling to see people set aside a day—for some, two or more days—each week to work to support the church. I was excited to see how people in the community responded to the appeal for Hygiene Kits for Haiti earthquake relief. The old divisions between churches melted away for a bit—folks from 3 other churches and people who don't like "organized religion" and who don't go to any church all brought in bags of completed kits. Folks in Brighton who don't trust churches seemed to trust us here at St. John's.

We welcomed new folks to help at the fish fries, people who were looking for ways to become more involved and active in St. John's. Friends and neighbors who can't get to a lot of places were able to use our wheelchair lift to come, sit and join in the conversation around the lunch tables. The sense of community grew with each Friday.

The sense of simply "being there" for each other was so very present this last round of Fridays. We did not have a sign up sheet for helpers—but we were never without people here to staff the serving line, bread and fry the fish, bus the tables, restock the drink table and handle the money. You all just showed up when the Spirit led you and the Spirit did an exemplary job of scheduling. Makes me wonder if we should invite the Spirit to lead us in more ways.

And for a really amazing part—with all the extra work from the fish fries—the Worship Team became more active and met more regularly, Roberta led and parents brought their children to a new weekly activity—the Children's Choir; the choir never missed a practice; the Praise Band worked on new songs and polished their worship leadership skills; volunteers stepped in to take over the Easter morning brunch—Loyal Daughters put together a fantastic Ladies Night Out, the Sunday School finished painting the tent for Haiti—we had the biggest attendance at a Community Good Friday service in 15 years and lots of other stuff went on, too. If your spirit is chagrined because I left something out, please tell me so we can celebrate the effort and accomplishment!

So, "How is your spirit?" My spirit is fortified, encouraged, inspired and energized.

"And also with you!"

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2010 FISH FRY REPORT

Gross sales \$8,588.17

DISBURSEMENTS:

Ready's Fish Market	\$2,017.50
Metro Supply	185.88
A&B Vinyl (sign)	100.00
Puskar (fix stove)	75.00
Tom's Market (supplies)	<u>585.15</u>
Total disbursements	\$2,963.53
Net to date	\$5,624.64

Allen H. Jones - Treas.

Thanks to You!

I'd just like to take this opportunity to thank all of you who gave so generously of your time and talents to make this year's Lenten Fish Fry a success. You truly are treasures to this church family...bless you all.

Kathi Kolosieke
Fish Fry Chair



From our Moderator:

Dear Friends in Christ,

I want to thank everyone for your stewardship of St. John's. Per capita giving has been very generous plus the time and talent you all have provided for various functions and fundraisers is truly commendable.

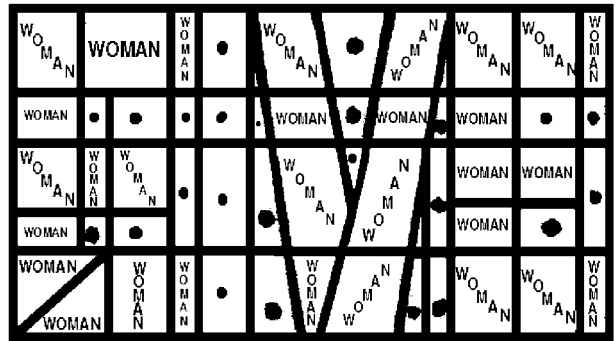
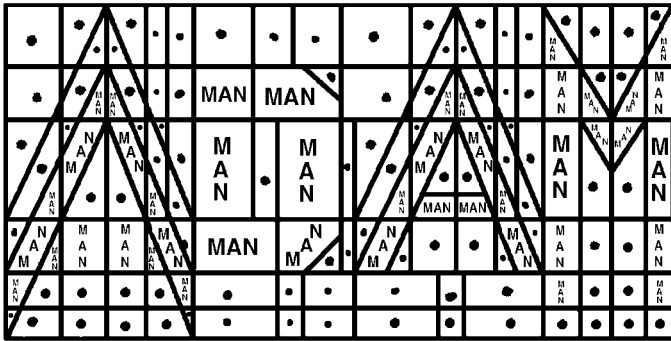
The Ad Team has addressed many concerns of the church and we are currently struggling with the fact that worship attendance has dropped significantly which in turn has resulted in our falling far short of income to meet expenses.

I ask you to please prayerfully reflect on our church's future and to pass on to the Ad Team any ideas or suggestions that positively help solve this problem. Let's find a comma rather than a period for our future.

Ken Orban
Moderator

First Person

In the boxes below, fill in the spaces with the words to find the answers to the following questions

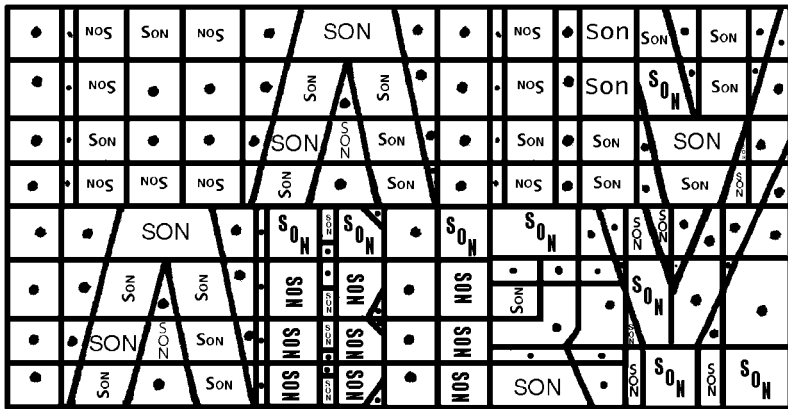


1. This man was the first person that God created.

His name is _____. Genesis 5:1

2. This person was the first woman.

Her name is _____. Genesis 3:20



3. Their first two sons were

_____ and

Genesis 4:1, 2

Who Am I?

Read Genesis 3:1-5. Unscramble the word below to find out what kind of animal this is.

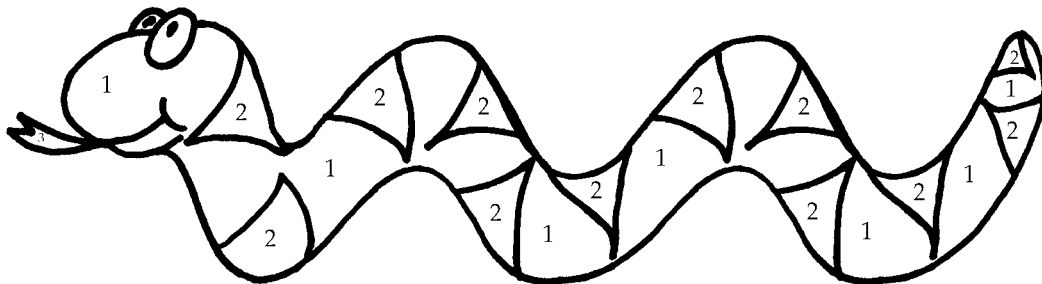
What part did this animal play in the story of the first man and woman?

Color:

1 = green

2 = blue

3 = red



E P N T E R S

Calendar

May

13: Region 4 meeting at Evangelical UCC in Godfrey, 1-3pm

Baptisms 16: Lilliane Elizabeth Behl, at worship



18: Ad Team meets, 7:30pm

19: Loyal Daughters, 6pm

22: Hoyleton Sporting Clay Challenge at World Shooting and Recreational Complex in Sparta

23: **Pentecost Sunday**: special events at worship, balloons, last day for Sunday School.

Strengthen the Church all church offering

Dinner Out at DuBois after worship, sign up at church

30: **Memorial Day Weekend**

Please bring pictures of our departed veterans by May 23 so we may share them in worship on the 30th.

June

3: Women's Fellowship, 1pm



6: Communion in worship

**"No matter who you are...or where you are on life's journey,
YOU are welcome here"—and at the Lord's Table.**

12: Hitz Memorial Nursing Home Salad Luncheon, 1pm

15: Ad Team, 7:30pm

20: Fathers' Day and **Blanket/Tools special offering**

July

3: Brighton "4th of July" celebration at Schneider Park

Featuring **Sheltered Reality** presented by St. John's



4: Communion in worship

**"No matter who you are...or where you are on life's journey,
YOU are welcome here"—and at the Lord's Table.**

16: Hoyleton Golf outing

20: Ad Team, 7:30pm

Every Wednesday: Children's Choir, 7pm (except 3rd Wednesday)

Monday Evening Bible Study, 6pm: May 10, 17, 24; June 7, 14

News from the Hoyletonian newsletter:

The 13th annual ARTSY exhibit is here! The ARTSY exhibit features amazing art made by youth 3 to 19 years of age from 16 agencies across St. Louis Metro East Area. These young artists show their remarkable work accompanied by an artistic statement sharing their thoughts and feelings about their creations and what art means to them.

Several artists from the Hoyleton Children's Home will have their work on display. The exhibit will run from May 2- 27. The ARTSY exhibit is held at the Jacoby Arts Center in Alton, IL. For more information, contact Fabia D'Amore-Krug at fmkrug@prodigy.net or Katy Bockelman Sanders at katy_bockelman@hotmail.com.

Puentes de Esperanza collaborates with area service providers to offer Puentes para la Paz

Thanks to a new program created by Puentes de Esperanza, area social workers, nurses, police officers and victim advocates are coordinating their efforts to assist victims of domestic violence among the Latino communities of the St. Louis Metro-East.

Puentes para la Paz, or Bridges to Peace, combines the linguistic and cultural resources of Puentes de Esperanza with the knowledge and experience of the Violence Prevention Center of Southwestern Illinois. Goals of the program include educating the Latino population about domestic violence, and assisting victims of abuse as they encounter barriers and gaps in services.

The program is funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Violence against Women. Puentes de Esperanza reports several shocking statistics - 5.3 million women are abused each year, and 75 percent of the men that abuse women also abuse children. Additionally, 37 percent of obstetric patients report being abused while they are pregnant.

According to Allyson Nolle, a Community Educator with Puentes de Esperanza, rates of domestic violence among the Latino population are similar to those of other demographics – about one in five women will experience domestic violence in their lifetimes. What makes the issue of greater concern among Latinas is the linguistic and cultural differences that often leave women without anyone to turn to for help.

"We have found that education is needed, because many Latino women view domestic violence as normal, just part of their culture," she said. "They are less likely to report the abuse and seek emergency shelter, often due to perceived misconceptions about law enforcement personnel or fear that they may be deported, regardless of their immigration status."

Violence Prevention Center representative Cathy Daesch said that her agency has 30 years of experience working with abused women and men, and has been noticing some interesting trends as of late. "We are seeing an increase in teenagers who are reporting abuse," she said. "In order to educate kids about proper, healthy relationships, we need to reach them before they start dating, around the sixth grade. We need to help them understand what it means to be in a good relationship before they find themselves trapped in the cycle of abuse."

"Through Puentes para la Paz, we will be able to speak to victims in their own language, and help them understand the legal process, and where to go for emergency shelter. Our staff will be able to ensure that both parents and children receive the care they need. It's a matter of justice, of human rights, and we are proud to offer this service to the Latino community," said Nereida Avendano, the Director of Puentes de Esperanza.

For more information on Puentes para la Paz, call Puentes de Esperanza at (618) 398-0557, or send an email to puentes@hoyleton.org.

News around the Church, Town and Conference

Pentecost Sunday May 23

Strengthen the Church Special Offering

**Celebrate the "birth" of the Church!
Wear Red or Orange
Balloons—A Special Gift for Everyone!
Dinner Out at DuBois afterward!**

A little love can go a long way. When our lives become unpredictable or chaotic, when we're facing into a storm, when we're weary and discouraged, fearful or confused... a little love can give the boost we need.

Many of us find that love in our church. But there are many people still seeking and yearning for a little love, a little hope, and a reassuring word. They have not found a church that's reaching out with an extravagant welcome, where they can hear the message of the unconditional love of our still speaking God. That's where the Strengthen the Church special mission offering steps in.

Each year, we receive a special offering that helps the church's love to grow and thrive. Called Strengthen the Church, this offering funds new congregations and renews existing ones. It supports programs for youth and young adults and nurtures current and future leaders. And it sends the God is Still Speaking Ministry's message of extravagant welcome and inclusivity into our world.

We will receive this offering on May 23 – the birthday of the church – Pentecost Sunday. We invite you to celebrate by giving to Strengthen the Church. Your generous gift today ensures a vibrant church tomorrow. Spread the Love. Strengthen the Church. God is still speaking!

Share Your Faith Share Yourself

There are sign up sheets on the church bulletin board to host Coffee Fellowship and to be a lay reader in worship. Please, let us worship and fellowship together—and that means YOU!

Bring in your pictures of St. John's UCC's Veterans Born to Heaven For Memorial Day Observance



Harry Jones
served in WWI

We will remember those veterans who have passed on in our regular worship service on May 30. Please bring in your pictures and any information you have about their service history including branch, unit, rank, years of service and any special awards or commendations.

Monday Evening Bible Study Features 2 New Testament Scholars on DVD

Have you read *Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time, The First Christmas* or *The Last Week*?

How would you like to have an intimate conversation with the authors Marcus J. Borg and John Dominic Crossan?

If you missed the chance for that conversation at last year's Spring convocation at Eden Seminary, catch up with these lively and engaging preachers with the DVDs of those sessions on Monday nights May 10, 17, 24; June 7, 14 at 6pm.

Two of the most popular New Testament lecturers, professors, authors and preachers of the last 50 years make the life and ministry of Jesus alive for us today.

1. The Nature of the Gospels and their historical context.
2. The Kingdom and the Way: The Message and Activity of Jesus
3. Execution and Resurrection: Good Friday and Easter
4. Following Jesus Today: Being Christian in a time of Empire.

Each session will feature about 1 hour of the DVD and then some time for discussion.

Come and watch your faith grow!

Special Offering
Church World Service
Blanket and Tools of Hope
Fathers' Day, June 20

We'll take up our annual offering to benefit Church World Service's work in disaster relief and long term disaster recovery on Fathers' Day this year.

Pentecost Sunday May 23

**Wear Red or Orange to celebrate the
"birthday" of the church
Strengthen the Church
Special All Church Offering
And..**

Sunday Dinner at DuBois Center

After church we can take a nice drive to DuBois and enjoy some of their famous cooking:

- Seasoned Chicken
- Scalloped Potatoes
- Applesauce
- Mixed Vegetables
- Corn Bread
- Dessert
- Beverage, tea, coffee

\$9.50 ages 12 +up

\$5 ages 6-11

Free ages 5 and under

(please sign-up by May 16 for reservations)

St. John's United Church of Christ
216 North St., P.O. Box 418
Brighton, IL 62012

ADDRESS
SERVICE
REQUESTED